

# AVMA CVTEA Topics

**AVMA CVTEA Staff**



# CVTEA Standards of Accreditation

Standard 1 –  
Institutional  
Accreditation

Standard 2 –  
Finances

Standard 3 –  
Organization and  
Communications

Standard 4 –  
Physical  
Facilities and  
Equipment

Standard 5 –  
Resources for  
Clinical  
Instruction

Standard 6 –  
Library and  
Information  
Resources

Standard 7 –  
Admissions

Standard 8 –  
Students

Standard 9 –  
Faculty

Standard 10 –  
Curriculum

Standard 11 –  
Outcomes  
Assessment

# CVTEA Background

- Inception in 1972

## History



- 200+
  - Campus
  - Distance
  - Distributive

## Accredited Programs



- 8 DVMs
- 7 CrVTs
- 2 Either DVM/CrVT
- 2 Public
- 1 Canadian

## Membership



- Spring (limited)
- Summer
- Fall

## Meetings



# P&P Updates August 2025

- Changes to Standards, Skills, Equipment
- Compliance timelines (Standards 9 and 11)

# Standard Section 8a (Students)

8a. The number of students must be appropriate to achieve the mission of the program. Enrollment must not exceed the available resources including the number of faculty and support staff needed to meet the educational goals of the curriculum. An appropriate program personnel-to-student ratio must be maintained to ensure student safety and adequate delivery of instruction in program specific courses. Program personnel to student ratios shall not exceed 1:12 for psychomotor skills based laboratory course sections without animals present for all program modalities and 1:8 for psychomotor skills based laboratory course sections with animals present for all program modalities.

- Psychomotor skills based
- “all program modalities”

# Standard Section 8e (Students)

- Committee recognizes state specific regulations on DEI language
- Programs will not be penalized
- Standard 8e remains status quo
- Under legal counsel review

# Standard Section 9e (Faculty)

9e. Each program must have one full-time credentialed veterinary technician who must be a graduate of an AVMA CVTEA or CVMA-accredited program. Each program must have a minimum equivalent of one full-time licensed veterinarian. The full-time veterinarian equivalency must be limited to no more than four licensed veterinarians.

- Timeline compliance is one year - August 2026
- Why the change?

# Standard 11 (Outcomes)

## Standard 11a

11a. The program must develop program-specific outcome assessment instruments that assist in determining attainment of the educational goals. Such instruments shall include, but are not limited to:

- Retention ~~Attrition~~ rates
- CVTEA Student Exit Surveys
- CVTEA Graduates surveys
- CVTEA Employer surveys
- Pass rates and domain scores of the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) as compared to the average. Results from the VTNE are considered objective program-specific outcome assessment instruments.
- ~~Applicable state examination pass rates.~~



# Standard 11a (Outcomes)

## What does this mean?

- CVTEA has developed four surveys that programs must ensure are integrated in some way to collect outcomes data.
- Questions in CVTEA surveys are intended to provide core data across all programs

# Standard 11a (Outcomes)

Can programs continue to use their own surveys and methods to collect data?

- Absolutely. This does not require programs to replace their own surveys.
- Programs need to ensure that the questions in the survey are included in some way.
- Programs will be asked to provide their survey data (which should include the basic CVTEA survey questions) in progress reporting.

# Standard 11d (Outcomes)

11d. The program's three year rolling average VTNE pass percentage for first time test takers should meet or exceed the national average of first-time test takers within one year of graduation ~~must be 50% or higher.~~

# Standard 11d (Outcomes)

- Why? Removes “bright line”
- Emergency Conditions Policy
- What about posting VTNE performance to the public?
- What’s next?

# Skills - Changes

## Section 2 (Pharmacy and Pharmacology)

Amend “Explain appropriate drug administration route, methods, side effects and indications for use ~~when used~~\*.” The didactic skill remains required.

# Skills - Changes

## Section 5 (Surgical Nursing)

- Removed “tail docking\*”
- Removed “onychectomy – (dog, cat)\*”
- Amended “*position patient for common surgical procedures\**” The word “surgical” is added for clarity.

# Skills - Changes

## Section 5 (Surgical Nursing)

- Amended “operate and maintain suction and cautery machines\*” by separating the skill into two individual items to read as
  - “*operate and maintain suction\** (completion on model acceptable)”. This is a required hands-on skill.
  - “operate and maintain cautery machines\*”. This is a required didactic skill.
- Added “understand the principles of operation and maintenance of surgical laser equipment”. This is a recommended didactic skill.

# Skills - Changes

## Section 8 (Laboratory Animal Procedures)

- Amended “provide food, water, and enrichment in a species-appropriate manner (mouse/rat, rabbit)\* into two separate skills. The skill on mouse/rats would change from hands-on to didactic and remain required. The skill for rabbits would remain hands-on and remain required.
  - Provide food, water, and enrichment in a species-appropriate manner (mouse/rat)\*
  - *Provide food, water, and enrichment in a species-appropriate manner (rabbit)\**



# Skills - Changes

## Section 8 (Laboratory Animal Procedures)

- Removed “*intradermal (rabbit)*” as a recommended hands-on skill under “*perform methods of injection*” section.

# Avian Skills – Emergency Conditions

- Due to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and the potential impact on student and faculty safety, the following hands-on avian skills may be completed through the use of models.
  - *Recognize, understand, and perform restraint techniques of birds\**
  - *Demonstrate the ability to perform a physical exam and accurately record results\**
  - *Perform nail trim\**
- Programs may continue to use live animal avian species should they have access to a safe flock. The emergency conditions policy provides options for programs. It does not mandate. It's up to the program.
- Emergency conditions policy is in effect until November 8, 2025, and will then be reassessed.

# Equipment - Changes

## Instructional Equipment

- Removed camera
- Removed computer
- Removed video recording and viewing equipment.

## Clinical Equipment

- Amended “Electrosurgical Equipment” to read “Cautery Equipment (pens acceptable)”.
- Amended “Surgical suction” from recommended to required.

# Proposed Changes – Public Feedback

## Section 8 (Laboratory Animal Procedures)

The following being re-sent out for public feedback.

- Amend “provide food, water, and enrichment in a species-appropriate manner (mouse/rat, rabbit)\* into two separate skills. The skill on mouse/rats would change from hands-on to didactic and remain required. The skill for rabbits would remain hands-on and remain required.
  - Provide food, water, and enrichment in a species-appropriate manner (mouse/rat)\*
  - *Provide food, water, and enrichment in a species-appropriate manner (rabbit)\**
- Amend “*subcutaneous (mouse/rat, rabbit)\** under *Perform methods of injection* to require the hands-on skill for rabbit only, not mouse/rat.
- Amend “*intraperitoneal (mouse/rat)\**[GROUP] from a required to a recommended hands-on skill.
- Amend “*intravenous (mouse/rat, rabbit)\**[GROUP] to require the hands-on skill for rabbit only, not mouse/rat.
- Amend “*perform oral dosing (mouse/rat)\**” from a required to a recommended hands-on skill.

# Other P&P Changes

## Definition of Credentialed Veterinary Technician (CrVT)

Credentialed Veterinary Technician (CrVT) is one who the state board has determined has met all requirements for licensing as a veterinary technician in a given state. That includes:

- Graduation from an AVMA CVTEA-accredited veterinary technology program,
- Successful completion of a national competency examination, and
- Meeting any other requirements specific to licensing in that state.
- CrVT may be used in addition to titles indicating licensure in a given state, e.g., “Name, LVT, CrVT.”

# Substantive Changes

## SCR Form not in Armature-Separate Online Link

- Programs must now also report:
  - Changes to Standard 1 – Institutional Accreditation
  - Changes in Rabies policy
- Programs do not need to report
  - Three-year VTNE pass percentage
  - Each and every faculty change – only report if it impacts compliance with Standard 9e
    - FTE DVM (remember – max of 4 allowed)
    - FT CrVT

# Guidelines Added

## Rabies Policy Documentation

- Must have either rabies certificate with date, vaccine lot number, DVM signature or appropriate documentation in medical record (for animals)
- Vaccine reminders are not adequate proof of vaccination
- Medical records are acceptable

## Chemistry Course Content

- CVTEA is not prescriptive with regard to Chemistry course content; however, entry level topics that are important for VT students include atomic structure, periodic table, chemical reactions, and acid/base chemistry.

# 2026 CVTEA

## Open Positions

- Veterinary Technician
- Veterinarian-Smal Animal

Call sent out December 2025

Due mid-February 2026

Questions?

