

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: Watch

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

SB-1347 (Galgiani) was pulled from the Assembly Appropriations Committee calendar by Senator Galgiani and her sponsors, on August 18, rendering it dead for the year. As introduced, the bill would have created an exemption to premises permit registration with the Veterinary Medical Board for certain qualifying animal shelters that practice veterinary medicine. It also would have circumvented the veterinarian licensee manager requirement.

The CVMA opposed this bill due to the lack of minimum standards, VMB oversight, and veterinarian supervision - all critical for both animal and consumer protection at shelters. The CVMA offered [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. These amendments were ultimately put forward by the policy committee Chair, Assemblyman Evan Low, during the August 10th hearing on the bill in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. The Committee adopted the amendments and moved the bill forward. Unfortunately, when the bill reached the Appropriations Committee, the author and sponsors felt these amendments were not acceptable and the author dropped 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 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. 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 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, rendering it dead for the year.

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 worked with the author 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.

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.