

Reg/Leg Report

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August 13, 2020

The Veterinary Medical Board met today to discuss two issues. The first item on the agenda was a discussion of proposed amendments to Sec. 2035, which would have added additional language describing a veterinarian's responsibility when delegating job tasks. Sec. 2035 already required veterinarians to "be responsible for determining the competency of the RVT or permit holder or veterinary assistant to perform allowable animal health care tasks." The proposed amendments would have added that the DVM shall not delegate a task unless the person has "Extensive skill; Requisite training; and Demonstrated competency".

The proposed regulation was rejected by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) as being too vague. CaRVTA took the position that the proposed amendments are unnecessary, as the current language already requires the veterinarian to insure competency. The VMB voted to send the proposal back to the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) for further review. The MDC will be meeting in October.

The second issue on the agenda was a public hearing on the proposed Animal Physical Rehabilitation (APR) regulation. The VMB had already approved the regulation but was holding the hearing based on comments from the public. The public was given the opportunity to comment once again. There were multiple individuals testifying in support of the regulation, including CaRVTA, as well as many in opposition. The regulation would allow veterinarians to delegate APR to RVTs under the level of supervision the DVM deems appropriate. It restricts the performance of APR by veterinary assistants (VAs) to Direct Supervision. Human Physical Therapists (PTs) want to be able to also work under Indirect Supervision. However, the VMB has determined that since they do not have jurisdiction over PTs, they cannot treat them any differently than other VAs.

The VMB reviewed the comments that they received and the replies to those comments, as they are required to respond to every comment. Since several comments came in during the meeting today, the VMB will continue working on their responses. The VMB agreed to consider at its October meeting one comment that wildlife being rehabilitated with official permits should be exempted. The VMB plans a final vote on the APR proposal at that meeting.

There were no other items on the agenda.