



MEETING MINUTES

Registered Veterinary Technician Committee
January 25, 2011
Sacramento, California

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC) Chair Carol Schumacher called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Veterinary Medical Board (Board) Executive Officer Susan Geranen called roll; four members of the RVTC were present and thus a quorum was established.

Members Present

Carol Schumacher, RVT, Chair
Craig Cornell, RVT, Vice Chair
Oscar Chavez, DVM
Virginia Curtis, Public Member
Tom Kendall, DVM, Veterinary Medical Board Liaison

Staff Present

Susan Geranen, Executive Officer, Veterinary Medical Board
Shela Barker, Legal Counsel (*arrived at 11:45 a.m.*)
Ethan Mathes, Administrative Programs Coordinator
Elizabeth Parker-Smith, Administrative Analyst

Guests Present

Albert Aldrete, DVM
Nancy Ehrlich, RVT, California Registered Veterinary Technicians Association
Alex Henderson, RVT
Richard Johnson, DVM, Multidisciplinary Committee
Kim Williams, RVT, Veterinary Medical Board

2. Approve November 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes

- **Craig Cornell, RVT motioned and Virginia Curtis seconded the motion to approve the November 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes.**
- **The motion carried 4-0.**

3. Examination/Licensing Program Report A. Examination/Licensing Report

Ethan Mathes updated on the Examination/Licensing report and that the limited term eligibility window has successfully licensed 442 candidates to date. The RVTC requested staff to send reminder letters to the remaining limited term eligibility window candidates who have not yet to applied for licensure.

B. Discuss Transition of RVT Exam to Veterinary Technician National Exam

Ms. Schumacher noted that in the American Association of Veterinary State Board's (AAVSB) response letter it was unclear whether alternate route veterinary technician candidates would be able to qualify for the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). Ms. Geranen noted the AAVSB has

expressed a desire to get away from on-the-job training as a qualification for the VTNE. The RVTC discussed whether qualifying for the VTNE would include accredited schooling as well as alternate route education and who would verify the eligibility of candidates. Ms. Geranen commented that the intention is for California to maintain the authority to qualify candidates for the VTNE.

The RVTC discussed the importance of reporting VTNE performance statistics. The AAVSB would need to report VTNE performance statistics for accredited schooling and alternate route candidates as well as any other examination qualifying methods. The RVTC discussed the VTNE testing windows and whether California candidates would have enough time to apply for the VTNE based on California graduation cycles. The RVTC requested staff to draft a letter to the AAVSB to address its concerns about alternate route candidates, VTNE performance statistic reporting, and examination testing windows.

The RVTC discussed the cost impact on candidates who take the VTNE, whether the VTNE cost would discourage candidates to apply for licensure, and whether the AAVSB would consider reducing the examination fee. Ms. Geranen remarked that the AAVSB has said they would look into reducing examination fees at a future meeting. She also pointed out the importance of California's involvement in AAVSB activities, particularly in VTNE development, in order to address California's concerns with the examination.

The RVTC discussed the efficacy of developing a California jurisprudence examination and if it should ultimately be a take home examination. Ms. Geranen reminded the RVTC that transitioning to the VTNE is contingent upon developing a valid California jurisprudence examination. The transition to the VTNE would take effect approximately January 2013 due to several implementation concerns including creating regulations, contracting with AAVSB, and developing a California jurisprudence examination.

4. Legislation/Regulations Report

A. Discuss the Impact of Assembly Bill 1980 as it Relates to RVTC

Ms. Geranen noted that the RVTC, having been founded in 1976, has been important to the profession and thanked the RVTC for their commitment and service. In accordance with the language in Assembly Bill (AB) 1980, the RVTC will sunset on June 30, 2011 as a California registered veterinary technician has been appointed to the Board.

Ms. Schumacher reported there are two more meetings remaining in April and June. Ms. Geranen would discuss any issues arising from the sunset of the RVTC with Ms. Schumacher and Craig Cornell.

The RVTC formed a subcommittee of Ms. Schumacher and Dr. Oscar Chavez to discuss student exemption issues as a result of provisions in AB 1980. The subcommittee will research possible parameters of student exemptions via a contract and under the immediate supervision of a veterinarian. They will also research whether to include a form by reference in regulation that would incorporate suggested language in the AAVSB model practice act or a former edition of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

B. Develop Title Protection Regulations for BPC sections 4839 and 4839.5

The RVTC discussed the California Veterinary Medical Association's (CVMA) California Certified Veterinary Assistant training course and that it may conflict with title protections in Business and Professions Code (BPC). Shela Barker opined using the term "California Certified" implies a government function and is therefore prohibited. The RVTC directed staff to draft a letter to CVMA clarifying title restrictions.

The RVTC discussed title protection and that California licensed veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians may display their titles as "DVM" and "RVT". These titles are to be primarily displayed, in a veterinary hospital setting, before any other official titles. The RVTC formed a subcommittee of

Ms. Schumacher and Dr. Chavez to formulate a list of protected titles for California registered veterinary technicians and to report back to legal counsel.

C. Update on Radiation Safety Examination Subcommittee

Ms. Schumacher reported that the Radiation Safety Guide has been updated to reflect new information from the California Department of Public Health including new digital radiograph information and the creation of additional review questions. The updated Guide will be forwarded to the RVTC and legal counsel for review and then presented at the March 2011 RVTC meeting.

D. Discuss Expiration of BPC section 4836.1 - Administration of Drugs

The RVTC discussed the expiration of BPC section 4836. They offered their support to allow the law to expire. Ms. Barker noted that the Department of Consumer Affairs' Legislative and Regulatory Review Division is watching for any legislation that would provide for an extension of BPC section 4836.1.

E. Review Regulation Calendar

Ms. Geranen reviewed the Regulation Calendar.

5. Discuss Physical Therapy as it Relates to RVTs

Ms. Schumacher reported the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) offered its support for the formation of a CVMA task force to discuss physical therapy for animals. The task force will meet for the first time on February 18, 2011 and will be chaired by Dr. Jon Klingborg of the MDC. Dr. Chavez felt it was important that the physical therapy of animals is added as a job task for registered veterinary technicians and not delegated out as a separate profession. Ms. Geranen added the CVMA's recommendation from its physical therapy task force would be brought to the MDC for review.

6. Agenda Items and Dates for Next Meetings

- A. March 15, 2011 - Sacramento**
- B. June 14, 2011 - Sacramento**

Ms. Schumacher indicated that she may not be able to attend the March 15, 2011 RVTC meeting and that Mr. Cornell would chair the meeting in her place.

7. Comments from Public/Outside Agencies/Associations

There were no comments from public/outside agencies/associations.

Adjourn

- **Virginia Curtis motioned and Craig Cornell, RVT seconded the motion to adjourn.**
- **The motion carried 4-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.