

## RVTs and Their Role in the CVMA by Kristi Pawlowski, RVT

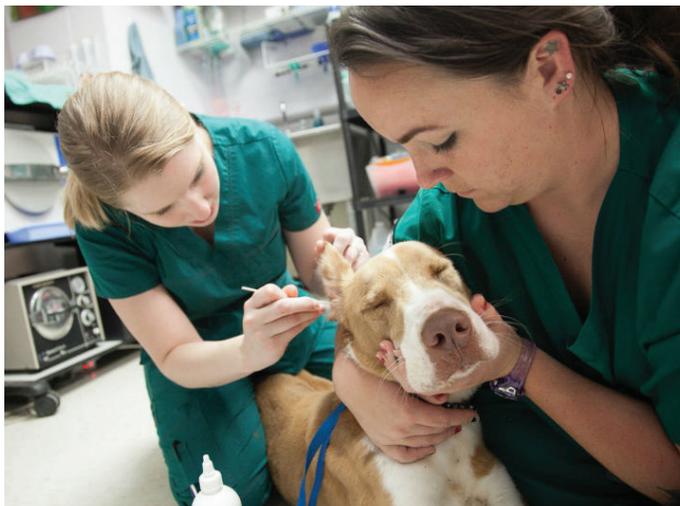
**We all know that registered veterinary technicians play a vital role in the veterinary profession, but do you know the vital role RVTs play in the CVMA?**

Over the years, the CVMA has developed a very active RVT Committee representing nearly 1000 member RVTs and RVT students. The committee is composed of members throughout the profession and includes RVTs from geographic districts, private practice, education, industry, research, second-year students, plus many more. At our last committee meeting, we had 18 representatives who discussed a variety of RVT issues and made recommendations to the Board of Governors (Board).

The CVMA RVT Committee is just one of the committees that includes RVTs as voting members. We have members on the CVMA CVA, Allied Industry, CAVMRC, and PacVet Program Committees. We also have one of the largest voting delegations in the House of Delegates.

The RVT Committee appoints a representative to the Board who attends and participates in all Board meetings. The Board appoints an RVT Committee liaison to the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) and its Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC). The liaison attends all VMB and MDC meetings and represents the views of the CVMA's RVT members.

Over the past few years the CVMA RVT Committee has conducted several member surveys to evaluate our members' expectations and how we can better represent



you. The committee used these survey responses to create goals and educational strategies to help advance the profession.

This fall we will be gathering more information. The CVMA will conduct its second Economic Issues Survey which I am pleased to say, will now include RVTs. A subcommittee composed of RVT Committee members developed the RVT questions to evaluate all areas of the profession—salary, benefits, specialty certificates, length of time in the field, and work/life balance. The results will provide important economic data on the RVT profession in California and will be valuable to both RVTs and veterinarians.

Join us and be part of the largest registered veterinary technician voice in California.



**Kristi Pawlowski, RVT**

Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, is the executive secretary of the Sacramento Valley VMA. She currently serves as a member of the Multidisciplinary Committee (MDC), is the District 6 representative for the CVMA RVT Committee, and is a member of the CVMA Certified Veterinary Assistant Committee.

## Tech Tips

The following tips were submitted by Jodie Crosby, RVT, chair of the CVMA RVT Committee.

- Practice emergency procedures at least once a month. This includes CPR procedures and a crash cart run through.
- To properly cover an IV catheter, cut about two inches of vet wrap cardboard lengthwise to cover the injection spot. Place the vet wrap over the cardboard to secure it onto the patient's leg.

Do you have any tips, tricks, or other useful ideas you'd like to share with your colleagues? Email them to Laura Phillips at [lpPhillips@cvma.net](mailto:lpPhillips@cvma.net). \*We reserve the right to publish any tips that are sent in to our RVT Committee liaison.

