



REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN (RVT)

Title Code: 5920HP

DEFINITION

Under general supervision to assist the Veterinarian by providing paraprofessional medical care and treatment to impounded animals including specific clinical duties which require Certificate of Registration as a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) issued by the California Veterinary Medical Board (CVMB); to perform euthanasia by injection; and to do other work as required.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

Positions in this class provide veterinary medical assistance in the care and treatment of ill and/or injured animals at Orange County Animal Care Services, maintain inventories, give instruction in basic animal health matters, and provide guidance and direction to Veterinary Assistant staff.

The Registered Veterinary Technician is distinguished from positions in the Kennel Attendant Series in that the latter is responsible for receiving, processing, feeding, and caring for impounded animals and the maintenance of the Kennel areas.

The Registered Veterinary Technician is distinguished from the Veterinary Assistant in that the Veterinary Assistant is a non-registered position and is prohibited from performing specific clinical duties.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

1. Under direction of Veterinarian, provides medical care and treatment to animals by assisting in conducting physical examinations, administering medications and immunizations, observing for clinical symptoms; and assisting with admissions, discharges and surgical releases, checking incisions; and checking and applying splints, clipping and bathing animals to remove mats, blood, tar or other materials detrimental to the animal's health.
2. Collects lab specimens including blood, urine, sputum, feces, and removes heads for rabies testing, etc.
3. Assists the Veterinarian in surgery by insuring that correct equipment and instruments are at hand, that monitoring and support equipment such as anesthetic machines, monitors, scopes, breathing apparatus are operable and by sanitizing necessary equipment, instruments and the surgery area.
4. Renders emergency treatment to animals.
5. Maintains records of animal treatments and monitors the feeding, care, and physical condition of animals under veterinary care.
6. Maintains an inventory of all pharmaceuticals, including controlled substances, and equipment and supplies.
7. Maintains effective interactions with public. Answers routine to complex animal care questions.

8. May assist in departmental training programs by giving instruction in basic animal health matters.
9. Provides guidance and direction to the Veterinary Assistant staff. Monitors work and trains new Veterinary Assistants.
10. Euthanizes impounded animals by the injection of appropriate substances when medical conditions or behavioral defects adversely affect the animal or public safety.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of

- Animal behavior, anatomy, common animal diseases, care and feeding of animals, cleaning, and disinfecting methods
- Techniques of administering medications and treatments to animals
- General surgical procedures and equipment used in an animal health clinic
- Inventorying and maintaining pharmaceutical supplies and equipment

Ability to

- Handle and care for animals in a humane manner that avoids injury to persons and animals
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships; deal tactfully with the public under sensitive or difficult circumstances
- Maintain accurate recordkeeping and write reports

Education and Experience

Graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Accredited RVT program or a California VMB Approved RVT program.

OR

Completion of a combination of 20 semester units (or 30 quarter units) or 300 hours of specific education and 4,416 hours of directed clinical practice experience completed in no less than 24 months under the direct supervision of a California licensed veterinarian (Alternate Route).

OR

Licensed, certified, or registered as an RVT in another state and has taken an examination determined by the VMB to be equivalent to the California examination and have 4,416 hours of directed clinical practice experience completed in no less than 24 months under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

License/Registration

A valid Certificate of Registration as a Registered Veterinary Technician issued by the California Veterinary Medical Board.

PHYSICAL, MENTAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND WORKING INVENTORY

Physical Requirements

Frequent sitting, walking, bending, and twisting of neck; bending and twisting of waist; squatting; simple grasping; reaching above and below shoulder level; and lifting and carrying of animals weighing up to 50 pounds.

Continuous upward and downward flexion of the neck; sufficient manual dexterity to assist in hands-on care of animals.

Mental Requirements

Employees in this class must have the mental stamina to deal with ill and injured animals on a daily basis, and be able to maintain professional demeanor in high-pressure situations such as assisting with euthanasia.

Environmental and Working Conditions

Works with stressed, sick, and injured animals on a daily basis. Constant involvement with sick and injured animals, potential exposure to bites, scratches or other injuries when restraining, examining or cleaning animals, and continuous exposure to noise is likely.

Frequent exposure to rain and hot and cold temperatures.

CLASS HISTORY

Established 06/20/1978
Previous Revision (Title Change) 11/14/2016