

VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Guidance on Expanded Duties for Licensed Veterinary Technicians

Excerpt from Board minutes of February 12, 2003

The Board discussed a letter from Dr. Hinn in which he presented some items to clarify on the list of expanded duties for licensed veterinary technicians.

ITEM 1: Does the extraction of single rooted teeth by a licensed veterinary technician, allow the extraction of a multi-rooted tooth that has been sectioned (by the supervising veterinarian) into single-rooted portions?

The Board determined that once the tooth has been sectioned by the veterinarian, then it would be considered routine and would be acceptable for the licensed veterinary technician to extract.

ITEM 2: Since many veterinarians do not use skin sutures and close the skin with a subcuticular pattern and possible surgical adhesive, does the suturing of skin include subcuticular closure as an allowable duty?

The Board determined that routine closure is limited to the skin and that subcuticular closure would not be permissible.

ITEM 3: Will LVT's be allowed to place the indwelling subcutaneous catheters and suture them in place. General anesthesia and a small incision similar to a cut down sometimes used for venipuncture is necessary for the placement.

The Board's answer to this question is no.

ITEM 4: Cystocentesis is currently taught at the colleges of veterinary technology and considered acceptable for the LVT's duties. Is this compatible with the Board's thoughts?

The Board's answer to this question is yes.