

## **Reg/Leg Report**

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**MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MDC) – The MDC met on October 21 via the internet, with all members present.** The first order of business after approval of the minutes was a discussion about regulations concerning Telemedicine and Prescription Refills. A representative of the SFSPCA suggested that if a VCPR is already established, the veterinarian ought to be able to decide if telemedicine is appropriate for a new condition. She pointed out that other states already allow this. She also recommended that Rx refills be able to be provided for 18 months without a re-exam. A representative of the CVMA suggested that an in-person examination is necessary for a new problem even if a VCPR already exists. The MDC plans to continue to discuss these issues.

**The MDC next discussed whether a proposed regulation specifying additional responsibilities of the supervising veterinarian should move forward.** After discussion, the MDC voted to recommend withdrawing the reg package as unnecessary and duplicative.

**The committee then went on to discuss changing the way Premise Permit fees are charged to a sliding scale based on the number of DVMs employed by the practice.** The ultimate goal is to raise the Premise Permit fees sufficiently to be able to lower the RVT fees to be closer to what they were before the recent increases. The MDC will continue to explore the feasibility of changing the Premise Permit fee.

**Next on the agenda was a discussion about foreign graduate RVTs.** There is currently no specific pathway for foreign RVTs to become certified in the US or California. VMB member Jennifer Loreda, RVT reported that she is a member of a Task Force of the American Association of State Boards (AAVSB) that is working on creating a pathway for foreign RVTs similar to the PAVE program they have for veterinarians.

The MDC agreed that they would continue discussing the issues raised in this meeting. Their next meeting will be on January 27, 2021.

**VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD (VMB) - The VMB met on October 22-23 with all members except Alana Yanez present. Maria Solecito DVM was sworn in as a new member, replacing Dr. Waterhouse whose term had expired.**

Nancy Grittmann from the AAVSB told the VMB that they are hoping to have the RVT “PAVE” program ready within 1 year for foreign graduate RVTs.

**The VMB voted to eliminate the California State Board exam for veterinary candidates as they are convinced that the NAVLE (national exam) is sufficiently comprehensive.** They also voted to make no changes to the proposed regulation regarding the VCPR in the absence of client communication and written Rx's in the absence of the originally prescribing veterinarian. They also approved moving forward with the proposed regulations regarding animal physical rehabilitation and emergency animal care. They made some changes to the proposed regulation on drug compounding and will be opening a 15 day comment period on that regulation.

The VMB reviewed, updated and approved their Strategic Plan. Valerie Fenstermaker, Executive Director of CVMA, announced that she will be retiring as of October 31 and will be replaced by Dan Baxter, the current Director.

**Jennifer Loreda, RVT gave the RVT Report.** She said the VMB is working with the AAVSB to get reports on the RVT pass rates by school as required by our Practice Act. However, it turns out to be very expensive to produce these reports, so the VMB is working with the AAVSB to see how they can get the information. She also reported that she is interested in revisiting the name badge issue to help the public know the qualifications of the personnel they are dealing with. She also said that issues with who can do what in animal shelters is on-going, as is the problem of RVT students getting all the classes they need during the pandemic.

**Jessica Sieferman, the Executive Officer of the VMB, reported that the VMB is working on rules for the approval of Alternate Route programs.** There is currently a regulation going through the process that will eliminate the "ad hoc" Alternate Route and require the VMB to approve Alternate Route programs by 2024.

The VMB voted to elect Dr. Mark Nunez as its new President and Kathy Bowler to be Vice President.

The next meeting will be on January 28-29, 2021.