



REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

III-1-91 set forth verbatim the language of Specific Notice III-5-83, but also included an "Inspection Policy" directing Branch 3 licensees to either inspect roof coverings believed to be infected by wood-destroying organisms or nondecay fungi or state that the roof covering was not inspected and recommend inspection by a Branch 4 registered company. (See CRLR Vol. 11, No. 3 (Summer 1991) pp. 108-09 for background information.)

FUTURE MEETINGS:

May 5 in Sacramento.
August 7 in San Diego.

TAX PREPARER PROGRAM

Administrator: Jacqueline Bradford
(916) 324-4977

Enacted in 1973, abolished in 1982, and reenacted by SB 1453 (Presley) effective January 31, 1983, the Tax Preparer Program registers approximately 19,000 commercial tax preparers and 6,000 tax interviewers in California, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9891 *et seq.* The Program's regulations are codified in Division 32, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Registrants must be at least eighteen years old, have a high school diploma or pass an equivalency exam, have completed sixty hours of instruction in basic personal income tax law, theory, and practice within the previous eighteen months, or have at least two years' experience equivalent to that instruction. Twenty hours of continuing education are required each year.

Prior to registration, tax preparers must deposit a bond or cash in the amount of \$2,000 with the Department of Consumer Affairs. Registration must be renewed annually, and a tax preparer who does not renew his/her registration within three years after expiration must obtain a new registration. The initial registration fee is \$50 and the renewal fee is \$40.

Members of the State Bar of California, accountants regulated by the state or federal government, and those authorized to practice before the Internal Revenue Service are exempt from registration.

An Administrator, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, enforces the provisions of the Tax Preparer Act. Under the Act, the Administrator is supposed to be assisted by a nine-member State Tax Preparer Advisory Committee which consists of three registrants, three persons exempt

from registration, and three public members. All members are appointed to four-year terms. However, the last committee members' terms expired on December 31, 1988; no members were appointed to replace them. The Department of Consumer Affairs recently announced the dissolution of several advisory committees in response to budgetary concerns; however, the State Tax Preparer Advisory Committee is not among them. Because the Committee currently exists in statute only, it costs the state no money. Many believe that it would cost the state more to dissolve the Committee than to maintain the status quo.

RECENT MEETINGS:

The Advisory Committee has not met since December 13, 1988.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Executive Officer: Gary K. Hill
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Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4800 *et seq.*, the Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine (BEVM) licenses all veterinarians, veterinary hospitals, animal health facilities, and animal health technicians (AHTs). The Board evaluates applicants for veterinary licenses through three written examinations: the National Board Examination, the Clinical Competency Test, and the California State Board Examination.

The Board determines through its regulatory power the degree of discretion that veterinarians, AHTs, and unregistered assistants have in administering animal health care. BEVM's regulations are codified in Division 20, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). All veterinary medical, surgical, and dental facilities must be registered with the Board and must conform to minimum standards. These facilities may be inspected at any time, and their registration is subject to revocation or suspension if, following a proper hearing, a facility is deemed to have fallen short of these standards.

The Board is comprised of six members, including two public members. The Board has eleven committees which focus on the following BEVM functions: continuing education, citations and fines, inspection program, legend drugs, minimum standards, examinations, administration, enforcement review, peer re-

view, public relations, and legislation. The Board's Animal Health Technician Examining Committee (AHTEC) consists of the following political appointees: three licensed veterinarians, three AHTs, and two public members.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

BEVM's Complaint Review System.

Last summer, the Board agreed to implement a new complaint review system for a six-month trial period. Under the new system, Board-hired consultants, in conjunction with a committee of Sacramento veterinarians, act as "gatekeepers" and review 95% of all complaints received; the Board's regional complaint review committees are used only in extreme cases. (See CRLR Vol. 11, No. 4 (Fall 1991) p. 115; Vol. 11, No. 3 (Summer 1991) p. 111; and Vol. 11, No. 2 (Spring 1991) pp. 107-08 for background information.) At its October 3-4 meeting, the Board announced its award of new consulting contracts to veterinarians Tom Condon and Steve Wagner. The Board was expected to decide whether to permanently adopt the new complaint review system at its January meeting.

At its November meeting, the Board reviewed its present complaint disclosure policy, which prohibits Board staff from disclosing information about complaints filed against veterinarians to an inquiring member of the public until a formal accusation is filed by the Attorney General. The Board discussed the possibility of amending its policy to allow public disclosure of complaint information prior to the filing of an accusation; however, many members expressed a desire to retain the present policy to prevent disclosure of information regarding complaints later found to be meritless. The Board was scheduled to continue discussion of its complaint disclosure policy at its January meeting.

Proposed Legislation and Rulemaking to Increase Fees.

At its July and October meetings, the Board discussed its need to raise the statutory ceiling of BEVM's licensing fees. (See CRLR Vol. 11, No. 4 (Fall 1991) p. 115 for background information.) In light of a budget report prepared by budget analyst Phil Coyle, the Board agreed at its November meeting to seek a legislative amendment to raise BEVM's licensing and examination fee ceilings, and regulatory amendments to raise premise and practical examination fees. The Board unanimously moved to pursue amendments to section 2070, Title 16 of the CCR, to increase premise permit fees from \$30 to \$50 and practical examina-