

**To:**

Supervising Veterinarian

Veterinary Technician Specialist mentor:

This letter has been presented to you by a credentialed veterinary technician currently employed at your facility who has an interest in pursuing membership in the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA). In order to achieve this objective your technician will complete a two step process of submitting an application packet for approval by the credentials committee and sitting for a written examination. Successful completion of both steps will earn your technician the title of Veterinary Technician Specialist in Anesthesia. A technician with VTS (Anesthesia) certification demonstrates superior knowledge in the care and management of veterinary anesthesia cases while promoting patient safety, consumer protection and professionalism.

The application process is especially time consuming and your technician will need your support and guidance throughout the process. I recommend that you read the entire application packet to become familiar with the areas in which your technician will require your assistance. Listed below are some areas of the application that are particularly important as well as some suggestions and guidelines to assist you in helping your technician prepare an application for submission.

- The professional experience and history form requires pre-approval before June 1, 2014. Failure to have this approval by June 1<sup>st</sup> will disqualify the veterinary technician from submitting the remainder of the application in December.
- All cases contained in the case log must be performed **within the year** prior to the application submission deadline of December 31.
- All cases must be performed at the facility where the technician is employed or while under the supervision of the employer at a different location (i.e., your clinic performs an MRI at a different location but you and your technician are still in charge of the case and perform the anesthesia).
- Allow your technician to manage complicated anesthesia cases from start to finish. The technician should be able to formulate an anesthetic drug protocol that is specific for each patient and discuss with you why they selected each particular drug; their plans for intra operative monitoring and pain management; anticipated anesthetic complications and recovery.
- The AVTA requires that a licensed veterinarian or VTS member attest to the technician's ability to **master** the required percentage of **skills** in the combined skills section. Mastery is defined as being able to perform the task safely, with a high degree of success and without being coached or prompted. Mastery requires having performed the task in a wide variety of patients and situations.
  - Look over the skills list completely and **only** sign off on a skill if you feel confident that your technician meets the definition of mastery.
  - All signed skills must be demonstrated in the case logs.
  - Assist your technician in acquiring new skills for the application process.
- Send your technician to at least one national meeting a year to give them ample exposure to the most current information related to anesthesia and allow them to accumulate continuing education credits.

On behalf of the AVTA, I would like to thank you for supporting your technician through the application process. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at syler75@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Becky Vaughan, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia), (Clinical Practice- can/fel)  
AVTA Credentials Committee Chair