California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Board of Governors/House of Delegates Joint Session 6-28-2018

June 28, 2018

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[Cindy Savely, RVT - SVVTA President](https://www.svvta.org/legislation-updates-1/author/Cindy-Savely%2C-RVT---SVVTA-President)

Dr. Kevin Lazarcheff, CVMA President gave his report. He has been very busy attending various events such as, UCD Veterinary School and graduation ceremony where he also spoke, attended Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) meetings, and animal welfare meetings. Additionally, Dr. Lazarcheff made many trips to the State Capital to meet with legislators regarding many Senate and Assembly Bills that could effect the veterinary profession. Dr. Lazarcheff and CVMA officials and lobbyist worked hard to produce favorable results for the veterinary profession.

Ms. Valerie Fenstermaker, CVMA Executive Director gave her report. She reports that this year marks a record number of Assembly and Senate Bills that could effect the veterinary profession. For example, AB3013 was a bill that would allow human physical therapist to perform animal physical rehabilitation with indirect supervision from a veterinarian and referrals to a independent (non-veterinarian) facility. CVMA and the VMB did not support this Bill. The CVMA worked very hard to monitor and communicated their position to legislators. This Bill "died" in the Appropriations Committee. Senate Bill 1441 would of outlawed cat declaw procedures in California. This Bill included a penal code. The CVMA opposed this Bill because it would have lay people telling veterinarians how to practice veterinary medicine plus would making performing a cat declaw a criminal offense. Again the CVMA worked very hard to stop this Bill and did so.   
The CVMA App. is now ready to download. The CVMA has been offering online interactive web-seminars.   
  
Dr, Jennifer Hawkins, House Chair gave her report. At the Jan. 28, 2018 House of Delegates meeting a recommendation was made to the Board of Governors to ask the VMB and the Cannabis Board to write a cease and desist order to marijuana dispensaries to stop selling cannabinoid products marketed and/or recommended for medical purposes for animals.The Board of Governors did not move on this because the VMB and the State Division overseeing marijuana does not have authority over retailers that sell animal cannabis products. Work will still be considered on this topic.  
  
The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) report was given by Dr. Mike Topper, AVMA President. He reported the AVMA is working with airlines regarding "service" dogs. The Secretary of Agriculture is a veterinarian for the first time. The AVMA is working on Telemedicine guidelines. Dr. Topper encourages us to own our own profession of veterinary medicine. The AVMA's ongoing advocacy work at the federal level resulted in several funding victories for veterinary medicine such as $7.5 million toward public health veterinarians and retention. The Dept. of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded 25 grants to support veterinary services. The FDA"s new 2018 guide for animal drug compounding will be carefully reviewed by the AVMA to ensure it addresses the needs of the veterinary patients.  
  
Deans from both of California's veterinarian schools gave reports about their schools' activities and projects and accomplishments.  
  
The VMB report was given by Dr. Cheryl Waterhouse, VMB President. The VMB has hired a new Executive Officer. Leah Schufelt, RVT was selected to be on the Multidisciplinary Committee. A topic that will be looked at by the VMB is corporate veterinary clinics. The VMB is also working on setting minimum standards for various types of practices ie, shelters. Others topics the VMB will be addressing is dental xrays and cannabis.   
  
Mr. Mike Dillon and Ms. Christine Di Caro, CVMA lobbyist gave a legislative update. In almost four decades of representing the CVMA, this year began with the most demanding and fastest start to the legislative session. For example, five major veterinary issues were in the legislative process all at the same time. A lot of hard work by the CVMA Legislative Team, CVMA Office, key representatives from the VMB, and CVMA members was performed to get satisfactory results concerning these major issues. This is the hard work to protect the veterinary profession that is done by CVMA that many times happens behind the scenes and is not readily apparent. This work is so very important to protect the veterinary profession in California and as RVTs directly effects our professional lives. I strongly encourage all to consider joining the CVMA. There is power in numbers. The CVMA is committed to improving animal and human health in an ethically and socially responsible manner.   
  
Membership Stats:  
RVT students second year= 144  
RVTs= 809  
Vet hospital staff= 24  
  
House of Delegates Meeting 6-28-2018  
  
Dr. Grant Miller gave a presentation about pending regulations. There are several proposed regulations going through the 3--5 year process with the VMB. Once the proposed regulations have finished this process and approved by the VMB they become regulation and part of the Practice Act. This 3-5 year process has many steps and Dr, Miller updated us on where each proposed regulation is at in the multi-step process.  
The VMB is working on proposed regulations for:  
Animal Physical Rehabilitation  
Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative  
Disciplinary Guidelines  
Duties of the Supervising Veterinarian  
Fee Schedule  
Minimum Standards for Alternate Premises  
RVT Education  
RVT Tasks  
RVT Emergency Animal Care  
Shelter Medicine Protocols  
Telemedicine  
Uniform Standards for Abuse  
Veterinary Student Exemption/RVT Eligibility  
Veterinary Students Exemption/RVT Exam Eligibility