

## 2020 Legislation Update

The CVMA is actively representing the veterinary profession on several bills that will heavily impact California's animals and the practice of veterinary medicine. California legislators are carrying a reduced number of bills due to the impact of COVID-19. The legislative session is currently paused until further notice due to legislators and Capitol staff testing positive for coronavirus. The CVMA legislative team is participating in calls and virtual meetings with legislative staff and stakeholders and submitting letters on bills of high importance. Below is a summary of the most important bills that the CVMA is working on currently.

### Animal Shelter- Veterinary Premises Permit and Licensee Manager Exemption

[SB-1347 \(Galgiani\). Veterinary Medicine: Authorized care and registration, Amended 5/22/20](#)

#### **CVMA Position: Oppose**

Read the CVMA opposition letter [here](#).

Read the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee analysis [here](#).

This bill will exempt all California public and private animal shelters performing specified veterinary procedures from registering with the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) through a premises permit. These veterinary practices within shelters would not be required to have a veterinarian licensee manager to provide oversight and accountability and would not be subject to minimum facility and practice standards set forth in the Practice Act. The proposed exempted acts include vaccination, parasite control, administering medications, managing wounds, wrapping and bandaging, and first-aid, among others. This would be a major step backwards for animal shelters and would significantly harm California's most vulnerable pets.

This bill was amended in its first committee hearing with a directive to work with the CVMA to address our concerns. It is slated for a vote on the Senate floor and will likely move to the Assembly to be heard in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. The CVMA remains opposed to SB-1347 and will meet with legislative staff and stakeholders regarding our issues with the bill.

### Veterinary Cannabis Recommendation

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

#### **CVMA Position: Support**

Read the Assembly Business and Professions Committee Analysis [here](#).

Current law permits veterinarians to discuss the use of medicinal cannabis for animal patients with clients, but prohibits cannabis recommendation. This two-year bill (carried over by the author from last year) would permit 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. The CVMA had concerns about some of the bill stipulations when it was first reviewed by the Assembly Business and Professions committee. Those concerns were addressed and the bill was amended before it passed out of the committee to go to Appropriations.

This bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee awaiting review.

## **Horse Racing**

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

### **CVMA Position: Watch, work with Author**

Read the CVMA letter [here](#).

This bill would require 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”. Current law requires veterinarians to provide a copy of a medical record to the animal owner within five days of a request. As written, this law is vague because it implies that for the life of the horse, a veterinarian must produce records for anyone involved in its care, and to any government agency that requests it.

The CVMA is working with the author to clarify if this requirement would be for the life of the horse, who records would have to be provided to, and what information would need to be included.

For a complete list of bills that the CVMA is working on this year, along with the current CVMA positions, click [here](#).

## **Animal Blood Bank Bills**

Two bills were introduced this year that would phase out the two closed-colony blood banks in California and replace them with establishments that collect blood from community-sourced animals. This raised issues of concern on both the safety and availability of the animal blood supply in California. [AB 1953](#) (Bloom) was withdrawn by its author and will not move forward this year. [SB 1115](#) (Wilk) was held in the Assembly Agriculture committee due to the legislature dropping legislation as a result of the COVID-19 shut down.