

## What is Veterinary Technology?

Veterinary Technology is the study of becoming a Veterinary Technician. Their function is primarily as professional assistants to Veterinarians, biomedical researchers, and other scientists, and are an integral part of the veterinary health care team. These individuals must possess a unique combination of knowledge and skill involving basic science, animals, and people. As the complexity of veterinary medicine increases, and as the public demand for state-of-the-art care for their animals increases, the veterinary technician will play an increasing role in the delivery of excellent health care for animals.

The greatest demand for veterinary technicians is in private veterinary practices working along side the veterinarian caring for companion animals. However, the demand for veterinary technicians in other fields is rapidly growing and opportunities exist in many areas including teaching, pharmaceutical sales, military, humane societies, livestock production, equine practice, biomedical research, diagnostic laboratories, zoo/wildlife medicine, veterinary supply sales, public health organizations, and the pet food industry.

The responsibilities assigned to Veterinary Technicians varies and is regulated by a State Board of Veterinary Medicine or other appropriate agencies. In Colorado, the governing body is the Colorado Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians (CACVT).



Further information about school programs and the veterinary technician field in general can be obtained from:

### **Colorado Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians (CACVT)**

191 Yuma Street  
Denver, CO 80223  
Phone: 303-318-0652  
Toll Free: 866-318-0652  
Fax: 303-318-0651  
E-mail: [info@cacvt.com](mailto:info@cacvt.com)  
[www.cacvt.com](http://www.cacvt.com)

### **American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)**

1931 No. Meacham Rd., Ste. 100  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-4360  
[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

### **National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA)**

P.O. Box 224  
Battle Ground, Indiana 47920  
765-742-2216  
[navta@navta.net](mailto:navta@navta.net)  
[www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)

**Colorado Association  
of Certified Veterinary  
Technicians**

## What is Veterinary Technology?



*Supporting Quality  
Veterinary Care*

## What is a Veterinary Technician?

Veterinary technicians are specifically trained professionals who work as an integral part of the veterinary medical team, to provide humane & quality animal health care. While there are many aspects to the field, the major duties include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Restraint and handling of animals
- ◆ Animal husbandry
- ◆ Assist in surgical procedures
- ◆ Sterile preparation of the surgical patient and instruments used
- ◆ Administer anesthetics and patient monitoring
- ◆ Emergency, intensive, & basic nursing care
- ◆ Perform diagnostic laboratory procedures - such as hematology, blood chemistry, fecal analysis, urinalysis, etc.
- ◆ Administer medications & treatments as prescribe by a veterinarian
- ◆ Radiology - taking & processing x-rays
- ◆ Clinical pathology & cytology
- ◆ Dentistry
- ◆ Nutritional management
- ◆ Public education
- ◆ Client relations
- ◆ Possible business management

## What is the difference between a Veterinary Technician and a Veterinary Assistant?

The Veterinary Technician usually has training from a program in Veterinary Technology (2 or 4 year degree) where the Veterinary Assistant is either trained through an assistant program or on-the-job. The assistant's job is to assist the Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician. Ultimately, in Colorado, job descriptions are defined by the Veterinarian.

## What are the requirements for certification as a veterinary technician in Colorado?

- ◆ Graduation from an AVMA-accredited program in veterinary technology.
- ◆ Passing the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE).
- ◆ Certification through CACVT.
- ◆ Minimum of 16 Continuing Education hours every 2 years.

There are different requirements for other states. Contact the state directly.

## AVMA-Accredited Programs in Colorado

Those interested in a career in Veterinary Technology should inquire into schools and acquire experience working with animals. While there are over 130 programs in the United States, there are five programs here in Colorado (listed in alphabetical order).

- ◆ **Bel-Rea Institute**, Denver  
303-751-8700 or 800-950-8001  
[www.Bel-Rea.com](http://www.Bel-Rea.com)
- ◆ **Colorado Academy of Veterinary Technology**, Colorado Springs\*  
(\*in process of obtaining AVMA accreditation)  
719-432-6384  
[www.coloradovettech.com](http://www.coloradovettech.com)
- ◆ **Colorado Mountain College (CMC)**, Glenwood Springs  
970-947-8210, [www.coloradomtn.edu](http://www.coloradomtn.edu)
- ◆ **Community College of Denver (CCD)**, Denver  
303-365-8374  
[www.ccd.rightchoice.org](http://www.ccd.rightchoice.org)
- ◆ **Front Range Community College (FRCC)** Larimer Campus, Fort Collins  
970-204-8670, [www.frontrange.edu](http://www.frontrange.edu)

There are also several distance learning programs in the United States. Visit the AVMA Web site for specific programs.

