

## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	October 3, 2025
<b>TO</b>	California Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
<b>FROM</b>	Justin Sotelo, Policy Specialist
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item 9. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on 2025 Legislation Impacting the Board, DCA, and/or the Veterinary Profession</b>

Legislation is amended, statuses are updated, and analyses are added frequently; thus, hyperlinks, identified in [blue, underlined text](#), are provided throughout this document to ensure Board members and the public have access to the most up-to-date information. The information below was based on legislation, statuses, and analyses (if any) publicly available on **October 3, 2025**.

### **A. *Animal Care Services: Is there a Role for Human Healthcare Providers?* Informational Hearing, Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development**

On August 25, 2025, the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development (Committee) held an informational hearing exploring the role of human healthcare providers in providing animal care services.

Prior to the hearing, the Committee posted [this background information](#).

As indicated in the [hearing agenda](#), the hearing consisted of four panels. In the first panel, the Committee heard from two states, Nevada and Kentucky, regarding how they currently regulate non-veterinarians in their states. The second panel consisted of the Board's Executive Officer, as well as the Executive Officers from the Physical Therapy Board of California and the Board of Chiropractic Examiners. Each Executive Officer discussed how they are currently regulating their professions and how non-veterinarians are currently able to provide services to animals in California.

The third panel covered the educators' perspectives – which included overviews of veterinarian training, an animal chiropractic certification program, and a canine rehabilitation program. The fourth panel covered perspectives from a licensed physical therapist, a licensed chiropractor, and a licensed veterinarian.

The full hearing can be viewed [here](#).

## B. Implementation Plan for Chaptered 2025 Legislation

### 1. Assembly Bill (AB) [516](#) (Kalra, 2025) Registered Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants: Scope of Practice

Status: Enrolled and Presented to Governor, 9/9/25

Analysis: 9/2/25 – Assembly Floor

6/24/25 – Senate Floor

6/5/25 – Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee

4/21/25 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

3/28/25 – Assembly Business and Professions Committee

**Summary:** This bill would authorize registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) and veterinary assistants to perform animal health care services not otherwise prohibited by law under the supervision of a veterinarian, and would authorize both RVTs and veterinary assistants to perform animal health care services not otherwise prohibited by law on animals housed in public or private animal shelters, humane societies, or societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals pursuant to an order of a veterinarian.

The bill would also authorize an RVT to perform dental care procedures, including tooth extractions, under the supervision of a veterinarian.

**Implementation:** If chaptered, the Board will create and post a newsletter going over the impacts of this bill. It will be noted that, while it adds the authority in statute for an RVT to perform dental care procedures under the supervision of a veterinarian, RVTs already had that authority in regulation.

### 2. AB [867](#) (Lee, 2025) Veterinary Medicine: Cat Declawing Board Position: **Oppose**

Status: Enrolled and Presented to Governor, 9/16/25

Analysis: 9/9/25 – Assembly Floor

9/6/25 – Senate Floor

7/1/25 – Senate Floor

6/19/25 – Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee

4/25/25 – Assembly Floor

4/21/25 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

3/28/25 – Assembly Business and Professions Committee

**Summary:** This bill would include the performance of a tendonectomy, onychectomy, or any type of claw removal on a feline within the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry. The bill would require those

procedures to be performed only for a therapeutic purpose, as defined, and would authorize the Board to deny, revoke, or suspend a license or registration or assess a fine for performing those procedures for any reason other than a therapeutic purpose.

This bill would exclude the performance of those procedures from the provisions authorizing a person to practice veterinary medicine as an owner of one's own animals. The bill would specify that the bill's provision shall not be interpreted to preempt a local ordinance adopted before January 1, 2026, limiting the performance of the feline declawing procedures identified in the bill.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to BPC sections 4827 and 4883 proposed by AB [1502](#) to be operative only if this bill and AB 1502 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

**Implementation:** If chaptered, the Board will create and post a newsletter going over the impacts of this bill. Specifically, the newsletter will emphasize the prohibition of the feline claw removals for non-therapeutic purposes and clarify that the bill is not intended to prohibit or restrict a veterinarian from nail trimming or applying nonsurgical scratching mitigation solutions, such as the application of a device to the tip of a claw.

**3. AB [1502](#) (Berman, Chapter 195, Statutes of 2025) Veterinary Medicine: California Veterinary Medical Board  
Board Position: **Support****

**Status:** Chaptered, 10/1/25

**Analysis:** 9/10/25 – Assembly Floor

9/6/25 – Senate Floor

8/29/25 – Senate Floor

8/15/25 – Senate Appropriations Committee

6/27/25 – Senate Business, Professions and Economic  
Development Committee

5/28/25 – Assembly Floor

5/19/25 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

4/24/24 – Assembly Business and Professions Committee

**Summary:** This is the Board's Sunset bill.

- 1) The bill extends the Board's authorization through January 1, 2030. It increases the number of RVTs on the Board from one to two and require that at least one veterinarian member have experience in equine or livestock care.
- 2) It expands the qualifications for RVT registration by allowing applicants to use graduation from a Board-recognized veterinary college as proof of

meeting educational or experiential requirements. Applicants also are required to submit fingerprints for a criminal background check at both the state and federal levels.

- 3) Applicants for a veterinary assistant controlled substance permit (VACSP) are required to disclose all jurisdictions—U.S. states, territories, or Canadian provinces—where they currently or previously held any veterinary-related license, registration, certificate, or permit.
- 4) Veterinarians are required to provide clients or their authorized agents with a copy of the animal's medical record upon request. If the animal is in critical condition or being transferred to another facility, the veterinarian must provide a copy or summary of the record. If the written record is not immediately available, the veterinarian must still communicate necessary information to ensure continuity of care. Licensee managers are required to provide clients with records of payments for services and treatments upon request and retain those records for at least three years. Veterinarians are entitled to access records of services they provided at a registered veterinary premises.
- 5) The bill allows inspections of veterinary premises to be either announced or unannounced. It eliminates the requirement that 20% of premises be inspected annually and instead requires the Board to make reasonable efforts to ensure inspections occur in a timely manner.
- 6) The Board's disciplinary authority is expanded to include VACSP holders. The Board can place licenses, registrations, or permits on probation for violations, including those involving dangerous drugs or controlled substances. The definition of dangerous drugs is expanded to include antimicrobial drugs in animal feed. The Executive Officer is authorized to issue citations to individuals or entities practicing veterinary medicine without proper credentials. VACSP holders are allowed to compound drugs for animal use under a veterinarian's supervision. The bill also allows licensees, registrants, or VACSP holders to enter into settlements to resolve administrative actions.
- 7) The bill applies existing reinstatement and renewal rules to permits, including fingerprinting, payment of enforcement costs, and cancellation of credentials not renewed within five years. If enforcement costs are not paid within one year of reinstatement, the petition would be considered abandoned.
- 8) The bill revises the Board's fee structure by introducing new categories for veterinary premises registration fees based on the number of full-time equivalent veterinarians providing services. It also removes provisions related to school approval applications and fee reductions.
- 9) Veterinarians are required to complete 36 hours, and veterinary technicians 20 hours, of continuing education every two years, except during their first renewal period. Applicants will need to certify compliance

under penalty of perjury. The Board is authorized to audit records and disqualify continuing education providers for good cause. Acceptable sources of credit are expanded to include teaching qualifying courses and passing the California Veterinary Law Examination. Some previously accepted sources, such as nonprofit annual conferences, no longer qualify.

10) The bill eliminates the requirement for the Board to approve schools or institutions offering RVT training programs and removes the requirement for those schools to submit applications for approval.

11) The bill included conditional language that incorporated additional changes to Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 4827 and 4883, but only if AB [867](#) was also enacted and AB [1502](#) was enacted last.

**Implementation:** The Board will create and post a newsletter going over the impacts of this bill for consumers, RVTs, veterinarians, veterinary premises, and VACSPs.

The Board also will review which regulations will need to be repealed or amended through the Section 100 rulemaking process due to the various statutory changes.

In addition, the Board will submit a ticket to DCA's Office of Information Services to update BreEZe to add small, medium, and large modifiers onto the veterinary premises initial and renewal applications.

#### **4. AB [1505](#) (Committee on Agriculture, Chapter 198, Statutes of 2025) Food and Agriculture: Omnibus Bill**

**Status:** Chaptered, 10/1/25

**Analysis:** 8/13/25 – Assembly Floor

7/16/25 – Senate Floor

6/27/25 – Senate Agriculture Committee

5/28/25 – Assembly Floor

5/12/25 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

4/29/25 – Assembly Agriculture Committee

**Summary:** This bill extends the state's vertebrate pest control research program through January 1, 2035. It continues the requirement for counties to pay fees based on vertebrate pest control material activity and allows the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to use those funds for research purposes. Because it continues spending authority from a continuously appropriated fund, the bill constitutes an appropriation.

The bill revises rules governing the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in livestock. It prohibits administration of these drugs unless ordered by a licensed veterinarian through a prescription or veterinary feed directive that

complies with federal and state law. A valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is required for both labeled and extra label use.

Finally, the bill expands enforcement powers related to certified mobile farmers' markets. It allows enforcing officers to inspect related locations, vehicles, products, documents, and equipment. Officers are authorized to seize and hold certain materials as evidence to support prosecution.

**Implementation:** The Board will create and post a newsletter going over the impacts of this bill. Specifically, the newsletter will notify veterinarians that the Board will have enforcement authority if veterinarians do not comply with federal and state veterinary feed directive requirements.

**5. Senate Bill (SB) [602](#) (Cortese, 2025) Veterinarians: Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship**

**Board Position:** **Support**

**Status:** Enrolled and Presented to Governor, 9/2/25

**Analysis:** 8/14/25 – Senate Floor

7/7/25 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

6/20/25 – Assembly Business and Professions Committee

5/7/25 – Senate Floor

4/17/25 – Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes a veterinarian to allow an RVT to act as an agent of the veterinarian for the purpose of establishing the VCPR to administer preventive or prophylactic vaccines or medications for the control or eradication of apparent or anticipated internal or external parasites by satisfying specified conditions, including, among other things, imposing different requirements relating to the proximity of the veterinarian depending upon where the RVT is administering the vaccine or medication.

Specifically, existing law requires either that the veterinarian is physically present at the premises when the RVT is working at a registered veterinary premises, or, if working at a location other than a registered veterinary premises, that the veterinarian is in the general vicinity or available by telephone and is quickly and easily available.

This bill would revise the above-described condition to authorize an RVT to administer the vaccine or medication in a registered veterinary premises that is a public animal control agency or shelter, private animal shelter, humane society shelter, or society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter when the veterinarian is in the general vicinity or available by telephone and is quickly and easily available.

**Implementation:** If chaptered, the Board will create and post a newsletter going over the RVT impacts of this bill.