VETERINARY TECHNICIAN DUTIES

1. A licensed veterinary technician may **not perform** the following tasks of animal health care:
   (a) Surgery.
   (b) Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases.
   (c) Except as authorized by a veterinarian, administer, prepare to dispense or dispense drugs, medicines or appliances.
   (d) Any other activity which represents the practice of veterinary medicine or which requires the knowledge, skill and training of a licensed veterinarian.

2. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the **immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian**:
   (a) Application of casts for the immobilization of fractures.
   (b) Removal of
      (1) Teeth that have extreme mobility and stage 4 periodontal disease; and
      (2) Retained deciduous teeth other than retained deciduous canine teeth.
   (c) Assisting a licensed veterinarian in surgery.
   (d) Euthanasia.
   (e) Fluid aspiration from a body cavity.
   (f) Suturing an existing surgical skin incision or gingival incision

3. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the **immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian**:
   (a) Induction of anesthesia.
   (b) Endotracheal intubation.
   (c) Blood administration.
   (d) Internal anal gland expression.
   (e) Application of casts and splints.
   (f) Tasks listed in subsection 4, if the animal is anesthetized.
   (g) External noninvasive ultrasonography and ultrasonography for the purpose described in paragraph (h).
   (h) Cystocentesis to obtain a urine specimen performed with or without the aid of ultrasonography.
   (i) Dental prophylaxis.
   (j) Physical therapy.

4. A licensed veterinary technician may perform the following tasks under the **immediate, direct or indirect supervision of a supervising veterinarian**:
   (a) Administration of enemas.
   (b) Administration of an electrocardiogram.
   (c) Application of bandages.
   (d) Catheterization of an unobstructed bladder.
   (e) Introduction of a stomach tube.
   (f) Ear flushing with pressure or suction.
   (g) Positioning of animals for radiographs or other diagnostic images.
   (h) Operation of radiographic or other diagnostic imaging machines.
   (i) Administration of oral and rectal radio-opaque materials.
   (j) Administration of oral and topical medications, including controlled substances.
   (k) Starting and restarting of intravenous fluids.
   (l) Collection of a laboratory specimen for analysis, including, but not limited to, blood, urine, skin, parasites and microorganisms.
   (m) Collection of tissue during or after a postmortem examination by a DVM.
   (n) Administration of intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous injections.
   (o) Placement of an intravenous catheter.
   (p) Implant subcutaneous identification microchips into an animal.
   (q) Monitoring of vital signs.
   (r) External anal gland expression.
   (s) Collection of skin scrapings.
   (t) Administration of a therapeutic laser
VETERINARY ASSISTANT DUTIES

1. A veterinary assistant may perform the following tasks under the immediate supervision of a supervising veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician:
   (a) Assisting a licensed veterinarian in surgery or in monitoring anesthesia.
   (b) Application of bandages.
   (c) Collection of a laboratory specimen for analysis of blood.
   (d) Collection of tissue during or after a postmortem examination by a DVM.

2. A veterinary assistant may perform the following tasks under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian of a licensed veterinary technician:
   (a) Blood administration with a preplaced catheter.
   (b) Monitoring of vital signs.
   (c) Administration of an electrocardiogram.
   (d) Introduction of food into the stomach through a preplaced tube.
   (e) Ear cleaning.
   (f) Positioning of animals for radiographs or other diagnostic images.
   (g) Operation of radiographic or other diagnostic imaging machines.
   (h) Starting and restarting of intravenous fluids through a preplaced intravenous catheter.
   (i) Taking readings of the temperature, pulse, respiration or weight of an animal.

3. A veterinary assistant may perform the following tasks under the immediate or direct supervision of a supervising veterinarian of a licensed veterinary technician or the indirect supervision of a supervising veterinarian:
   (a) Administration of oral and topical medications, including controlled substances dispensed by prescription where the client has authorized in writing the veterinary assistant to administer the controlled substance as the client’s agent as part of the animal’s hospitalization at the hospital or while boarding at the facility.
   (b) Collection of free catch urine or feces.
   (c) External anal gland expression.

4. A veterinary assistant may perform the following tasks at the direction of a supervising veterinarian:
   (a) Administration of intramuscular, subcutaneous, or intravenous injections through a preplaced catheter, except anesthetics, controlled substances or vaccinations for zoonotic disease.
   (b) Preparation of a prescription drug, other than a controlled substance, for dispensing.

Definitions:
“Immediate supervision” means the supervising veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician is in the immediate area and within visual and audible range of the animal and the person treating the animal.
“Direct supervision” means that the supervising veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician is on the premises with or in the same area as the animal and the person treating the animal and is quickly and easily available.
“Indirect supervision” means the supervising veterinarian is not on the premises with the animal and the person treating the animal, but has given written or oral instructions for treatment of the animal.

The supervising veterinarian:
(a) Is responsible for determining the competency of the licensed veterinary technician to perform delegated tasks of animal health care. (b) Shall ensure that the licensed veterinary technician performs the tasks of animal health care delegated to the licensed veterinary technician in a manner which is consistent with good veterinary medical practice. (c) Shall make all decisions relating to the diagnosis, treatment, management and future disposition of the animal. (d) Shall examine the animal before delegating any tasks to the licensed veterinary technician. The examination must be conducted at such time as good veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular task of animal health care which is delegated. (e) Is responsible for ensuring that unlicensed personnel do not perform duties that are specific to licensed veterinary technicians or licensed veterinarians.

Updated JUNE 2014
NAC 638.0628  Controlled Substances:

1. A veterinary facility at which controlled substances are possessed, administered, prescribed or dispensed shall ensure that one or more veterinarians who practice at that veterinary facility register and maintain a registration with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States Department of Justice and the State Board of Pharmacy. The certificates of registration with each agency must be available for inspection at the veterinary facility.

2. A veterinarian who is not registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States Department of Justice and the State Board of Pharmacy as described in subsection 1 may possess, administer, prescribe or dispense a controlled substance at a veterinary facility if the veterinarian:
   (a) Is an employee or agent of the veterinarian who is registered pursuant to subsection 1;  
   (b) Practices in the same veterinary facility as the veterinarian who is registered pursuant to subsection 1; 
   (c) Possesses, administers, prescribes or dispenses the controlled substance in the normal course of his or her employment; and 
   (d) Complies with all the requirements and duties prescribed by law relating to the possession, administration, prescribing and dispensing of a prescription drug.

3. A veterinary facility which maintains a stock of controlled substances for administration or dispensing shall:
   (a) Secure the stock of controlled substances in a locked container that is: 
      (1) Affixed to the structure and located within a locked room; or 
      (2) Located within a second locked container which is affixed to the structure. 
   (b) Ensure that only a veterinarian or a veterinary technician designated by the veterinarian has the keys or combination to unlock the two separate locks at the start of a business day or beginning of a shift, if the veterinary facility has veterinarians on successive shifts. 
   (c) Restrict access to the controlled substances to veterinarians or veterinary technicians only. 
   (d) Ensure that each veterinarian or veterinary technician who accesses the secure container which stores controlled substances records in a log:
      (1) The name of the veterinarian or veterinary technician who accessed the secure container and the date that he or she accessed the secure container. 
      (2) The name, strength and quantity of the controlled substance removed from or placed into the secure container and the total amount of all quantities of that particular controlled substance remaining inside the secure container. 
      (e) Ensure that a veterinarian who intends to destroy an unused portion of a controlled substance records in a log the name and quantity of the controlled substance that will be destroyed and the date and time that the controlled substance will be destroyed. An entry made pursuant to this paragraph must be verified by an employee of the veterinary facility. 
      (f) Ensure that the purchasing, storage and recordkeeping of controlled substances comply with all applicable state and federal laws. 
      (g) Ensure that any controlled substance is purchased by a veterinarian or with the knowledge of a veterinarian and that all controlled substances received by the veterinary facility are verified by a veterinarian or with the knowledge of a veterinarian. 
      (h) Maintain separate files for the records of the purchase of each controlled substance listed in schedule II of controlled substances in NAC 453.520 and records of the dispensing of each controlled substance listed in schedule II of controlled substances in NAC 453.520.

4. Any record made pursuant to this section must be maintained for at least 4 years and must be available for inspection by the Board or its representative, the State Board of Pharmacy or its representative or any authorized federal, state or local regulatory agency or law enforcement agency.
NAC 638.0629  Prescription Drugs:

1. A veterinary facility that dispenses prescription drugs:
   (a) Shall ensure that at least one veterinarian who practices at that veterinary facility registers and maintains a registration with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States Department of Justice and the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to NAC 638.0628.
   (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), may allow only veterinarians, veterinary technicians or veterinary technicians in training at that veterinary facility to prepare a prescription drug for dispensing.
   (c) May allow veterinary assistants at that facility to prepare a prescription drug, other than a controlled substance, for dispensing.
   (d) Shall ensure that a prescription drug which is new for an animal is not dispensed unless a veterinarian or veterinary technician is at the veterinary facility or is otherwise available at the time the prescription drug is dispensed.
   (e) Shall ensure that a notation is made in the medical record of the animal that contains:
      1. The name, strength and quantity of the prescription drug.
      2. The date the prescription drug was prescribed and dispensed.
      3. The directions for use.
      4. The name, signature or initials of the veterinarian who prescribed the prescription drug.
      5. The name, signature or initials of the veterinarian, veterinary technician or veterinary technician in training who prepared the prescription drug for dispensing.
      6. The name, signature or initials of the veterinarian or veterinary technician who verified the prescription drug before the prescription drug was dispensed.
   (f) Shall ensure that each vial or container which contains a prescription drug has affixed to the vial or container a label that contains:
      1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the name or unique identifier of the animal and the name of the owner of the animal for which the prescription drug is prescribed.
      2. The name, strength and quantity of the prescription drug.
      3. The date the prescription drug was dispensed.
      4. The name of the veterinarian who prescribed the prescription drug.
      5. The expiration date of the prescription drug.
      6. A unique number identifying the prescription.
      7. The directions for use.
   (g) Shall maintain a stock of prescription drugs necessary to serve the foreseeable needs of the veterinary practice.
   (h) Shall ensure that drugs which are inappropriate or unlawful to the practice of veterinary medicine are not ordered or maintained in the stock of prescription drugs of the veterinary facility.

2. A label affixed to a vial or container that contains a prescription drug may contain a generic identifier for a group of animals of the same species in place of the name or unique identifier of one animal if:
   (a) The group of animals identified on the label is owned by the same person;
   (b) The prescription drug is dispensed for more than one of the animals in the group; and
   (c) The directions for use of the prescription drug are the same for each animal in the group for which the prescription drug is dispensed.

3. The authorization to possess a prescription drug is not transferable upon the sale or other transfer of the animal or animals for which the prescription drug was dispensed.

4. Any record made pursuant to this section must be maintained for at least 4 years and must be available for inspection by the Board or its representative, the State Board of Pharmacy or its representative or any authorized federal, state or local regulatory or law enforcement agency.