

**STVMA MINUTES**  
**September 12, 2013**  
**Ithaca, NY**

Bridget Barry called the meeting to order.

Chris Armao welcomed new members, Dr. Nora Matthews (present), Dr. Shalini Latchman, Dr. Soleil Bacque, and Dr. Tiva Hoshizaki.

Treasury Report: Dr. Gretchen Schoeffler could not make the meeting, but reported we are solvent.

NYS Bureau Of Narcotic Enforcement (NBE)'s same day reporting went into effect on August 27<sup>th</sup> and does NOT exempt veterinarians as the NYSVMS was previously told. The board is working on changing this, but there is no guarantee this will happen. The NYSVMS sent email information to all members. Dr. Gry Wildenstein encouraged all members to submit a letter to Dr. Terence O'Leary, director of the BNE. Information on this is in the email from NYSVMS. Daily reporting is an additional burden on us, but Dr. Barry pointed out that there have been cases of clients using several veterinarians and abusing the dispensed narcotics (such as Tramadol).

Executive Board Info:

The question of what constitutes technician supervision is unclear. Dr. Tom Nytych has been involved in legal cases and indicates the legal broadness of this term. Common sense should still prevail as to what a technician can and cannot do.

The Education Law regulations on veterinary technology:

(a) Functions. The functions of a veterinary technician may include, but shall not be limited to:

- (1) collecting of appropriate specimens and performing laboratory procedures in clinical pathology and histopathology;
- (2) exposing radiographic film;
- (3) preparing and administering medications on medical orders of the supervising veterinarian;
- (4) assisting in medical procedures;
- (5) inducing and maintaining anesthesia under the onsite supervision of the licensed veterinarian; and
- (6) assisting in surgical procedures in the physical presence of the licensed veterinarian.

(b) Supervision. The functions of a veterinary technician shall be performed pursuant to the direction and under the general supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Such general supervision shall not be construed to require the physical presence of the supervising veterinarian at the time and place where such services are performed except as required by this Part.

Guidelines established by the NYS Board for Veterinary Medicine outline appropriate "supervision" as follows:

1. When an individual is practicing under the general supervision of a licensed veterinarian, the veterinarian must be readily available to communicate with the person under supervision.
  2. When an individual is practicing under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, the veterinarian must be on the same premises as the person under supervision.
  3. When an individual is practicing under the immediate personal supervision of a licensed veterinarian, the veterinarian must be within audible or visual range of both the person under supervision and the animal patient and be able to intervene personally in the procedure, if necessary.
- Cornell/NYSVMS Conference: Oct 4-6, Plan to attend
  - NYSVMS awards: Dr. Eric Bregman (NYC) Veterinarian of the Year  
Dr. Larry Bartholf (HV) Distinguished Life Service
  - Equine Dentistry-the farm bureau supports the NYSVMS position that this should not be done by lay persons. Dr. Wendy Hartman indicated her clients have lay dentists perform services and are getting anesthetic drugs from somewhere, likely from veterinarians. Dr. Nytch encouraged anyone with knowledge and evidence of impropriety to report it to the Office of Professional Discipline for investigation.
  - Cornell Report- The current freshman class has increased to 100 students (84 female and 16 male)
  - Contact Dr. Andy Fleming if interested in becoming involved in emergency preparedness.
  - AVMA Mobility Act: use of narcotics and euthanasia agents outside of the hospital. Currently, our practice of mobile euthanasias is not threatened by this. Dr. Lorin Warnick indicated the focus is NOT on field use.

Future Cornell/STVMA Meetings are: Nov 14 – speaker to be announced  
February 13- speaker TBA  
April 10- Dr. Tom Kern ophthalmology