
Under the direct, on-the-premises supervision of a licensed veterinarian who shall be responsible for such person's performance, a veterinary technician may:

- Administer preanesthetic agents
- Induce anesthesia
- Perform dental prophylaxis
- Assist in surgical procedures
- Perform euthanasia
- Apply splints
- Perform teeth floatation
- Perform artificial insemination
- Place nasal esophageal tubes
- Give vaccinations, including rabies
- Place intravenous catheters
- Place urinary catheter
- Pass stomach tube orally
- Perform bovine embryo transfer
- Obtain laboratory samples
- Record ultrasound (print or digital)
- Apply bandages
- Administer treatments
- Administer parenteral fluids
- Take radiographs
- Collect blood
- Collect urine
- Perform cystocentesis
- Insert microchips

Technicians with appropriate training are frequently utilized in the practice to:

- Perform laboratory tests
- Take EKG, pulse ox, blood pressure
- Explain medications, surgical procedures
- Explain estimates, charges, and fees
- Release patients and explain instructions
- Handle client call backs, post-op calls
- Oversee product sales
- Instruct on nutrition and animal care
- Provide grief counseling
- Provide behavior counseling

**Colorado Association
of Certified Veterinary Technicians**

191 Yuma Street
Denver, Colorado 80223
303.318.0652 • fax 303.318.0651
info@cacvt.com • www.cacvt.com

Colorado Veterinary Medical Association

191 Yuma Street
Denver, Colorado 80223
303.318.0447 • fax 303.318.0450
info@colovma.org • www.colovma.org

What's Your Responsibility?

*Defining the Roles and Responsibilities
of Veterinary Technicians*



Colorado Veterinary
Medical Association

To ensure the proper utilization of certified veterinary technicians throughout the state, the Colorado Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians (CACVT) and Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) have created this brochure to outline suitable activities and procedures. This effort will help reduce ambiguities, delineate inappropriate activities by veterinary technicians, and protect veterinary technicians from requests for improper activities.

In Colorado, certified veterinary technicians are defined as graduates of an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited school in veterinary technology who have successfully passed the Veterinary National Technician Exam administered by the CACVT, or veterinary technicians from other states who meet CACVT transfer requirements. Continuing education is required to maintain certification.

*Approved by the State of Colorado
Board of Veterinary Medicine in May 2001;
revised, May 2006.*

The licensed veterinarian has a responsibility to the client in the following respects:

- To personally examine the animal before the technician carries out a procedure.
- To direct and supervise veterinary technicians in their work.
- To authorize or allow the veterinary technician to perform only such work the veterinarian knows the technician is capable of performing satisfactorily and which is authorized by Colorado law.
- To direct and supervise veterinary technicians in the performance of their work in accordance with acceptable veterinary medicine methods and standards.



The veterinary technician has a responsibility to the patient, client and veterinarian in the following respects:

- To undertake only what the veterinarian authorizes or directs.
- To perform work only in the manner directed by the veterinarian.
- To employ his or her best care and skill in performing all work.
- To carry out only those duties that the technician is capable of performing satisfactorily and that are authorized by Colorado law.

Nothing shall be construed to permit a veterinary technician to do the following:

- Make any diagnoses or prognoses.
 - Prescribe any treatments or medications.
 - Initiate any treatments.
 - Perform any surgery, including dental extractions, spay/neuter procedures or feline declaw procedures.
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