

## Access to Veterinary Care- Possible Solutions

### 1) Incremental Care

- a. Educate veterinarians about incremental care and the importance of documenting declined services or against medical advice in the record
- b. Discuss incremental care with the VMB and their policy of making the “minimum standard” very close to a “gold standard”. Also, educate lawyers and personnel at Attorney General’s office about minimum standards.
- c. VMB Subject Matter Experts review of cases- discussing with them how they go about assessing minimum standards to address the incremental care aspect.

### 2) Expanded Role of RVTs

- a. (under)Utilization of RVTs- are there more things that RVTs can do to augment delivery of care? Clarifying regulations which state what RVTs can do under indirect supervision and also clarifying how long a VCPR is valid
- b. Discuss CCR 16 Section 2030.3 with the VMB and request that the MDC rewrite that law with the expanded role of the RVT and incremental care in mind. Also- how can this section be written with the VCPR (2032.1) requirement in mind?

### 3) Veterinary Profession Outreach and Education

- a. Continuing Education / Key Note Speakers
  - i. How to write medical records, specifically on how to justify incremental care
  - ii. Communication strategies with clients to ensure that they do not feel shamed in making incremental care decisions
- b. Inquiring about Access to Veterinary Care education in veterinary schools

### 4) Supporting local groups that are already doing AlignCare or subsidized veterinary care at a local level (e.g. HSVMA RAVS, rVETS, UCD Knights Landing One Health Initiative, Mercer Clinic, Downtown Dog Rescue, various animal shelters)

- a. Act as an information clearinghouse- possible webpage that has information about these resources?

### 5) Community Outreach and Education

- a. Brochures in multiple languages (English, Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese) that promote veterinary care available digitally for free and distributed to CVMA members for use in their office, distribution at local public animal events (fairs, rodeos, etc.) and to social service agencies or nonprofits such as Meals on Wheels, Red Cross.
  - i. Importance of veterinary care / taking your pet to the vet

- ii. Vaccines
  - iii. Parasite control
  - iv. Spay/ neuter
  - v. Responsibilities of owning a pet- is a pet the right thing for you?
- b. Develop TikTok, Youtube and Instagram videos on how people can find low cost veterinary services in their community
  - c. Educate the public and promote new public policies that will increase funding from non-traditional sources. For example, we think of cause marketing by businesses and corporations and options for the public to contribute as strategies with potential. Organizations that support families and community health are likely contributors.
  - d. Educate and gain the support of government, e.g., public health. These strategies are less compassion-based and more science-based, i.e., the prevention and control of zoonoses. Consider promoting tax incentives that will incentivize veterinary service providers to help.

#### 6) Language Barriers

- a. Consider gathering information from membership about languages spoken in their practices to include on the Find a Veterinarian search
- b. Ask VMB to gather languages spoken information from Licensee managers on premises permit initial applications or renewals (languages spoken in their practices)
- c. Can the CVMA develop a list of interpreters that members could access?

#### 7) California Veterinary Medical Foundation (CVMF) Angel Fund

8) Gathering information about Access issues in California- do nonprofit/ shelter groups collect such information already, can we use the AVCC poll questions to gather data in California?

9) Transportation issues: can California law be changed to allow pets to ride on public transportation?

#### 10) Spay/Neuter services:

- a. Supply and demand issues currently being experienced in California (too many animals, not enough veterinarians)
- b. Different general delivery models (mobile vs. fixed premises)
- c. Are there opportunities to make spay/neuter free?
- d. Spay/neuter can be a barrier to accessing other care, i.e.: your pet is not qualified to receive free food unless it is spayed or neutered.