



12, the Board held a public hearing to amend section 1996(a) to change the effective date to September 1, 1991. The purpose of this amendment is economic feasibility: Companies will be able to use up existing supplies of old forms and have sufficient time to order or print the new forms. If old forms are used up before September 1, companies may utilize the new forms. On December 28, OAL approved the amendment.

## LEGISLATION:

*Anticipated Legislation.* The Board is considering proposed legislation which would classify fumigants as either toxic fumigants or simple asphyxiants, each having separate regulations for safety precautions, licensing, supervision, and other pertinent requirements. The statutory amendment under consideration would identify liquid nitrogen as a simple asphyxiant, thus making liquid nitrogen subject to regulation by the Board. (See CRLR Vol. 10, No. 4 (Fall 1990) p. 106; Vol. 10, Nos. 2 & 3 (Spring/Summer 1990) pp. 122-24; and Vol. 9, No. 4 (Fall 1989) p. 80 for extensive background information on this issue.)

## RECENT MEETINGS:

At SPCB's October 11-12 meeting, the Board elected its officers for 1991. William Jones was elected President, and Caryl Iseman was elected Vice-President.

## FUTURE MEETINGS:

April 5 in Pasadena.

## TAX PREPARER PROGRAM

*Administrator: Don Procida*  
(916) 324-4977

Enacted in 1973, abolished in 1982, and reenacted by SB 1453 (Presley) effective January 31, 1983, the Tax Preparer Program registers approximately 19,000 commercial tax preparers and 6,000 tax interviewers in California, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9891 *et seq.* The Program's regulations are codified in Division 32, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Registrants must be at least eighteen years old, have a high school diploma or pass an equivalency exam, have completed sixty hours of instruction in basic personal income tax law, theory and practice within the previous eighteen months, or have at least two years' experience equivalent to that instruction. Twenty hours of continuing education are required each year.

Prior to registration, tax preparers must deposit a bond or cash in the amount of \$2,000 with the Department of Consumer Affairs. Registration must be renewed annually, and a tax preparer who does not renew his/her registration within three years after expiration must obtain a new registration. The initial registration fee is \$50 and the renewal fee is \$40.

Members of the State Bar of California, accountants regulated by the state or federal government, and those authorized to practice before the Internal Revenue Service are exempt from registration.

An Administrator, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, enforces the provisions of the Tax Preparer Act. He/she is assisted by a nine-member State Preparer Advisory Committee which consists of three registrants, three persons exempt from registration, and three public members. All members are appointed to four-year terms.

## RECENT MEETINGS:

The Advisory Board has not met since December 13, 1988.

## FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

## BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

*Executive Officer: Gary K. Hill*  
(916) 920-7662

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4800 *et seq.*, the Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine (BEVM) licenses all veterinarians, veterinary hospitals, animal health facilities, and animal health technicians (AHTs). Effective May 1990, the Board now evaluates applicants for veterinary licenses through three written examinations: the National Board Examination, the Clinical Competency Test, and the California Practical Examination.

The Board determines through its regulatory power the degree of discretion that veterinarians, AHTs, and unregistered assistants have in administering animal health care. BEVM's regulations are codified in Division 20, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). All veterinary medical, surgical, and dental facilities must be registered with the Board and must conform to minimum standards. These facilities may be inspected at any time, and their registration is subject to revocation or suspension if, following a proper hear-

ing, a facility is deemed to have fallen short of these standards.

The Board is comprised of six members, including two public members. The Animal Health Technician Examining Committee consists of two licensed veterinarians, three AHTs, and two public members.

On December 6, Board staff announced the appointment of Nancy Lee Collins, DVM, to the BEVM. Dr. Collins, who is an equine practitioner, replaces Dr. Alan Edmondson on the Board.

## MAJOR PROJECTS:

*AHT Exam Grading Change Update.* On November 28, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Board's amendment to section 2062, Division 20, Title 16 of the CCR. This amendment, adopted by BEVM at its April 1990 meeting, changes the current fixed percentage method of scoring the California AHT Examination to a criterion reference method. (See CRLR Vol. 10, No. 4 (Fall 1990) p. 109 and Vol. 10, Nos. 2 & 3 (Spring/Summer 1990) p. 126 for background information.)

*Board Performance Survey.* At its October 19 meeting, BEVM staff presented the results of a survey taken among veterinarians to assess the responsiveness of BEVM and its staff. Executive Officer Gary Hill noted a substantial increase in the number of 1990 survey respondents who had contact with the Board and staff compared to respondents to a similar 1985 survey. In comparison to the 1985 survey, the 1990 survey results in general rated the Board higher on courtesy, about the same on accuracy, but lower on timeliness. According to the survey, 87% of the respondents rated the Board as fair to good in keeping them informed on changes in relevant laws and regulations. Also, 95% of the 1990 respondents indicated that continuing education would be useful. Mr. Hill noted a noticeable increase in support for continuing education among veterinarians surveyed since 1981.

## LEGISLATION:

*Proposed Legislation.* BEVM may attempt to implement a required continuing education (CE) program for veterinarians through legislation. (See CRLR Vol. 10, No. 4 (Fall 1990) p. 108; Vol. 10, Nos. 2 & 3 (Spring/Summer 1990) p. 127; and Vol. 10, No. 1 (Winter 1990) p. 98 for background information.) Proposed new section 4906 of the Business and Professions Code would mandate CE for all licensed veterinarians. Specifically, this section would require all