

Veterinary Technical Institute's (VTI) Small Animal Technician Program Curriculum and Skills Comparison to AVMA Guidelines for a Veterinary Technician Program

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN CURRICULUM	AVMA	VTI
Office and hospital procedures, client relations, and communication	✓	✓
Handling and Restraint, Nursing, Nutrition, Imaging, Dentistry	✓	✓
Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Laboratory Procedures	✓	✓
Infectious Diseases, Parasitic Diseases, Systemic Diseases, Tumors*		✓
Surgical Nursing and Anesthesia	✓	✓
Avian and Exotic Laboratory Animal Procedures	✓	✓
Fish, Large Animal, and Laboratory Animal Procedures	✓	
VETERINARY SKILLS		
Utilize traditional and electronic technology and appropriate veterinary medical terminology	✓	✓
Communicate professionally in all formats - written, oral, non-verbal, and electronic	✓	✓
Follow and uphold applicable laws and the veterinary technology profession's ethical codes to provide high quality care to patients	✓	✓
Safely dispense and administer prescribed drugs to patients and effectively explain their use and administration to clients	✓	✓
Demonstrate and perform patient assessment techniques in a variety of animal species; provide patient handling and restraint	✓	✓
Understand the approach to providing safe and effective care for birds, reptiles, amphibians, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and ferrets	✓	✓
Understand and demonstrate husbandry, nutrition, therapeutic, and dentistry techniques appropriate to various animal species	✓	✓
Have knowledge of routine surgical procedures and related equipment, including surgeries	✓	✓
Understand and integrate all aspects of patient management, including anesthesia, for common surgical procedures	✓	✓
Properly package, handle and store laboratory specimens and carry out analysis	✓	✓
Safely and effectively produce diagnostic radiographic and non-radiographic images	✓	✓
Understand the approach to providing safe and effective care for birds, reptiles, amphibians, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and ferrets	✓	✓
Accurately and effectively communicate with the doctor, staff, and clients about: infectious diseases beyond zoonoses, parasitic diseases beyond lab testing, systematic diseases, and tumors		✓
Practice Management Software and revenue production training		✓
Safely and effectively handle common laboratory animals used in animal research	✓	

*AVMA covers only zoonoses and parasitic lab procedures.

50 – 60% of exams are comprehensive physicals performed on non-well animals. The majority of these cases require the technician to have knowledge in the disease processes afflicting the animal so that accurate and effective communication can result.

VTI's Small Animal Technician Program provides training in infectious, parasitic, and systemic diseases, including the study of tumors, which are not in the AVMA recommended curriculum.

Example: Selling Heartworm Preventative and tests (i.e. 4DX) to clients should involve discussion of the heartworm lifecycle and how testing is affected by the lifecycle. The technician should have this knowledge and be trained in how to educate clients to best support the doctor's recommendations for heartworm testing and use of heartworm preventatives. This comes from study of parasitic diseases, only typical of VTI's Small Animal Technician Program.