

Enforcement Report

UPDATE

STATISTICAL DATA 11/12

New complaints since 7/01/11:	766
Total hospital inspections assigned routine and complaint related assigned	247
Total veterinary licensees:	15,936
Total veterinary licensees (current) in CA:	8,667
Total registered veterinary technicians:	8,654
Total registered veterinary technicians (current) in CA:	5,361
Total premise permits:	3,431

COMPLAINT PROGRAM

In fiscal year 2011/2012, the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) received 766 complaints. Of the 766 complaints, 98 involve unlicensed activity. The 98 complaints range from veterinarians who are practicing with an expired license, equine dentistry, and anesthesia-free dental cleaning. Board staff is continuing to work with the Division of Investigation and local district attorneys to help prosecute individuals who engage in unlicensed activity.

In June 2012, Katheryn Shafer (DBA Houndstooth Pet Teeth Cleaning) was convicted of Business and Professions Code section 4825-Licensure Requirement. Ms. Shafer was sentenced to 24 months of probation, 80 hours of community service, assessed \$2,000 fine, and \$120.00 payment to State Restitution Fund, and is prohibited from performing any unlawful dental services on animals. Senior Deputy District Attorney, Linda Groberg, of Ventura County did an excellent job prosecuting this case.

The Board recently hired a part-time Office Technician for the enforcement unit and is recruiting for a full-time Staff Services Analyst. Enforcement staff meet regularly to discuss the current and projected workload distribution and training for existing and new staff. The Board is still looking to hire one to two more in-house consultants to help review enforcement cases.

CITATION PROGRAM

- In fiscal year 2011/2012, 54 citations were served. In fiscal year 2011/2012 10 informal conferences were held and two cites were appealed and referred to the Attorney General's office for administrative hearing.

INSPECTION PROGRAM

- In fiscal year 2011/2012, 247 inspections were assigned. Of the 247 inspections assigned, 217 were completed. A Hospital Inspection Checklist was mailed to each registered premise with a current premise permit. The Board has received numerous calls from practice owners stating the Inspection Checklist is a helpful resource to better understand the necessary requirements to meet the minimum

standards. The Inspection Checklist can be downloaded from the Board's website at www.vmb.ca.gov.

- For this fiscal year 2012/2013, the Board has five (5) inspectors, Dr. Carl Singer, Dr. Lawrence Kosmin, Dr. Mark Evans, Dr. Laurie Zelby and Dr. Anne Lorkowski. The inspectors will be attending a three-day training at the end of July. The training will consist of a one-day classroom training session followed by a two-day off-site shadowing of each inspector. The Board accepts inspector applications on an ongoing basis.
- The VMB sends inspection evaluation questionnaires to veterinarians approximately 30 days after compliance has been verified. The questionnaires assist staff to improve the overall inspection program. The purpose of the questionnaires is to obtain feedback from the veterinarians regarding the inspection process. The overall feedback from the veterinarians has been very positive and the survey ratings have been favorable.

DISCIPLINE PROGRAM

- Currently there are 72 formal disciplinary cases pending with the Offices of the Attorney General (AG) throughout California.
- Enforcement staff is currently monitoring 36 probationers. Currently six (6) probationers are in violation of their probation because subsequent complaints were received and violations were found. The Board has forwarded those cases to the Office of the Attorney General and requested that an Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation be filed.
- The Board member training that was scheduled for July 23, 2012, has been cancelled and rescheduled for Monday, January 21, 2013. The training will provide an overview of the complaint intake process, Division of Investigation, the administrative process, and probation. As part of the preparation for the training and at the request of the enforcement committee, staff developed a flow chart to give Board members a snapshot overview of the enforcement process. The flow chart will be a hand carry at the July meeting and the expanded information at each step will be part of the training in January 2013.