



Animal & Veterinary Sciences
College of Agriculture

April 25, 2012

California Veterinary Medical Board
2005 Evergreen Street
Suite 2250
Sacramento, CA 95815-3831

ATTN: Veterinary Medical Board
Re: VMB Proposal for consideration of title recognition of Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVTg)

Dear Veterinary Medical Board members,

As defined in McCurnin, Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians, page 9 paragraph 3 and as recognized nationally by the "AVMA Policy on Veterinary Technology" as approved nomenclature: an RVTg, or "a Veterinary Technologist is a graduate of an AVMA accredited program in veterinary technology that grants a baccalaureate degree." The veterinary technologist works in a position that may require a greater level of education than the veterinary technician, such as project leader, practice supervisor, or teacher in a veterinary technology program. Some veterinary technologists, particularly those employed in teaching hospitals of veterinary medical schools, may become highly skilled in a particular aspect of veterinary technology. Some institutions and practices use the term veterinary technologist to refer to a veterinary technician who holds a BS in any field.

Our proposal is simple;

With as many different titles evolving in the veterinary healthcare team, there is room for public confusion. Given recent title protection to the title of Registered Veterinary Technician by the California Veterinary Medicine Practice ACT #4839.5, we request that that the nationally recognized title of Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVTg) be clearly defined and protected in the act. As seen in other healthcare models, it is not unreasonable to recognize graduates of an AVMA Accredited 4 year Animal Health Science program who have passed the required state board exam to have completed higher educational requirements than the traditional RVT.

The CVMA has recently introduced the Certified Veterinary Assistant program and opened a new membership category for those who pass the exam. The reasoning behind this program is to inspire these assistants to further their education and go on to become RVTs. How better to inspire current RVTs in lifelong learning than by recognizing the

3801 West Temple Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768 Telephone (909) 869-2216 Fax (909) 869-2099

students who go on to earn their Bachelors of Science degree in an animal field. The VMB should lead the way and be the first to inform the California public, that the quality of veterinary education, medicine, pet care and the animal health care team is getting better and better by DEGREES!

Thank you for the opportunity and the Board's consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Rash
Michele Rash, RVT
Associate Professor

Sherri Reichardt
Sherri Reichardt, RVTg
Animal Health Technologist