



2021 Legislative Update

July 12, 2021

The CVMA continues to represent the veterinary profession on several bills in the California legislature. 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 significant 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 participating in stakeholder discussions on this issue to represent the needs of the veterinary profession in preserving a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood products. Specifically, the CVMA is advocating for an expert advisory committee at the California Department of Food and Agriculture to provide guidance resources to assist the veterinary profession with best practices for community blood banking. In addition, the CVMA has successfully collaborated with the bill author and sponsors to determine a transition plan that will minimize shortages in blood and blood product supplies.

[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 2021, and its report to the Sunset Review committee is posted on the VMB website. The CVMA also submitted two letters to the Sunset

Review Committee with comments on issues addressed by the VMB in its sunset review report. The CVMA continues to represent the profession throughout the Sunset review process. In the most recent review of the bill, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development committee added future name-tag requirements for select veterinary staff and limited exemptions for premises registration to animals shelters that provide select veterinary services.

[AB 384 \(Kalra\)](#) Cannabis and cannabis products: animals: veterinary medicine – **DIED IN COMMITTEE**

Current law permits veterinarians to discuss the use of medicinal cannabis for animal patients with clients, but prohibits cannabis recommendation. This bill would have permitted veterinarians to recommend cannabis to clients, and would have made changes to state law regarding the sale of animal cannabis products in cannabis dispensaries. This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee rendering it dead for the year.

[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 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.