

Reg/Leg Report
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The Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) held a meeting via the web on May 14. All members were present except for Dr. Christina Bradbury.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion of the current regulation on telemedicine and whether it needed to be updated. Current rules allow a veterinarian to conduct a video visit only for established patients with known problems. The current pandemic has exposed the need for video visits for new problems. After much discussion, the VMB voted to ask the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to issue a temporary waiver of the requirement that a video visit be only for a known problem and allow new problems for established patients to be discussed. They also voted to ask for a waiver of the requirement for an exam within 12 months prior to filling or refilling a prescription. The VMB is asking that the exam requirement be changed to 18 months prior until the end of the declared emergency.

The VMB then moved on to discuss legislation of interest. Jessica Sieferman, the VMB Executive Officer, announced that the VMB's Sunset hearing has been postponed for a year. The VMB voted to *Support If Amended*, SB627, the bill that allows veterinarians to recommend cannabis products. The VMB would like to see the bill amended to allow sales of animal cannabis products only in medical dispensaries, not recreational ones. The VMB also voted to *Watch* SB1115, the bill that would eliminate closed blood bank colonies in favor of community sourced donors. While the VMB members were sympathetic to the idea of ending the use of closed colonies, there was evidence presented that closed colonies are necessary, especially during an emergency. The VMB voted to *Oppose* SB1347, which would exempt shelters from the need to use licensed personnel to administer vaccines, first aid and euthanasia.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee's (MDC) recommendations for changes to the statutes to deal with the corporate ownership of veterinary practices. The changes include requiring the names and contact information for all owners of the corporation. The VMB approved the MDC's recommendations with a minor change that clarifies that it is a violation to coerce by any means a DVM or RVT to perform in a manner that is not consistent with current veterinary standards. It also reaffirms that only a CA licensed veterinarian may make any decisions regarding prescribing treatment for a patient.

The VMB decided to hold its July meeting via the web and the October meeting in Sacramento if the emergency has been lifted.