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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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CHRB CONTINUES VETERINARY SERVICES EXAMINATION

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Horse Racing Board is continuing to accept applications for an Official Veterinarian examination to develop a list of qualified candidates from which future Official Veterinarians – classified as “Stewards-Veterinary Services” – can be selected.

Applicants must meet all of the following qualifications:

- Graduated with a Doctor’s Degree in Veterinary Medicine from an institution of recognized standing;
- Meet one of the following criteria for experience:
 - 1) Have three years of experience in veterinary medicine directly related to equine practice in the horse-racing industry, or
 - 2) Have two years of experience as an Official Veterinarian or Racing Veterinarian selected or approved by a state racing board or commission, or
 - 3) Have experience in the horse-racing industry of a character and for a length of time sufficient, as determined by the Board, to qualify the person as having experience substantially equivalent described in 1 or 2 above.
- Not been convicted of a felony or any gambling offense; and
- Been given a physical examination and at least 20-20 vision, or vision corrected to 20-20, and normal hearing ability (required if selected for appointment).

The Official Veterinarian is responsible for the conduct of horses and their attendants in the receiving and detention barn, has authority and jurisdiction to supervise practicing veterinarians, and enforces the Board’s rules and regulations as well as accepted veterinary practices.

Official Veterinarians are considered independent contractors. State civil service benefits are not provided to contractors. By contractual agreement, Official Veterinarians are paid a regular rate of \$379 per day/night and \$556 on Sundays. Official Veterinarians may also enter into supplemental contracts with racing associations to conduct pre-race examinations.

Applicants should be willing to work irregular hours and overtime in various locations throughout the state. They should possess tact, keenness of observation, and a good memory for horse-racing events, names, faces, and incidents. They should have a reputation for truth, honesty, and integrity, and be willing to participate in training programs. They must qualify for a fiduciary bond.

Desirable characteristics include experience as a veterinarian in any recognized racing jurisdiction, general knowledge and experience of veterinary practices used within a horse-racing enclosure, and completion of specialized courses in veterinary medicine racing management, racing law, administrative law, political science, administrative agency practices, or other courses related to the racing industry. Knowledge of common drugs, their usage, and their effects on the race horse's ability to perform during a race also would be desirable, as would bilingual fluencies in foreign languages.

The process will consist of a pass/fail written examination and qualification appraisal interview. In order to obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum rating of 70 percent must be obtained on the qualifying interview.

The examination will include questions on the rules and regulations of the CHRB and the California Horse Racing Law; practices and procedures of the horse-racing industry relating to pre-race equine examinations, horse identification, post-race equine examinations, and collection and analysis of blood and urine samples; principles of the administrative hearing process; and provisions within the California Veterinary Practices Act, Health and Safety Code, Penal Code, and Food and Agriculture Code relating to veterinarians, veterinary practices, and equine care and examinations.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate ability to analyze veterinary practices accurately and apply the provisions of the California Horse Racing laws, rules, or regulations to specific cases; formulate judgments in a consistent and impartial manner; supervise and direct others in the performance of equine health care and examination duties; write and speak effectively; and establish and maintain cooperative relations with representatives of racing organizations and associations.

Additional details can be obtained from the CHRB Website (<http://www.chrb.ca.gov>) or by calling (916) 263-6049.

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