

April 21, 2011

SB 697 (Emmerson) now a 2-Year Bill

A major component of the CVMA's Illegal Practice Campaign is to pass legislation to strengthen the Veterinary Medical Board's (VMB) enforcement authority. We began this process with the CVMA/VMB co-sponsored bill, [SB-697](#).

When we started our Campaign, we knew there would be serious challenges and there are. Members of the Senate Business & Professions Committee began receiving hundreds of letters in opposition from anesthesia-free teeth cleaners. This week, the [Farm Bureau](#) and the [California Thoroughbred Trainers Association](#) also sent letters opposing our bill. They believe that non-veterinarians should receive additional exemptions to treat livestock and racehorses, in addition to the already existing owner exemption provided for owned animals. The CVMA strongly disagrees!

These groups do not understand that the purpose of our bill is to enforce existing law and not to change scope of practice, which is regulated by the VMB. Nevertheless, this last minute opposition from the Farm Bureau and Thoroughbred Trainers and a change of the bill's author have led us to a decision to make **SB-697** a two-year bill, making it eligible to be heard in January 2012. This will give our new author, Senator Bill Emmerson, the VMB and the CVMA time to educate the opposition on the purpose of our legislation and to ensure that the bill's language reflects all that we want to accomplish – to stop unlicensed activity in veterinary medicine!

We are committed to passing this legislation! We appreciate your letters and will continue to call on you, our members, to support **SB-697**. We are especially grateful to Senator Emmerson, who as a dentist, understands the importance of California licensed healthcare professionals providing the best medical care to both patients and clients.

Please continue to report and to encourage your clients to report unlicensed activity to the Veterinary Medical Board. We will keep you informed on the CVMA's efforts on this important project.

Sincerely,



Dean Henricks, DVM
CVMA President