

Veterinary Medical Cannabis
SB 627 (Galgiani)
Sponsored by
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SUMMARY

SB 627 will help to:

1. Prevent the potential danger of animal abuse.
2. Give veterinarians the protections as well as the tools they need to treat their patients effectively without the fear of jeopardizing their license.
3. Ensure that the information given to their clients is reliable with the, required, approved Continuing Education (CE) course.¹
4. Further the research and knowledge base throughout the healthcare system/ profession concerning medical cannabis with reliable statistics to inform the next clinical trial.

BACKGROUND

Californians have been self-medicating with medical cannabis for many years with very little medical direction.

With the advent of Adult Use of Cannabis in the State of California there is a great potential for animal abuse in the name of Medical cannabis by

unknowingly and unintentionally administering an inappropriate/toxic dose of cannabis to their pets.

Current legislation allows for veterinarians to discuss the use of cannabis but not recommend and requires the California Veterinary Medical Board to produce language that veterinarians may use while discussing. This language would assist Veterinarians, who do not want to include Medical Cannabis into their practice, in answering questions

Many Medical Doctors (MD) have given recommendations to their patients either at their patient's request or based on hearsay.

Current legislation prohibits veterinarians from having a "financial interest" as defined in Section 650.01 of the Business and Professions Code as well as "Distributing any form of advertising for cannabis in California". However, informational literature and endorsements, from Qualified Veterinarians, as well as their assistance in developing more effective and better-quality products/medicines should be encouraged rather than relying on the corporate marketplace to dictate what is appropriate.

SOLUTION

¹All licensed healthcare professionals are required to perform a number of hours of Continuing Education (CE) on a regular basis to keep their license active and current. Subject matter is typically discretionary however if the veterinarian chooses to opt for this course, they would be considered a "Qualified Veterinarian" and have the authority to recommend Veterinary Medical Cannabis.

Currently, veterinarians in California currently do not have the same protections as Medical Doctors, or Osteopaths as it relates to medical cannabis legislation. SB 627 would remedy that.

SB 627 requires Continuing Education (CE) for Veterinary Medical Cannabis in order to recommend. The CE requirement would ensure that the Veterinarians know what they are recommending and why.

Veterinarians are the trusted resource for treating ailing animals. SB 627 would allow veterinarians to give reliable information to their clients instead of pet owners seeking advice from questionable sources.

Most pet owners consider their pets to be a part of the family rather than a possession. SB 627 would give pet owners caregiver status. The written recommendation would allow the caregiver to purchase the medicine without (necessarily) having a recommendation from their family doctor.

Research for medical cannabis is and has been lacking for a number of reasons. HIPAA & patient confidentiality is not an issue for veterinarians. SB 627 encourages the sharing of patient files with other healthcare professionals and manufacturers which may be extremely beneficial for healthcare in general by providing reliable information and statistics as well as assisting in the development of appropriate veterinary medical cannabis products/medicines.

SUPPORTERS

BROWNIE MARY DEMOCRATIC CLUB
AMERICAN HOLISTIC VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AHVMA)
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)
INTERNATIONAL CANNABIS FARMERS ASSOCIATION (ICFA)
AMERICAN HOLISTIC VETERINARY MEDICAL FOUNDATION (AHVMF)

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY BOTANICAL MEDICINE (ACVBM)
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