

**RESOLUTION #10—2023**  
**Regular Annual Session**

Submitted by  
Texas Veterinary Medical Association  
California Veterinary Medical Association  
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association  
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association  
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association

**SAFEGUARDING CARE FOR ANIMALS WITH VETERINARIAN-LED TEAMS**

**RESOLVED** that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt the policy on Safeguarding Care for Animals with Veterinarian-Led Teams as noted below.

**Safeguarding Care for Animals with Veterinarian-Led Teams**

Animals deserve safe, efficacious, and high-quality care, and animal owners should be able to fully trust the veterinary services provided for them. Accordingly, the AVMA will vigorously defend the practice of veterinary medicine—which includes the ability to diagnose, prognose, develop treatment plans, prescribe, and/or perform surgery—against scope of practice expansions by non-veterinarians that threaten patient health and safety, the safety of animal products, and/or public health.

**Statement about the Resolution**

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association (Texas VMA) established a Task Force on Paraprofessional Utilization in September 2022 that was tasked with exploring the expansion of the scope of practice for Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVTs), Certified Veterinary Assistants (CVAs), and non-credentialed personnel working in veterinary medicine. The Task Force met several times through February 2023 to discuss matters within their charge, including researching practice acts in other states; reviewing the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' (AAVSB) Model Regulations—Scope of Practice for Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Technologists; and surveying Texas VMA members and leadership on staff utilization. The Task Force's report was accepted by the Texas VMA Board of Directors during the Texas VMA Annual Conference in March 2023.

The Texas, California, Illinois, Indiana, and Nevada VMAs believe a strong national stance that limits the acts of diagnosis, prognosis, treatment planning, prescribing, and surgery to the veterinarian, while appropriately recognizing the considerable knowledge and skill sets of veterinary technicians; supports full utilization of credentialed staff; and maintains the integrity of the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) to be of utmost importance to the AVMA, its members, the health and welfare of our patients, public health, and the continued trust of our clients.

Our patients and clients depend on personnel in veterinary practices to deliver competent, high-quality services, and doing so is tightly tied to assigning a scope of practice that is appropriate for a given veterinary professional's training, knowledge, skills, and demonstrated competence. Fully utilizing personnel within that appropriately assigned scope of practice is critical to achieving highly functional veterinary healthcare teams, and for the job satisfaction, retention, and wellbeing of veterinary practice personnel. Recent examples of scope of practice incursions that threaten patient health and safety, the safety of products derived from animals, the integrity of the VCPR, public health, and our clients' trust are found in proposals for a midlevel professional and inappropriate expansions of veterinary technicians' scope of practice. In addition to not being in

the best interest of our patients, clients, and the public, such proposals are not compliant with existing federal requirements for prescribing and dispensing and place unacceptable liability on supervising veterinarians.

Below, for reference, are the AVMA Policy on Veterinary Technology and the definition of the “practice of veterinary medicine” from the AVMA Model Veterinary Practice Act.

### **AVMA Policy on Veterinary Technology**

*The AVMA recognizes the value of veterinary technicians as an integral component of veterinary medicine and urges full utilization of veterinary technicians. The veterinary profession is enhanced through efficient utilization of each member of the veterinary health care team by appropriate delegation of tasks and responsibilities to support staff.*

*The veterinary technician's role is to provide professional health care in conjunction with the veterinarian. The duties of veterinary technicians shall be performed under the direction, supervision, and responsibility of veterinarians. These duties shall be accomplished in compliance with federal, state, and local laws. These duties shall not include diagnosing, prescribing, or performing surgery except where explicitly permitted by regulation.*

### **AVMA Model Veterinary Practice Act Definition: “Practice of Veterinary Medicine”**

*“Practice of veterinary medicine” means:*

- 1. To diagnose, prognose, treat, correct, change, alleviate, or prevent animal disease, illness, pain, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical, dental, or mental conditions by any method or mode; including the:
  - i. performance of any medical or surgical procedure, or*
  - ii. prescription, dispensing, administration, or application of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance, or*
  - iii. use of complementary, alternative, and integrative therapies, or*
  - iv. use of any procedure for reproductive management, including but not limited to the diagnosis or treatment of pregnancy, fertility, sterility, or infertility, or*
  - v. determination of the health, fitness, or soundness of an animal, or*
  - vi. physical rehabilitation, meaning the use of therapeutic exercise and the application of modalities intended to restore or facilitate movement and physical function impacted by disease, injury, or disability.*
  - vii. rendering of advice or recommendation by any means including telephonic and other electronic communications with regard to any of the above.**
- 2. To represent, directly or indirectly, publicly, or privately, an ability and willingness to do an act described in subsection 18(1).*
- 3. To use any title, words, abbreviation, or letters in a manner or under circumstances that induce the belief that the person using them is qualified to do any act described in subsection 18(1).*

**Financial Impact: None**

	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>House Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Reference Committee #1</b>	<b>House of Delegates</b>
<b>Recommend Approval</b>	X	X	X (amended as noted below*)	X (amended as noted below*)
<b>Recommend Disapproval</b>				
<b>Recommend Referral to...</b>				
<b>No Recommendation</b>				
<b>Recommend Postpone Indefinitely</b>				

(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)

**\*Safeguarding Care for Animals with Veterinarian-Led Teams**

**Insert the following sentence at the end of the resolution:**  
Veterinary healthcare is enhanced through efficient utilization of each member of the team through appropriate delegation of tasks and responsibilities by the veterinarian.