

Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians



Veterinary Technician Specialty (VTS) Application Competancy Skills

Competency Skills (Foundation and Advanced) are skills that you have mastered as a credentialed, or registered technician/technologist/nurse/etc in the previous 5 years from March 15th of Part 1 submission. For example, if part 1 is submitted on March 15, 2025, skills can be included when they are mastered between March 15, 2020, to March 15, 2025.

Mastery of Skills

Mastery is defined as completing a skill numerous times, over time, where you develop to be fully capable of completing the task without coaching. The mastery of the task involves being able to describe all the steps with such accuracy and understanding that you would be considered competent to train others to complete the task effectively.

Mastering skills on multiple species is ideal. If one species is the focus in your practice, **at least 10%** of mastered skills must be from a second species.

90% of skills from each list to be attested to as mastered
70% of mastered skills from each list to be included in the case census

Skills that meet the definition of mastery require a signature attestation to be an attestor who meets the definition of an approved attestor.

Competancy Skills Requiring Attestation

Competency skills requiring attestation have been divided into two lists:

Foundation Skills - a signature attesting to the mastery by an attestor.

A **minimum of 90% of skills** must be attested to as being mastered by the candidate.

Advanced Skills - a signature attesting to the mastery by an attestor. A **minimum of 90% of skills** must be attested to as being mastered by the candidate.

Both the Foundation and Advanced skill lists are intended to be the culmination of skills over a focused period in the candidate's career as a credentialed veterinary technician/technologist/nurse. Any skill that is attested to as mastered signifies the candidate has performed the skill repeatedly over a long period, not once or twice. The candidate should be able to consistently and successfully perform the skill on multiple patients with varying health conditions.

Attesting of skills will be completed through the online portal via links sent to the attestor.

Who Can Attest to my Skills

Check out this Appendix





Foundation Skills

1. Perform a nutritional assessment: Physical exam, BCS, MCS, weight, nutrition history
2. Perform a fecal quality assessment
3. Recognize patients at risk for malnutrition. Risk examples are but are not limited to: fed excessive or insufficient calories, fed an unbalanced diet, and fed supplements that may cause an imbalance.
4. Calculate Resting Energy Requirements (RER)
5. Calculate Daily Energy Requirements (DER)
6. Calculate Ideal Body Weight
7. Calculate caloric requirements (kcal/day) based on RER/DER
8. Calculate feeding requirements (cup or can AND gram/day) based on RER/DER
9. Calculate complex meal volumes (example: a combination of canned, kibble, and treats)
10. Correlate how a nutrition recommendation may be influenced by blood chemistry results
11. Correlate how a nutrition recommendation may be influenced by cytology or histopathology results
12. Correlate how a nutrition recommendation may be influenced by urinalysis results
13. Perform sample collection, handling, or in-house diagnostics for other specific nutritional-related diseases (blood glucose, bile acids, SDMA, cortisol, etc)
14. Collaborate with a veterinarian to develop a nutrition plan
15. Implement a nutrition plan for a patient, flock, or herd (etc)
16. Identify a malnourished patient and create an appropriate feeding plan. Risk examples are but are not limited to: fed excessive or insufficient calories, fed an unbalanced diet, and fed supplements that may cause an imbalance.
17. Recognize pharmaceutical effects on a patient's GI motility, digestion, and absorption.
18. Recognize when medications should be administered with or without food
19. Educate clients regarding best practices for feeding a patient, flock, herd, etc. Conversations should include, but are not limited to: feeding frequency, environment, and food presentation.
20. Educate clients regarding the importance of diet compliance for disease management.
21. Educate clients regarding nutritional excesses and deficiencies
22. Educate clients regarding the parts of an animal feed/pet food label or dietary recipe that provide important information
23. Educate clients on a variety of nutritional myths and facts. Examples include but are not limited to: Grain-free diets, by-products, corn, ingredient lists, diet manufacturing/raw, balanced/not complete and balanced diets.
24. Educate clients on proper food handling, preparation (if appropriate), type, and storing, and cleaning of any equipment and/or surfaces for an animal's diet: Examples include but are not limited to cooked or uncooked homemade diets, fresh or raw commercial diets, kibble, silage, hay, grains, etc.
25. Follow up with the client about the patient/herd in person or remotely (phone, teleconsultation) following a nutrition recommendation.



Advanced Skills

1. Calculate energy requirements for a variety of growth stages (birth through adulthood)
2. Calculate daily water requirements
3. Calculate the percentage weight change
4. Calculate nutrient amounts in mg/100 kcal or g/1000 kcal
5. Recognize physical identifiers of nutritional imbalances. Examples include but are not limited to: changes in hair coat quality and color, weak or cracking nails, changes in body and muscle condition, bone deformities, and vision impairment.
6. Recognize blood chemistry identifiers of nutritional imbalances.
7. Participate in cases of at least 2 species that utilize diagnostic testing for general gastrointestinal function. Examples include but are not limited to: bile acids, fecal bile acids, TLI, cobalamin & folate, gut dysbiosis index, barium radiographs, Equine oral glucose tolerance test, fecal blood test, ketosis, abdominocentesis, hyperketonemia, hyperketolactia, or hyperketonuria.
8. Be involved in diagnostic testing and sample handling that requires appropriate fasting protocols, and/or dosing and correct timing of medications, and utilize proper handling of samples
9. Identify a patient at risk of a metabolic or endocrine disorder due to malnourishment. Examples include but are not limited to: Refeeding syndrome, metabolic acidosis, hypertriglyceridemia, lipidosis, equine metabolic syndrome, hepatic lipidosis, or cachexia.
10. Assist in the placement/place/ and/or manage at least 2 tube types: Oral tube, Nasoesophagus (nasogastric) tube, Esophagostomy tube, Gastrotomy (varieties), or Jejunostomy tube, a Trocar, or Rumen cannula.
11. Educate clients about feeding tube indications, benefits, and at-home client management (if applicable)
12. Nutritionally manage a patient experiencing metabolic acidosis
13. Nutritionally manage a patient with an endocrine disorder
14. Nutritionally manage a patient experiencing a gastrointestinal condition
15. Nutritionally manage patients with a variety of disease states. Examples include but are not limited to obesity, renal disease, hepatic disease, cancer, atopy, allergic disease, cardiac disease, oral disease, esophageal disorders, immune-mediated conditions, and osteoarthritis
16. Nutritionally manage a patient with comorbidities. Examples include but are not limited to diabetes + CKD, growth + renal insufficiency, pancreatitis + obesity, etc.
17. Be involved in a case where the patient is administered a form of parenteral nutrition. Partial parenteral examples include but are not limited to: dextrose administration or lipid administration.