



Washington State Veterinary Medical Association

Guide to Animal Health Care Tasks and Supervision Levels

Revised January 2016

TASK	Licensed Technician			Unregistered Assistant		
	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Immediate	Direct	Indirect
Anesthesia – ▪ Induction ▪ Endotracheal intubation ▪ Maintenance		✓ ✓ ✓		<i>*Strictly prohibited</i>	<i>*Strictly prohibited</i>	<i>*Strictly prohibited</i>
Anesthesia – ▪ Monitor vital signs		✓		✓		
Assist surgeon by tissue handling	✓					
Assist surgeon by instrument handling	✓					
Dental Prophylaxis		✓		✓		
Dental Extractions	✓					
Float teeth		✓				
Place intravenous catheter			✓	✓		
Place arterial and central venous catheter		✓				
Suture prepared skin, wound and gingival tissue		✓				
Intraperitoneal injections		✓				
Intramuscular and subcutaneous injections			✓		✓	
Intravenous injections into uncatheterized veins			✓			
Intravenous injections into catheterized veins			✓		✓	
Biological injections (vaccines) for rabies and diseases listed in WAC 16-42-026(1)		✓			✓ **	
Blood administration		✓				
Centesis including fine needle aspirates			✓			
Unobstructed bladder catheterization			✓			
Diagnostic procedures ▪ Fecal analysis ▪ Cytologic analysis including urinalysis and hematology			✓ ✓ ✓ ✓			
Microbiology			✓			
Lab sample collection and test preparation (not evaluation) ▪ Venipuncture ▪ Skin scraping (exfoliative)			✓ ✓ ✓		✓ ✓ ✓	
Imaging procedures			✓		✓	
Place and use of nasogastric and orogastric tubes for lavage, gavage or reflux			✓			

Source: Chapter 246-935-050 WAC



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Ophthalmological procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tear production tests ▪ Topical anesthetics ▪ Fluorescein stain ▪ Tonometry 			✓			
Application of casts and splints		✓				
Bandage application			✓		✓	
Removal of sutures, drains, and staples			✓		✓	
Removal of exposed foreign bodies			✓		✓	
Microchip implantation			✓		✓	
Perform enema			✓		✓	
Perform ear flush			✓		✓	
Perform ECG & blood pressure readings			✓		✓	
Massage, except when otherwise regulated			✓		✓	
Deliver pharmaceuticals per Chapter 246-937 WAC			per WAC		***	
Controlled Drugs: prepare and administer			✓			
Emergency Procedures	Licensed Technician			Unregistered Assistant		
CPR and first aid in addition to above procedures			✓			
Administer pharmacologic agents & parenteral fluids after communication with vet			✓			
Non-invasive CPR and basic first aid			✓			✓
Other aid as ordered by DVM as allowed above			✓			✓

-- LVTs and unregistered assistants may perform tasks not specifically listed under indirect supervision unless otherwise restricted.

* Shaded areas are tasks not allowed for unregistered assistants to perform at any level.

** Unregistered assistants must be directly supervised by a Veterinarian (not a Veterinary Technician) when administering veterinary biologics for rabies and those diseases listed in WAC 16-42-026(1).

*** Requires Veterinary Medical Clerk registration and compliance with Chapter 246-937 WAC.

Direct supervision:	The veterinary supervisor is on the premises, is quickly and easily available and the animal patient has been examined by a veterinarian at such times as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task.
Immediate supervision:	The supervisor is in audible and visual range of the animal patient and the person treating the patient.
Indirect supervision:	The supervisor is not on the premises, but has given either written or oral instructions for treatment of the animal patient and the animal patient has been examined by a veterinarian at such times as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task and the animal patient is not anesthetized.
Licensed veterinary technician:	Any person who has met the requirements of RCW 18.92.015 and who is licensed as required by chapter 18.92 RCW.
Supervisor:	A veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician employed under the supervision of a veterinarian.
Unregistered assistant:	Any individual who is not a licensed veterinary technician or veterinarian.
Veterinarian:	A person authorized by chapter 18.92 RCW to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Washington.