



Legislative Update October 2024

In late March, the [CVMA Board of Governors](#) took positions on California legislation that affects the veterinary profession. View the legislative positions [here](#). For more information on the legislative bills being followed by the CVMA this year, log in to [cvma.net](#) and then visit the [Legislative Action Center](#) in the Advocacy section.

Among the top CVMA Priority Bills include:

[SB 1233](#) (Wilk): High-Quality High-Volume Spay Neuter Certification Programs

CVMA-Sponsored Bill

STATUS: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED INTO LAW



This legislation will create high-quality high-volume spay neuter (HQHVSN) certification programs at both of California's two veterinary schools. The programs would be available to students as an elective course and would also be offered to licensees as continuing education. The program would teach veterinarians and veterinary students HQHVSN surgical techniques and would teach RVTs surgical prep, assisting, and recovery skills. The CVMA commends the legislature and Governor for their support of this measure and feels that the passage of this bill will serve to make a significant positive impact in fighting California's pet overpopulation crisis. The CVMA wishes to thank Senator Wilk for his ongoing work on pet-related issues and for championing this bill. The CVMA also wishes to thank all stakeholders for their support of the bill and tireless lobbying efforts to get it passed.

Read the CVMA Sponsorship Support letter and fact sheet [here](#).
Read the California Veterinary Medical Board Support letter [here](#).
Read coalition support letters [here](#).

[AB 3029](#) (Bains) and [SB 1502](#) (Ashby): Xylazine Controlled Substance Scheduling

CVMA Position: Support

STATUS: AB 3029 BILL HELD/DISCONTINUED IN THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE



**SB 1502 BILL HELD/ DISCONTINUED IN THE ASSEMBLY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

This important legislation would have added xylazine to the list of California controlled substances while incorporating provisions that allow continued access to the drug by licensed veterinarians in the course of legitimate practice. The CVMA worked closely with the authors to help align this legislation with the federal Combatting Illicit Use of Xylazine Act.

Both bills did not survive the legislative process for various political reasons. The profession will wait for xylazine to be scheduled at the federal level on the DEA controlled substances list which will likely occur in the near future.

AB 3063 (McKinnor): Pharmacies: compounding.

CVMA Position: *Support*

STATUS: BILL VETOED BY GOVERNOR.

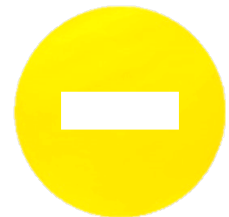


This bill would have ensured that the sole acts of tablet splitting, tablet crushing, capsule opening, or the addition of a flavoring agent are exempted from the definition of compounding. Veterinarians often need to be able to perform these basic drug alterations in order to facilitate effective patient dosing.

SB 1478 (Nguyen): Veterinary medicine: registered veterinary technicians.

CVMA Position: *Neutral*

STATUS: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, CHAPTERED INTO LAW



This bill will add specific language to existing law that better defines the written protocols that must be established by shelter veterinarians for RVTs to follow when managing animals in shelters. The protocols include time periods by which an impounded animal must be assessed at intake and monitored while in the custody of the agency; protocols to address the treatment of common medical conditions that are encountered in animals and for controlling infectious and zoonotic diseases, controlling acute pain, and preventing environmental contamination; communication requirements between the registered veterinary technician and the supervising veterinarian; and euthanasia criteria for medically related cases. The CVMA has been in communication with the author as well as with several shelter veterinarians and other stakeholders and will continue to closely monitor this bill as it makes its way through the legislative process.

AB 814 (Lowenthal): Veterinary medicine: animal physical rehabilitation.

CVMA Position: *Oppose*

STATUS: WITHDRAWN BY AUTHOR



This bill was a repeated attempt to expand physical therapist scope of practice to permit them to open their own practices and work on animals without veterinarian supervision. [Current state law](#) permits physical therapists to work on animals,

but within a registered veterinary premises, with a veterinarian licensee manager, and under direct veterinary supervision. But current law is unsatisfactory to physical therapists because they would like to be able to practice on animals via an offsite case referral, unsupervised by a veterinarian. This bill thus seeks to:

- Add animals to the physical therapy practice act to define the practice of physical therapy to include animals
- Allow physical therapists, after a largely self-guided certification course that focuses on dogs, to work unsupervised on *all* species of animals.
- Create a disparity between the [minimum standards required in practices operated by veterinarians](#) when compared to those operated by physical therapists.

Read the CVMA coalition opposition letter [here](#) and additional materials/ fact sheets [here](#).
Read the California Veterinary Medical Board opposition letter [here](#).

This bill is currently awaiting review in the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee. The CVMA will be testifying in opposition to this bill during the committee meeting and will be notifying members in the districts of Senate Business and Professions committee members to request opposition letters.

[AB 2133](#) (Kalra): Veterinary medicine: registered veterinary technicians.

CVMA Position: *Oppose*

**STATUS: BILL HELD/DISCONTINUED IN THE ASSEMBLY
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**



This bill would have permitted registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) to perform neutering surgeries on cats. The CVMA greatly values and supports the RVT profession, but feels that this bill was dangerous because RVTs are not trained in surgery as part of their licensure education. The bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file and will not progress this year.

Read the CVMA Opposition Letter and additional opposition facts [here](#).

Read the AVMA Opposition letter [here](#).

Read the California Veterinary Medical Board Opposition letter [here](#).

[AB 2954](#) (Carrillo): Cats: declawing procedures: prohibition.

CVMA Position: *Oppose*

STATUS: DEAD FOR THE YEAR



This is the seventh attempt by animal rights activists to ban the declawing of domestic cats in California statute. The CVMA is opposed to this action because the decision to perform this procedure should be left up to veterinarians on a case-by-case basis through careful consideration of circumstances and following extensive client consultation pursuant to a veterinarian-client-patient relationship. In addition, the profession

has done an excellent job of regulating itself in regard to this surgical procedure, and it is rarely performed presently.