



Guide to Animal Health Care Tasks and Supervision Levels for Licensed Veterinary Technicians, Unregistered Assistants, and Registered Veterinary Medication Clerks

Revised September, 2019

TASK	Licensed Technician			Unregistered Assistant		
	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Immediate	Direct	Indirect
Anesthesia – Induction, endotracheal intubation, and maintenance		✓		*Strictly prohibited	*Strictly prohibited	*Strictly prohibited
Anesthesia – Monitor vital signs		✓		✓		
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 such as vaccines			✓		✓	
Biological vaccines for rabies and diseases listed in WAC 16-42-026(1)		✓			✓ **	
Blood administration		✓				
Centesis including fine needle aspirates			✓			
Unobstructed bladder catheterization			✓			
Diagnostic procedures: blood pressure and electrocardiogram			✓			
Diagnostic procedures analysis: cytologic, fecal, hematology and urinalysis			✓			
Microbiology			✓			
Lab sample collection and test preparation (not evaluation) to include: venipuncture, skin scraping, blood pressure, and electrocardiogram			✓		✓	
Imaging procedures			✓		✓	
Place and use of nasogastric and orogastric tubes for lavage, gavage or reflux			✓			
Ophthalmological procedures – Tear production tests, topical anesthetics, fluorescein stain, tonometry			✓			
Application of casts and splints		✓				
Bandage application			✓		✓	

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TASK	Licensed Technician			Unregistered Assistant		
	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Immediate	Direct	Indirect
Removal of sutures, drains, and staples			✓		✓	
Removal of exposed foreign bodies			✓		✓	
Microchip implantation			✓		✓	
Perform enema			✓		✓	
Perform ear flush			✓		✓	
Massage, except when otherwise regulated			✓		✓	
Non-controlled drugs: counting, labeling, and packaging of legend drugs			✓	Strictly prohibited by Unregistered Assistants. Must be Registered Veterinary Medication Clerk under Direct Supervision		
Non-controlled drugs: ordering, stocking, inventorying, and delivery			✓	Strictly prohibited by Unregistered Assistants. Must be Registered Veterinary Medication Clerk under Indirect Supervision		
Controlled drugs: administer, prepare, package, label and delivery			✓			
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			✓			✓

*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(2).

-- Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVTs) and unregistered assistants may perform tasks not specifically listed under indirect supervision unless otherwise restricted per Chapter 246.935.050 (7) WAC.

-- Source: Washington Administrative Code (WAC): Chapters 246-935-010, 246-935-040 and 246-935-050 and Chapters 246-937-010, 246-937-020, and 246-937-030.

Levels of Supervision

Immediate Supervision

Direct supervision:

The supervisor is in audible and visual range of the animal patient and the person treating the patient.

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.

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.

Hospital Personnel Definitions

Licensed veterinary technician:

Any person who has met the requirements of Chapter 18.92.015 RCW and who is licensed as required by Chapter 18.92 RCW.

Registered Vet. Medication Clerk:

A person who has met requirements for registration per Chapter 246.937.040 WAC.

Supervisor:

A veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician employed under the supervision of a veterinarian per Chapter WAC 246-935-010.

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.