

## TITLE 16. VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

### NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Veterinary Medical Board ("Board") is extending the public comment period for submission of written comments related to the notices dated September 4 and 5, 2008 regarding:

1. The proposed modifications to section 2068.7, Title 16, California Code of Regulations regarding the Registered Veterinary Technician ("RVT") Eligibility Categories/Internship/Residency Program;
2. The addition to the rulemaking file for section 2068.7 of the "Addendum To The Initial Statement of Reasons"; and
3. The addition to the rulemaking file for section 2068.7 of the "Checklist For 24 Hours of Education."

The aforementioned documents upon which you may comment are attached for your reference.

If you have previously submitted comments on the above-referenced documents, those comments have been included in the rulemaking files and it is not necessary to resubmit those comments to the Board.

Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments to the above-referenced documents no later than **5:00 p.m. on October 21, 2008** to:

Name: Linda Kassis  
Board: Veterinary Medical Board  
Address: 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250  
Sacramento, CA 95815-3831  
Telephone No.: (916) 263-2610  
Fax: (916) 263-2621  
E-mail Address: [Linda\\_Kassis@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Linda_Kassis@dca.ca.gov)

The backup contact person is:

Name: Susan Geranen  
Address: 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250  
Sacramento, CA 95815-3831  
Telephone No.: (916) 263-2610  
Fax: (916) 263-2621  
E-mail Address: [Susan\\_Geranen@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Susan_Geranen@dca.ca.gov)

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Geranen  
Executive Officer  
Veterinary Medical Board

## AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED TEXT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) has proposed modifications to the text of section 2068.7 California Code of Regulations. This regulatory proposal was the subject of a regulatory hearing on January 16, 2008. A copy of the modified text is enclosed. Any person who wishes to comment on the proposed modifications may do so by submitting written comments on or before September 19, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. to the following:

Contact Person: Linda Kassis  
Agency Name: Veterinary Medical Board  
Address: 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
Telephone No.: (916) 263-2610  
Fax No.: (916) 263-2621  
E-Mail Address: Linda\_Kassis@dca.ca.gov

*Please note that all comments should be restricted to the most recent modification made to the proposed regulations. The VMB is not required to respond to comments received in response to this notice on other aspects of the proposed regulations. All comments previously submitted remain in the rulemaking file.*

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN GERANEN  
Executive Officer  
Veterinary Medical Board

# VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

## Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC)

### Modified Text

*Changes to the originally proposed language are shown by double underline for new text and underline with strikeout for deleted text.*

**Section 2068.7 is added to Article 6, Division 20, of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:**

#### 2068.7. Limited Term RVT Examination Eligibility Window.

~~(1) In lieu of a two-year curriculum in animal health technology, completion of practical experience is deemed to be "the equivalent thereof as determined by the board" pursuant to Section 4841.5 of the code.~~

(a) A person who applies to take the RVT State Board Examination from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 may qualify for that examination if the applicant, in lieu of a two-year curriculum in animal health technology, meets the criteria set forth below, which are deemed to be "equivalent" to the two-year curriculum in animal health technology pursuant to Section 4841.5 of the code.

~~(a)~~ (1) The applicant has at least 7360 hours of directed clinical practice, completed in no less than five years within the six years immediately preceding application and no less than 24 hours of education in fundamentals of veterinary technology. The directed clinical practice shall have been under the direct supervision of a California-licensed veterinarian who shall attest to the completion of that experience and the competency of the applicant at the time of application to the Board for the registered veterinary technician examination.

~~(b)~~ (2) The directed clinical practice required in subsection a shall have provided the applicant with knowledge, skills and abilities in the areas of communication with clients, patient examinations, emergency procedures, laboratory procedures, diagnostic imaging, surgical assisting, anesthesia, animal nursing, nutrition, dentistry, animal behavior and pharmacology. The supervising veterinarian(s) shall complete a checklist approved by the Board (Form 26A-2 (9/08)), attesting to proficiency in specific skill areas within the preceding categories.

~~2. This provision provides for a limited term, 12-month eligibility window from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009, during which candidates, meeting the above mentioned criteria may apply for the RVT State Board Exam.~~

(b) The education required in paragraph (a)(1) may have been completed within the 7360 hours of clinical directed practice and must be from a postsecondary academic institution or a qualified instructor as defined by Section 2068.5 subsections (e-f). The education shall be accumulated in the fundamentals and principles of all of the following subjects:

- (1) Dental prophylaxis and extraction;
- (2) Anesthetic instrumentation, induction and monitoring;
- (3) Surgical nursing and assisting, including instrumentation, suturing techniques, and application of casts and splints;
- (4) Radiology and radiation safety; and
- (5) Diseases and nursing of animals, including zoonotic diseases and emergency veterinary care.

The candidate is required to provide the Board with a proof of completion of each course or instruction and documentation of attendance in the form of a certificate of attendance, official transcript or letter on official stationary signed by the course instructor documenting the candidate attended the particular course.

3.(c) This section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2010.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4841.5, Business and Professions Code.

## AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ADDED TO RULEMAKING FILE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following document is being added to the rulemaking record for the regulatory proceeding concerning section 2068.7 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations:

1. Checklist for 24 hours of education for Limited Term Eligibility Window (Form 26A-2 (09/08))

The above document is now available for public inspection and/or comment until September 19, 2008 at the following location:

Contact Person: Linda Kassis  
Agency Name: Veterinary Medical Board  
Address: 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
Telephone No.: (916) 263-2610  
Fax No.: (916) 263-2621  
E-Mail Address: Linda\_Kassis@dca.ca.gov

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

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SUSAN GERANEN  
Executive Officer  
Veterinary Medical Board

## **CERTIFICATION RE AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS**

I certify that the Veterinary Medical of Board has complied with the requirements of Section 11347.1 of the Government Code and that the attached notice was mailed, and pursuant to Government Code Section 11340.85, sent by electronic communication, on September 4, 2008

The public availability period began on September 4, 2008 and ended on September 19, 2008

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN GERANEN  
Executive Officer  
Veterinary Medical Board

**CHECKLIST FOR 24 HOURS OF EDUCATION FOR LIMITED TERM ELIGIBILITY ROUTE  
ONE YEAR LIMITED TERM ELIGIBILITY ROUTE – SECTION 2068.7**

Section 2068.7 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations defines the parameters under which candidates can qualify for the Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) Examination with a combination of education and clinical experience. Applications submitted under this eligibility category, must include documentation of the courses taken and they must supplement that documentation by completely filling in the check list below and including it with the application. Additional checklists may be used if necessary.

Candidates are required to submit a course outline/syllabus for each course that covers the specific requirements listed below and either final transcripts and/or a completion certificate. One course may be used for multiple subjects, however, the individual subjects within a course must be clearly segmented out and the hours for specific subjects can only be counted once. The specific terms listed in the checklist below must be clearly stated within the documentation submitted.

<b>Section 2068.7 - Education Requirements</b>													
<b>Course Title and Number</b>	<b>Date Comp.</b>	<b>Dental Prophylaxis</b>	<b>Dental Extraction</b>	<b>Anesthetic Instrumentation</b>	<b>Anesthetic Induction &amp; monitoring</b>	<b>Surgical Nursing</b>	<b>Surgical Assisting &amp; instrumentation</b>	<b>Suturing Techniques</b>	<b>Application of Casts and Splints</b>	<b>Radiography and radiation safety</b>	<b>Diseases/Animal Nursing , may inc. zoonotic diseases, emergency care, behavior, nutrition, lab procedures, exams, pharmacology, etc.</b>	<b>CE Hours; Semester Units or Quarter Units</b>	<b>Minimum Total hours (24)</b>
<b>Totals:</b>													

## AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ADDED TO RULEMAKING FILE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following documents are being added to the rulemaking record for the regulatory proceeding concerning section(s) 2068.7 of of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations:

1. Addendum to Initial Statement of Reasons

The above document is now available for public inspection and/or comment until September 20, 2008, at the following location:

Contact Person: Linda Kassis  
Agency Name: Veterinary Medical Board  
Address: 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250  
Sacramento CA 95815  
Telephone No.: (916) 263-2610  
FAX No.: (916) 263-2621  
E-mail Address: [Linda.Kassis@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Linda.Kassis@dca.ca.gov)

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN GERANEN  
Executive Officer  
Veterinary Medical Board

## **CERTIFICATION RE AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS**

I certify that the Veterinary Medical Board has complied with the requirements of Section 11347.1 of the Government Code and that the attached notice was mailed, and pursuant to Government Code Section 11340.85, sent by electronic communication, on September 5, 2008.

The public availability period began on September 5, 2008 and ended on September 20, 2008.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN GERANEN  
Executive Officer  
Board of

## VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

### ADDENDUM TO INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS – 9/4/08

Hearing Date: January 16, 2007

#### **Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations:**

To create a limited term eligibility window for unregistered assistant with a minimum of 5-years of directed clinical experience to take the state licensing examination for registered veterinary technicians (RVT).

**Section(s) Affected:** 2068.7

#### **Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:**

##### **Section 2068.7**

##### **Amendment to Proposed Language for Section 2068.7**

The specific purpose of this regulatory proposal is to adopt a regulation that would allow unregistered assistants with at least 5 years of work experience to be eligible to take the RVT examination during a limited window of time (January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009). Such applicants would be required to have their supervising veterinarian(s) certify to their acquisition of specific entry-level skills necessary to perform as RVTs. However, on August 21, 2008, SB 1584 was passed by the Legislature. This bill would amend Business and Professions Code, Section 4841.5, effective January 1, 2009, to require that, for purposes of qualifying to take the RVT examination, all applicants who do not possess a degree from a board approved two year curriculum in veterinary technology must have a combination of both clinical practice experience and education. Accordingly, the Board is modifying section 2068.7 to add an education component to the 7,360 hour of clinical practice component. Specifically, applicants seeking to qualify for the RVT examination would be required to have completed, in addition to the clinical practice component, 24 hours of education in the following veterinary medical areas:

1. Dental prophylaxis and extractions;
2. Anesthetic instrumentation, induction and monitoring
3. Surgical nursing and assisting, including instrumentation, suturing techniques, and application of casts and splints;
4. Radiology and radiation safety; and
5. Diseases and nursing of animals, including zoonotic diseases and emergency veterinary care.

#### **Factual Basis/Rationale**

##### **Section 2068.7**

The Board is proposing a one-time, limited term eligibility window (no more than 12 months) during which, in lieu of formal education, the Board would accept certification by supervising veterinarians as to the competency of those lay staff persons who had completed 7,360 hours of practical experience in at least five (5) years and who, in the opinion of the veterinarian, are competent to sit for the California RVT exam. One of the reasons for proposing such a category is that there are many unregistered veterinary assistants who have worked in veterinary hospitals for many years, but are not eligible to take the RVT examination because they do not have the required educational background. The Board believes that it is appropriate to allow unregistered assistants that have had an extensive amount of practical experience under the direct supervision of a veterinarian with a limited opportunity to take the RVT examination. In addition, currently an unregistered assistant is not subject to criminal background checks, as are RVTs. Unregistered assistants who work in veterinary hospitals have access to controlled substances. Allowing such persons to take the RVT examination and perhaps eventual registration as a RVT would provide the Board with greater oversight over this group veterinary assistants.

Although the Board believes that the proposed regulation to allow unregistered assistants who have at least 7,360 hours of practical experience to qualify for the RVT State Board Examination is sufficient to ensure RVT competency and to protect the public, the enrollment of SB 1584 which amends Business and Professions Code, Section 4841.5, necessitates the addition of a education component to the regulation.

An applicant can qualify for the RVT examination by completing a board approved two year curriculum in veterinary technology. The Board has established alternative pathways to qualify for the RVT examination. An applicant may qualify for the examination by:

- (1) Graduating from unapproved two year curriculum in animal health technology and completing 18 months of practical experience under the direct supervision of a veterinarian (Regulation 2067);
- (2) Possess a bachelor's degree of science in a field or major related to animal health technology and complete 12 months of practical experience in veterinary medicine (Regulation 2068);
- (3) Complete 300 hours of instruction in (a) Dental prophylaxis and extractions, (b) Anesthetic instrumentation, induction and monitoring, (c) Surgical nursing and assisting, including instrumentation, suturing techniques, and application of casts and splints, (d) radiology and radiation safety; and (e) diseases and nursing of animals, including zoonotic diseases and emergency veterinary care and complete 4,680 hours (36 months) of practical experience in veterinary medicine (Regulation 2068.5).

Section 2068.7 requires an applicant to possess at least 7,360 hours (approximately 5 years) of practical experience. This number of hours of practical experience is considerably more than the practical experience required for the other alternative pathways to the examination. This is because section 2068.7 was intended to allow a limited window of opportunity for unregistered assistants to qualify to take the examination based solely upon their practical experience under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. The Board believes that the extensive amount of practical experience required under proposed section 2068.7 coupled with a requirement that the supervising veterinarian attest to the completion and competency of the applicant were a sufficient basis to not require an educational component for such applicants. SB 1584 would require that such applicants also possess an educational component. The Board believes that persons having at least 7,360 hours of practical experience that have been attested to by the supervising veterinarians are more likely than not to possess the skills, knowledges and abilities to take the RVT examination. Under these circumstances, it did not believe that an extensive education component was necessary. Accordingly it determined that 24 hours education in veterinary technology is appropriate for these applicants.

The educational content for this component was based upon the same educational content required of applicants seeking to qualify for the examination under regulation section 2068.5. This educational content has proven to be an adequate basis for a course in the fundamentals in veterinary technology.

### **Underlying Data**

RVT Committee meeting minutes, April 2006 – October 2007

Veterinary Medical Board meeting minutes, April 2006 – October 2007

Veterinary Medical Board teleconference meeting, September 3, 2008

### **Business Impact**

This regulation may have an adverse economic impact on businesses because it increases the authority of veterinarians and provides for additional options for employers.

### **Specific Technologies or Equipment**

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

### **Consideration of Alternatives**

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.