**RULE 10**

**REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

**10.01 Citation**

These rules are made pursuant to sections 6 and 13 of the Act, section 10.04 of the By-laws and

By-law 19, and may be cited as the Registered Veterinary Technician Rules.

**10.02 Definitions**

In these Rules,

“**accredited veterinary technician program**” means a veterinary technician education

program approved by the Council; (programme agréé en techniques vétérinaires)

“**Act**” means the Veterinarians Act; (Loi)

“**Council**” means the NBVMA Council

“**direct supervision**” means a licensed veterinarian is readily available on the

premises when the patient is being treated and has assumed responsibility for the

veterinary care given to the patient by a person working under the veterinarian’s

direction; (surveillance directe)

“**immediate supervision**” means that the licensed veterinarian is in the immediate area

and within audible range, visual range, or both, of a patient and the person administering to the patient and has assumed responsibility for the veterinary care given to the patient by the person working under the veterinarian’s direction; (surveillance immédiate)

“**indirect supervision**” means a licensed veterinarian need not be on the premises, but

has given either written or oral instruction for the treatment of the patient, is readily

available by phone or other forms of communication and has assumed responsibility for

the veterinary care given to the patient by a person working under then veterinarian’s

direction; (surveillance indirecte)

“**national examination**” means an examination approved by Council that tests the skill

and knowledge of a graduate of an accredited veterinary technicians program; (examen

national)

“**practice of a registered veterinary technician**” means the performance of any of the

veterinary services set out in sections 11 and 12 of these rules on an animal, and includes related educational, managerial, research, administrative and commercial sales practices; (activité de technicien vétérinaire agréé)

“**prescribed fee**” means an applicable fee fixed by Council by resolution from time to

time; (droits prescrits)

“**registered veterinary technician**”, “**RVT**”, or “**registrant**” means a person whose

name appears in the register of registered veterinary technicians; (technicien vétérinaire

agréé, TVA or personne inscrite)

“**RVT Credentials Committee**” means the Registered Veterinary Technician Credentials

Committee established under section 3; (comité de vérification des titres des TVA)

“**RVT Register**” means the register of registered veterinary technicians established by

the Registrar under section 4; (registre des TVA)

“**RVT licence**” means an annual licence issued under section 6 to an RVT; (permis de

TVA)

“**veterinarian**” means a member who is registered to practice as a veterinarian under the Act; (vétérinaire)

“**veterinary assistant**” means an individual who assists a veterinarian in performing their

duties, but has not completed an accredited veterinary technician program; (aidevétérinaire)

“**veterinary technologist**” (VT) means a person who has successfully completed an

accredited veterinary technician program, but has not passed the national examination, or has not fulfilled all the requirements to be eligible to be entered in the register of

registered veterinary technicians or to use the title “**RVT**”. (technologue vétérinaire)

**10.03 RVT Credentials Committee**

The Council shall establish the RVT Credentials Committee, to be made up of all of the

following:

(a) 1 veterinarian;

(b) 1 registered veterinary technician (NB resident);

(c) the Registrar.

**10.04 RVT Register**

(1) The Registrar shall keep and maintain an RVT Register that contains the name of

each person who qualifies for registration under section 5.

(2) The RVT Register may be in any form the Registrar determines, including a book,

binders, or an electronic database.

(3) The RVT Register must contain all of the following information for each

registrant:

(a) name;

(b) address;

(c) date of registration;

(d) registration number;

(e) academic qualifications;

(f) other qualifications;

(g) a record of any disciplinary findings against the registrant under the Act or

in any other licensing jurisdiction.

**10.05 Qualifications for entry in RVT Register**

(1) A person may have his or her name entered in the RVT Register if the person

submits a completed application to the RVT Credentials Committee on the form

approved by the Registrar, together with all of the following:

(a) the prescribed fees both with the NBVMA as well as the EVTA;

 (b) any information required by the RVT Credentials Committee that

establishes that the person

(i) is competent, capable and of such character to safely and ethically

practice as a veterinary technician;

(ii) meets 1 of the following criteria:

(A) has graduated from an accredited veterinary technician program in the 3 years preceding the date of the RVT licence application,

(B) has practised as a veterinary technician for at least 1000 hours in the 5 years preceding the date of the RVT licence application, or

(C) has successfully completed any education or training prescribed by the RVT Credentials Committee;

(iii) has successfully passed the national examination;

(iv) subject to subsection (2), is not the subject of any existing or pending complaint or disciplinary finding under the Act or in any other licensing jurisdiction;

(v) has completed any continuing or additional education required by

the RVT Credentials Committee; and such application is approved by the RVT Credentials Committee.

(2) An applicant must provide full details of any existing or pending complaint or

disciplinary matter to the RVT Credentials Committee to prove to the Committee’s

satisfaction that the matter is not a reason to refuse the application for registration and the

applicant is of good character.

(3) An applicant who does not meet the qualifications for registration in subsection

(1) may be required by the RVT Credentials Committee to pass any examinations or

complete any additional training or education the Committee considers necessary in order to be eligible to re-apply for registration.

(4) An applicant who meets the qualifications under subsection (1) shall have their name entered on the RVT Register and shall be issued a certificate of registration.

(5) The RVT Credentials Committee may waive any of the requirements set out in

these rules for registration or licensing for either of the following reasons:

(a) the waiver is required by law;

 (b) the waiver is consistent with the objects and purpose of the NBVMA and

the RVT Credentials Committee considers it appropriate.

(6) An applicant must also be a member of the Eastern Veterinary Technician Association (EVTA).

**10.06 Annual Licensing**

(1) For the purpose of this section, “licensing year” means from June 1 of one calendar year to May 31 of the following calendar year.

(2) Notice of the RVT licence fee for the next licensing year must be sent to each

registrant no later than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the next licensing year.

(3) The Registrar shall issue an RVT licence for the next licensing year to a registrant

who, on or before the last day of the current licensing year, submits an application in the

form approved by the Registrar, pays the RVT licence fee and meets all other requirements set out in the by-laws and rules.

(4) An RVT licence remains in effect until the end of the licensing year for which it is issued, unless it is earlier suspended or revoked.

**10.07 Appeal from Refusal of Registration or RVT Licence**

On refusing an application for registration in the RVT Register or for an RVT licence, the

Registrar must give reasons for the refusal to the applicant in writing, and the applicant may

appeal the refusal to an appeal Committee established by Council to consider such appeals.

**10.08 Removing Name from RVT Register and Revoking RVT Licence**

(1) The Registrar shall remove the name of a registrant from the RVT Register in any

of the following circumstances:

(a) the registrant requests that his or her name be removed and surrenders his

or her registration certificate;

(b) the registrant’s name is incorrectly entered on the RVT Register;

(c) the Registrar is notified of the registrant’s death;

(d) the registrant fails to pay a prescribed fee;

(e) the registrant’s registration is suspended, in which case the registrant’s

name shall be removed for the duration of the suspension;

(f) the registrant’s registration is revoked;

(g) the registrant no longer meets the requirements of the by-laws and rules.

(2) The Registrar may restore a person’s name to the RVT Register and reissue an

RVT licence to the person if the person satisfies the applicable requirements set out in the

by-laws and rules for registration and licensing.

**10.09 Licensed registrant may use title**

A registrant who holds a current RVT licence is entitled to call themself a “registered

veterinary technician” and/or to use the abbreviated title “RVT” or “R.V.T”.

**10.10 Prohibition Against Person Other than Licensed Registrant Practising or using Title**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), no person other than a person whose name

appears in the RVT Register who holds a current RVT licence shall do any of the

following:

(a) use the title “registered veterinary technician”, or the initials “RVT” or “R.V.T.”, or any abbreviation or derivation of such terms;

(b) describe their activities as the practice of a registered veterinary technician.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to any of the following persons while practising as

a veterinary technician in the course of their employment:

(a) a person employed by the Government of New Brunswick;

(b) a person employed in an animal-care facility of an educational institution approved by Council;

(c) a person employed by the Government of Canada to practise as a veterinary technician and who is not required by the Government of Canada to be registered in the Province.

**10.11 Limits on Practice of Registered Veterinary Technicians**

A registered veterinary technician may practise only under the supervision of a veterinarian and

only if the veterinarian has authorized the services to be provided by the registered veterinary

technician and the services are within the registered veterinary technician’s scope of practice.

**10.12 Veterinary Services Requiring Indirect Supervision**

A registered veterinary technician must be under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian while performing any of the following veterinary services:

(1) administering treatments of drugs and medications by parenteral and injectable

routes (including but not limited to intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular ,

intraperitoneal, rectal, nasal, intracardiac, oral balling gun, or esophageal feeder);

(2) applying minor bandages for a hospitalized patient with veterinary orders;

(3) placing and maintaining intravenous catheters;

(4) initiating and monitoring fluid therapy;

(5) collecting blood;

(6) collecting biological samples, including collecting and preparing tissue, cellular or microbiological samples by skin scraping, impression or another non-surgical technique;

(7) monitoring blood pressure using a noninvasive technique;

(8) maintaining narcotic logs for the purpose of control in the administration and

inventory of narcotics;

(9) maintaining log books to record surgery, radiography, and similar procedures;

(10) performing laboratory testing procedures;

(11) preparing and taking scheduled radiographs not requiring sedation, including determining settings, positioning the animal, following safety procedures and performing quality control, but not including interpretation;

(12) administering parenteral nutrition;

(13) collecting and submitting necropsy samples;

(14) managing minor wounds if veterinarian assessed beforehand;

(15) performing physiotherapy following veterinary direction;

(16) expressing anal glands;

(17) performing routine maintenance of diagnostic and anaesthetic equipment; and

(18) handling and disposing of biohazardous waste materials.

**10.13 The following tasks may not be performed by a registered veterinary technician under**

**any level of supervision in accordance with the Act.**

(1) surgery (including, but not limited to feline neuters, declaws, dental extraction and suturing);

(2) diagnosis and prescription; and

(3) vaccination unless a veterinarian has pre-examined the animal – in keeping with

current Federal regulations rabies vaccination is to be administered solely by a

veterinarian.

**10.14 Professional Conduct, Complaints and Discipline Procedures – Registered**

**Veterinary Technicians**

Complaints respecting a registered veterinary technician:

(a) shall be dealt with following the procedures set out in the Act, by-laws and rules

of the NBVMA respecting complaints against veterinarians, with such changes as

the circumstances require in the case of a complaint against a registered veterinary

technician;

(b) shall be determined by a panel of the Complaints Committee and, as required, a

panel of the Discipline Committee, established in accordance with the by-laws

and Council shall appoint 1 or 2 additional Committee members who are registered veterinarian technicians on a case by case basis; and

(c) such additional registered veterinary technician members shall be appointed by Council to a panel of the Complaints Committee or the Discipline Committee from a pool of registered veterinary technician volunteers maintained for the purposes of serving on these Committees.

**10.15 – REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS- CODE OF ETHICS**

To promote progressive and humane veterinary medical care and maintain the

professional image and high ethical standards associated with the designation “RVT”.

1. It is the duty of all RVTs to conduct themselves in accordance with this Code of Ethics.

2. RVTs must comply with applicable sections of the Veterinarians Act, and the by-laws and rules made under the Act in effect from time to time.

3. All RVTs shall practise humane treatment of animals with honesty and integrity at all times.

4. All RVTs shall strive to be current in their knowledge of veterinary technology/nursing, keeping abreast of new developments and advancements in knowledge and treatment modalities.

5. No RVT shall indulge in an illegal Veterinary Practice or encourage others to participate in such practice.

6. No RVT shall make a diagnosis or determine any course of treatment, nor perform an act beyond the scope of practice prescribed by NBVMA, by-laws and rules.

7. No RVT shall belittle or injure the character of a member of any Animal Health

Technologist/Veterinary Technologist or Veterinary Nurse Association or member of any

Veterinary Medical Association.

8. No RVT shall violate the confidentiality of a client or their employer. This would include, but not be exclusive to social medium postings, shared photographs and comments that identify the RVT as an employee of a veterinary facility or could be traced back to same.

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