

CHAPTER 8
AUXILIARY PERSONNEL

[Prior to 2/8/89, Veterinary Medicine, Board of[842] Ch 4]

811—8.1(169,17A) Definitions. As used in these rules, the following terms shall mean:

“Accredited school of veterinary technology” means a two-year college level training program providing basic training leading to a certificate of completion of a two-year program recognized and approved by the AVMA committee on accreditation of training for veterinary technicians or recognized and approved by the board.

“Board” means board of veterinary medicine.

“Department” shall mean the Iowa department of agriculture and land stewardship.

“Veterinary assistant” means an assistant employed by a licensed veterinarian for a purpose other than performing diagnosis, issuing prescriptions or performing surgery and includes, among other assistants, registered veterinary technicians.

“Veterinary technician” means any citizen of the United States who shall have graduated in veterinary technology from a two-year AVMA accredited school of veterinary technology; or in lieu thereof has assisted a licensed veterinarian for five years prior to 1980, or worked under the direction of a licensed veterinarian for at least three years, including at least one year of formal training approved by the board, in veterinary technology prior to 1981; and who shall have successfully passed an examination prescribed by the board.

811—8.2(169) Registration of veterinary technicians. All veterinary technicians shall be under the direct control of the board and shall be registered with the state veterinarian, bureau of animal industry, Iowa department of agriculture and land stewardship. Each veterinary technician must pass both the veterinary technician national examination and a veterinary technician state examination as approved by the board. Applications for registration shall be obtained from and remitted to the board. Applicants who have passed both examinations shall be issued a certificate by the board stating that the named candidate is registered as a veterinary technician.

[ARC 3696C, IAB 3/14/18, effective 4/18/18]

811—8.3(169) Examination. The veterinary technician state examination shall be given at least once annually at a site or sites to be designated by the board at least 60 days before the date of the examination. The board may provide for additional veterinary technician state examinations as deemed appropriate. In the event the board provides for additional examinations, the site or sites of the examination shall be designated by the board at least 60 days prior to the date of the examination.

8.3(1) An application fee in an amount determined by the board not to exceed \$45 shall accompany the application to take the veterinary technician state examination; both the fee and the application must be received by the board at least 30 days before the examination. An additional fee shall be submitted for the veterinary technician examination when a professional examination service is utilized by the board. The additional fee shall be the charges for the examination by the professional examination service plus administrative costs in an amount determined by the board. The fee for the veterinary technician state examination may be waived for qualifying military service personnel upon request.

8.3(2) An applicant who fails to earn a passing score on the veterinary technician state examination shall be entitled to retake the examination not earlier than 90 days since the applicant last took the examination. The applicant must submit a new application and the application fee in accordance with subrule 8.3(1) to retake the veterinary technician state examination. An applicant is limited to five total attempts at the veterinary technician state examination; any additional applications to retake the examination beyond the five allowable attempts may be considered by the board and may be granted at the board's discretion.

[ARC 1984C, IAB 4/29/15, effective 6/3/15; ARC 3696C, IAB 3/14/18, effective 4/18/18; ARC 3960C, IAB 8/15/18, effective 9/19/18]

811—8.4 Reserved.

811—8.5(169) Supervision. All veterinary assistants, including veterinary technicians, shall be employed by and receive compensation from and be under the direct supervision of a licensed or license exempt veterinarian, and shall function at the same place of business as the veterinarian. Such supervision shall include, but not be limited to, the availability of the veterinarian on the premises.

8.5(1) Veterinarian's responsibility:

a. To personally examine the animal within 12 hours before the assistant carries out any procedures.

b. To direct, control and supervise the conduct of the assistant in the assistant's work.

8.5(2) Veterinary assistant's responsibility:

a. The veterinary assistant, including registered veterinarian technicians, shall not perform surgery; shall not make a diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases; shall not prescribe drugs, medicine and appliances, and shall not administer rabies vaccine.

b. Under conditions of an emergency, a veterinary assistant including a registered veterinary technician may render without supervision such lifesaving aid and treatment as follows: administration of oxygen; maintenance of airways including the nonsurgical insertion of an endotracheal tube; and control of hemorrhage. Under conditions of emergency, a registered veterinary technician but not an unregistered veterinary assistant may render such additional lifesaving aid and treatment as follows: placement of an IV catheter and the administration of fluids; external cardiac massage; and the administration of corticosteroids. Emergency aid and treatment, if rendered to an animal not in the presence of a licensed veterinarian, shall only be continued under the direction of a licensed veterinarian, which in the case of emergency may include telephone or radio contact by a veterinarian en route to the site, until the veterinarian arrives in a timely manner. "Emergency" for the purpose of this rule means that the animal has been placed in a life-threatening condition where immediate treatment is necessary to sustain life.

811—8.6(169) Revocation or suspension of veterinary technician's certificate. The following shall be grounds for revocation or suspension of a certificate at the discretion of the board:

1. Fraud, misrepresentation or deception in obtaining a certificate.
2. Conviction of a felony, in which case the record of such conviction will be conclusive evidence.
3. Chronic inebriety or habitual use of drugs.
4. For having professional connection with, or lending one's name to any illegal practice of veterinary medicine and the various branches thereof.
5. Conduct reflecting unfavorably on the vocation of veterinary technology.
6. Conviction on the charge of cruelty to animals.
7. Failure to satisfy the continuing education requirements of rule 811—8.10(169,272C).

811—8.7(169) Action against veterinarians. The board of veterinary medicine shall take action against any veterinarian licensed to practice in the state of Iowa who:

1. Permits or directs any veterinary assistant, including a registered veterinary technician, to perform veterinary duties involving diagnosis, prescription or surgery.
2. Permits or directs any veterinary assistant, including a registered veterinary technician, to perform any act which would be a legal or ethical violation if committed by the veterinarian.

811—8.8(169,272C) Disciplinary procedure. Disciplinary action taken under rule 811—8.6(169) or 811—8.7(169) shall follow the procedure established by 811—10.50(169,272C). Where appropriate, references in 811—10.50(169,272C) to a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine shall be construed to mean persons certified as a veterinary assistant or technician.

811—8.9(169,272C) Certification by endorsement. On a case-by-case basis, the board may issue certification by endorsement and without examination to applicants who hold certification or licensure as veterinary technicians in another jurisdiction.

811—8.10(169,272C) Continuing education.

8.10(1) At least 30 hours of continuing education in courses approved by the board of veterinary medicine shall be completed triennially by each registered veterinary technician. The registrant has the responsibility for financing continuing education. These credit hours may be obtained by attending approved scientific seminars and meetings on the basis of one credit hour for each hour of attendance. Attendance at any board-approved national, state or regional meeting will be acceptable. Credit for qualified graduate college courses may be approved on the basis of multiplying each college credit hour by 10, to a maximum of 15 hours during any one triennial. A maximum of 10 hours during any one triennial may be achieved by the completion of approved home study courses.

8.10(2) Each registrant shall obtain the 30 credit hours between the registrant's certificate anniversary date and the last day of the following three-year period. However, a registrant who graduated from an accredited college of veterinary technology within three years of the issuance of an Iowa certificate is required to obtain only 20 credit hours for the first triennial. Continuing education credits in excess of 30 hours for any three-year period may be carried over to the next triennial period, but the total number of credits carried over shall not exceed 10 hours.

8.10(3) Completion of the continuing education will be reported to the secretary of the board of veterinary medicine on forms provided by the board by December 31 of the triennial anniversary year. The reporting form must be signed by the registrant and accompanied by an administration fee of \$15.

8.10(4) Compliance with this rule and subrule 8.6(7) is waived until January 1, 1993. Registrants whose certificate triennial anniversary dates fall in the year 1993 shall complete and report 10 credit hours. Registrants whose certificate triennial anniversary dates fall in the year 1994 shall complete and report 20 credit hours. All registrants whose certificate triennial anniversary dates fall in the year 1995 and subsequent years shall complete and report the full 30 credit hours.

8.10(5) The board may waive continuing education requirements for qualifying military service personnel upon request.

[ARC 1984C, IAB 4/29/15, effective 6/3/15]

811—8.11(272C) Registration as veterinary technician by verification. Registration by verification for a veterinary technician is available in accordance with the following:

8.11(1) Eligibility. A person may seek registration by verification if the person is registered or licensed in at least one other jurisdiction.

8.11(2) Board application. The applicant must submit the following:

- a. A completed application for registration by verification.
- b. Payment of the application fee.
- c. A verification form, completed by the licensing/registration authority in the jurisdiction that issued the applicant's license or registration, verifying that the applicant's license or registration in that jurisdiction complies with the requirements of Iowa Code section 272C.12. The completed verification form must be sent directly from the licensing/registration authority to the board. This form is available on the board's website.
- d. Proof of passing Iowa's veterinary technician state examination.
- e. A copy of the relevant disciplinary documents if another jurisdiction has taken disciplinary action against the applicant.

8.11(3) Applicants with prior discipline. If another jurisdiction has taken disciplinary action against an applicant, the board will determine whether the cause for the disciplinary action has been corrected and the matter has been resolved. If the board determines the disciplinary matter has not been resolved, the board will not take action on the application for registration until the matter has been resolved.

8.11(4) Applicants with pending licensing/registration complaints or investigations. If an applicant currently has a complaint, allegation, or investigation relating to unprofessional conduct pending before any regulating entity in another jurisdiction, the board will not take action on the application for registration until the complaint, allegation, or investigation has been resolved.

8.11(5) Limitations. A person who has had a license/registration revoked, or who has voluntarily surrendered a license/registration while under investigation for unprofessional conduct in another jurisdiction, is ineligible for registration by verification.

[ARC 5639C, IAB 6/2/21, effective 7/7/21; ARC 7077C, IAB 10/4/23, effective 11/8/23]

811—8.12(272C) Applicants with work experience in jurisdictions without licensure requirements.

8.12(1) Work experience. An applicant for initial registration who has relocated to Iowa from another jurisdiction that did not require a professional license/registration to practice in the profession may be considered to have met any educational and training requirements if the person has at least three years of work experience with a scope of practice substantially similar to that of the profession for which registration in Iowa is sought. The three years of work experience must be within the four years preceding the date of application for initial registration. The applicant must satisfy all other requirements, including passing any required examinations, to receive a license.

8.12(2) Board application. The applicant must submit the following:

- a. A completed application for registration through work experience.
- b. Payment of the application fee.
- c. Proof of passing both the veterinary technician national examination and Iowa's veterinary technician state examination.

8.12(3) Required documentation. An applicant who wishes to substitute work experience in lieu of satisfying applicable education or training requirements shall carry the burden of providing all of the following by submitting relevant documents as part of a completed registration application:

- a. Proof of Iowa residency, which may include one or more of the following:
 - (1) A residential mortgage, lease, or rental agreement;
 - (2) A utility bill;
 - (3) A bank statement;
 - (4) A paycheck or pay stub;
 - (5) A property tax statement;
 - (6) A document issued by the federal or state government;
 - (7) Any other board-approved document that reliably confirms Iowa residency.
- b. Proof of three or more years of work experience within the four years preceding the application for registration, which may include one or more of the following:
 - (1) A letter from the applicant's prior employer documenting the dates of employment;
 - (2) Paychecks or pay stubs; or
 - (3) Any other board-approved evidence of sufficient work experience.
- c. Proof that the work experience was in a practice with a scope of practice substantially similar to that for the registration sought in Iowa, which must include:
 - (1) A written statement by the applicant detailing the scope of practice; and
 - (2) Business or marketing materials detailing the services provided.
- d. Proof that a professional license/registration was not required in the other state, which may include:
 - (1) Copies of applicable laws;
 - (2) Materials from a website operated by a governmental entity; or
 - (3) Materials from a national professional association.

[ARC 5726C, IAB 6/30/21, effective 8/9/21]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 169.4, 169.5, 169.9, 169.12, 169.20 and 272C.4.

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[◇] Two or more ARCs