

**VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD
PROPOSED LIMITED TERM ELIGIBILITY WINDOW
Comments for Public Hearing – January 16, 2008
State Capitol, Sacramento CA**

The Veterinary Medical Board relies on the profession for input on many practice related issues. The issue the Board is considering at this time is whether there is a need to create a limited term (12 months) “work-experience only” eligibility window for unregistered staff persons who are currently employed and have a minimum of five (5) years of experience. The proposal being considered at a public hearing in January 2008 is:

- In lieu of a prescribed education and training program, the Board would allow unregistered assistants with at least 5 years of work experience eligibility to apply to sit for the exam during a limited window of time (12 months), provided that their supervising veterinarian(s) certify to their acquisition of specific entry-level skills necessary to perform as Registered Veterinary Technicians.

In testimony at prior public hearings on proposals to restrict certain high-level tasks to RVTs, many veterinarians came forward to state that there is a shortage of RVTs and that they have been unable to hire RVTs. Veterinarians also testified that they employ unregistered assistants who possess skills and knowledge equivalent to that of RVTs, but who have been unable to meet one of the current eligibility requirements to sit for the examination. There are at least two main arguments for and against the proposal:

1. One argument in opposition to this proposal is that it would be a set back that would compromise the educational standards of the RVT profession and thus, compromise the profession as a whole.
2. One argument in support of this proposal is that it would give licensees greater access to registered veterinary technician employees who have completed both State and Federal background checks and who can be held accountable for their actions independent of the veterinarian.

The Board is holding a public hearing on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, on various regulatory issues, but is specifically seeking your written and/or oral opinion on the above outlined proposal prior to taking any action. The specific language of the proposal is included in this mailing.

What is your opinion?

1. Do you support the Board creating a limited term (12 months) eligibility window to allow veterinarians to certify unregistered staff persons who have five years of practice experience in a veterinary hospital and who are currently employed as eligible to take the California RVT State Board Examination?

_____Yes _____No

2. If yes, are there unregistered assistants in your practice who you feel would qualify and apply?

_____Yes _____No _____How many?

You are invited to attend the public hearing at the State Capitol in Sacramento on Wednesday, January 16, 2007 and/or submit written comments via regular mail or email. Written comments carry the same weight as public testimony for purposes of the regulatory file.

This form (additional copies can be downloaded from web site) and/or written comments can be faxed to (916) 263-2621, or emailed to vmb@dca.ca.gov or mailed to the Veterinary Medical Board, 1420 Howe Avenue, Suite 6, Sacramento CA 95825.