



Veterinary Regulation News

Volume 27, Issue 1

New Challenges, New Opportunities

by James T. Penrod, CAE, FASLA, AAVSB Executive Director



This has been an interesting year. The AAVSB staff went virtual in March. Even for us that still come to the office, the human interaction became more important than ever. It reminds me of the song that came out this year by Alec Benjamin – the quarantine song. Part of the lyrics go “So, I miss you most at six feet apart when you’re right outside my window but can’t ride inside my car.”

What I have experienced though is not isolation. Just like you, I have participated in many virtual meetings on the computer and felt like a member of the Brady Bunch. I have participated in several of your virtual board meetings as the licensure process needs to go on. Probably like you, I have found that I have increased the amount of time I spend video chatting with my colleagues. These conversations have rein-

forced the sense of community that we all have together as veterinary regulators. As your Association executive, I feel an increased sense of partnership with you. We are all in this together to advance the regulatory process in veterinary medicine.

“We have seen a drop in time to receive license verifications from a couple weeks to a couple days on average.”

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Consistency is important in periods of change. As your membership association, we have consistently listened to your needs and worked to provide services and programs that benefit you directly. Last year at the Executive Director and Registrar session, I presented an idea to automate the license verification process. We listened to the feedback of your staff members and, as promised, launched the online license verification tool in April. By our account, we have seen a drop in time to receive license verifications from a couple weeks to a couple days on average. As a community, we all are making the licensure process more efficient. Thank you to all of you that participate in the online license verification process.

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New Challenges, New Opportunities (continued from cover)

Your Association continues to develop new programs and services to assist you in doing your job as a regulator. Through a partnership with CE Broker, we have launched a new continuing education (CE) tracking tool which allows you to quickly and easily conduct CE audits for licensure renewal.

The Association is also expanding our VAULT program. We are working on a special designation that will assure you a licensee has met the highest licensure standards in North America and remains current and in good standing. See update on page 10 about this forthcoming program.

We are also concerned about the shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technicians. From a regulatory perspective, we do not want to see unqualified individuals taking on some of the tasks of these licensees. The Association will be charging a task force with investigating the need for an advanced level of supervised paraprofessional to fill in potential shortage areas to ensure the public continues to have access to qualified veterinary care thereby continuing to advance our joint mission of public and animal protection.

At the beginning of the year, I wrote about achieving our vision in 2020 as veterinary regulators. I don't see the pandemic as a barrier, but an opportunity to partner together and advance the regulatory process in veterinary medicine. 2020 has allowed us, together, to strengthen the veterinary regulatory community.



James T. Penrod, CAE, FASLA
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AAVSB Celebrates 60 Years!



2020 marked the AAVSB's 60th anniversary. From its humble beginnings in the 1960's to the modern organization which brings together 62 Member Boards throughout North America, hundreds of content expert volunteers and a dedicated full-time staff, the AAVSB remains committed to its mission of supporting and advancing the regulatory process for veterinary medicine.

Visit vimeo.com/aavsb to view a retrospective video that looks back at the evolution of the AAVSB over the past six decades.

Important Dates for 2021

March 6, 2021: Deadline to receive proposed Bylaws Amendments

Any Member Board, Committee established by the Bylaws, or Board of Directors may propose Bylaws Amendments.

Spring 2021 (dates TBD): Board Basics & Beyond - Virtual Event

Interactive regulatory board training

May 5: Deadline to receive proposed Resolutions

Resolutions should be reserved for important or complex issues that require greater formality than a standard motion.



Above: 2019 Board Basics & Beyond Training

Spring: Registration opens for the 2021 AAVSB Meeting & Conference in Denver, Colorado

The Funded Delegate Program covers two attendees from each Member Board.

The Attorney Funding Policy is limited to the first ten Member Boards (more info to follow).

June 3: Deadline to receive nominations for open positions

Want to get involved in the AAVSB? Consider serving in a leadership role!

Visit aavsb.org/volunteer to get involved.

September 30 – October 2: 2021 AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference, Denver, Colorado

Visit aavsb.org/AnnualMeeting for more information.

AAVSB Hires Director of License Mobility

In March, the AAVSB hired Amy Farmer as its new Director of License Mobility. This newly created position oversees the AAVSB's license mobility services, including the development of a new service for its Member Boards and veterinary licensees. This new service focuses on creating a standard for the veterinary community, allowing veterinary professionals to demonstrate their commitment to performing at the highest level.

Amy is studying the market to ensure the new program is developed and implemented with the integrity and accuracy the public has come to expect from all AAVSB programs.

Amy has extensive experience in association management, education, and animal health. She most recently served as member service coordinator for the Missouri State Teacher's Association, from 2017-2020. She previously consulted for and managed performance horse businesses in Texas from 2010-2017. Prior to that, Amy worked as an elementary school principal and assistant high school principal in Missouri. She holds multiple graduate degrees from Northwest Missouri State University and is currently enrolled in the University of Missouri – Columbia ELPA doctoral program.



The Legal Corner from Dale Atkinson: Look Who's Talking Now

In an important decision, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has reversed in part the District Court's dismissal of a veterinarian's case under the First Amendment and equal protection clauses of the United States Constitution. This current case is re-litigating a previous case that was the subject of a 2015 AAVSB newsletter article. In that earlier case, *Hines v. Alldredge*, 783 F. 3d 197 (5th Cir. 2015) (*Hines I*), the 5th Circuit affirmed the District Court dismissal of a case brought by a veterinarian (*Hines*) who argued that his due process, equal protection, and First Amendment rights were violated by an administrative action by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board).

Hines, a licensee for almost 40 years, was engaged in providing veterinary advice to specific pet owners about their pets via his website and without having conducted physical examinations of the animals. The Board initiated an administrative action against *Hines* and, after finding violations of state law, ordered him to cease providing veterinary advice without a physical examination. In *Hines I*, *Hines* unsuccessfully challenged the legal mandate requiring a physical examination of the animal as a prerequisite to establishing a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). *Hines* argued that his electronic communication with clients about pets without a physical examination of the animal was protected speech under the First Amendment. In rejecting this argument, the court held that the mandate of a physical examination as a basis for providing veterinary services "does not regulate the content of any speech, require any veterinarian to deliver any particular message, or restrict what can be said once a veterinary-client-patient relationship is established."

Content neutral regulation of a professional-client relationship does not violate the First Amendment. Based upon "new precedent" established in a subsequent Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) opinion, *Hines* again sought relief in federal court under the First Amendment with an additional new equal protection claim. The District Court granted the Board's motion to dismiss and *Hines* appealed.

Thus, once again, the matter was before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

As noted by the 5th Circuit, circumstances have changed since its 2015 opinion in *Hines I*. First, Texas revised its statutes applicable to human medicine and now allows some forms of telemedicine, removing the requirement of a face-to-face consultation as a prerequisite to establishing a physician-patient relationship. However, Texas law still requires a physical examination of the patient/animal to establish a VCPR and, ultimately, provide veterinary services. Failure to do so may result in administrative and/or criminal prosecutions.

Second, in *National Institute of Family & Life Advocates v. Becerra*, 138 S. Ct 2361 (2018) (NIFLA case), the SCOTUS ruled that requiring licensed and unlicensed crisis pregnancy centers to notify women about low costs services, including abortions, was unconstitutional under a First Amendment analysis.

In October 2018, *Hines* filed another lawsuit (*Hines II*) under the First Amendment arguing that the recent SCOTUS ruling in the NIFLA case abrogated the previous *Hines I* ruling and thus his previous case dismissal should be considered again under this recent precedent. He also alleged a new equal protection claim arguing that the physical examination requirement treated veterinarians differently from physicians who are no longer required to undertake a physical examination to establish a physician-patient relationship. The District Court granted the Board's motion to dismiss *Hines II* in June 2019. *Hines* timely filed an appeal.

On appeal, *Hines* admitted that if the NIFLA case did not abrogate the *Hines I* case, his claims have no merit and are foreclosed. Thus, the very premise of his case hinged on a finding that the SCOTUS ruling in the NIFLA case allowed *Hines II* to move forward.

The Legal Corner (continued)

For Hines II to be allowed to proceed, the NIFLA ruling must unequivocally allow for the applicability of the First Amendment protections under circumstances related to professional practice under a state-based license and speech analysis. Hines I held that a veterinarian's professional practice constitutes "conduct" and that although speech was incidentally infringed upon, the First Amendment was virtually inapplicable. The SCOTUS ruling in the NIFLA case changed that finding.

"In the current case, the Court reminded itself of the importance of in-person examinations that reduce 'the risk of misdiagnosis and improper treatment.'"

In general, abrogation follows the principle that when the SCOTUS overrules a precedent, the relevant circuit (in this case the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals) has the "authority and obligation to declare and implement this change in the law." To apply this change, the SCOTUS holding must establish a rule of law that is inconsistent with prior 5th Circuit rulings. But, the intervening change in law must be unequivocal and not merely suggest how the SCOTUS might rule in the future. It must be subject to specific applicability without conjecture.

Citing another 5th Circuit ruling in *Vizaline LLC v. Tracy*, 949 F.3d 927 (5th Cir. 2020), Hines argued that the NIFLA ruling did, indeed, abrogate Hines I. In *Vizaline*, another 5th Circuit panel ruled that the NIFLA "disavowed the notion that occupational licensing regulations are exempt from the First Amendment." Thus, the 5th Circuit in Hines II found that it was no longer bound by the precedent of Hines I. It ruled that the plaintiff may be entitled to greater judicial scrutiny than previously allowed. As a result, the 5th Circuit reversed the District Court's dismissal of the Hines II case as applied to the First Amendment claim. On remand, the District Court will address the issues of whether the licensed veterinarian's actions constitute conduct or speech.

Regarding the equal protection claim in Hines II, the 5th Circuit noted that the claims had evolved from comparing tele-practice veterinarians to other veterinarians (in Hines I), to comparing veterinarians to human medical licensees/physicians. To substantiate a claim under the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution, a plaintiff must prove that similarly situated individuals were treated differently. If government actions do not treat like persons or groups differently, then such government actions do not deny equal protection.

Under a legal analysis of equal protection and because Hines is not a member of a suspect class, the state must only establish that the legislation is rationally related to a legitimate government interest. State legislatures are granted much latitude when enacting statutes but that latitude is not limitless and the statute(s) in question must actually be rational.

In its analysis, the Court reviewed a relatively recent 5th Circuit opinion captioned *St. Joseph Abbey v. Castille*, 712 F.3d 215 (5th Cir. 2013). In *St. Joseph*, the 5th Circuit upheld a lower court ruling that had struck down regulations that limited the authority to sell caskets to only licensed funeral directors. The opinion addressed both due process and equal protection arguments. The court found no rational basis for requiring a license to sell caskets as such regulation was merely protecting the economic interests of the industry within Louisiana.

In the current case, the Court reminded itself of the importance of in-person examinations that reduce "the risk of misdiagnosis and improper treatment." Because the equal protection argument between veterinarians and telemedicine veterinarians was determined in Hines I, the court emphasized that such issue was foreclosed and was unable to be re-addressed.

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 you RELAX!*



aavsb.org/MemberServices

The Legal Corner (continued from page 5)

It turned its attention to the current argument that alleged disparate treatment between human medical practitioners using telemedicine and tele-veterinarians in violation of the equal protection clause.

The State/Board offered arguments related to the ability of human patients to communicate symptoms via electronic means while animals cannot. Further, humans “typically understand human physiology better than animal physiology.” To rebut these arguments, Hines cited inconsistencies by identifying exceptions to the norms such as humans who are unable to communicate, like infants.

The court agreed with the State/Board. It held that it is rational to distinguish between humans and animals based upon the “species’ differing capabilities.” The court also noted the differing practice acts that govern each respective profession and the differences in rulemaking and enforcement entities, educations, examinations, continuing education and more. While there are similarities, the court found that it is rational to believe that “regulations suitable for one profession are not constitutionally required for the other.” Accordingly, the court affirmed the District Court’s ruling dismissing the equal protection claims.

The application of the First Amendment will be considered by the District Court in Hines II on remand from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. This analysis and decision are extremely important as the court distinguishes between conduct and speech. Many professions should pay attention to this case. More to come.



Hines v. Quillan, 220 U.S. App. LEXIS 37725 (5th Cir. 2020)

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2020 AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference Virtual Event Recap

Nearly 300 Member Board Members, Executive Directors & Registrars, Member Board staff, and allied groups participated in the 2020 AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference Virtual Event. The online event took place from September 22 through October 8. It included six educational sessions for all members of the veterinary regulatory community, one session specifically for Executive Directors and Registrars, and several opportunities for attendees to network in small groups and one-on-one. Due to the nature of the AAVSB's business sessions, the annual Delegate Assembly was postponed until 2021 and all officers remained in their positions.



If you'd like to revisit a session, all of the educational sessions were recorded and are available as a resource to Member Boards. Please contact Member Services Concierge Lainie Franklin at efranklin@aavsb.org to request a recording.

Educational Sessions included:

- Veterinary Virtual Care Panel
- Wellness During the Pandemic
- Measuring Regulatory Performance
- Cannabinoids in Veterinary Medicine
- Permissionless Innovation
- Top Legal Cases



AAVSB Hires New Program Associate



In August, the AAVSB hired Lauren Abbott as its new Program Associate for continuing education services. Her duties include processing RACE® program applications, communicating with consultants and providers, and problem solving discrepancies in data.

Lauren graduated from the University of Arkansas in 2019 where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Her work experience includes administrative support for a construction company, recruiting for a global staffing agency, and multiple internships.

Lauren lives in Kansas City, Missouri with her maltese dog Bogey. She is originally from the Joplin, Missouri area.

AAVSB Forges Ahead in Policy Leadership

Policy leadership is a strategic priority for the AAVSB and the AAVSB's Regulatory Policy Task Force (RPTF) is working committedly to create resources for Member Boards on pressing issues in the regulation of veterinary medicine. In 2020, the RPTF achieved the release of two model regulations for Members Boards to use in developing new regulations or rules that address the specific language found in their existing statute or bylaws.

Model Regulation: Scope of Practice for Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Technologists

Released in December 2020, this model regulation offers further advisement on the definitions of immediate, direct, and indirect veterinarian supervision and provides the allowable animal healthcare tasks veterinary technicians may perform within each. For common terminology, veterinary technician is used to identify a credentialed veterinary technician/nurse or veterinary technologist. In all cases, jurisdictions are strongly encouraged to specify the roles of each designated title (in the rules), recognizing that all veterinary employees must be supervised by a veterinarian.

Model Regulation: Appropriate Use of Opioids in Veterinary Medicine

Released in October 2020, this model regulation's language ensures veterinarians follow best practices when dispensing and prescribing opioids. The veterinary community's role in the opioid epidemic is unclear. However, veterinarians prescribe, dispense, administer, and stock many of the same opioid drugs that have the potential to be diverted and abused by humans. The AAVSB encourages its Member Boards to be a part of the effort to address this national crisis.



Pictured: RPTF, August 2019. They have been meeting virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Subgroups Tackling Additional Topics

Subgroups within the RPTF are also tackling topics such as cannabis and prescription drug monitoring programs in veterinary medicine and corporate ownership of veterinary practices. Their efforts continue into 2021 alongside the RPTF's ongoing management/development of the AAVSB Practice Act Model in support of the AAVSB's mission to support and advance the regulatory process for veterinary medicine.

Access the AAVSB Practice Act Model and all model regulations online at: aavsb.org/PAM.

2021 Board Basics & Beyond Training - Virtual Event

Board Basics & Beyond is an interactive training session designed with the new board member, executive director or registrar, board staff, or attorney in mind. Participants acquire knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their regulatory role. This seminar is ideal for individuals new to their position or those wishing to learn more about being a regulator.

COST: \$100 per person

- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 training will be a virtual event, to be held spring 2021.
- Dates are to be announced.
- Visit aavsb.org/BoardBasics for more information.



Pictured: Dale Atkinson, Esq. facilitates Board Basics & Beyond Training in 2019.

Contact Member Services Concierge Lainie Franklin at efranklin@aavsb.org with questions.

Member Board Executives, Members, Staff, and Attorneys gain an understanding of:

- Terminology: The Importance of Language
- Practice Act Models
- Basic Board Operations
- Board Authority, Delegation, & Conflict of Interest
- Enforcement, Discipline & Sanctions
- Outreach & Social Media
- Protecting the Board & Staff through Immunity

AAVSB Hires New Program Associate

In September, the AAVSB hired Elliott Yoakum as its new Program Associate for the VAULT program. He primarily works processing the hundreds of VAULT Premium Transfer Service for Veterinarians service requests.

VAULT Premium is the most comprehensive transfer service the AAVSB offers for licensees. It is a detailed process that takes most of the complex administrative work and document gathering out of the hands of the license applicant and the regulatory board and into the hands of the AAVSB.



Elliott recently graduated from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Literature & Theory. His collegiate journey included internships in finance and theatre, writing and editing for the college's newspaper, and time spent as a Visiting Student at Mansfield College, University of Oxford, England.

Elliott was born in Russia, but has lived most of his life in the Kansas City metropolitan area. He currently lives in Liberty, Missouri with his yorkie-maltese dog Atticus.

The Gold Standard for Veterinary Technicians - NEW Program Coming 2021

During the 2018 AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference in Washington, DC, an idea was introduced to create a standard for the veterinary community, allowing veterinary professionals to demonstrate their commitment to performing at the highest level. A member of this program will be a role model for colleagues, highly regarded in their workplace, and a sought after employee for practices looking to hire exemplary professionals. This program also assures the broader veterinary community benefits from identifying those that meet the highest bar. Employers are assured these professionals are of the highest caliber. Clients will take comfort in knowing the best of the best are treating their family members. And AAVSB Member Boards are assured of accurate, up-to-date information regarding their licensees.

How will it work?

The program will begin with AAVSB Member Board credentialed veterinary technicians, a veterinary professional with the most wide-ranging standards across North America. As veterinary technicians sign on to the program, the AAVSB will collect, verify, and store their qualifications and accomplishments, acting as an easily accessible professional repository for the licensee. That repository is housed in the Veterinary Information Verifying Agency (VIVA), a secure and comprehensive database of licensing information established by the AAVSB Member Boards in 1994.

This gold standard program will validate and recognize that these veterinary technicians have:

- An accredited degree in veterinary technology or equivalent;
- Passed the VTNE;
- Hold at least one current credential from an AAVSB Member Board;
- Credentials are in good standing; and
- Continuing education credits exceed the most stringent regulatory requirements.

Having met the above standards, members of the program will distinguish themselves from other veterinary professionals.

What's in it for program participants?

Once admitted to the program, veterinary technicians will receive a variety of additional service and program benefits such as:

- A complete professional profile accessible to them on demand;
- An upgraded RACEtrack account, which allows for automated tracking of continuing education;
- Upgraded advanced search capabilities of continuing education opportunities;
- Access to a credentialing road map for any Member Board jurisdiction; and
- Digital badges and other items to identify themselves as part of the program.



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The Gold Standard (continued)

What's in it for the AAVSB Member Boards and the veterinary community?

Our staff at the AAVSB will work cooperatively with the Member Boards to house all information regarding specific jurisdiction credentialing requirements.

Creating this licensure repository will ease the burden of repetitive requests for basic information from the Member Boards and provide Member Boards access to the AAVSB's new continuing education auditing service RACEtrack.

Even more significant, the program promotes the importance of public protection through proper, efficient regulation of veterinary professionals and honors our promise to support the entire veterinary community.

What's Next?

This program establishing the gold standard for veterinary technicians will be introduced in April as part of the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) application for the summer testing window. It is essential that a program as unique and innovative as this has a successful launch. Initially, we will focus our efforts on a smaller number of applicants within jurisdictions that currently regulate technicians. We will also be able to track what services they use, their responses, and their needs. The second phase will occur in September and open the program to currently credentialed technicians.

Contact Director of License Mobility Amy Farmer at afarmer@aavsb.org with questions.

Wellness Corner

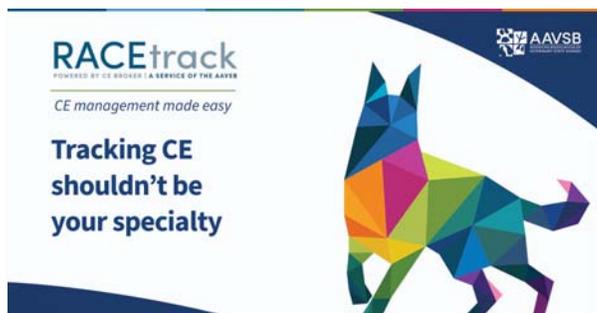
Licensee wellness is a hot topic right now in veterinary regulation. Veterinary professionals experience high rates of depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, and other work-related stresses. Regulators are tasked with finding the right balance between protecting the public from unsafe practice and providing help for struggling licensees. Member Boards can rely on the AAVSB to provide resources and information that they can use to enrich licensee wellness in their jurisdictions. Resources include:

- Recorded Wellness educational sessions from the 2016 & 2020 Annual Meeting & Conferences.
- Recorded *VetBoard Connect* webinar on how to create a wellness program.
- Revisions in the AAVSB Practice Act Model in 2019 providing regulatory direction to defer action with regard to an impaired licensee who voluntarily signs an agreement to participate in an approved treatment and monitoring program. See Section 213(a)(9) and Section 401(b) at: aavsb.org/PAM.
- The AVMA & RCVS Joint Statement on Mental Health and Wellbeing in 2021.

For more information and copies of these resources, contact Lainie Franklin, Member Services Concierge, at efranklin@aavsb.org.

CE Tracking Made Easy for Member Boards with RACEtrack

The AAVSB is thrilled to roll out to its Member Boards and their licensees the veterinary profession's most comprehensive continuing education (CE) tracking solution - RACEtrack! Now powered by CE Broker, the worldwide leader in CE tracking software, the AAVSB's RACE-track system makes tracking CE easy for both licensees and regulators.



Member Boards can utilize a new robust audit feature to readily access any information they need to make informed licensure decisions. For this feature to work optimally, Member Boards need to send the AAVSB their licensee lists.

Licensees can search for RACE-approved courses, digitally store their CE certificates, and receive reminders when their CE is due. They can send their CE records directly to participating Member Boards.

To learn more about how RACEtrack can benefit your board and to inquire how to securely send the AAVSB licensee lists, please email: RaceTrack@aavsb.org.

AAVSB VTNE® Celebrating Diversity Award

In December, the AAVSB announced the AAVSB Veterinary Technician National Examination Celebrating Diversity Award, which will be awarded on an annual basis beginning Spring 2021. The award recipient will receive a VTNE exam voucher for their VTNE online application.

AAVSB President Dr. Roger Redman said, "This award will help our Member Boards honor their commitment to celebrating the diverse backgrounds of the veterinary technicians that work tirelessly every day keeping our pets, livestock, and wildlife safe."

Selection Criteria

This award will be given to a veterinary technician/nursing student from an AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing program who is expected to graduate no later than June of the calendar year. This award will be presented to a minority student who has been traditionally underrepresented in the veterinary technician profession, inclusive of Black/African American, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic/Latinx, LGBTQ, and students with disabilities.

The award recipient will be selected based on their commitment to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and treating everyone with respect and dignity.

Contact Senior Director of Program Services Nancy Grittman at ngrittman@aavsb.org with questions.

A Letter from AAVSB President Dr. Roger Redman

It is an absolute honor to be serving as your AAVSB President, especially as we all navigate these challenging times together. I want you to know that we stand, as YOUR association, ready and willing to help you and your board navigate the murky waters before us.

Let me share what we have been doing to assist you and your board or council. Every year we conduct a strategic planning session, often over the course of several days, to set the direction for your association. As part of that process, we conduct an environmental scan to look at trends and issues shaping our world and how they may affect the veterinary profession. This process prepares us for the future and enables us to provide programs and services to you, our Member Boards, that help you in assisting your licensees and the public.

Telehealth

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous effect on the implementation of telehealth in veterinary medicine. It has also accelerated our thinking on how we regulate veterinary telemedicine. The time is now to review your rules and regulations as they relate to telehealth. Thanks to the strategic planning processes mentioned above, the AAVSB previously considered the regulatory implications of veterinary telemedicine and charged the AAVSB Regulatory Policy Task Force to develop a model guidance document to assist you in having conversations around telemedicine. The guidance document puts the responsibility of sound medical decision-making via telemedicine on the veterinarian, where it belongs. The Guidelines for Telehealth were approved at the Delegate Assembly in 2018. The AAVSB Practice Act Model (PAM) and the Guidelines for Telehealth are available on the AAVSB website for your use at: aavsb.org/PAM. As always, please reach out if you need assistance with drafting regulatory language for your jurisdiction.

RACE

During the pandemic, many Member Boards also changed rules concerning continuing education to accommodate the inability for licensees to attend in-person events. In 1997, the AAVSB established a task force to study continuing education and out of that the Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) program was born. The purpose of the RACE program, the gold standard in veterinary CE, is the development and application of uniform standards related to providers and programs of continuing education in veterinary medicine ensuring all RACE-approved providers and programs meet those standards. The delivery of live virtual events as well as recorded events had always been considered in the RACE Standards, making the RACE program approval even more important during this pandemic. You can take great comfort in knowing RACE-approved events have been meticulously reviewed.

RACEtrack

We are excited to be rolling out RACEtrack, an efficient CE tracking program for your licensees. Veterinarians and technicians in your jurisdiction merely create a RACEtrack account through: aavsb.org/RaceTrack. Every RACE-approved CE event they attend will automatically populate in their RACEtrack account. It also allows them to upload certificates of attendance for non-RACE providers as well. How does this help you and your Member Board? It will allow you to easily audit your licensees' CE attendance in one simple location. No longer does the licensee need to keep paper records to prove they have met your CE requirements and you have the assurance that the licensee actually attended.

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President's Letter (continued)

Additional features are available for the licensee to set reminders of meeting continuing education requirements in multiple jurisdictions and to ensure that the CE achieved meets each jurisdiction's standards. If you need assistance connecting to RACEtrack or promoting its use to your licensees, please reach out to AAVSB Continuing Education Manager Jessica Znidarsic in our office at: race@aavsb.org.

Thanks to our strategic planning processes, the AAVSB was ready and prepared to meet your needs during this pandemic. We look forward to continuing to develop programs and services which advance the regulatory process for veterinary medicine. As veterinary medical professionals we are a guiding light and valuable source of direction in times of global health crisis. I am proud to be your President and working alongside you to further the advancement of veterinary regulation, especially during this time. Please stay safe and healthy in this new year.

Professionally Yours,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger S. Redman, DVM". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Roger S. Redman, DVM
AAVSB President
president@aavsb.org

AAVSB Hires New Receptionist

In September, the AAVSB hired Sandy Castello as its new Receptionist. She is the first face staff, visitors, and delivery people see when they enter the AAVSB's Kansas City, Missouri corporate headquarters. Her duties include answering and transferring general phone calls and emails, maintaining office supplies, managing incoming and outgoing mail, and more.

Sandy has extensive experience in administrative support including working for a law firm, a children's museum, and the State of Kansas. She recently relocated to Kansas City, Missouri from Topeka, Kansas. She's originally from San Francisco, California, and has also lived in Nevada and Idaho. She has two adult sons, Edward (who lives in Kansas City) and John (who lives in Denver, Colorado).



Sandy earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nevada.

2021 AAVSB

ANNUAL MEETING

& CONFERENCE

DENVER, COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2021



aavsb.org/AnnualMeeting



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AAVSB MISSION

To support and advance the regulatory process for veterinary medicine.

AAVSB VISION

To be the primary source for comprehensive information that strategically strengthens the veterinary regulatory community.

AAVSB VALUES

Protection of the public
Reliability & accuracy
Ethics & integrity
Service excellence
Active participation & collaboration
Stewardship of resources

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