

# Becoming a Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS)

Vicky Ograin, MBA, RVT, VTS (Nutrition)

2023 CVTS Chair



VTS

Veterinary  
Technician Specialist  
Nutrition

© 2023 Vicky Ograin

# Thank you Hill's Pet Nutrition



Transforming Lives

# Why becoming a VTS

- **It must be your passion**

- Take your career to the next level
- You are a expert in your field
- Benefit your workplace

# Why becoming a VTS

- Personal satisfaction
  - Is not easy, it will be a lot of work, but is rewarding
- Can lead to an increase in salary
- Can lead to increase in job opportunities

• What is your motivation?

# Vicky's Motivation



# History



**February 21, 1994**

NAVTA developed the **Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties (CVTS)**

Recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

# Society vs. Academy

**Society** - interested in a specific discipline of veterinary medicine. Open to all HCT members with an interest.

**Academy** - veterinary technicians receiving recognition as a specialty and is restricted to credentialed veterinary technicians, who must complete a formal process of education, training, experience and testing to qualify.

# What if there is not an established academy?

## Form a Specialty Academy

- ✓ Form an Organizing Committee
- ✓ NAVTA liaison
- ✓ Letter of Intent





# Organizing Committee

- ✓ 7 years (of the past 10 years) with no less than 75% of time in specialty
- ✓ Qualifications far exceeding potential VTS candidates
  - ✓ Speaking- publication
  - ✓ CE within the last 5 years
- ✓ NAVTA member
- ✓ Submit a petition



# Applying for a VTS

General requirements to submit an application

✓ Be an expert in your specialty



Be credentialed veterinary technicians in a state or US territory, OR be qualified as an equivalent in a country outside the USA/Canada (e.g. veterinary nurse).

Provide proof of credentials.



# Membership in NAVTA



# Knowledge List

Knowledge list will tell you the knowledge you need to have to pursue the specialty, some require it signed off.

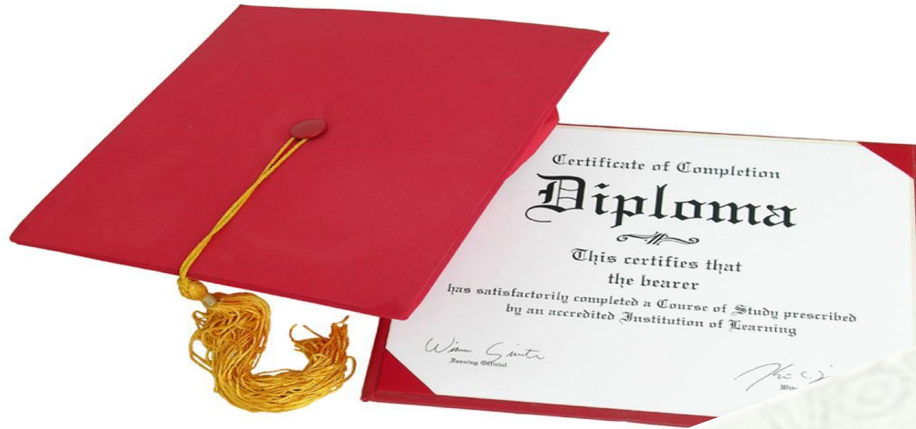


# Skills list

- Skills demonstrate mastery of the skill.
- **Mastery** is consistently being able to perform with great skill and/or knowledge without being coached or directed.

- Provide documentary evidence of advanced competence in the skill.
  - Signed skills list
  - Cross reference these skills in the case logs
  - Needs to be completed and signed off by a VTS or veterinarian

# Submit diploma and proof of certification



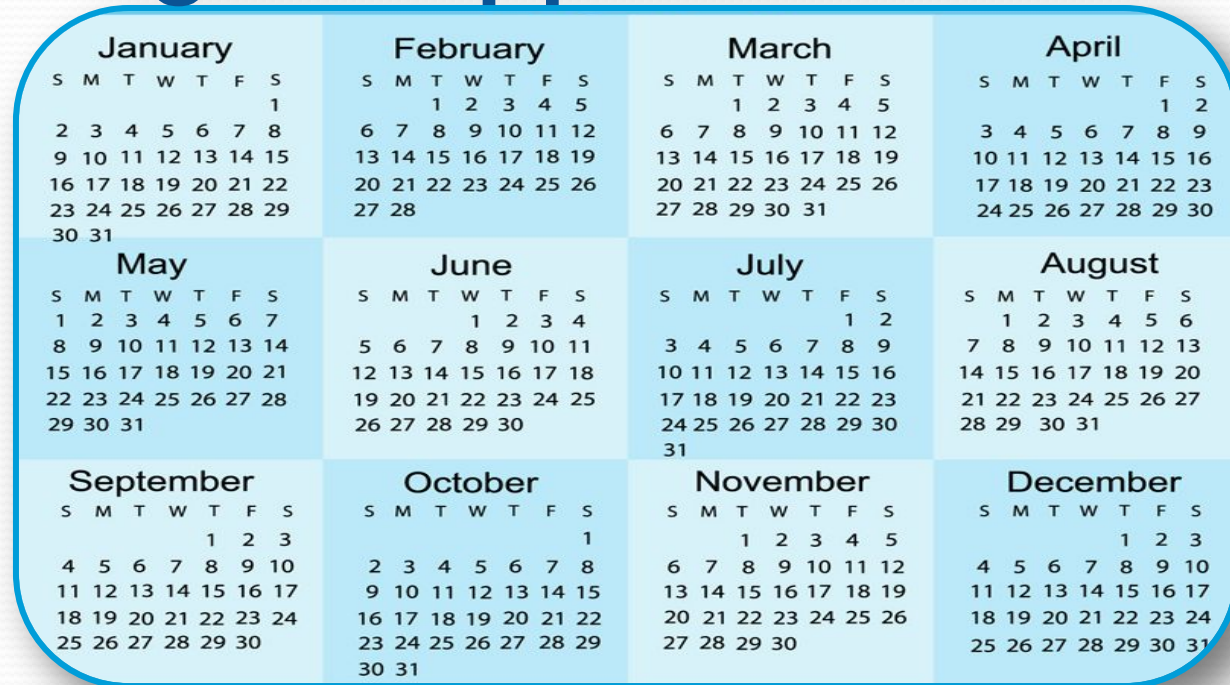


# Continuing Education Requirement





# 40-75 cases collected 1 year before submitting the application



**Four- six detailed case reports are required**



**Two letters of recommendation  
are required**



The application is submitted eight months before the exam





There is an  
application  
and exam f



The VTS exam is given



# At the end of your journey you are a VTS...!



**VTS** | Veterinary  
Technician Specialist  
Nutrition



Committee on Veterinary Technician  
National Association of Veterinary Technicians



# Recertification





# Tips when applying for a VTS

- Have a discussion with your vet- office manager
- Once you have support from them have a meeting with the entire team
- Make sure you are helping with advanced cases

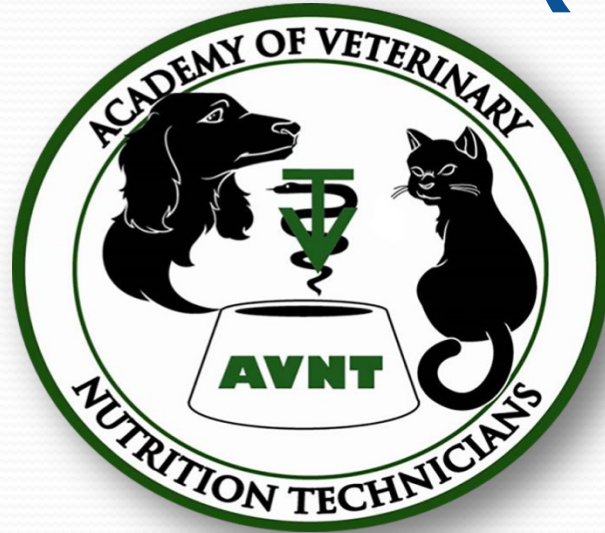
# Tips when applying for a VTS

- Get feedback from the veterinarians-technicians in the practice
- Use a spell check- grammar reviewer
- Ask if the academy has a mentor program
  - Use your mentor if the academy has them



**Let's look at an  
academy example**

# Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians (AVNT)



[nutritiontechs@aol.com](mailto:nutritiontechs@aol.com)  
[www.nutritiontechs.org](http://www.nutritiontechs.org)

## AVNT Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Be credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country. Cannot have gotten another VTS within 3 years of submitting application.
-------------------------	--

Membership	Encouraged to be a member of NAVTA and AAVN
------------	---

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	Minimum 3 years of which 4000 hours must be in nutrition. Letter of intent submitted 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
------------------------	---

Continuing education	40 hours in 3 years preceding submitting the application , 10 hours the year prior to submitting the application, no more than 10% basic pet food company specific
----------------------	--

Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
-------------	--

Case log	40-60 case log from October 1 to September 31 the year preceding the submission of the application
----------	--

Case reports	5 case reports
--------------	----------------

Exam questions	3 questions
----------------	-------------

Letters of recommendation	2 letters
---------------------------	-----------

Recertification	Every 5 years- 60 points (CE, speaking, publishing, board, committee or mentor)
-----------------	---



**Currently there are  
16 Technician Specialties**



1) Academy of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT) [www.avecct.org](http://www.avecct.org)



2) Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Anesthesia and Analgesia (AVTAA) [www.avtaa-vts.org](http://www.avtaa-vts.org)



3) Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT) [www.avdt.us](http://www.avdt.us)



4) Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians (AIMVT): Small Animal Internal medicine, Large Animal Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Oncology, Neurology [www.aimvt.com](http://www.aimvt.com)



5) Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (AVBT) [www.avbt.net](http://www.avbt.net)



6) Academy of Equine Veterinary Nursing Technicians (AEVNT)  
[www.aevnt.org/aaevntacademy.html](http://www.aevnt.org/aaevntacademy.html)





7) Academy of Veterinary Zoological Medicine Technicians (AVZMT) [www.avzmt.org](http://www.avzmt.org)



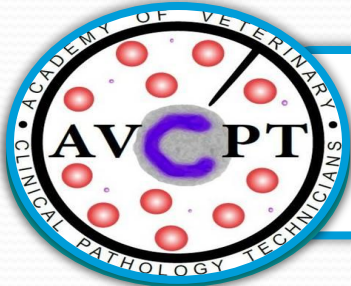
8) Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians (AVST) [www.avst-vts.org](http://www.avst-vts.org)



9) The Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice (AVTCP): Canine/Feline, Exotic Companion Animal, Feline and Production Animal [www.avtcp.org](http://www.avtcp.org)



10) Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians (AVNT) [www.nutritiontechs.org](http://www.nutritiontechs.org)



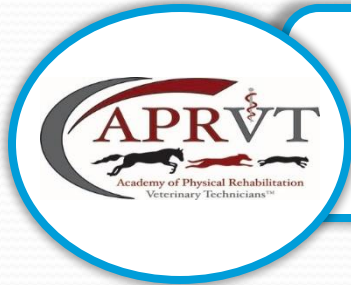
11) Academy of Veterinary Clinical Pathology Technicians (AVCPT) <http://www.avcpt.net/>



12) Academy of Dermatology Veterinary Technicians (ADVT) <http://www.vetdermtech.com/>



13) Academy of Veterinary Ophthalmic Technicians- (AVOT)  
<http://www.avot-vts.org/>



14) The Academy of Physical Rehabilitation Veterinary Technicians (APRVT)  
<http://www.aprvt.com/>



15) The Academy of Laboratory Animal Veterinary Technicians and Nurses (ALAVTN): Research Clinical Nursing, with species categories of “Traditional”, “NonTraditional” and “Large Animal” species, Research Surgeon, Research Anesthetist - <http://www.alavtn.org/>

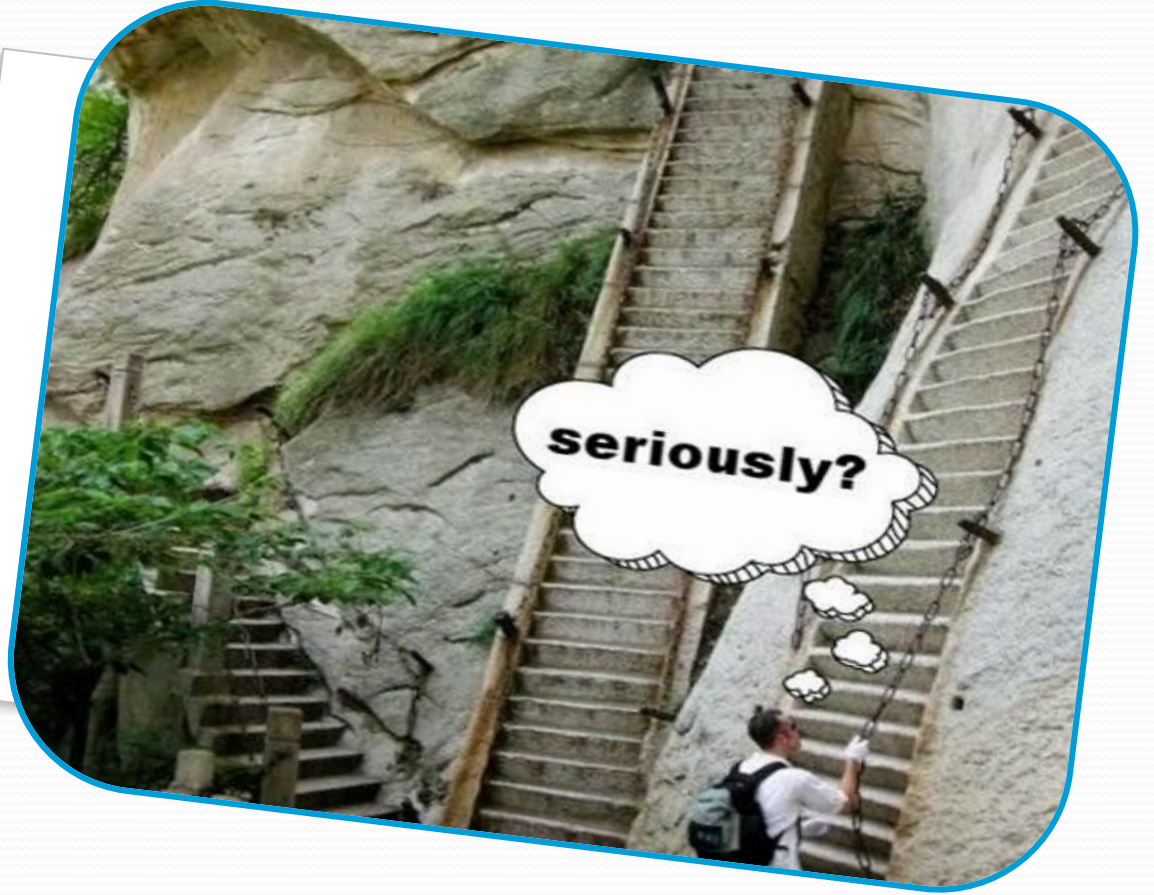


16) The Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Diagnostic Imaging (AVTDI) -<https://avtdi.org/>

# More VTS coming

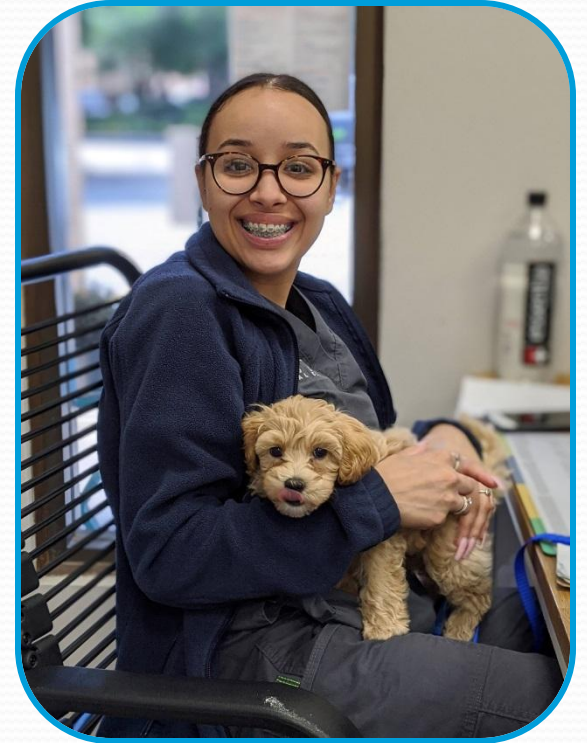
- Shelter
- Toxicology
- Theriogenology
- Aquatics

It will be  
hard work  
and may  
seem  
daunting,  
but it is  
worth the  
climb



# Go for It

[www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)  
[info@navta.net](mailto:info@navta.net)







# Questions?

[Vicky\\_Ograin@hillspet.com](mailto:Vicky_Ograin@hillspet.com)





NAVTA  
Veterinary Technician Specialties



# Academy Information

# Academy of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT)



[www.avecct.org](http://www.avecct.org)

## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	From a AVMA approved school or a legally credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country
Membership	Encouraged to be a member NAVTA and of the Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Society

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	3 years of which 5760 hours must be in the specialty, must be completed within 5 years
Continuing education	25 hours, within 5 years of submitting the application
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- ECC must sign the skills list
Case log	50 minimum and a maximum 75 cases from January 1 to December 31 the year preceding the submission of the application
Case reports	4 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters from VTS or boarded veterinarian

# Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Anesthesia and Analgesia (AVTAA)



[www.avta-vts.org](http://www.avta-vts.org)

# AVTA



## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Graduate of AVMA program or legally credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country or graduate of a veterinary technology program
Membership	Must be a member of NAVTA

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	Minimum of 6000 hours must be in anesthesia (75% of your day- 4500 hours) cannot be more than 5 years back.
Continuing education	40 hours in 5 years preceding submitting the application
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS must sign the skills list
Case log	50 (maximum 60) case log from January 1 to December 31 the year preceding the submission of the application
Case reports	4 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT)



[www.avdt.us](http://www.avdt.us)

# AVDT



## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Legally credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country or graduate of a veterinary technology program
Membership	Must be a member of NAVTA. Encourage to be a member of AVDS

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	3 years with a minimum 6000 hours of which 2000 hours must be in dentistry. Must submit a letter of intent and have a mentor
Continuing education	26 hours of wet labs and 18 hours of lecture , completed during the 2 year mentorship program
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	Minimum 75 case log during the 2 years of your mentorship program
Case reports	5 case reports and a full intra-oral x-rays must be submitted
Letters of recommendation	2 letters



# Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians (AIMVT)

Small Animal Internal medicine  
Large Animal Internal Medicine  
Cardiology  
Oncology  
Neurology



[www.aimvt.com](http://www.aimvt.com)



## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country
-------------------------	---

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	Minimum 3 years with 6000 hours in specialty, within 5 years (75% of time in specialty) . Submit a letter of intent
Continuing education	40 hours in 5 years preceding submitting the application, 75% in specialty 30% general internal medicine
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	50-75 case log from October 1- September 30 the year preceding the submission of the application
Case reports	4 case reports
Exam questions	3 questions
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (AVBT)



[info@avbt.net](mailto:info@avbt.net)

[www.avbt.net](http://www.avbt.net)

# AVBT



## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Graduate of a AVMA technician program or credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country
Membership	Be a member of NAVTA and SVBT

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	Minimum 3 years of which 4000 hours must be in behavior. Must be within 5 years
Continuing education	40 hours in 5 years prior to submitting the application
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	50 case log November 1- October 31 prior to submitting the application or research tract
Case reports	5 case reports
Publishing	Publish a peer reviewed article
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# Academy of Equine Veterinary Nursing Technicians (AEVNT)



[www.aevnt.org/aaevntacademy.html](http://www.aevnt.org/aaevntacademy.html)

## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Graduate of a AVMA technician program or credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country
Membership	Encouraged to be a member of NAVTA

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	5 years experience of which 8000 hours or 75% must be in equine. Must submit a letter of intent
Continuing education	50 hours in 3 years preceding submitting the application, 10 hours prior to submitting your application. No more than 10 hours of on-line and 10 hours of in-house
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	50 to 75 case log from May 1 to June 30 the year preceding the submission of the application
Case reports	5 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# Academy of Veterinary Zoological Medicine Technicians (AVZMT)



[avzmt.email@gmail.com](mailto:avzmt.email@gmail.com)

[www.avzmt.org](http://www.avzmt.org)



## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Graduate of a AVMA technician program and/ or credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country
Membership	Encourage to be a member NAVTA and AZVT

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	Minimum 5 years of which 10,000 hours must be in zoo medicine, within 7 years.
Continuing education	40 hours in 5 years preceding submitting the application
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	Minimum of 40 case log up to 3 years prior to submitting the application
Case reports	5 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians (AVST)



[www.avst-vts.org](http://www.avst-vts.org)

## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician

Graduate of a accredited technician program or credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty

Minimum 3 years of which 6000 hours must be in surgery. Must be within 5 years, 75% of the day

Continuing education

40 hours in 5 years preceding submitting the application. No more than 50% on-line or in-house CE

Skills list

Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list

Case log

Minimum of 50 case log 1 year preceding the submission of the application

Case reports

4 case reports

Letters of recommendation

2 letters

# The Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice (AVTCP)

Canine/ Feline  
Avian/ Exotic  
Production Animal  
Feline



[www.avtcp.org](http://www.avtcp.org)

## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Graduate of a AVMA technician program and/ or credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country
Membership	Encourage to be a member of NAVTA

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	Minimum 5 years of which 10,000 hours. Within 10 years, 75% of your day
Continuing education	40 hours in 5 years preceding submitting the application . No more than 40% on-line
Skills list	Complete 80% - Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	50 – 75 case log from January 1 to December 31 the year preceding the submission of the application
Case reports	4 case reports
Exam questions	5 questions
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians (AVNT)



[nutritiontechs@aol.com](mailto:nutritiontechs@aol.com)  
[www.nutritiontechs.org](http://www.nutritiontechs.org)



## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Be credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country. Cannot have gotten another VTS within 3 years of submitting application.
Membership	Encouraged to be a member of NAVTA and AAVN

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	Minimum 3 years of which 4000 hours must be in nutrition . Letter of intent submitted 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Continuing education	40 hours in 3 years preceding submitting the application, 10 hours the year prior to submitting the application, no more than 10% company specific
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	40 case log from October 1 to September 31 the year preceding the submission of the application
Case reports	5 case reports
Exam questions	3 questions
Letters of recommendation	2 letters



# Academy of Veterinary Clinical Pathology Technicians (AVCPT)



[avcpt.vts@gmail.com](mailto:avcpt.vts@gmail.com)  
<http://www.avcpt.net/>

# AVCPT



## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Graduate of a AVMA technician program or credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country
Membership	Must be a member of NAVTA

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	3 years of which 4000 hours must be in clinical pathology. Within 6 years
Continuing education	40 hours in 6 years preceding submitting the application . No more than 25% electronic or printed
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	A case log maintained for the length of time necessary to complete all the required skills, within the 3 years immediately preceding the submission of the application.
Case reports	3 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# Academy of Dermatology Veterinary Technicians (ADVT)



<http://www.vetdermtech.com>

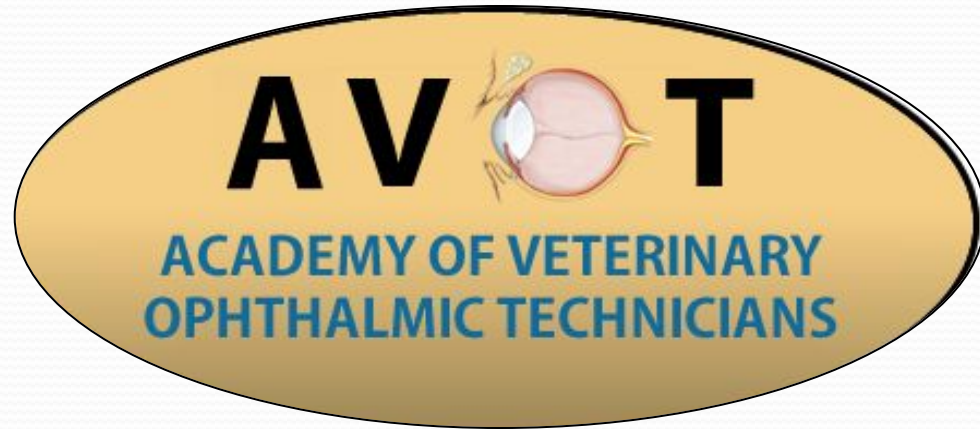
## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Be a graduate of an AVMA or CVMA approved Veterinary Technician program and or credentialed to practice as a Veterinary Technician in some state or province of the United States, Canada, or other country
Membership	Must be a member of NAVTA

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	3 years (a minimum of 4000 hours) hours in veterinary Dermatology, within 5 years
Continuing education	40 hours related to dermatology , within 5 years. 10 hours must be completed within 2 years of application . Only 20% from electronic and 10% from written
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	Minimum 40 case log 1 year within the 3 years preceding the submission of the application
Case reports	3 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# Academy of Veterinary Ophthalmic Technicians (AVOT)



<http://www.avot-vts.org/>

## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Be a graduate of an AVMA accredited veterinary technicians program and/or are legally credentialed as a veterinary technician in some jurisdiction. Work with ACVO or ECVO
Membership	Must be a member of NAVTA

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	3 years of which 6000 hours must be 75% in ophthalmology . Within 5 years
Continuing education	40 hours in 5 years preceding submitting the application
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list- 80%
Case log	Minimum 50 case log 1 year prior to submitting the application
Exam questions	3 questions
Case reports	4 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# The Academy of Physical Rehabilitation Veterinary Technicians (APRVT)



<http://www.aprvt.com/>



## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Be a graduate of an AVMA accredited veterinary technicians program and/or are legally credentialed as a veterinary technician in some jurisdiction
Membership	Must be a member of NAVTA and AARVT is encouraged

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	5 years of which 10,000 hours, with 75%. Letter of intent submitted 1 year prior to the application submission.
Continuing education	40 hours in 5 years preceding submitting the application
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	40 to 60 case log 1 year prior to submitting the application
Case reports	4 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters- 1 year prior to application submission
Questions	5 exam questions

# The Academy of Laboratory Animal Veterinary Technicians and Nurses (ALAVTN)



1. Research Clinical Nursing, with species categories of “Traditional”, “NonTraditional” and “Large Animal” species.
2. Research Surgeon
3. Research Anesthetist

<http://www.alavtn.org/>

## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Be an accredited veterinary technicians program and/or are legally credentialed as a veterinary technician in some jurisdiction
Additional requirements	Passed AALAS or CALAS Registered Laboratory Animal Technician credential level or higher.

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	3 years of which 6000 hours must be 70% (4000 hours) in ophthalmology . Within 5 years
Continuing education	60 hours in 5 years preceding submitting the application. 70% in the applicable practice category
Skills list	Veterinarian or VTS- must sign the skills list
Case log	50 case log 1 year prior to submitting the application
Exam questions	5 questions
Case reports	4 case reports
Letters of recommendation	2 letters

# The Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Diagnostic Imaging (AVTDI)



<https://avtdi.org/>

## Credential requirements

Credentialed technician	Graduate of a AVMA or CVMA technician program or credentialed in some state or province of the US, Canada or other country
Membership	Encourage to be a member of NAVTA

## Application requirements

Years in the specialty	Minimum 5 years (a minimum of 10,000 hrs.) of which 7500 hours must be in dedicated to the field of Diagnostic Imaging.
Continuing education	40 hours in 5 to 7 years preceding submitting the application. At least 10 hours of CE must be completed within the year of submission.
Skills list	Completed within the last 5 years prior to submitting the application. Veterinarian or certain VTS- must sign the skills list.
Case log	Minimum of 45 to 60 case log 1 year preceding the submission of the application
Case reports	6 case reports
Letters of recommendation & questions	2 letters – 5 exam questions