



Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association
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May 23, 2025

Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Committee State of Wyoming
Wyoming Legislative Services Office 200 West 24th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA) and its members, as well as veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary practice managers, and veterinary assistants from across Wyoming, we are writing to express our sincere appreciation that the Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources committee is considering veterinary technician licensure as a legislative priority for our state.

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians work as a cohesive team to safeguard the health and welfare of animals. While veterinarians are responsible for diagnosing, prescribing, prognosing, and performing surgery, veterinary technicians play a critical role by administering treatments and providing essential nursing care and patient monitoring. Together, these professionals ensure the highest standards of care for our pets, livestock, and public health.

Licensure for veterinary technicians will establish a recognized standard of competency, achieved through accredited educational programs, successful completion of a national examination, and ongoing continuing education throughout their careers. This measure provides title protection to those veterinary technicians pursuing this education and life-long learning. Your approval of this measure will assist veterinarians in recruiting, retaining, and reinvesting in highly skilled professionals.

Importantly, hiring licensed veterinary technicians *will not* be mandatory for individual practices. Existing staff structures and current responsibilities can remain unchanged, and veterinary clinic employees will not be restricted in the services they can provide. This measure would change only the titles: conferring "Licensed Veterinary Technicians" to those who have met educational and examination requirements and conferring "Veterinary Assistants" to those working in a similar capacity but who have not met such requirements.

The financial impact on the State of Wyoming is expected to be negligible. The existing Wyoming Board of Veterinary Medicine is well-positioned to manage licensure; thus, no new infrastructure is required. Research shows that licensure supports a stronger, more qualified workforce.

We thank you again for your leadership and commitment to the advancement of veterinary care in Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association Board and Membership

Additional Wyoming clinics, veterinarians (DVM), veterinary technicians (CVT or RVT), veterinary assistants (VA) and staff who wish to specifically express their support for Veterinary Technician Licensure and the contents of this letter:

Casper – Altitude Veterinary Hospital

Tangney Gray-Dockham, DVM, Chief of Staff
Richard Schwahn, DVM
Sarah Schoonover, DVM
Katie Huber, DVM, MPH
Laura Diesburg, DVM
Kendra David, DVM
Tom Page, CVT, Treatment Supervisor
Kelly Ferguson, CVT
Teighlor Arteta, CVT
Megan Potter, CVT, RVT
Josh Rankin, Practice Manager
Andrea Neumiller, VA, Outpatient Director
Kaitlyn Cook, VA
Jada Timmons, VA
Savannah Lynch, Veterinary Technician Student (Penn Foster)
Cydney Steele, VA
Alicia Escarsega, VA
Dominique Bragg, VA
Chelby Frandsen, Pre-Veterinary Student, VA
Leiawna Varian, Customer Service Representative
DeEtte Jacobson, Customer Service Representative

Casper - Best Friends Animal Health Center

Brady Okes, DVM
Megan Okes, DVM
Jana Brown, DVM
Cinda Whitmire, CVT
Genevieve Davis, CVT, Relief Veterinary Technician
Shelby Wilson, VA
Anna Allomand, Office Manager

Cheyenne - Cheyenne Animal Shelter

Tessha Winsch, DVM

Starr Martins, VA

Theresa Renniesen, VA

Cheyenne - Relief Veterinarian

Sarah Crystal, DVM

Cheyenne - Yellowstone Animal Health Center

Becky Marcy, DVM

Cheyenne - LaZoetry Pet Clinic

Raven Novak, DVM

Brenda Berg, RVT

Cheyenne - Cheyenne Pet Clinic

April Emig, DVM

Cheyenne - Frontier Veterinary Clinic

Samantha Vernon, DVM

Kitty Emig, CVT

Gracie Casey, CVT

Brittany Carney, CVT

Sariah Green, VA

Amberly Doll, VA

Debra Ghaster, Animal Care Team

Cheyenne - Cottonwood Veterinary Clinic

Tiffany Healey, DVM

Chelsea Croghan, DVM

Laura Conn, RVT, CVPM

Steph Kushner, RVT

Brenda DeJersey, RVT

Carolyn Sulzbach, RVT

Angelique Deets, VA

Cheyenne

Rose Digianantonio, DVM, ACVPM

Cheyenne - Broadmoor East Veterinary

Sara Oedekoven, DVM

Cheyenne - Relief Veterinarian

Gary Norwood, DVM

Cody - Best Friends Animal Hospital

Erin L. Pedersen, DVM

Gillette – Animal Medical Center

Marshall T. Kohr, DVM
Emily Violini, DVM
Elizabeth Boos, DVM
Darren Lynde, DVM
Darcy Schlothauer, DVM
Christi Layter, CVT
Cassandra Klein, CVT
Kim Blauert, CVT
Kasi Skinner, CVT
Deanna Dietz, Practice Manager
Elizabeth Aten, VA
Amber Kylander, VA
Leisa Martin, VA
Kassandra Swartz, VA
Shyann Russell, VA
Kacie McClure, VA
Jesse Stougaard, VA, Veterinary Technician Student
Olivia Tennant, Receptionist

Gillette - Red Hills Veterinary Hospital

Allie Sowerwine, DVM
Jessie Courtney, DVM
Kristen Wilson, DVM
Deverie McCoy, CVT
Jolie Dunlap, VA
Genevieve Anderson- Milliorn, VA
Hannah Fiester, VA
Kaitlin Sullivan, VA

Jackson - VCA Spring Creek Animal Care Hospital

Owen Black, DVM
Stephanie Ninnemann, DVM
Salene Freeman, DVM
Robert Dyke, DVM
Ernest Patterson, DVM
Leigh Farrell, DVM
Kaley Parent, DVM
Sumayah Holden, RVT, Practice Manager
Courtney Carroll, CVT
Faithe Mullins, CVT
April Wyndham, CVT
Stephanie Floyd, VA, VT Student (Graduated from Penn Foster - Scheduled to take VTNE)
Miranda Mizaur, VA
Erik Heinemann, VA
Abigail Espinosa, VA
Rachael Austin, VA, VT Student (Penn Foster)
Cora Bayless, Kennel, VT Student (Penn Foster)

Tory, Kennel/Receptionist/VA, VT Student (Penn Foster)
Alexis Rock, Kennel

Lander - Lander Valley Animal Hospital

Michael Then, DVM
Morgan Kennedy, DVM
Shylah Jacobsen, VA
Ben Kennedy, VA

Laramie - Gem City Veterinary

Crystal Gill, DVM
Katrina Schwartz, DVM
Kelcy Walker, DVM
Kristie Dixon, DVM
Kelsie Speiser, DVM
Madison Davet
Kema Bybee, CVT
Macy Trujillo, CVT
Michelle Craig, VA
Skylar William
Amaya Rivera, CVT
Daree Altergott, CVT
Haley Orpet, CVT
Paxton Singer, CVT
Jamie Nordin, CVT
Story Watsabaugh, CVT

McFadden

Teckla Webb, DVM

Moorcroft - Moorcroft Veterinary Clinic

Aubry Turnbough, DVM
Suzanne Scott, CVT
Ashley Johnson, VA
Kyan Meek, Veterinary Technician Student (EWC)

Riverton - Stock Doc

Helen Wolfe, DVM
Caitlin Blackburn, DVM
Taeha Collins, CVT
Cj Fife, CVT
Johnee Jo Campbell, CVT

Thermopolis Belden Veterinary Wellness

Belle Belden, DVM

Torrington – Eastern Wyoming College

Colleen Mitchell, DVM
Kelly O'Brien, CVT

Kema Bybee, CVT
Macy Trujillo, CVT
Michelle Craig, VA
Skylar William
Amaya Rivera, CVT
Daree Altergott, CVT
Haley Orpet, CVT
Paxton Singer, CVT
Jamie Nordin, CVT
Story Watsabaugh, CVT

Rock Springs - Rural Veterinary Practices

Megan Beavers, DVM

Wheatland - Goshen Vet Clinic

Mike Meeboer, DVM (retired)

Wyoming Veterinary Technician Association (WyVTA)

Nanette Walker Smith, MEd, RVT, CVT, LVT – WyVTA Administrator

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN LICENSURE



GOAL: Wyoming veterinary technicians want to be recognized for their educational qualifications through title protection.

History

In June 2022, licensure of veterinary technicians was introduced to the State of Wyoming Joint Agriculture Committee by a third-party lobbying group. The Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA) took action, believing that Wyoming veterinarians should lead this charge. WVMA maintains that licensure has multiple positive impacts on the veterinary profession.

What does the veterinary technician licensure measure DO?

- *Ensures a standard level of competence:* Achieved through accredited educational programs, successful completion of a national exam, and ongoing continuing education.
**Until June 30, 2029* licensure may be obtained with 10,000 hours of work experience and successful completion of a national exam, or solely 20,000 hours of work experience. A reciprocity licensure option is available for technicians licensed in other state(s).
- *Provides title protection* to recognize those technicians pursuing education and life-long learning.
- *Helps Wyoming recruit and retain* highly trained professionals in the veterinary profession. Without recognition, licensed veterinary technicians (LVT) look for work outside of Wyoming.
- *Inclusion of one LVT on the Wyoming Board of Veterinary Medicine (WBVM).* The LVT will not be involved in veterinarian investigations.

The veterinary technician licensure measure DOES NOT:

- DOES NOT require veterinary practices to hire licensed veterinary technicians.
- DOES NOT regulate what tasks veterinary employees can and cannot perform. Current staff responsibilities can remain UNCHANGED.

Why is technician licensure important?

- Licensure protects the health, safety, and wellbeing of the public and animal patients by setting a standard level of competence.
- LVTs are highly trained professionals that can maximize patient care, efficiency, and client communication.
- Leveraging LVT expertise promotes disease prevention, the health and welfare of Wyoming pets and livestock, public health, and veterinarians.
- Delegation of tasks to LVTs allows veterinarians to see more patients. In underserved and rural areas, maximizing veterinarian time is crucial.

Financial Impact

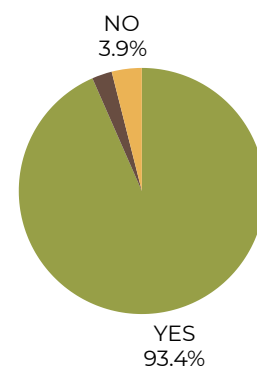
NEGLIGABLE TO THE STATE. The existing WBVM is well positioned to manage veterinary technician licensure. There is no cost to the citizens of Wyoming.
INCREASED INCOME IS POSSIBLE. Clinics may need to update staff titles, and may choose to pay for LVT licensure and continuing education. However, these costs are likely offset by increased staff productivity. ⁽²⁾

(2) Fanning J. Contribution of veterinary technicians to veterinary business revenue, 2007. J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2010;236:846. doi: 10.2460/javma.236.8.846.

FACTS

Wyoming technicians favor title protection⁽¹⁾

- YES
- INDIFFERENT
- NO



(1) survey performed June 2024

The number of LVTs in a veterinary practice has a significant positive impact on gross practice revenue. This is related to practice management efficiency, and maximizing use of LVT skills. ⁽²⁾

Contact:

Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association
307.316.0916

Tiffany Healey, DVM
307.631.2136



May 20, 2025

Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Committee
State of Wyoming -- Legislative Services Office
200 West 24th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Veterinary Technology Licensure

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me to submit the following information for your consideration.

The Eastern Wyoming College Veterinary Technology Program in Torrington offers students the opportunity to earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Veterinary Technology. This program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The accreditation is important, in part, because it allows graduates with an AAS to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). For EWC graduates who pass the exam, the opportunities are abundant including the potential licensure in forty-one states and five Canadian provinces.

As background to the program, EWC offers the only accredited veterinary technology program in Wyoming. Approximately two thirds of the EWC veterinary technology students are from Wyoming with the balance from other states. Recent rolls also include several students from Canada. The Eastern Wyoming Veterinary Technology Program has a more robust food animal component as part of its educational experience when compared to a majority of other veterinary technology programs across the country, according to the AVMA accreditors.

Implementing veterinary technician licensure for Wyoming would be a benefit to residents of Wyoming, veterinarians, and veterinary technicians. Colleges providing licensure opportunities would likely see increased enrollment and revenue thereby ensuring the viability of these far-reaching programs. Students who travel from other states would understand the advantage of staying in Wyoming and working as licensed veterinary technicians especially give this state's recognition of educational accomplishments and licensing.

Veterinarians would benefit from leveraging their formally trained and licensed veterinary technicians by increasing the volume of animals treated while delivering a higher quality of care. Livestock producers and pet owners would realize benefits from having trained



veterinary technicians employed in veterinary practices thereby alleviating some of the veterinarian shortage existing in rural areas. Licensed veterinary technicians would be recognized for their education and skills with increased wages which would benefit Wyoming with increased economic growth.

Thank you for your time and leadership in considering this critical issue for the Wyoming veterinary profession.

Respectfully,

Colleen E. Mitchell, DVM
Veterinary Technology Program Director
Eastern Wyoming College
3200 West C Street
Torrington, WY 82240



Wyoming Veterinary Technician Association

May 23, 2025

Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Committee

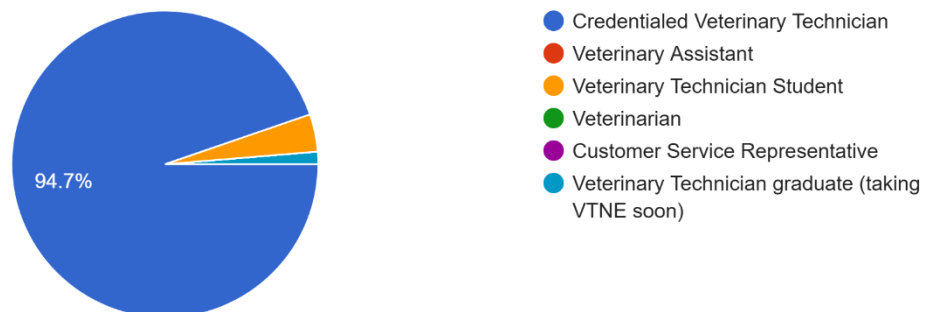
Dear Committee Members,

The Wyoming Veterinary Technician Association (WyVTA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 and has since provided credentialing services for Certified Veterinary Technicians (CVT's) in Wyoming, and our organization provides its members with a RACE-Approved Continuing Education Conference each Fall. Our organization also donates its time and resources to other non-profit organizations with similar goals to improve animal welfare in our communities. In order to achieve certification in Wyoming, each CVT completes an AVMA-Accredited Veterinary Technician program and passes a national board examination (VTNE). In order to maintain their credentials, each CVT must meet minimum biennial continuing education requirements.

In an effort to illustrate how important Veterinary Technician Licensure is to those who have met the necessary requirements and voluntarily became a CVT in Wyoming, the WyVTA conducted a survey among its membership last year. Of the 76 responses, 93.4% were in favor of including Title Protection for Veterinary Technicians in the Wyoming Veterinary Practice Act as is evident below.

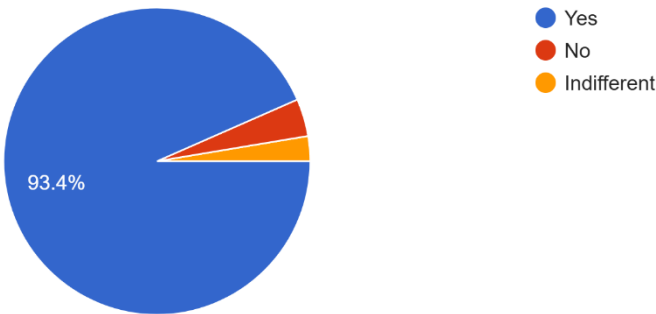
Which of the following best describes your role in veterinary medicine?

76 responses

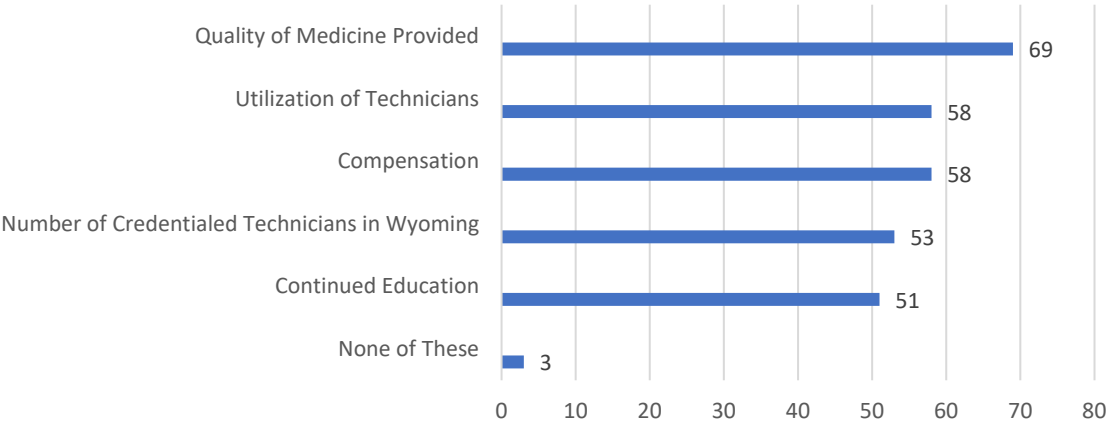


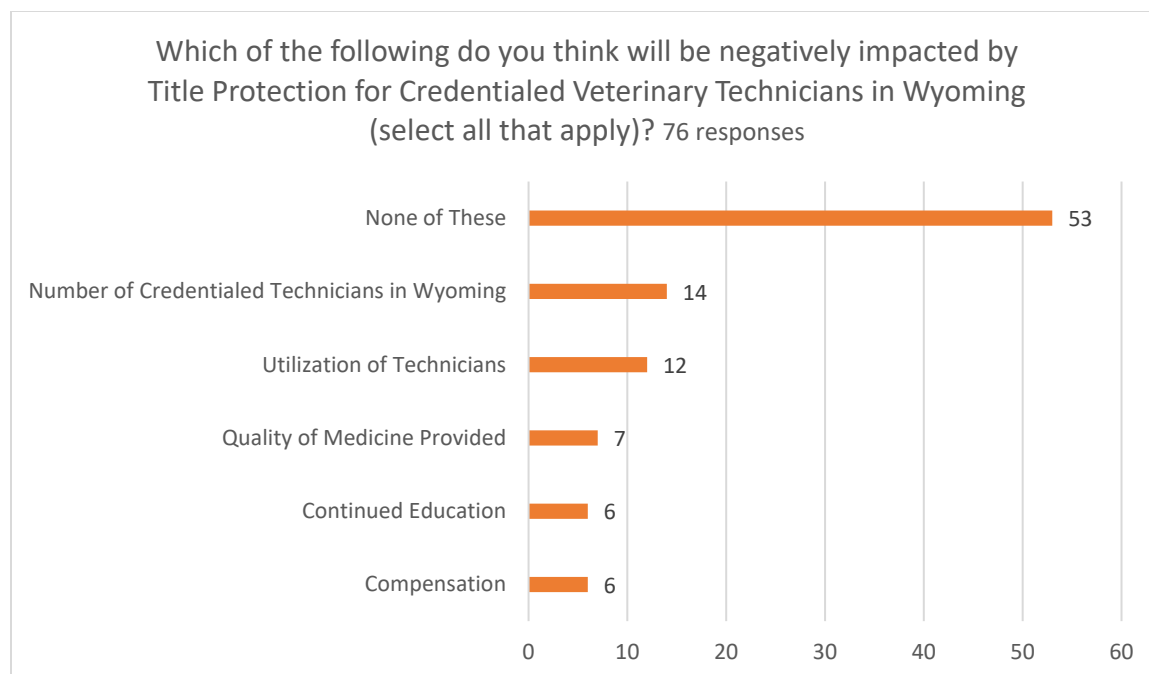
Are you in favor of Title Protection for Credentialed Veterinary Technicians in Wyoming?

76 responses



Which of the following do you think will be positively impacted by Title Protection for Credentialed Veterinary Technicians in Wyoming (select all that apply)? 76 responses





On behalf of our membership, the WyVTA would like to thank this committee and its members for making technician licensure a legislative priority in Wyoming. We strongly believe this will have a positive impact on veterinary professionals and the animals we work with each day in both our larger towns and rural communities.

Sincerely,

Kelly Ferguson, CVT
WyVTA Treasurer