

Schedule of Essential Competencies

The OAVT By-laws list the competencies which an RVT is expected to acquire and maintain in order to be deemed competent and capable of the practice of the profession. These competencies also form the basis on which a veterinarian appropriately decides whether to delegate a task to a Member and supervises a Member in its performance.



Eventually...

- ◆ The goal is to increase awareness and recognition of RVTs to the general public;
- ◆ Public protection may be increased because of accountability of RVTs to the OAVT;
- ◆ Veterinarians may experience increased confidence in delegating specific tasks because of an RVT's training and accountability;
- ◆ Clinics may become more efficient and cost-effective through better utilization of personnel.



Dedicated to Professionalism

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**What
Self-Regulating RVTs
Means to
Veterinarians**

Registered Veterinary Technicians

have recently become the latest profession in Ontario to gain self-regulated status.

In Canada, professions are granted the privilege of regulating their own affairs by provincial governments. This confers the authority to establish standards for entry to the profession, standards of practice for those working in the profession, and rules governing how members may be disciplined or removed from the profession. Such rules and standards are designed to protect members of the public, and in this case, the welfare of animals.

The OAVT has had an accreditation program for college programs in veterinary technology since 2002. Currently nine such programs across the province are accredited, and they produce over 300 graduates per year who join the OAVT and take the entrance examination to become Registered Veterinary Technicians.

Professional (Malpractice) Liability Insurance

Professional Liability Insurance (also called Malpractice Liability Insurance) protects the RVT against liability or allegations for damages resulting from a negligent act, error, omission or malpractice arising out of the rendering of their professional services as a Registered Veterinarian Technician. This coverage applies whether the RVT is working fulltime, part time, on contract or volunteering.

Although OAVT's By-law 2 Article 2.1.4.9 clearly states that all RVTs must have professional malpractice liability insurance through OAVT's membership, it is beneficial in more ways than one:

- RVTs are protected individually, regardless of what coverage the clinic may or may not have;
- RVTs are protected against lawsuits initiated not only from the practices' clients of which they are employed, but also initiated from colleagues;
- RVTs insurance "follows them" wherever they provide their professional services; i.e. at work (regardless of employment status or how many employers an RVT may have), giving advice to a neighbour, while volunteering;

Not only is an RVT protected against law suits, RVT's policy is extended to include coverage for legal expenses due to a complaint against them with their regulatory body. If someone lodges a complaint against an RVT, the regulatory body investigates that complaint and may pursue the action with a disciplinary hearing. An RVT would have legal costs afforded to them to defend themselves.

This policy was specifically designed and tailor made for RVTs and at all times, OAVT has kept the RVT's best interest first and foremost.

The following information is of a general nature. Please refer to the policy document for detailed coverage information

The Complaints Process

The investigation of complaints made against its member is one of the main functions of any self-regulating profession. The OAVT complaints process is designed to ensure that members are treated fairly in the investigation of any complaint while fulfilling its new mandate of regulating the profession in the public interest.

Options Available to the Complaints Committee

- ♦ Dismiss;
- ♦ Refer to Discipline Committee;
- ♦ Refer to Fitness to Practise Committee;
- ♦ Appear before Complaints;
- ♦ Refer to Alternate Dispute Resolution;
- ♦ Take Any Other Permissible Action as required.