



OKLAHOMA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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March 15, 2010

Members of the Oklahoma Senate:

The Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), the state association for veterinarians, came to an agreement with the representatives for the teeth floaters concerning HB 3202. However, there are two additional points of this agreement that need to be addressed to clear the intent of "animal husbandry" and create continuity in the regulatory process for the teeth floaters.

- 1) The words "consisting of" need to be inserted immediately following the term "Animal husbandry" in order to clarify the section of Acts Not Prohibited in the Veterinary Practice Act. This is to protect the public as well as protecting the agriculture community.
- 2) The other point is the unprecedented agreement of having the tooth floaters being licensed by the Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (OSBVME) while complaints would be filed with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. In order to solve this, we recommend the certification, as well as, the enforcement of the teeth floaters be under the Department of Agriculture.

We ask that you consider these two issues and agree that this a simple, common sense solution to a problem that will negatively affect the public and the ag community.

Respectfully,

Calvin, White, DVM
President
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association



OKLAHOMA VETERINARY TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION

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- Represents and Advocates for Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT's) in Oklahoma
- Licensed and Regulated by the Oklahoma Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
- Recognized in the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act for nearly 30 years
- There are 17 specified tasks that can be performed only by RVT's **One of these tasks is Floating and Dressing of Equine Teeth*
- Must be a graduate of an Accredited Veterinary Technology Program
- Three AVMA Accredited Programs in Oklahoma :
Tulsa Community College,
Murray State College and
OSU-Oklahoma City

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Oklahoma Senate,

The Oklahoma Veterinary Technicians Association (OVTA) has some concerns with the current language of HB 3202. Our primary concern is that *the OVTA was not involved in the initial negotiations toward a compromise between the veterinarians, the tooth floaters and other stakeholders*. The compromise language that was put forth in the House now has some inconsistencies that the OVTA would like to respectfully ask you to address in the Senate. We believe that there is still time to improve the outcome of this legislation. The OVTA has agreed with the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) and the Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (OSBVME) that two changes will create greater continuity in the proposed language of HB 3202 and more precisely clarify the intent of the language.

- 1.) The term "consisting of" should be inserted immediately following the term "Animal husbandry" to clarify this section of Acts Not Prohibited in the Veterinary Practice Act.
- 2.) The current language identifies the OSBVME as the voluntary certifying agency and identifies the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture as the enforcement agency. This is unprecedented in Oklahoma! The OVTA believes that a solution would be to move the certification or registry of the tooth floaters under the umbrella of the proposed enforcement agency, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

The OVTA hopes you will agree that this is a workable solution to address the inconsistencies presented in HB 3202.

Respectfully,

The Oklahoma Veterinary Technician Association Executive Board

*Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
State of Oklahoma*

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To: Members of the Oklahoma State Senate

The Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (OSBVME), the state agency charged with the statutory duty to protect the public from the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine, including the directive to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the people of Oklahoma, is quite concerned about the language of HB 3202. The OSBVME respectfully asks your help to alleviate some major issues created by HB 3202. The OSBVME has agreed with the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) and The Oklahoma Veterinary Technicians Association (OVTA) that two changes in the language of HB 3202 will help create greater continuity in the regulatory process for teeth floaters; and more clearly state the intent of the legislature with respect to animal husbandry and the practice of veterinary medicine.

- 1.) The words "consisting of" should be inserted immediately following the term "Animal husbandry" to clearly define Acts Not Prohibited in the Veterinary Practice Act under animal husbandry. Otherwise public health and safety are at risk with a broad interpretation of animal husbandry. Contagious diseases, both to humans and to animals, can be spread by the services performed by unlicensed and untrained lay people. Furthermore, food animals treated by lay people could have excessive drug residues that go undetected and contaminate human food supplies. These are just two examples of what can occur if lay people perform veterinary services with no standard of care or training.
- 2.) The current language of HB 3202 identifies the OSBVME as the agency required, without any discretion, to certify those persons who desire to practice teeth floating. Under HB 3202, it is not unlawful to practice teeth floating without certification. Certification is voluntary! Although HB 3202 requires the OSBVME to implement the certification process for teeth floating, it requires the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture to be the enforcement agency with discretion to regulate teeth floaters. This is an unprecedented act in Oklahoma! One solution would be to move the certification of tooth floaters under the purview of the same agency required to regulate them, namely, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

The OSBVME urges you to address some of the major issues created by HB 3202 as mentioned above and implement a prudent and workable solution to those issues.