



## **CVMA Successfully Proposes New Regulation at VMB**

February 1, 2023

Last week marked a promising start to a regulatory proposal presented to the California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) by the CVMA. If the proposed regulation becomes law, it will improve access to veterinary care for consumers, advance the registered veterinary technician (RVT) profession by expanding their scope of practice, and help veterinarians to be more available to treat sick and injured animals.

In 2021 and 2022, the CVMA convened a task force of veterinarians and RVTs with specific expertise to address the issue of Access to Veterinary Care. The task force's work was approved by the CVMA's Board of Governors in 2022 and culminated in a position statement and a list of action items for the CVMA to pursue in an effort to do its part to address the access issue. Both of those resources are available here: <https://cvma.net/news-now/access-to-veterinary-care/>

The [list of action items](#) includes "Expanding the Role of RVTs." This topic was sent to the CVMA's Registered Veterinary Technician Committee in 2022 for analysis and recommendation. The RVT Committee is composed of RVTs in multiple facets of the veterinary profession from across California. The RVT Committee did a deep dive into RVT education, core competencies, skills and abilities and determined that RVTs possess adequate knowledge and skill to act as an agent of the veterinarian to establish a VCPR for the specific purposes of:

- 1) Administering vaccines; and
- 2) Performing preventative procedures for parasite control

This proposal was then presented to the CVMA's House of Delegates (approximately 75 veterinarians and RVTs from throughout California) and the CVMA's Board of Governors in June of 2022 for review and discussion. The result of that assessment was widespread support for the measure. Accordingly, the CVMA Board of Governors directed staff to submit a request to the California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) to consider the proposal for a rulemaking (regulatory) process. The CVMA staff compiled significant supporting data for the request and submitted both the request and the supporting data to the VMB in late 2022.

Upon receipt of the CVMA's proposal, the VMB—which also has its own Access to Veterinary Care subcommittee working on improving consumer access to veterinary care—considered the CVMA's request and the supporting data. Finding the proposal to be well-taken, the VMB then drafted regulatory language that would make such a concept possible within the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, and [presented that language](#) to its voting board on January 25, 2023. The VMB voting board, which is comprised of veterinarians, an RVT, and public members,

unanimously voted to approve the introduction of the proposed regulations into the regulatory process.

The VMB will post a 45-day notice for public comment on the proposed regulations in the coming couple of months. Members are encouraged to submit substantive comments.

The CVMA will continue to actively represent the profession on this, and several other, important issues at the VMB and will alert the profession of issues through both this weekly e-newsletter and the *California Veterinarian* magazine.