THE COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES

The Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) met on November 3 – 6, 2016 and April 20 – 23, 2017 at AVMA Headquarters. The meetings were chaired by Ms. Judy Conley, LVT. Dr. Kimberly Kratt served as vice chair.

**Accreditation of Veterinary Technology Programs**

Within the above meeting timeframe, the CVTEA reviewed and granted re-accreditation to 41 veterinary technology programs, granted initial accreditation to 7 new veterinary technology programs, and withdrew accreditation from 12 programs. In addition, the CVTEA reviewed a total of 78 annual reports, 34 biennial reports, 40 interim reports, and 20 terminal reports. There are currently 22 programs on terminal accreditation due to voluntary closure. There are a total of 13 veterinary technology programs that have submitted applications for initial accreditation.

The CVTEA completed a total of 46 site visits in 2016 and a total of 55 site visits are scheduled in 2017. To date, a total of 37 site visits are scheduled for 2018. The CVTEA allows a maximum of 50 site visits annually, unless approved by the CVTEA. Each site visit is approximately 2.5 days in length. Each site team is composed of a total of 4 members including the site team chair who is a member of the CVTEA, a state veterinarian, a veterinary technician, and a public representative. An AVMA staff member attends each site visit as well.

There are currently a total of 221 AVMA CVTEA-accredited veterinary technology programs which are classified as follows: 135 at Full Accreditation, 47 at Initial Accreditation, 17 on Probationary Accreditation, and 22 on Terminal Accreditation. Of the 17 programs on Probationary accreditation, 15 of them are due to the United States Department of Education (USDE) withdrawing recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) as an institutional accreditor.

The list of accredited veterinary technology programs is available on the AVMA website, [https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Programs/Pages/vettech-programs-all-programs-list.aspx](https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Programs/Pages/vettech-programs-all-programs-list.aspx)

For the 2016 - 2017 academic year, there are approximately 12,737 veterinary technology students enrolled in campus based programs and 15,993 enrolled in distance learning based programs. There were a total of 5,495 graduates for July 2015-June 2016. Of that amount, 360 graduated with a bachelor degree.

**Accreditation Standards** – The Committee, following consideration of stakeholder comments, approved revisions to the following Standards of Accreditation in January 2017:

Amended Standard 3 (Organization and Communications) section 3d to require programs to conform with substantive change reporting requirements.

Amended Standard 10 (Curriculum) section 10c adding that course offerings to meet curriculum requirements must constitute a minimum of 60 semester credit hours (or equivalent).
The CVTEA cyclically reviews its Standards of Accreditation and Essential Skills and Equipment every 3 to 5 years. *The Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities* manual is typically updated twice each year in January and July.

The *Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities* manual is available on the AVMA website:

https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Programs/Pages/cvtea-pp.aspx

**Activities Report**

The Committee meets each fall with stakeholders from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America, the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators, and the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RVTTC) to discuss topics of mutual interest, the state of the veterinary technology profession, and to foster communication among the entities.

Ms. Judy Conley, LVT and Dr. Kimberly Kratt attended the AVMA/NAVTA Leadership Committee meeting held during the 2016 AVMA Annual Convention on behalf of the CVTEA.

The Committee is in the process of exploring and developing a new accreditation model. Other goals identified include:

- Achieving Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognition
- Establishing a CVTEA Selection Committee charged with assessing and appointing CVTEA members
- Implementation of an accreditation software management system