



Reg/Leg Report

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Nancy Ehrlich, RVT

Regulatory/Legislative Advocate, CaRVTA

The Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) held an abbreviated meeting on the web on April 23, 2020. The Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) meeting, which had been scheduled for April 22, was cancelled. The meeting opened with Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda. There were approximately 50 public comments, most of which were regarding telemedicine. Most of the comments related to the need to expand veterinary telemedicine, at least in an emergency, to include being able to create a Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR) via telemedicine. The commenters also requested that veterinarians be able to help established patients with new problems via telemedicine. The VMB currently interprets their telemedicine regulation to require a prior, in-person VCPR. It also limits veterinarians to using telemedicine for problems already diagnosed in-person.

There were quite a few comments from soon-to-graduate veterinary students who are concerned about the very long processing time for their license applications and the resulting problems with starting their new jobs. The VMB discussed placing these items on a future agenda.

The next item on the agenda was creating a fee for RVT School applications. Current law contains a \$300 cap for these applications, but there is no regulation allowing the charging of an application fee. The VMB approved a \$300 application fee and agreed to seek to raise the statutory limit on the fee so they could raise the fee if necessary. This new fee will be added to the Emergency Fee Regulation that is already going through the process. There is another regulation going through the process that will require the inspection of Alternate Route programs starting in 2024. The VMB wanted to establish this application fee in order to cover the expenses they will be incurring due to the requirements of the new regulation. All RVT schools, including AVMA approved schools, will be required to pay the application fee for California approval. However, the VMB will only inspect AVMA approved schools if they become aware of a problem. Alternate Route programs will be inspected routinely by the VMB.

Jessica Siefertman, the VMB Executive Officer, reported that the current Sunset process is in limbo. There is a possibility that the VMB's Sunset date may be extended without a hearing, but that is unknown at this time. Discussion about possible action on 2019-2020 legislation was postponed until the next meeting, as there is currently inadequate information about the status of bills and the legislative process.

The public meeting was adjourned so the VMB could move to Closed Session to discuss disciplinary matters.

1017 L St #389 Sacramento CA 95814 916 244-2494 www.carvta.com