

Assistant Executive Officer's Report

Budgets

Based on our most recent budget reports, the Board is within its range of projections for expenditures for the current fiscal year. Included in your Board binders are the most current budget summary and expenditure reports. Reflected in the report is the Board's compliance with the 5% reduction plan on the Personal Services category of our budget.

Contracts

We have started the contract process for our next agreement with NBVME to administer the NAVLE exam through 2012.

Personnel

Furloughs officially ended October 2010 with the new labor contract agreement for most state employees. Below are highlights from the new agreement:

- Increase employees' monthly pension contribution rates by 3%.
- Effective July 1, 2013, add a new 3% step to the pay ranges. Only employees who reach the top of the range will be affected by this change.
- Provide two days of professional development leave per fiscal year.
- Eliminate two holidays

Regulations

Fees

Proposed language would increase fees in varying degrees to application and license fees, California State Board and law examination fees, hospital premise fee, and establish the fee for the Board's diversion program.

The initial 45-day Notice was published on September 4, 2009. Subsequent 15-day Notices were published on November 10, 2009, November 25, 2009, July 22, 2010, and October 21, 2010. The July 2010 and October 2010 15-day Notices decreased the initial and renewal license fees and proposed to make all fee increases effective March 2012. The modified proposed regulations were submitted for review to DCA on November 8, 2010 and sent to Agency on November 15, 2010. Agency did not approve the proposed regulations, but they were submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on December 2, 2010 to meet the required deadline and are currently waiting for approval by OAL.

Exam and Clean Up

Proposed language would update the Board's address; remove a fixed exam filing date because the Board now offers its examinations in a computer based format with continuous testing; repeal sections that have a past sunset date; update form numbers; clarify the timeframe requirements for taking the licensing examinations; eliminate duplicative information; adding Western University at Pomona as an exempt veterinary college in California consistent with authority granted in 4830 (a)(5) of the Business and Professions Code, to recognize the repeal of Government Code section 15376 and to clarify existing law.

The initial 45-day Notice was published on September 4, 2009. The proposed regulations were submitted for review to DCA on April 22, 2010, sent to Agency in June 2010 and delivered to OAL on July 15, 2010. The proposed regulations were disapproved by OAL on August 25, 2010 and a 15-day Notice was published on November 10, 2010 and submitted to OAL on December 22, 2010 and are currently waiting for approval by OAL.

Continuing Education - Veterinary Technicians

Proposed language would establish requirements for registered veterinary technicians to continue their education beyond those required for initial registration. It would also require registered veterinary technicians to submit, as a condition of renewal, assurance to the Board they have completed their required continuing education of 20 hours every 2 years.

The initial 45-day Notice was published on March 4, 2010. The proposed regulations were submitted for review to DCA on August 3, 2010 and sent to Agency on December 22, 2010 and are currently waiting for approval by Agency.

Retroactive Fingerprinting

Proposed language would require that veterinarian and veterinary technician licensees to respond to all Board requests for information within 30 days, that they are required to provide the Board with all records requested related to criminal history information, provide accurate responses and make available documents and other records requested.

The initial 45-day Notice was published on March 4, 2010. The proposed regulations were submitted for review to DCA on August 3, 2010 and sent to Agency on December 22, 2010 and are currently waiting for approval by Agency.

Future Office Move

Board staff met with DCA facilities staff regarding the potential move the DCA main building on Market Street. We are still in process of determining our space needs and availability. Once this has been determined we can determine whether the Board can absorb the costs of the move and increase in rent.

Enforcement Report

Statistical Data

New complaints since 7/1/10:	304
Total hospital inspections assigned:	235
Total hospital inspections completed:	32
*Total Veterinary licensees:	15,178
Total Veterinary licensees (current) in CA:	10,641
*Total Registered Veterinary Technicians:	8,059
Total Registered Veterinary Technicians (current) in CA:	5,503
Total premise permits:	3,186
<i>*Total includes delinquent, suspended, and CE license holds.</i>	

Complaint Program

The total number of complaints received from July 1, 2010 to date is 304.

Complaints are submitted by consumers, individuals in the veterinary profession, or government agencies. An enforcement analyst reviews the complaint for jurisdiction, type, and severity. Several developments can occur once jurisdiction has been established. Some examples are, the analyst can initiate a desk investigation by contacting the respondent and consulting veterinarian for medical records; an inspection may be performed; the case is referred to the Division of Investigation (DoI) for formal investigation if the respondent has numerous other cases pending or if the allegations are egregious in nature and additional information is needed; or the case can be closed without any further action.

In the majority of cases, if negligence is determined, the case is reviewed by two experts, one in-house consultant and one outside expert. When there is agreement on negligence violations by both experts, the Board proceeds with a citation or formal discipline. In some highly

specialized areas there may be times when the Board proceeds with one expert review instead of two, depending on the availability of experts with a particular expertise.

Citation Program

As of July 1, 2010, 17 citations have been served, two informal conferences were held and no citations referred to the Offices of the Attorney General (AG) for an administrative hearing. Of the 17 citations served, which include some cases from fiscal year (09/10) and (10/11), five were issued for unlicensed activity. Four of the five citations for unlicensed activity were issued for unlicensed equine dentistry and one for unlicensed vaccine administration.

Inspection Program

After the budget was signed in October 2010, the Board assigned 235 routine inspections and 12 complaint/probation related inspections. Of the 235 routine inspections assigned, 32 have been performed. To date, five of the complaint/probation related inspections have been performed. The complaint/probation related inspections are required to be performed within 30 days of their assignment.

Last fiscal year the Board had four inspectors covering 31 counties. This year the Board has three inspectors covering 33 counties. Dr. Parvin, a former inspector, has been hired as an in-house consultant reviewing incoming complaints. If necessary, Dr. Parvin can perform inspections local to Sacramento.

Discipline Program

Currently there are 38 formal disciplinary cases pending with the AG. Of the 38 pending cases, seven have been sent to the AG since July 1, 2010.

Enforcement staff is currently monitoring 34 probationers.

Enforcement Measures

In 2009 the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) implemented the Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative which required that all healing arts boards and bureaus reduce the processing time of enforcement cases in the following areas: Complaint Intake, Intake and Investigations, Formal Discipline, Probation Intake, and Probation Violation Response. The enforcement staff has been working towards achieving the Department's mandated processing times and reduced its overall turnaround time. However, the Board continues to face obstacles outside of its control. Such as, the state wide hiring freeze, the amount of time the DoI takes to investigate cases, and the amount of time cases remain pending at the AG and Office of the Administrative Hearings.

All boards and bureaus are required to submit quarterly enforcement measures to DCA. These measures are posted publicly. On January 5, 2011, the Board submitted their quarterly measures and reduced their processing time in all but one area, formal discipline, despite the enforcement unit being insufficiently staffed. The enforcement unit will continue to strive to achieve the goals for these measures.

Examination/Licensing Report

Examinations

NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY LICENSING EXAMINATION			
April 2010		November 2009/December 2009	
Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.
57	79%		

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD EXAMINATION			
May 2010 – October 2010		November 2010 – April 2011	
Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.
187	71%	71	82%

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EXAMINATION			
January 2010 – June 2010		July 2010 - December 2010	
Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.
550	58%	424	60%

Examination Workshops

Next Workshops are scheduled for Spring 2010

Licensing

Licenses Issued	
January 1, 2010 – January 1, 2011	
Veterinarian	428
Reciprocity	51
Intern	43
Registered Veterinary Technician	514
Premises	102

Limited Term Eligibility Window - RVT Examination	
January 1, 2009 – January 1, 2011	
Total Received Applications (incl. re-take appl.)	816
Total Re-Take Applicants	<u>86</u>
Total First Time Applicants	730
Applications Ineligible	<u>52</u>
Total Eligible First Time Applications	678
Applications Pending (addl. Info.)	0
Applicants Licensed	442
Failed Applicants not Eligible to Re-examine	<u>220</u>
Total Applicants Pending*	16
Pending Exam (to date)	0
Pending Licensure (to date)	16