



August 3, 2016

Annemarie Del Mugnaio
Executive Officer
California Veterinary Medical Board
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Sacramento, CA 95834

RE: Email Correspondence of August 1, 2016

Dear Annemarie,

Thank you for reaching out to me concerning the VTNE and relaying the concerns that have been expressed by the California Registered Veterinary Technicians Association (CaRVTA). In your email of August 1, you inquired about the topic of Animal Physical Rehabilitation and whether the current exam blueprint for the VTNE specifically calls out the topic of animal rehabilitation. 22% of the content of the VTNE is in the category of Animal Care and Nursing. One of the seven (7) tasks under this category is "Perform animal nursing procedures (including but not limited to restraint, post-operative care, catheterization, wound management, bandaging, and rehabilitation therapy) in the implementation of prescribed treatments". Under this category, the item writing committee has the flexibility to create questions addressing animal rehabilitation therapies. We have been able to verify that there is, at least, one operational item with the specific rehabilitation code on the exams from Jul/Aug 2015 through Mar/Apr 2017. We can ensure in the future that items specific to animal rehabilitation therapies will be coded in this manner and that the subject matter experts will be encouraged to submit new items in this specific code for formal review in the September exam development workshop to include as pretest items in future forms. We will also be initiating a new job analysis survey in 2017 and can isolate the task of animal rehabilitation in the survey to determine if it is a specific task that requires more focus in future versions of the VTNE.

I also wanted to respond to the concerns expressed by the CaRVTA in their letter to you dated July 27, 2016. First, I wanted to clarify that the National Passing Rate for the control group of the VTNE for the March/April administration was 64.09%. The control group consists of 1st time test takers including



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AVMA/CVMA-accredited graduates, on the job training and alternate route candidates. The passing rate for the control group for California candidates on the March/April VTNE was 55.94%. The California control group includes 1st time test taker candidates who are AVMA/CVMA-accredited graduates, on-the-job training and alternate route candidates including those graduating from programs that are not accredited by the AVMA/CVMA. The VTNE Committee in consultation with the exam vendor ensures the VTNE exam forms demonstrate reliability and are valid in evaluating entry-level veterinary technicians' competency to practice and to be credentialed. The VTNE is a criterion-referenced exam meaning that the passing point is set based on the minimum skills necessary to demonstrate competency to practice while protecting consumers and animals. The passing rate is simply a measure of those candidates able to demonstrate that competency and is not shared with the committee when setting the number of items necessary to pass.

The CaRVTA expressed concern that there may be too many large animal questions on the exam. When constructing the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), the VTNE Committee is very conscious of the number and types of questions for each species. After reviewing the test forms being used for the 2016 exam administration period we found the number of questions for each species, and large animals in particular, are consistent with both the current job task analysis and the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines regarding the curriculum for accredited veterinary technology programs. The VTNE Committee will continue to be cognizant of the mixture of questions on all future exams with respect to species. Species coding was recently added to the rubric to easily identify items and the subject matter experts will continue to add species coding during all phases of exam development.

CaRVTA also expressed concern that items on the VTNE used "None of the above" and/or "All of the above" as a potential answer choice. The VTNE item writing committee is specifically instructed not to use "None of the above" or "All of the above" as an answer choice for an item in the item writing instruction guide and at every exam development workshop. We also reviewed the March/April and July/August 2016 examinations and found that there were no such answer choices in any of the items on the exam. Our exam vendor also searched the entire bank which includes all exams and did not find "All of the above" or "None of the above" in the search.

Thank you for inquiring about the VTNE and sharing the concerns of the CaRVTA. I would be happy to visit one of the Board meetings of the California Veterinary Medical Board should the Board have further questions about the VTNE or desire to learn more about the services that the AAVSB offers to the Board. I would also be happy to schedule a meeting with the CaRVTA during the same visit to understand any additional concerns that they may have concerning the VTNE in order to ensure that the AAVSB is producing a fair, reliable, and defensible exam that supports the California Veterinary Medical Board's goal of protecting consumers and animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Penrod". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

James T. Penrod, CAE, FASLA
AAVSB Executive Director

**LIST OF PRACTICE DOMAINS AND TASKS FOR THE
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE)**

VTNE PRACTICE DOMAINS	
Domains	% of Items
Domain 1. Pharmacy & Pharmacology	12
Domain 2. Surgical Nursing	11
Domain 3. Dentistry	7
Domain 4. Laboratory Procedures	12
Domain 5. Animal Care and Nursing	22
Domain 6. Diagnostic Imaging	7
Domain 7. Anesthesia	16
Domain 8. Emergency Medicine/Critical Care	6
Domain 9. Pain Management/Analgesia	7

(Task area statements appear on the pages that follow)

**PRACTICE DOMAINS AND TASK STATEMENTS FOR THE
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE)**

DOMAIN 10.00 Pharmacy and Pharmacology (12%)

- TASK 10.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to the use of pharmacological and biological agents.
- TASK 10.02 Prepare, administer, and/or dispense pharmacological and biological agents (excluding anesthetics and analgesics) to comply with veterinary orders.
- TASK 10.03 Educate the client regarding pharmacological and biological agents (excluding anesthetics and analgesics) administered or dispensed to ensure the safety of the patient/client and efficacy of the products.

DOMAIN 20.00 Surgical Nursing (11%)

- TASK 20.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to surgical nursing.
- TASK 20.02 Prepare and maintain the surgical environment, equipment, instruments, and supplies to meet the needs of the surgical team and patient.
- TASK 20.03 Prepare patient for procedure (including but not limited to surgical site preparation and patient positioning).
- TASK 20.04 Function as a sterile surgical technician (including but not limited to tissue handling, suturing, instrument handling) to ensure patient safety and procedural efficiency.
- TASK 20.05 Function as a circulating (non-sterile) surgical technician to ensure patient safety and procedural efficiency.

DOMAIN 30.00 Dentistry (7%)

- TASK 30.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to dentistry.
- TASK 30.02 Prepare and maintain the environment, equipment, instruments, and supplies for dental procedures to meet the needs of the dental team and patient.
- TASK 30.03 Perform or assist with dental procedures (including but not limited to prophylactic, radiographic, therapeutic, and charting) to maintain the dental health of the patient and aid in the treatment of dental disease.
- TASK 30.04 Educate the client regarding dental health, including prophylactic and post-treatment care.

**PRACTICE DOMAINS AND TASK STATEMENTS FOR THE
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE) - continued**

DOMAIN 40.00 Laboratory Procedures (12%)

- TASK 40.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to laboratory procedures.
- TASK 40.02 Collect, prepare, and maintain specimens for in-house or outside laboratory evaluation.
- TASK 40.03 Perform laboratory tests and procedures (including but not limited to microbiology, serology, cytology, hematology, urinalysis, and parasitology).
- TASK 40.04 Maintain laboratory equipment and related supplies to ensure quality of test results and safety of operation.

DOMAIN 50.00 Animal Care and Nursing (22%)

- TASK 50.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to animal care and nursing.
- TASK 50.02 Perform and document initial and ongoing evaluations of physical, behavioral, nutritional, and environmental status of animals to provide for optimal animal/client safety and health.
- TASK 50.03 Perform animal nursing procedures (including but not limited to restraint, post-operative care, catheterization, wound management, bandaging, and rehabilitation therapy) in the implementation of prescribed treatments.
- TASK 50.04 Perform clinical diagnostic procedures (including but not limited to blood pressure measurement, electrocardiography, and oximetry) to aid in diagnosis and prognosis.
- TASK 50.05 Educate clients and the public about animal care (including but not limited to behavior, nutrition, pre- and post-operative care, preventative care, zoonosis) to promote and maintain the health of animals and the safety of clients/public.
- TASK 50.06 Provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment for animals to ensure optimal healthcare and client/personnel safety.
- TASK 50.07 Maintain diagnostic and related supplies to ensure quality of test results and safety of operation.

DOMAIN 60.00 Diagnostic Imaging (7%)

- TASK 60.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to diagnostic images.
- TASK 60.02 Produce diagnostic images (excluding dental) following protocols for quality and operator/patient safety.
- TASK 60.03 Maintain imaging equipment and related materials to ensure quality to ensure quality of results and safety of operation.

DOMAIN 70.00 Anesthesia (16%)

- TASK 70.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to anesthesia.
- TASK 70.02 Assist in development of the anesthetic plan to ensure patient safety and procedural efficacy.
- TASK 70.03 Implement the anesthetic plan (including but not limited to administration of medication, monitoring, and maintenance) to facilitate diagnostic, therapeutic, or surgical procedures.
- TASK 70.04 Prepare and maintain anesthetic equipment and related materials to ensure safe and reliable operation.
- TASK 70.05 Educate the client about anesthetics and anesthesia to ensure the safety of the patient/client and efficacy of the product(s) or procedure(s).

DOMAIN 80.00 Emergency Medicine/Critical Care (6%)

- TASK 80.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to emergency medicine and critical care.
- TASK 80.02 Perform triage and document initial and ongoing evaluations of physical, behavioral, nutritional, and environmental status of animals presented for critical conditions (including but not limited to shock, acute illness, acute trauma, and toxicity).
- TASK 80.03 Perform emergency nursing procedures (including but not limited to cardiopulmonary cerebral resuscitation (CPCR), stemming acute blood loss, and fracture stabilization) in the implementation of prescribed treatments.
- TASK 80.04 Perform critical care nursing procedures (including but not limited to blood transfusions, fluid resuscitation, and ongoing oxygen therapy) in the implementation of prescribed treatments.

DOMAIN 90.00 Pain Management/Analgesia (7%)

- TASK 90.01 Utilize knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as it applies to pain management and analgesia.
- TASK 90.02 Assess need for analgesia and assist in the development and implementation of the pain management plan to optimize patient comfort and/or healing.
- TASK 90.03 Educate the client with regard to analgesics and administration of pain management protocols and the side effects to ensure the safety of the patient/client and efficacy of the product(s) or procedure(s).

**LIST OF KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS FOR THE
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE)**

KNOWLEDGE

- 01 Anatomy
- 02 Normal physiology
- 03 Pathophysiology
- 04 Common animal diseases
- 05 Medical terminology
- 06 Toxicology
- 07 Applied mathematics (including but not limited to metric system/weights, measures/ percentage solutions, dosage calculations)
- 08 Drug classification
- 09 Routes of administration of pharmacological and biological agents
- 10 Legal requirements and procedures for acquiring, preparing, storing, dispensing, documenting and disposing of pharmacological and biological agents
- 11 Safe handling practices for pharmacological and biological agents
- 12 Pharmacokinetics (drug absorption, metabolism, excretion), normal and abnormal drug reactions, indications, contraindications, side effects, and interactions
- 13 Fluid balance and therapy, including calculation
- 14 Aseptic techniques

- 15 Patient preparation and positioning techniques(including but not limited to diagnostic imaging, surgery, medical procedures)
- 16 Surgical procedures
- 17 Surgical equipment, instruments, and supplies
- 18 Sterilization techniques and quality assurance for equipment, instruments, and supplies
- 19 Safety considerations related to surgical equipment, instruments, and supplies
- 20 Wound closure (including suture materials and patterns, staples, and tissue adhesives)
- 21 Dental procedures (including but not limited to cleaning, floating, charting, preventive procedures, dental imaging)
- 22 Dental equipment, instruments, and supplies
- 23 Safety considerations related to dental procedures
- 24 Sample collection, preparation, analysis, storing, and shipping techniques
- 25 Laboratory diagnostic principles, procedures, and methodologies (including but not limited to microbiology, serology, cytology, hematology, urinalysis, and parasitology)
- 26 Quality assurance in the laboratory (including but not limited to maintenance of equipment, verification of test results, calibration, and controls)
- 27 Normal and abnormal laboratory and diagnostic test results
- 28 Animal assessment and monitoring techniques, excluding anesthetic monitoring

- 29 Principles of animal behavior
- 30 Clinical diagnostic procedures
- 31 Nutrition
- 32 Safe animal handling and restraint techniques
- 33 Animal husbandry
- 34 Animal nursing procedures and rehabilitation therapies
- 35 Animal first aid, triage, and emergency/critical care techniques
- 36 Public health (including but not limited to infection control, zoonosis and epidemiology)
- 37 Environmental health and safety procedures(including but not limited to handling and disposing of hazardous material, personal safety, evacuation procedures, safety plans, equipment, and instrumentation)
- 38 Disease control and prevention techniques(including but not limited to quarantine, isolation, vaccination, wellness care, and herd health)
- 39 Facility cleaning and disinfection techniques
- 40 Diagnostic imaging equipment and procedures(including but not limited to radiography, ultrasonography, and contrast studies)
- 41 Quality assurance and safety for diagnostic imaging
- 42 Pre- and post-anesthetic assessment and care
- 43 Anesthetic induction, maintenance, monitoring, and recovery including stages of anesthesia and troubleshooting
- 44 Pre-anesthetic and anesthetic medications reactions, indications, contraindications, side effects, and interactions
- 45 Pain assessment and analgesic administration techniques

- 46 Procedures for care, maintenance, and use of diagnostic, therapeutic, surgical, dental, monitoring, and anesthetic equipment and supplies
- 47 Professional ethics (including but not limited to the Veterinary Technician Code of Ethics)
- 48 Techniques for communicating with the veterinary medical team and client
- 49 Inventory control and management
- 50 Record keeping