



# MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	March 28, 2024
<b>TO</b>	Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
<b>FROM</b>	Jeffrey Olguin, Administrative Analyst
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item 20.D. Outreach</b>

## **Xylazine Alert from the California State Board of Pharmacy**

In November 2023, the Board shared the [California State Board of Pharmacy’s alert](#) regarding xylazine. In the Board’s continued effort to fight against the abuse of xylazine, the information included informing the public that the FDA has not approved xylazine for any human use, and according to the [Office of National Drug Control Policy](#), xylazine is particularly harmful when combined with fentanyl.

In addition, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration have also issued warnings about the improper diversion and importation of xylazine. The California State Board of Pharmacy also issued information to its licensees about its role and the responsibilities of its licensees.

The Board also encourages licensees to keep apprised of the [issues surrounding xylazine available from the California Department of Public Health](#).

## **Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) Eligibility Policy Change**

On December 21, 2023, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) announced changes to the VTNE early examination testing for Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) applicants. These changes include:

- To have the AAVSB approve pre-graduate testing for enrollees of American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) accredited programs and Canadian Veterinary Medical Association accredited programs upon verification of good standing from the school, allowing testing during the final semester of the accredited program.
- To amend the VTNE eligibility policy to have the AAVSB evaluate and determine the eligibility of on-the-job trained and alternate pathway applicants per each jurisdiction’s qualifications.

The Board shared this information with its email subscribers.

## **Federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)**

In December 2023, the Board informed its email subscribers about the SCRA. The SCRA authorizes a U.S. service member or their spouse, who currently holds a valid license in good standing in another state, district, or territory of the U.S., to practice in California within the same profession or vocation, if the individual relocates to California due to military orders.

As of [March 28, 2023](#), there has been one veterinary professional, an RVT, who has requested recognition of their out-of-state license as part of the SCRA. Any individual interested in applying for recognition of their out-of-state license under the SCRA, are encouraged to [review the documentation requirements and apply for recognition of their out-of-state license](#).

## **Verifying a Veterinary License**

During December 2023, the Board and DCA's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) partnered to begin distributing information to the public on how to verify a veterinary license. Board staff are in the process of working with OPA to develop a public service video and social media graphics to disseminate to consumers emphasizing the importance of license verification.

## **Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) Recruitment of Two (2) Veterinarians and One (1) RVT**

In February, the Board notified its email subscribers about the three MDC vacancies. The Board's recruitment post indicated two (2) veterinarians and one (1) current RVT vacancy needed to be filled. Applicants were informed that the appointment would be serving through June 30, 2027 and that MDC members could serve up to two full three-year terms. Applicants who were interested in the positions were encouraged to apply and information regarding the MDC's role in advising, assisting, and making recommendations to the Board for the implementation of rules and regulations necessary to ensure proper administration and enforcement of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act which assists the Board in its examination, licensure, and registration programs.

## **Notice to Licensees Regarding CURES Version Update**

In March, the Board notified its email subscribers that beginning August 1, 2024, all California dispensers of controlled substances will be required to report dispensations to the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) using version 4.2B of the American Society of Automation in Pharmacy (ASAP) format. On and after this date, data submitted using the current CURES ASAP version 4.1 format will no longer be accepted. Prompt action by licensees who dispense controlled substances was recommended. Licensees were told technical implementation of this update to data submission software may take considerable time and to contact their data submission software provider and confirm they are preparing for this upcoming ASAP version change. Licensees were encouraged to review the [Office of the Attorney General \(OAG\)'s CURES](#) and [DCA CURES](#) webpages for more information.

## **Animal Blood Banking Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

In March, the Board notified its email subscribers and posted to its website answers to the most frequently asked questions related to animal blood banking. The [Animal Blood Banking FAQ](#) included information important to veterinary professionals working to provide animal blood banking services to the community, which covered topics including: gifts or exchanges of services, transfer of animal blood from one veterinary premises to another, and registration requirements with the Board.