

CVMA



UC DAVIS

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Legislative News

Sorting through the red tape to help you be a better veterinarian

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ELECTION SEASON

BY MICHAEL HUNG

It's that time every four years! We highly encourage everyone to go out and vote on Tuesday, November 8. Make sure that you're registered via <http://www.canivote.org/> and you can register via <http://registertovote.ca.gov/>!

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

As veterinarians, it's important that we remain politically active, and especially in political seasons like the one we're currently in. Don't let school get in the way of something that comes once every four years – the country is important, too! I don't think any of us need reminders of the current political climate (especially if you're Class of 2019 with Dr. Stern). Furthermore, the presidential election is not the only thing that's on the ballot. Let's make sure we get our voices heard!

Have questions about legislative issues, or just something about the political process in general? Email cvmaaffiliates@googlegroups.com or ask us on Facebook. We will answer the top questions in our next newsletter.

The Legislative Bulletin: Know-How, What's What, and Everything in Between

By Michael Hung

Welcome Class of 2020 and welcome back to everyone else!

Class of 2020 (and potentially anyone else): You may be wondering – what is this random piece of paper that came with this quizzical, amusing, and awesome Waggie? Well, let me ask you: Have you ever sauntered down the street on a cool autumn morning and thought to yourself: "Hm, I wonder what's going on in politics today specifically concerning legislation that will affect myself as a student and my career in the near future?" ...No? Well, no matter, now you don't have to! Here are questions you might be thinking:

What does the Legislative Bulletin cover?

The Legislative Bulletin's main intent is to inform, discuss and/or clarify any legislation that impacts us as veterinary students. This can include legislation that affect how we practice medicine, legislation that affects the status of animals, and legislation that affect us as students. However, the Bulletin also includes helpful information on how to be politically involved (incoming election year!) and information related to the CVMA (California Veterinary Medical Association).

Who writes for this?

The CVMA student representatives help compile the Legislative Bulletin! You can see the committee reps and their respective representative areas on the other page down below. There are also 5 CVMA class representatives and your Senior and Junior CVMA Representatives that also write articles for anything else of interest for that edition.

Why should I be reading this? Is it even that relevant?

You should be, and it is! You'd be surprised at how many veterinarians/practice owners in California stay updated on impending legislation and veterinary news. Veterinary medicine is a life-long learning job, and there is no reason to ignore the political news concerning veterinary medicine in favor of the medical ones. After all, the two are occasionally intertwined (think antibiotics, vaccination policies, and veterinary pharmaceuticals – all are impacted by legislation regardless of animal species.)

What is that smaller side section for to the left?

Glad you asked! This year, that section will be bite-sized information highlighting important events and "Why You Should Care" aspects as an easy way to get caught up on relevant events relating to policy, ethics, legislation, and veterinary medicine as a whole.

Is this like the law version of the Toilet Paper?

No.

.....Kind of.



Legislative Updates by Kathrina Mathews

AB2269: Shelter Skelter

The California Veterinary Medical Association, which takes positions on state-wide legislative issues, met in March of 2016 at its Legislative Committee Meeting to discuss a number of legislations, including Assembly Bill 2269 (AB2269). AB2269, introduced by Assemblywoman Waldron and sponsored by the State Humane Association of California and Cruelty Free International, would prohibit research facilities from using living animals obtained from animal shelters for the purpose of medical or biological teaching, research, or study. Though the sentiment of this bill is protective to animals, the impact of AB2269 would be enormously detrimental to

Veterinary and Registered Veterinary Technician teaching institutions, which rely heavily on shelter animals for invaluable learning opportunities.

As the UC Davis student representative for the CVMA Legislative Committee, I was lucky enough to attend the March meeting and provide input as to how AB2269 would affect our university. As such, the CVMA opted to oppose the bill unless it was amended. Dr. Pascoe and Dr. Ilkiw later joined with lobbyist Jason Murphy to work with co-sponsors of the bill to determine how AB2269 could be amended in order to maintain the initial intent without negatively impacting the veterinary community.

As a result of everyone's extensive efforts, the bill now indicates that live shelter animals may not be procured by research facilities for the use of research, experimentation, or testing; however, there are no bans on medical instruction. Although my role may have been small, the amendment of AB2269 perfectly illustrates the importance of student involvement in our veterinary governing organizations. I was able to experience first-hand how meticulously the CVMA discusses each piece of legislation that may impact our field, as well as how seriously concerns are taken. In order to adequately treat our patients, we must also remain cognizant of the legislature that could impact the veterinary field.

Class Delegate Updates: CVMA House of Delegates Meeting 2016 by Beth Graham-Williams

At the end of June I had the opportunity to represent the class of 2018 and UC Davis SVM at the CVMA PacVet House of Delegates meeting. Representatives from all over the state came together to talk about current legislature and other aspects of organized veterinary medicine in California. Having never attended a House of Delegates meeting, I was a bit nervous, but I found this experience to be very rewarding and inspiring.

Learning about current legislature and how it could affect my veterinary career, both in vet school and after, was truly eye opening. I had no idea that there were bills being written that could affect veterinary students' access to live animals for teaching labs in veterinary school; or that administrators at Davis were working tirelessly to ensure these bills did not pass. I was completely unaware that there was a bill that could affect the way that I prescribe medication as a veterinarian. As the various delegates and lobbyist's spoke about these issues, I was amazed and in-

spired by the group of people working so hard to protect and advocate for veterinary medicine.

As a student representative, I was unsure what to expect in terms of my participation in the meeting. I was amazed, however, at how valued my opinion was and many delegates asked for and listened to all the student representatives. One of the most memorable parts of the conference for me was sitting down after the meeting with several CVMA officers and the delegates from Western University College of Veterinary Medicine and brainstorming methods to improve CVMA enrollment and retention in new graduates.

Overall, I found the PacVet House of Delegates meeting to be an invaluable opportunity. The networking, exposure to organized veterinary medicine, and interaction with other student and professional delegates was both rewarding and informative. I am looking forward to the next meeting in January.

Student Representatives

CVMA Student Representatives:

Roxana Bordbar—Senior CVMA Rep
Michael Hung—Junior CVMA Rep

CVMA Class Delegates:

2018: Beth Graham-Williams
2019: Michael Hung & Megan Richman
2020: Laura Weintraub & Esther Yang

CVMA Committee Representatives:

Agriculture: Ethan McEnroe
Animal Welfare: Mitchel Stover
CA VM Reserve Corps: Janny Evenhuis
RVT Committee: Joanne Hsieh Bettada
Cert. Vet. Assistant: Shakuntala Makhijani
Economic Issues: Sarah Freeman
Finance: Michelle Tien
Legislative: Kathrina Mathews
Political Action: Lauren Taylor

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