

# Information Regarding Pennsylvania Veterinary Technicians

*(This information is not in any particular order and is just a gathering of information. Please feel free to sort and organize as you feel necessary)*

## **2007 was the Silver Anniversary for Veterinary Technicians in the Keystone State!**

- 25 years ago Pennsylvania Certified the first CVT
- 300 PA technicians took the first exam in 1982
- At that time it was permissible to take the NVTE if you had worked in the veterinary profession for specific number of years and your application was endorsed by a veterinarian.
- Now technicians must graduate from a accredited AVMA approved program.

***Thank you, Pennsylvania, for recognizing us as Certified Veterinary Technicians in the Commonwealth!***

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### **Members of the Veterinary Clinic Team**

- Veterinarian – *The Team Leader*
  - **Certified Veterinary Technician**
  - Hospital Manager
  - Veterinary Assistant
  - Receptionist
  - Kennel/Other Staff
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### **U.S. GENERAL STATISTICS for AVMA Accredited Vet Tech Programs**

Total Number of Programs: 140

Number offering 4yr degree; 16

Number offering distance learning: 7

The following states do not have AVMA-accredited veterinary technology programs:  
*Alaska, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Montana, Rhode Island*

### **The Credentialed Veterinary Technician**

- Licensed Veterinary Technician LVT
- Registered Veterinary Technician RVT
- Certified Veterinary Technician CVT

- *Credentials – The current terminology recognized by decree of both NAVTA and the AVMA is "Veterinary Technician." Whether you are an LVT, RVT or CVT the term used is mandated by the technician's state of residence.*

## **Pennsylvania Veterinary Technician AVMA Accredited Program Locations**



1. Harcum College  
Veterinary Technology Program - *Bryn Mawr, PA*
2. Johnson College  
Veterinary Science Technology Program - *Scranton, PA*
3. Lehigh Carbon & Northampton Community Colleges  
Veterinary Technology Program - *Bethlehem, PA*

4. Manor College  
Veterinary Technology Program - Jenkintown, PA
  5. The Vet Tech Institute  
Veterinary Technician Program - Pittsburgh, PA
  6. Western School of Health and Business Careers  
Veterinary Technology Program - Pittsburgh, PA
  7. Wilson College  
Veterinary Medical Technology Program - Chambersburg, PA
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### **Requirements for Certification**

- A graduate from a two year, or four year American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited program from a college, university or technical school.
- Complete required practicum hours for hands on training.
- Almost every state requires a veterinary technician/technologist to take and pass a credentialing exam.

*Passing this exam ensures the public that the veterinary technician has entry level knowledge of the duties they are asked to perform in the veterinary clinic or hospital.*

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### **The Various Roles and Career Opportunities of a Certified Veterinary Technician**

- General practice
  - Office Management
- University Hospital
- Specialty practice
  - Equine / Feline
  - Surgery
  - Imaging/diagnostics
- Food Animal
- Herd Health
- Biomedical / Lab
- Zoo/Wildlife Medicine
- Industry
  - Pharmaceutical
  - Research
  - Supply
- Human Medical
- Diagnostics- i.e. Antech Labs
- Technical support
- Academia / Education

- Veterinary diagnostic device development
- Humane Society

### **Some of the Medical Responsibilities of a Certified Technician**

- Physical Examination and Patient History
  - Client Education
  - Caring for the Hospitalized Patient Administration of Medication and Vaccines
  - Clinical Laboratory Procedures
  - Research
  - Dental Prophylaxis
  - Radiology
  - Anesthesiology
  - Surgical Assisting
  - Office/ Hospital Management
  - Biomedical Research
  - Technical Support
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### **Veterinary Technician Specialties**

- Academy of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT) – [www.avecct.org](http://www.avecct.org)
- Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA) – [www.avta-vts.org](http://www.avta-vts.org)
- Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT) – [www.avdt.us](http://www.avdt.us)
- Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians – [www.svbt.org](http://www.svbt.org)

### **Up and Coming Specialty Recognized**

- The Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians - The first Veterinary Technician Specialty Academy to represent four areas of specialization under one umbrella.
    - Large Animal
    - Cardiology
    - Oncology
    - Small Animal
  - AIMVT is recognized by NAVTA and ACVIM  
[www.aimvt.com](http://www.aimvt.com).
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## **Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Certification**

- The lowest level of certification is Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT)
- Second level is Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT)
- The highest level of certification is Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG)

Must satisfy a combination of education and experience requirements prior to taking an exam

*The examination consists of multiple-choice questions and is longer and more difficult for higher levels of certification, ranging from 2 hours for the ALAT to 3 hours for the LATG.*

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## **Associations for Veterinary Technicians**

- Pennsylvania Veterinary Technicians Association (PVTa)  
[www.pavta.org](http://www.pavta.org)
- National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA)  
[www.navta.org](http://www.navta.org)
- Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians  
[www.svbt.org](http://www.svbt.org)
- The American Association of Equine Veterinary Technicians  
[www.aaevt.com](http://www.aaevt.com)
- American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)

## **Other Important Association Websites**

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)  
[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)
- Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA)  
[www.pavma.org](http://www.pavma.org)

## **Academies for the Certified Veterinary Technician**

- Academy of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT)  
[www.avecct.org](http://www.avecct.org)
  - Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA) [www.avta-vts.org](http://www.avta-vts.org)
  - Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT) [www.avdt.us](http://www.avdt.us)
  - Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians  
[www.aimvt.com](http://www.aimvt.com)
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## **Veterinary Technician's Oath**

*I solemnly dedicate myself to aiding animals and society by providing excellent care and services for animals, by alleviating animal suffering, and by promoting public health.*

*I accept my obligations to practice my profession conscientiously and with sensitivity, adhering to the profession's Code of Ethics, and furthering my knowledge and competence through a commitment to lifelong learning.*

## **Contacting Pennsylvania Veterinary Technicians Association – PVTA**

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