Welcome Back from Summer! By Chanel Baron

Welcome to the UC Davis CVMA Legislative Bulletin! In this end-of-summer edition we hope you find many useful updates and briefings. To recap from the Spring Bulletin, the Pacific Veterinary Conference (hosted by the California Veterinary Medical Association) was a great success with high turnouts of veterinarians and students. A few of UC Davis’ own skilled student researchers—like Samantha Lawton of 2017—presented their poster projects, while others like Lizzie Rosalia of 2017 attended innumerable Continuing Education talks on topics ranging from pocket pet care to nutrition. Most recently we have elected student CVMA Subcommittee Representatives. These students serve on a CVMA Subcommittee for one year and experience how California Veterinary decision making is executed. They also have the opportunity to connect with veterinarians across the state. Some of the interesting subcommittees they will serve include the Political Action Committee, which raises and distributes funds to help elect candidates to the California State Government, and the Agricultural Committee, which works with producer groups and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure efficacious and ethical food-animal related practices. Please keep your eye out for the announcement of the elected student representatives this month! And, as always, please feel free to email me, Chanel Baron, or any of your other CVMA representatives any questions or concerns you may have. Happy Fall!

PAST Act: Prevent All Soring Tactics Act By Lori Hammond

The practice of soring a horse has been recognized as cruelty and punishable by the law since the Horse Protection Act of 1970. Soring a horse involves the use of irritants or blistering agents on horse’s limbs or hooves to achieve the desired high leg lift, termed the “big lick” seen in horse shows. Today, it is most often seen in the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry. Although illegal, it has not been well regulated, and many current inspectors who are currently the only backbone of enforcement for this law, have been too lenient. Thus, in April 2013 the PAST Act was proposed in Congress which requires that only USDA-licensed inspectors can perform inspection services at horse shows. It is the hope of the supporters of this bill that this will hinder attempts at soring by enforcing the Horse Protection Act and pursuing criminal charges against offenders. Current Status: As of April 9th, 2014, the committee assigned to this bill has reviewed it and sent it to the House and Senate for consideration. Only about 1 in 4 bills are reported out of committee. Full text and more information: https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1518/text Take Action: http://avmacan.avma.org/avma/issues/alert/?alertid=62795256

FAQs

- Is the CVMA or AVMA doing anything to voice concern over the proposed capping of $57,000 for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program?

The public service loan forgiveness program currently forgives all remaining debt after 10 years of monthly payments for people working in public sector or non-profit jobs. President Obama’s 2015 budget proposal includes capping the debt forgiveness at $57,000. While the AVMA opposes the cap on the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, the extent of their advocacy against the measure has not yet been clearly defined. However, as this issue is taken up next congressional session, we can expect to see more tangible steps taken regarding the proposal.

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

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Legislative Updates by Virginia Butler

Here are some updates on legislative bills that we introduced to you in the last newsletter!

Veterinary Mobility Act – PASSED! On August 1, 2014, President Barack Obama signed this bill into law, making it legal for veterinarians to carry controlled substances beyond their clinics and across state lines. Veterinarians will now legally be able to provide complete medical care (e.g., pain management, anesthesia, euthanasia) to their patients located on farms or in the field. It took 2 years to finally get this bill passed and would not have happened without the 27,000 AVMA letters sent by AVMA members to their elected officials in support of the bill. A perfect example of what can be achieved when you get involved!

Fairness to Pet Owners Act - NEEDS YOUR HELP! Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives back in February and then in the U.S. Senate in July, this act would require veterinarians to provide clients with written prescriptions regardless of whether the prescription is requested by the client and would prohibit veterinarians from asking clients to sign a liability waiver related to writing the prescription. For more information on why the AVMA and CVMA oppose this bill and to take action by contacting your representatives, check out: http://avmacan.avma.org/avma/issues/alert/?alertid=63099296 and https://www.cvma.net/userfiles/uploads/HR%204023.pdf.

Protection of Orcas: Unlawful Activities – WHAT’S YOUR OPINION? In February, California Assembly Member Richard Bloom introduced California Assembly Bill 2140, which would make it “unlawful to hold in captivity, or use, a wild-caught or captive-bred orca...intended to be used for performance or entertainment purposes” in the state of California. In April, the bill was sent for interim study by the Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee of the California Legislature, who ordered that the bill be revised and returned to committee in a year and a half. More recently, in late May, U.S. Congressmen Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) and Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), along with 38 other members of Congress wrote a letter to the USDA requesting them to “take immediate steps to prioritize the regulations for captive marine mammals”. To read the full letter, go to http://huffman.house.gov/sites/huffman.house.gov/files/05.29.14.Vilsack.Captive%20Marine%20Mammal%20Regulations.pdf. What’s your opinion on this matter? Make sure your voice is heard by contacting your legislators!

CVMA, Always There for You! By Jennifer Norman

This summer I had the opportunity to work at a variety of practices, increasing my practical knowledge and expanding my professional network. One of the more interesting things learned this summer was how much a state’s Veterinary Medical Association can influence your career. I worked at one practice in San Diego, and another in Tempe, Arizona. Doctors at both hospitals had experience with the CVMA and the Arizona VMA (AzVMA). At both hospitals, I heard the same message, “The CVMA is a much better organization to work under compared to the AzVMA. They are more receptive to their members’ needs. The CVMA is also more understanding and helpful when veterinarians are battling upset clients trying to revoke the vet’s license.” Hearing this from two separate sources made me proud to soon be entering the ranks of California veterinarians, and excited knowing that the CVMA will have my back.

Student Representatives

CVMA:
SCAVMA: Chanel Baron
2016: Jennifer Norman, Caroline Sloan
2017: Michelle Albin

LEGISLATIVE:
SCAVMA: Lori Hammond
2016: Virginia Butler
2017: Steven Brookenthal

Wanna know the latest? Follow us on Facebook!
CVMA/Legislative Bulletin at UC Davis SVM