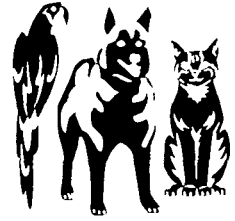


Veterinary Medical Board

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The Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) is a consumer protection agency within the state Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). Pursuant to the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (VMPA), Business and Professions Code section 4800 *et seq.*, VMB licenses doctors of veterinary medicine (DVMs) and registered veterinary technicians (RVTs); establishes the scope and standards of practice of veterinary medicine; and investigates complaints and takes disciplinary action against licensees, as appropriate. The Board's regulations are codified in Division 20, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

VMB also registers veterinary medical, surgical, and dental hospitals and health facilities. All such facilities must be registered with the Board and must comply with minimum standards.

A facility may be inspected at any time, and its registration is subject to revocation or suspension if, following a hearing, it is deemed to have fallen short of these standards.

The Board is comprised of seven members—four veterinarians and three public members. The Governor appoints all of the Board's DVM members and one of the public members; the Senate Rules Committee and the Assembly Speaker each appoint one public member. Board members serve four-year terms, and are limited to two consecutive terms.

The Board maintains the Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC), an advisory committee on issues pertaining to the practice of veterinary technicians. RVTC consists of five members (three RVTs, one DVM, and one public member) who are appointed to four-year terms by VMB. RVTC is authorized to assist the Board in the examination, investigation, and evaluation of RVT applicants; make recommendations regarding the establishment and operation of continuing education requirements; and assist the Board in the inspection and approval of RVT schools and educational programs.

VMB maintains two other standing committees: the Legislative Committee and the Administrative Committee. Other ad hoc VMB committees cover the areas of citation and fine review, consumer outreach, continuing education, contract bid review, enforcement, examinations, facility inspection, public relations, publications, and sunset review.

On August 9, 2000, the Senate Rules Committee appointed Ronald P. Biron of Fair Oaks as a public member of the Board. Biron was the deputy executive officer of the California State Senate from 1983 to 1998. At this writing, two DVM seats are vacant; on June 1, 2001, a third professional seat will become open. Four members are required to constitute a quorum.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Alternate Pathway to Licensure for Foreign Graduates

In March 2001, VMB commenced rulemaking to provide graduates of veterinary medical schools that are not accredited or approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) (and therefore not recognized by the Board) with an alternative to the existing pathway to licensure. Existing section 2010.1, Title 16 of the CCR, requires an applicant who has graduated from a school not recognized by the Board to secure a certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) program, which is part of AVMA. VMB proposes to amend section 2010.1, 2024, and 2025, Title 16 of the CCR, to allow a candidate from a non-recognized school another option—completion of the Program for Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) program, which has recently been created by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

By way of background information, AVMA controlled the National Board Examination (NBE) and the Clinical Competency Test (CCT), the major national licensing examinations used by all state veterinary boards, through its National Board Examination Committee (NBEC) until 1994. At that time, after a lengthy initiative led by VMB and DCA's Office of Examination Resources, AVMA was finally persuaded to spin off the NBEC (and its control of the licensing exams) to a separate nonprofit organization; VMB and other state boards were very concerned about the obvious impropriety of allowing a professional association such as AVMA to control the passing score on a test that is part of a state board's licensing process. [14:4 CRLR 104; 14:2&3 CRLR 110; 14:1 CRLR 86] NBEC eventually combined the NBE and the CCT into the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE).

AVMA's ECFVG program is designed to ensure that graduates of veterinary programs not accredited by AVMA (primarily foreign schools) have received equivalent training to that required by AVMA-approved programs and are competent for licensure by state boards. VMB has historically relied on the ECFVG program to evaluate these candidates. The ECFVG program requires certification of the applicant's credentials, passage of several examinations (including an English fluency test and a basic sciences examination), successful completion of one year of postgraduate clinical experience.

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rience at an AVMA-accredited veterinary college or completion of the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE), and passage of a state board's required examination(s). However, in recent years, VMB has received a number of complaints about the ECFVG program, including the following: (1) the ECFVG uses the NAVLE as its basic sciences examination (when the NAVLE is not intended to be a basic sciences examination, but is instead a test of practical knowledge necessary to begin practice as a veterinarian); (2) because the CPE is administered at only two schools in the United States, a huge backlog has developed and a candidate must wait 18–24 months to take the CPE exam and complete the ECFVG program; and (3) the conflict of interest originally identified by VMB in the early 1990s remains: AVMA—through its ECFVG—effectively controls entry into the veterinarian profession. When these problems were brought to AVMA's attention, AVMA's solution was to increase the fee for the CPE from \$2,500 to \$6,000 (to encourage more schools to administer the exam, theoretically reducing the backlog of applicants waiting to pass it in order to complete the ECFVG program). At a July 1999 AAVSB convention, delegates from 38 state boards voted to formally request that AVMA transfer the ECFVG program to the AAVSB; however, AVMA declined to do so in July 2000. Thus, delegates of 27 states (including California, Florida, New York, and Texas—the states with the majority of foreign veterinary graduates) directed AAVSB to work with NBEC to develop a new equivalency program for foreign graduates.

This effort has resulted in the PAVE, whose initial steps are similar to those of the ECFVG in that candidates must undergo certification of their credentials and passage of several examinations (including an English fluency test and a “qualifying” basic sciences examination developed by the NBEC). Thereafter, candidates must successfully complete one year of clinical experience at an AVMA-accredited veterinary college or complete the Veterinary Clinical Assessment Examination developed by NBEC. Upon graduation and completion of all PAVE requirements, the candidate must pass the NAVLE and then pass the state board's required examination(s).

Thus, VMB proposes to amend sections 2010.1, 2024, and 2025 to permit graduates of programs not accredited by AVMA to either complete the ECFVG program or the PAVE program before sitting for the California state examinations. According to VMB, this second eligibility pathway does not change or lower the educational standards for licensing graduates of non-accredited schools. Further, California would not be the first state to accept this new program; Texas and North Dakota have already changed their laws to accommodate the new program, and other states are currently in the process of making the statutory and regulatory changes necessary to utilize both PAVE and ECFVG.

At this writing, VMB is scheduled to hold a public hearing on these proposed regulatory changes on May 3, 2001.

Alternate Eligibility Pathway for RVTs

Business and Professions Code section 4841.5 mandates that all candidates applying for registration as veterinary technicians furnish satisfactory evidence of graduation from, at minimum, a two-year curriculum in veterinary technology at a college or other postsecondary institution approved by VMB. In the early 1990s, VMB and RVTC determined that an alternate RVT eligibility route combining formal education with credit for work experience in the veterinary field could aid in overcoming the barrier presented by the fact that there are only seven approved RVT schools in the entire state of California. Section 2068.5, Title 16 of the CCR, provides that alternate eligibility pathway. Under section 2068.5, a candidate with at least 36 months of specified practical experience under the direct supervision of a California-licensed veterinarian may qualify to sit for the RVT exam without completing a two-year curriculum, so long as the candidate has completed at least 20 semester units of specified education provided at a postsecondary academic institution.

During 1999–2000, RVTC held two informational public hearings and gathered testimony and evidence regarding the availability of basic educational coursework required for examination eligibility. As a result of the hearings, RVTC determined that access to RVT-specific courses remains severely restricted and further regulatory clarification of approved education is necessary. RVTC concluded that basic general education credits and RVT-specific education credits could be obtained at local community colleges or via continuing education offered by approved providers or through a combination of educational sources. In response to new technologies available in education, RVTC also concluded that it is necessary to recognize interactive distance learning options.

Thus, on March 16, 2001, VMB published notice of its intent to amend section 2068.5 to clarify the education required to qualify to sit for the RVT exam. The proposed amendments would expand the sources of qualifying education to include certain interactive distance learning courses and education provided by “qualified instructors” (as defined in the regulation), specify instructor approval criteria, and further clarify the documentation requirements for candidates. At this writing, VMB is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to section 2068.5 at its May 3, 2001 meeting.

Board to Amend Regulations Governing RVT Work Settings

Under current VMB regulation, RVTs are required to perform their jobs in animal hospital settings under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed DVM. This requirement means that RVTs cannot attend to the needs of consumers and their animals who are unable to return for treatment to the premises where the original diagnosis was made.

On March 16, 2001, VMB published notice of its intent to amend sections 2034 and 2036, Title 16 of the CCR, in

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order to allow RVTs to perform tasks outside the animal hospital setting under the direct or indirect supervision of a veterinarian. The proposal does not expand the list of permissible job tasks performed by RVTs; rather, it simply expands the possible locations for that performance.

Currently, section 2034 defines "direct supervision" to mean that "the supervisor is on the premises in an animal hospital setting or in the same general area in a range setting." VMB's amendment would redefine "direct supervision" to mean that "the supervisor is physically present at the location where animal health care job tasks are to be performed and is quickly and easily available." VMB's amendment to section 2034 would redefine the term "indirect supervision" to mean the veterinarian is "not physically present at the location where animal health care job tasks are to be performed." The proposal would also eliminate the definition for the term "range setting," currently defined as "any setting other than an animal hospital setting," and replace it with "off-premise setting," meaning "those areas where veterinary practice is conducted that are not required to be registered with the Board...."

VMB's proposed amendments to section 2036 would permit veterinarians to authorize RVTs to perform certain tasks that are currently allowed "in an animal hospital setting" in an "off-premise setting" as well, and would continue to require direct DVM supervision of those tasks. Other changes to section 2036 would permit RVTs to perform other tasks under the direct or indirect supervision of a DVM in non-hospital settings.

According to VMB, it is neither practical nor desirable to require consumers to take their animals to the hospital for every treatment. Some clients are elderly, disabled, or busy with work or family obligations. Some animals are difficult to transport or are chronically or terminally ill. VMB believes that authorizing DVMs to utilize RVTs to perform existing tasks off premises and under indirect supervision would allow DVMs to provide consumers with alternative methods of treatment and/or follow-up care while retaining control over the RVT and the treatment. At this writing, VMB is scheduled to hold a public hearing on these proposed regulatory changes at its meeting on May 3, 2001.

Disciplinary Guidelines

VMB's *Veterinary Medical Board Disciplinary Guidelines* provide guidance for the Board, deputy attorneys general, and administrative law judges engaged in the disciplinary process. The text of these guidelines is not contained in the CCR; rather, the guidelines are incorporated by reference in section 2006, Title 16 of the CCR. Currently, section 2006 requires VMB, when deciding a disciplinary matter, to rely

on the 1996 edition of the guidelines. However, the 1996 edition lacks references to several statutory changes affecting VMB discipline that have been made since that edition's publication. In addition, VMB itself has subsequently amended the guidelines to improve the consistency of penalties as they relate to the amount of harm caused or potentially caused to animals and consumers of veterinary services. Thus, on March 16, 2001, VMB published notice of its intent to amend section 2006 to refer to the 2001 edition of the guidelines. At this writing, the Board is scheduled to hold a hearing on this matter on May 3, 2001.

Computerization of National Licensing Exam

In November 1999, VMB published notice of its intent to modify sections 2010, 2010.1, 2011, 2014, 2014.5, 2015, 2015.1, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2070, Title 16 of the CCR, to accommodate the computerized format of the NAVLE commencing with its November 2000 administration. These regulatory changes facilitate the transition to the new exam format and address exam scheduling, eligibility, fees and refunds, processing timeframes, test review, and appeal of grades. Following a January 2000 public hearing, VMB adopted the proposed changes; the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved them on July 18, 2000.

Update on Other Board Rulemaking

The following is an update on recent VMB rulemaking proceedings described in more detail in Volume 17, No. 1 (Winter 2000) of the *California Regulatory Law Reporter*.

◆ **Mandatory Continuing Education Regulations.** In September 1999, VMB published proposed regulations to implement SB 155 (Kelley) (Chapter 1070, Statutes of 1998), a bill sponsored by the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) that requires veterinarians to complete 36 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license renewal period. SB 155 authorized VMB to designate an external entity to evaluate and approve CE providers.

After receiving requests from both CVMA and AAVSB to be appointed as the external approval entity, the Board chose AAVSB and incorporated that decision into its CE regulations. [17:1 CRLR 81-82] The Board adopted its proposed regulations, new sections 2085-2085.12, Title 16 of the CCR, at its January 2000 meeting and forwarded them to OAL. On July 19, 2000, OAL disapproved the Board's regulations for a number of reasons.

Rather than attempting to address the deficiencies identified by OAL, the Board abandoned the rulemaking proceeding because CVMA introduced SB 1620 (Kelley) in early 2000 to require veterinarians to fulfill their CE obligation by tak-

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ing CE courses approved by AVMA, CVMA, and a host of other AVMA- and CVMA-affiliated entities. At VMB's April 2000 meeting, CVMA representative Dr. Bob Sahara stated that, in CVMA's view, the Board's SB 155 regulations "over-regulate CE" and do not allow veterinarians enough flexibility in their choice of programs that qualify for CE. VMB's Legislative Committee recommended a position of "oppose unless amended" on SB 1620 (opposing the "blanket approval" of all AVMA- and CVMA-affiliated CE programs without any approval process for those programs or their providers); the full Board approved that position at its April 2000 meeting. Despite the Board's position, Governor Davis signed SB 1620 (Kelley) on September 29, 2000 (see 2000 LEGISLATION). Thus, VMB set about drafting new CE regulations to address SB 1620.

On December 1, 2000, VMB published notice of its intent to adopt new sections 2085 *et seq.*, Title 16 of the CCR, to implement its revamped CE requirement. Proposed section 2085 would define various terms used in the statute and regulations. Section 2085.1 would specify the CE requirement for license renewal. Section 2085.2 would set forth the procedure through which VMB may approve a waiver of the CE requirements if a veterinarian has been absent from the state due to military service or can satisfactorily document ill health (either of the DVM or of an individual for whom the DVM has total responsibility for care) for a period of at least one year. Section 2085.3 explains how CE credit will be calculated. Section 2085.4 would provide for retroactive approval of CE course providers. Section 2085.5 would require all qualifying CE courses be relevant to veterinary medicine, and specify that courses whose content is primarily intended to promote the use of a commercial product or service do not qualify for CE credit. Sections 2085.6 and 2085.7 would outline the recordkeeping responsibilities of licensees and CE course providers. Section 2085.8 would list the duties of the Board's designated CE approval body (for purposes of approving CE courses not sponsored by AVMA- or CVMA-affiliated entities or other organizations qualifying under SB 1620), and identifies the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) as that body. Section 2085.9 would set forth the approval process for a CE provider who is not statutorily recognized. Section 2085.10 would set forth the method through which VMB may withdraw the approval of any CE provider—those that are statutorily recognized and those that are approved by AAVSB. Finally, VMB proposes to amend section 2070 to set the initial and two-year biennial renewal fee for Board-approved CE providers at \$200.

After a public hearing on January 18, 2001, the Board voted to adopt the new regulations. At this writing, VMB staff is preparing the rulemaking file for submission to DCA and OAL.

◆ **SB 2003 Temporary License Regulations.** Effective March 1, 1999 through July 1, 2002, SB 2003 (Knight) (Chapter 1070, Statutes of 1998)—the "California Veterinary Reciprocity Law"—amends Business and Professions Code sec-

tion 4848 to require the Board to establish a one-year, "temporary licensure" system for veterinarians who are already licensed in another state and seek to practice in California. SB 2003 establishes minimum qualifications for out-of-state veterinarians who qualify for the temporary license; requires them to practice for one year as a "temporary licensee" under the supervision of a licensed California veterinarian in good standing and complete a 30-hour, Board-approved educational curriculum on "regionally specific and important diseases and conditions" before becoming eligible for full licensure; and restricts VMB's examination of these out-of-state veterinarians to an open-book, "mail-out" test covering only its statutes and regulations. SB 2003 also requires VMB to issue a temporary license to applicants accepted into qualifying internship or residency programs ("temporary licensee interns") under specified conditions. [17:1 CRLR 82-83; 16:2 CRLR 71-73; 16:1 CRLR 90-92] Although SB 2003 created the temporary license law for a limited period, the July 2002 sunset date is proposed for repeal in AB 1583 (Negrete McLeod) (see 2001 LEGISLATION).

The Board has implemented the requirements in SB 2003 in several phases. In July 1999, OAL approved VMB's first wave of rulemaking to establish the new temporary license and the new "veterinary law examination" which must be administered to prospective temporary licensees. [17:1 CRLR 82]

Following a July 1999 public hearing, VMB approved amendments to sections 2015 and 2015.1, and the adoption of new sections 2016, 2021.3, 2021.4, 2021.5, 2021.6, 2021.7, 2021.8, and 2021.8A, Title 16 of the CCR. [17:1 CRLR 83] Of import, new section 2021.3 outlines the required contents of the course on "regionally specific and important diseases and conditions" ("California curriculum") that temporary licensees must complete before becoming eligible for full licensure. The course must be at least 26 hours in length, "presented face-to-face in the state," and must cover the following topics: (1) practicing veterinary medicine in California (four hours); (2) regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over animals and veterinary practice (five hours); (3) zoonotic and cross-species diseases (three hours); (4) diseases associated with the California environment (four hours); (5) regionally important diseases of pets in California (three hours); (6) regionally and economically important diseases of food animals (five hours); and (7) regionally and economically important diseases of horses in California (two hours). Sections 2021.4-2021.7 and 2021.8A set forth the Board's approval process for California curriculum providers. Section 2021.8 establishes the process for denial, withdrawal, and appeal of such approval. The regulatory package also shortens the timeframe within which an applicant must complete all licensure examinations from 63 months to 60 months. OAL approved this regulatory package on May 10, 2000; the new and amended regulations became effective on June 9, 2000.

In a third regulatory package implementing SB 2003, VMB amended sections 2021, 2021.1, and 2021.9, Title 16 of the CCR. These regulatory changes (some of which be-

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came effective in August 1999 on an emergency basis) implement Business and Professions Code section 4848.3, the provision that requires the Board to issue a one-year temporary license to an applicant accepted into a qualifying internship or residency (a "temporary licensee intern"). The amendments define the type of supervision necessary for temporary licensee interns and the qualifications and duties of a supervisor; specify the criteria required prior to qualifying for an internship residency program; and set forth consequences for a temporary licensee intern's failure to comply with the laws and regulations governing his/her license. In the same regulatory proposal, VMB amended section 2043 to permit the Board to assess citations and fines against RVTs for failure to comply with VMB's statute and regulations. [17:1 CRLR 83] OAL approved these regulatory changes on January 11, 2000; they became effective on February 10, 2000.

◆ **Minimum Standards for Veterinary Practice and Premises.** In June 1999, VMB held a public hearing on its regulatory proposal to impose new minimum standards for veterinary practice and premises that all veterinarians must follow wherever veterinary medicine, dentistry, or surgery is performed in California—including both fixed and mobile premises. In this regulatory action, VMB amended sections 2002, 2030, and 2068.5; adopted new sections 2030.1, 2030.2, and 2032; and renumbered and amended numerous other sections in Title 16 of the CCR. [17:1 CRLR 83–84; 16:2 CRLR 73–75; 16:1 CRLR 92–93] Following the public hearing, the Board's Legislative Committee reviewed all of the comments submitted on the proposed regulatory changes, and recommended several modifications to the full Board at its July 1999 meeting. VMB approved those modifications at its January 2000 meeting, and published the modified version of the regulations for an additional 15-day comment period on February 28, 2000. After receiving no adverse comments, VMB forwarded the regulatory package to DCA and OAL; OAL approved the regulatory changes on May 25, 2000.

2000 LEGISLATION

SB 1620 (Kelley), as amended June 27, 2000, amends Business and Professions Code section 4846.5 to eliminate the Board's authority to designate an external organization to approve CE providers, and instead requires veterinarians—effective January 1, 2002—to satisfy their 36-hour biennial CE requirement by attending courses sponsored by AVMA-accredited veterinary medical colleges, other accredited colleges offering veterinary medicine programs, AVMA itself, AVMA-recognized specialty or affiliated allied groups, AVMA-affiliated state trade associations (such as CVMA), government agencies, or local veterinary medical associations affiliated with CVMA (see MAJOR PROJECTS). Sponsored by CVMA, SB 1620 also allows veterinarians to earn up to six hours of CE credit through self-study courses, including reading journals or viewing videotapes, audiotapes, or electronically transmitted material; permits the Board to approve CE providers other than those listed in SB 1620; and permits

the Board to adopt an order that a CE provider is no longer an acceptable provider. The bill also reduces the number of years that applicants must maintain their CE records from six to four years. SB 1620 was signed by the Governor on September 29, 2000 (Chapter 995, Statutes of 2000).

SB 1462 (Perata), as amended August 28, 2000, requires the management of any professionally sanctioned or amateur rodeo to ensure that a California-licensed veterinarian is either present or on call at all times during the rodeo performances. Rodeo organizers must allow the attending or on call veterinarian complete access to the site of any event in the rodeo that uses animals. The veterinarian is authorized to declare any animal unfit to participate in any event. The bill specifies the duties of the veterinarian and rodeo management with respect to injured animals and animals in holding chutes. Under this statute, the veterinarian must notify VMB of any animal injury requiring treatment within 48 hours of the rodeo's conclusion. A violation of this new law is an infraction punishable by specified fines. Governor Davis signed SB 1462 on September 29, 2000 (Chapter 992, Statutes of 2000).

2001 LEGISLATION

AB 1583 (Negrete McLeod), as introduced February 23, 2001, would eliminate the July 1, 2002 sunset provision that terminates the California Veterinary Reciprocity Law, which was created by SB 2003 (Knight) (Chapter 1070, Statutes of 1998), and allow VMB's temporary licensure program for qualified out-of-state veterinarians to continue indefinitely (see MAJOR PROJECTS). [A. *Appr*]

AB 446 (Committee on Business and Professions), as amended April 16, 2001, as it relates to VMB, would require that all accrued and unpaid penalties on delinquent license renewals be paid at the time of renewal of an expired DVM or RVT license. Under existing law, only the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date must be paid to renew a license. DCA sponsored this bill to put an end to the custom of some licensees who intentionally allow their licenses to lapse for several years, waiting to renew until just before the date their licenses would expire. The bill would also make several other technical, non-substantive changes. [A. *Appr*]

AB 269 (Correa), as amended April 5, 2001, would create the Division of Enforcement Oversight within DCA. Under the direction of the DCA Director, the Division would monitor and evaluate the consumer complaint and discipline system of each DCA board (including VMB). Further, the bill would require the executive officer of each DCA board to be appointed by a three-member panel comprised of a representative of the board, the DCA Director, and the Governor's appointments secretary. [A. *B&P*]

AB 373 (Leach), as introduced February 20, 2001, would authorize a deduction under the Personal Income Tax Law for the costs paid or incurred during the taxable year by a taxpayer for veterinary services for an animal adopted from an animal shelter or nonprofit animal welfare organization.

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This bill would also authorize a tax deduction for the expenses paid or incurred in providing pro bono veterinary services to a similarly adopted animal. *[A. Rev&Tax]*

SB 430 (Vincent), as amended April 23, 2001, would— for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2001 and before January 1, 2006— authorize a personal income tax credit in an amount not to exceed \$100 for expenses paid or incurred by a taxpayer for spaying or neutering a cat or dog purchased or adopted by the taxpayer. In order to be eligible for the tax credit, the taxpayer must have acquired the pet from a public animal control agency or shelter, a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, a humane society shelter, a rescue group as defined by statute, or a breeder (as defined in the bill) or pet store located in California. *[S. Rev&Tax]*

AB 1336 (Koretz), as amended April 18, 2001, would prohibit pet stores from selling, adopting out, transferring, or giving away any dog or cat that has not been spayed or neutered. This bill would require pet shops to have the surgery performed by a licensed veterinarian, and to provide written proof that the pet has been spayed or neutered to the new owner. *[A. B&P]*

RECENT MEETINGS

At the Board's April 2000 meeting, the Facility Inspection Committee announced the initial results of its Unlicensed Premise Identification Project. The Project was developed by Board members Michael Clark, DVM, and Vern Goehring, along with Board staff, to determine whether unlicensed veterinary premises are common in California. The Facility In-

spection Committee selected two counties and reviewed all city and county business listings and then compared those with VMB's premises database. One county assessed was found to have no unlicensed premises; the other had four. Goehring suggested that the Project continue to review different counties on an annual basis.

At the same meeting, in presenting the report of the Administrative Committee, Dr. Clark reported that he had reviewed the Board's motions, as contained in the meeting minutes, from the past ten years and had extracted all of the "policies" developed by the Board. The goal of this analysis is to generate a VMB policy file. Executive Officer Geranen will review Dr. Clark's work and create this policy collection.

Also at its April 2000 meeting, VMB unanimously elected public member Ellen O'Connor to serve as president and public member Vern Goehring as vice president for 2000-01. However, for personal reasons, Goehring did not seek reappointment to the Board when his term subsequently expired. Therefore, at its October 2000 meeting, VMB elected Nancy Collins, DVM, to replace Mr. Goehring as vice president.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2001: May 2-3 in San Diego; July 11-12 in Sacramento; October 17-18 in Fresno.

2002: January 16-17 in Riverside; April 17-18 in Sacramento; July 11-12 in Sacramento; October 9-10 in Sacramento.

2003: January 15-16 in Sacramento; April 16-17 in Bakersfield; July 9-10 in Sacramento; October 15-16 in Sacramento.