

Press Release

New Surgical Technician Specialty

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To: NAVTA@yahoogroups.com

We are pleased to announce a new specialty, the Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians. The Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians (AVST) will create a standardized route through which technicians may qualify for a national examination to become a Veterinary Technician Specialist, or VTS (Surgery). A 2009 survey of veterinary professionals indicated the need for technicians with advanced knowledge in many areas related to surgery.

"As veterinary knowledge and skills have expanded, so has the need for trained technical support," said Teri Raffel, Secretary of the AVST. "Veterinary technicians play an integral role in the care of perioperative veterinary patients," added Heidi Reuss-Lamky, President of the AVST. "Veterinary technicians must not only understand sophisticated soft tissue and orthopedic surgical procedures, but also must possess advanced knowledge in areas such as anatomy and physiology, equipment/instrument care and maintenance, principles of asepsis, wound management, and diagnostic imaging techniques. Furthermore, surgical patients often require postoperative support such as coaptation or rehabilitation. A highly skilled technical staff assures that perioperative surgical patients receive a level of care commensurate to the surgical procedure performed."

The Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians encourages experienced surgical technicians to enhance their education and training by pursuing a surgical specialty. Veterinary technicians interested in learning the specific criteria involved in pursuing a surgical technician specialty should contact Teri Raffel at raffelteri@gmail.com or Heidi Reuss-Lamky at frzbdogmom@aol.com.

For more information on specialties, visit www.navta.net