

**Reg/Leg Report**  
**Nancy Ehrlich, RVT**  
**Regulatory/Legislative Advocate, CaRVTA**  
**August 2, 2023**

The MultiDisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) meeting scheduled for July 18 was cancelled due to lack of business. The Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) met on July 19-20 in Sacramento and on-line. All members were present except for Maria Sperber. Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, was sworn in as the new RVT member.

A representative of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) reported that all press releases coming from its agencies should be published in both Spanish and English. She also informed the VMB that they must comply with the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act now that the pandemic has been cancelled. The VMB plans to continue to hold hybrid meetings – both in person and on-line.

Dr Mark Nunez presented the report from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). He presented a new Model Practice Act created by the AAVSB. The VMB voted to delegate authority to a committee to vote on the new Act. Dr. Dick Sullivan reported that the AAVSB's definition of the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) does not have a time limit like the current VMB's definition. He also reported that the AAVSB standards for Telemedicine are the same as for in-person visits. The VMB voted to continue using their own definitions of Telehealth and Triage and Teleconference rather than the AAVSB version. It was also reported that California is requesting the AAVSB to accept California RVT candidates for the VTNE prior to graduation as they do now for several other states. The request was sent to the AAVSB's VTNE Committee.

Leah Shufelt, RVT gave the MDC Report. She noted that the MDC is working on a proposal to update record keeping requirements, regulations for shelter medicine, FAQs for the Animal Blood Bank and priorities for the Complaint Audit Subcommittee. She also noted that they are lacking in experts to review cases regarding Holistic Medicine. It was suggested that they ask UC Davis and Western U veterinary schools to provide experts for these cases.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of pending legislation. AB86, a resolution that encourages spay and neuter, is moving forward, AB814, a bill that would allow Physical Therapists to work on animals without veterinary supervision was withdrawn. AB1399, which would allow veterinarians to establish the VCPR via telemedicine, is moving forward. The VMB is opposed to the bill unless it is amended to limit antibiotic prescriptions to 14 days and the definition of the VCPR is made consistent with the current language. The VMB will ask the Governor to veto if it passes unamended. SB669, which would allow an RVT to establish the VCPR for the veterinarian for the purpose of vaccination and parasite control, is also opposed by the VMB unless amended. The VMB wants the veterinarian to review the patient's exam information prior to the RVT administering the vaccines. Nancy Ehrlich, RVT, CaRVTA's representative, testified that requiring the RVT to inform the client of the supervising veterinarian's name and

license number is unnecessary. The VMB took no action on the bill. Next was SB373, a bill that would forbid the VMB and other agencies from publishing the full address of the licensees on their website. The VMB voted to support the bill. The VMB also reported that the amendments to 2068.5 that would remove the time limits on education and work experience for the Alternate Route is moving through the regulatory process.

On July 20, the VMB continued with its reports. Kim Phillips-Francis has replaced Tim Rodda as the Administration/Licensing Manager. It was also reported that many licensees appear to be unaware that required CE must be interactive, meaning there must be someone available to answer questions. Pre-recorded lectures with no live person available do not qualify for required CE.

Future meeting dates for the VMB will be 10/18-19, 1/17-18, 4/17-18, 7/17-18 and 10/16-17. The MDC normally meets 1 day prior to the VMB. The VMB plans to discuss unlicensed practice by veterinary assistants acting as RVTs and VAs misrepresenting themselves as RVTs at its next meeting.

#### Meeting with Jessica Sieferman, VMB Executive Officer

Nancy Ehrlich, RVT and Anita Levy, RVT met with Ms. Sieferman on July 25 for their monthly conference. Ms. Sieferman reported that the technician who handles RVT applications passed away the previous Sunday, so applicants should expect a delay in getting licenses. She reiterated that she is requesting the AAVSB to allow RVT students from California to take the VTNE prior to graduation. She also reiterated that Alternate Route candidates need to apply to the VMB prior to applying for the VTNE.