### Proposed Changes to the New Mexico Veterinary Practice Act

The purpose of this document is to define the terms and scope of practice for veterinary technicians, registered veterinary technicians, certified veterinary assistants and veterinary assistants in the state of New Mexico. In order to serve public interest, it is critical for pet and livestock owners to know what qualifications veterinary technicians and assistants have when treating and caring for their animals. The public should be aware that veterinary technicians have received a degree in veterinary technology and have passed the veterinary technician national exam (VTNE), and that registered veterinary technicians have been licensed by the state of New Mexico.

Veterinary technicians are educated individuals trained in veterinary nursing, and work as laboratory technicians, radiography technicians, anesthetists, surgical nurses and client educators. Veterinary assistants are usually trained on site, but some may have a certification. Depending on their training, veterinary assistants perform duties such as setting up medical equipment, collecting specimens and maintaining the cleanliness of the exam and surgical areas. In some cases, again depending on regulations, their duties only can be performed under direct supervision of a vet technician and/or a veterinarian.

In defining the roles and duties of veterinary technicians and assistants in the New Mexico Veterinary Practice Act, we believe that the quality of veterinary care for pets and livestock alike can be greatly improved. We also believe that the public will become more informed as to the qualifications and experience of veterinary support staff, and can make an educated choice as to who is qualified to provide quality veterinary nursing care for their animals.

Signed

The New Mexico Registered Veterinary Technician Association

The New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine

The New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America

### *61-14-2. Definitions (addendum to existing VPA definition section)*

P. “Supervising veterinarian” means a veterinarian who assumes responsibility for the veterinary care given to a Patient by an individual working under his or her direction. The Supervising Veterinarian must have examined the Patient pursuant to currently acceptable standards of care.

Q. Immediate Supervision means the Supervising Veterinarian is in the immediate area and within audible and visual range of the Patient and the individual treating the Patient.

R. Direct Supervision means the Supervising Veterinarian is readily available on the Premises where the Patient is being treated.

S. Indirect Supervision means a Supervising Veterinarian need not be on the Premises but has given either written or oral instructions for the treatment of the Patient and is readily available for communication.

T. VTNE means the Veterinary Technician National Examination.

U. Veterinary Technician means a person who holds an associate’s or a bachelor’s degree in Veterinary Technology from an AVMA accredited school, and as passed the VTNE.

V. Registered Veterinary Technician means a person who holds an associate’s or a bachelor’s degree in Veterinary Technology from an AVMA accredited school, has passed the VTNE, is licensed by the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine, and is current on required annual CE.

W. Veterinary Assistant means an individual who is not a veterinary technician or a veterinarian, and who has obtained “on the job training.”

X. Certified Veterinary Assistant means an individual who has graduated from and obtained a certificate from an ABHES accredited certification program in veterinary assisting.

Y. CE means continuing education.

X. “Veterinary Technology” means procedures used in the medical care of animals under the direction and supervision of a veterinarian.

### *6-14-21. Requirements for a Veterinary Technicians and Registered Veterinary Technicians*

(a) To be eligible for a registration to practice veterinary technology under the provisions of this article, the applicant must:

(1) Be of good moral character;

(2) Have an associate’s or a bachelor’s degree in Veterinary Technology from an AVMA accredited school;

(3) Have passed the VTNE examination required by the board;

(4) Have passed the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Licensing Examination for veterinary technicians;

(5) Be at least eighteen years of age;

(6) Be a citizen of the United States or be eligible for employment in the United States;

(7) Not have been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;

(8) Not have been convicted of a felony under the laws of any jurisdiction within five years preceding the date of application for registration which conviction remains unreversed; and

(9) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony under the laws of any jurisdiction at any time if the offense for which the applicant was convicted related to the practice of veterinary technology or animal abuse or neglect.

(b) A person seeking registration under the provisions of this article shall submit an application on a form prescribed by the board and pay all applicable fees.

(c) A person registered to practice veterinary technology issued by the board shall for all purposes be considered registered under this article and may renew pursuant to the provisions of this article.

(d) Veterinary Technicians and Registered Veterinary Technicians are restricted from performing the following:

 a. Diagnose;

 b. Perform surgery;

 c. Prescribe.

### *6-14-22. Scope of practice for a Veterinary Technicians and Registered Veterinary Technicians.*

1. A Veterinary Technician and registered Veterinary Technician may perform those services authorized by the Board of Veterinary Medicine and in the employ of and under the immediate, direct and/or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian who shall be responsible for the performance of the Veterinary Technician.

***6-14-23. Scope of Practice for Veterinary Assistants and/or Certified Veterinary Assistants***

1. A Veterinary Assistant or Certified Veterinary Assistant may perform those services authorized by the Board of Veterinary Medicine and in the employ of a licensed veterinarian. Duties must be performed under the immediate or direct supervision of a Veterinary Technician, Registered Veterinary Technician or a veterinarian who shall be responsible for the performance of the Veterinary Assistant.
2. Veterinary Assistants and Certified Veterinary Assistants are restricted from performing the following:
	1. Anesthetic premedication and induction;
	2. Intubation;
	3. Lacing central venous catheters;
	4. Arterial baths and arterial blood collection;
	5. Identify themselves as a veterinary technician;
	6. Diagnose;
	7. Prescribe;
	8. Perform surgery;
	9. Provide medical advice