

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 January 2026. Rules for veterinary technician licensure are still in the review and approval process and are subject to change. Please check back for updated information or contact the Board of Veterinary Medicine directly at 651-201-2844 or vet.med@state.mn.us.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The most recent questions that we have received are regarding the Temporary Alternative Qualifications commonly referred to as the **Grandfather Clause** (Statute Section 8, subdivision 4) and **Direct and Remote Supervision** (Statute Section 1, subdivision 5a and 10b). Please read additional information regarding these questions in the sections below **Eligibility and Requirements** and **Levels of Supervision**.

When does licensure of veterinary technicians start?

July 1, 2026

If I'm a certified veterinary technician (CVT) in MN, 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'm a non-credentialed veterinary technician or assistant, what does that mean for me?

Non-credentialed veterinary technicians and veterinary 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, veterinary technologist, 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

(DVMs) can diagnose, prognosis, 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, which are outlined below, including:

- Eligibility to apply for licensure and use the LVT title
- Continuing education requirements
- Levels and types of supervision
- Accountability to the Minnesota BVM

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

▲ CVTs in good standing: ELIGIBLE

CVTs in good standing through MVMA are eligible and will apply to the Minnesota BVM for licensure. The CVT credential will no longer be able to be used after June 30, 2026. **Current BVM expectations of required Continuing Education to apply for licensure are FIVE credits per year after the last recertification.**

▲ Current veterinary technician students: ELIGIBLE

New graduates will be eligible and should apply to the Minnesota BVM.

▲ Credentialed vet techs from other states: ELIGIBLE

Credentialed vet techs from other states are eligible and will need to apply for licensure through the Minnesota BVM. Additional documents may be required along with their application, including a [VAULT Transfer](#) from the [AAVSB](#).

▲ Non-credentialed veterinary team members: POSSIBLY ELIGIBLE

Non-credentialed veterinary team members who have worked in the veterinary career field for a minimum of 4,160 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. We realize that this is a very controversial clause, but it is CRUCIAL to appreciate that Legislators demand that every person who has been gainfully employed and working in the capacity as a veterinary technician **MUST** be given the opportunity to apply for licensure. **In other words, there MUST be a Grandfather Clause or there could not have been a successful licensure statute.** The Board of Veterinary Medicine has stated that each applicant for licensure using this clause will have their application carefully and individually evaluated. Applications using this clause may take six months for the Board's evaluation of their application.

Applicants using the grandfather clause will have their competency or skill level attested by veterinarians via Affidavit #2, which includes work hours verification and a statement of competency checklist. All other application requirements and future continuing education requirements will be the same for those applicants applying through the temporary alternative qualification process. This option is ONLY open until July 1, 2031, and after that period every LVT applicant **MUST** graduate from an accredited vet tech program and pass the VTNE. As a reminder, only those individuals who are licensed may use the term veterinary technician (see the question **What is Title Protection?**).

► Application Requirements for ALL:

All applicants will need to complete an online and open-resource jurisprudence exam on the laws and rules of veterinary medicine in Minnesota and submit a criminal background check. Board policy is to review individually any findings in the criminal background check looking at the incident and the history. Additionally, **ALL** applicants will need notarized 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. Affidavits are considered legal documents and therefore will require a notarized signature.

FUTURE LICENSE RENEWAL / CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Licenses will be issued for a two-year time frame. When it is time to renew your license, a total of 16 credits will be required (with a minimum of 12 in the medical category). Copies of CE certificates will not be submitted with your renewal; however a certain number of license renewals will be audited. If you do receive an audit, you will need to provide documentation of the continuing education credits you have received.

LEVELS AND TYPES OF SUPERVISION

As directed by the veterinarian, a licensed veterinary technician can directly supervise non-licensed employees, allowing the veterinarian to be relieved of the need to maintain audible and/or visual contact with patients.

Licensed Veterinary Technicians can work remotely only under the direction of a licensed veterinarian for patients having a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR). A veterinarian must have examined the animal patient prior to delegation of an animal health care task to a licensed veterinary technician. The LVT working remotely MUST identify themselves as a veterinary technician and provide the name of the supervising veterinarian. The veterinarian must be available by telephone or other form of immediate communication while the health care task is being performed. The licensed veterinary technician treating the animal must enter into the animal's medical record documentation of the treatment provided and the documentation is reviewed by the veterinarian.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE MINNESOTA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

A licensed veterinarian is professionally and legally responsible for any practice of veterinary medicine by the veterinarian's licensed veterinary technicians and unlicensed employees. The Board of Veterinary Medicine may take action against a licensed veterinary technician or an unlicensed employee who is found to be practicing veterinary medicine.

Licensed veterinary technicians do not need their own liability insurance as their actions are the responsibility of the supervising veterinarian. However, licensed veterinary technicians may face investigation and potential disciplinary action for any violations of the laws, rules, or misconduct, including unsatisfactory documentation of continuing education.

HPSP: Licensed veterinary technicians will have access to the [MN Health Professionals Service Program](#) (HPSP).