

TABLE 5.3: Veterinary Team Member Utilization Assessment Tool

This tool is not meant to depict a comprehensive list of tasks CrVTs can perform. In addition, the list of tasks is intended to be agnostic about the differences in state practice acts. It is instead meant to give a view of what is and what is not possible based on the current state of the practice.

For each skill/task, place a 1 in the column if that role regularly performs the task and place a 0 in the column if they do not. Total all points for each column. If the Veterinarian column has more than 5 points, consider moving those tasks to CrVTs. While this list is not inclusive of all skills a CrVT could perform, it gives the team a chance to self-evaluate and identify training opportunities. Overall, the list has

4 required tasks for a veterinarian; depending on state veterinary practice acts (or rules and regulations), all other tasks could be delegated to a CrVT or VA (either under direct or indirect supervision), depending on the skill level of the team.

Use this guide to determine the role of each team member within the practice, then seek (or develop) training to elevate the team to an optimal utilization state. Where overlap exists between the roles of the veterinarian and CrVT (for example, client communication, patient care, and team wellbeing), the veterinarian and CrVT should consider creating a document that defines how they will collaborate and support each other in practice.

Skills/Tasks	Veterinarian Performs	CrVT Performs	Other Veterinary Team Member Performs (VA, CSR)	Not Performed/ Referred Out
Administer subcutaneous fluids				
Administer vaccines				
Anesthesia induction				
Arterial blood pressure monitoring				
Arterial catheter placement				
Bandaging (basic)				
Blood transfusion and crossmatching				
Catheter care (urinary, intravenous, arterial)				
Central line catheter placement				
Chest tube care				
Chest tube placement				
Chest/tracheal tube management				
Client communications (prescription and appointment requests)				
Client education (basic topics—pain assessment, husbandry)				

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TABLE 5.3: Veterinary Team Member Utilization Assessment Tool, Continued

Skills/Tasks	Veterinarian Performs	CrVT Performs	Other Veterinary Team Member Performs (VA, CSR)	Not Performed/ Referred Out
Collect urine/fecal samples				
Communicate a patient’s prognosis to a client**				
Cystocentesis				
Cytology sample collection				
Dental charting*				
Dental extractions*				
Dental local blocks*				
Dental prophylaxis*				
Dental radiographs				
Dermatological testing				
Diagnose a patient’s condition**				
Epidural block*				
Esophagostomy tube maintenance				
Establish an airway during cardiopulmonary arrest				
Feeding tube care				
Fill prescriptions				
Gastric intubation				
Husbandry				
Intraosseous catheter placement				
IV catheter placement*				
IV fluid calculation—maintenance				
Manage team roles during cardiopulmonary resuscitation				
Medication administration, oral				
Medication administration, injectable				

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TABLE 5.3: Veterinary Team Member Utilization Assessment Tool, Continued

Skills/Tasks	Veterinarian Performs	CrVT Performs	Other Veterinary Team Member Performs (VA, CSR)	Not Performed/ Referred Out
Microchip insertion*				
Monitor anesthesia parameters and maintain stable anesthetic plane				
Monitor emergent/critically ill patient				
Nail trims, anal gland expression, ear cleanings				
Nasogastric tube placement				
Neonatal care/resuscitation				
Obtain arterial blood gas sample				
Obtain diagnostic electrocardiogram				
On-site triage				
Ophthalmological testing (Schirmer tear test, fluorescein staining, tonometry)				
Orthopedic radiographs (ventrodorsal shoulder, OFA pelvis, spinal series)				
Pain assessment				
Patient restraint				
Perform chest compressions				
Perform euthanasia				
Perform initial teletriage				
Perform intake physical examination (routine surgery patients, etc.)				
Perform point-of-care ultrasounds				
Perform surgery**				
Peripheral catheter placement				
Phlebotomy*				
Physical rehabilitation assessments				
Place intravenous catheter and administer resuscitative drugs during cardiopulmonary resuscitation				

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TABLE 5.3: Veterinary Team Member Utilization Assessment Tool, Continued

Skills/Tasks	Veterinarian Performs	CrVT Performs	Other Veterinary Team Member Performs (VA, CSR)	Not Performed/ Referred Out
Radiographs (basic)				
Recheck appointments				
Recover postoperative/sedated patients				
Routine hospital/clinic cleaning: kennels, laundry, floorcare, etc.				
Run and read in-house laboratory tests (urinalysis, complete blood count, chemistry panel, packed cell volume, SNAP tests)				
Surgical assisting				
Suture/staple removal				
Suture existing skin incisions*				
Telehealth/follow-up				
Tracheal intubation*				
Ultrasound-guided nerve blocks*				
Urinary catheter placement (dogs, cats)				
Urinary catheter placement/unblock a male cat				
Vitals (obtained, monitored) on a nonanesthetized patient				
Walk post-orthopedic surgery/neurologic patients				
Walk stable canine patients				
Write prescriptions**				
Totals:				

*State dependent; some practice acts allow VAs or CrVTs to perform tasks as long as a veterinarian is present (on premises or in room).

**These skills/tasks are only performed by a licensed veterinarian.

CrVT, credentialed veterinary technician; CSR, customer service representative; OFA, Orthopedic Foundation for Animals; VA, veterinary assistant.

The 2023 AAHA Technician Utilization Guidelines are available at aaha.org/technician-utilization.

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. ©2023 AAHA.

