



April 18, 2019

VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD ELIMINATED THE CALIFORNIA RVT EXAM

At its April 17, 2019 meeting, the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) voted to discontinue offering the California RVT Examination (CRVTE). Candidates will no longer be required to take both the VTNE and the CRVTE.

The VMB based their decision on several factors. The first factor was that current law states that RVT candidates should take both a national exam and an examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California RVTs. After reviewing the Practice Acts of other states and the exam outline of both exams, the VMB determined that there were no tasks limited to California RVTs. It also determined that the VTNE test plan included all of the tasks performed by California RVTs.

The second factor was that the CRVTE was not actually testing job tasks, but was basically a jurisprudence exam. The law does not require that RVT candidates take a jurisprudence exam, so the VMB felt that the current exam was not fulfilling the requirements of the law. The VMB also determined that they have the authority to discipline RVTs who do not follow the law, and that an examination was not necessary to enforce the laws and regulations.

The VMB also determined that considering the shortage of RVTs, and due to the high cost of taking 2 examinations, the California exam was acting as a barrier to licensure after hearing testimony that a significant number of RVT school graduates opted not to take the licensing exams because of their inability to pay.

The law requiring an examination on California only job tasks remains in place, so if the VMB ever does give RVTs any additional tasks that are not performed by RVTs in other states, the examination can be reinstated.

The VMB will be reviewing applications from candidates who applied within the previous 12 months. Anyone who passed the VTNE but failed the CRVTE will be notified that their application can be reinstated. Candidates who passed the VTNE within 5 years but failed the CRVTE will be allowed to reapply.

Candidates with questions about their application can contact the VMB at vmb@dca.ca.gov or by calling 1-888-229-0170. Other questions, contact CaRVTA at info@carvta.org.