

What's new with MAVT's Practice Act initiative?

Does everyone understand what the Practice Act is? Every state has a law that very specifically describes how that state will practice veterinary medicine. For example: Only veterinarians can diagnose & prognose animal diseases, perform surgery, and prescribe medications. In MN Practice Act – the only people that are currently defined are veterinarians.

What is MAVT trying to accomplish? We would like to add some definitions to the practice act, such as: Veterinary Technician, Veterinary Technician Specialist, Veterinary Assistant, Practice of Veterinary Technology and Types of Supervision.

The reason we are doing this is for public health, and the safety and wellbeing of the people and animals in Minnesota

What's the latest?

MVMA/MAVT Task Force Committee Recommendations and Suggested Definitions:

Recommendations

Grandfather Clause: Veterinary Technicians currently certified in good standing with the MVMA or a minimum of 4160 documented cumulative hours actively engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine within the last five years and a letter of recommendation stating competency from a Licensed Veterinarian who is currently associated with the individual. All individuals that meet above criteria will become eligible to become Licensed Veterinary Technicians.

Sunset Clause: Individuals have a 24-month timeframe to submit documentation.

Scope of Practice: Will fall under level of supervision.

Suggested definitions

Licensed Veterinary Technician means an individual who has graduated from a veterinary technology program that is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association or the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and who has passed the examination requirements as prescribed by the Minnesota State Board of Veterinary Medicine, shall be known as a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT).

A Veterinary Technician who is validly and currently licensed may practice veterinary technology under the provisions of this Act. Unless authorized to practice veterinary technology under this act, an individual may not practice veterinary technology nor use the title "veterinary technician" or the abbreviation "LVT".

Veterinary Assistant means an employee of a veterinarian who does not hold licensure as a veterinary technician and whom the veterinarian deems competent to administer medication or render auxiliary or supporting assistance only under direct veterinary or licensed veterinary technician supervision or immediate veterinary or licensed veterinary technician supervision.

Veterinary Technology is the science and art of providing all aspects of professional medical care and treatment for animals as determined by board regulation, under the appropriate supervision of a licensed veterinarian, with the exception of diagnosis, prognosis, surgery, and prescription.

The practice of veterinary technology is a privilege granted by legislative authority to maintain public health, safety and welfare and to protect the public.

Supervising Veterinarian means a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Minnesota and has met the requirements of a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship as defined in MN Statute §156.16 Subd 12 and assumes responsibility for the professional care given to an animal by a person working under his or her direction.

Immediate Supervision means the supervising veterinarian or LVT is in the immediate area and within audible or visual range of the animal patient and the person treating the patient.

Indirect Supervision of LVT means a veterinarian is not on the premises but is acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal by virtue of an examination of the animal or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept and has given written or oral instructions to the licensed veterinary technician for treatment of the animal patient.

It is critical that we have your help to:

- Be knowledgeable of our initiative, encourage your DVM to give their support
- Be supportive of a lenient Grandfather Clause – allowing on the job trained staff to continue working in their current role (Legislators determine what grandfather clause will be – not sure what will be required: passing exam? Written letter of recommendation by DVM?)
 - Our goal is not to divide graduate vet techs and non-graduate vet techs – but moving forward, we would like to see all staff that call themselves a Licensed Veterinary Technician mean that they have graduated from an AVMA accredited school and have taken and passed the required exams.
- Understand that with licensure, comes increased fees and accountability.
- When the time comes to submit legislation, we need everyone to contact their legislators asking for their support of the Bill – and to give examples of how you impact public safety.

If you are **NOT** supportive of this initiative – we need to know NOW!

MAVT has been working on this initiative for YEARS – and we need the membership to be informed of what is going on. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments – please contact Kim Horne at 612-624-8760 or horne003@umn.edu