



procedure. The current system is administratively inadequate to handle an increase in appeals.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Executive Officer: Manuel Urena (916) 445-9040

The Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind has three primary functions. The Board protects the blind guide dog user by licensing instructors and schools to ensure that they possess certain minimum qualifications. The Board also enforces standards of performance and conduct of these licensees as established by law. Finally, the Board polices unlicensed practice.

There are three guide dog schools in California. These schools train the blind in the use of guide dogs. Each school also trains its own dogs. Each blind person is then matched with a dog using factors such as size and temperament. To provide this specialized service, the schools must have special facilities, which are inspected by the Board members as needed.

The Board consists of seven members, two of whom must be dog users (Business and Professions Code section 7200).

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Decals. The Board has recently reviewed various designs for an informational decal concerning accessibility to public places for guide dog users. A decal was selected which states "No dogs allowed (except those assisting blind, deaf, or handicapped)" and legal code citations. The purpose of the decal is to inform the public of the rights of persons using guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs. The Board is now seeking bids for production of these decals.

Educational Campaign. The California Restaurant Association has embarked upon an educational campaign directed at its members and employees for the benefit of the users of helping dogs.

LEGISLATION:

SB 90 (Boatwright), introduced December 12, would repeal the provisions of law in the Business and Professions Code which establish the Board, transfer the Board's powers and duties to the Department of Rehabilitation, and recast those provisions in the Welfare and Institutions Code.

AB 3636 (Bradley), which was signed by the Governor, provides that any person who denies a guide dog user access to places of public accommodation is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$250.

RECENT MEETINGS:

Members of the California Council of the Blind (CCB), a consumer group, attended a recent Board meeting and expressed concerns over the issue of transfer of title to guide dogs to guide dog users. California law provides for transfer of ownership of the dog to the user after a one-year probation period. However, most guide dog schools retain ownership of the dogs rather than transferring title to the guide dog user; thus, the dogs may be reclaimed by the schools at any time. According to CCB, when transfer of ownership is accomplished, the contracts, which are written by the training schools, often do not reflect the best interests of the guide dog users. CCB strongly recommends that title transfer documents contain provisions for binding arbitration in the event of disputes between school and dog user; a method for facilitating the appeal process to ensure that the blind person will not be unnecessarily deprived of the use of a guide dog; and protection of the rights of guide dog users in situations where someone other than the guide dog user is abusing the dog. CCB also recommends that the transfer instrument be written in a manner which will not intimidate the guide dog user but clearly delineates the relationship between the school and the blind consumer.

Although the law permits training schools to retain an interest in the guide dog following transfer of title, CCB is concerned about the manner in which the schools exercise this interest. CCB also objects to the general tone and attitude of the training schools, as reflected in standard transfer instruments. CCB has offered to provide sample agreements for guide dog users and schools.

The Board, however, determined that it has no authority to act on this issue. Because the problem concerns the relationship between licensees and consumers, the Board decided that it should be handled at the school level.

Also at a recent meeting, the Board rescinded its endorsement of legislation requiring the posting of notice in public places regarding the rights of admission of persons using helping dogs. (See CRLR Vol. 6, No. 4 (Fall 1986) p. 38.) The Board plans to sponsor legislation requiring that guide dogs, signal dogs, and service dogs be controlled by a leash

not more than six feet in length when in any public place.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS

Chief: Gordon Damant (916) 920-6951

The Bureau of Home Furnishings regulates manufacturers, wholesalers, dealers, upholsterers, retailers, renovators, and sterilizers of furniture and bedding. In addition, the Bureau establishes rules regarding labeling requirements approved by the state Department of Public Health pertaining to furniture and bedding.

To enforce its regulations, the Bureau has access to premises, equipment, materials, and articles of furniture.

The chief or any inspector may open, inspect and analyze the contents of any furniture or bedding and may condemn, withhold from sale, seize or destroy any upholstered furniture or bedding or any filling material found to be in violation of Bureau rules and regulations. The Bureau may also revoke or suspend registration for violation of its rules.

The Bureau is assisted by a thirteen-member Advisory Board consisting of seven public members and six industry representatives.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Transfer of Licensing and Registration of Dry Cleaning Establishments. Pursuant to AB 183 (Johnson), which was signed and chaptered, the Bureau is currently focusing on the mechanics of the transfer of licensing and registration procedures from the now-abolished Board of Dry Cleaning and Fabric Care to the Bureau. The Bureau has jurisdiction over licensing and registration of dry cleaning establishments as of January 1, 1987.

A one-time licensing and registration requirement will be imposed on all dry cleaning establishments, which will ensure that all dry cleaning establishments are discontinuing the use of toxic cleaning products.

The bill's bonding requirement has presented difficulties for the Bureau in that the bill allows the Bureau to waive certain bond requirements. However, no standards or guidelines describing circumstances when waiver is appropriate are set forth in the bill. In response to this problem, the Bureau, through