

Chapter 01: Introduction to Veterinary Technology: Its Laws and Ethics

Bassett: McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians, 9th Edition

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. NAVTA stands for
 - a. National Association of Veterinarian Technical Academy
 - b. North American Veterinary Technology Association
 - c. National Association of Veterinary Technicians of America
 - d. North American Veterinary Technician Association

ANS: C

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians of America is NAVTA.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 4 TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous
MSC: CVTEA Skill and Task: Office And Hospital Procedures, Client Relations, and Communication: Management: Participate in facility management utilizing traditional and electronic media and appropriate veterinary medical terminology and abbreviations. | Recognize roles of appropriate regulatory agencies

2. Presently in the field of veterinary technology which is **not true**?
 - a. Salaries vary depending on the field of interest and the level of experience.
 - b. Widespread shortages of veterinary technicians have been reported.
 - c. In 2015, the average salary for veterinary technicians nationwide was \$33,280 per year or \$16.00 per hour.
 - d. Technicians working in metropolitan areas earn less, on average, than those working in rural areas.

ANS: D

Presently, widespread shortages of veterinary technicians have been reported, and graduates of veterinary technology programs are finding ample job opportunities. Although job opportunities are plenty, salaries vary depending on the field of interest and the level of experience. For example, in 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the average salary for veterinary technicians nationwide was \$33,280 per year or \$16.00 per hour. However, level of experience, location of work, and field of interest have an impact on income potential. Technicians working in metropolitan areas earn more, on average, than those working in rural areas.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 4 TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous
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3. A *controlled substance* is a drug or chemical
 - a. not used in veterinary medicine.
 - b. whose manufacture, possession, or use is regulated by government.
 - c. that is categorized into specific classes or schedules based on their cost.
 - d. that can be prescribed by veterinary technicians.

ANS: B

A *controlled substance* is a drug or chemical whose manufacture, possession, or use is regulated by government. In veterinary medicine, controlled substances are used on a daily basis. Federal and state legislation, such as the federal and state controlled substance acts, establish limitations and guidelines for the possession, use, storage, exportation, and production of specific drugs. Controlled drugs are categorized into specific classes or schedules based on the drugs' capacity for addiction. In the United States, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has been empowered by Congress to enforce federal regulation of controlled substances. Controlled substance log books, used in many veterinary practices, are required by governmental regulatory agencies and legislation to document the distribution and use of controlled substances. State controlled substance acts frequently apply to all drugs and devices, not just those drugs that are on the state or Federal Controlled Substances lists. Veterinarians may only prescribe drugs for their animal patients, with whom they have a veterinarian-client-patient relationship. They may not prescribe (or dispense from their own pharmacy) drugs for themselves or others. No state permits veterinary technicians to prescribe drugs.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 34 TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous
MSC: CVTEA Skill and Task: Pharmacy and Pharmacology: Administration: Safely and effectively administer prescribed drugs to patients. | Demonstrate understanding of controlled substance regulations

4. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA)
 - a. requires that minimum standards-of-care and treatment be provided for all warm-blooded animals.
 - b. excludes mice, rats, or birds, which represent approximately 90% of animals used in research and higher education.
 - c. excludes animals transported commercially, as well as those exhibited to the public.
 - d. is an International law.

ANS: B

In the United States, the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires that minimum standards-of-care and treatment be provided for [most] some warm-blooded animals bred for commercial sale, used in research and higher education, transported commercially, and exhibited to the public. The AWA does not apply to mice, rats, or birds, which represent approximately 90% of animals used in research and higher education.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 35 TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous
MSC: CVTEA Skill and Task: Office And Hospital Procedures, Client Relations, and Communication: Management: Participate in facility management utilizing traditional and electronic media and appropriate veterinary medical terminology and abbreviations. | Recognize roles of appropriate regulatory agencies

5. Because the practice of veterinary technology is regulated by each state or province which of the following is **incorrect**?
 - a. One state may issue a license, whereas another may issue a certificate.
 - b. Granting of a license by a state board implies that the board has reviewed and approved the qualifications of the individual to practice.
 - c. Granting of a certificate implies that an entity other than a state board has reviewed and approved the qualifications of the individual to practice, and has certified that the person is competent to practice.

- d. Once certified a technician does not need to check with the state's board before beginning practice to ensure that he or she has obtained the proper authorization to practice.

ANS: D

Because the practice of veterinary technology is regulated by each state or province, some variety is noted in the terminology used to designate an individual whom the board has authorized to practice. This variety can be confusing because one state may issue a license, whereas another may issue a certificate. Granting of a license by a state board implies that the board has reviewed and approved the qualifications of the individual to practice. Granting of a certificate implies that some other entity has reviewed and approved the qualifications of the individual to practice, and has certified that the person is competent to practice. Some states issue a license but call a technician certified (e.g., in Pennsylvania, technicians' qualifications are reviewed by the board, and the board issues a license bestowing the title *Certified Veterinary Technician*). Some jurisdictions "register" rather than license technicians. The term *registered* implies that neither the board nor an independent entity has reviewed and approved the qualifications of the technician to practice; however, to lawfully practice veterinary technology, the individual must register and provide information to the board. Some boards that refer to registration actually do review and approve the qualifications of technicians. A technician should check with the state's board before beginning practice to ensure that he or she has obtained the proper authorization to practice.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 26 TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous
MSC: CVTEA Skill and Task: Office And Hospital Procedures, Client Relations, and Communication: Management: Participate in facility management utilizing traditional and electronic media and appropriate veterinary medical terminology and abbreviations. | Recognize roles of appropriate regulatory agencies

6. If a veterinary technician violates the state's practice act or regulations of the profession's governing body, the penalty can include
- loss of licensure, monetary penalties (fines), or other discipline.
 - no punishment since veterinary technicians are not covered by practice acts.
 - those outlined in a standard practice act adopted by every state.
 - none of the above are correct.

ANS: A

If a veterinary technician violates the state's practice act or regulations of the profession's governing body, the penalty can include loss of licensure, monetary penalties (fines), or other discipline, such as additional continuing education courses. Because practice acts vary from one jurisdiction to another, every veterinary technician must be sure to understand the laws that govern the practice of veterinary technology in the state or province in which the technician plans to practice.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 24 TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous
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7. NAVTA model rules and regulations for veterinary technicians include three levels of supervision. Of those levels, which of the following is correct?

- a. Immediate supervision—A licensed veterinarian is within direct eyesight and hearing range.
- b. Direct supervision—A licensed veterinarian is on the premises and is readily available.
- c. Indirect supervision—A licensed veterinarian is not on the premises but is able to perform the duties of a licensed veterinarian by maintaining direct communication.
- d. All of the above are correct.

ANS: D

NAVTA model rules and regulations for veterinary technicians include three levels of supervision defined as follows: Immediate supervision—A licensed veterinarian is within direct eyesight and hearing range. Direct supervision—A licensed veterinarian is on the premises and is readily available. Indirect supervision—A licensed veterinarian is not on the premises but is able to perform the duties of a licensed veterinarian by maintaining direct communication.

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- 8. In some states veterinary technicians can extract teeth, whereas in other states this is considered surgery and cannot be performed by a veterinary technician. In order to determine if this is a task that you can perform in your state you should
 - a. ask your supervisor.
 - b. know that veterinary technicians can perform any task they were taught in school.
 - c. consult your state practice act.
 - d. never extract teeth during a dental cleaning.

ANS: C

One such area that has recently undergone intense scrutiny by licensing boards nationwide is the appropriate scope of practice for technicians performing dental procedures. States range from permitting technicians to perform only cleaning and polishing without subgingival scaling to permitting technicians to perform certain types of extractions. Massachusetts permits a veterinary technician to clean and polish teeth under direct veterinary supervision. Georgia permits a veterinary technician who is under the direct supervision of a veterinarian to remove calculus, soft deposits, polish stains, and smooth and file teeth, and to perform dental extractions that do not require sectioning of the tooth or resecting of bone.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 31 TOP: VTNE Domain: Dentistry
 MSC: CVTEA Skill and Task: Office And Hospital Procedures, Client Relations, and Communication: Management: Participate in facility management utilizing traditional and electronic media and appropriate veterinary medical terminology and abbreviations. | Recognize roles of appropriate regulatory agencies

- 9. Which of the following is not yet a NAVTA-recognized area of specialty for veterinary technicians?
 - a. Veterinary Technician Anesthetists
 - b. Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians
 - c. Oncology Medicine for Veterinary Technicians

d. Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians

ANS: C

NAVTA recognized areas of specialty for veterinary technicians are as follows:

Veterinary Dental Technicians

Veterinary Technician Anesthetists

Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians

Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians

Veterinary Behavior Technicians

Veterinary Zoological Medicine Technicians

Equine Veterinary Nursing Technicians

Veterinary Surgical Technicians

Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice

Veterinary Nutrition Technicians

Veterinary Clinical Pathology Technicians

Dermatology Veterinary Technicians

PTS: 1

REF: p. 14

TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous

MSC: CVTEA Skill and Task: Office And Hospital Procedures, Client Relations, and Communication: Management: Participate in facility management utilizing traditional and electronic media and appropriate veterinary medical terminology and abbreviations. | Recognize roles of appropriate regulatory agencies

10. College programs designed to train veterinary technicians are accredited by
- The USDA.
 - The FDA.
 - The AVMA and the CVMA.
 - The AALAS.

ANS: C

In the U.S. and Canada, college programs designed to train veterinary technicians are accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), respectfully.

PTS: 1

REF: p. 4

TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous

MSC: CVTEA Skill and Task: Miscellaneous

11. The current rate of attrition from the field of veterinary technology
- is very low.
 - is very high.
 - is not a problem because many people want to be trained.
 - cannot be explained.

ANS: B

The profession of veterinary technology has a high rate of attrition.

PTS: 1

REF: p. 5

TOP: VTNE Domain: Miscellaneous

MSC: CVTEA Skill and Task: Miscellaneous

12. Upon graduation from a Veterinary Technology program, students must take and pass the VTNE. Which of the following statements regarding the VTNE is the most accurate?