Legislative Update

The CVMA is monitoring a number of bills; the following are the four that we have been particularly active with recently.

**SB 688 – Sales Tax Exemption for Veterinary Medicine (Galgiani)**
This year the CVMA partnered with the California Board of Equalization to co-sponsor legislation that sought to eliminate the sales tax on drugs and medicines sold or used for the treatment of animals by veterinarians, animal shelters and certain nonprofit organizations. The veterinary profession has long known that obtaining medications directly from veterinarians ensures that clients are receiving the correct medication, and are counseled on dosage, proper administration and potential adverse reactions. Initially, SB 688 had gained momentum and was successfully heard in its first Senate policy committee and passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0. Unfortunately, due to its fiscal nature, the bill died in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 23 along with many others that were rejected due to budget constraints for this fiscal year.

**SB 307 – Sunset Review (Price)**
This is the legislative vehicle that the legislature was going to use to review the performance of the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB). The Senate Business and Professions Committee placed SB 307 on the inactive file on May 30. This renders the bill dead for the year. This is of great concern to the CVMA as this legislation assures the continuation of the Veterinary Medical Board. The CVMA legislative team is closely monitoring this turn of events and is working to have sections of SB 307 amended into a companion bill to ensure the continuation of the VMB and to further define the background checking of veterinary assistants that have access to controlled substances.

**SB 809 – Controlled Substances: Reporting “CURES” (DeSaulnier)**
This bill would, among its provisions, establish the CURES Fund within the State Treasury to receive funds to be allocated, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Department of Justice for the purposes of funding CURES. It would also require several healing arts boards, including the Veterinary Medical Board, to increase the licensure, certification, and renewal fees charged to practitioners for support of CURES. The CVMA is working to exempt veterinarians from the requirement to report the client’s date of birth.

**AB 272 – Rabies Vaccinations (Gomez)**
This bill would allow veterinarians to vaccinate dogs for rabies when they are three months of age instead of four months, as currently required. The intent is to protect animals from rabies one month earlier than they otherwise would have been and also to align California law with the rest of the nation. AB 272 was amended on July 2 to reflect the agreement reached between the CVMA, SHAC, and CACDA and the bill’s sponsor, the California Health Officers Association. With an agreement by the author and the sponsors to accept the amendments, the bill passed out of committee. The CVMA’s Valerie Fenstermaker, Dr. Dan Segna and Dr. Grant Miller worked with lobbyists Mike Dillon and Christina DiCaro to facilitate stakeholder approval of the amendments.

Federal Legislation

**S.1171 (Moran) and H.R. 1528 (Schrader) – Controlled Substances Transport**
Last year, California veterinarians were notified by the Drug Enforcement Agency that it is illegal for them to carry and use controlled substances outside of their registered location, which is generally their hospital or homes. This generated action between the CVMA and the AVMA Governmental Relations Division who stepped forward to address this national issue. The Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013 (H.R. 1528) was introduced to allow veterinarians to transport, administer and dispense controlled substances outside of their registered place of business. The CVMA signed on to the Coalition Statement of Support and sent letters requesting support and co-sponsorship to members of Congress who sit on committees of importance to this issue. California veterinarians can get involved by contacting their representatives through the AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network (more information at CVMA.net).
Thank You, CVMA-PAC Contributors!

The CVMA thanks our members who contribute to the CVMA Political Action Committee (CVMA-PAC). If you haven’t contributed yet, you still can—the veterinary profession needs your support!

What does our PAC do?
The CVMA is your voice at the Capitol. The CVMA-PAC helps us build relationships with members of state government and provides resources for personal contact with elected officials, candidate donations, and fundraising events. The CVMA-PAC is independent of any political party and candidate. The PAC Committee approves contributions regardless of a candidate’s or legislator’s party affiliation.

The CVMA-PAC provides a way for veterinarians to connect with key legislators and offer information on issues affecting veterinary medicine and animal welfare. While there are multiple pet, livestock, animal welfare, research, business and consumer advocacy organizations and special interest groups to choose from, CVMA members are the best advocates for animals and the practice of veterinary medicine in California.

How does our PAC work?
By connecting with candidates, the CVMA has strong, respectful relationships with those involved in leadership and key committees. The CVMA-PAC does this by contributing to legislators, sponsoring local veterinarians to attend campaign BBQs or breakfasts, and by sending CVMA representatives to campaign fundraisers in Sacramento. The relationships and opportunity to be heard and represented are so important and 100 percent of CVMA-PAC membership donations are channeled to candidates to make this happen.

Your contribution is important
Our PAC is truly a general membership PAC. More than 75 percent of the PAC funding is comprised from approximately 25 percent of CVMA members who contribute the minimum suggested amount. Through small, voluntary contributions, your PAC works and allows veterinarians to speak for veterinarians. Add your support by becoming a CVMA-PAC member! We hope you will contribute to the CVMA-PAC today as you learn about the tremendous services the CVMA’s legislative unit and PAC provide on a regular basis.

Contributions made to the CVMA-PAC are not deductible as a business expense. The CVMA collects these funds on behalf of the CVMA-PAC. Membership dues are not used to support the CVMA-PAC, which is funded solely by CVMA member contributions.

The levels of support for the CVMA-PAC are:
- President Member ($1,000 and above)
- Governor Member ($500 - $999)
- Senator Member ($150 - $499)
- Capitol Member ($75 - $149)

Checks should be made payable to:
CVMA Political Action Committee
1400 River Park Dr., Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95815

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For more information, to join the CVMA-PAC, or to upgrade your CVMA-PAC membership level, contact Lori Gentner at 916.649.0599 or lgentner@cvma.net.