

# 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.*

We are starting the second quarter of the year and have three new employees, Roxanne, Julia and Detrea and one AARP volunteer, Mary. Roxanne is our new cashier, Julia is at the front desk, Detrea is handling incoming complaints and Mary is helping us with sorting comments on the minimum standards regulations. We are very excited to have these new employees with us now!

## Legislation

1. SB 697 (Emmerson) – Unlicensed Activity. This bill has been put off for this year – no action.
2. SB 969 (Vargas) – Pet Groomers – This bill is being amended and is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Business and Professions and Economic Development Committee (BP&ED) on Monday, April 16 at 1:30 p.m.
3. AB 610 (Solario). AB 610 has been amended to provide for another extension of time to meet the 7,500 plates sold threshold of plates sold. Ms Mancuso will be reporting on the progress at the meeting – Support.
4. AB 1839 (Ma) – Section 4836.1 – Controlled Substances – this bill is a joint effort between the Board, the CVMA and CaRVTA and passed the first committee on consent – Support – letter in binder.
5. AB 2304 (Garrick) – Cosmetic Teeth Cleaning. This bill contains proposed language that would exempt the use of any non-motorized tool by any person to scale animal's teeth from the practice act – Board President Ferguson authorized an opposed position and the letter is in the binder for discussion at the Board meeting. It is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection (BP&CP) Committee on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.

## Regulations

**Proposed Changes to the Minimum Standards, including Section 2037.** Since the Board's public hearing in October 2011 on the proposed changes to the minimum standards, including Section 2037 we have had two fifteen day notices and are now putting together the rulemaking file. It is an immense project and we are now developing the Final Statement of Reasons, a document in which the Board responds to the comments received during the public notice periods and at the October meeting. Our goal is to have the file completed and submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs sometime around the first of May, 2012.

**RVT School Regulations.** The proposed regulations for RVT schools were sent out to all schools in California and the Board received one comment. The proposed regulations and the comment will be in the Board binder for the April meeting for discussion and possible adoption.

**Disciplinary Guidelines.** At its January meeting, the Board adopted the revised Disciplinary Guidelines. Staff is preparing the Notice documents and the Initial Statement of Reasons to be submitted to Office of Administrative Law by April 17 for a public hearing at the one day meeting on June 12, 2012.

## Sunset Review.

Our kick off meeting on the Sunset Review project will be at the April Board meeting on Tuesday afternoon, April 24 and we can talk about some of the issues that have surfaced in the past and try to anticipate new issues that may come up. The Sunset questionnaire is in the April meeting binder along with the previous report for 2003 and the Board's Strategic Plan. Much of the historical information will remain the same as it was documented in the Board's last Sunset Report in 2003, but there will need to be a new narrative developed regarding the statistical information for the last four years. Traditionally, this narrative has been done for the most part by Board members with the assistance of the Executive Officer and staff. This is definitely a hands-on project for Board members. It is usually the Board members who testify about the report and on behalf of the Board and the Executive Officer is there as a

resource and to answer technical questions regarding the statistics. This is a priority project that pushes everything else back so that there is adequate staff time to work on this report.

One part of the report is that the Board develops recommendations to the Legislature for changes that will improve the way veterinary medicine is regulated or that will correct inaccurate legal language or that will create new authority for the Board. Another part will be responding to previous recommendations from the Board and the Legislature that were a part of our Sunset Report 2003. This is where collaboration between the Board members and staff is invaluable. The Board will also want input from the public and the profession on the document and that will be a part of putting the issue on the regular public meeting agendas and in holding at least one special committee meeting between April and July. The Board may need to consider moving the dates for the October meeting back one week so that there can be a final discussion on the report in October with enough time to have the report printed and submitted to the Legislature by November 1.

### **Enforcement**

We are working on the details of the Enforcement Training for Board members and will have a report on the progress at the April meeting. The Enforcement Training will be on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 and will go from 10 to 4 p.m. Diann Sokoloff, DAG, Liaison and Sandra Monterrubio are working together to develop the overall training programs and I know that it is going to be excellent. Any questions that you have had or think about regarding enforcement cases or the process itself between now and June, please send to Sandra so we can be sure that the information covers exactly what you need to know. We will also be doing this training for the members of the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) in November.

### **RVT Exam Issues.**

Although the RVT Committee sunsetted last June, the Board still regulates RVTs and the issues related to RVTs still need to be addressed. One of the issues in which former committee members provided support to the staff was in providing expertise in reviewing alternate route applications. There are many times when lay staff finds it difficult to determine whether an applicant is eligible or not or whether their education meets the requirements in California Code of Regulations, Section 2068.5 and the members of this committee will be very helpful in that respect. Kim Williams, RVT and Tom Kendall, DVM, are the new committee members and a meeting was held with the two new members on March 7 to discuss the roles of the new committee.

### **American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).**

Registry of Approved Continuing Education Committee (RACE). The Board is continuing to work with the AAVSB on the standards for continuing education approval for the alternative veterinary medicine options. The AAVSB's Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) committee is meeting in Kansas City, MO, on April 16/17, 2012 to discuss some of the issues raised at the annual conference last September. Dr. Johnson will be attending that meeting as a member of RACE. Some of the issues to be discussed include additional consultants for reviewing the CAVM courses and the requirement for individual 50 and 25 minute continuing education courses, not a cumulative total of random hours. Outcomes from that meeting will be on the agenda for the one day meeting in June for discussion.

AAVSB Board of Directors Mid Year Meeting. The AAVSB Board of Directors meets face to face twice a year – in September and in January. Now that the Board has a representative on that Board, we need to consider being flexible with the dates for the January Board meetings to accommodate our representative attending the national meeting. I have also sent out existing dates to the Executive Director of the AAVSB and asked whether they can be flexible with the dates for the mid-year meeting. We will discuss the meeting locations and dates at the end of the agenda and hopefully, there will be more information by then.