



2020 Legislation Wrap-Up

Although California legislators carried a reduced number of bills due to the impact of COVID-19, the CVMA legislative team was still actively involved in several important pieces of legislation in 2020.

AB 2855 (Low, et al) Committee on B&P. Veterinary Medical Board

CVMA Position: Watch and then support

The Assembly and Senate Business and Professions Committees periodically hold joint sunset oversight hearings to review boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The sunset review process provides an opportunity for the DCA, the Legislature, the boards, interested parties and stakeholders to discuss the performance of the boards, and make recommendations for improvements. The CVMA submitted a letter to the Sunset Review Committee with comments on issues addressed by the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) such as corporate practice, drug compounding, animal cannabis, scope of practice, and others.

Status - AB 2855 did not move forward due to an inability of the Legislature to conduct joint sunset review hearings due to COVID-19. A new bill was introduced, SB 1474, which extends the sunset review process for the VMB and other scheduled boards to March, 2021 – all dependent on COVID. The VMB will be extended in statute for one year until January 1, 2022. SB 1474 was signed by the Governor and the VMB sunset review hearing is expected to take place in the coming legislative session.

SB-1347 (Galgiani). Veterinary medicine: license exceptions: limited veterinary services premises registration.

CVMA Position: Oppose and then neutral

SB-1347 (Galgiani) would have exempted certain animal shelters that practice veterinary medicine from the requirement to have a premises permit with the VMB and would have circumvented the requirement for a veterinarian licensee manager.

It would have allowed shelter employees and volunteers to provide certain types of treatment to animals without any veterinary presence or oversight.

The CVMA opposed this bill due to the lack of minimum standards, VMB oversight, and veterinarian supervision and believe that both animals and consumers would be adversely affected if it were to pass. The CVMA offered extensive amendments that would allow shelters to perform limited specified veterinary tasks, to register with the VMB naming the shelter director as the licensee manager, and to have a veterinarian of record with limited liability overseeing the veterinary program. The Committee adopted the CVMA's amendments and moved the bill forward to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, at which time the CVMA changed its position to neutral. When the bill reached the Appropriations Committee, the author and sponsors felt these amendments were not acceptable.

SB-1347 was pulled from the Assembly Appropriations Committee calendar by Senator Galgiani and her sponsors on August 18 rendering the bill dead for the year.

SB 627 (Galgiani) Cannabis and cannabis products: medicinal use on an animal: veterinary medicine

CVMA Position: Support

This two-year bill (carried over by the author from last year) would have permitted veterinarians to recommend medicinal cannabis and cannabis products for an animal patient “for any condition for which cannabis or cannabis products provide relief” and within the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The CVMA worked extensively with the author last year to amend this bill to address the needs of the veterinary profession and animals. With those amendments, the bill passed out of the policy committee, but did not move forward due to the projected cost of implementation.

SB 627 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, rendering it dead for the year.

SB-800 (Dodd). Horse racing: veterinary medical records: race horse fatalities: equine medication.

CVMA Position: Watch, work with Author

In its original version, this bill would have required a veterinarian to produce an entire medical record to any person directly involved in the care of a horse “that has participated in or is intended to participate in a licensed horse race.” The CVMA had concerns with the bill’s language because it implied that for the life of the horse, a veterinarian must produce records for anyone involved in its care, and to any government agency that requested them.

The CVMA worked with the author and policy committee consultants to clarify that the requirement applies only to horses during the racing-portion of their lives, and that records would have to be provided only to those involved with the medical care of the horse.

SB 800 was signed by the Governor and will be enacted on January 1, 2021.

Animal Blood Bank Bills

CVMA Position: Oppose, unless amended

AB 1953 and SB 1115 were both introduced this year to address animal blood banking. Both would have phased out the two closed-colony blood banks in California and replaced them with establishments that collect blood from community-sourced animals. While the CVMA supports the community blood bank model, closing the blood banks raises many concerns about the safety and supply of animal blood and blood products in California. The CVMA opposed both bills unless amended.

AB 1953 (Bloom) was withdrawn by its author and SB 1115 (Wilk) was held in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

A complete list of legislation followed by the CVMA may be viewed [here](#), and more information about 2020 legislation is available at cvma.net in the Government section.