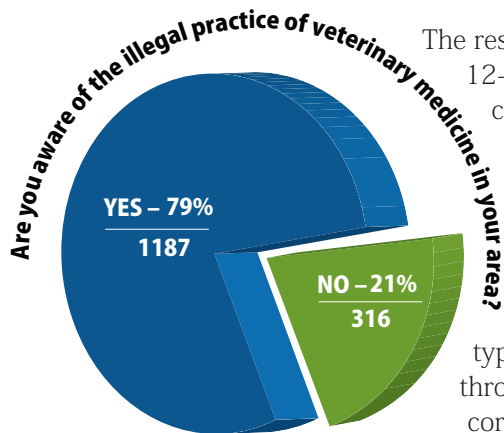


Survey

CALIFORNIA VETERINARIANS SPEAK

As the initial phase of its Illegal Practice Campaign, the CVMA gathered statistics from all CVMA member and non-member veterinarians and member RVTs on unlicensed activity. The CVMA received 1,524 responses as of mid-December – an astounding number and a testament to the importance of this issue to the veterinary profession.



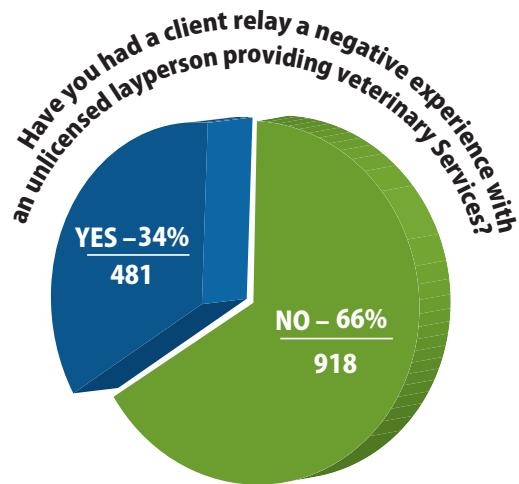
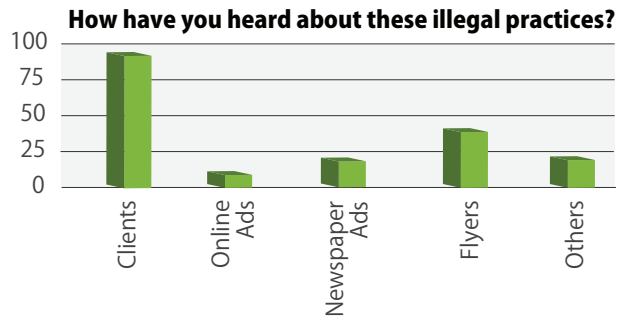
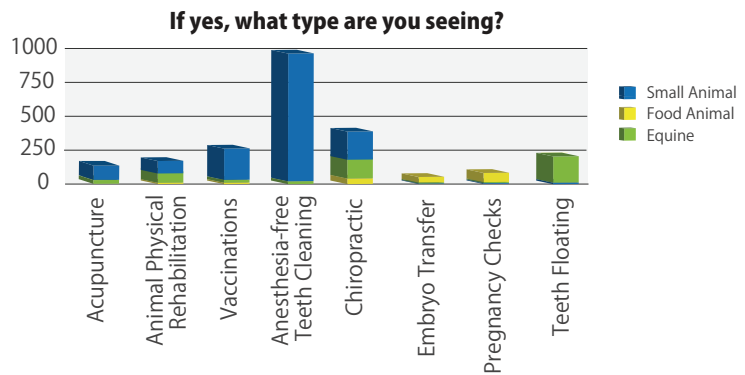
The response to the 12-question survey clearly outlined the extent of the illegal practice of veterinary medicine in all practice types and throughout every corner of the state of California.

Close to 1,200 respondents were aware of unlicensed activity and over 300 had treated animals that had been harmed by an unlicensed person.

Types of Unlicensed Practice Seen

The types of unlicensed practice most often reported by California veterinarians were anesthesia-free teeth cleaning (949 respondents), chiropractic medicine (495), and vaccinations (307). This was followed by teeth floating, animal physical rehabilitation, acupuncture, pregnancy checks, and embryo transfers.

When asked how they had heard about illegal practices, 92% of respondents had heard about them from clients. Not surprisingly, about two-thirds of veterinarians also said they had clients



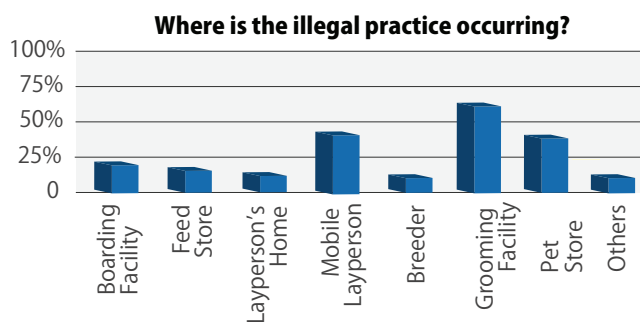
Results

LOOK OUT ABOUT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

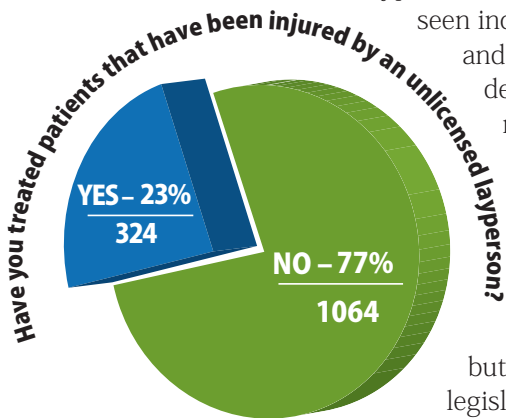
relay a negative experience with an unlicensed layperson providing veterinary services, with 54% indicating that the unlicensed layperson was even diagnosing and treating. Other ways veterinarians and RVTs heard about illegal practices were flyers (34%), newspaper ads (17%), and online ads (10%).

Where Illegal Practice Occurs

The top three places where respondents reported that illegal practice was occurring were grooming facilities (61%), traveling/mobile laypersons (46%), and pet stores (41%). Other places were boarding facilities, feed stores, laypeople's homes, and at breeders.



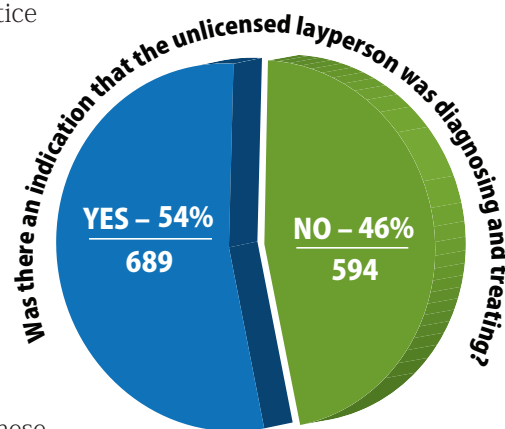
About a quarter of responding veterinarians report having treated patients that had been injured by unlicensed laypersons. The types of injuries seen included musculoskeletal and orthopedic injuries,



dental disease, oral and facial wounds related to dentistry, parvo and death as a result of feed store vaccines, infected surgical sites, bad and infected ear crops, and improper suturing. The injuries were in all types of animals, from small animal to large animal.

This information was gathered as a tool to help the CVMA in its efforts to stop the illegal practice of veterinary medicine. "The CVMA was well aware of unlicensed practice

but needed more specific information to inform legislators and state agencies of the number of animals being injured and the misinformation being provided to consumers," said Dr. Dean Henricks, president of the CVMA. "Our next step is to introduce legislation to strengthen the laws to provide stronger enforcement authority. We want to make sure the animals in California receive optimal and safe medical care by stopping illegal activity."



File a complaint with the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) if you are aware of unlicensed activity in your area, or of animals that are injured due to unlicensed activity. The VMB's "Consumer Complaint Form" is found at www.vmb.ca.gov — select the "Consumers" tab. The CVMA is interested in tracking VMB follow-up on these matters, so we would appreciate your sending a copy to us when you file a complaint. If you have any questions or if we can help you through the process, email Lori Gentner (lgentner@cvma.net) or Dr. Peter Mundschenk (pmundschenk@cvma.net), or call the CVMA office at 800.655.2862.