

Texas

Registered Veterinary Technician Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Whether you are already an RVT or need to know what to do to become an RVT in Texas, we have answered some of the most frequently asked questions. If you do not see an answer to your question here, you may want to check other materials we have posted on our website at WWW.tvma.org. For questions geared toward the CVA Program, please see their list of FAQs in a separate packet.

Q: Are Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT) licensed in Texas?

A: No, RVTs are not licensed in Texas. They maintain a registered status with the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

Q: Is it mandatory for a technician to become registered to work in Texas?

A: No, it is not mandatory for any non-licensed, technician to become registered in order to work in Texas. However, in most cases it does elevate your level of experience and therefore enhance your standing as a potential employee or already existing employee who may be vying for a higher level of responsibility.

Q: What is the difference between Registered Veterinary Technicians and Certified Veterinary Assistants?

A:

1. A veterinary technician registered in Texas has been awarded the credentials of RVT. An RVT is someone who has attended formal studies in veterinary technology within an educational institution that has been accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Upon completion of the program an RVT has met at least the essential tasks that are outlined by the American Veterinary Medical Association. They must also take and pass a State Regulatory Exam and Veterinary Technician National Exam with a score of 70 or higher.
2. A veterinary assistant certified by the Texas Veterinary Medical Association has been awarded the credentials of CVA. A CVA is someone who may have a range of background from no formal education or experience in the veterinary field of work on up to someone who may have years of experience, but does not meet the requirements to be an RVT. In order to standardize the skill levels of these individuals, TVMA has set a minimum required list of skills for each of the three levels of CVA. These skills are validated by the supervising DVM or RVT. In addition to this, successful completion of the level exam is required in order to achieve any of the four levels of CVA.

Q: What can my RVT do that my CVA can't do?

A: Because both are considered non-licensed employees, the most apparent difference in delegation of responsibilities would be the levels of supervision required by law according to **Rule 573.10** of the Rules of Professional Conduct as written by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. Please refer to this rule for more details.
<http://www.texasonline.state.tx.us/tbvme/ruletoc.html>.

Q: What exams are required to become registered in Texas?

A: Texas State Regulatory Exam and the Veterinary Technician National Exam.

Q: What if I already took the Veterinary Technician National Exam in another state?

A: If you took the Veterinary Technician National Exam in another state, then you need to contact the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) 877/ 698-8482 or vettech@aavsb.org to have your scores transferred to Texas.

Q: I am a technician licensed, certified, or registered in another state, what do I need to do to become registered in Texas?

A: You must be a graduate from an AVMA accredited program in veterinary technology <http://www.avma.org/care4pets/vtprog.htm> in order to sit for the Texas State and National exams. If you meet the criteria above, request an exam application 4-5 months prior to the next exam in Texas. You will need to have a transcript from your school, National exam scores sent and a letter of good standing from the state in which you are a technician.

Q: What AVMA accredited programs in veterinary technology are available in Texas?

A: There are currently six programs in Texas: Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, Tomball College in Tomball, McLennan Community College, Midland College in Midland, and Sul Ross State University in Alpine. See www.tvma.org for details on each of the above schools or www.avma.org for a listing of schools throughout the US.

Q: Are there any distance learning programs that are AVMA accredited?

A: Currently, there are two Distance Learning Programs that are AVMA accredited, St. Petersburg Junior College in Florida and Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, Texas

Q: What is the exams format?

A: The State Exam is Regulatory, with questions taken from the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, Rules of Professional Conduct, the RVT Policy Manual and any other regulation deemed appropriate by the TVMA Exam Sub-Committee. A list will be provided with the application. (*Note: Publications will not be provided by TVMA until all documentation and fees are received for the exam but all publications can be accessed online at the appropriate agencies and organizations.*) The National Exam covers basic sciences, animal care and management and clinical sciences. It covers both large and small animals. Both exams are multiple-choice.

Q: When are exams given?

A: January and June

Q: Are renewals required for Texas RVTs?

A: Yes, in order to maintain the RVT status in Texas, an RVT is required to renew annually.

Q: When are renewals due?

A: Renewals are due May 31st.

Q: What if I already have my hours and am ready to renew but have not received any notification from TVMA?

A: TVMA sends notice of renewals out in mid April. If the RVT has not received anything by the end of April, they should contact TVMA immediately.

Q: If I took the Texas RVT exam in June, do I still have to renew in May of the following year?

A: Yes, you have to renew the following May if you took the exam the previous June regardless if you graduated from your program in December.

Q: If I took the Texas RVT exams in January, do I still have to renew May of the same year.

A: NO

Q: What if I took the exam in June but did not complete my course requirements till December, do I still have to renew in May?

A: Yes

Q: What do I need to submit in order to renew my RVT status in Texas?

A: Renewal form and \$30 renewal fee are due on or before the May 31 deadline . Add a \$10 late fee if you submit after May 31st. You must have gotten a minimum of 5 hrs of appropriate continuing education.

Q: What if I submit my renewal application and fee without the CE hours?

A: If TVMA has to contact a technician in order to complete their renewal, there will be a \$10 incomplete fee assessed and due before further processing of renewal will take place.

Q: What if I don't have my CE by the due date of May 31st?

A: Any technician that has not completed a renewal on or before May 31st, will be put into a delinquent status if their prior status was current. This means that the RVT will no longer receive either of the publications and if anyone inquires as to their status, we will report a delinquent status.

Q: Will I lose my status if I do not submit my renewal by the May 31st deadline?

A: It depends on your current status. A RVT is permitted to go one year into delinquency before losing their status.

- If you are already delinquent when May 31st comes around and you have not submitted a complete renewal, you will lose your status.
- If you are current when May 31st comes around and have not submitted a complete renewal, you will not lose your status. Instead, you will be put into a delinquent status.

Q: What do I have to submit for proof of attendance?

A: Valid proofs of attendance include a certificate of attendance, a letter from the hosting organization, or a combination of receipt and program or combination receipt and badge. Receipt must state the name of the event on it. Badges only, schedules only or advertisements of an event are not considered valid proof. **(subject to policy change)**

Q: I live in a rural location and I can't get away to attend continuing education (CE), what do I do?

A: Continuing education (CE) is a very competitive market in veterinary medicine as it is mandatory for veterinarians to maintain their licenses. Therefore, there are numerous opportunities throughout Texas to obtain CE. TVMA recommends that an individual living in a rural area, make a list of known and possible upcoming seminars that are held in their areas. You may even try to get on a mailing list. You could also contact the organization in question and inquire about their CE regularly. Location is not considered a valid excuse for not obtaining continuing education hours. It is not the responsibility of TVMA to locate potential CE opportunities for RVTs. We provide listings in our publication each month, and we also provide more commonly used sources of CE by technicians with the RVT renewals every year.

Q: Are there any cases in which TVMA will make an exception to the renewal policy?

A: Special cases will be taken on a case-by-case basis. Special cases will not include normal pregnancy, lack of local seminars, and inability to get away from work.

Q: I pay my fees and submit hours to TVMA in order to maintain my registration, what do I get in return?

A: Although the administration and related tasks of maintaining an extensive database of RVTs proves to be beneficial enough for both RVTs and their employers, TVMA does provide additional benefits to current RVTs.

- Maintenance of records, including registration and continuing education.
- Billing and collection registration fees
- Administration of the annual RVT examination
- Administrative support-providing services.
- TVMA Publications-"Texas Veterinarian" and "FYI Newsletter"
- Discount on TVMA meeting registration.