THE COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES

The Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) met on November 1 – 4, 2018 and April 25 – 28, 2019 at AVMA Headquarters. The meetings were chaired by Dr. Martha Mallicote; Dr. Kelly Black served as vice chair.

Accreditation of Veterinary Technology Programs
Within the above meeting timeframe, the CVTEA reviewed and granted re-accreditation to 34 veterinary technology programs, granted initial accreditation to six new veterinary technology programs, and withdrew accreditation from five programs. In addition, the CVTEA reviewed a total of 54 annual reports, 46 biennial reports, 44 interim reports, and one terminal report. There are currently two programs on terminal accreditation due to voluntary closure. There is a total of 15 veterinary technology programs that have submitted applications for initial accreditation.

The CVTEA completed a total of 44 site visits in 2018. There is a total of 45 site visits scheduled in 2019 and 25 for 2020, to date. The CVTEA allows a maximum of 50 site visits annually, unless approved by the CVTEA. Each site visit is approximately 2 – 2.5 days in length. Each site team is composed of a total of four members including the site team chair who is a member of the CVTEA, a state veterinarian, a state veterinary technician, and a public representative. An AVMA staff member attends each site visit as well.

There is a current total of 204 AVMA CVTEA-accredited veterinary technology programs, which are classified as follows: 158 at Full Accreditation, 40 at Initial Accreditation, four on Probationary Accreditation, and two on Terminal Accreditation.

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

For the 2018 - 2019 academic year, there are approximately 15,336 veterinary technology students enrolled in campus-based programs and 16,187 enrolled in distance learning based programs. There was a total of 5,344 graduates for 2017-2018. Of that amount, 540 graduated with a bachelor’s degree.

Accreditation Standards
The CVTEA cyclically reviews its Standards of Accreditation, Essential Skills, and Equipment and Resources List every three to five 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 (NAVTA), 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.

On behalf of the CVTEA, Dr. Kimberly Kratt and Ms. Tracy Blais, CVT attended the AVMA/NAVTA Leadership Committee meeting during the 2018 AVMA Annual Convention in Denver, CO and Ms. Kelsie Dolezal, CVT and Dr. Kelly Black attended the entity meeting held during the 2019 Leadership Meeting in Chicago, IL.

The Committee continues its process of developing a new accreditation model. Other goals identified include:

- Achieving Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognition
- Continued implementation of the accreditation software management system