

## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	April 9, 2025
<b>TO</b>	California Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
<b>FROM</b>	Alicia Hernandez, Examination/Licensing Unit Manager
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Agenda Item 22.B. Examination/Licensing Report

### **Examination Updates**

#### **International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA)**

The ICVA administers the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). ICVA's mission is to provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare.

Since the last Board meeting, ICVA has disseminated the following announcements:

#### **[ICVA 2025 Assessment Grant Program – Now OPEN](#)** – April 1, 2025

The ICVA announced their 2025 grant program is open with up to three grant award opportunities of \$10,000 USD.

#### **[Seeking Communications Experts for Survey](#)** – March 24, 2025,

The ICVA is calling for experts in communication skills for veterinary medicine to respond to an upcoming survey to be conducted during the 2025/2026 academic year.

#### **[Call for Nominations - ICVA Board of Directors](#)** – February 6, 2025

The ICVA sent out a call for nominations for three (3) at-large positions on the ICVA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are appointed for three-year terms and may serve a maximum of three (3) terms.

#### **[Assessment Development Committee Nominations are Open](#)** – February 6, 2025

The ICVA sent out a call for nominations for one (1) open position on the Assessment Development Committee (ADC) with the term beginning in June 2025. Deadline April 4: The open position on the Committee is for the Swine specialty area

#### **[January ICVA Board Meeting](#)** – January 15, 2025

The ICVA Board of Directors met January 17-18, 2025 in St. Petersburg, FL.

### Upcoming NAVLE Examination Dates

#### 2024-2025 NAVLE testing cycle:

April 1 - April 26, 2025

Application materials must have been received by February 1, 2025 for the April 2025 testing cycle.

#### 2025-2026 NAVLE testing cycle:

October 15 - November 15, 2025. Application material cutoff date July 15, 2025.

March 1 - March 21, 2026. Application material cutoff date January 7, 2026

July 13 - August 8, 2026. Application material cutoff date May 7, 2026.

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

The AAVSB administers the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). The AAVSB's mission is to support and advance the regulation of veterinary medicine.

Since the last Board meeting, the AAVSB disseminated the following announcement:

#### Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE)

On February 24, 2025, the AAVSB Board of Directors announced its decision to discontinue the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians program. The AAVSB cited significantly lower participation than expected and reduction in the program's demand for the pathway coinciding with an increase in distance education available for veterinary technology programs as reasons for the decision.

The announcement is attached for reference.

Without this pathway, foreign technician graduates will need to obtain education through an accredited or approved program to qualify for the VTNE.

### **NAVLE / VTNE Retake Policy**

The ICVA and AAVSB have retake policies that prevent candidates from taking their exams after the fifth attempt. These policies follow assessment best practices by limiting the number of attempts made, which enhances test security while simultaneously providing a more accurate measure of a candidate's knowledge level.

However, they have an appeal process that allows candidates to take the exams again if a state Board completes a form stating they would accept a passing score after the fifth attempt and/or "permit" another attempt.

In most jurisdictions, like California, statutes and regulations are silent when it comes to examination eligibility. Instead, the statutes and regulations speak to license and registration requirements.

Knowing California's laws are silent on the number of attempts, Board staff has historically reviewed all documents the candidates submit, completed the ICVA/NAVLE forms and submitted to ICVA/NAVLE. Individuals then purport the Board is sponsoring

or otherwise supporting them to take the examinations after the fifth attempt. It is not uncommon for the same individuals to request the form be completed multiple times after the fifth attempt.

Most often, these individuals have not applied with the Board or have any indication they plan on practicing in California if they are successful in passing the exams. It appears these individuals are using the Board to circumvent ICVA and AAVSB's policies, which takes staff time away from focusing on processing pending applications.

In April 2025, the Board's Executive Officer informed ICVA and AAVSB that Board staff would no longer complete any forms for candidates seeking to retake examinations after a fifth attempt. Since the laws are silent on exam eligibility and the number of acceptable attempts, the Board defers to the ICVA and AAVSB to determine eligibility for their respective exams.

### **Licensing Updates**

#### **Board Applications Received**

Comparing Board applications received through Quarter 3 (Q3) Fiscal Year (FY) 24/25 to those received in Q3 FY 23/24, there was a decrease from 3,369 to 3,057.

Although the total number of applications received decreased in the year-to-date comparison of FY 24/25 to FY 23/24 through Q3, the number of Veterinarian applications received slightly increased from 574 to 606. Remaining license types saw decreases in applications received: RVTs from 756 to 662, HSPs from 315 to 262, VACSPs from 1,695 to 1,526, and University Veterinarians from 29 to 11.

Overall, the number of applications received through Q3 24/25 decreased by approximately 9% comparing to Q3 of FY 23/24.

#### **Licenses, Registrations, and Permits Issued**

Board licenses, registrations, and permits issued through Q3 FY 24/25 also decreased when compared to the number issued through Q3 23/24 from 2,854 to 2,634.

Licenses, registrations, and permits issued decreased across all license types when comparing the year-to-date data from FY 24/25 to FY 23/24 by approximately 8%.

#### **Applications Pending**

Overall, pending applications decreased from 857 to 608 when comparing data from the end of Q3 FY 24/25 to Q3 FY 23/24. That amounts to a 24% decrease in pending applications through Q3 of the FY.

#### **License Population**

The Board's total license population rose from 45,836 to 47,534 when comparing the license population at the end of Q3 FY 23/24 to that of Q3 24/25. The Board saw increases in the population of all license types. From a percentage standpoint, the highest population increase was in VACSPs (12,928 to 14,040, a 9% increase).

## **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Recognized Licenses, Registrations, and Permits**

California implemented recognition of the federal SCRA via [Senate Bill \(SB\) 143](#), which went into effect September 13, 2023. SB 143 requires California to recognize out-of-state licenses, registrations, and permits issued to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses for the same license type(s) issued within the state. Since its implementation, the Board has received six applications and recognized one out-of-state veterinarian and one out-of-state RVT.

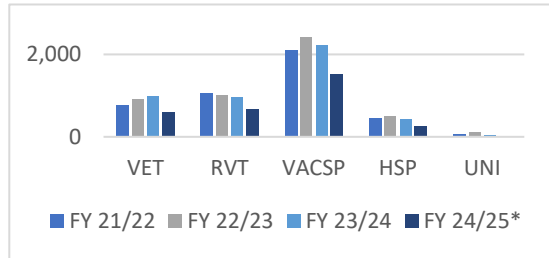
## **Attachments**

1. Licensing Statistics
2. AAVSB Notice to Discontinue PAVE for Veterinary Technicians

# Licensing Statistics

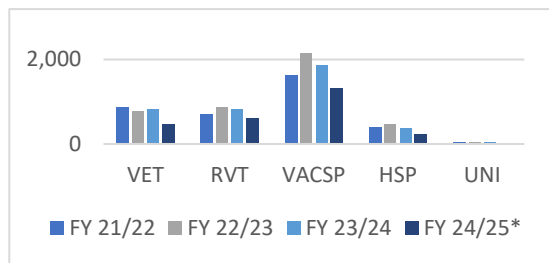
## Applications Received

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25*
VET	754	903	984	606
RVT	1,045	1,017	968	662
VACSP	2,092	2,418	2,221	1,526
HSP	444	507	423	252
UNI	56	94	43	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,391</b>	<b>4,939</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>3,057</b>



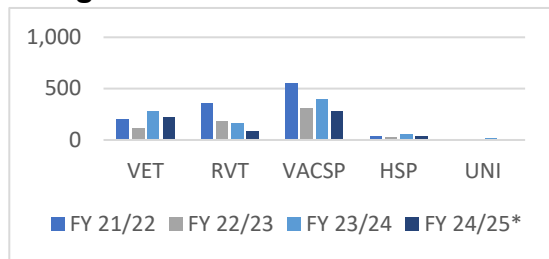
## Licenses Issued

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25*
VET	870	765	813	470
RVT	706	872	815	608
VACSP	1,633	2,135	1,866	1,322
HSP	399	459	364	215
UNI	33	33	26	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,641</b>	<b>4,264</b>	<b>3,884</b>	<b>2,634</b>



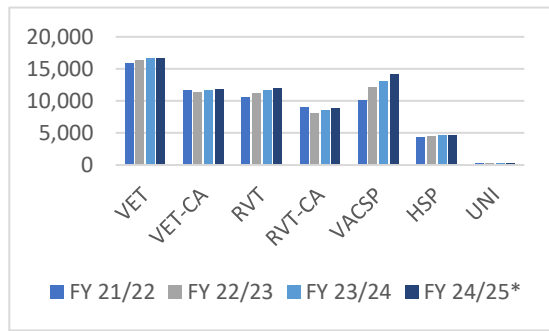
## Applications Pending

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25*
VET	204	113	273	223
RVT	357	181	159	80
VACSP	547	303	392	274
HSP	30	27	52	30
UNI	0	0	12	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>608</b>



## Licensee Population\*\*

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25*
VET	15,817	16,264	16,711	16,706
VET-CA	11,709	11,277	11,588	11,751
RVT	10,516	11,105	11,687	11,926
RVT-CA	8,934	8,009	8,462	8,802
VACSP	10,124	12,108	13,121	14,040
HSP	4,288	4,446	4,559	4,602
UNI	186	219	247	260
<b>Total***</b>	<b>40,931</b>	<b>44,142</b>	<b>46,325</b>	<b>47,534</b>



\*FY 24/25 data is represented as year-to-date as of March 31, 2025.

\*\*Includes current active, current inactive, and expired.

\*\*\*Excludes CA-only rows

## Application Processing Times



AAVSB Member Boards,

After a long and careful consideration, the AAVSB Board of Directors has decided to discontinue the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) for Veterinary Technicians program. This is effective immediately.

This program was launched in 2020 to establish a pathway for veterinary technician/nursing graduates from international, non-accredited veterinary technology/nursing programs to practice in the United States and Canada.

PAVE for Veterinary Technicians program evaluated the educational equivalence of these graduates on behalf of the participating AAVSB Member Boards.

In evaluating this new program, the volume of participation was significantly lower than expected. Additionally, the increase in distance education veterinary technology programs reduced the demand for this alternate pathway.

While we did not see the participation we had hoped for, ending the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians program now allows the AAVSB to pivot our resources to better serve the veterinary regulatory community. While we are ending our services for this program, any participating PAVE for Veterinary Technicians candidate who is in the program will be accommodated so they can complete the program.

We understand the importance of your role in advancing veterinary regulation within your jurisdiction, and we want to assure you this decision is part of our ongoing commitment to better serve and align with the collective needs of our Member Boards. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me.

Sincerely,



**Frank Richardson, DVM, MBA**  
**President, AAVSB**

***Strengthening the Veterinary Regulatory Community***

