

WOW! Finally, State Recognition of Minnesota Veterinary Technicians

Dr. Al Balay, Chair, MVMA Veterinary Technician Committee

Veterinary technicians will now be included in Minnesota's Veterinary Practice Act, a feat that veterinary professionals in the state have been working toward for over 20 years. The Licensed Veterinary Technician Bill was included in a 1,430-page omnibus package approved by the Minnesota state legislature on May 19th and signed into law May 25th by Governor Tim Walz. Its passage means a licensed veterinary technician (LVT) will be regulated by the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine. A huge thank you to all the veterinarians and veterinary technicians that supported the licensure initiative!

For over forty years, the MVMA has offered a voluntary certification program for veterinary technicians, which required passing the VTNE and once the grandfather clause ended in 1990, graduating from a CVTEA-accredited program also became a requirement. However, there was no legal definition of the title so anyone could call themselves a veterinary technician, regardless if they were individuals trained on the job or those who did not pass the VTNE. Currently, veterinary technicians can only work under direct supervision (within visual or audible range) of a veterinarian, who assumes all responsibility for an employee's professional performance. Now the scope of practice will be expanded to allow remote supervision of LVT's and will also allow them to provide direct supervision of unlicensed staff members. This scope of practice will still be under the direction and delegation of tasks from a licensed veterinarian.

Now what? We expect a lot of questions and needed explanations for what happens next. Be patient as we'll all be learning together. The legislation authorizes the Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish licensure and related practice requirements for LVTs. The process is expected to take 12 to 18 months and the rules will become effective July 1, 2026. Drs. Ann Brownlee and Al Balay will represent MVMA along with Kim Horne, CVT and Sam Geiling, CVT representing MAVT to serve on a task force for the Board of Veterinary Medicine. The first meeting is scheduled for July 15th.

As we learn the details, we will be sharing this information by various media platforms including meetings and presentations as well as newsletters. We will also update the MVMA Veterinary Technician page on the [website](#), along with links to the current bill language as well.

Dr. Janet Donlin, AVMA CEO, wrote in a letter of support to the MVMA in 2022, "We support licensure for veterinary technicians to recognize their professional abilities, as well as to enhance veterinary medicine by improving the quality of patient care and providing professional accountability and public protection. Licensing these professionals will not only elevate standards of veterinary technology, but also recognize the integral part veterinary technicians already play in veterinary practices in Minnesota."

Eight states do not currently regulate veterinary technicians, though some have a voluntary credential process: Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wyoming. “We’re joining majority of states that have some type of licensing or registration for veterinary technicians, and we’re thrilled this has happened and for the State supporting us,” MVMA President, Dr. Ann Brownlee said in an article in the AVMA news on May 30th.

Dr. Al Balay and Kim Horne’s contact info is found on the MVMA veterinary technician licensure webpage. Portions of this article were from the AVMA news on May 30, 2024.