

Guidelines for the Roles of Registered Veterinary Technologists, Students, and Unregistered Auxiliaries

Reference Documents:

Veterinary Profession Act

Veterinary Profession General Regulation

1. Core Principles

- Registered Veterinary Technologists (RVTs) are allowed, by legislation, to perform a number of primary animal health care tasks and veterinary practice activities. RVTs are precluded from making a diagnosis, determining a course of treatment (which includes prescribing medications), or performing any surgical procedure.
- Unregistered personnel may only perform tasks that are not generally considered to be medical procedures.
- The level of veterinary supervision required for RVTs performing various tasks is determined by the significance or risk of the procedure as well as the level of training of the RVT.
- The veterinarian is ultimately responsible for veterinary medical outcomes and animal.
- The veterinarian is responsible for verifying the competency or skill level of the employee to whom any procedure is delegated. Verification is achieved by observing and evaluating to the satisfaction of the individual registered ABVMA member.
- A veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) exists prior to delegation of any medical task. The VCPR exists by virtue of the registered veterinarian having sufficient knowledge of a person's animals by examination of the animals, and/or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept.

2. Definitions

Animal Health Technology (AHT) Student:

An individual who is enrolled in a Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) accredited program of study in animal health technology.

Employment of Students:

Employment of students, for the purposes of this document, is defined as the time when a student is working within a veterinary practice and is not receiving formal educational credit for the activity. Students may be remunerated by the practice, through government grants or other outside funding, or they may be voluntary employees (volunteers). Occasional student volunteers (i.e. for a few days) shall only be permitted to engage in activities approved for unregistered persons and to assist the RVT or veterinarian in their regular activities.

Final Year veterinary Student: A veterinary student who is enrolled in and eligible to begin the final year of a professional degree program in veterinary medicine that is accredited by the Council on Education of the American and Canadian Veterinary Medical Associations.

Non Final Year Veterinary Student:

An individual enrolled in a professional degree program in veterinary medicine that is accredited by the Council on Education of the American and Canadian Veterinary Medical Associations, at a level prior to the final year of study. A final year student in a non-accredited program leading to a professional degree in veterinary medicine is permitted to engage the same as a non-final year student in an accredited program.

Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT):

An animal health technologist (AHT) holding current active membership in good standing with the Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists (AAAHT) and registered by the ABVMA.

Entry level RVT:

An entry level RVT is a person who has graduated from a 2 year Canadian Veterinary Medical Association accredited program in animal health technology, and is registered by the ABVMA. An entry level RVT possesses the skills and knowledge expected of such a person immediately upon graduation.

Experienced Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT):

An experienced RVT is a person who has graduated from a 2 year CVMA accredited program in animal health technology, registered by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA), who possesses the skills and knowledge beyond those expected of a person immediately upon graduation.

Advanced Trained RVT:

An advanced trained RVT is a person who has completed an adjudicated specialty of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) or other program approved by the ABVMA. The credential 'Veterinary Technician Specialty' (VTS) is used to signify a specialty approved by NAVTA.

Supervising RVT:

A registered veterinary technologist who has been delegated, by a registered veterinarian, the task of supervising an animal health technologist student or unregulated auxiliary.

Supervising veterinarian:

A registered veterinarian who assumes responsibility for the professional care given to an animal by a person working under his or her direction. The supervising veterinarian must have examined the animal, in a timely manner, to assure the delegated animal health care task is in accordance with accepted veterinary medical practice.

Supervision:

"Supervision" is the degree of oversight and responsibility that veterinarians undertake when they delegate a veterinary medical procedure to a registered individual who does not possess entitlement to the entire scope of veterinary practice. The level of supervision required is determined by the skill of the

person to whom the task is delegated and the potential harm or risk to the patient, public or personnel. Supervision is identified at three levels:

Immediate:

The supervising veterinarian is in the immediate area and within audible and visual range of veterinary practice activity and the person performing the veterinary practice activity,

Direct:

The supervising veterinarian is on the premises where the veterinary practice activity is taking place and is quickly and easily available, but not necessarily within sight or hearing range,

Indirect:

The Veterinary Profession General Regulation states that the minimum level of supervision provided to technologists is *“in-person communication with the registered veterinarian who directs or controls the technologist at least once during each day that the technologist practices”*. This is interpreted to mean the supervising veterinarian is on the same premises as the supervised veterinary technologist at least once a day and during which time the supervising veterinarian has in- person communication with the supervised person. All veterinary practice activity is performed pursuant to either written or oral instructions of the veterinarian specific to the activity. The veterinarian need not be on the premises at the time the activity is undertaken.

Unregistered auxiliary:

An unregistered auxiliary is any person working within a veterinary practice entity (VPE) who is not a registered veterinary technologist (RVT) or registered veterinarian. Unregistered personnel includes receptionists, assistants and other lay personnel, whether formally or on-job trained.

Veterinarian:

A registered active Veterinarian in good standing with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA).

3. Registered Veterinary Technologists

The scope of practice that may be delegated to registered veterinary technologists is defined in the Veterinary Profession General Regulation, sec 9(2) which states:

- (2) A technologist may practice all aspects of veterinary medicine other than
 - (a) making a diagnosis
 - (b) determining a course of treatment
 - (c) applying surgical techniques

There are veterinary medical tasks within this scope of practice that, because of the education and experience of the technologist, the complexity of the procedure and risk to patient may only be delegated under a higher level of supervision or to a technologist with specific advanced education. The

Team Task List appended to this Guideline describes the tasks that may be appropriately delegated to technologists with levels of education and experience that are described as follows.

a. Entry Level RVT

New graduates from Animal Health Technology programs should be considered competent at entry-to-practice levels (immediately post-graduation). That is, they should be under immediate or direct supervision until it is clear to the responsible veterinarian or RVT that they are ready to perform the tasks outlined in the Task List at the Experienced RVT level.

b. Experienced RVT

An experienced RVT possesses the skills and knowledge beyond those expected of a person day-one on the job.

c. Advanced Trained RVT

An advanced trained RVT is a person who has completed an adjudicated specialty of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) or other program approved by the ABVMA. The credential 'Veterinary Technician Specialty' (VTS) is used to signify a specialty approved by NAVTA. These training programs provide education not covered in a general CVMA accredited program. Advanced training is required before tasks on the 'Advanced Trained RVT' task list may be delegated at the indicated level of supervision.

4. Students (Animal Health Technology, Final-year and non-Final year Veterinary students)

In all cases a registered veterinarian must assess the competency of a student before allowing them to engage in any veterinary activities.

The following guidelines apply to the employment, education or participation of Veterinary and AHT students within ABVMA certified veterinary practice entities. Students may be engaged at any time to partake in activities appropriate for any lay person, but when the students are expected to participate in veterinary medical activities, for the purposes of either delivering such services to the public or for the purposes of learning, the following guidelines must be adhered to. These guidelines do not apply to educational activities within an accredited veterinary college or AHT program in which services are not provided to the public.

- The student must be a current student member of the ABVMA before engaging in veterinary activity, regardless of whether they are engaged as an employee or volunteer.
- The certified practice must apply for permission from the Registrar to employ a student. The application must provide the employment location, program of study, educational institute, anticipated year of graduation and the name of the responsible veterinarian or veterinarians, terms of employment, and a brief outline of the duties and responsibilities the student will be required to assume.
- It is recommended that a generic statement is included on clinic consent forms that inform the animal owner that students may be involved in the treatment of their animals.
- A registered veterinarian or permit holder may charge and collect fees for the services performed by a student employed in the practice.
- A student member shall not be left in charge of a practice.
- A student member may not sign documents that require the signature of a graduate veterinarian.
A student must not be represented to the public as being a fully registered veterinarian through the use

of Dr., DVM or veterinarian.

a. Veterinary (Non-final Year) and Animal Health Technology Students:

These students may participate in veterinary medical procedures in an instructional capacity, meaning that these procedures are undertaken in concert with a fully registered veterinarian or veterinary technologist. Students of Veterinary or AHT programs (including distance learning) may receive direct instruction and experience in veterinary medical procedures through their volunteering or employment in a certified veterinary practice. No veterinary procedure may be delegated to these individuals in an independent fashion. They may:

- Perform all tasks normally delegated to an unregistered person (see Task List).
- Assist the active registered veterinary technologist (RVT) in their regular activities.
- Assist the active registered supervising Veterinarian (DVM) in their regular activities.
- Participate in medical procedures, in a learning capacity, under the direct instruction of and in concert with an RVT or registered veterinarian.
- Be instructed in all activities that an RVT may engage in (see Task List).

b. Final Year Veterinary Students from Accredited Schools:

- May practice veterinary medicine, with the consent of the Registrar of the ABVMA.
- The supervising veterinarian shall ensure that s/he reviews with the student member on a daily basis all services performed by the student.
- Direct or immediate supervision by a registered veterinarian is required for veterinary procedures restricted to registered veterinarian (i.e. making a diagnosis, determining a course of treatment (which includes prescribing medications), or performing any surgical procedure)
- Tasks normally delegated to an RVT may be performed under indirect supervision.
- A final year veterinary student must not perform a veterinary service unless the owner of the animal has given consent (written recommended) for student involvement.

5. Unregistered auxiliaries

Unregistered auxiliaries (lay personnel) do not possess ABVMA verified education, training, qualifications or skills. Programs such as Veterinary Medical Assistant, Veterinary Medical Receptionist, and Veterinary Technical Assistant provide valuable training that graduates may apply within a veterinary practice. Graduates from these programs may be of great benefit to veterinary practice, however these programs are not accredited and graduates are not eligible for registration and as such are not regulated by ABVMA. No veterinary medical tasks may be delegated to these individuals. The veterinarian remains responsible for verifying the competency and skill of all employees before delegating any animal care tasks.

6. Delegation to other specifically qualified employees not registered with the ABVMA

The Veterinary Profession Act and General Regulations provide an exclusive scope of practice of veterinary medicine to registered veterinarians. The Act also provides that veterinary medical tasks may be delegated to appropriately supervised registered veterinary technologists.

The ABVMA recognizes that it is acceptable for a veterinary practice entity to employ specifically qualified individuals as part of the health care team. The services provided by these individuals may have an important impact on animal health. While these services are commonly performed outside of a VPE, when these services are performed by an employee of the veterinary practice, the veterinarian is responsible for the outcome. Some of these services are listed within the Team Task List.

Examples of such qualified individuals might include nutritionists, dog groomers, equine farriers, cattle hoof trimmers etc. It is unacceptable for these individuals to engage in tasks that are considered the practice of veterinary medicine.

In the event a veterinarian or permit holder employs a non-registered individual for the provision of veterinary related services, the following conditions **must** be met:

- The individual is employed by the veterinarian or permit holder.
- The individual has documented unique or advanced education that the veterinarian accepts as appropriate in order to delegate the tasks.
- The area / scope of the veterinary service is related to the education.
- The informed consent of the client / animal owner is documented.
- The veterinarian must provide an appropriate level of supervision.
- The veterinarian assumes liability and remains responsible for the outcomes and overall management of the case / care of the animal(s).
- The veterinarian **must not** delegate any service that is considered a medical service performed in regards to an animal.

ABVMA TEAM APPROVED TASKS LIST

A comprehensive (but not exhaustive) list of tasks is included in the Task List that details what may be delegated to an advanced trained RVT, an experienced RVT, an entry-level RVT and unregistered auxiliaries.

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
OFFICE AND HOSPITAL PROCEDURES AND CLIENT RELATIONS				
Make appointments	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Handle telephone contacts	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Check in and release patients	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Admit and discharge patients, including taking history and communicating instructions	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Obtain informed consent	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain records, and prepare appropriate certificates for signature	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Perform basic filing of medical records, radiographs, lab reports, etc.	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain x-ray, surgery, anesthesia, and laboratory logs	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Recognize and respond appropriately to veterinary medical emergencies	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain controlled substance logs	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain basic cleanliness and orderliness of a veterinary facility (including hospital, clinic, practice, or laboratory)	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Perform basic veterinary medical record keeping procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. develop computer skills b. be able to utilize common management software programs c. be familiar with veterinary on-line services 	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Administer and maintain Biosecurity Protocols of the Veterinary Practice Entity	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
COMMUNICATION				
Communicate with clients, including responding appropriately to emergency situations	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Write business letters, reports, and client education handouts	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
NUTRITION				
Communicate basic nutritional information	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
Communicate companion animal nutritional life-stage counseling	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Communicate companion animal clinical nutritional counseling	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
PHARMACY AND PHARMACOLOGY				
Dispense products prescribed by a registered veterinarian in accordance with Council Guidelines	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform logistical services in relation to dispensing, including inventory selection, counting pills, and preparing labels, completing the sale	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Label and perform final check of prescriptions	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Communicate proper use of medications including safety, side effects, withdrawal time etc	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Calculate dosages as prescribed by veterinarian	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Manage biomedical and hazardous waste, including storage, handling and disposal	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Handle controlled substances	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Handle and dispose of biomedical sharps	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform inventory management, including receiving, storage and handling	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Prepare medications & reconstitute vaccines	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Respond to abnormal and normal responses to medication	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Use and explain appropriate routes and methods of drug and vaccine administration	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
EXAMINATION ROOM PROCEDURES				
Assess temperature, pulse and respiration for dog, cat, horse and cow	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Auscultate heart and lungs using a stethoscope	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Provide care & maintenance of treatment room equipment	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
RESTRAIN PATIENTS				
Place in, and remove small animals from cages	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Restrain small animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - apply dog safety muzzle - apply Elizabethan collar - apply restraint pole 	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Place and restrain small animals on tables	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Halter tie and lead horses and cattle	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
Restrain birds	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Restrain horses - apply twitch	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Restrain cattle - apply bovine tail restraint - apply nose tongs/leads	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Restrain sheep and swine	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Load large animals	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
PERFORM SURGICAL PREPARATIONS				
Prepare surgical equipment/supplies	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Sterilize instruments & supplies using appropriate methods	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Prepare gowns, masks, gloves and drapes	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Clip and initially prepare surgical sites	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Prepare surgical sites using aseptic techniques	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Operate & maintain autoclaves	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Provide operating room sanitation & care	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Position patients (common procedures)	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct
Place and secure IV catheters	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Open sterile pack and gown for surgery	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct
Keep operative records	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain surgical lasers	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
PERFORM AS SURGICAL ASSISTANT OR CIRCULATING NURSE				
Properly pass instruments and supplies during surgery	N/A	Immediate	Immediate	Immediate
Maintain proper operating room conduct and asepsis	N/A	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Assist with care of exposed tissues and organs	N/A	Immediate	Immediate	Immediate
Keep operative records	N/A	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Operate/maintain/suction and cautery machines	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Operate and maintain fiber optic equipment	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
PERFORM POST-SURGICAL CLEAN-UP FOR:				
Equipment	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Surgical room or area	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
Instruments	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Patient	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Personnel	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Proper disposal of surgical waste	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
ASSIST WITH ANESTHESIA UNDER SUPERVISION				
Calculate and administer pre-anesthetic medications as prescribed by the veterinarian	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Induce and maintain general anesthesia (considering species variations) using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IV anesthetics • Inhalant anesthetics • Induction • Endotracheal intubation • Properly operate anesthetic machines • In-and out-of-the circle vaporizers • Re-breathing and non-breathing Systems • Induction chambers 	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Calculate and administer injectable analgesics/ anesthetics as prescribed by the veterinarian	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Monitor the anaesthetized patient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use esophageal stethoscope • Recognize abnormal EKG and audible sounds • Monitor signs of stages & planes of anesthesia • Use monitoring equipment (Doppler, pulse oximeter, etc.) 	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Upon specific instruction from a veterinarian who is both surgeon and anesthetist (no RVT or other veterinarian on premises): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adjust oxygen or anesthetic gas level • adjust monitoring equipment • record monitoring data • adjust fluid rate 	Immediate	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Recognize anesthetic emergencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resuscitate with anesthetic antagonists • Calculate and administer anesthetic antagonists • Defibrillator use 	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Care for anesthetic machines	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
Properly scavenge waste anesthetic gas to protect staff	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform CPR	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Monitor anesthetic recovery, provide intensive postoperative care, and pain management	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
LOCAL ANESTHESIA				
Common regional blocks – companion animals	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Common regional blocks – large animals	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Epidural anesthesia – companion animals	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Epidural anesthesia – bovine animals	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Peripheral nerve stimulation: use & assessment	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
SMALL ANIMAL REHABILITATION				
Perform technical tasks related to animal rehabilitation therapy	N/A	N/A	Indirect	Indirect
Perform therapeutic class 3 and 4b laser treatments	N/A	N/A	Direct	Direct
LARGE AND SMALL ANIMAL NURSING				
Perform venipuncture for treatment or blood sampling including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cephalic (dog, cat) • Jugular (dog, cat, horse, ruminant) • Saphenous (dog) • Sublingual (dog) • Ear (swine) • Coccygeal (cow) • Anterior vena cava (pig) • Femoral (cat) 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Administer parenteral injections including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcutaneous • Intramuscular • Intradermal • Intraperitoneal • Intravenous 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Administer biological (including rabies) for domestic	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Administer biologicals to livestock	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
Place intravenous catheters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cephalic vein (small animals) • Saphenous vein (dog) • Jugular vein 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Administer and maintain fluid therapy (maintain catheter placement, determine & maintain correct flow rate)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Medicate orally by means of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dosage in food or water • balling gun (ruminant) • dose syringe (ruminant) • gastric intubation (small animal) • hand pilling (dog, cat) • gastric lavage (dog) • dose syringe (horse, pig) • oral speculum & stomach tube (ruminant) • nasogastric intubation (small animal) 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Care of bandages and splints	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Apply and remove bandages and splints	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Remove sutures or staples	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform therapeutic bathing, basic grooming, and dipping of small animals	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Provide routine record-keeping, husbandry, and observation of hospitalized patients	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Provide care and maintenance of equipment	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Feed routine and prescription diets to all animals	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Clean & disinfect cages, kennels and stalls	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Trim nails on companion animals (dog, cat and birds)	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Apply non-therapeutic equine leg & tail wraps	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Express canine and feline anal sacs	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Clean and medicate ears (dog and cat)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Administer enemas	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform thoracocentesis	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Other lines including intraosseous, arterial, central line, nasogastric tube	N/A	N/A	Direct	Direct
Collect urine sample: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • catheterize dogs, cats and large animals 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain urinary catheter 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collect voided urine sample 	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform cystocentesis (small animal) 	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Indirect
Collect and examine skin scrapings	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Apply established Emergency Protocols:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain emergency medical supplies 	Direct	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use resuscitation bag (e.g. Ambu-bag) 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply emergency splints and bandages 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Eyes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply topical medication to eye Perform fluorescein staining and Schirmer tear test Perform ocular tonometry 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Apply microchip and tattoo identification	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Administer post-operative care including hydrotherapy, orthopedic, and neurological care	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Assist with artificial insemination	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Clean sheath (horse)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Remove casts	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Provide care for recumbent patient	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain chest, tracheotomy, pharyngostomy Tubes	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Administer intra mammary treatment (mastitis therapy only)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Collect, cross-match and give blood transfusion	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Provide medical nursing care to newborns	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Clean up and prep wounds or abscesses	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Prepare mare for vaginal examination & cervical culture	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Trim hooves on ruminants and horses	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
DENTISTRY – COMPANION ANIMAL DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS				

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
Removal of plaque and calculus and other non-surgical procedures that do not result in altering the shape, structure positional location of teeth in the dental arch	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Probe measure, and chart pockets with a periodontal probe	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Grade Periodontal Disease	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Complete a dental chart	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Hand scaling using appropriate curettes and scalers	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Subgingival curettage	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Perform appropriate cleaning procedure for pockets less than 6 mm - closed root planingSubgingival curettage	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Flush pockets in the gingiva (less than 6 mm)	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Evaluate dental radiographs for diagnostic quality	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Perform dental anesthesia blocks - mental block - maxillary block - inferior alveolar (mandibular) block	N/A	N/A	Direct	Direct
Application of perioceuticals	N/A	N/A	Immediate	Direct
DENTISTRY – EQUINE				
Flotation or dressing of equine teeth (equine dentistry)	N/A	N/A	Direct	Direct
RADIOLOGY AND ULTRASOUND IMAGING				
Implement and follow recommended radiation safety measures	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Prepare and use radiographic technique charts	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Take diagnostic radiographs:				
• Use stationary and/or portable x-ray machine	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
• Use dental x-ray equipment	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
• Assist in positioning patients	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
• Position patients	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow accepted guidelines for positioning dogs for hip dysplasia evaluations 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain quality control 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform various contrast media studies (including GI series, pneumocystogram, intravenous urogram) 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Process diagnostic radiographs:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mix and maintain manual developing chemicals 	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic hand and digital processing of exposed film 	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Label, file & store film 	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete radiographic logs, reports, files and records. 	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital image management – filing, storage, retrieval and transmission 	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain imaging equipment:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean screens 	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize faulty equipment operation 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain stationary and/or portable x-ray machine 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ultrasound equipment 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain endoscopic equipment 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain dental x-ray equipment 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and use therapeutic laser equipment 	N/A	Immediate	Indirect	Indirect
PERFORM THE TASKS OF THE RADIATION QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER				
Ensure that the equipment is maintained and functioning properly	N/A	N/A	Indirect	Indirect
Ensure the equipment is used correctly by competent personnel	N/A	N/A	Indirect	Indirect
Keep records of radiation surveys	N/A	N/A	Indirect	Indirect
Keep records of equipment tests & procedures	N/A	N/A	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain personnel monitoring program	N/A	N/A	Indirect	Indirect
LABORATORY PROCEDURES				

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
Properly clean, maintain and stock laboratory area	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Prepare samples for analyses and submission	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Package laboratory samples for shipment	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Maintain laboratory equipment	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Perform Laboratory Equipment Quality Assurance	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Routine start up and shut down of laboratory equipment	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Perform quality control procedures	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Urinalysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine physical properties (e.g. colour, clarity, specific gravity) • Test chemical properties using dipstick & tablet tests • Examine and identify sediment 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
HEMATOLOGIC EVALUATIONS				
Perform CBC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haemoglobin • Hematocrit • Total protein (refractometer) • White cell count • Red cell count (PCV or electronic cell counter) • Microscopic examination of blood films: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prepare blood film and stain 2. perform leukocyte differential: normal vs. abnormal 3. perform erythrocyte morphologic evaluation, normal vs. abnormal 4. estimate platelet count 5. calculate absolute values 6. perform white blood cell correction for nucleated red cells 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform reticulocyte count	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform platelet count (automated cell counter)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Calculate haematologic indices	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
Identify blood parasites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirofilaria sp/Dipetalonema sp – direct, Knots, filter, antigen kit • Haemobartonella sp 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform blood chemistry tests (BUN, glucose, common enzymes)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Collect and prepare serum sample and perform serologic tests (ELIZA, slide/card agglutinations, snap tests, etc)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
PERFORM PARASITOLOGIC PROCEDURES				
Collect voided fecal sample	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect	Indirect
Test for external parasites <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare sample 2. Identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fleas - Flies - Lice - Mites - Ticks 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Test for internal parasites <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare solutions & perform faecal flotations 2. Perform faecal sedimentation 3. Perform direct smears 4. Scotch tape retrieval of pinworm ova 5. Baermann tests 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Identify common adult parasites, their ova and apply knowledge of common parasite life cycles <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nematodes 2. Trematode 3. Cestodes 4. Protozoa 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform coprologic tests	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
PERFORM MICROBIOLOGIC PROCEDURES				
Collect representative samples	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform bacteriologic procedures <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Culture bacteria & perform sensitivity test 2. Identify common animal pathogens 	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Culture and identify common dermatophytes	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Collect milk samples & conduct mastitis testing, e.g. CMT, bacterial culture	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
PERFORM CYTOLOGIC PROCEDURES				
Collect, prepare and evaluate canine vaginal smears	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Assist in collecting, preparing and appropriately evaluating transudate, exudates & cytologic specimens (joint, cerebrospinal, airway and body cavity)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform fine needle tissue aspirates and Impression smears	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Prepare and stain bone marrow specimens	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Evaluate semen smears	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
BREEDING SOUNDNESS EVALUATION				
Data collection during the physical examination portion of a breeding soundness examination of a bull, such as scrotal circumference, rectal temperature, heart and respiratory rate	N/A	Direct	Direct	Direct
Electrostimulation and semen collection during a breeding soundness examination of a bull	N/A	Direct	Direct	Direct
Routine microscopic examination and other laboratory tests on samples collected during a breeding soundness examination of a bull	N/A	Direct	Direct	Indirect
Explain timing and types of pregnancy testing	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Assist with artificial insemination (mare and cow)	N/A	Direct	Direct	Direct
Semen Collection of Stallion	N/A	Direct	Direct	Indirect
Routine microscopic examination and laboratory procedures in processing stallion semen	N/A	Direct	Direct	Indirect
NECROPSY PROCEDURES				
Perform carcass prosection	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Collect samples	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Store and ship samples according to laboratory protocols	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
EUTHANASIA AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES				
Handle disposal of dead animals	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform euthanasia procedures	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015

TASK or delegated duty	Unregistered Auxiliary	Entry-Level RVT	Experienced RVT	Advanced Trained RVT
LABORATORY ANIMAL/EXOTIC PET PROCEDURES				
Rodents, Rabbits, Avian, Exotic & Fish				
Recognize and restrain	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Determine sex	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform and/or supervise basic care procedures, e.g. feeding, watering, identification and handling	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Administer drugs or medications, using appropriate sites and routes	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Collect blood samples	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform oral dosing	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Explain common disease signs	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
File or trim teeth of rabbits & guinea pigs	N/A	Immediate	Direct	Direct
Clean & medicate ear (rabbit)	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform a physical examination	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect
Perform anaesthetic and recovery procedures	N/A	Direct	Direct	Direct
Collect appropriate body tissues or fluids from live animals and perform laboratory procedures	N/A	Direct	Indirect	Indirect

*Any task marked N/A may not be performed by that employee category

Version November 2015