

MEMORANDUM

DATE	October 5, 2026
TO	California Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
FROM	Andrea Amaya-Torres, Administration and Licensing Manager
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 13.B. Licensing Report

Licensing Updates

Fingerprint Requirement for Veterinary Premises Registration Applicants

Business and Professions Code (BPC) section [144](#) requires all Board applicants to submit a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting criminal history checks. For veterinary premises registration applicants, BPC section 4853 specifies the owner or operator of the veterinary premises is the applicant.

The veterinary premises application requires the names of each premises owner or operator, and, if the owner is a veterinary corporation, the names and titles of each officer, director, or shareholder. (BPC, § 4853, subd. (d).) For any other corporation or artificial entity, the names and titles of all owners, officers, general partners, if any, and the agent for service of process are required.

During discussions related to eliminating the licensee manager and shifting responsibilities to the veterinary premises owner, concerns were raised related to BPC section 144 compliance. Currently, if the premises owners are veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, or veterinary assistant controlled substance permit holders, they are fingerprinted pursuant to their respective license, registration, or permit requirements. If the premises owners are corporations or other artificial entities, the named individual officers, directors, or partners have not been fingerprinted.

The Board's EO explained to stakeholders that all applicants, regardless of whether the veterinary premises is corporate owned or not, will need to comply with BPC section 144. This raised significant concerns with the shelter community, which stated requiring directors of volunteer boards to submit to fingerprinting for a criminal background check will serve as a disincentive to continue serving on those boards.

With that said, the Board is not the only DCA board that has corporate/artificial entity license applicants. Multiple DCA boards issue licenses to corporations and other artificial entities and require fingerprints of designated individuals for criminal background checks. Boards require

individuals associated with the corporation to be fingerprinted because those individuals have the authority to direct how the businesses operate; they have authority to make decisions that shape compliance, financial integrity, safety practices, personnel oversight, and the responsible use of regulated activities.

The chart below provides a breakdown of some DCA entities that require fingerprinting and the individuals within the corporations the DCA entities require to be fingerprinted:

DCA Entity	Corporate Individuals Fingerprinted
Bureau of Security & Investigative Services (BSIS)	Corporate officers, partners, qualified managers, and members (BPC, § 144, 7582.7)
California State Athletic Commission (CSAC)	Promoter, Matchmaker, Assistant Matchmaker, and Manager License (corporate-level or organizational roles) (BPC, §§ 144, 18641, 18665, 18673, 18859)
Contractors State License Board (CSLB)	Officers, directors, partners, managers, associates, and responsible managing employees (BPC, §§ 144, 7065, 7069)
California State Board of Pharmacy (CSBP)	Partners, members, officers, directors, stockholders, and managers (BPC, § 144, 4151)

By fingerprinting the specific people who exercise corporate control, the boards can verify their identities, review criminal history information, and ensure that individuals with serious disqualifying backgrounds are not placed in positions that could compromise public safety. This prevents bad actors from hiding behind corporate structures, strengthens accountability, and ensures that those entrusted with operational authority meet the standards necessary to protect consumers.

BPC Section 144 Compliance Implementation

The Board's BreEZe system is not currently designed to link multiple fingerprint responses to one application. Significant design updates will need to be completed before bringing applicants and existing veterinary premises owners into fingerprinting compliance. The Board's EO will continue to provide updates as they are available.

In the meantime, Board staff can start developing outreach materials to educate impacted veterinary premises owners of the fingerprint requirement and the Board's implementation plan to bring veterinary premises owners into compliance. This will be similar to the [2020 Clarifications Regarding Fingerprint Requirements](#) the Board provided to veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians when BreEZe was updated to check for the presence of fingerprint results in the system prior to renewal.

Licensing Statistics

Board Applications Received

During Quarter 1 (Q1) Fiscal Year (FY) 26/27, the Board received a total of 877 applications across all license types. Compared to Q1 FY 25/26, the Board received 71 total more applications.

The number of veterinarian applications received during Q1 26/27, compared to FY 25/26, increased by 55, with 200 received compared to 145 during Q1 25/26. The number of registered veterinary technician (RVT) applications received this quarter also increased compared to FY 25/26, with 207 received compared to 185 during Q1 25/26. The number of veterinary

assistance controlled substance permit (VACS) applications saw no significant difference compared to those received in 25/26, with 443 received compared to 440 received during Q1 25/26. 3 university veterinarian applications were received during both Q1 of FY 26/27 and 25/26. The number of premises (HSP) registration applications received this quarter decreased slightly by 9, with 95 received compared to 104 during Q1 25/26.

Licenses, Registrations, and Permits Issued

The Board issued a total of 956 licenses, permits, and registrations during Q1 FY 26/27. That represents an increase in issued licenses, registrations, and permits by 32 compared to the total issued in Q1 of FY 25/26.

Comparing individual license, registration, and permit data from Q1 FY 26/27 to the same quarter in FY 25/26, the Board issued more veterinarian licenses (266 compared to 226), university veterinarian licenses (17 compared to 11), and VACS permits (409 compared to 385). However, the Board issued slightly less RVT registrations (177 compared to 206), and HSP registrations (87 compared to 96).

Applications Pending

At the beginning of FY 26/27, the Board had 703 total paid applications pending and there are currently 642 paid applications pending. Compared to the number of applications pending at the end of the same quarter the previous FY, the Board's pending applications have increased by 167. Approximately half of these pending applications are VACSP applications awaiting fingerprint submissions.

License Population

The Board's total license population continues to grow. The license population increased to 49,625 during Q1 FY 26/27, compared to 49,203 at the end of FY 25/26.

Attachments

1. Licensing Statistics

Licensing Statistics

Applications Received					FY 26/27			
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
VET	903	984	1,040	963	70	51	79	200
RVT	1,017	968	885	760	93	56	58	207
VACSP	2,418	2,221	1,939	1,950	160	148	135	443
HSP	507	423	368	380	26	41	28	95
UNI	94	43	25	26	1	2	0	3
Total	4,939	4,639	4,257	4,079	350	298	300	948

Licenses Issued					FY 26/27			
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
VET	765	813	906	894	110	72	84	266
RVT	872	815	787	685	41	85	51	177
VACSP	2,135	1,866	1,709	1,622	135	142	132	409
HSP	459	364	334	315	36	26	25	87
UNI	33	26	23	19	4	7	6	17
Total	4,264	3,884	3,759	3,535	326	332	298	956

Applications Pending					FY 26/27			
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
VET	113	273	210	210	158	151	138	138
RVT	181	159	110	106	157	126	130	130
VACSP	303	392	233	324	343	357	332	332
HSP	27	52	20	47	37	41	40	40
UNI	0	12	11	16	12	9	2	2
Total	624	888	584	703	707	684	642	642

Licensee Population*					FY 26/27			
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
VET	16,264	16,711	16,977	17,249	17,308	17,340	17,385	17,385
VET-CA	12,430	12,848	13,199	13,607	13,669	13,712	13,751	13,751
RVT	11,105	11,687	11,976	12,139	12,142	12,180	12,202	12,202
RVT-CA	10,055	10,628	10,981	11,193	11,198	11,246	11,260	11,260
VACSP	12,108	13,121	14,241	14,835	14,904	14,957	15,002	15,002
HSP	4,446	4,559	4,603	4,716	4,736	4,744	4,758	4,758
UNI	219	247	258	264	267	273	278	278
Total**	44,142	46,325	48,055	49,203	49,357	49,494	49,625	49,625

*Includes current active, current inactive, and expire

**Excludes CA-only rows

Application Processing Times