



2021 Legislative Update

April 15, 2021

This year, California legislators submitted over 2,000 bills by the February 19, 2021 submission deadline. The CVMA's lobbyists, Legislative Team, Legislative Committee and Board of Governors reviewed bills that impact the veterinary profession, animal health and welfare, and other topics of importance to veterinary medicine. The CVMA is working to represent the veterinary profession on over 40 bills this year. A complete list of those bills with links to bill language as well as the CVMA's positions may be accessed by members in the [CVMA Legislative Action Center](#) under the Government tab at cvma.net.

The following bills are of immediate importance:

[AB 1282 \(Bloom\)](#) (coauthor Wilk): Veterinary medicine: blood banks for animals

The CVMA has been actively involved in the issue of animal blood banking since 2019 when both Assemblymember Bloom and Senator Wilk separately introduced legislation to address community and closed-colony canine blood banking in California. To date, legislation has not yet been passed to address concerns over California's two closed-colony blood banks. This year, Assemblymember Bloom, along with Senator Wilk as a coauthor, has introduced legislation that will phase out the two closed-colony blood banks and replace them with establishments that collect blood from community-sourced animals. The CVMA is engaging stakeholders on this issue to represent the needs of the veterinary profession in preserving a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood products.

[SB 585 \(Stern\)](#): Cats: declawing procedures: prohibition—WITHDRAWN BY AUTHOR****

SB 585 was withdrawn by its author prior to its first committee hearing, rendering it dead for the year. This bill was similar to a failed 2019 measure proposed by Senator Stern that sought to prohibit feline phalangectomy for nontherapeutic purposes. SB 585 would have additionally required a veterinarian who performs a declawing procedure for therapeutic purposes to file a written report with the California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) within 10 business days disclosing information about the animal patient and owner. The CVMA has historically opposed bills of this nature because the CVMA feels that decisions about medical treatment of an animal patient should be made between the veterinarian and client on a case-by-case basis within the context of a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship.

[AB 1535](#) (Assembly Business and Professions Committee) Veterinary Medical Board: Sunset Review

The Assembly Business and Professions Committee and the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee 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, and interested parties and stakeholders to discuss the performance of the boards, and make recommendations for improvements. The VMB is being reviewed in 2020, and its report to the Sunset Review committee is posted on the VMB website. The CVMA also submitted a letter to the Sunset Review Committee with comments on issues addressed by the VMB in its sunset review report. The CVMA will be representing the profession throughout the sunset review process.

[AB 384](#) (Kalra) Cannabis and cannabis products: animals: veterinary medicine

Current law permits veterinarians to discuss the use of medicinal cannabis for animal patients with clients, but prohibits cannabis recommendation. Over the past two years, an unsuccessful attempt was made in the form of SB 627 (Galgiani) to permit veterinarians to recommend cannabis. This year, Assemblymember Ash Kalra has introduced new legislation to permit recommendation. Mr. Kalra is experienced in this subject, as he previously carried the legislation that allowed veterinarians to discuss cannabis. The CVMA is working closely with Mr. Kalra and his staff to represent the veterinary profession on this issue.

[AB 553](#) (Kamlager) Pet Insurance—DIED IN COMMITTEE****

AB 553 did not garner enough votes to make it out of its first committee hearing, rendering it dead for the year. This bill would have expanded existing legal definitions pertaining to pet insurance in reference to medical advice, diagnosis, care, and treatment. Specifically, the bill would have required pet insurance policies issued, amended or renewed in California to provide full coverage for sterilization surgery and veterinary expenses associated with the procedure. The bill would also have required a 20-day notice of cancellation of a pet insurance policy, or at least 10 days' notice in cases of nonpayment of premiums or of fraud.

CVMA Legislative Action Center

For specific information on bills or to track CVMA-monitored bills through the legislative process, visit the CVMA online Legislative Action Center, which now has a new look and format. The Voter Voice platform makes searching for relevant legislation easier and more user-friendly. Check out the improved format by logging onto cvma.net and clicking on the Government tab.