

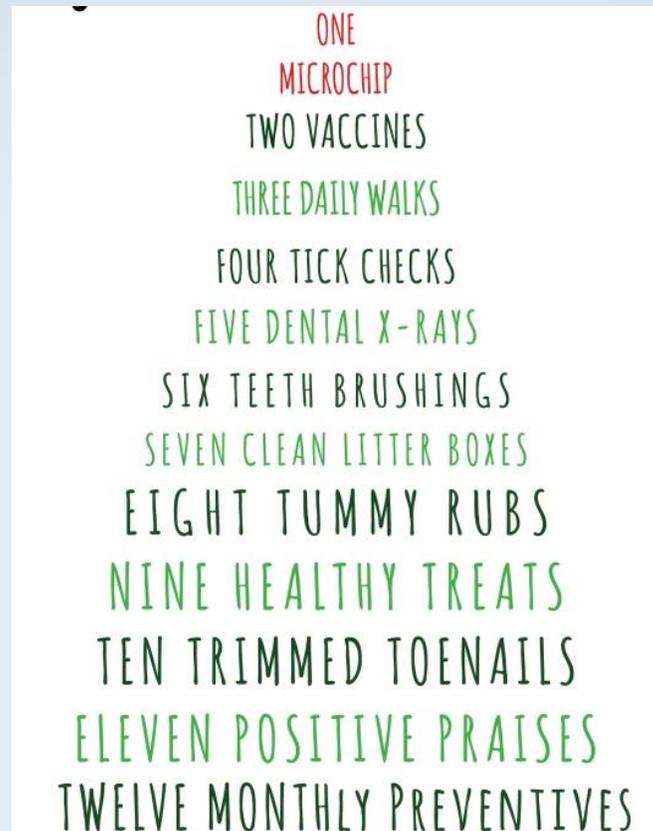
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

December 2020

*Regulatory
Bulletin*

Volume 4 Issue 4

The Veterinary 12 days of Christmas



*Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a
Happy and Healthy 2021 from the NCVMB*



Did you know that the Veterinary Practice Act defines Technicians (RVTs) and other veterinary employees (vet assistants) with different levels of duties?

90-187.6. Veterinary technicians and veterinary employees.

(a) "Veterinary technicians", "veterinary student interns", and "veterinary student preceptees", before performing any services otherwise prohibited to persons not licensed or registered under this Article, shall be approved by and registered with the Board. The Board shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the qualifications, registration, discipline, and revocation of registration of these persons, under this Article and rules issued by the Board.

(b) The services of a technician, intern, preceptee, or other veterinary employee shall be limited to services under the direction and supervision of a veterinarian. This employee shall receive no fee or compensation of any kind for services other than any salary or compensation paid to the employee by the veterinarian or veterinary facility by which the employee is employed. The employee may participate in the operation of a branch office, clinic, or allied establishment only to the extent allowable under and as defined by this Article or by rules issued by the Board.

(c) An employee under the supervision of a veterinarian may perform such duties as are required in the physical care of animals and in carrying out medical orders as prescribed by the veterinarian, requiring an understanding of animal science but not requiring the professional services as set forth in G.S. 90-181(6)a. **In addition, a veterinary technician may assist veterinarians in diagnosis, laboratory analysis, anesthesia, and surgical procedures.** Neither the employee nor the veterinary technician may perform any act producing an irreversible change in the animal. An employee, other than a veterinary technician, intern, or preceptee, may, under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, perform duties including collection of specimen; testing for intestinal parasites; collecting blood; testing for heartworms and conducting other laboratory tests; taking radiographs; and cleaning and polishing teeth, provided that the employee has had sufficient on-the-job training by a veterinarian to perform these specified duties in a competent manner. It shall be the responsibility of the veterinarian supervising the employee to ascertain that the employee performs these specified duties assigned to the employee in a competent manner. These specified duties shall be performed under the direct supervision of the veterinarian in charge of administering care to the patient.

The Board recognizes this section is vague and plans to clarify the wording. The NCVMB has historically interpreted 'assist with anesthesia to mean induce and intubate. This implies that veterinary assistants (non-credentialed employees) cannot "assist with anesthesia" in regards to inducing and intubating. This interpretation has not been enforced in NC in the past. This is due to the lack of RVTs in the state not making it possible to have RVTs in every practice in order to perform this duty.

The NCVMB believes that there are many veterinary assistants that are highly skilled and that practices could not function without them. However, the mission of the NCVMB is to protect the public and determine and regulate a standard of medical practice.

The NCVMB encourages veterinary practice owners and managers to support and encourage the employment and utilization of Registered Veterinary Technicians. Veterinary Assistants should be informed that there are 6 AVMA accredited Veterinary Technician schools in NC as well as many online accredited technician programs that can be completed in 2 years while continuing to work full time. Consider it an investment in your practice by investing and supporting your employees.

A skilled and knowledgeable medical team will make your job easier, provide the best possible care for your patients, and make your practice more successful!



Important: the use of the term Veterinary Technician

The North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act defines the term "Veterinary Technician" as the following:

90-181. Definitions.

(11) *"Veterinary technician" means either of the following persons:*

a. A person who has successfully completed a post-high school course in the care and treatment of animals that conforms to the standards required for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association and who is registered with the Board as a veterinary technician

b. A person who holds a degree in veterinary medicine from a college of veterinary medicine recognized by the Board for licensure of veterinarians and who is registered with the Board as a veterinary technician

The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board (NCVMB) believes that Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs) play an important role in the profession and provide enhanced patient care for the public and their pets. Unfortunately, many Veterinary practices are referring to veterinary assistants and other staff members as Veterinary Technicians or Technicians. This action creates confusion and misrepresentation to the public.

The NCVMB acknowledges that there are individuals without veterinary technician credentials who are highly competent and provide essential services to the profession. However, a Registered Veterinary Technician has a title (that is associated with specific credentials) that is granted and protected by law under the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

It is essential for each practice to educate their staff on the proper use of titles and the regulations of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act. Practices that improperly refer to non-registered individuals as Registered Veterinary Technicians or Veterinary Technicians will be cited upon inspection by the NCVMB and face the possibility of discipline.



Important: CE Requirements for 2021!

In response to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the NCVMB has suspended the requirement that only 10 hours of CE may be obtained via online learning. Therefore, for the years [2020 \(2021 Renewal\)](#) & [2021 \(2022 Renewal\)](#) Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians may obtain their CE completely online/virtually (both interactive and non-interactive) if necessary, to complete their requirement.

New NCVMB Board Member: Dr. Allen Cannedy

Dr. Allen L. Cannedy is a native of Fredericksburg, Virginia. He earned an Associate degree in Arts and Science from Germanna Community College, Bachelor of Science from Virginia State University and Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. He did a Rotating Large Animal Internship at the University Of Tennessee College Of Veterinary Medicine and a Ruminant Production Medicine Residency at North Carolina State University- College of Veterinary Medicine (NCSU-CVM).

Dr. Cannedy was a ruminant group faculty member at NCSU-CVM as a Clinical Assistant Professor from 1997 to 2000 until became the Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs for the College of Veterinary Medicine. His primary duty as the veterinary college diversity director is to promote veterinary professional careers to underrepresented minority groups. Dr. Cannedy also owns and operates the Small Ruminant and Camelid Mobile Veterinary Services private practice that specializes in care for Llamas, Alpacas, Goats and Sheep.

NC Pork Council Challenge!

The N.C. Pork Council's interim CEO, Dr. Gene Nemechek, has challenged State Veterinarian Dr. Doug Meckes to support North Carolina families and pork producers at the end of this difficult year by donating pork products to North Carolina food banks. Dr. Meckes responded to Dr. Nemechek's call to action, donated a ham and now, has challenged members of the NC Veterinary profession to also *give a ham*.

The NC Pork Council expanded their challenge this year to include a virtual option. You can give to one of the seven Second Harvest Food Banks in North Carolina so they can make direct pork purchases. Go to www.ncpork.org/give-a-ham to donate today! The NC Pork Council will match \$500 at each food bank.

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