

Frequently asked questions about the Practice Act

1. **Where are Vet Tech's and Vet Asst's mentioned/defined in the MN practice act?**

- Nowhere – at this time the only personnel that are listed are veterinarians
- MN is only one of about 14 states that do not define credentialed veterinary technicians in their Practice Act.

2. **Why should Vet Tech's and Vet Asst's be included in the practice act?**

- The main reason to include licensed veterinary technicians (LVT's) in the Practice Act is for the safety of the public: by having veterinary support staff defined in the Practice Act, including the level of supervision required to perform tasks and being able to hold individuals accountable - will all contribute to improved safety for the people and animals of Minnesota.

3. **Are there any other potential benefits?**

- This will ultimately benefit the practice of veterinary medicine in the areas of public health and safety, especially with issues such as zoonotic diseases, infectious diseases, biosecurity and terrorism, and food safety becoming concerns with the general public
- Our state will have more standardized patient care and veterinary processes
- Increased recognition/knowledge of LVT's and the veterinary health care team
- Improved retention of LVT's in the profession
- More tasks delegated to the LVT may help free up DVM's time and ultimately help with the shortage of large animal veterinarians in rural areas.
- Economic studies show that practices that utilize veterinary technicians and assistants to the full extent of their education consistently have more financial success than practices that do not utilize team members properly.
- Those involved in Disaster preparedness will now be able to work in states that require licensure to work as a vet tech.

4. **Are there any drawbacks?**

- Technicians could potentially be fined or lose their credentials if found guilty of any wrongdoing
- Higher dues to pay for increased fees of regulation
- Possible business hardship to DVM's who may have difficulty recruiting LVT's

5. **What will happen to non-certified vet techs and vet assistants that have been working as veterinary technicians?**

- A grandfather clause will need to be determined; this is decided by the Legislators. We are supportive of a lenient grandfather clause.

6. **Have other states needed disciplinary actions* for vet techs?**

- MN certifies a large number vet techs (1862), compared to other states. Ohio has 2000 RVT's and had 5 disciplinary actions in the past biennium (3 drug related, 2 substandard practice). Oregon (900) also had 10 within the past year. **Data collected 8/08 – 11/08*

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