

Notice 2022-136

Veterinary Nurses, Technicians, and Assistants

These rules are being adopted to establish rules for veterinary nurses, veterinary technicians, and veterinary assistants. The proposed rules include definitions, testing requirements, and tasks allowed to be performed by veterinary nurses, veterinary technicians, students, and veterinary assistants.

Adopt Vet 800 to read as follows:

CHAPTER Vet 800 NON-VETERINARIANS

PART Vet 801 VETERINARY NURSES, VETERINARY TECHNICIANS, AND VETERINARY ASSISTANTS

Vet 801.01 Definitions.

(a) “Non-Veterinarian” means a veterinary nurse, a veterinary technician, or a veterinary assistant employed and is under the direction and responsibility of a licensed veterinarian and:

(b) “Veterinary nurse” or “Veterinary technician” means an individual is trained through an AVMA accredited program and assists a veterinarian with diverse medical tasks: and

(1) Is a graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited veterinary technology or veterinary nursing program;

(2) Has passed the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE); or

(3) Is credentialed by a state government or an organization acknowledged by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America as authorized to issue the credential.

(c) “Veterinary assistant” means a person who aids a veterinarian or veterinary nurse or veterinary technician in patient care who is not qualified as a credentialed veterinary nurse or veterinary technician.

Vet 801.02 Testing.

(a) Anyone who has graduated from an AVMA accredited veterinary technology or veterinary nursing program shall be eligible to take the VTNE offered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

(b) Anyone who has a bachelor’s degree with a concentration in pre-veterinary medicine and has 2 years of on-the-job training and the training has covered the tasks listed in Vet 802 and verified by a letter from a licensed supervising veterinarian shall be eligible to take the VTNE offered by the AAVSB until December 31, 2025.

(c) Anyone who has obtained 4 years of on-the-job training and the training has covered the tasks listed in Vet 802 and verified by a letter from a licensed supervising veterinarian shall be eligible to take the VTNE offered by the AAVSB until December 31, 2025.

PART Vet 802 TASKS ALLOWED TO BE PERFORMED BY A VETERINARY NURSE OR VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

Vet 802.01 Veterinary Nurse or Veterinary Technician. A veterinary nurse or veterinary technician shall be authorized to perform the following tasks under the appropriate level of supervision of a New Hampshire licensed veterinarian:

(a) Under immediate supervision the following tasks are authorized to be delegated surgical assistance as allowed by these rules;

(b) Under direct supervision the following tasks are authorized to be delegated:

(1) Induction and maintenance of anesthesia, by inhalant gas or intravenous method, including placing of endotracheal tube;

(2) Euthanasia;

(3) Administration of parenteral sedatives, including those intended as a premedication for anesthesia;

(4) Blood or blood component collection, preparation, or administration for the purpose of blood banking or transfusion;

(5) Application of bandages and splints;

(6) Dental procedures limited to the removal of calculus and plaque, polishing, and application of barrier sealants; and

(7) Central intravenous or arterial catheterization.

(c) Under indirect supervision the following tasks are authorized to be delegated:

(1) Administration and application of treatments, drugs, medications, and immunological agents by oral and parenteral routes with the exception of:

a. Intra-cardiac or epidural routes; and

b. Medications intended to induce sedation as a premedication to anesthesia;

(2) Intravenous catheterizations except central venous or arterial catheters;

(3) Initiation of parenteral fluid administration;

(4) Radiography including settings, positioning, processing, and safety procedures;

(5) Collection of blood;

(6) Collection of urine by expression, catheterization, or cystocentesis;

(7) Collection and preparation of tissue, cellular or microbiological samples by skin scrapings, impressions, or other non-surgical methods;

(8) Tonometry;

(9) Routine laboratory test procedures;

(10) Handling of biohazardous waste material; and (11) Measurement of blood pressure.

(d) Other services which a veterinary nurse or veterinary technician is competent to perform as directed by the employing veterinarian based on the technician's skill level and at a minimum indirect supervision unless those services are prohibited by Vet rules or RSA 332-B.

(e) Under conditions of emergency, a veterinary nurse or veterinary technician may render the following life-saving aid and treatment:

(1) Without a direct order from a licensed veterinarian:

- a. Application of a tourniquet or pressure bandage to control hemorrhage;
- b. Resuscitative procedures not to include administration of drugs or defibrillation;
- c. Application of splints, wound dressings, or bandages to prevent further damage of or to bones or soft tissue;
- d. Peripheral intravenous catheterization; and
- e. Oxygen therapy.

(2) After a direct order from a licensed veterinarian the administration of pharmacological agents or parenteral fluids.

(f) No veterinary nurse or veterinary technician shall:

(1) Make any diagnosis or prognosis;

(2) Prescribe any treatments, drugs, medications, or appliances; or (3) Perform surgery.

PART Vet 803 STUDENTS

Vet 803.01 Students in a Veterinary Technician Program. A person who is a student in an AVMA accredited veterinary technology program or a post-secondary pre-veterinary program shall be allowed to perform the tasks described in Vet 802.01 while working under the direct supervision of a credentialed veterinary nurse or veterinary technician assuming the appropriate level of veterinary supervision as outlined in Vet 802.

PART Vet 804 VETERINARY ASSISTANTS

Vet 804.01 Tasks Allowed to be Performed by Veterinary Assistants. On order of the supervising licensed veterinarian as appropriate to level of individual skill as determined by the licensed veterinarian, a veterinary assistant, at a minimum of indirect supervision, may:

(a) Monitor anesthesia under immediate supervision;

(b) Obtain and prepare blood samples;

(c) Perform laboratory services for which an assistant has been trained and conducts under a minimum of indirect supervision;

(d) Administer oral medication, subcutaneous injections, and fluids, except those intended to induce sedation prior to anesthesia which shall only be administered under immediate supervision;

(e) Connect and disconnect intravenous fluids; and (f) Restrain the animal.

