



MEMORANDUM

DATE February 22, 2013

TO Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee

FROM Sue Geranen Executive Officer
DCA/Veterinary Medical Board

SUBJECT **Electronic Record Keeping**

Background:

In recent years the majority of veterinary practices have switched over to electronic recordkeeping systems. This transition has brought up issues of confidentiality and accurately reflecting when entries are made in the record. Staff, DCA staff counsel, and Attorney General have suggested adopting regulations that would address these issues and set some parameters specific to electronic records. The Board included it as a part of its Strategic Plan 2012-2014 and subsequently referred the issue to the MDC for further discussion and action.

It is not illegal to make an addendum to a medical record, but it is illegal to try and add additional information and make it look like it was a part of the original entries. A time lock function assures licensees that there is a period of time after the initial entries, usually 12 to 24 hours during which additional entries can be made as a part of the original record. After that time period, entries could still be made but the system would note the new date and time and the entry would be noted as an addendum to the original entries.

A time lock function would prevent alteration of electronic records and could be considered as a regulatory requirement. This function is available in states that require it by law, but not in California because it is not a requirement and it is an additional cost. Since there would be an additional cost involved in this requirement, the MDC and/or the Board would need to determine if the additional cost was significant and if there were other options.

This item is up for discussion by the MDC.

Action Requested:

Discussion and consideration of taking action.