

Executive Officer's Report

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The mission of the Veterinary Medical Board is to protect consumers and animals through development and maintenance of professional standards, licensing of veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, and registered veterinary premises and diligent enforcement of the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

Legislation

AB 1980 (Hayashi) was signed by the Governor on 9/29/2010. Among other things, the bill adds a registered veterinary technician (RVT) to the Board, provides title protection to RVTs, sunsets the RVT Committee and increases the Multidisciplinary Committee from five to seven members. The Board, California Veterinary Medical Association and the California Registered Veterinary Technician Association (CARVTA) all worked together on this bill and it will become law on January 1, 2011. The Board will be discussing the impact of this legislation at its meeting on October 20, 2010.

AB 2411 (Jones). This bill was vetoed by the Governor as not necessary.

Regulations

The unanticipated glitch in the fee increase regulatory process with State and Consumer Services Agency that the Board addressed in July continues to be an issue. The Board responded to Director Leonard's mandate to lower two of the fees so that the Contingency Funds balances were no more than four months. Unfortunately, Director Leonard still may not sign off on the proposed regulations. If these regulations are not approved, the Board will have to start over on the process and hold another public hearing.

Budget

Furloughs. The furloughs will continue until we have a signed budget. Once the budget is signed, the mandated furlough days where state offices are closed will end and employees will be subject to a five (5%) percent pay cut, a five percent increase in their contributions to retirement and one self-directed furlough day a month.

Hiring Freeze. Currently the Governor has imposed a hard hiring freeze on all state agencies that severely restricts hiring, promotions and filling vacant positions. The hiring freeze creates a hardship for all the boards and it is unknown how long the freeze will last.

RVTC

Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) Transition. The Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC) had many questions at its last meeting regarding a possible transition to the VTNE. Staff is compiling those questions and submitting them to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) for a response prior to the next meeting of the RVTC in November. Dr. Kendall attended a portion of the VTNE Committee Item Writing workshop at the AAVSB Conference in Baltimore this month and will be giving a report both at the Board and RVTC meetings.

Impact of AB 1980. It is anticipated that there will be issues associated with sun setting the RVT committee once the laws in AB 1980 become effective on January 1, 2011. We will be seeking guidance from the Department on the logistics of that transition.

AAVSB

Dr. Tom Kendall and I attended the annual AAVSB Conference in Baltimore, MD, from September 15-19, 2010. There was a variety of topics including a panel discussion on enforcement issues and two presentations on the AVMA's Disaster Preparedness program.

Bylaws Change. On behalf of the Board, I withdrew our request for a bylaws change that would designate a public member on the AAVSB Board of Governors. The request for a designated public board member will be resubmitted to the AAVSB with an amendment to allow flexibility of appointment for the times when no public member is nominated.

Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE). In comparing the Board's regulations with the RACE standards, we discovered some minor discrepancies. Staff will be analyzing the two programs to identify any necessary regulatory changes.

CVMA Meeting. Linda Starr and I attended the meeting of the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Board of Governors on Friday, September 24, 2010. There were several questions regarding the distribution of the monies collected from the License Plate project. We explained that the distribution process must be defined in regulation and that is a public process in which everyone who wishes to comment may do so. We first must establish the program when 7,500 plates are purchased.

Department of Consumer Affairs. The Director of DCA, Brian Stiger, has been conducting conference calls for Board Chair persons and Executive Officers to keep the Board in the loop of issues facing the DCA today.