

The Team

Companion animals, livestock and exotic species each require specialized animal health care. A team of professionals work together to provide quality care, each person playing an important and specific role.

The Veterinarian diagnoses illness, performs surgery, and prescribes medication for their animal patients. The Veterinary Technician provides technical support for all aspects of animal care, including laboratory work, surgical support, owner contact and general animal care. Both are supported by Veterinary Assistants and administrative staff.



The Organization

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in American (NAVTA) is a nonprofit organization that represents and promotes the profession of Veterinary Technology. NAVTA provides direction, education, support and coordination for its members and students pursuing a career in the profession. Incorporated in 1981, NAVTA is the national organization devoted exclusively to developing and enhancing the profession of veterinary technology.



Veterinary Technology

A Career Dedicated to the Quality Care of Animals



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The Job

Over 50% of Veterinary Technicians work in small animal hospitals where their patients include dogs, cats, and exotic animals. The duties of a Veterinary Technician include:

- Interacting with clients and their animals
- Performing the initial physical exam
- Gathering vital information
- Providing nursing care to the sick
- Collecting samples
- Conducting laboratory tests
- Taking x-rays
- Administering anesthesia
- Assisting in surgery

Some veterinary hospitals specialize in the health and well-being of horses, cows, pigs, and sheep. Veterinary Technicians in these practices are involved with nursing care, laboratory testing, surgical procedures and general support of the Veterinarian; much like the small animal hospital ... the only difference is the size of their patients! Veterinary Assistants can help the Veterinary Technicians during treatment.



The Options

Veterinary Technicians may also work in specialty practices, assisting Veterinarians who offer specialized care in surgery, emergency and critical care, orthopedics, cardiology and many other areas. With the combination of skills and knowledge from their broad education, Veterinary Technicians are adaptable to many other unique career opportunities in:

- Industry
- Veterinary training and education
- Humane societies
- Zoo animal care
- Animal hospital management
- Biomedical research
- Military service

The Future

Veterinary Technicians work in a dynamic world of expanding technology and specialization. Opportunities are numerous and the future job market looks promising. Anyone who loves animals and science, and wants to make a difference for animal health care should consider a career as a Veterinary Technician!

The Education

New advances in anesthesia, laboratory equipment, diagnostic testing, and medical treatment have vastly improved animal care. To prepare for these responsibilities, formal education at an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited institution is necessary. Courses are taught by experienced Veterinary Technicians and Veterinarians who are keenly aware of the expectations of future employers. Most accredited programs cover two academic years of college level study and lead to an associate's of applied science or equivalent degree. Four year programs and accredited online programs are also available. Many states require the graduate to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) in order to become a credentialed Veterinary Technician.



A complete list of accredited programs is available at www.avma.org.

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