

CVMA ACTION ALERT

The CVMA is strongly opposed to the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine by unlicensed persons providing illegal services in unregulated locations. We support efforts by the California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) and the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to enforce criminal sanctions against unlicensed activity, protect the consumer and safeguard the health and welfare of animals.

The CVMA and the VMB are co-sponsoring [SB 697](#) (Emmerson). It is important to your patients, your clients and your profession.

Current law states that a person practices veterinary medicine when he or she, among other things, represents himself or herself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine.

SB 697 will strengthen the VMB's enforcement authority over unlicensed persons by:

- Adding a provision that a person practices veterinary medicine when he or she advertises himself or herself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, and
- Enhancing existing board authority relative to unlicensed activity that will be modeled after other DCA professions. The new statutory authority would include cite and fine authority, cease and desist language and give the VMB the authority to file for an injunction against an unlicensed person.

We are asking you to **contact your elected officials and ask him or her to support SB 697**. Please send a personal letter outlining the importance of this legislation. It would be helpful if you could note if you've had a case of harm to an animal, as a result of unlicensed activity, and briefly describe the situation. Attached is the [CVMA Fact Sheet](#) and [contact information](#). These documents are also available on the CVMA home page (www.cvma.net) along with links to the [Legislative Action Center](#). You'll also find contact information for your Senator and Assembly Member as well as the members of the Senate Business and Professions Committee who will be hearing the measure.

SB 697 will be taken up by the Senate Business and Professions Committee on April 25. Your letter to the committee members and your own legislators can be faxed, or mailed, and should be on your practice letterhead. If possible, we would appreciate it if you would fax the CVMA a copy of your letter as well at 916.646.9156. Phone calls to your Legislator's office are also a great contact option. Emails are discouraged since they are not as effective.

If you have any questions, please call the CVMA office at 800.655.2862.

Thank you for your assistance!

