

REG/LEG REPORT
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MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MDC) – The Veterinary Medical Board’s (VMB) MDC met on January 17 in Sacramento. **On the agenda was a discussion of Extended Duties for RVTs.** CaRVTA had previously provided the VMB with a list of job tasks that our Task Force determined should be restricted to RVTs. The VMB had reduced the list to 7 tasks that it sent to the MDC for discussion. Dave Johnson, RVT member of the MDC, pointed out that RVT job tasks had not been reviewed since the early 80’s and that the VMB needed to look at current practice. Jennifer Loreda, RVT member of the MDC, agreed. The MDC decided to recommend that the VMB create a Task Force comprised of stakeholders to review RVT job tasks.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of Minimum Standards for Shelter Medicine. Erica Hughes from the State Humane Association of California told the MDC that shelters need veterinary assistants to be able to perform intake exams, lab tests and provide vaccinations without a prior veterinarian exam. Shelters are apparently doing this even though current regulations require a veterinarian examine an animal prior to receiving any treatment. CVMA had previously presented the VMB with a proposal that would allow RVTs, not assistants, to perform these tasks without a veterinarian exam. The on-going Shelter Task Force will discuss this issue and report back by the next meeting of the MDC. CaRVTA is supposed to be included in the Task Force discussion.

The MDC went on to discuss amending Section 2069, the Emergency Animal Care section that defines tasks that an RVT may perform in an emergency when no veterinarian is present. The proposal would allow RVTs to administer drugs to manage pain or sedate an animal for examination or to prevent further injury. This proposal started as a way to allow RVTs to treat animals at rodeos, but ended up being applied to RVTs in any situation. The MDC voted to recommend that the VMB adopt the new language.

The next item under discussion was regarding modifying Section 2027, the regulation that allows junior, senior and graduate veterinary students to perform RVT job tasks. As currently written, a graduate of veterinary school can continue to practice as an RVT indefinitely. The MDC voted to recommend removing graduates from 2027 and to add a new Section 2027.5 that would allow veterinary school graduates to sit for the RVT exam for a period of 1 year.

The other issues under discussion were writing regulations to define procedures for veterinary drug compounding, informing clients about potential adverse effects to prescribed drugs and defining the difference between sedation and anesthesia. These issues are on-going and will continue to be discussed in the future.

The next meeting of the MDC will be on April 18, 2017 in Oakland.

VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD – The VMB met on January 18 in Sacramento. **Dr. Cheryl Waterhouse started her new term as President with Dr. Richard Sullivan as the new Vice-President.** She announced that the VMB has hired a new staff member to help get regulations moving more quickly through the process. Regulations have been taking 2 years or more to go through all the various stages of state government.

The VMB approved changes to the Disciplinary Guidelines. Legal counsel will review the changes. If he finds nothing substantial, the changes will begin their trip through the regulatory process. If he finds major problems, he will bring the Guidelines back to the VMB at their next meeting.

Dr. John Klingborg, Chair of the MDC, presented the MDC Report. The VMB voted to approve the formation of a Task Force to review RVT job tasks, but then rescinded the motion and decided to send the issue back to the MDC where a “public hearing” will be held to discuss the issue.

The VMB approved a motion to add the new language to Section 2069 allowing RVTs to administer pain medication. They also approved a motion to explore recommending changes to Sections 597.1 & 4840 to allow RVTs to transport controlled drugs.

The VMB also approved the motion to create a new Section 2027.5 to allow veterinary school graduates to sit for the RVT exam and restrict veterinary school graduates to performing RVT job tasks for only 1 year post graduation. Staff will present the VMB with language at the next meeting.

The VMB voted to support legislation requested by the City of Los Angeles to exempt veterinarians from other countries from the Practice Act if they are attending animals from their own countries at a potential 2024 Olympics. Human physicians already have such an exemption.

Ethan Mathes reported that California RVTs schools have been mostly complying with reporting requirements, although several schools are still not in full compliance with the requirement to inform their students of pass rates and the transferability of units. CaRVTA has been pressuring the VMB to insure that students are receiving the information that the regulations require.

The VMB voted to clarify the reciprocity rules that veterinarians licensed in other states must complete the 3 years required work experience in the US, Canada or a US Territory. They referred to the MDC the issue of whether Board Certified veterinarians should be exempt from the requirement that the experience be limited to those locations.

The Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) made a presentation on the Veterinary Law Exam. Currently, veterinary applicants are required to take 3 exams – the national exam, the state exam and the law exam. (VLE). UC Davis and Western U students are exempt from the VLE. The VLE is a mail-out exam that contains 32 questions on veterinary law. The OPES determined that the VLE’s questions had significant overlap with the state exam that contains 14 questions on veterinary law. OPES recommended that the VMB consider eliminating the VLE for candidates who take the national exam, the state exam and are graduates of an approved school. Reciprocity candidates should continue to take the VLE. The VMB did not take any action.

Jennifer Loreda, the RVT member of the VMB reported that she is having difficulty finding qualified candidates to serve on the AVMA’s Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Affairs (CVTEA). The qualifications include being an AVMA approved RVT School graduate and an active member of NAVTA. Anyone interested in serving as the California CVTEA representative who meets the qualification can contact CaRVTA at info@carvta.org and we will put you in touch with Ms. Loreda.

Ethan Mathes reported that the Veterinary Assistant Controlled Substance Permit (VACSP) program has gotten off to an enthusiastic beginning. So far, the VMB has received approximately 2000 applications, with about 400 being processed so far. Currently it’s taking about 8 weeks to process the applications. Some questions have arisen about just who needs a VACSP. Shelter representatives requested that they be exempt from the fees for VACSPs. Legal counsel will review the language of the

law and report back at the next meeting about whether a receptionist or kennel worker must hold a VACSP if they hand medication to a client or administer a medication, respectively.

It was reported that the VMB is currently experiencing a deficiency in their budget. They announced that they will be having a 3rd party conducting a fee audit to determine just what fees are being generated and if they are covering expenses. They will also make recommendations for potential fee increases, which should be ready for the April VMB meeting.

Staff reports included the pass rates for the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) and the California Veterinary Technician Law Exam. (CVTLE):

VTNE	3-4/2016	55%,
	7-8/2016	63%,
	11-12/2016	63%
CVTLE	1-12/2015	94%,
	1-6/2016	80%,
	7-12/2016	62%

CaRVTA pointed out that the dramatic decrease in pass rate on the CVTLE could be due to the fact that the VMB had published an inaccurate Exam Plan until the end of October.

The next meeting of the VMB will be on April 19-20 in Oakland.