

April 25, 2008

TO: AAVSB Member Boards
FROM: Robyn Kendrick, Executive Director, on behalf of the AAVSB Board of Directors
CC: Cate Daniels, TIVA/VTNE Program Administrator for further distribution

POLICY UPDATE: Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) 2010 Eligibility Requirements

The AAVSB Board of Directors has worked closely with the Veterinary Technician Testing Committee (VTTC), the Professional Examination Service (PES), the technician associations, the AAVSB member boards, and other key stakeholders to continue to elevate and support the veterinary technician profession. The Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), owned by AAVSB since June 2005, is a key component in this effort. To ensure continuous quality improvement to our programs, and in keeping with the AAVSB's strategic priorities, the Board has approved the following policy regarding eligibility to sit for the VTNE:

After December 31, 2010, a VTNE candidate must be a graduate of a veterinary technology program accredited by the AVMA or the CVMA or a program approved by the regulatory board of the jurisdiction where the examination is given.

This recommendation was initially set forth by the VTTC in 2001, and it has been socialized and discussed by the AAVSB since the purchase of the exam. Based on ongoing conversations with the membership, it is evident that many of the affected regulatory boards have been preparing for the change, and we will gladly continue to assist you in any way possible. Also, staff appreciates all of the input you have provided regarding the potential impact from this policy change.

In the jurisdictions which do not regulate or license veterinary technicians AAVSB will continue to offer the VTNE on the same schedule as it has been to date and will enforce the education requirements which have already been in place since the first AAVSB administration.

The AAVSB's first administration of this important licensing examination was held in January 2007, in partnership with our testing vendor PES. At this time AAVSB handles applications for 20 states and administers the examination in partnership with PES in 17 of them. In the past year the number of candidates who sat for the VTNE has increased 22% (from January 2007 to January 2008). Our preliminary data indicates that there will be a significant increase in the number of candidates from June 2007 to June 2008 as well. Clearly more and more individuals seek to become credentialed, and the AAVSB is proud to partner with all of you to provide the resources necessary to enhance the VTNE.

Finally, the Board of Directors has committed significant resources – including database enhancements, staff support and testing development – to continuous quality improvement efforts for the exam. The AAVSB staff welcomes the opportunity to be of service and appreciates your questions, suggestions and input. Information about the VTNE can be found on our website: www.aavsb.org, or you may contact Cate Daniels, VTNE Administrator, at cdaniels@aavsb.org or 877-698-8482, ext. 226.