

# Veterinary Technician Code of Ethics

## Introduction

Every veterinary technician has the obligation to uphold the trust invested in the profession by adhering to the profession's Code of Ethics.

A code of ethics is an essential characteristic of a profession and serves three main functions:

1. A code communicates to the public and to the members of the profession the ideals of the profession.
2. A code is a general guide for professional ethical conduct.
3. A code of ethics provides standards of acceptable conduct that allow the profession to implement disciplinary procedures against those who fall below the standards.

No code can provide the answer to every ethical question faced by members of the profession. They shall continue to bear responsibility for reasoned and conscientious interpretation and application of the basic ethical principles embodied in the Code to individual cases.

Ethical standards are never less than those required by law, frequently they are more stringent.

## Preamble

The Code of Ethics is based on the supposition that the honor and dignity of the profession of veterinary technology lies in a just and reasonable code of ethics. Veterinary technicians promote and maintain good health in animals; care for diseased and injured animals; and assist in the control of diseases transmissible from animals to human. The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to provide guidance to the veterinary technician for carrying out professional responsibilities so as to meet the ethical obligations of the profession.

## Code of Ethics

1. Veterinary technicians shall aid society and animals by providing excellent care and services for animals.
2. Veterinary technicians shall prevent and relieve the suffering of animals with competence and compassion.
3. Veterinary technicians shall remain competent through commitment to life-long learning.
4. Veterinary technicians shall promote public health by assisting with the control of zoonotic diseases and educating the public about these diseases.
5. Veterinary technicians shall collaborate with other members of the veterinary medical profession in efforts to ensure quality health care services for all animals.
6. Veterinary technicians shall protect confidential information provided by clients, unless required by law or to protect public health.
7. Veterinary technicians shall assume accountability for individual professional actions and judgments.
8. Veterinary technicians shall safeguard the public and the profession against individuals deficient in professional competence or ethics.
9. Veterinary technicians shall assist with efforts to ensure conditions of employment consistent with the excellent care for animals.
10. Veterinary technicians shall uphold the laws/regulations that apply to the technician's responsibilities as a member of the animal health care team.
11. Veterinary technicians shall represent their credentials or identify themselves with specialty organizations only if the designation has been awarded or earned.

## Ideals

In addition to adhering to the standards listed in the Code of Ethics, veterinary technicians must also strive to attain a number of ideals. Some of these are:

- Veterinary technicians shall strive to participate in defining, upholding, and improving standards of professional practice, legislation, and education.
- Veterinary technicians shall strive to contribute to the profession's body of knowledge.
- Veterinary technicians shall strive to understand, support, and promote the human-animal bond.

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