Chapter 246-935 WAC

VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

WAC

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246-935-240 Repealed by WSR 15-14-008, filed 6/18/15, effective 7/19/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030(2) and 18.92.128.

246-935-220 Repealed by WSR 15-14-008, filed 6/18/15, effective 7/19/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030(2) and 18.92.128.

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246-935-235 Repealed by WSR 15-14-008, filed 6/18/15, effective 7/19/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030(2) and 18.92.128.

246-935-240 Repealed by WSR 15-14-008, filed 6/18/15, effective 7/19/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030(2) and 18.92.128.

246-935-250 Repealed by WSR 15-14-008, filed 6/18/15, effective 7/19/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030(2) and 18.92.128.

246-935-255 Repealed by WSR 15-14-008, filed 6/18/15, effective 7/19/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030(2) and 18.92.128.
WAC 246-935-010 Definitions. (1) "Anesthesia maintenance" means maintaining adequate depth of anesthesia through control of the amount and type of drug(s) delivered to the animal patient.

(2) "Anesthesia monitoring" means measuring, recording, and/or confining, in order to provide veterinary medicine, surgery, or dentistry as defined in RCW 18.92.010.

(3) "Direct supervision" means the veterinary supervisor is on the premises, is easily available and the animal patient has been examined by a veterinarian at such times as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task.

(4) "Emergency" means that the animal patient has a life-threatening condition where immediate treatment is necessary to sustain life or avoid significant injury and morbidity.

(5) "Immediate supervision" means the supervisor is in audible and visual range of the animal patient and the person treating the patient.

(6) "Indirect supervision" means the supervisor is not on the premises, but has given either written or oral instructions for treatment of the animal patient and the animal patient has been examined by a veterinarian at such times as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task and the animal patient is not anesthetized.

(7) "Licensed veterinary technician" means any person who has met the requirements of RCW 18.92.015 and who is licensed as required by chapter 18.92 RCW.

(8) "Supervisor" means a veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician.

(9) "Unregistered assistant" means any individual who is not a veterinary technician or veterinarian.

(10) "Veterinarian" means a person authorized by chapter 18.92 RCW to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Washington.

(11) "Veterinary medical facility" is any premises, unit, structure or vehicle where any animal patient is received and/or confined, in order to provide veterinary medicine, surgery, or dentistry as defined in RCW 18.92.010.

WAC 246-935-020 Applications—Veterinary technicians. Applications for licensure as a veterinary technician shall be made on forms prepared by the secretary of the department of health and submitted to the department of health. Applications must be received at least sixty days prior to the scheduled examination. The application, in addition to the required fee, must be accompanied by satisfactory evidence of experience and/or official transcripts or other evidence of completion of educational courses approved by the board. The application shall be signed by the applicant. When the application and the accompanying evidence are found satisfactory, the secretary shall notify the applicant of eligibility to be scheduled for the veterinary technician examination.

WAC 246-935-030 Grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of licensure. The board may suspend, revoke or deny the issuance or renewal of license of any veterinary technician and file its decision in the secretary's office if the veterinary technician:

(1) Has employed fraud or misrepresentation in applying for or obtaining the license;

(2) Has within ten years prior to the date of application been found guilty of a criminal offense relating to the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry, including, but not limited to:

(a) Any violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act or the Legend Drug Act;

(b) Chronic inebriety;

(c) Cruelty to animals;

(3) Has violated or attempted to violate any provision of chapter 18.92 RCW or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to that chapter;

(4) Has assisted, abetted or conspired with another person to violate chapter 18.92 RCW, or any rule or regulation adopted under that chapter;

(5) Has performed any animal health care service not authorized by WAC 246-935-040 or 246-935-050.

WAC 246-935-040 Responsibilities of a veterinarian supervising a licensed veterinary technician or an unregistered assistant. (1) A veterinarian must not delegate:

(a) To any licensed veterinary technician the performance of any animal health care services not authorized by WAC 246-935-040 or 246-935-050.

(b) To any unregistered assistant the performance of any animal health care services not authorized by WAC 246-935-040 or 246-935-050.

(2) The supervising veterinarian shall:

(a) Have legal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of the animal patient which the licensed veterinary technician or unregistered assistant serves.

(b) Delegate animal health care tasks only if the licensed veterinary technician or unregistered assistant is qualified to perform the task, and the task is not precluded by the medical condition of the animal patient.

(c) Use the level of supervision required for a specific task.
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(d) Make all decisions relating to the diagnosis, treatment, management, and future disposition of an animal patient.

(e) Limit the number of unregistered assistants under indirect supervision to that which is appropriate for the circumstances.

(f) Allow licensed veterinary technicians and unregistered assistants the right and responsibility to refuse to perform duties they are not legally or technically able to perform.

3) A supervising veterinarian shall examine the animal patient prior to the delegation of any animal health care task to either a licensed veterinary technician or unregistered assistant. The examination of the animal patient must be conducted at the times and in the manner consistent with veterinary medicine practice, and the particular delegated animal health care task.

4) If a licensed veterinary technician is authorized to provide supervision for an unregistered assistant performing a specified health care task, the licensed veterinary technician shall be under the same degree of supervision by the veterinarian, as if the licensed veterinary technician were performing the task.

5) Immediate supervision for unregistered assistants. An unregistered assistant may perform the following tasks only under the immediate supervision of a veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician:

(a) Place and secure an intravenous catheter;
(b) Monitor vital signs of an anesthetized patient;
(c) Dental prophy.

6) Direct supervision for unregistered assistant. An unregistered assistant may perform the following tasks only under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician:

(a) Intravenous injection into catheterized vein;
(b) Vaccines (except for rabies and those diseases described in subsection (8) of this section) with the veterinarian's verification signature on an appropriate certificate;
(c) Imaging procedures;
(d) Removal of sutures, drain tubes and staples;
(e) Bandaging;
(f) Removal of exposed foreign bodies;
(g) Lab sample collection and test preparation (not evaluation) to include:
   (i) Venipuncture;
   (ii) Skin scraping.
   (h) Microchip implantation;
   (i) Enema;
   (j) Ear flush;
   (k) Perform electrocardiogram and blood pressure measurements;
   (l) Intramuscular and subcutaneous injection;
   (m) Massage except where regulated.

7) Indirect supervision for unregistered assistants. An unregistered assistant must always be under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian or licensed veterinary techni-
Veterinary Technicians

WAC 246-935-060 Eligibility for examination as veterinary technician. Applicants must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for the examination.

(1) Completion of an approved postsecondary educational program for animal or veterinary technology.

(a) Completion of a program for animal or veterinary technology approved by the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The board approves all institutions accredited by, and in good standing with, the AVMA.

(b) Completion of a program for animal or veterinary technology approved by the Animal Health Technologist/Veterinary Technician Program Accreditation Committee (AHT/VTPAC) of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). The board approves all institutions accredited by, and in good standing with, the CVMA.

(c) Other institutions applying for board approval must meet the accreditation standards of the CVTEA. It is the responsibility of the institution to apply for approval and of a student to ascertain whether or not a school has been approved by the board.

(d) The examination may be taken no sooner than six months before graduation from the approved course of instruction.

(2) Graduation from a two-year curriculum in animal health or veterinary technology which is not accredited by the CVTEA or AHT/VTPAC plus a minimum of thirty-six months of full-time experience under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian(s) who must attest to the completion of that experience.

(3) Award of a D.V.M. or V.M.D. degree or equivalent from an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited or listed college of veterinary medicine.

(4) Registration, certification, or licensure as an animal health or veterinary technician in one or more states and thirty-six months of full-time experience under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian(s).

(5) Completion of a course in veterinary technician education as a member of the United States military and completion of a tour of active duty as a veterinary technician or specialist.

WAC 246-935-070 Examination for licensure as a veterinary technician. (1) All applicants shall be required to successfully complete the veterinary technician national examination as approved by the board, and the Washington state examination that consists of questions pertaining to the laws and rules regulating technicians.

(2) The passing criteria or score is:

(a) Criteria-referenced passing score on the national examination.

(b) Ninety percent on the Washington state examination.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030(2) and 18.92.128. WSR 15-14-008, § 246-935-060, filed 6/18/15, effective 7/19/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 09-21-022, § 246-935-060, filed 10/9/09, effective 11/9/09; WSR 02-02-046, § 246-935-060, filed 12/27/01, effective 1/27/02; WSR 93-12-126 (Order 368B), § 246-935-060, filed 6/2/93, effective 7/3/93; WSR 91-24-098 (Order 221B), § 246-935-060, filed 12/4/91, effective 1/4/92; WSR 91-02-060 (Order 108B), recodified as § 246-935-060, filed 12/28/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.015 and 18.92.030. WSR 83-19-055 (Order PL 445), § 308-156-055, filed 9/19/83.]

[Ch. 246-935 WAC p. 4]
WAC 246-935-090 Examination review procedures. (1) Each individual who takes the examination for licensure as a veterinary technician and does not pass the examination may request review by the board of his or her examination results. This request must be in writing and shall be received by the board within thirty days of notification of the examination results. The request shall state the reason or reasons the applicant feels the results of the examination should be changed. The board shall not consider any challenges to examination scores unless the total revised score could result in the issuance of a license. The board shall consider the following to be adequate reasons for consideration for review and possible modification of examination results: 

(a) A showing of a significant procedural error in the examination process;  
(b) Evidence of bias, prejudice or discrimination in the examination process;  
(c) Other significant errors which result in substantial disadvantage to the applicant.  
(2) Any applicant who is not satisfied with the result of the examination review may appeal the board's decision and may request a formal hearing before the board under the Administrative Procedure Act. The hearing shall be requested within twenty days of receipt of the result of the board's review of the examination results.  

WAC 246-935-100 Reexamination. An applicant who has failed the veterinary technician examination may apply for reexamination.  

WAC 246-935-110 Examination procedures. Failure to follow written or oral instructions relative to the conduct of the examination, including termination times of the examination, shall be considered grounds for expulsion from the examination.  

WAC 246-935-120 Frequency and location of examination. (1) The examination for veterinary technicians shall be given at least once a year at times and places authorized by the secretary.  
(2) If the applicant fails to appear for examination at the designated time and place, the applicant will forfeit the examination fee unless the applicant has notified the department of health in writing of an inability to appear for the scheduled exam at least five days before the designated time.  

WAC 246-935-130 AIDS prevention and information education requirements. Applicants must complete four clock hours of AIDS education as required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 8. Alternatives to formal coursework may be in the form of video tapes, professional journal articles, periodicals, or audio tapes, that contain current or updated information.  

WAC 246-935-135 How to obtain a temporary practice permit while the national background check is completed. Fingerprint-based national background checks may cause a delay in licensing. Individuals who satisfy all other licensing requirements and qualifications may receive a temporary practice permit while the national background check is completed.  

(1) A temporary practice permit may be issued to an applicant who:  
(a) Holds an unrestricted, active license to practice as a veterinary technician in another state that has substantially equivalent licensing standards to those in Washington state;  
(b) Is not subject to denial of a license or issuance of a conditional or restricted license; and  
(c) Does not have a criminal record in Washington state.  
(2) A temporary practice permit grants the individual the full scope of practice as a veterinary technician.  
(3) A temporary practice permit will not be renewed, reissued, or extended. A temporary practice permit expires when any one of the following occurs:  
(a) The license is granted;  
(b) A notice of decision on application is mailed to the applicant, unless the notice of decision on the application specifically extends the duration of the temporary practice permit; or  
(c) One hundred eighty days after the temporary practice permit is issued.  
(4) To receive a temporary practice permit, the applicant must:  
(a) Submit the necessary application, fee(s), and documentation for the license.  
(b) Meet all requirements and qualifications for the license, except the results from a fingerprint-based national background check, if required.  
(c) Provide verification of having an active unrestricted license to practice as a veterinary technician from another
Continuing education requirements

**WAC 246-935-270 Purpose.** The purpose of these rules is to establish standards of continuing education for licensed veterinary technicians. The rules designate approved training methods, identify continuing education providers and set minimum continuing education credit requirements.

**WAC 246-935-280 Basic requirement—Amount.** Continuing education consists of programs of learning which contribute directly to the advancement or enhancement of the skills of licensed veterinary technicians. Beginning with license renewals on or after July 23, 2007, licensed veterinary technicians must complete thirty hours of continuing education every three years. No more than ten hours can be earned in practice management courses in any three-year reporting period. Licensed veterinary technicians must comply with chapter 246-12 WAC relating to continuing education requirements.

**WAC 246-935-290 Qualified organizations approved by the veterinary board of governors.** Courses offered by the following organizations qualify as continuing education courses for veterinary technicians.

3. All veterinary technician specialty academies recognized by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America.
4. The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).
5. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).
7. Any board approved college or school of veterinary medical technology.
8. Any board approved college or school of veterinary medicine.
9. Any state or regional veterinary association which is recognized by the licensing authority of its state as a qualified professional association or educational organization.
11. Veterinary specialty boards recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association.
12. Regional veterinary conferences and allied organizations recognized by AAVSB.

**WAC 246-935-300 Self-study continuing veterinary technician education activities.** The board may grant continuing education credit for participation in self-study educational activities. The board may grant a licensee a total of ten credit hours under this section for any three-year reporting period. Self-study educational activities may include:

1. Professional literature approved for these reports are peer reviewed veterinary medical journals.
2. Each report qualifies for one credit hour. The board may grant a licensee up to five credit hours of continuing veterinary technician education under this subsection if the combined total of ten hours for all types of self-study continuing veterinary medical education is not exceeded.
3. Credit for preprogrammed educational materials. The board may grant a licensee continuing education credit for viewing and participating in board-approved formal preprogrammed veterinary technician educational materials. The preprogrammed materials must be approved by an organization listed in WAC 246-935-290, and must require successful completion of an examination. Preprogrammed educational materials include, but are not limited to:
   1. Correspondence courses offered through journals or other sources;
   2. Cassettes;
   3. Videotapes;
   4. CD-ROM;
   5. Internet.

**WAC 246-935-310 Exceptions.** The board may excuse from or grant an extension of continuing education requirements to a licensed veterinary technician due to illness or other extenuating circumstances.

Licensees seeking an extension must petition the board, in writing, at least forty-five days prior to the end of the reporting period.

PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF LEGEND DRUGS, NONLEGEND DRUGS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

WAC 246-935-400 Citation and purpose. As provided in RCW 18.92.013, the purpose of WAC 246-935-400 through 246-935-440, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, is to define and clarify nondiscretionary functions used in preparing, and administration of, legend drugs, nonlegend drugs, and controlled substances that may be delegated by a veterinarian to a licensed veterinary technician. The supervising veterinarian shall have legal responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of the animal patient which the licensed veterinary technician serves. The supervising veterinarian shall delegate animal health care tasks only if the licensed veterinary technician is qualified to perform the task and the task is not precluded by the medical condition of the animal patient.

WAC 246-935-410 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout WAC 246-935-400 through 246-935-440 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

"Administer" means the direct application of a drug whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or any other means, to the body of a patient.

"Controlled substance" means a drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in Schedules I through V as set forth in federal or state laws, or federal or pharmacy quality assurance commission rules.

"Deliver" or "delivery" means the actual, constructive, or attempted transfer from one person to another of a legend drug or controlled substance, whether or not there is an agency relationship.

"Legend drugs" means any drugs which are required by state law or regulation of the pharmacy quality assurance commission to be dispensed on prescription only or are restricted to use by practitioners only.

"Preparing" includes the proper selection, measuring, labeling, or packaging necessary to prepare a prescription or order from a licensed veterinarian for delivery.

WAC 246-935-420 Delegated nondiscretionary functions used in preparing, and the administration of, legend drugs, nonlegend drugs and controlled substances. Nondiscretionary functions, tasks or actions used in preparing, and the administration of, legend drugs, nonlegend drugs and controlled substances, delegated orally or in writing by the supervising veterinarian to the licensed veterinary technician are:

- Accessing the drug;
- Selecting the appropriate quantity;
- Packaging and labeling of the drug;
- Administering the drug to the animal patient; and
- Delivery of the drug to the owner or authorized agent.

WAC 246-935-430 Controlled substance storage and records. (1) Under WAC 246-933-320, it is the responsibility of a licensed veterinarian to assure that:

(a) All controlled substances are maintained in a locked cabinet or other suitable secure container according to federal and Washington state laws;

(b) Controlled substance records are readily retrievable, according to federal and Washington state laws. Records shall be maintained in sufficient detail to account for the receipt, use, and disposition of all controlled substances.

(2) A licensed veterinary technician shall ensure that proper storage and records of controlled substances are maintained during the performance of delegated functions related to controlled substances.

WAC 246-935-440 Maintenance of patient medical records. The licensed veterinary technician shall include sufficient information in the patient medical record to document the care and treatment provided by the licensed veterinary technician. The records relating to delegated nondiscretionary functions used in preparing, and the administration of, legend drugs, nonlegend drugs and controlled substances shall, at a minimum, include dosage and route of the drugs prepared, administered, or delivered in response to a prescription or order from a licensed veterinarian.

WAC 246-935-990 Veterinary technician fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

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