



## MEETING MINUTES

Registered Veterinary Technician Committee  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010  
Sacramento, California

### 1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC) Chair Virginia Curtis called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. RVTC Executive Officer Susan Geranen called roll; all five members of the RVTC were present and thus a quorum was established. Ms. Geranen swore in member Oscar Chavez, DVM and welcomed him as the newest member to the RVTC.

#### Members Present

Virginia Curtis, Chair  
Carol Schumacher, RVT, Vice Chair  
Oscar Chavez, DVM  
Craig Cornell, RVT  
Kim Williams, RVT  
Linda Starr, Board Liaison

#### Staff Present

Susan Geranen, Executive Officer, Veterinary Medical Board  
Paul Sanchez, Assistant Executive Officer, Veterinary Medical Board  
Shela Barker, Legal Counsel  
Ethan Mathes, Administrative Programs Coordinator  
Liz Parker-Smith, Administrative Analyst

#### Guests Present

Gil DeLuna, Department of Consumer Affairs  
Nancy Ehrlich, RVT, California Registered Veterinary Technicians Association  
Nancy Linn, Office of Professional Examination Services  
Sonja Merold, Office of Professional Examination Services  
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT  
John Perry, Department of Consumer Affairs

### 2. Legislative/Regulatory Subcommittee Workshop – 10:00 a.m. to noon A. Develop RVT School Approval Process and Reporting Requirements

The RVTC discussed the proposed regulatory language and instructor evaluation requirements, teaching experience requirements, use of model animals as alternative teaching tools and premise permit exemptions. Edits were made to instructor evaluation language regarding and other various non-substantive changes.

- **Craig Cornell, RVT motioned and Kim Williams, RVT seconded the motion to accept the proposed RVT school approval language and forward to the Veterinary Medical Board for review.**
- **The motion carried 5-0.**

The RVTC discussed the approval process for out of State schools and American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) approval versus non-approval. Non-approved school candidates would apply to the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) through the alternate route application process while the Board would develop language accepting AVMA approved school candidates through the traditional application process.

- **Dr. Oscar Chavez motioned and Kim Williams, RVT seconded the motion to add California Code of Regulations section 2066 as amended by legal counsel relating to out of State school approval.**
- **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **3. Approval of January 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The RVTC requested staff to notate the full motion language in future meeting minutes.

- **Carol Schumacher, RVT motioned and Craig Cornell, RVT seconded the motion requesting staff to include full motion language or otherwise make reference to full discussion in the meeting minutes.**
- **The motion carried 5-0.**
- **Kim Williams, RVT motioned and Carol Schumacher, RVT seconded the motion to approve the January 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes.**
- **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **4. Examination Report**

#### **A. Update on Transition of RVT Exam to Veterinary Technician National Exam**

Ethan Mathes updated on the Examination Licensing Report. Ms. Geranen explained the application process for applicants with criminal histories; depending on the criminal history of the applicant, their application may be transferred to enforcement staff for review.

### **5. Discussion Items**

#### **A. Update on Proposed Legislation for 2010**

Ms. Geranen reported the Board's proposed legislation language was submitted to Bill Gage and will likely be included in an omnibus bill this year. Including registered veterinary technician representation on the Multidisciplinary Committee (MDC) and/or Board is in discussion and it is unknown whether this language would be included in the omnibus bill. Ms. Geranen offered that if the RVTC were disbanded the MDC could potentially appoint a task force to represent registered veterinary technician issues.

The RVTC discussed the importance of registered veterinary technician representation on the Board and the future of the RVTC. They requested staff to research the intent of "...specific consideration to the recommendations of the Registered Veterinary Technician Committee" in Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 4832(b).

Dr. Chavez expressed concern for the protection of variations to the title of “veterinary technician” by using such titles as “veterinary technologists.” Ms. Geranen explained that statutory language allows the Board to adopt regulations outlining specific protected titles for veterinary technicians.

Gil DeLuna reported on Department of Consumer Affairs’ (DCA) enforcement efforts through its Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative (CPEI). The goal of the CPEI is to decrease enforcement case processing time from three years to between 12 and 18 months. Goals will be accomplished by addressing administrative processes, increased staffing, adopting improved information technology and drafting legislative changes. Mr. DeLuna noted some of the current activities taking place at DCA includes establishing best practices, the creation of an Enforcement Academy, drafting performance agreements, and increasing enforcement and non-sworn investigator staffing.

## **B. Status of Proposed Language for Mandatory CE for RVT’s**

Ms. Geranen updated that the Board will hold a public hearing on April 21, 2010 for the proposed language followed by filing the language with DCA.

## **6. Agenda Items and Dates for Next Meetings**

### **A. Update on Meeting Date Changes**

Ms. Geranen reported the RVTC and MDC meeting dates have been changed due to overlap with the Board meetings, logistical challenges, and budgetary considerations.

Proposed agenda items for the June 8, 2010 Meeting:

Legislation update

RVTC member reinstatements

Discuss subject matter expert selection criteria and possible subcommittee

School inspections due to examination performance below 10% of national average

Regulations update

RVT examination audit workshop update

Title protection regulations

Research legislative intent of “specific consideration” in BPC) section 4832(b)

## **7. Comments from Public/Outside Agencies/Associations**

Sonja Merold and Nancy Linn reported on the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) role within the DCA to develop, review and audit examinations. OPES has been tasked with conducting an audit of the national veterinary technician examination, the national occupational analysis and national examination development procedures. Specifically, OPES will determine whether the national examination’s content is valid, representative of the profession in California, linked in the examination plan, whether there enough questions on the examination, the examination performance and is it reliable, and whether there should be a California specific examination. At the conclusion of the national examination audit OPES will prepare and provide its recommendations to the RVTC and issue a final examination audit report.

The RVTC asked about the selection process of subject matter experts (SME’s) and whether RVTC members could be a part of the examination development process. Ms. Merold answered

that the RVTC members could potentially influence the examination development workshop process through their participation and therefore could not serve as SME's but that the RVTC's concern over the selection of SME's is shared by many other regulatory boards. The RVTC wanted to ensure the SME's were qualified and representative of the profession and wanted to be more active in the SME selection process. Ms. Linn reminded the examinations and the examination development process is not perfect but OPES has procedures to ensure examinations are valid by using checks and balances.

The RVTC requested staff to post the registered veterinary examination pass rates on the website.

## **8. Adjourn**

- **Kim Williams, RVT motioned and Craig Cornell, RVT seconded the motion to adjourn.**
- **The motion carried 5-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.