

REG/LEG REPORT
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The Veterinary Medical Board's (VMB) Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) met on January 27, 2021 via the internet. The first issue on the agenda was a presentation by Nancy Gritman of the American Association of State Boards (AAVSB). She explained that the AAVSB was completing work on their Pathway for Veterinary Assessment Program (PAVE) for RVTs. That program will allow the AAVSB to assess the qualifications of foreign graduate RVTs and their eligibility to sit for the VTNE. They expect to launch the program by the end of the year. The MDC voted to amend Sec. 4841.5 through the Sunset legislation to include language to would create a category for foreign graduate RVTs who successfully complete the PAVE process.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion about the future of telemedicine. The MDC voted to recommend the development of the definitions of telemedicine, telecommunication, and tele-triage **The MDC also voted to recommend that the VMB lower the RVT fees from \$350 to \$225 and raise the Premise and DVM fees. (See attachment)**

The next meeting of the MDC will be on April 21.

The Veterinary Medical Board met on January 28-29. Carrie Holmes from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) reported that training for new Board members was on-line. She also mentioned that all Board members and employees must take sexual harassment training.

Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Chair of the MDC, gave the MDC report. It was brought up that the new PAVE program for RVTs may not include foreign graduate veterinarians who want to become RVTs. The VMB will look into it. Ms. Pawlowski also stated that the MDC is working on an assessment of the Premise Permit fee. The MDC would like to add a question to the Premise Permit renewal form asking how many full-time equivalent DVMs work in the practice. If possible, the MDC would like to change the Premise Permit fee to a sliding scale based on the number of veterinarians working in the practice. They plan to bring a proposal to the VMB at their next meeting. The VMB voted to appoint Maria Salazar Sperber, J.D. as a new public Member for the MDC.

Nancy Gritman from the AAVSB made a presentation about Racetrack, the new Board Suite that allows Boards to track licenses and CE. They have created 3 types of accounts – 1 is free, one costs \$29/yr. and 1 costs \$99/year. The VMB has uploaded licensee data to Racetrack, but individual licensees will have to opt in to use it. RACE approved providers will be uploading attendance information directly to Racetrack. To check out the Racetrack options, go to: <https://aavsb.org/veterinary-continuing-education-tracking/>

The VMB voted to eliminate the California State Board Exam for veterinarians as duplicative and unnecessary. The VMB hopes that eliminating this exam will make it easier for veterinarians to move to California. **After a discussion about lack of access to veterinary care by the SF SPCA, the VMB approved a motion to create a committee to work on finding solutions. The VMB also voted to recommend that the waiver for Rx refills be continued to allow refills up to 18 months after a visit and to continue to allow veterinarians to use telemedicine for new problems until the pandemic is over.**

The VMB then moved on to discuss proposed regulations.

Animal Rehab – The VMB voted to approve the responses to the 2 letters received

Disciplinary Guidelines – The VMB made some non-substantive changes and will put the amended regulation out for a 15-day comment period.

Board Fees – The VMB will be raising the statutory cap on all fees, including the VACSP. They also voted to adopt the responses to the many letters they received.

Drug Compounding – The VMB voted to approve the responses to the comments they received.

Jennifer Loreda, RVT, the VMB RVT member, gave the RVT Report. She informed the VMB that the VTNE pass rates were finally available by school. After reviewing the pass rates, it appears that 1 school, San Joaquin Valley College, fell more than 10% below the statewide average for 2 consecutive years. Regulations require the VMB to consider placing such schools on probation. An inspection of the school will be scheduled.

Kathy Bowler, Public Member, gave a report on national veterinary issues. She reported that Idaho is discussing creating more levels for RVTs – comparable to Nurse Practitioner.

After presenting the Examination report, the VMB voted to put San Joaquin Valley College on probation. Five other RVT schools had a pass rate more than 10% below the state average for 1 year. The VMB will be sending a letter to the schools telling them they are not in compliance and will be subject to inspection.

The VMB is hoping to go completely paperless for licensing. They also stated that some applications are being held back because fingerprints are not on file. Anyone who has paid their fees but not received their license should check to see if their fingerprints are on file.

The next meeting of the VMB will be on 4/22-23. At that meeting, they will be interviewing candidates for an RVT position on the MDC. Interested candidates should send a letter of intent to the VMB at vmb@dca.ca.gov.