

what you need to know...

🐾 licensed staff

VETERINARIANS

Veterinarians alone are qualified to diagnose medical problems, prescribe therapies, and perform surgeries. Only currently licensed veterinarians may hold a permit to be the managing licensee at a veterinary facility.

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

Registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) are skilled animal nursing professionals who have completed a Board-approved education and training program and have passed a State-administered licensing examination. There are certain veterinary medical tasks that a veterinarian can delegate to an RVT, but only if the veterinarian has examined your pet first.

tip: An RVT must be under direct supervision by a veterinarian when working with an anesthetized animal.

Under direct supervision, an RVT may:

- 🐾 Administer anesthesia
- 🐾 Suture skin and oral tissue
- 🐾 Extract teeth
- 🐾 Apply a splint or cast
- 🐾 Create a relief hole in the skin for placement of an intravascular catheter

Under indirect supervision, an RVT may:

- 🐾 Operate radiographic equipment
- 🐾 Perform specific emergency lifesaving procedures
- 🐾 Administer medications
- 🐾 Apply or change bandages
- 🐾 Draw blood and run lab tests

Veterinarians' and RVTs' licenses must be posted in public view in the veterinary hospital. Veterinarians and RVTs who provide services away from a hospital should carry the pocket version of their license. You may ask to see the license before agreeing to any treatments.



what you need to know...

▶ **unlicensed staff**

Unlicensed staff may administer medications and provide other medical treatment under the direct or indirect supervision of a veterinarian or the direct supervision of an RVT, but are not allowed to perform tasks restricted to veterinarians or RVTs. They may not treat your pet outside a hospital setting.

tip: Unlicensed staff may operate radiographic equipment under direct supervision by a veterinarian or RVT if the staff has completed specific training, including radiation safety.

Additional staff at veterinary hospitals may include office managers, receptionists, and other administrative staff.



▶ www.vmb.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD
REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN COMMITTEE