

**Reg/Leg Report**  
Nancy Ehrlich, RVT  
Regulatory/Legislative Advocate, CaRVTA  
October 22, 2022

**RVT Job Task Force – Representatives of various animal organizations, including CVMA, SFSPCA and Nancy Ehrlich, RVT & Isabel Pineda, RVT for CaRVTA, met on October 18 in Sacramento to discuss the problem of staff shortages at veterinary hospitals.** A particular emphasis of the discussion was expansion of RVT job tasks to improve access to care and increased wages for RVTs.

**Dr Grant Miller from CVMA presented their proposal to allow RVTs to establish the Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship for the supervising veterinarian for the purpose of administering vaccinations and performing preventative procedures for parasite control while the veterinarian is on the premise.** Everyone on the Task Force agreed that RVTs have the knowledge and skills necessary to perform these tasks. It was also agreed that allowing RVTs to perform these tasks would allow for lower fees and higher pay. Dr. Grant planned to introduce the proposal to the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) the next day.

**There was also discussion of RVTs administering prescribed home care treatments to patients without the supervision of a veterinarian, which is currently against the law.** Such a change would require legislation, rather than regulation, which is the purview of the Veterinary Medical Board. CaRVTA will be collaborating with other interested parties on the possibility of promoting legislation on this issue.

**The Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) met on October 18 in Sacramento.** The meeting was also available on-line via Webex. It was announced that Dr. Payton had resigned from the Committee due to a heavy workload.

**The MDC members discussed the California Animal Blood Banking Guidance Resource Document and agreed that it needs some corrections.** The Equine Practice Subcommittee reported that it is still working on its report. Equine practitioners have complained that they are being held to inappropriate standards more suitable for small animals. The Committee is collaborating with various stakeholders to come up with appropriate solutions.

**The MDC then moved on to discuss Drug Compounding.** Currently, RVTs are allowed to compound drugs under the supervision of a DVM. Due to concerns that there are insufficient RVTs to meet the needs of compounding, the MDC agreed to support legislation to allow VACSP holders to compound under certain conditions. They also voted to approve revisions to the Guidance Document on Drug Compounding. The Committee is still working on criteria for Expert Witnesses and will have more information at the next meeting.

**It was noted that the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) is looking for more RVTs to become Hospital Inspectors.**

**The Access to Care Task Force suggested that increasing RVT job tasks could help improve access to care.**

**Leah Shufelt, RVT was elected to be Chair of the MDC and Dr. Richard Sullivan was elected Vice-Chair.**

**The next MDC meeting will be on January 24 in Sacramento. The meeting will also be available on-line via Webex.**

**The VMB met on October 19-20 in Sacramento and on-line via Webex.** After approving the minutes as amended, the VMB heard the MDC Report from Dr. Richard Sullivan. The VMB voted to support legislation to allow VACSP holders to compound drugs under Direct Supervision. It was suggested that regulations allowing RVT students perform RVT job tasks during their final year and another one to remove the 5-year limit on education and experience for the Alternate Route be moved forward. The VMB also voted that eliminating the “ad hoc” Alternate Route and approving complete Alternate Route programs would not move forward at this time, but would be referred back to the MDC.

**The CVMA proposal to allow RVTs to perform vaccinations and parasite control was discussed.** The VMB agreed to send to proposal to the MDC for their discussion at the next meeting in January.

**It was reported that former VMB member, Dr. Mark Nunez, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Boards (AAVSB).** His election will give much needed representation for California at the AAVSB.

**Next on the agenda was a discussion of pending legislation.** The VMB voted to amend Sec. 4861 to change the composition of the Wellness Committee to include five members, of which there would be at least 1 RVT, 1 DVM and 2 Public Members. Currently the law does not include any RVT members even though RVTs are served by the Committee.

The VMB then adjourned for the day.

**The VMB reconvened on October 20.** The first item discussed was the Administrative Report. It was reported that the VMB's funding is maintaining a healthy reserve, partially due to not having all the employees they need. It is expected that the reserve will decrease once the costs increase. If the reserve funds exceed a 10-month reserve over a period of time, the VMB would consider lowering fees. It was also reported that BreEZe now allows VACSPs to be disassociated from the hospital if the employee leaves employment, making the process much simpler. It was also reported that licensees will receive an email confirming that their payment went through and will provide any relevant new information that licensees should have.

**Kathy Bowler presented the President's Report. She was pleased to report that the requested pay increase for Jessica Siefertman, the Executive Officer, was approved retroactive to March.**

**Next on the agenda was the RVT Report by Jennifer Loreda, RVT.** She started off with a Happy Veterinary Technician Week! She reported that there are currently 5 RVT and 3 DVM Hospital Inspectors. She also reported that according to the AVMA, RVTs are five times more likely to commit suicide than other veterinary professionals and that 15% of RVTs burn out within 5 years. She also reported that there is a problem with the cost of rabies vaccines for RVT students. Currently the AVMA requires rabies vaccination for all RVT students in AVMA approved programs. The vaccines cost \$600-\$800 each and two are required. She also suggested that due to the shortage of RVTs, the VMB should consider reinstating the 4-year degree in an animal related science and 1 year experience category to sit for the VTNE.

**Next was a discussion of the Examination and Licensing Reports.** The statistics show the overall pass rate for California first time test takers on the VTNE for 2022/23 to be 63%. However, the overall pass rate, including repeat test takers, was only 46% for the April '22 exam, while the national overall pass rate was 61%. The VMB plans to ask a representative of the AAVSB that administers the VTNE, to attend the January VMB meeting to discuss pass rates.

**Under the Outreach Report, Ms. Siefertman thanked CaRVTA for our Alert regarding RVTs administering home care treatments.** She reiterated that it would take legislation to allow RVTs to administer these treatments without supervision.

Dr. Christina Bradbury was elected President and Maria Solacito, Public Member, was elected Vice-President.

The next meeting of the VMB will be on January 25-26 in Sacramento and on-line via Webex.