



Veterinary Technician Licensure: What We Know So Far

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**Disclaimer: Below is information that we know (per Statute), or we believe to be correct as of December 2024. Rules for veterinary technician licensure are still in the review and approval process and are subject to change. Please check back for updated information.*

Frequently Asked Questions

When does licensure of veterinary technicians start? July 1, 2026

If I am a certified veterinary technician (CVT) in Minnesota, what does that mean for me? It means the current certification process through the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) will end and all CVTs in good standing will be eligible to apply through the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) to become a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) in 2026.

If I am a non-credentialed veterinary technician or veterinary assistant, what does that mean for me? Non-credentialed veterinary technicians and assistants may be eligible to apply for licensure; see details under Eligibility & Requirements. Current technicians who are not eligible to apply for licensure or who choose not to pursue licensure will not be able to use the title Veterinary Technician after June 30, 2026.

What is title protection? Veterinary technician, vet tech, LVT and all similar titles will be protected by law, and only those licensed through the Minnesota BVM will be allowed to use those titles. For those not licensed, including current CVTs who choose not to become LVTs, the title, Veterinary Assistant, will be used. In Minnesota, "nurse" is a protected title in human medicine, so LVTs and veterinary assistants are not allowed to use the term veterinary nurse.

What tasks can LVTs do? There are no skills lists for vet techs or vet assistants. An LVT will be able to perform all tasks they currently do. In addition, LVTs can directly supervise non-licensed staff and relieve the veterinarian from needing to be in audible or visual contact with patients. Only veterinarians (DVM) can diagnose, prognose, prescribe, and perform surgery. Nothing prevents non-licensed staff or research technicians from performing the duties that they have always done, and nothing prevents a DVM from hiring someone and training them on-the-job.

What ARE the differences between LVTs and veterinary assistants? There will be a few primary differences, including eligibility to use the LVT title, levels and types of supervision, continuing education requirements, and accountability to the Minnesota BVM. These are outlined below:

Eligibility & Requirements:

- CVTs in good standing through MVMA will apply to the Minnesota BVM for licensure. The CVT credential will no longer be able to be used after June 30, 2026.
- Current veterinary technician students who will graduate prior to July 1, 2026, may decide to certify with MVMA or wait until the LVT application opens through the Minnesota BVM.
- Credentialed vet techs from other states will need to apply for licensure through the Minnesota BVM, and additional documents may be required along with their application, including a [VAULT Transfer](#) from the [AAVSB](#).
- Non-credentialed veterinary team members who have worked in the veterinary career field for a minimum of 4160 hours within the last 5 years may be eligible to apply through a temporary alternative process, commonly referred to as the Grandfather Clause, without having graduated from an accredited veterinary technician program or taking the VTNE. Competency of their skill level will be attested by veterinarians via a yet to be created statement of competency. All other application requirements and continuing education requirements will be the same for those applicants applying through the temporary alternative qualification process. This option is open from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2031, and after that period every LVT must graduate from an accredited vet tech program and pass the VTNE.

ALL applicants will need to complete an open-book jurisprudence exam on the laws and rules of veterinary medicine in Minnesota and submit a criminal background check. Additionally, ALL applicants will need notarized letters of reference (Affidavits) from at least 2 veterinarians and 3 other adults who are not related to the applicant setting forth how long a time, when and under what circumstances they have known the applicant, and any other facts as may be proper to determine the qualifications for licensure. Letters of reference are considered affidavits and therefore may require a notarized signature on each letter.

Levels and Types of Supervision:

- Licensed Veterinary Technicians can directly supervise non-licensed staff and relieve the veterinarian from needing to be in audible or visual contact with patients.
- Licensed Veterinary Technicians can work remotely only under the direction of a veterinarian, for patients that have a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR). The veterinarian must be readily available via phone or other means of immediate communication.

Continuing Education:

- LVTs will need to earn ~16 hours of continuing education every two years to renew their licenses. The process of submitting CE credits will be identical to the process used by veterinarians. This includes a number of licensees receiving a random audit to demonstrate proof of attendance for all CE credits.

Accountability to the Minnesota BVM:

- LVTs do not need their own liability insurance, as their actions are the responsibility of supervising veterinarian. However, LVTs may face investigation and potential disciplinary action for any violations of law or rules or misconduct, including unsatisfactory documentation of continuing education.
- Licensed Veterinary Technicians will have access to the [MN Health Professionals Service Program](#).