



News & Views

VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

Board Executive Officer Susan (Sue) Geranen Retires

The entire Veterinary Medical Board, the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee, the Registered Veterinary Technician Committee, and all staff members wish to congratulate Sue Geranen on her retirement from the Board: A well-deserved retirement after serving as Executive Officer since July 1996 and working on the Board since July 1, 1981. She has earned the trust, respect, and friendship of all who have worked with her.

Ms. Geranen was actively involved in legislative, regulatory, and enforcement processes of the Board and the profession. She represented the Board so professionally and was very well respected throughout the Department of Consumer Affairs and at all levels of her involvement. She represented the Board at meetings held at the University of California, Davis, California Veterinary Medical Association conventions, Western States Veterinary Board Conference, the Central Veterinary Conference-East, the Federated Association of Regulatory Boards, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, and various local and state associations.

She will be truly missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her. Sue has been active in the Rotary Club of Foothill Highlands and she is a member of Bayside Church of Granite Bay. Her hobbies include gardening, golf, bicycling, and kayaking. Ms. Geranen has three children and four grandchildren. She currently has two cats, Mr. Screamer and Buster. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and adventures.



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Message from New Board Executive Officer Annemarie Del Mugnaio

The Veterinary Medical Board has some exciting opportunities and challenges in store over the next few years and I am truly excited about what the future holds for the Board and the profession.

I had the privilege of serving 13 years as Executive Officer for an allied health board under the Department of Consumer Affairs and have established strong working relationships within the Department, the Legislature, and other State agencies. I am confident that as the Board continues to work closely with the profession, key governmental officials, and others interested in the welfare of animals, we can accomplish the goals set before us today and also be prepared to address the challenges on the horizon.

I look forward to all the good work ahead!



Special Thanks to Richard Johnson, DVM

The Veterinary Medical Board and staff wishes to acknowledge Richard Johnson, DVM, for his dedication and service of more than 13 years to the Board, the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) and the Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC). Dr. Johnson served as Chair of the RVTC for three terms. He also served as Chair of the Board's Enforcement Committee and served on the RACE Committee of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards.

Dr. Johnson was instrumental in forwarding the progress of the registered veterinary technicians in many areas. His hard work and dedication was truly appreciated. The Board acknowledges his many accomplishments and thanks him for his service to the consumers of the State of California.



Two New Board Members Appointed

Mark Nunez, DVM, of Los Angeles, was appointed to the Board by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in June of 2013. He is a graduate of the University of California, Davis, and is currently an associate veterinarian at the Veterinary Care Center in Los Angeles. He has been a practice owner and veterinarian at Animal Medical Center Inc. in Van Nuys and held multiple positions at the Veterinary Centers of America (VCA) and has served as the VCA regional medical director. Dr. Nunez was associate veterinarian at the Animal Medical Center and Dill Veterinary Hospital.

Elsa Florez, of La Cañada, was appointed to the Board by Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg in June of 2013. She is a graduate of California State University, Bakersfield, and serves as a public member to the Board. She has been actively pursuing animal betterment issues in Los Angeles and recently ran a half marathon benefiting ASPCA. She is thoroughly dedicated to the Board and to protecting animal and consumer rights.

News from the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee

Welcome to the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) column. The MDC was created in 2009 by legislative action to provide the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) with in-depth evaluation of issues affecting the veterinary profession. The committee, composed of veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians (RVTs), and public members, evaluates various issues and submits recommendations to the VMB for final approval.

Since its inception, the MDC has worked on a number of issues affecting veterinarians and RVTs. The MDC recently completed a major review of the Minimum Standards of Practice, which resulted in new regulations regarding vaccination clinics and Licensee Manager duties and updated veterinary-

client-patient relationship language allowing case management in the absence of client communication (effective January 1, 2014).

The MDC also created a new hospital inspection checklist and animal rehabilitation guidelines, and reviewed cite and fine guidelines and hospital inspection training.

Meeting dates and agendas are posted on our Web site at www.vmb.ca.gov. Your input on topics that affect our profession is always welcome.

Regards,
William A. Grant II, DVM
Chairman, Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee

New Regulations for 2013/2014

Minimum Standards of Practice

Effective January 1, 2014, the minimum standards of practice regulations were amended to reflect varied changes to the law in areas such as fixed veterinary premise requirements, Licensee Manager minimum standards, vaccination clinic standards, and written prescription requirements.

For more information on the updated minimum standards of practice language, visit the Board's Web site at www.vmb.ca.gov/laws_regs/minstand_regs.shtml.

Disciplinary Guidelines

Effective October 1, 2013, the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines were updated from its previous 2002 version in order to clarify the Board's position in matters of licensing enforcement that come before the Board.

The updated Disciplinary Guidelines can be found on the Board's Web site at www.vmb.ca.gov/forms_pubs/discip_guide.pdf.

Expert Witnesses Needed

The Veterinary Medical Board is continually enhancing its enforcement program, and is seeking people interested in participating as expert witnesses. Expert witnesses review complaints from the public and submit written reports of their conclusions back to the Board.

In order to serve as an expert witness, you must:

- » Hold a current and valid license to practice veterinary medicine in California.
- » Have at least five years' work experience in clinical practice.
- » Have some knowledge of State laws, rules and regulations, and standards regarding veterinary medicine.

If you would like additional information, please contact Sandra Monterrubio at (916) 515-5220.



California Pet Lover's License Plate Now Available

Specialty License Plate Program to Provide Funding for Spay and Neuter of Cats and Dogs

The California Spay and Neuter License Plate Fund, Inc. and the California Veterinary Medical Board are proud to announce that the Pet Lover's License Plate is now available through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) thanks to the support of animal lovers all over the State, including Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., actor Pierce Brosnan, and dog trainer Cesar Millan.

"The Pet Lover's License Plate provides a fun and easy way for pet lovers to help reduce pet overpopulation," said fund President and Board member Judie Mancuso. "Now that the plate is available through the DMV, more than 32 million registered vehicle owners in the State have the option to buy the new plate and we hope they do and help save lives."

Approximately \$40 from each purchased plate will go towards spay and neuter programs throughout the State. The plates can be purchased for \$50 for a standard plate or \$98 for a personalized plate.

The Pet Lover's License Plate was created to provide funding for free and low-cost spay and neuter procedures in an effort to cut down on the number of dogs and cats that end up in shelters each year.

The unique plate features original artwork designed and donated by international actor, artist, and animal lover Pierce Brosnan. The artwork is of two of the animals adopted by Brosnan and his family — Shilo, their dog, and Angel Baby, their cat.



"Over a half million dogs and cats are killed in California shelters every year," said Brosnan. "This license plate will provide much needed funds which will enable people who couldn't necessarily afford to spay or neuter their pets to do so."

"The most humane way not to kill a dog is to spay and neuter," said Cesar Millan, founder of the Millan Foundation. "When we kill four to five million dogs nationally per year, what that says about our behavior is that we have become a disposable society. To me, a spay and neuter campaign is just as important as the 'Buckle Up' campaign — it saves lives."

Millan added that he personally ordered plates for his "pack" — the Millan Foundation and his staff at the Dog Psychology Center.

"The first dog Sutter wants everyone to buy the license plates to raise money for spaying and neutering animals, so not as many get killed," said Governor Jerry Brown during a press conference to promote the plate.

Please visit www.DMV.CA.Gov to order or www.PetLoversPlate.com for more details.

About The California Spay and Neuter License Plate Fund Inc.

The California Spay and Neuter License Plate Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Its sole purpose relates to a California specialty spay and neuter license plate program from which sales proceeds will provide low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter surgeries. The funds generated by sales of the plate will be distributed by grants to qualifying agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter to dogs, cats, and rabbits in California. For more information, visit www.petloversplate.com.



Continuing Education Requirements

What is a Board-Approved Course?

In order to renew a license to practice in California, veterinarians must certify that they have completed 36 hours of approved continuing education (CE) and registered veterinary technicians must certify that they have completed 20 hours of approved CE.

The Board recognizes CE approved by the American Association of State Boards' Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) as California approved CE. Additionally, the Board accepts classes given by certain statutorily recognized providers as approved CE including, but not limited to, courses taught by American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited universities, AVMA specialty or allied groups, or Federal government agencies.

However, there are also several other requirements the Board uses to identify approved CE such as whether the course content is relevant to the profession and how the completion of a course is documented. Visit the Board's Web site at www.vmb.ca.gov/licensees/continuing_ed.shtml for more information on CE requirements or a list of RACE approved and statutorily recognized providers.

Interactive vs. Non-Interactive CE

Licensees often ask what the difference is between interactive and non-interactive CE.

First, of the total required CE hours, veterinarians may accrue up to six hours and registered veterinary technicians may accrue up to four hours of non-interactive CE. All other remaining approved CE must be interactive.

Approved interactive CE may include courses attended in person or viewed online. Courses viewed online must provide for an interactive experience for the participants by providing access to technical personnel or professional faculty as well as interactivity among participants. Additionally, there should be a method to document and supplement the participants' learning experience in response to participants' progress and feedback during the course period.

Approved non-interactive CE may include courses viewed online that do not offer participatory interaction between the licensee and instructor, independent study, or journal reading.

For more information, the Board has created a list of CE frequently asked questions on its Web site at www.vmb.ca.gov/licensees/continuing_ed.shtml.

New RVT Examination Requirement

Veterinary Technician National Examination

Effective March 1, 2014, all veterinary technician applicants are required to have taken and passed both the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) and the new California Veterinary Technician Examination.

Applicants applying for the new California Veterinary Technician Examination still apply directly to the Board.

Applicants for the VTNE apply directly to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). Those applicants who are veterinary technology graduates of an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited university are automatically eligible to take the VTNE.

Applicants applying through the Board's "alternate route" or who are animal health technology graduates of San Diego Mesa College will still apply directly to the AAVSB to take the VTNE, but the Board will need to review the application and verify eligibility before the applicant is made eligible to take the VTNE. In order to ensure VTNE eligibility is transferred to the AAVSB in a timely manner, the Board recommends these candidates apply to the Board and establish their eligibility before applying to the AAVSB to take the VTNE.

For more information on application requirements or instructions on how to apply for the new California Veterinary Technician Examination or VTNE please visit the Board's Web site at www.vmb.ca.gov/applicants/vtne_info.shtml.

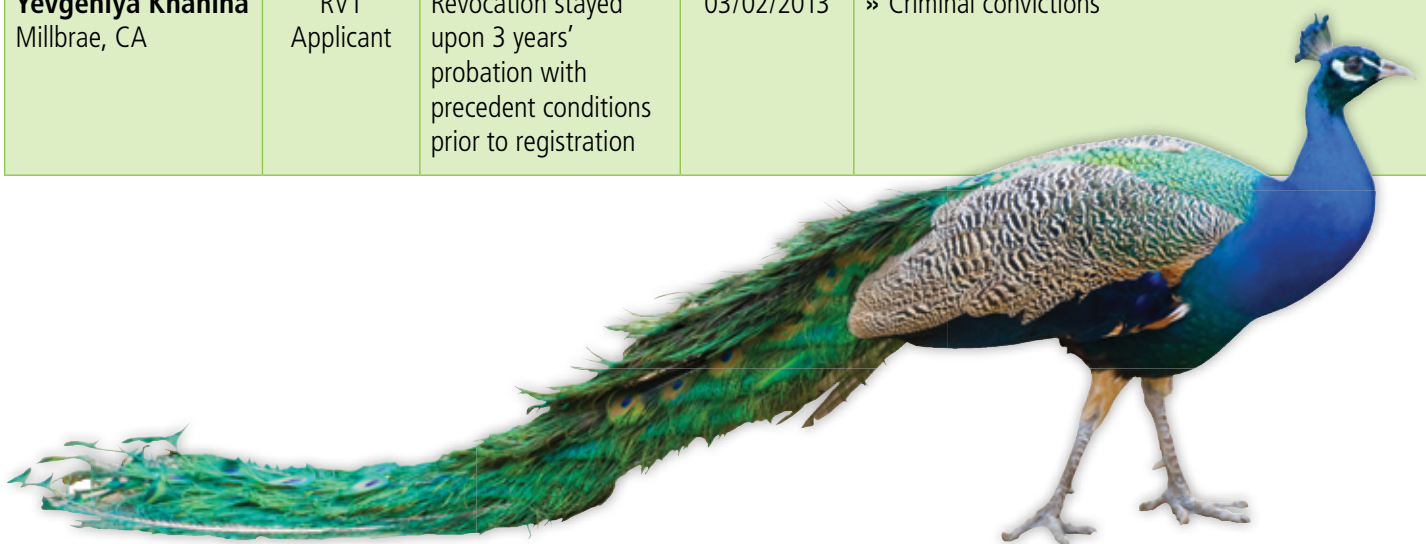


Disciplinary Actions

July 29, 2012 - June 11, 2013				
Respondent Name and City	License Number	Action	Effective Date	Violations
Ryan Wheeler Pleasant Hill, CA	VET applicant	3 years' probation with revocation stayed	7/29/2012	» Out of State discipline » Use of controlled substances
Kristi Brandenburg Norco, CA	VET 14385	3 years' probation with revocation stayed	3/2/2013	» Use of controlled substance » Convictions for substantially related crime » Violation of laws regulating controlled substances » Failure to cooperate with Board investigations
Jeremiah Barber Anaheim, CA	TEC 7699	Revocation by default	8/12/2012	» Fraud or deception » Use of controlled substances » Violation of laws regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs » Criminal convictions » Use of alcoholic beverages to extent or in manner dangerous or injurious to himself or others » Multiple alcohol convictions
Elaine Gawlik aka Elaine Nesbitt Van Nuys, CA	VET 10507	5 years' probation with revocation stayed and 60-day suspension	8/23/2012	» Convictions for substantially related crime » Misrepresentation in obtaining license » Unprofessional conduct
Harish Narayanaswamy Menlo Park, CA	VET 14111	5 years' probation with revocation stayed	8/23/2012	» Negligence » Incompetence » Record keeping » Criminal conviction » Use of alcohol in a dangerous manner » Violation of the provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act
Karen Zagorsky Highland, CA	VET 9354 HSP 4074	3 years' probation with revocation stayed	8/23/2012	» Maintaining expired drugs » Fraud, deception, negligence, or incompetence in the alteration of drug expiration dates
Roseann Roper Paradise, CA	TEC 6969	5 years' probation with revocation stayed	01/01/2013	» Criminal conviction » Animal cruelty
Debbie Hu San Gabriel, CA	VET 15715	4 years' probation with revocation stayed	02/01/2013	» Incompetence and negligence
Kim De La Peza Sacramento, CA	VET 19593	5 years' probation with revocation stayed	02/04/2013	» Convictions for substantially related crime » Acts warranting denial of licensure
Ryan Whitney Long Beach, CA	VET 19719	3 years' probation with revocation stayed	03/02/2013	» Unlicensed practice

Disciplinary Actions *continued*

July 29, 2012 - June 11, 2013				
Respondent Name and City	License Number	Action	Effective Date	Violations
Leon Thiessen Santa Maria, CA	VET 4228	4 years' probation with revocation stayed	03/02/2013	» Negligence » Violation of Board regulations
Dennis Wilds Riverside, CA	VET 6691	3 years' probation with revocation stayed	06/11/2013	» Negligence » Incompetence » Record keeping
Michael Villano Camarillo, CA	VET 14091	5 years' probation with revocation stayed	06/11/2013	» Criminal conviction » Fraud » Unprofessional conduct
Barton Huber Corona, CA	VET 9602	5 years' probation with revocation stayed	06/11/2013	» Record keeping » Negligence » Incompetence » Unprofessional conduct
Corea Kiejoon Choi Fullerton, CA	VET 12070	3 years' probation with revocation stayed	06/11/2013	» Record keeping » Negligence/incompetence
Robert Larson La Mesa, CA	VET 2650	License surrendered	06/11/2013	» Fraud, deception negligence » Record keeping
Steven M. Salk Palm Springs, CA	VET 5076	License surrendered	06/11/2013	» Fraud, deception, negligence » Unprofessional conduct » Conviction of a crime
Tene V. Miller Yuma, AZ	VET 10316	License surrendered	06/11/2013	» Disciplinary actions by other agency
Yevgeniya Khanina Millbrae, CA	RVT Applicant	Revocation stayed upon 3 years' probation with precedent conditions prior to registration	03/02/2013	» Criminal convictions



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Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Meetings

The Veterinary Medical Board and its Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee hold quarterly meetings throughout California to discuss various topics such as veterinary law, licensure, examination, and enforcement. The Board dedicates a portion of each meeting to receive public comments.

Veterinary Medical Board and Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee

» April 23-24, 2014 – Sacramento

» July 22-23, 2014 – Sacramento

» October 21-22, 2014 – Southern California

Meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted on meeting agendas. Attendance at Board meetings is encouraged and welcomed.

If you would like to keep updated on meeting agenda postings or other Veterinary Medical Board activities, please visit our Web site at www.vmb.ca.gov and sign up to be on the Board's e-mail list by clicking on "Join Our E-mail List" under "Quick Hits" on the home page.

For more information on meeting agendas, locations, or times, please visit the Board's Web site at www.vmb.ca.gov under "About Us."

