Rules of
Department of Economic Development
Division 270–Missouri Veterinary Medical Board
Chapter 3–Registration Requirements for Veterinary Technicians

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Chapter 3—Registration Requirements for Veterinary Technicians

4 CSR 270-3.010 Certification of Veterinary Technicians


Pursuant to the authority above, the rules set forth below define the requirements for certification of veterinary technicians in Missouri. The purpose of these rules is to ensure that veterinary technicians meet the educational and practical requirements necessary to practice in Missouri. The four types of certification (a), (b), (c), and (d) are described in detail below.

(a) College level course of study in veterinary technology in a school having a curriculum approved by the board; or
(b) Post-high school college level course in the care and treatment of animals which is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

(2) In order to approve by the board the curriculum described in section (1) shall be substantially equal to the curriculum accredited by the AVMA.

(3) It shall be the student’s responsibility to have the school transmit directly to the board, a copy of the curriculum and a statement substantiating the equivalency to the AVMA accreditation standards. The board shall have the sole discretion of whether or not to approve the curriculum.

(4) The board shall notify the applicant by letter concerning the approval of the curriculum. If it is not approved, the letter will identify the reason(s).

(5) Any applicant who fails either of the required examinations for registration as a veterinary technician may retake the failed examination(s) by notifying the board office and paying the appropriate nonrefundable examination fee and registration fee no less than sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled examination. Test scores are valid and will be accepted by the board for a period not to exceed five (5) years.

(6) Effective August 28, 1999, no person may take either examination more than four (4) times either in or out of Missouri to qualify for registration in Missouri. Prior to making application for the fourth attempt at passage of an examination, the applicant shall schedule an appearance with the board to outline a continuing education program, which shall be board approved and completed prior to filing application for the subsequent examination.

4 CSR 270-3.020 Examinations


4 CSR 270-3.030 Reciprocity


Pursuant to the authority above, the rules set forth below provide information to those desiring registration by reciprocity.

1. To be registered by reciprocity, an applicant shall—

(A) Have been employed as a registered veterinary technician and supervised by a licensed veterinarian for at least five (5) consecutive years preceding his/her application to practice in Missouri; and

(B) Be currently registered in another state, territory, district or province of the United States or Canada.

2. The applicant shall—

(A) Complete an application form provided by the board which shall include a complete employment history;

(B) Submit the nonrefundable reciprocity fee and registration fee;

(C) Request the licensing authority in each state in which the applicant has ever been registered to submit a Verification Request Form which is available from the board office; and

(D) Request the national testing service to send evidence that the applicant has taken the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) and received a passing score as defined in 4 CSR 270-3.020.

3. Following the review process, the applicant will be informed by letter that registration by reciprocity has been approved or denied. The denial letter will identify the reason(s) for denial and the appeal process.

4. If an applicant does not qualify for registration by reciprocity because the other
state’s requirements are not substantially equal to Missouri’s, s/he may request the board to transfer his/her VTNE score. The applicant shall provide satisfactory proof that the exam was taken within five (5) years of the date of the application and that s/he completed the VTNE with a score at least equal to the passing score required for registration in Missouri.

(5) Grade score transfer applicants will be required to take the Missouri State Board Examination.


4 CSR 270-3.040 Temporary Registration for Veterinary Technicians

PURPOSE: This rule describes the requirements and procedures for getting a temporary registration for veterinary technicians.

(1) A temporary registration may be issued to a qualified applicant for registration pending examination results if the applicant meets the requirements for registration and provided that the applicant is working under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian in good standing. The applicant shall submit the following:
   (A) An application provided by the board;
   (B) The nonrefundable temporary registration fee; and
   (C) A statement signed by a licensed veterinarian in good standing that the applicant shall be working under the supervision of that veterinarian. To be in good standing the veterinarian’s license(s) must be current and unencumbered. This supervision shall be consistent with the delegated animal health care task.

(2) The supervisor identified on the temporary registration application is responsible for the temporary registrant and shall notify the board within ten (10) days if the employment ceases at the place of employment on the temporary certificate of registration.

(3) A temporary registration shall expire in one (1) year or sooner if the applicant becomes permanently registered. A temporary registration cannot be renewed.

(4) Temporary registrants are subject to the requirements of Chapter 340, RSMo and these rules.


4 CSR 270-3.050 Animal Health Care Tasks

PURPOSE: This rule describes the delegated animal health care tasks that veterinary technicians may perform and the level of supervision required for each.

(1) Unless specifically so provided by regulation, a registered veterinary technician shall not perform the following functions or any other activity which represents the practice of veterinary medicine or requires the knowledge, skill and training of a licensed veterinarian:
   (A) Surgery;
   (B) Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases; and
   (C) Prescription of drugs, medicines or appliances.

(2) A registered veterinary technician in a veterinary or animal hospital or clinic setting may perform the following procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian when done so pursuant to the order, control and full professional responsibility of the licensed veterinarian:
   (A) Application of casts and splints; and
   (B) Placement of indwelling intravenous catheters.

(3) Subject to the provisions of section (1), registered veterinary technicians in a veterinary or animal hospital or clinic setting may perform under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian other auxiliary animal health care tasks when done pursuant to the order, control and full professional responsibility of a licensed veterinarian.
