

Assistant Executive Officer's Report

Budgets

Based on our most recent budget reports, the Board is within its range of projections for expenditures for the current fiscal year. Included in the meeting binders are the Board's Revenue Budget Reports and the Board's Budget Summary by line item.

Personnel

As of May 1, the Board will have two additional vacancies in Enforcement. Erika Calderon has accepted a position with the Medical Board and Allison Nagao-Dutra is transferring to the Department of Toxic Substance Control. The Board currently is in the process of filling the two vacancies in Enforcement and plans to have the hires completed by June. In addition, the Board is close to hiring a permanent intermittent analyst to provide backup during BreZE development in the areas of regulations, probation, and inspections.

Proposal for Additional Staff 2014-15

Last year, budget change proposals were submitted for additional staff to handle the Board's increased enforcement workload. In addition, a legislative budget change proposal was submitted to implement provisions of SB 304 related to increasing the number of inspections performed annually, implementation of veterinary assistant permits program. Legislative budget hearings were held in April and the Board's items were approved. Once we receive final word on the additional positions, we will begin recruitment processes and revisit the Board's personnel structure.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

As of May 1, 2014, the Board will have two vacant positions in enforcement. Enforcement Analyst, Erika Calderon, has accepted a promotional position with the Medical Board of California and Allison Nagao-Dutra has accepted a lateral position with another State agency. Ms. Calderon handles complaints and citations and Ms. Nagao-Dutra handles the inspection and probation program. The Board is actively looking to recruit new staff and hopes to have these positions filled on or before July 1 2014. In the interim, Sandra Monterrubio and Joely Walker will try to assist with the workload for both vacant positions. Staff vacancies and BreZE will impact processing times for enforcement cases and may prevent the Board from meeting its performance measures over the next several months.

COMPLAINT PROGRAM

Since July 1, 2013, the Veterinary Medical Board has received 419 complaints. Staff is continuing to prioritize their workload in accordance with Business and Professions Code, section 4875.1 and is actively investigating cases involving negligence, convictions, and minimum standard violations. Complaints involving unlicensed activity are continuing to be handled through Cease and Desist letters, citations, and formal investigations performed by the Division of Investigation.

The Board currently has five (5) cases pending at the District Attorney's Office for possible criminal convictions. The latest conviction, against Mr. Linden Clark, for unlicensed activity is published on the Department of Consumer Affairs website. Mr. Clark, a Riverside county resident, was convicted of offering and performing anesthesia free-dental cleanings on animals without a license. Mr. Clark received probation for 36 months and was ordered to pay \$140 in restitution and serve 150 days of work release. Failure to comply with the probationary terms set forth by Superior Court could result in incarceration.

CITATION PROGRAM

Since July 1, 2013, 91 citations have been served. Of the 91 citations served, 31 were for unlicensed activity. The Board has issued 24 citations for Anesthesia Free Dental cleaning services and seven (7) to veterinarians practicing with an expired license.

INSPECTION PROGRAM

Since July 1, 2013, 200 routine inspections and 30 complaint related inspections have been assigned. Of the 230 inspections assigned, 122 have been performed. Inspectors are required to complete and submit all inspections by April 30, 2014.

On January 23, 2014, staff held an inspector training to review and discuss the new minimum standards. Staff will be scheduling additional training for new and existing inspectors at the start of the next fiscal year. As routinely done, training will include inspector shadowing and review of inspection materials.

DISCIPLINE PROGRAM

Currently there are 88 cases pending at the Office of the Attorney General. Of the 88 cases, 27 have been sent over since July 1, 2013.

Enforcement staff is currently monitoring 44 probationers. Of the 44 probationers, 12 are out of compliance. Staff will be forwarding these matters over to the Office of the Attorney General for filing of an Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation.

Examination/Licensing Report

Prepared by Ethan Mathes

April 2014

Applications

Applications Received	
<i>July 2013 – June 2014*</i>	
Veterinarian Applications Received	520
Veterinary Technician Applications Received	733
Veterinary Premise Applications Received	122

**Application statistics reflect a partial Fiscal Year.*

Examinations

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD EXAMINATION			
May 2013 – October 2013		November 2012 – April 2013*	
Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.
178	95%	222	85%

NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY LICENSING EXAMINATION			
April 2013		November 2013/December 2013	
Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.
90	82%	341	85%

CALIFORNIA VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EXAMINATION					
Jul. – Dec. 2013		Jan. – Feb 2014		Feb. – Jun. 2014*	
Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.
182	77%	213	73%	24	54%

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION					
Mar./Apr. 2014*		Jul./Aug. 2014		Nov./Dec. 2014	
Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.	Candidates	Pass Pct.
15	73%	-	-	-	-

**Examination statistics reflect a partial examination cycle.*

The Board analyzed California Veterinary Technician Examination pass rate statistics for Fiscal Year (FY) July 2012 – June 2013 for those applicants who became licensed and had qualified for examination through the Board's alternate route (CCR section 2068.5).

The data found that 105 alternate route applicants passed the California Veterinary Technician Examination and became licensed in FY 2012/13. Of those applicants, 88 obtained their education via an organized alternate route program and 17 applicants obtained their education via an ad hoc method.

The organized alternate route program applicants passed the California Veterinary Technician Examination their first time 77% of the time. The ad hoc method applicants passed the California Veterinary Technician Examination their first time 85% of the time.

Examination Development and Workshops

Examination Workshops include Item Writing, Item Review, Examination Construction, and Pass Score Setting.

California State Board	Veterinary Technician Examination
May 1-2, 2014	July 7-8, 2014
June 5-6, 2014	August 20-21, 2014
July 16-18, 2014	September 10-11, 2014
August 7-8, 2014	

Licensing

Licensees	
<i>as of March 2014</i>	
Veterinarian Licenses*/**	16,619/11,583
Veterinarian Licenses – California**	9040
Registered Veterinary Technician Licenses*/**	9,649/6,190
Registered Veterinary Technician Licenses – California**	5,731
Premise Permits**	3,272
Premise Permits – Exempt**	77
<i>*includes delinquent, inactive, and clear licensees; **clear licensees</i>	

Licenses Issued		
	<i>Jan. 2012 - Dec. 2012</i>	<i>Jan. 2013 - Dec. 2013</i>
Veterinarian	557	595
Reciprocity	48	52
Intern	29	29
Registered Veterinary Technician	473	406
Premises	167	123

BreEZe

Licensing and Enforcement staff continues to work on DCA's new BreEZe database system. Major components of the BreEZe configuration include:

- *Configuration Interviews* – Staff meetings with Iron Data and Accenture personnel to review examination, licensing and enforcement business processes.
- *Data Conversion* – Staff reviews existing application, licensee, and enforcement databases for data errors and outdated data records.
- *Correspondence Conversion* – Staff reviews existing correspondence to be converted to the BreEZe noticing system.
- *License Renewal Conversion* – Staff reviews and updates license renewals to the new BreEZe renewal template.

To date, staff has spent at least 900 hours working with DCA and BreEZe personnel on the conversion. It is anticipated that approximately 40-50% of key staff will be dedicated to BreEZe tasks in the next six months.

Publications/Outreach

Newsletter – Spring 2014 - The Spring 2014 News and Views Newsletter was posted on the Board's website as well as sent to all email subscribers on March 14, 2014.

Veterinarian and Registered Veterinary Technician Postcard – The Veterinarian and Registered Veterinary Technician Postcards were mailed in late-January.

The postcard was distributed to all veterinary and registered veterinary technicians to highlight the Board's new address, the new minimum standards of practice, new examination requirements for veterinary technician applicants, and to encourage licensees to sign up for email updates.

Veterinary Premises Postcard – The Veterinary Premises Postcards were mailed in late-March.

As part of its data collection efforts for the new Veterinary Assistant permit, the Board distributed postcards to all veterinary premises requesting they take the Board's online survey. The survey is on the Board's website and launched April 1, 2014 and will collect information for 60 days on premises' personnel.

VTNE Transition

Effective March 1, 2014, the Board requires veterinary technician applicants to take and pass the new California Veterinary Technician Examination as well as the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE).

Applicants who have taken the new California Veterinary Technician Examination will get their examination score results in early-May. The Office of Professional Examination Services is holding scores until examination performance data can be analyzed.

VTNE testing windows are March 15 - April 15, July 15 – August 15, and November 15 – December 15.