



**CARRINGTON  
COLLEGE®**

# **VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

**2022-2023**

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## Welcome to the Carrington College Veterinary Technology Program

The Carrington College Academic Catalog and the Carrington College Student Handbook are the primary sources for college policy information. This Program Handbook intends to provide you with essential policies, procedures, and guidelines that will facilitate your success in the Veterinary Technology Program. It is not intended to replace the Carrington College Academic Catalog or the Carrington College Student Handbook, but rather to supplement these publications and highlight specific policies and procedures unique to the Veterinary Technology Program.

Veterinary Technology is a diverse and ever-evolving field requiring ethical, committed, and accountable individuals. The faculty and staff of the Carrington College Veterinary Technology Program will introduce you to the world of veterinary medicine; it will then be your responsibility to implement your learning and your efforts to acquire the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking necessary for success in the field.

We cannot do this hard work for you!

Some of the responsibilities of a Veterinary Technician include:

- Animal Nursing: obtaining vitals, drug administration, fluid therapy, catheter placement
- Diagnostic Imaging: Radiography, Ultrasound, Advanced Imaging (MRI, CT)
- Pharmacy and Pharmacology: Filling prescriptions, Calculating and Administering Drug Doses, Patient(Owner) Advisements
- Anesthesia: Equipment set-up and maintenance checks, Induction of Anesthesia, Monitoring, Records, Drug Dose Calculations
- Surgical Assisting; sterilization of equipment, patient preparation, surgical suite protocol, assistance with surgery (tissue handling, asepsis, suture)
- Clinical laboratory: sample collection, analysis, quality control
- Pain Management: assessment of patient pain score, intervention strategies
- Dentistry: oral cavity examination, instrumentation, dental cleaning and polishing, dental radiography, extraction techniques, suturing of the gingiva
- Emergency Medicine and Critical Care: patient assessment, delivery of the life-saving intervention, monitoring and evaluating patient response

Common Animals treated at veterinary facilities in the United States include Dogs, Cats, Horses, Rabbits, Birds, Ferrets, Snakes, Lizards, Rats, Mice, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Llamas, Alpacas, Pigs, Primates and Fish, and Amphibians.

We are eager to start you on the path to success in this exciting and dynamic field and wish to welcome you to our profession.

## Veterinary Technology: Goals, Outcomes, Philosophy

The Veterinary Technology Faculty of Carrington College believe in lifelong learning, the welfare, and health of animals, compassionate care, and the ethical practice of veterinary medicine. Veterinary medicine is a science-based art; knowledge and skills must be continually improved to provide the most current standard of care for veterinary patients.

Learning is a process that begins with the primary assimilation of facts and culminates with critical thinking and problem-solving applications to novel problems. Many teaching styles are employed during the program, such as lectures, laboratory experiences, clinical experience, collaborative projects, and community outreach.

The student is expected to:

- Develop and sustain appropriate study skills for success.
- Participate fully in the educational process.
- Work independently and collaboratively throughout various learning opportunities.
- Increase awareness of personal and others' biases to facilitate critical thinking and improve outcomes.
- Engage in the process of evaluation and continuous improvement.
- Consider the welfare of the animal in their care.

## Veterinary Technology Program Goals

The overarching goal of the Veterinary Technology Program is to develop graduate veterinary technicians who are prepared and equipped to enhance the human-animal bond, practice sound judgment, and strive to be lifelong learners.

### Veterinary Technology Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Veterinary Technology program, graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate entry-level competency in the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities required for practicing veterinary technology in a wide range of practice settings.
- Demonstrate entry-level clinical skills competency in accordance with accreditation requirements.
- Differentiate the appropriate functions to maintain a safe work environment for clients, animals, and staff.
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For more comprehensive information, see the [Academic Catalog](#)

## Classroom

### Confidentiality

Students may be exposed to information regarding people's pets, work, and life situations. Students must agree that this information is confidential and must agree not to disclose any of this information. This applies to all forms of communication: verbal, written, social media, and emails. Violations of this section may result in the student being charged with violating the Student Code of Conduct. Please see the 'HIPAA and Privacy Expectations' [Student Handbook](#) for more information

### Reference Materials

The Veterinary Technology faculty have selected textbooks that enhance the curriculum and are considered an integral part of the learning process. Each course in the program has a list of eBooks and assigned readings that can be found on the course syllabus. It is expected that the student will complete the reading assignments outside of class time and preferably before the presentation of the material.

## Recording Devices

At no time should recording devices (including cameras) be used at clinical sites or during off-campus field trips. Cell phones should be put on silent mode and used only during breaks. For the full recording policy please refer to the [Student Handbook](#).

## Grading

Please see the [Academic Catalog](#) for the grading scale and program progression requirements.

Please refer to individual course syllabi for assignment weights. The grade appeal policy can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

## Due Dates

Students are required to complete and submit assignments on time. If assignments are late, it is the student's responsibility to alert the instructor. Please see the 'Late Assignment Policy in the [Student Handbook](#).

## Examination Procedures

Students are expected to complete quizzes, practicums, and examinations at the assigned times. Quizzes, practicums, and exams may **NOT** be made up in some courses. Please see individual course syllabi for make-up policy. Emergencies are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

All quizzes, examinations, and practicums are to be completed by the student alone unless otherwise assigned as a group project. The instructor may change seating arrangements for any student before the examination.

Cell phones, cameras, video recording devices, or any other electronic or copying devices are not allowed in the testing area or during examination review. If devices are seen or reported, the student will be subject to the Academic Integrity Policy in the [Student Handbook](#).

The following testing behaviors are expected:

- Please be considerate of others and avoid behaviors that could be distracting.
- No form of communication will be tolerated once the exam has commenced; this includes non-verbal communications
- Ear plugs are permitted in the testing environment. Ear plugs may not be electronic or Bluetooth in nature. Ear plugs must be checked for compliance before the test by a faculty member.
- It is the expectation that students will follow the Academic Integrity policy as defined in the Student Handbook. Students are required to report observed instances of academic dishonesty. Submissions of good faith reports of observed cheating will not impact future grades, learning, or academic environment.

## Lab and Clinical Make-Up Work

If a student should miss a scheduled laboratory day or clinical rotation day, it is the student's responsibility to acquire any missed content for that opportunity. In addition, faculty members may require a make-up activity for the missed work. Make-up opportunities will not erase the absence from the student record.

Students must complete 32 hours of clinical rotation in Term 2 and 48 hours of clinical rotation in Terms 3 and 4; failure to complete those required hours will result in a course failure.

Emergencies are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## New or Changes in Policies, Procedures, and Program Information

Policy, procedures, and program information changes are updated as needed or required. The most up-to-date version can be found in the [Academic Catalog](#). The Student Handbook can be found at [Student Handbook](#). Revisions to the Student Handbook are made as needed. Revisions to the Veterinary Technology Program Handbook are made every two years or, if necessary, when policy changes occur.

## Laboratory Environments

Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the safety policy posted for the Veterinary Technology lab and clinical locations.

- Students must be supervised in the laboratory setting by Carrington College faculty or site supervisor (clinical rotation and externship).
- Students are required to follow the Dress Code policy as defined in the Student Handbook, including but not limited to uniforms and closed-toed shoes.
- Hair must be worn off the shoulders or tied up.
- No food or drink is allowed in the lab at any time.
- No cosmetics, lip gloss, or chewing gum application is allowed at any time.
- All appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) must be worn. This may include barrier gowns, goggles, gloves, masks, protective lead shields, and gloves.
- Immediate disposal of all needles, broken glass or tubes must be performed in a puncture-proof container (red biohazard).
- Students are expected to participate in laboratory cleanliness; cleaning of non-disposable supplies and equipment for reuse must be completed at the end of the lab.
- Floors must be swept or vacuumed and mopped with disinfectant at the end of the lab.
- Any laundry used must be placed into the appropriate container: surgical laundry must be kept separate from cage towels or blankets.
- Any cage or run used must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at the end of the lab.
- All work surfaces must be disinfected with a hospital-grade disinfectant and allowed to dry.
- Animals participating in the lab must be marked with a completed cage card and entered into the Animal Use Log.
- All dogs and cats participating in the lab must be vaccinated for Rabies as required by state and federal regulations.
- Medical records must be maintained in accordance with professional standards; students are responsible for completing their medical records.
- Safe and professional behavior is defined as maintaining a professional environment similar to that you will encounter in your new career.
- At Carrington College, we are responsible to employers to uphold the highest level of professionalism expected in the workplace. Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all times.

Violations of these standards may result in a Code of Conduct Violation. Please see the Student Handbook for more information on the Code of Conduct or Dress Code requirements.

## Animal Use Policy

To provide students with the best educational experience possible, there are times when live animals must be used to gain the necessary practical experience. To accomplish these goals, companion animals belonging to

students and staff are used in teaching situations.

Whenever possible, animals needing appropriate clinical procedures will be used to demonstrate appropriate skills or for teaching purposes. For example, animals needing to be neutered may be scheduled for surgical nursing and anesthesia labs. Or an animal with an ear infection may be scheduled for a lab to demonstrate ear smears, otoscopic exam, and ear flushing techniques. Students or staff may volunteer their animals to be used in other teaching situations when this is not practical or possible. In exchange for volunteering, animals may receive a complete physical examination, vaccinations, and other necessary medical tests or procedures at no cost to the owner.

Carrington College does not maintain full pharmacies, nor do we have emergency or nursing staff. The College strives to prevent interference with the ordinary business activities of local veterinary hospitals (many of which provide students with excellent clinical teaching opportunities). As such, the College does not maintain a full-service veterinary practice and does not provide veterinary care to animals outside of teaching situations. Student and staff animal owners are encouraged to develop a relationship with a local veterinary practice where their animals may receive complete veterinary care.

1. Animals used must belong to Carrington College students or faculty.
  - a. An animal belonging to family members or friends may be used but must be "adopted" by the Vet Tech student for that day.
  - b. Service Animals may not be used as a patient.
2. Animals used are for an assigned lab or required checkoffs unless a prior arrangement has been made.
3. Animals must be healthy and show no signs of illness.
4. Animals must not be aggressive or have a history of biting someone in the last two weeks.
5. All animals must have proof of current Rabies vaccination.
  - a. If proof is not provided, then the animal must receive a Rabies vaccine at the veterinarian's discretion before any procedures are done.
6. No animal younger than four months (16 weeks) old may be used for any teaching procedure.
  - a. Animals younger than four months old may be used for teaching a clinically indicated procedure at the veterinarian's discretion. This must be prearranged with the veterinarian.
    - i. Animals younger than four months old must be carried or in a carrier. Do not walk them on the ground.
7. An animal may not be used more than once every seven days.
8. Maximum venipunctures/injections per animal 3x per day. This does not include Rabies vaccination if needed.
9. Full x-rays are taken per animal - 6 exposures per day and up to 24 total exposures in 2 years.
10. All animals must be on a leash or in a carrier.
11. While on campus, the animal must be housed individually under inappropriate veterinary caging. Remove all leashes.
12. All cage cards must include:
  - a. Date
  - b. Animal's name
  - c. Owner's name
  - d. Owner contact information
  - e. Signalment of the animal
  - f. Description of the animal
  - g. Animal's weight
  - h. Reason for visit
  - i. Instructor
13. Students will follow campus-specific protocols for walking dogs outside. Always take a poop bag for waste disposal.

14. Animals are not allowed to stay overnight.

## Record Keeping

1. You must enter each animal in the Animal Use Log for each visit.
  - a. The animal's visit is called "Clinical" if it has a medical benefit to the animal. This includes spay/neuter, dental procedures, pre-op visits, vaccines, bloodwork, ear cleanings, and anal gland expressions.
  - b. The animal's visit is called "Teaching" if it is for teaching purposes only. This includes animal restraint, behavior, radiology, injection, and venipuncture.
2. You must have a signed consent form for each animal for each visit.
3. The first line of each entry on the chronological sheet should begin with:
  - a. Date
  - b. Chief Complaint (CC) – the reason for a visit
  - c. Animal's weight
4. All procedures must be written on the chronological sheet with the student's initials who performed them.
5. After all, procedures are completed, all students in the group must sign and initial at the end of the entry.
6. An instructor must sign off each entry.
7. Please keep the medical record as orderly as possible.

### *What do you do when you bring an animal into the lab?*

All team members are responsible for these tasks.

1. Put the animal in an appropriately sized cage.
2. Remove any leashes.
3. Make a cage card.
4. Write the animal on the whiteboard or other tracking mechanism.
5. Log them into the Animal Use Log.
6. Obtain their medical chart.
7. Ensure the Rabies vaccination is current and there is documentation (Rabies certificate, receipt), especially for new patients.
8. Make sure the owner signs the consent form and files it in the chart.
9. Begin your entry for that visit. (see #4 above)
10. Ensure all procedures have been logged and initialed by the students who performed them.
11. After the visit, ensure all students have signed and initialed the entry.
12. Make sure an instructor has signed the medical record. DO NOT file it away without instructor approval.
13. Clean up.

## Aggressive Animal Policy

The handling of animals for veterinary procedures includes inherent risks and concerns for human safety. There are, however, additional concerns for the safety of students who may not yet have developed proficiency in safe animal handling practices. Therefore, it is the general policy that students should not directly participate in handling animals that exhibit aggressive or threatening behaviors.

The procedures performed with animals in the teaching laboratories at Carrington College are typically elective. Aggressive animals may be dismissed from a laboratory with no adverse effects on the animal. Upon verification that an animal is aggressive, a program faculty member will place the animal in a kennel and label them as

aggressive until it is picked up by the owner and removed from campus. In case of injury to a student, including bites and scratches that result in broken skin, students will receive first aid at the campus and additional treatment at a medical facility if necessary. As indicated in the Injury Protocol, the incident will also be reported immediately to Animal Services. This is communicated to pet owners at the time of drop-off via the Procedure Consent Form.

### *On-Campus*

Aggressive behaviors in dogs include lunging, snapping, and biting. Threatening behaviors include freezing, stiffening, staring, snarling, or growling. Cats' aggressive behaviors include biting and scratching, while threatening behaviors include crouching with ears held back, baring teeth, and hissing. Dogs or cats that display these behaviors in their cages shall remain in the cage. If a dog or cat displays these behaviors while out of its cage, an instructor will promptly return the animal to its cage. The cage will be marked as aggressive, and the animal will remain in the cage until it is picked up by the owner and removed from campus.

### *Off Campus-Affiliates*

By the nature of their size, horses are potentially dangerous if they are untrained or fearful. Horses that stomp their feet, fidget, pull against the lead rope, or attempt to bolt should not be handled by students. However, when sedated or tranquilized, such horses may become tractable and suitable for student handling. The use of such animals will be at the discretion of the supervising faculty member, the attending veterinarian, and the equine professional that provides the horses for the laboratory. Actual aggressive horse behaviors include biting, kicking, rearing, and striking. If any horse displays such behaviors, students will immediately exit the area, and the horse will be dismissed from the laboratory.

Cattle are handled with mechanical chutes or stanchions as a requirement by the AVMA. The movement of cattle through corrals and into restraint devices will be performed only by experienced faculty and the professional handlers at the livestock facility when indicated in the Memorandum of Understanding with the off-site facility. Students will not have exposure to unrestrained cattle for safety purposes. Cattle that are intractable while restrained may still pose a threat to students attempting to perform laboratory procedures and will be dismissed.

## Student Hazards Advisement

Working with animals and in the veterinary medical setting is associated with some risks. The first step in preventing injury is to identify potential hazards.

### *Potential Injuries in the Veterinary Workplace include but are not limited to:*

- **Scratches:** Dogs and cats may scratch to escape. The claws of birds and reptiles can be incredibly sharp. The rear nails of cats are especially harmful. Deep scratches may become infected if not properly cleaned.
- **Bite wounds:** Dog bite wounds are often associated with crushing and tearing injuries. Severe bites may cause permanent damage to tendons. Cat bite wounds are often associated with infection. Cat bite wounds to the hand often require antibiotic therapy and may require surgery. Small mammals: rats, mice, rabbits, etc. These bites are painful but rarely cause serious injury. Large parrots: parrots, macaws, cockatoos, etc. Powerful beaks can break fingers! Reptiles: snakes and lizard bites are also prone to infection.
- **Rope burns:** Rope leashes, if misused, may cause rope burn.
- **Kicks:** Horses can seriously injure or even kill a person with a well-aimed kick. Horses kick directly behind them with their rear feet and can rear up and strike with the front feet. Cattle kick to the side may cause bruising or severe injury.

- **Head butting:** Dogs may head butt, breaking the unwary technician's nose. Cattle may head butt, even when restrained, and may injure handlers. Sheep and goats also head butt and may cause injury, especially if they have horns.
- **Stock and stanchions:** These mechanical devices are used to control cattle. Improper use could lead to crushing injuries.
- **Back Injury:** A large part of a veterinary technician's daily job involves heavy lifting. Improper lifting of large dogs, unconscious animals, and heavy sacks of food may result in back injury. These injuries can result in permanent pain and disability. Most such injuries can be prevented by practicing safe lifting techniques and asking for help when needed.
- **Radiation:** Scatter radiation from the x-ray machine, over time, may cause tissue damage. Sensitive tissues include the eye's lens, thyroid gland, reproductive tissues, the unborn fetus, and skin. Protective apparel is provided to protect you from scatter radiation. X-ray dosimetry badges are provided to monitor the amount of radiation you have been exposed to. Exposure of any part of your body to the direct beam of x-rays is much more dangerous and is *never* to be done.
- **Anesthetic waste gases:** Exposure to anesthesia waste gases may cause liver damage over a prolonged period (years). Exposure to anesthesia waste gases may harm the unborn fetus. Proper equipment maintenance, leak checks, and scavenging of waste gases reduce exposures and are considered essential in the veterinary workplace.
- **Toxic chemicals:** Cleaners, solvents, and some medications used in veterinary medicine are toxic and/or teratogenic (capable of causing congenital disabilities). Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions for properly preparing and handling these chemicals. Knowledge of the hazards of each chemical is required to work safely. Protective apparel, including gloves and eye protection, should be used when working with concentrates of bleach or other toxic chemicals.
- **Zoonotic Disease:** Animals may carry diseases that are contagious to people. The most serious of these is Rabies. All mammals are capable of carrying the Rabies virus. The most common human exposure in California is from wild cats and bats. We recommend that veterinary personnel who work with feral cats and wildlife be immunized for Rabies. Rabies vaccines are available through your physician. Other possible zoonotic diseases include ringworm, leptospirosis, cat-scratch fever, giardia, and brucellosis.
- **Human blood-borne pathogens:** Care must be taken to avoid contact with another person's blood, tissues, or body fluids, such as when a co-worker is injured. Human blood can be a source of serious viruses, including HIV and Hepatitis.
- **Needle sticks:** Needle sticks can result in painful injuries and local infection. Fortunately, only humans and other primates can carry HIV and Hepatitis, so needle sticks are usually not as serious concern in veterinary medicine as in human medicine.
- **Noise:** Working in kennels or some livestock areas can damage hearing. If noise levels are high, ear protection such as ear plugs or headphones may be necessary.

This is only a brief list of some of the potential hazards of the veterinary medical field. Please remember that no such list can include absolutely every possible risk.

Your best protection is following instructions, exercising caution, and using common sense to avoid injury.

## Injury Protocol

Despite our best efforts, accidents do happen. If you are injured, here's what you should do:

1. Immediately notify the instructor or site supervisor of the injury.
2. Immediately notify the VT Program Director Immediately.
3. If the injury requires medical attention, you may be directed to utilize an urgent care center contracted by the College. If you prefer, you may contact your physician. If at Clinical Rotation and you are unable to use the urgent

care or do not have a personal physician, seek treatment at a nearby medical facility.

4. Submit copies of the bill to the VT department. (The College will investigate the incident for possible reimbursement.)
5. Complete a Student Injury Report and submit it to the VT department.

## Rabies Advisement

### *What is Rabies?*

Rabies is a deadly infectious virus.

### *What are the signs and symptoms of Rabies?*

The rabies virus travels through the nervous system, eventually inflaming the brain. Early symptoms include irritability, headache, fever, and sometimes itching or pain at the bite site. The disease eventually progresses to paralysis, spasms of the throat muscles, convulsions, and delirium. *Without preventive treatment, rabies in humans is fatal.*

### *How common is Rabies in people?*

Human Rabies is common in many parts of the world, especially in Asia and Africa. In the United States, rabies infection in people is infrequent, typically 0 to 3 cases per year. This is because most pets are vaccinated against the disease, and medical care is quickly available to treat people who may have been exposed to Rabies. About 30,000 people per year receive treatment for Rabies due to bites from potentially infected animals.

### *How do people get Rabies?*

People usually get rabies from the bite of a rabid animal. It is also possible, but relatively rare that people may get rabies if infectious material from a rabid animal, such as saliva, gets directly into their eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound.

### *What animals get Rabies?*

Any mammal can get Rabies. Rabies' most common wild reservoirs are raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, and coyotes. Domestic mammals can also get rabies. Cats, cattle, and dogs are the most frequently reported rabid domestic animals in the United States.

### *Can I get Rabies in any way other than an animal bite?*

Non-bite exposures to Rabies are infrequent. Scratches, abrasions, open wounds, or mucous membranes contaminated with saliva or other potentially infectious material (such as brain tissue) from a rabid animal constitute non-bite exposures. Occasionally reports of non-bite exposure are such that post-exposure prophylaxis is given.

Inhalation of aerosolized rabies virus is also a potential non-bite route of exposure, but other than laboratory workers, most people are unlikely to encounter an aerosol of rabies virus.

Other contacts, such as petting a rabid animal or contact with the blood, urine, or feces (e.g., guano) of a rabid animal, do not constitute an exposure and are not an indication of prophylaxis.

### *What medical attention do I need if I am exposed to Rabies?*

One of the most effective methods to decrease infection chances involves thoroughly washing the wound with soap and water. Specific medical attention for someone exposed to Rabies is called post-exposure prophylaxis or PEP. In the United States, post-exposure prophylaxis consists of a regimen of one dose of immune globulin and five doses of the rabies vaccine over a 28-day period. Your health care provider should give Rabies immune globulin and the first dose of rabies vaccine as soon as possible after exposure. Additional rabies vaccine doses should be given on days 3, 7, 14, and 28 after the first vaccination. Current vaccines are relatively painless and are given in your arm, like the flu or tetanus vaccine.

### *Which people should get rabies vaccinations?*

Certain high-risk persons should be vaccinated against Rabies. Pre-exposure vaccination is suggested if your activities will bring you into contact with wild, feral, or domestic animals. People who should consider being vaccinated include Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians (including students), persons who work with wildlife or agricultural animals, laboratory staff who work with the rabies virus, and long-term travelers to areas where Rabies is common.

*If I get rabies vaccinations, am I fully protected if I am bitten?*

No. Pre-exposure prophylaxis is given for several reasons. First, although pre-exposure vaccination does not eliminate the need for additional therapy after a rabies exposure, it simplifies therapy by eliminating the need for human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and decreasing the number of doses needed – a point of particular importance for persons at high risk of being exposed to Rabies in areas where immunizing products may not be readily available. Second, it may protect persons whose post-exposure therapy might be delayed. Finally, it may provide partial protection to persons with inapparent exposure to Rabies.

Students enrolled in the Carrington College Veterinary Assisting, and Veterinary Technology programs will be expected to handle and restrain dogs and cats as part of their training. In addition, students in the Veterinary Technology program will also gain exposure to horses and cattle as part of the curriculum. Pre-exposure prophylaxis to the rabies virus is not required for students but is highly recommended.

- 1) Faculty must verify the Rabies vaccination status of dogs and cats before student handling and restraint.
  - College must maintain rabies vaccination documentation for at least three years of all appropriate species within every medical record, including date acquired, date vaccinated, and holding dates for all animal resource locations. Includes a comprehensive list of all animal resources, including faculty and student-sourced animals.
  
- 2) Veterinary Technology: cats, dogs, horses, food, and fiber species not vaccinated before student handling and restraint must be in good health and absent neurological signs for a minimum of 45 days before student exposure. Non-vaccinated animals participating in Veterinary Technology laboratories will receive rabies vaccination during or following a laboratory experience if medically appropriate.
  - Documentation of holding period, including location and handling procedures during the hold.
  
- 3) Veterinary Assisting and Veterinary Technology: cats, dogs, horses, food, and fiber species must be Rabies vaccinated a minimum of 28 days before student handling at Carrington College. Suppose the pet has only received its first rabies vaccination or is late on booster vaccinations. In that case, the animal cannot be handled by Carrington College students until 28 days after the final vaccination in the series.
  - Documentation of holding period, including location and handling procedures during the hold.

In case of bites resulting in broken skin, students will receive first aid at the campus and additional treatment at a medical facility, if necessary, as indicated in the Student Accident Policy. The incident will also be reported immediately to Animal Services. The local health officer will recommend quarantine and/or euthanasia of the animal and post-exposure prophylaxis for the bite victim (s). This is communicated to pet owners at the time of drop-off via the Procedure Consent Form.

## Competencies and Functional Abilities

The CVTEA requires all Veterinary Technician programs to document students' acquisition of theory and critical skills. Please refer to the catalog statement regarding the completion of these core competencies.

Carrington College recognizes that the Veterinary Technology program is intellectually, mentally, and physically

challenging. Students may not progress to term five (externship) unless these competencies have been completed. Students who believe they require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Disability Services at [ADA@carrington.edu](mailto:ADA@carrington.edu).

## Students with Health Conditions, Including Pregnancy

Students are not required to disclose medical or other physical conditions such as pregnancy. Students who have a history of cancer, immune deficiency, or become pregnant during their program of study may be able to continue safely. However, there are risks of exposure to radiation, blood-borne pathogens, live animals, and chemical agents routinely found in Veterinary practice. Students are encouraged to review the Policy Regarding Students with Health Conditions, Including Pregnancy which can be found in the [Student Handbook](#)

## Clinical Rotations or Externship Site

- The student and site supervisor should discuss the objectives of that rotation and the student's ability to meet those objectives.
- If the student cannot meet those objectives, they must meet with their Program Director to determine what options are available.
- A laboratory exercise's objectives cannot be waived for the student; however, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the student's safety needs.
- The instructor, working with the student, may determine and document in writing how the course's objectives may be safely completed in an alternative manner.
- If such accommodations cannot be made and objectives cannot be reasonably met, the student must meet with their Program Director to determine what options are available.

## Additional Policies

### Transportation

The Veterinary Technology Program utilizes clinical facilities scattered throughout the municipal area. It is the student's responsibility to arrive on time for all scheduled clinical assignments. Transportation to and from the clinical site is the responsibility of the student. While carpooling is encouraged, students should have an alternative arrangement for transportation to class and clinical in case of emergency.

### Field Trips

Field trips are required in the veterinary technology program, and the student assumes the responsibility for transportation, meals, and other necessary expenditures. Field trips are not typically scheduled during regular class time. The College makes all efforts to schedule these field trips well in advance and notify students as soon as the arrangements are made.

### Program Progression

Please see the [Academic Catalog](#) for the VT program progression requirements.

### Negligence, Drug, and Alcohol Use

Please refer to the Carrington College [Student Handbook](#) for the following:

### *Code of Conduct and Alcohol and Drug Policy.*

The State of California requires any person who handles or distributes Controlled Substances to hold one of the following:



1. A valid California Veterinary Assistant Controlled Substances Permit (VASCP)
  - a. This permit requires a criminal background check.
2. A valid Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) License
  - a. This license requires a criminal background check and a passing score on the VTNE
3. A valid Veterinary Medical license.
  - a. This license requires a criminal background check, a DVM degree, and a passing score on the NAVLE.

Students are advised that prior criminal convictions about drugs or alcohol may not obtain the necessary permits/licenses, which may hamper employment opportunities.

Patient safety is of utmost concern to faculty, staff, and clinical partners. While in the clinical setting, students are responsible for the care they provide to patients. Impairment of cognition related to drugs, alcohol, lack of sleep or overwork jeopardizes patient safety.

Suppose a student demonstrates behavior jeopardizing patient/client safety or performs technician skills in a grossly negligent manner. In that case, the student may be removed from the clinical site and may violate the Student Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is available in the [Student Handbook](#).