

AVMA Policy on Veterinary Technology

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/AVMA-Policy-on-Veterinary-Technology.aspx>

Preamble

The AVMA recognizes the value of veterinary technicians as an integral component of veterinary medicine and urges full utilization of veterinary technicians. The veterinary profession is enhanced through efficient utilization of each member of the veterinary health care team by appropriate delegation of tasks and responsibilities to support staff.

Nomenclature

Veterinary technology is the science and art of providing professional support to veterinarians. AVMA accredits programs in veterinary technology that graduate veterinary technicians and/or veterinary technologists.

A veterinary technician is a graduate of a two- or three-year AVMA-accredited program in veterinary technology. In most cases the graduate is granted an associate degree or certificate.

A veterinary technologist is a graduate of a four-year baccalaureate AVMA-accredited program in veterinary technology.

Veterinary assistant: The adjectives animal, veterinary, ward, or hospital combined with the nouns attendant, caretaker, or assistant are titles sometimes used for individuals where training, knowledge, and skills are less than that required for identification as a veterinary technician or veterinary technologist.

AVMA will encourage schools, organizations, and regulatory authorities to use the standard terminology described above, but will not attempt to interfere, except through educational efforts, with the actual terminology used.

The Role of Veterinary Technicians

The veterinary technician's role is to provide professional health care in conjunction with the veterinarian.

The duties of veterinary technicians shall be performed under the direction, supervision, and responsibility of veterinarians. These duties shall be accomplished in compliance with federal, state, and local laws. These duties shall not include diagnosing, prescribing, or performing surgery except where explicitly permitted by regulation.

The veterinary technician must be knowledgeable in the care and handling of animals, their normal and abnormal life processes, medical and surgical nursing, anesthesiology, diagnostic imaging, and clinical laboratory procedures.

Role of the AVMA

The AVMA offers consultation on education of veterinary technicians, their utilization, their regulation, and other related matters.

The AVMA encourages colleges/schools of veterinary medicine to demonstrate proper veterinary technician utilization for the veterinary students, the economic value of such utilization, and the advantages of effective utilization of veterinary technicians in the delivery of quality veterinary care. Cooperation and affiliation between veterinary technology programs and veterinary colleges/schools is encouraged.

The AVMA makes an ongoing effort to determine and address present and future manpower needs in the field of veterinary technology. Placement services for veterinary technicians are available from the AVMA Career Development Center.

The AVMA recognizes the National Association for Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) as the national organization representing veterinary technicians and the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE) as the national organization representing veterinary technician educators.

The AVMA welcomes and encourages the participation and support of veterinary technicians in public relations efforts to promote the use of veterinary services including the appropriate utilization of veterinary technicians.

Continuing Education

CVTEA encourages the development of additional educational and career advancement opportunities for veterinary technicians. Programs are encouraged to partner with national, state, and local groups to provide these opportunities.

An institution with a distance learning program associated with a traditional program may request that the distance learning program be accredited separately.

Regulation of Veterinary Technicians

Examination and regulation of veterinary technicians are the responsibilities of state boards of veterinary medicine, veterinary medical examiners, or other authorized state regulatory agencies.

State veterinary practice acts provide for limitations on veterinary activities performed by non-veterinarians. The AVMA Model Practice Act includes provisions to permit veterinary technicians to perform all activities in which they are educated, but does not allow them to diagnose, prescribe, or perform surgery.