

**Veterinary Medical Board**

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## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE** February 26, 2013

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**TO** RVT Task Force – March 12, 2013  
Kim Williams, RVT; Cheryl Waterhouse, DVM; Dave Johnson, RVT; and  
Oscar Chavez, DVM.

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**FROM** Sue Geranen Executive Officer  
Veterinary Medical Board

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**SUBJECT** RVT Student Exemption

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**Background:**

AB 1980 (Hayashi), Chapter 538, effective January 1, 2011, created a provision in law for RVT students in the clinical portion of their final year of study in a board-approved California veterinary technology program to perform the job tasks for registered veterinary technicians as a part of their educational experience including students both on and off campus acting under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian in good standing.

The bill also required the Board to adopt regulations defining the parameters of supervision required for the students who were to perform such tasks. The consensus of the RVT Committee and its recommendation to the Board at its last meeting in June 2011 was that the level of supervision should be “immediate” supervision meaning the supervision was physically present and the supervision was one on one.

There was also discussion regarding students in structured two year programs verses alternate route candidates and the RVT Committee recommended that the Board include in the regulations the parameters under which all RVT students could have experience actually performing the RVT job tasks at some time toward the end of their clinical training.

**Issue:**

There are two issues before the committee at this meeting on this topic:

1. Defining the supervision under which RVT students are allowed to perform the restricted RVT job tasks;
2. Determining the parameters under which RVT students qualify to perform such tasks.

**Action Requested:**

Discuss and considering adopting parameters of supervision for RVT students performing the restricted job tasks and the parameters under which student qualify to perform such tasks.

**Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations  
Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board**

**Draft Language for Discussion Purposes**

Amend section 2034 and add section 2036.6 as follows:

**2034. Animal Health Care Tasks Definitions.**

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(g) "Immediate supervision" means the supervisor is physically in the presence of the animal patient and the person treating the patient. Immediate supervision requires a one to one relationship.

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**2036.6. RVT Student Exemption.**

(a) Students in a board-approved California veterinary technology program as defined under section 2065 of these regulations may perform the R.V.T. job tasks as a part of their clinical instruction and/or externship portion of the program as defined by section 2065(a)(2) and (3) of these regulations provided they are under immediate supervision of a California licensed veterinarian or registered veterinary technician.

(1). Students may perform R.V.T. jobs tasks for a period of no more than six (6) months.

(b) Students completing the board-approved California eligibility requirements as defined under section 2068.5 of these regulations who have completed the required directed clinical practice specified in section 2068.5(g) and (h) and general education specified in section 2068.5(b) may perform R.V.T. jobs tasks for a period of no more than six (6) months provided they are under immediate supervision of a California licensed veterinarian or registered veterinarian who has been approved by the Board.

(d) The supervisor of a student under subsections (a) and (b) shall possess and maintain a current, valid California license or registration as a veterinarian or veterinary technician that is in good standing as defined in Section 4848 ((b)(1)(A)(B).

(e) The supervisor of a student under subsection (b) and the student shall notify the board in writing within 10 days of the termination of his or her supervisory relationship with the temporary licensee.

(1). If the supervisory relationship between the supervisor and the student has been terminated, the student shall not perform any RVT job tasks for which registration is required until he or she has submitted to the board in writing the name and license number of another veterinarian or registered veterinary technician who is to be the student's supervisor accompanied by a signed acknowledgment from the new supervisor that he or she has read and agrees to comply with the provisions relating to the supervision of students and the supervisor has been approved by the board.

(2). If a supervisor will be unavailable to supervise the student at any time, the supervisor shall either discontinue allowing the student to perform the RVT job tasks or shall make arrangements for a California licensed veterinarian or registered veterinary technician in good standing to supervise the student in the supervisor's absence.

(3). A supervisor who is unavailable to supervise the student for three (3) or more consecutive weeks shall be deemed to have terminated the supervisory relationship.

(4). A supervisor who fails to comply with the laws and regulations relating to the supervision of a student under this section shall be subject to disciplinary action by the board for unprofessional conduct.

Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4841.1 Business and Professions Code.