

## Performance Standards – Veterinary Technician

Performance standards are necessary in a competent veterinary health technician. These standards are necessary for the veterinary technician to be able fulfill the basic duties of the occupation.

### 1. PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- a) Ability to tolerate walking and standing for sustained periods of time.
- b) Capable of lifting and/or carrying up to 50 pounds from floor to waist level frequently
- c) Capable of using hands and arms to handle, install, position and move materials
- d) Capable of handling, positioning and restraining live animals

### 2. SENSORY ABILITIES

- a) Visual ability to see details at a close range and to make observations and assessments necessary in animal care. Be able to use diagnostic equipment i.e. microscope, thermometer, refractometer, etc.
- b) Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. Hear **auscultatory** sounds, monitor alarms, emergency and cries for help. Hear warning sounds from animals and humans of impending danger / injury.
- c) Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and to perform nursing duties. Perform palpation during physical exams. Administer oral, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intravenous medications. Insert and remove tubes and perform wound care management. Collect organic samples from live animals.

### 3. MENTAL

- a) Amenable to learning the safe handling, restraining and working with any species of domestic or exotic animals without fear. These animals may be sick, injured, fractious, or aggressive without fear.
- b) Willingness to assist with or perform a wide variety of routine medical surgical and diagnostic procedures common to the veterinary setting; including humane euthanasia.
- c) Capacities to read and hear, understand, and quickly execute complex verbal and written instructions given in English.
- d) Possess emotional stability when performing duties in animal life and death situations or other stressful situations.
- e) During emergencies, being able to respond promptly and appropriately.

Source: Adapted from Veterinary Technology Student Essential and Recommended Skills List, Accreditation Policies and Procedures, AVMA CVTEA, June 2012.