



## AABP GUIDELINE FOR CREDENTIALLED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN BOVINE PRACTICE

The AABP supports credentialed veterinary technicians (CVT) in bovine practice. The recommendations in this guideline are intended to provide guidance on how veterinarians can broaden the delegation of tasks to credentialed veterinary technicians in bovine practice. The licensed supervising veterinarian must have a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR), as defined by applicable state, provincial or federal statutes. The supervising veterinarian and credentialed veterinary technician must follow the applicable state, provincial and federal rules and regulations. The veterinarian responsible for the supervision of the technician must ensure proper training and oversight, and the credentialed veterinary technician agrees to follow the protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) from the supervising veterinarian.

### DEFINITIONS

Supervision means the licensed veterinarian assumes responsibility for the veterinary care delivered by the credentialed veterinary technician working under their direction.

Direct supervision means the licensed veterinarian is readily available on the premises where the patient is located or procedures are being performed.

Indirect supervision means the licensed veterinarian need not be on the premises where the patient is located or procedures are being performed, and must be available through electronic or other methods of communication.

Veterinary technology is the science and art of providing professional support to veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA CVTEA<sup>®</sup>), or equivalent accreditation organizations outside of the United States, accredits programs in veterinary technology that graduate veterinary technicians and/or veterinary technologists.

A credentialed veterinary technician has received a veterinary technician or technology degree from an accredited school, passes the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE), and/or is licensed by their state or province, and receives continuing

education to renew their license on the required basis. The definitions of a credentialed veterinary technician and technologist are as follows:

- A veterinary technician is a graduate of an AVMA CVTEA-accredited or Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)-accredited program in veterinary technology. In most cases, the graduate is granted an associate degree or certificate.
- A veterinary technologist is a graduate of an AVMA CVTEA- or CVMA-accredited program in veterinary technology that grants a baccalaureate degree.

A Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) is a veterinary technician or veterinary technologist who has completed a formal process of education, training, experience and testing through a specialty academy approved by the Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America.

Generic terms such as “veterinary assistant” are sometimes used for individuals where training, knowledge and skills are less than that required for identification as a veterinary technician or veterinary technologist. The term veterinary technician should not be used to describe a veterinary assistant.



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**TASK LIST**

Task/Procedure	Supervision Level
<b>ANESTHESIA</b>	
General anesthesia induction, intubation, maintenance	CVT Direct Supervision
Administer epidural	CVT Indirect Supervision
Administer local anesthesia	CVT Indirect Supervision
Administer IV regional anesthesia	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform nerve blocks	CVT Indirect Supervision
Sedate/tranquilize using controlled drugs	CVT Indirect Supervision
Sedate/tranquilize using non-controlled drugs	CVT Indirect Supervision
<b>DIAGNOSTIC SAMPLING/LABORATORY</b>	
Diagnose	Veterinarian only
Pericardiocentesis	Veterinarian only
Abdominocentesis	CVT Direct Supervision
Rumenocentesis	CVT Direct Supervision
Calf feeding time audit, cleanliness assessment including ATP swabbing or sample collections	CVT Indirect Supervision
Check pulsators in milking parlor	CVT Indirect Supervision
Collect blood for diagnostics	CVT Indirect Supervision
Collect milk for diagnostics	CVT Indirect Supervision
Collect urine (free catch) or feces for diagnostics	CVT Indirect Supervision
Collection and preparation of tissue, cellular or microbiologic samples by scrapings, impressions or non-surgical methods	CVT Indirect Supervision
Fine needle aspirate of peripheral lymph nodes, subcutaneous or dermal masses	CVT Indirect Supervision
Needle aspirate of abscess/seroma/hematoma	CVT Indirect Supervision
Oral/dental exam for aging cattle	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform carcass prosection and/or digital image capture and/or tissue collection	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform full NMC milking system analysis	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform laboratory procedures (ex: blood testing, slide prep and evaluation, counts, outside lag submission preparation)	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform ocular diagnostic tests—tonometry, Schirmer tear test, fluorescein staining	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform radiographic diagnostic imaging	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform/collect diagnostic imaging via ultrasound for veterinary interpretation	CVT Indirect Supervision
<b>EXAMINATION</b>	
Perform physical exam and collect vital signs	CVT Indirect Supervision
<b>LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b>	
Administer vaccines	CVT Indirect Supervision
Castration by banding	CVT Indirect Supervision
Castration by cutting	CVT Indirect Supervision
Dehorning on animals when horns are attached to the skull (using Barnes/Keystone, etc.) dehorner	CVT Indirect Supervision
Disbudding calves prior to horn attachment to skull by applying caustic paste or cautery iron	CVT Indirect Supervision
Recommend changes to milking routine including cow prep	CVT Indirect Supervision
Rectal prolapse repair	CVT Indirect Supervision
Remove supernumerary teats	CVT Indirect Supervision

*TASK LIST continued on page 3*



## AABP GUIDELINE FOR CREDENTIALLED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS IN BOVINE PRACTICE

TASK LIST continued from page 2

### REPRODUCTION

Collect Embryos non-surgically	Veterinarian only
Ovum pickup	Veterinarian only
Perform bull breeding soundness exam	Veterinarian only
Repair/replace preputial prolapse	Veterinarian only
Replace uterine prolapse	Veterinarian only
Transfer/implant fresh or frozen embryos non-surgically	Veterinarian only
Embryo and oocyte processing including searching, staging, grading, loading, cryopreservation	CVT Indirect Supervision
Enroll animals in timed artificial insemination protocol and administer hormone injections	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform artificial insemination	CVT Indirect Supervision
Replace vaginal prolapse and place pursestring or Buhner stitch	CVT Indirect Supervision

### SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Cosmetic surgical dehorning	Veterinarian only
Perform surgery	Veterinarian only
Any task or procedure that requires an animal to be under general anesthesia	CVT Direct Supervision
Suture surgical skin incisions	CVT Direct Supervision
Prepare surgical site using aseptic technique	CVT Indirect Supervision
Removal of sutures, drains and staples	CVT Indirect Supervision

### TREATMENT

**NOTE: All treatments administered by a CVT must utilize and follow farm-specific protocols provided by the supervising veterinarian including use of DEA-controlled drugs or extralabel drug use.**

Acute laceration or wound repair	Veterinarian only
Intra-articular drug administration	Veterinarian only
Joint flush	Veterinarian only
Prescribe	Veterinarian only
Prognose	Veterinarian only
Apply cast after veterinarian diagnosis	CVT Direct Supervision
Lancing abscess	CVT Direct Supervision
Placement of rumen trocar	CVT Direct Supervision
Acute and preventive hoof care	CVT Indirect Supervision
Administer euthanasia via captive bolt or gunshot	CVT Indirect Supervision
Administer fluid therapy (oral, subcutaneous, intravenous)	CVT Indirect Supervision
Administer treatments for common conditions identified in written protocols by supervising veterinarian	CVT Indirect Supervision
Apply and remove splints, bandages and wound dressings	CVT Indirect Supervision
Collect and prepare blood or blood components for transfusion	CVT Indirect Supervision
Measure and prepare medications for dispensing to clients on order of supervising veterinarian	CVT Indirect Supervision
Perform physical therapy (hydrotherapy, post-operative care, orthopedic, neurologic)	CVT Indirect Supervision
Place and maintain intravenous catheter	CVT Indirect Supervision
Provide post-operative care	CVT Indirect Supervision
Wound aftercare after initial treatment and diagnosis by veterinarian	CVT Indirect Supervision

### RECORDS

Complete and maintain controlled drug log	CVT Indirect Supervision
Enter information and maintain medical/health records	CVT Indirect Supervision
Enter information on Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, Veterinary Feed Directive, or Brucellosis vaccination form	CVT Indirect Supervision
Obtain history	CVT Indirect Supervision
Take drug inventories, order and stock drugs on farms (requires prescription to be issued by veterinarian of record)	CVT Indirect Supervision
Weigh calves to determine growth rates	CVT Indirect Supervision

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOVINE PRACTITIONERS

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