

TABLE 6.1: Levels of Veterinary Technician Utilization and Examples of Specific Skill Sets

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain/monitor vitals on nonanesthetized patient • Cytology • Bandaging (basic) • Dental prophylaxis • Dental radiographs • Radiographs (basic) • Administer vaccines • Anal gland expression • Nail trims • Client education (basic topics—pain assessment, husbandry) • Phlebotomy • Urinary catheter care • Intravenous catheter care • Medication administration • Husbandry • Anesthesia monitoring (ASA I–II) • Fill prescriptions • Collect urine/fecal samples • Cystocentesis • Gastric intubation • Tracheal intubation • Blood typing • Monitoring blood product transfusion • Medication/fluid therapy calculations (basic drug calculation, constant rate infusions, percent calculations, mEq) • Aseptic technique • Basic suturing skills • Perform Basic Life Support in CPR • Controlled substance handling and monitoring • Set up for surgery/procedures • Low-stress handling/restraint • Perform ophthalmological testing (Schirmer tear test, fluorescein, tonometry) • Suture/staple removal • Microchip insertion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply splints or casts • Anesthesia monitoring (ASA III–IV) • Advanced imaging anesthesia support (CT, MRI, PET) • Client education (nutrition, diabetes, rehabilitation skills, palliative care) • Esophagostomy tube maintenance • Blood transfusion and crossmatching • Dental local blocks • Surgical assisting • Perform Advanced Life Support in CPR • Critical care assessments • Urinary catheter placement • Physical rehabilitation treatments (laser, shockwave, ultrasound, TENS, etc.) • Regenerative medicine preparations (PRP, stem cell processing, hyaluronic acid injections) • Emergency triage • Surgical discharge • Multimodal analgesia and interventional prescriptions (vasopressors, gastrointestinal, etc.) • Intraosseous catheter placement • Perform/position for orthopedic radiographs (VD shoulder, OFA pelvis, spinal series) • Perform fine needle aspirates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced imaging (CT, MRI, PET) • Central line placement • Arterial blood pressure monitoring • Chest/tracheal tube management • Physical rehabilitation assessments • Epidural injections • Ultrasound-guided nerve blocks • Chest tube placement • Blocked cat urinary catheter placement • Tracheostomy tube care • Difficult intubation • Epidural catheter care • Lead CPR code (RECOVER) • Neonatal care • Administration of total intravenous anesthesia • Nasogastric tube placement

ASA, American Society of Anesthesiologists; CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation; CT, computed tomography; OFA, Orthopedic Foundation for Animals; PET, positron emission tomography; PRP, platelet-rich plasma; TENS, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation; VD, ventrodorsal

The 2023 AAHA Technician Utilization Guidelines are available at aaha.org/technician-utilization.

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. ©2023 AAHA.

