

Registered Veterinary Technician Committee Meeting
January 27, 2009
Sacramento, California

The Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC) held its first meeting of the 2009 calendar year on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at the State Capitol, Rm. 113, Sacramento, CA.

1. Call to Order

Virginia Curtis called the public meeting to order on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at 10:10a.m.

Roll Call

Members: Kim Williams, RVT, Chair (Absent)
Virginia Curtis, Public Member, Vice-Chair
Richard Johnson, DVM
Carol Schumacher, RVT
Craig Cornell, RVT
Linda Starr, RVTC Liaison

Staff: Susan Geranen, Executive Officer; Chris Novak, Examinations Analyst

Legal Counsel: Shela Barker

Members of the Audience:

Nancy Ehrlich, RVT, CARVTA; Al Aldrete, DVM; Dan Segna, DVM, CVMA

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion, Seconded, Passed (MSP)

A motion was made by Mr. Cornell and seconded by Ms. Schumacher to approve the minutes from the Registered Veterinary Technician Committee meeting held July 22, 2008 as written. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Election of Officers

Ms. Geranen explained that the Board is considering moving elections from April to October for the calendar year instead of fiscal year, so that new members take over in January. She noted that this is up for discussion. Dr. Johnson's term expires June 30, 2009, Kim Williams' and Virginia Curtis' terms expire June 30, 2010, and Craig Cornell's and Carol Schumacher's terms expire June 30, 2011.

(MSP)

A motion was made by Dr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Schumacher to move elections to October with the members' assumption of duties in January. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Schumacher and seconded by Mr. Cornell to retain current Chairman and Vice Chairman in April and extend their terms through 2009 with re-elections in October 2009 consistent with previous motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Geranen swore in all members present as a group. Ms. Williams will be sworn in at April meeting.

Review RVTC Subcommittee List

Ms. Geranen explained that existing subcommittee list is up for discussion for changes and updates. She noted the new Limited Term Eligibility (LTE) Subcommittee listed and invited

members to come in and help with the review of the LTE applications when received. At least 100 applications are anticipated and will have an urgent need for help with the review during the last 2 weeks in February. Ms. Schumacher volunteered to work on the Alternate Route Application Evaluation Subcommittee, Legislative/Regulatory Subcommittee, and Radiation Safety Training Subcommittee. Ms. Schumacher and Dr. Johnson both volunteered to work on the Limited Term Eligibility Application Evaluation Subcommittee.

Ms. Geranen explained that applicants can have a total of 3 attempts maximum to take the RVT exam – during the January 2009, July 2009, and also during the January 2010 administration if their application is received by December 31, 2009. Dr. Johnson stated that it is a good idea to have a northern and southern California representative to address the associations to answer frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding the LTE and LTE windows. Ms. Geranen responded that a list of FAQs can be added to the Board's website.

Ms. Schumacher suggested adding Disaster Planning Subcommittee to the list and CARVTA to the Liaison Responsibilities under CVMA. Ms. Geranen stated that the RVTC needs to discuss what their role is in disaster planning. Ms. Schumacher thought that the Director and Governor's office wanted something independent of the associations. Ms. Schumacher will contact the Office of Emergency Services contact who was at the PACT summit and asked Ms. Geranen to check with the Director as to what their expectations are for the licensing boards and what the Director meant by "separate" disaster plan. Ms. Geranen responded that since Ms. Schumacher has a vision of what is needed to write down the parameters of what she heard at the PACT workshop and bring to the March retreat. Ms. Schumacher will develop a draft and bring to March retreat.

MSP

Virginia questioned whether the RVTC wants to keep these subcommittees, add Disaster Planning subcommittee, and wait for Ms. Williams before finalizing. A motion was made by Dr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Cornell to take subcommittee list to March retreat for further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Examination Report – Chris Novak/Susan Geranen

Ms. Novak noted that OER has changed its name to Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES). She is working on transitioning the RVT and VMB item banks to OPES by the end of February to correspond with the final VMB/OER Interagency Agreements. To date the majority of RVT surveys returned from SMEs preferred the two 2-day workshops for test preparation and two 2-day workshops for Angoff passing score workshops per year option compared to the two 3-day workshop per year option. The majority also selected the Thursday/Friday date combination.

Ms. Novak explained that the school breakdown figures are still not consistent with the total number of candidates that took the exam during the RVT July 2007, January 2008, and July 2008 test administrations and CSB November 2007 and May 2008 test administrations. Exam staff has been working with ATS staff since June 2008 to generate reports through ATS since correct reports cannot be obtained through PSI. In October exam staff had anticipated that the final programming of school report information would be completed in November 2008 with ATS, but to date school reports are still not 100% accurate and Candidate Eligibility and Candidate Scheduled lists are still not available in alpha order through PSI.

Ms. Novak explained that the Beta testing demo for the January 2009 RVT exam required corrections to 5 of the graphics. Getting the graphics correct has been an on-going problem with PSI but staff expects the problem to be corrected once OPES is maintaining the bank and transmitting the files direct to PSI.

5. Legislative/Regulatory Subcommittee Update

RVT School Approval Process and Reporting Requirements

Mr. Cornell reported that the subcommittee had recommended that this item be deferred until Ms. Barker returned and include on January agenda, so nothing has moved forward to date. Ms. Barker clarified that other Boards have a process in place for approving out of state schools, and that the Board does not have the authority to just acknowledge AVMA accreditation. Ms. Geranen questioned how we acknowledge CE providers. Ms. Barker responded that providers are not challenged, but there has to be something to allow recognition of schools in order for the education to be accepted. (i.e. with AVMA-approved schools – RVTC would require an application and require school to provide proof of AVMA accreditation and supporting documentation.

The RVTC questioned what to do with other schools, and that this seemed to be a confusing and cumbersome process. Ms. Barker responded that all schools must seek California approval, including in-state and out-of-state AVMA-approved schools. After discussion the RVTC agreed that more work and discussion is needed on these proposed regulations and how they would be implemented. Ms. Barker stated that from the discussion today she recommends that a subcommittee meeting/workshop be held and invite participants for further discussion on the school approval subject.

Ms. Geranen recommended that the existing subcommittee review AVMA standards and compare for further discussion with RVTC at March retreat. A separate subcommittee meeting/workshop can then be scheduled in July separate from the regular RVTC meeting.

Dr. Johnson recommended that the subcommittee meet to review the AVMA guidelines and to make sure the curriculum is consistent, gather data, plan and further discuss at the March retreat. Ms. Barker will be there in March for guidance, then decision can be made in March for direction with these proposed regulation changes.

Adjourned for lunch 12:00 – 12:50p.m.

6. Discussion Items

Disaster Planning for Animals Update

Ms. Schumacher will contact the Office of Emergency Services contact who was at the PACT summit and asked Ms. Geranen to check with the Director as to what their expectations are for the licensing boards and what the Director meant by “separate” disaster plan.

Limited Term Eligibility/Revised Eligibility Categories

Ms. Geranen explained that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) rejected the Revised Eligibility Category regulations because of some math and clerical errors (e.g. 4476 hours

was listed but 4416 hours is correct). Language needed to be changed for consistency and clarity and renoticed so staff is working on getting language and notice done by end of next week. Once the 15-day notice comment period is up, OAL has 30 business days to review, so regulation should be effective in approximately 90-120 days.

Ms. Geranen noted that the Limited Term Eligibility regulation could be in effect in 2 weeks – it is effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Update on Consumer Brochure

The consumer brochure is at DCA Publications Unit who is reviewing it and will provide a final draft with pictures and edits so that it is written more consumer-oriented. Final copy will be brought to the March retreat.

7. Review Proposed Language for Mandatory CE for RVTs

Ms. Geranen explained that these regulations were drafted based on the existing VMB CE regulations and changed to make them specific to RVTs. Ms. Barker's updates to the CE regulations were provided in packets. Ms. Geranen noted that on Page 4(a), the sentence regarding fingerprints may be deleted. She recommended that the RVTC review the updated proposed CE regulations and bring back their comments in April and the RVTC agreed.

8. Discuss Agenda Items for Planning Retreat on March 17-19, 2009

- A. Subcommittee assignments/whether to form new subcommittee – Disaster Planning
- B. RVT school approval standards/ with possible future workshop to develop language in July separate from RVTC meeting
- C. Use of VTNE
- D. RVT Title protection/Proposed national name change to LVT
- E. Review brochure

Ms. Geranen noted that the Board is doing a focused retreat on enforcement, so Board's focus is on its enforcement program, e.g. SB 1854 multi-disciplinary committee, citation and fine and disciplinary guidelines and minimum standards of practice relative to hospital inspections. She noted that the tentative schedule for March 17 – 19 is as follows:

Tuesday, 12:00 - 4:00pm: RVTC/VMB meets together; 6:00pm dinner as a group
Wednesday, 8am -1:00 pm: RVTC meets as separate group; afternoon & evening open, (possible excursion planned for Catalina after 1:00pm)
Thursday, 8:00am -12:00pm: Wrap up together RVTC & VMB.

9. Agenda Items for January 2009 Meeting

- Election of Officers/Swear in Kim Williams
- RVT School Approval Proposed Regulations
- Disaster Planning for Animals Subcommittee Update
- CE Proposed Regulations

10. Comments from Public

Nancy Ehrlich requested that when the LTE regulations are approved that Ms. Geranen inform CVMA and CARVTA. She also mentioned that CARVTA is holding their second Back to School CE seminar on March 22 at UC Irvine. Linda Starr complimented Virginia Curtis on an excellent job of presiding over the RVTC meeting.

11. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business before the RVTC, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.