



Long-Distance Learning – Veterinary Technology in New York State

The “exempt persons” section of the NYS Education Law, applicable to veterinarians, provides that: “The following persons under the following limitations may practice veterinary medicine within the state without a license: (7) Any student who engages in clinical practice under supervision of a licensed or otherwise authorized veterinarian in a school of veterinary medicine in this state registered by the department.”

NYSVMS board counsel notes that the above section has been interpreted by the State Education Department (SED) to provide that students enrolled in an approved veterinary technology program may engage in clinical practice for the specific period of their academic training which is conducted at a veterinary hospital (the clinical practicum), normally a 2-6 week course.

Enrollment in an approved veterinary technology program does not entitle a student to practice the profession beyond that specific part of the curriculum. Approval of alternative learning courses in veterinary technology will not, under current SED guidelines, permit a person to practice veterinary technology beyond the standard time period devoted to clinical training.

Students in an AVMA-accredited program may perform tasks reserved for veterinary technicians (see below) when their activities in the veterinary practice are part of the practical component of their veterinary technology education.

Veterinarians who employ students enrolled in a long-distance learning program are encouraged to request a letter from the program director listing what functions and when the student must perform them as part of the curriculum. Such a letter should also state that the successful performance of these functions is required in order to graduate.

The veterinarian is responsible for all tasks delegated to non-veterinarians in the practice. It is considered professional misconduct for a veterinarian to delegate any activity to someone who is not qualified by experience or education to perform it properly.

The NYS Education Department website for licensing information is <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/vetmed/vtlic.htm>

The website for the NYS Association of Veterinary Technicians is at <http://www.nysavt.org/> and the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America is at www.navta.net/

8 NYCRR - Subpart 62 Veterinary Medicine

Regulations of the Commissioner

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/vetmed/part62.htm>

§ 62.7 Practice of veterinary technology

(a) Functions. The functions of a veterinary technician may include, but shall not be limited to:

- (1) collecting of appropriate specimens and performing laboratory procedures in clinical pathology and histopathology;
- (2) exposing radiographic film;
- (3) preparing and administering medications on medical orders of the supervising veterinarian;
- (4) assisting in medical procedures;
- (5) inducing and maintaining anesthesia under the onsite supervision of the licensed veterinarian; and
- (6) assisting in surgical procedures in the physical presence of the licensed veterinarian.

(b) Supervision. The functions of a veterinary technician shall be performed pursuant to the direction and under the general supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Such general supervision shall not be construed to require the physical presence of the supervising veterinarian at the time and place where such services are performed except as required by this Part.