June 30, 2020

Dear Program Director:

Thank you for your continued efforts to matriculate your students through to graduation as well as planning for the future of their educational path during this unprecedented time. The Committee recognizes and appreciates your dedication to your students and the veterinary profession.

This is the fifth COVID-19 communication from AVMA-CVTEA. Previous communications have been sent by email on March 10, 2020, March 13, 2020, March 18, 2020, and April 25, 2020.

As the AVMA-CVTEA continues to assess the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Committee has made further accommodations to the AVMA CVTEA COVID-19 Policy dated April 25, 2020. Attached is the policy as effective June 23, 2020. Edits are show in red text whereby additions are underlined, and deletions are struck through.

Changes to the policy are summarized below:

- For programs in Category 2, the Committee modified the requirements for a follow up in-person site visit. If a Virtual Site Visit occurs, at the sole discretion of the Committee, an In-Person Site Visit may be required within a period not to exceed 18. For programs in Category 2, the Committee authorized the potential for a temporary, COVID-19 extension of the accreditation interval by a period not to exceed 18 months.
- For programs in Category 3, the Committee added the option of conducting a virtual visit. In addition, the Committee modified the requirements for a follow up in-person site visit. If a Virtual Site Visit occurs, at the sole discretion of the Committee, an In-Person Site Visit may be required within a period not to exceed 18 months.
- Added a section regarding modification to the Site Evaluation Team
- Extended the modifications to essential skill acquisition to include all graduates in 2020

The AVMA-CVTEA’s continued priority is student safety, followed by ongoing acquisition of knowledge and ensuring that students complete essential skills, as outlined in Appendix I, Veterinary Technology Essential and Recommended Skills List, prior to graduation.

Programs should continue to use the AVMA-CVTEA COVID-19 Substantive Change Form (SCR) (https://form.jotform.com/AVMAConvention/COVID-19SCR) to communicate to the AVMA CVTEA any changes to their contingency plans under the situation, including any updates to the fall 2020 semester. To update the CVTEA, you may either edit your original COVID-19 SCR or submit a new one at the link above. As contingency plans and changes are made, programs are encouraged to ensure they are working within state educational requirements, institutional policy, and the requirements for institutional accreditation.

For programs with site visits scheduled in 2020, staff will be in contact with you if changes in schedule or modality are deemed appropriate by the CVTEA. No changes have been made to site visit plans for 2021.

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding accreditation matters to the CVTEA through Julie Horvath, CVTEA Accreditation Manager (jhorvath@avma.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelly Black, CVTEA Chair