

*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.*

**Sunset Review.**

Our sunset bill, SB 304, was signed and chaptered on October 3, 2013. The provisions of the bill go into effect on January 1, 2014. We have included the bill on the October Board meeting agenda and will be going over the portions of the bill that impact the Board and require action.

The Board's sunset date was extended for two years until January 1, 2016 and the Board was asked to respond to specific questions from the Sunset Review Committee. The Board should get the specific questions in April or May of 2014 and will need to respond in writing by November 1, 2014. Then there will be another sunset bill in January 2015 to extend the date beyond 2016. Hearings will be scheduled sometime in February or March of 2015 for the Board to come before the Sunset Committee and report orally on the written questions and responses submitted previously.

**Succession/Workforce Planning**

The CPS Executive Officer Succession and Workforce Plan is in its final draft and was sent to the Board for review and comment. We have approached CPS about entering into another contract to assist the Board with the next stage which is identifying training needs, developing desk manuals for each position and implementing the plan.

**Executive Officer Transition.** I am retiring as Executive Officer to the Board at the end of November after 32 years with the Veterinary Medical Board and it is a bittersweet transition. I have had a wonderful fulfilling career with the Board with many good memories and challenges. I will miss the Board members, staff and all the allied groups of people that together, we have interacted with over the years. The Board conducted initial interviews on Wednesday, October 2, 2013, and will be doing follow up interviews at its October Board meeting in Riverside. I am sure that the Board will choose the best candidate for the job and that the new EO and the Board will work together to face the new and exciting challenges that are coming down the line in the coming years.

**Regulations**

**Proposed Regulations Schedule.** In order to notice a public hearing for any given proposed regulatory change, staff must prepare an Initial Statement of Reasons outlining in detail all the reasons why the Board is proposing the changes. So the plan is that staff will bring the proposed language and the ISR to the Board prior to scheduling a hearing so the Board can consider the reasons for the language and include that when considering whether to move forward with a public hearing. Staff updates the Regulation Calendar with the priorities for the pending regulations adopted by the Board prior to each meeting.

**Minimum Standards.** The regulations have been approved! After four years of working on the proposed changes to the minimum standards and Section 2037 – the file was approved officially on Friday, 9/27 and will become effective on January 1, 2014. Major kudos to Ethan Mathes for all of his work on this project which was the largest rulemaking file in the history of DCA – the equivalent of at least 5 or 6 regular rulemaking files – thank you, Ethan very much.

**RVT Alternate Route and Student Exemption Regulations.** The proposed RVT regulations for alternate route school approval and the student exemption regulations will be discussed at the RVT Task Force meeting on November 14, 2013. This will be the last meeting of the Task Force as it will

be combined into the MDC as per SB 304 – the new MDC will include one veterinarian Board member and the one RVT Board member beginning in March 2014. The Board will need to make those appointments at its meeting in January 2014. The outcome of the discussion from the Task Force meeting in November will go to the new MDC in March 2014 for full discussion and then to the Board possibly in April 2014.

**Disciplinary Guidelines.** The updated Disciplinary Guidelines are now in effect; however, there will be a period of transition whereby the old guidelines will still apply to some cases already in the pipeline. So at least initially it may be a bit confusing, but ultimately it is a positive.

#### **Regulations – Pending Public Hearing**

**License Plate Regulations.** The public hearing for the license plate regulations is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2013 and any comments that are delivered during that hearing will be brought to the Board for the October Board meeting. The Board approved the language for purposes of public hearing in July 2013, but now must consider any comments that are submitted and approve the final language and direct staff to move forward with the rulemaking file and give staff authority to make any non-substantive changes that are necessary.

**Animal Rehabilitation, Citation and Fine Program, Uniform Standards for Substance Abuse.** The Board will be reviewing the Initial Statements of Reason for the Animal Rehabilitation proposed regulations in October and will consider directing staff to notice a public hearing in January 2014. The citation and fine and uniform standards regulations will be considered in April and July 2014 for public hearings in July and October 2014.

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

The annual conference for 2013 was held in Kansas City, Missouri, the home of the headquarters of the AAVSB. The business meetings were held on Wednesday, September 18 and the conference began on Thursday, September 19 and went through Saturday, September 21, 2013. Continuing education requirements, foreign veterinarian education equivalence and unlicensed activity were the top discussion topics of the conference. As always, the meeting was informative and fun and it is always great for connecting with Executive Officers and board members from the 58 other member licensing jurisdictions in the U.S., Canada and the U.S. Territories.