



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 1, 2026
TO	California Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
FROM	Andrea Amaya-Torres, Administration and Licensing Manager
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 15.B. Examination/Licensing Report

Examination Updates

International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA)

The ICVA administers the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). ICVA’s mission is to provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare.

Since the last Board meeting, ICVA has disseminated the following announcements:

[The ICVA 2026 Assessment Grant Program is OPEN](#)

The Assessment Committee (AVAC), on behalf of the ICVA Board of Directors, has announced the 2026 ICVA Assessment Grant Program, offering up to three awards of 40,000 USD each over a three-year period to support research that validates or advances assessment practices in veterinary medical education. Grants must focus on educational assessment or measurement, with priority given to projects that strengthen knowledge of assessment methods across all stages of veterinary education. Faculty at AVMA-accredited veterinary schools are encouraged to apply.

Key deadlines include June 30 for letters of intent, August 1 for invitations to submit full proposals, October 30 for final proposal submissions, and January 2027 for award notifications.

[Nominations for the Communication Skills Assessment Committee are Open](#)

The ICVA issued an open call for three positions on its Communication Skills Assessment Committee (CSAC), seeking veterinary professionals with expertise in communication competencies and communication skills assessment. The CSAC supports ICVA’s efforts to identify communication assessment needs across veterinary education, define core competencies, recommend assessment frameworks, and advance related research and teaching.

Committee terms are two or three years, with members eligible to serve up to three non-consecutive terms. Interested individuals were asked to submit a CV, nomination form, and brief letter of intent, with the deadline set for June 15, 2026.

NAVLE Structure Update Begins with October - November 2026 Testing Window

Beginning with the October - November 2026 testing window, the NAVLE will implement updates to its exam structure, including shorter testing blocks with more frequent breaks and improvements to the testing interface. These changes, developed in coordination with the NBME, respond to candidate feedback and align with current research showing that shorter blocks can reduce fatigue and support more consistent performance. The content and total number of questions (360) will remain the same, but the exam will shift from six 60-item blocks to twelve 30-item blocks, with timing adjusted accordingly. The updated software will offer an improved design, enhanced keyboard navigation, a new settings menu, and adjustable image contrast. Additional details are available in the 2026–2027 NAVLE Candidate Handbook, and candidates needing accommodations are encouraged to contact ICVA at accommodations@icva.net.

NAVLE Candidate Handbook Released for the 2026-2027 NAVLE Testing Cycle

Prospective NAVLE candidates should review the Candidate Handbook for key policies, application steps, preparation guidance, and exam-day expectations. The ICVA reminds candidates that refunds, fee transfers, and deadline extensions are not allowed, and eligibility requirements must be met to avoid policy violations. Students at AVMA-accredited schools may take the NAVLE up to two times before graduation, and most regions require an expected graduation date within 10 months of the testing window. Additional details are available in the FAQ section of the ICVA website.

ICVA's Progress on the Audit to Ensure Fairness, Integrity and Rigor of the NAVLE

In December 2025, ICVA announced it would conduct an independent third-party audit of the NAVLE to ensure continued rigor and impartiality. Dorsey & Whitney LLP is overseeing the process and selected ACS Ventures, an experienced psychometric and test-development firm, to perform the audit. ACS Ventures will independently evaluate fairness, validity, and compliance across the exam cycle using industry standards and best practices. The audit is currently in progress and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2027. ICVA remains committed to ensuring the NAVLE continues to serve as a fair and impartial assessment of entry-level veterinary competence.

American Association of State Boards (AAVSB) Announcements

The AAVSB administers the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). The AAVSB's mission is AAVSB's leadership and comprehensive resources support and advance veterinary medicine regulation.

The AAVSB Announces Recipient of 2026 VTNE Celebrating Diversity Award

The AAVSB announced Mikaela McComas of Massasoit Community College as the 2026 VTNE Celebrating Diversity Award recipient, recognizing her commitment to fostering inclusivity within the veterinary profession. Mikaela's experiences and

advocacy highlight the importance of representation and open dialogue in creating more inclusive workplaces. For more details about the award winner and other VTNE awards, please click the link.

Jim Penrod Announces Retirement as CEO

The AAVSB announced that CEO James T. Penrod will retire on July 31, 2027, after more than a decade of leadership. During his tenure, he expanded major programs, strengthened engagement with Member Boards, and guided the organization with a forward-looking, innovative approach. The Board has begun a formal CEO search, with updates to be shared publicly. Penrod will remain in his role through July 2027 to ensure a smooth transition.

Licensing Updates

Board Applications Received

During Quarter 4 (Q4) Fiscal Year (FY) 25/26, the Board received a total of 1,179 applications across all license types. Compared to Q3 FY 25/26, the Board received 125 total more applications.

The number of veterinarian applications received during Q4 25/26 increased by 113, with 388 received compared to 275 during Q3 25/26. The number of registered veterinary technician (RVT) applications received this quarter saw no significant deviation with 181 received, compared to 183 received during Q3. The number of premises (HSP) registration applications received this quarter increased by 25, with 110 received compared to 85 during Q3. The number of veterinary assistance controlled substance permit (VACS) applications decreased by 25, with 482 received, compared to 507 received in Q3.

Licenses, Registrations, and Permits Issued

The Board issued a total of 1,132 licenses, permits, and registrations during Q4 FY 25/26. That represents an increase in issued licenses, registrations, and permits by 319 compared to the total issued in Q3.

Comparing individual license, registration, and permit data from Q4 FY 25/26 to Q3, the Board issued significantly more veterinarian licenses (413 compared to 151), RVT registrations (199 compared to 134), and HSP registrations (94 compared to 58). However, the Board issued less VACS permits (403 compared to 467).

Applications Pending

At the beginning of FY 25/26, the Board had 584 total paid applications pending and there are currently 703 paid applications pending. Compared to the number of applications pending at the end of the previous quarter, the Board's number of applications pending decreased by 8.

License Population

The Board's total license population continues to grow. The license population increased to 49,203 during Q4 FY 25/26, compared to 48,681 at the end of Q3.

Attachments

1. Licensing Statistics

Licensing Statistics

Applications Received				FY 25/26							
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Q1	Q2	Q3	Apr	May	Jun	Q4	YTD
VET	903	984	1,040	164	136	275	164	128	96	388	963
RVT	1,017	968	885	212	184	183	77	46	58	181	760
VACSP	2,418	2,221	1,939	495	466	507	166	167	149	482	1950
HSP	507	423	368	110	75	85	33	43	34	110	380
UNI	94	43	25	4	0	4	4	8	6	18	26
Total	4,939	4,639	4,257	985	861	1054	444	392	343	1179	4,079

Licenses Issued				FY 25/26							
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Q1	Q2	Q3	Apr	May	Jun	Q4	YTD
VET	765	813	906	225	105	151	48	142	223	413	894
RVT	872	815	787	200	152	134	72	65	62	199	685
VACSP	2,135	1,866	1,709	380	372	467	109	141	153	403	1622
HSP	459	364	334	95	68	58	20	33	41	94	315
UNI	33	26	23	11	2	3	0	1	2	3	19
Total	4,264	3,884	3,759	911	699	813	249	382	442	1112	3535

Applications Pending				FY 25/26							
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Q1	Q2	Q3	Apr	May	Jun	Q4	YTD
VET	113	273	210	120	139	258	366	284	210	210	210
RVT	181	159	110	74	106	125	125	111	106	106	106
VACSP	303	392	233	251	303	279	326	343	324	324	324
HSP	27	52	20	26	30	50	58	60	47	47	47
UNI	0	12	11	4	1	2	5	12	16	16	16
Total	624	888	584	475	579	714	880	812	703	703	703

Licensee Population*				FY 25/26							
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Q1	Q2	Q3	Apr	May	Jun	Q4	YTD
VET	16,264	16,711	16,977	16,981	16963	16982	16,977	17,067	17,249	17,249	17,249
VET-CA	12,430	12,848	13,199	13,296	13307	13347	13,343	13,420	13,607	13,607	13,607
RVT	11,105	11,687	11,976	12,009	12065	12073	12,090	12,116	12,139	12,139	12,139
RVT-CA	10,055	10,628	10,981	11,035	11109	11121	11,139	11,166	11,193	11,193	11,193
VACSP	12,108	13,121	14,241	14,246	14432	14649	14,682	14,747	14,835	14,835	14,835
HSP	4,446	4,559	4,603	4660	4699	4707	4,712	4,722	4,716	4,716	4,716
UNI	219	247	258	264	268	268	265	264	264	264	264
Total**	44,142	46,325	48,055	48,160	48427	48679	48,726	48,916	49,203	49,203	49,203

*Includes current active, current inactive, and expir

**Excludes CA-only rows

Application Processing Times