

Veterinary Assistant Skills Validation Checklist

In order to qualify to sit for the Veterinary Assistant Certification exam through the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, the applicant must demonstrate reasonable proficiency or competency in the following areas and have these skills certified by a licensed veterinarian.

- Use common terminology (spoken and written) required in your veterinary practice.
- Keeps assigned work areas clean and orderly.
- Demonstrates a basic knowledge of sanitary procedure.
- Handles animals in a safe humane manner.
- Can name and select the equipment items most commonly used in your veterinary practice.
- Demonstrates a basic understanding of the most commonly used veterinary drugs.
- Recognizes the symptoms commonly associated with animal affected by rabies.
- Demonstrates appropriate understanding and respect for the human-animal bond and dealing with clients and their animals.
- Handles and disposes of “sharps” instruments safely and in compliance with practice standards.
- Uses the proper procedure for lifting and positioning animals.
- Uses the proper procedure for placing animals in a cage.
- Uses the proper procedure for placing large animals in a stall.
- Uses (or can describe) the proper method of haltering a large animal.
- Practices (or can describe) the proper personal safety precautions when releasing a large animal.
- Properly restrains animals when assisting the veterinarian with cephalic and saphenous venous sampling.
- Properly muzzles fractious animals.
- Handles and holds animals so as to generally avoid bites to themselves and to attending veterinarian.
- Demonstrates (or describes) the proper method of moving cattle and horses through chutes and into or out of stalls.
- Recognizes and avoids potential safety hazards in the examination room or area.
- Handles animals in the examination room or area so as to prevent harm to patients and humans.
- Carefully observes patients and surroundings and reports observations to the attending veterinarian.
- Handles and uses disposable “sharps” containers in a safe manner.
- Follows OSHA guidelines in collecting and disposing of bio-hazardous materials.

- Demonstrates or explains the proper method of collecting fecal samples (including the palpation sleeve) in the large animal.
- Uses correct quantities of feces for fecal flotations.
- Recognizes fresh fecal samples.
- Can explain client options for disposition of euthanized or deceased animals.
- Discuss individual or communal cremation options with owners of deceased pets.
- Properly prepares the deceased animal for presentation to the owner.
- Exhibits proper decorum when presenting a deceased animal to its owner.
- Correctly collect urine through natural means.
- Knows proper method for collecting urine samples that are adequate for culturing microorganisms.
- Collects urine samples during the correct time of day.
- Correctly uses shielded gowns, gloves and other protective wear when taking radiographs.
- Handles uses and stores radiographic cassettes and film properly.
- Bathes and dips patients as instructed.
- Avoids basic hazards and species susceptibilities to certain bath and dip products when preparing and giving dips and baths.
- Follows accepted procedures when bathing or dipping patients.
- Safely cares for animals in runs, cages, stalls and paddocks.
- Uses the bedding types indicated for specific breeds/species of housed animals.
- Changes bedding materials in a timely and efficient manner.
- Disposes of used bedding materials as needed and in a proper manner.
- Recognizes and avoids safety hazards in the areas where patients are housed.
- Uses proper sanitary procedures in changing bedding materials.
- Maintains and repairs cages, kennels, and stalls as needed.
- Properly uses (or describes the proper use of) common devices and equipment to restrain horses, cattle, goats and swine for treatment.
- Recognizes common breeds and varieties of exotic animals that visit the clinic and calls them by the correct common name.
- Safely handles and restrains exotic animals for examination and treatment.
- Autoclaves veterinary instruments using moist pressure autoclave and chemical sterilization.
- Follows a proscribed procedure for cleaning all stainless steel instruments.
- Follows correct procedure for ultrasonic cleaning of instruments.
- Lubricates instruments properly during the cleaning process.
- Maintains all dental equipment in clean usable condition for performing prophylaxis treatments.

- Determines that all active scavengers are working properly in evacuating anesthesia gases as needed.
- Ensures that all sharp and cutting blades are removed and disposed of properly following surgical procedures.
- Describes (or demonstrates) the proper method for administration of a paste or topical drug on an equine patient.
- Describes (or demonstrates) the proper method for administration of a bolus, paste or topical drug on a bovine patient.
- Describes (or demonstrates) the proper method for administration of tablets, capsules, liquid and topical drugs for canine and feline patients.
- Stores animal feeds according to instructions.
- Measures food quantities accurately.
- Reads and follows food label directions correctly.
- Reads and correctly follows written instructions for animal feeding.
- Reports animal food and water consumption rates correctly and on schedule.
- Administers hydrotherapy according to directions.
- Selects the correct syringes on demand from the veterinarian.
- Correctly fills syringes with medication as directed.
- Recognizes intravascular, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intraperitoneal applications.
- Selects correctly the needle gauge and length requested by the veterinarian.
- Properly disposes of syringes, needles and other sharp objects commonly used in the veterinary clinic.
- Properly identifies and disposes of expired substances.
- Obtains information relative to animal being boarded and/or discharged.
- Discusses and explains the charges for boarding costs.
- Posts and records money collected to the appropriate records as directed.
- Interacts cheerfully with clients and handles complaints with a smile.