

Date: 1 November 2018

Jaime Hicks, LVT, President
Virginia Association of Licensed Veterinary Technicians
3801 Westerre Parkway, Suite D
Henrico, VA 23233

RE: Position Statement in Support of NAVTA's Veterinary Nurse Initiative

Dear Ms. Hicks,

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Community College Veterinary Technology Curriculum Advisory Board (Advisory Board), we endorse the Veterinary Nurse Initiative (VNI) to change the title of Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) to Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN).

We believe uniting the profession under a single title and standardized credential of RVN nationwide will better serve the public's understanding and perception of the RVN's role in the veterinary medical profession. Currently, titles may vary among each state in addition to the LVT designation. The various titles include Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT), Certified Veterinary Technicians (CVT), "technician" referencing to on-the-job trained veterinary assistants, lab or radiology technicians and animal care technicians. These titles can be very confusing to the public.

With this proposed change in Virginia Commonwealth law and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine, it will prohibit use of RVN by those who have not obtained the credential which specifically define the role, educational requirements, duties and use of this unifying title. RVN will become nationally recognized and offer assurance to the public of professional standards and quality patient care for all of their pets and animals.

In addition to providing title protection, our Advisory Board believes this change will streamline the process for credentialed RVN's to relocate between states or seek employment across neighboring state lines without relocating. This should broaden credentialed veterinary technician career path opportunities and strengthen their desire to remain in the field of veterinary medicine.

Lastly, accepting the RVN title will clearly distinguish the difference between a clinical veterinary technician and a research laboratory veterinary technician in all 50 states. We foresee the VNI as moving the veterinary technician/technology profession forward while fortifying public protection and their trust in those whom serve them.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Advisory Board,

Marta J. Ishmael, LVT, President
Samantha-Jo Ebert, RVT, LAT, Vice President
Kim Hill, LVT, Recording Secretary

Cc: Members, NOVA Veterinary Technology Curriculum Advisory Board