



September 23, 2022

Dr. Julia Wilson, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine
335 Randolph Ave, Suite 215
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Dr. Wilson,

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) is the association of veterinary medicine regulatory boards whose membership includes licensing bodies in 62 jurisdictions, including all the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Island, and nine Canadian provinces: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan.

The mission of the AAVSB is to support and advance the regulatory process for veterinary medicine while valuing protection of the public.

Regulators ensure that those engaging in the practice of veterinary technology meet a minimum level of competence through recognized educational programs and successful completion of an examination.

As owner and administrator of the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), the AAVSB primary objectives of the VTNE program are to provide examination services to state and provincial Boards charged with the credentialing of veterinary technicians; to assist the regulatory Boards in their mission of protecting the public by ensuring that veterinary technicians demonstrate a specified level of knowledge and skills before entering veterinary technician practice; to assess the professional competency of veterinary technicians in terms of their qualifications to enter practice; to contribute to the veterinary technology profession through the development of improved definitions of the relationship between knowledge and professional practice; and to provide a common standard in the evaluation of candidates that will be comparable from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and thereby facilitate interstate/interprovincial licensing reciprocity for practicing veterinary technicians.

To ensure continuous quality of the VTNE program, and in keeping with the AAVSB's strategic priorities, in 2010, the AAVSB Board of Directors approved the policy regarding eligibility to sit for the VTNE requiring a candidate be a graduate of a veterinary technology program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

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(CVMA) or a program approved by the regulatory board of the jurisdiction where the examination is given.

Regulation of veterinary technicians is critical to ensure an increase in educated professionals, reduction of potential harm to patients, reduction of risk to brand, image and reputation of the veterinary clinic, reduction of litigation risk to veterinary clinic/veterinary licensee, increase in public safety, increase in knowledge through proper continuing education, and increase in proper adherence to jurisdictional laws, e.g., controlled substances.

In the AAVSB Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology Practice Act Model (PAM) with Commentary utilized as a resource document for the regulatory boards, the AAVSB believes that the title “Veterinary Technician” and the practice of Veterinary Technology should be protected as a licensed profession, and this is reflected in the Act. Jurisdictions have created other titles such as veterinary assistant, or veterinary employee to define the roles of staff who may perform tasks not relegated to Veterinary Technicians.

The AAVSB Model Regulations – Scope of Practice for Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Technologists are meant to support the statutory language that can be found in the AAVSB Practice Act Model (PAM) for jurisdictions that regulate veterinary technicians and veterinary technologists.

The AAVSB strongly believes there should be uniform degrees and titles for veterinary technicians or veterinary nurses. Regardless, in all cases, jurisdictions are strongly encouraged to specify the roles of each designated title (in the rules), recognizing that all veterinary employees must be Supervised by a Veterinarian.

Licensure of veterinary technicians is key to public protection, ensuring all animals receive the high quality of health care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

James T. Penrod, CAE, FASLA
Chief Executive Officer

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