

WAC 246-935-010 Definitions.

(1) "Anesthesia maintenance" means maintaining adequate depth of anesthesia through control of the amount and type of drug(s) delivered to the animal patient.

(2) "Anesthesia monitoring" means measuring, reporting, and recording vital signs.

(3) "Direct supervision" means the ~~veterinary~~-supervisor is on the premises, is quickly and easily available and the animal patient has been examined by a veterinarian at such times as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task.

(4) "Emergency" means that the animal patient has a life-threatening condition where immediate treatment is necessary to sustain life or avoid significant injury and morbidity.

(5) "General anesthesia" means a state of unconsciousness intentionally produced by anesthetic agents, with absence of pain sensation over the entire body, in which the patient is without protective reflexes and is unable to maintain an airway, and cardiovascular function may be impaired.

(65) "Immediate supervision" means the supervisor is in audible and visual range of the animal patient and the person treating the patient. Immediate supervision of an Unregistered Assistant requires consultation and instruction from the supervisor.

(76) "Indirect supervision" means the supervisor is not on the premises, but has given either written or oral instructions for treatment of the animal patient and the animal patient has been examined by a veterinarian at such times as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task and the animal patient is not anesthetized.

(87) "Licensed veterinary technician" means any person who has met the requirements of RCW 18.92.015 and who is licensed as required by chapter 18.92 RCW.

(98) "Supervisor" means a veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician.

(109) "Unregistered assistant" means any individual who is not a veterinary technician or veterinarian.

(110) "Veterinarian" means a person authorized by chapter 18.92 RCW to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Washington.

(121) "Veterinary medical facility" is any premises, unit, structure, or vehicle where any animal patient is received and/or confined, in order to provide veterinary medicine, surgery, or dentistry as defined in RCW 18.92.010.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030, 18.92.125. WSR 09-15-120, § 246-935-010, filed 7/17/09, effective 8/17/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030 and 2007 c 235. WSR 08-11-099, § 246-935-010, filed 5/20/08, effective 6/20/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 02-10-135, § 246-935-010, filed 5/1/02, effective 6/1/02; WSR 91-24-098 (Order 221B), § 246-935-010, filed 12/4/91, effective 1/4/92; WSR 91-02-060 (Order 108B), recodified as § 246-935-010, filed 12/28/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.015 and 18.92.030. WSR 83-19-055 (Order PL 445), § 308-156-010, filed 9/19/83. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 80-01-069 (Order PL 332), § 308-156-010, filed 12/21/79.]

WAC 246-935-040 Responsibilities of a veterinarian

supervising a licensed veterinary technician or an unregistered assistant. It is the supervising veterinarian's responsibility to delegate animal health care tasks only if the licensed

veterinary technician or unregistered assistant is qualified, competent, educated, trained, and able. The supervising veterinarian must ensure the delegated task is appropriate for the species.

(1) A veterinarian must not delegate:

(a) To any licensed veterinary technician the performance of any animal health care services not authorized by WAC 246-935-040 or 246-935-050.

(b) To any unregistered assistant the performance of any animal health care services not authorized by WAC 246-935-040 or 246-935-050.

(2) The supervising veterinarian shall:

(a) Have legal responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of the animal patient which the licensed veterinary technician or unregistered assistant serves.

~~(b) Delegate animal health care tasks only if the licensed veterinary technician or unregistered assistant is qualified to perform the task, and the task is not precluded by the medical condition of the animal patient.~~

(be) Use the level of supervision required for a specific task.

(ce) Make all decisions relating to the diagnosis, treatment, management, and future disposition of an animal patient.

(de) Limit the number of unregistered assistants under indirect supervision to that which is appropriate for the circumstances.

(ef) Allow licensed veterinary technicians and unregistered assistants the right and responsibility to refuse to perform duties they are not legally or technically able to perform.

(3) A supervising veterinarian shall examine the animal patient prior to the delegation of any animal health care task to either a licensed veterinary technician or unregistered assistant. The examination of the animal patient must be conducted at the times and in the manner consistent with veterinary medicine practice, and the particular delegated animal health care task.

(4) If a licensed veterinary technician is authorized to provide supervision for an unregistered assistant performing a specified health care task, the licensed veterinary technician shall be under the same degree of supervision by the veterinarian, as if the licensed veterinary technician were performing the task.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030, 18.92.125. WSR 09-15-120, § 246-935-040, filed 7/17/09, effective 8/17/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 02-02-046, § 246-935-040, filed 12/27/01, effective 1/27/02; WSR 92-02-057 (Order 233B), § 246-935-040, filed 12/30/91, effective 1/30/92; WSR 91-24-098 (Order 221B), § 246-935-040, filed 12/4/91, effective 1/4/92; WSR 91-02-060 (Order 108B), recodified as § 246-935-040, filed 12/28/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.015 and 18.92.030. WSR 83-19-055 (Order PL 445), § 308-156-045, filed 9/19/83.]

NOTE TO READER: Everything from here down has been re-written in another document with a table. This is included for historical reference only.

WAC 246-935-050 Animal health care tasks. No individual, other than a licensed veterinary technician, may advertise or offer her/his services in a manner calculated to lead others to

believe that she/he is a trained or licensed veterinary technician.

(1) Licensed veterinary technicians and unregistered assistants are prohibited from performing the following activities:

(a) Surgery except as outlined below;

(b) Diagnosis and prognosis;

(c) Prescribing drugs, medication or appliances;

(d) Initiation of treatment without prior instruction by a veterinarian except as outlined under emergency animal care; -

(2) Immediate supervision. Unregistered assistants are not authorized to perform the tasks in this section. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks only under the immediate supervision of a veterinarian:

(a) Dental extractions; -

(b) Abdominocentesis, thoracocentesis, and
pericardiocentesis.

(3) Direct supervision. ~~Unregistered assistants are not authorized to perform the tasks in this section.~~ A licensed

veterinary technician may perform the following tasks only under the direct supervision of a veterinarian:

(a) Anesthesia:

(i) Induction;

~~(ii) Intubation, including preanesthesia;~~

~~(iii) Maintenance of anesthesia with or without supervisor consultation.†~~

~~(iii) Monitoring.~~

(b) Application of casts, ~~and~~ splints, ~~and~~ slings for the immobilization of fractures;

(c) Floating teeth;

(d) Intraperitoneal injections;

(e) Blood and blood product administration;

(f) Closure, including suturing, of prepared skin wound or gingival incision;

(g) Arterial and central venous catheters.

(4) Indirect supervision. ~~Unregistered assistants are not authorized to perform the tasks in this section.~~ A licensed

veterinary technician may perform the following tasks ~~only~~ under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian:

(a) Application of splints and slings for the temporary immobilization of fractures;

~~(ba) Intravenous injections into uncatheterized vein;~~

~~(c) Cystocentesis~~~~b) Centesis, including fine needle aspirates;~~

~~(e) Unobstructed bladder catheter;~~

(d) Diagnostic procedures:

(i) Fecal analysis;

(ii) Electrocardiograms;

(iii) Blood pressure;

(iv) Cytology analysis, including urinalysis and hematology;

(v) Microbiology.

~~(e) Placement and use of nasogastric and orogastric tubes for gavage, lavage, or reflux;~~

~~(f) Ophthalmological procedures:~~

~~(i) Tear production testing;~~

~~(ii) Topical anesthetic application;~~

~~(iii) Fluorescein staining of the cornea;~~

~~(iv) Tonometry.~~

(~~f~~e) Tasks authorized to be performed under immediate or direct supervision for unregistered assistants, may be performed by licensed veterinary technicians under indirect supervision unless otherwise restricted.

(5) Immediate supervision for unregistered assistants. An unregistered assistant may perform the following tasks only under the immediate supervision of a veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician:

~~(a) Place and secure an intravenous catheter;~~

~~(ab) Maintain anesthesia with supervisor consultation and~~

~~Monitor vital signs of sedated or an anesthetized patient;~~

~~(be) Dental prophylaxis;~~

(c) Ophthalmology procedures;

(d) Urinalysis including dipstick and specific gravity

(e) Intravenous injections in an uncatheterized vein;

(f) Intratesticular block for local anesthesia.

(6) Direct supervision for unregistered assistant. An unregistered assistant may perform the following tasks only

under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician:

(a) Vaccines (except for rabies and those diseases described in subsection (8) of this section) with the veterinarian's verification signature on an appropriate certificate;

(b) Imaging procedures;

(c) Removal of sutures, drain tubes and staples;

(d) Bandaging;

(e) Removal of exposed foreign bodies;

(f) Lab sample collection and test preparation (not evaluation) to include:

(i) Venipuncture;

(ii) Skin scraping.

(g) Microchip implantation;

(h) Enema;

(j) Ear flush;

(i) ~~Perform electrocardiogram and blood pressure~~

~~measurements; Monitoring including, but not limited to,~~

electrocardiogram (ECG), blood pressure, carbon dioxide (CO2)

and blood oxygen saturation;

(j+) Intramuscular and subcutaneous injection;

(km) Massage except where regulated; -

(l) Place an intravenous (IV) catheter.

(f) Ophthalmological procedures:

(i) Tear production testing;

(ii) Topical anesthetic application;

(iii) Fluorescein staining of the cornea;

(iv) Tonometry.

(7) Indirect supervision for unregistered assistants. An unregistered assistant must always be under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician, except as listed in subsections (5) and (6) of this section. Tasks not specifically listed or otherwise restricted may be performed by a licensed veterinary technician or unregistered assistant under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian.

(a) Apply non-invasive cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic first aid procedures.

(8) Veterinary biologics. Licensed veterinary technicians and unregistered assistants may only administer veterinary biologics for rabies and those diseases listed in WAC 16-42-026(1) under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

(9) Rabies vaccinations require an appropriate rabies certificate. The certificate is considered part of the medical record and must contain at least the following information:

- (a) Owner's name, address, and telephone number;
- (b) Species age, breed, sex, size, name, and predominant colors/markings;
- (c) Month, day, and year of vaccination;
- (d) Month, day, and year of next vaccination due date;
- (e) Product name and identification of manufacturer;
- (f) Effective date of vaccine, example: One year, three years;
- (g) Vaccine serial or lot number; and
- (h) Veterinarian's name, license number, address, and signature.

(10) To be authorized to dispense pharmaceuticals, unregistered assistants must be registered as a veterinary medication clerk under chapter 246-937 WAC.

(11) Emergency animal care. Under conditions of an emergency, a licensed veterinary technician and unregistered assistant may render certain life saving aid to an animal patient.

(a) A licensed veterinary technician may:

(i) Apply emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first-aid procedures and all tasks as listed in subsections (3), (4), (5), and (6) of this section;

(ii) Administer pharmacologic agents and parenteral fluids only after communication with a veterinarian.

(b) An unregistered assistant may:

(i) Apply noninvasive cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic first aid procedures;

(ii) Provide other aid upon the order of a licensed veterinarian as outlined in this section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 16-03-086, § 246-935-050, filed 1/20/16, effective 2/20/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030, 18.92.125. WSR 09-15-120, § 246-935-050, filed

7/17/09, effective 8/17/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030 and 2007 c 235. WSR 08-11-099, § 246-935-050, filed 5/20/08, effective 6/20/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 07-17-169, § 246-935-050, filed 8/22/07, effective 9/22/07; WSR 02-02-046, § 246-935-050, filed 12/27/01, effective 1/27/02; WSR 91-02-060 (Order 108B), recodified as § 246-935-050, filed 12/28/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.015 and 18.92.030. WSR 83-19-055 (Order PL 445), § 308-156-050, filed 9/19/83.]