

# CERTIFIED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS:

SUPPORTING CLIENTS,  
PETS AND VETERINARIANS



**TODAY'S VETERINARY TEAM HARNESSES THE SKILLS OF HIGHLY EDUCATED AND TRAINED PROFESSIONALS KNOWN AS CERTIFIED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS (CVTs).**

Providing quality service, CVTs attain 2-4 years of post-high school education and have either an associate or bachelor's degree in veterinary technology. CVT students must pass a national credentialing exam and keep up-to-date with continuing education to remain credentialed.

CVTs work under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian or scientist (depending upon type of employment). While a CVT can perform a wide variety of tasks, they cannot diagnose, prescribe, perform surgery or engage in any activity prohibited by a state's Veterinary Practice Act.

Some CVTs decide to specialize in a certain area of medicine, such as dental technology, anesthesia, internal medicine, emergency and critical care, zoological medicine or equine veterinary practices. These professionals enhance their already deep knowledge with

further education and training offered by specialty "academies" that focus on their area of interest.

There are currently five colleges in Illinois that offer a CVT associate degree in applied science, including Joliet Junior College (Joliet); Parkland College (Champaign); Black Hawk College (Galva); Vet Tech Institute at Fox College (Tinley Park); and Rockford Career College (Rockford).

After passing an exam in the specialty area of study, CVTs can use their education to further their career. There is high demand for CVTs, with most finding rewarding careers in private practice. Exciting opportunities also exist in academia, research and laboratories, government, animal shelters, zoo and wildlife care, livestock management and many other areas.

## **CVTs HANDLE MANY TASKS, INCLUDING:**

- Obtaining medical histories
- Collecting specimens and performing lab procedures
- Providing specialized care
- Preparing animals and equipment for surgery
- Administering/Monitoring anesthesia
- Performing diagnostic and medical procedures
- Assisting in surgical procedures
- Performing diagnostic imaging
- Educating clients about pet care
- Supervising practice personnel
- Performing dental prophylaxes