



NAVTA Positions on Credentialing, Title Protection, and Scope of Practice



Jamie Rauscher, LVT
President, NAVTA

In the intricate world of veterinary health care, the role of veterinary nurses/technicians stands as a pivotal element. However, the absence of uniform credentialing standards across the United States has not only bred confusion among consumers but also sparked internal discord within the veterinary profession itself. Recognizing the urgency of addressing this issue, NAVTA has undertaken the task of elucidating its positions on key matters pertaining to credentialing, title protection, and scope of practice.

Credentialing Systems

NAVTA's stance on credentialing underscores the importance of a standardized framework. It advocates for systems that mandate graduation from accredited veterinary technology or nursing programs, successful completion of the Veterinary Technician National Examination, and a clearly defined scope of practice. Additionally, NAVTA emphasizes the need for title protection, ensuring that terms like "veterinary technician," "veterinary technologist" (denoted with a "g" at the end of the credential [e.g., CVTg]), and "veterinary technician specialist" (VTS) are reserved for qualified professionals. Furthermore, the inclusion of continuing education requirements is deemed essential to uphold competency and professionalism within the field.

“NAVTA emphasizes the need for title protection, ensuring that terms like ‘veterinary technician,’ ‘veterinary technologist’ ... and ‘veterinary technician specialist’ ... are reserved for qualified professionals.”

While NAVTA remains steadfast in its ideal criteria for credentialing, it acknowledges the possibility of compromise in certain scenarios. Despite its opposition to the establishment of new alternate routes to credentialing, NAVTA recognizes the historical context wherein many seasoned veterinary nurses/technicians obtained their credentials through such pathways.

Title Definition and Protection

Central to NAVTA's advocacy efforts is the establishment of title protection and education for various designations within the profession. This includes terms such as "licensed veterinary medical technician" (LVMT), "registered/certified/licensed veterinary technician" (RVT/CVT/LVT), and "registered veterinary nurse" (RVN), among others. By safeguarding these titles and their abbreviations, NAVTA aims to ensure clarity and credibility within the profession, thereby enhancing public trust and recognition of the expertise of veterinary nurses/technicians. Education surrounding additional designations and titles includes the use of "technician" versus "technologist," the VTS credential, and the "veterinary nurse" title.

**Adequan® Canine polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG)**

solution 100 mg/mL in a 5 mL preserved Multiple dose vial for intramuscular use in dogs.

Brief Summary: Prior to use please consult the product insert. **Caution:** Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. **Indications and Usage:** Adequan Canine is recommended for intramuscular injection for the control of signs associated with non-infectious degenerative and/or traumatic arthritis of canine synovial joints. **Efficacy:** Efficacy of Adequan Canine was demonstrated in two studies, a laboratory study and a clinical field trial. **Contraindications:** PSGAG is a synthetic heparinoid; do not use in dogs with known or suspected bleeding disorders or in dogs showing hypersensitivity to PSGAG. **Precautions:** The safe use of Adequan Canine used in breeding, pregnant, or lactating dogs has not been evaluated. Use with caution in dogs with renal or hepatic impairment. **Adverse Reactions:** In the clinical efficacy trial, 24 dogs were treated with Adequan Canine twice weekly for 4 weeks. Possible adverse reactions were reported after 2.1% of the injections. These included transient pain at the injection site (1 incident), transient diarrhea (1 incident each in 2 dogs), and abnormal bleeding (1 incident). These effects were mild and self-limiting and did not require interruption of therapy. **Post Approval Experience (2014):** The following adverse events are based on voluntary, post-approval reporting. The signs reported are listed in decreasing order of reporting frequency: vomiting, anorexia, depression/lethargy, and diarrhea. In some cases, death has been reported. **Warnings:** Not for use in humans. Keep this and all medications out of reach of children. **Dosage and Administration:** Adequately clean and disinfect the stopper prior to entry with a sterile needle and syringe to decrease the possibility of post-injection bacterial infections. **Use only sterile needles, and use each needle only once.** **Use in 28 days of first puncture and puncture a maximum of 10 times.** This risk information is not comprehensive, visit adequancanine.com to obtain the FDA-approved product labeling. To report suspected adverse drug events, contact American Regent, Inc. at 1-888-354-4857.



Adequan and the Dog Head design are trademarks of American Regent, Inc.

- **Veterinary technologist and veterinary technician specialist:** NAVTA extends its support towards defining and protecting the titles of “veterinary technologist” and “veterinary technician specialist.” In line with this objective, NAVTA advocates for the protection of credential abbreviations associated with these titles (CVTg and VTS, respectively), underscoring the specialized skills and knowledge that these professionals possess.
- **Veterinary nurse title:** NAVTA underscores the importance of establishing clear distinctions between the titles of “veterinary nurse” and “veterinary technician” while supporting the appropriate usage of each term. This entails reserving the title of “veterinary nurse” exclusively for credentialed veterinary technicians, thereby ensuring accuracy and consistency in professional designations.

Scope of Practice

NAVTA advocates for the delineation of a well-defined scope of practice exclusive to credentialed veterinary technicians and veterinary nurses. In endorsing the American Association of Veterinary State Boards Model Regulations – Scope of Practice for Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Technologists, NAVTA emphasizes the need for alignment with standardized guidelines to ensure consistency and accountability across different jurisdictions.

Putting This Into Action

To translate these positions into tangible outcomes, NAVTA has established a government relations committee tasked with spearheading advocacy initiatives. This includes engaging in legislative and regulatory processes, collaborating with stakeholders at various levels, and providing support and resources to address pertinent issues. NAVTA encourages stakeholders to actively participate in advocacy efforts and to liaise with their respective state veterinary technician associations. Additionally, individuals are urged to communicate with NAVTA regarding legislative or regulatory developments that could impact the veterinary nurse/technician profession.

“NAVTA's positions on credentialing, title protection, and scope of practice reflect its commitment to fostering professionalism, standardization, and advancement within the veterinary nurse/technician profession.”

In Summary

NAVTA's positions on credentialing, title protection, and scope of practice reflect its commitment to fostering professionalism, standardization, and advancement within the veterinary nurse/technician profession. By advocating for clear standards, robust protections, and collaborative engagement, NAVTA seeks to uphold the integrity and efficacy of veterinary healthcare delivery while empowering veterinary nurses/technicians in their vital role within the veterinary healthcare team. **TVN**