

January 2024

**NOTICE OF UPDATE TO THE  
AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AVMA)  
COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES (CVTEA)<sup>®</sup>  
ACCREDITATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (P&P) MANUAL  
Effective January 1, 2024**

The AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA)<sup>®</sup> has released an updated publication of the *Accreditation Policies and Procedures (P&P) Manual of the AVMA CVTEA* effective January 1, 2024 which are summarized below.

**CHANGES TO THE STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION**

Changes to Standard section 4e

4e. Safety of students, program personnel, and animals must be of prime consideration. Students must be educated on rabies risk prior to working with animals. Prior to live animal use, students must be vaccinated against rabies or the program must implement a comprehensive rabies mitigation protocol as described in Appendix A. (see *Statement on Safety Appendix*). Unvaccinated students shall only handle fully vaccinated and seroconverted mammals, with the exception of rodents and rabbits.

**CHANGES TO APPENDIX A – RABIES SUPPLEMENT-COMPREHENSIVE RABIES MITIGATION PLAN**

Amendments were made to the following subsection in Appendix A – Rabies Supplement:

*Appendix A – Rabies Supplement - Comprehensive Rabies Mitigation Plan*

1. Vaccination of mammals with the exclusion of rodents and rabbits. ~~Animals (cats, dogs, horses, food and fiber species)~~
5. Communication to internal parties.  
~~Documentation that CEO/President and general counsel of institution has been provided comprehensive information about rabies as a disease and has signed off on a) student vaccination policy and b) comprehensive rabies mitigation plan.~~  
Documentation that the program's institutional administration (Office of the President or equivalent level) has been provided comprehensive information about rabies as a disease and has reviewed and approved a) the student vaccination policy, and b) the comprehensive rabies mitigation plan. Documentation that the program consulted with legal counsel to ensure the student vaccination policy and comprehensive rabies mitigation plan comply with applicable law.
6. Communication to Students  
~~Documentation of PPE provided for students working with live animals.~~

Examples of compliance for item 5 may include, but are not limited to, email correspondence, letters, or reports. PPE was removed from item 6 to clarify that use of PPE does not allow unvaccinated students to handle unvaccinated animals.

### **CALL FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

The CVTEA is cyclically reviewing the following Standards of Accreditation and sections of Appendix F – Instructional Resources and Equipment list and Appendix G - Essential and Recommended Skills List. A public survey will be available online and sent directly to program directors in January 2024. Responses are due no later than **April 15, 2024**.

- Standard 9 – Faculty and Staff
- Standard 10 – Curriculum
- Appendix F Cyclical review of Species (Companion, Food & Fiber, Laboratory & Exotic)
- Appendix G Cyclical review of Section 1 (Office and Hospital Procedures, Client Relations, and Communication)
- Appendix G Cyclical review of Section 4 (Anesthesia)
- Appendix G Cyclical review of Section 7 (Imaging)

Other sections that will be included in the public feedback outside of cyclical review are listed below. Note that this does **not** include the entire section referenced; only a specific change is being presented to the public for feedback. Details to be provided in the public survey.

- Standard Section 4c – Facilities
- Appendix F – Clinical Equipment
- Section 3 - Nursing: Therapeutics subsection

### **CHANGES TO ESSENTIAL AND RECOMMENDED SKILLS LIST**

No changes were made to the Essential and Recommended Skills List with this publication,

### **CHANGES TO THE INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT LIST**

No changes were made to the Instructional Resources and Equipment List with this publication.

### **CHANGES TO THE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS - GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETATION**

The following clarification was added to Standard 4 – Facilities with regard to surgical suites:

- Surgical suites are dedicated to surgical activities only, free of extraneous materials and equipment, and protected from excess personnel traffic and contamination. Storage of surgery relevant supplies (i.e. sterile packs, suture, and scalpel blades) in closed easily sanitized cabinetry is allowed.
- Only dedicated equipment (i.e. anesthetic monitor or fluid pump) may be stored in surgical suite.

### **CHANGES TO OTHER SECTIONS OF THE P&P**

- Changes were made to the membership section of the CVTEA amending three “unspecified” veterinary technician categories to specified categories of clinical small animal, clinical large animal, and recent graduate. A total of seven positions for veterinary technicians on CVTEA remains status quo.
- Change was made to the number of meetings held by the CVTEA from two in-person meetings to one online and two in-person meetings annually.

**CHANGES TO SECTION VIII – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR ACCREDITATION OF PROGRAMS EDUCATING VETERINARY TECHNICIANS; Section I – Program Notification and Reporting to the Community**

Effective June 2024, the CVTEA will be making an amendment to subsection I – *Program Notification and Reporting to the Community* that will disclose reasons for probationary accreditation to the public. The change is being implemented in accordance with accreditation criteria of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), as CVTEA pursues recognition from CHEA.

Examples are provided for clarification:

Probationary Accreditation – Standard 11d, 9e

Probationary Accreditation – Standard 4c, 5c

**REMINDER – ACCREDITATION FEES**

Invoices for the 2024 AVMA CVTEA Annual Accreditation Fee are available now in the AVMA CVTEA Online Accreditation System by Armature <https://cvtea.avma.org/> under the DOCUMENTS tab.

Payments will be due no later than April 15, 2024, or programs may be subject to a \$500 penalty fee and Administrative Probation with a [penalty fee](#) up to double the annual accreditation fee.