



Washington State  
Veterinary Medical Association



September 27, 2021

Ms. Lorelei Walker, Program Manager  
Veterinary Board of Governors  
WA State Dept. of Health  
P. O. Box 47852  
Olympia, WA 98504-7852

Re: Proposed Apprenticeship Program

Dear Ms. Walker and the Washington Veterinary Board of Governors:

We have submitted constructive comments on the proposed apprenticeship program by Cascade Veterinary Clinic (CVC) and the North Central Workforce Development Council (NCWDC). We have attended meetings and urged the Board to listen to the concerns of four major stakeholders, AVMA, NAVTA, WSAVT, and WSVMA. We have all made our position clear that the Board should reject any veterinary technician training program that is not AVMA accredited.

AVMA accreditation guarantees a rigorous education and graduates are fully capable of performing in a wide variety of professional roles across all sectors of veterinary medicine. This is accomplished through oversight by veterinary experts from outside the educational program, an established curriculum, and through ensuring the most up-to-date advances in veterinary medicine are taught to students. This model has worked successfully since 1972 and is the standard for the profession in the United States.

Why would the Board approve anything less than the quality education process recognized throughout the United States? Simply put, the safety of the public is at stake. Let's be clear, ***CVC's proposal to align with AVMA standards is not the same as being accredited.***

Please refer to our previous letters that outline all our concerns regarding the program. We'll refrain from rehashing them here. We'll simply summarize with this statement: the profession needs highly trained, highly skilled veterinary technician professionals as can only be guaranteed by successful completion of an AVMA-accredited educational program. AVMA accreditation should be the guaranteed minimum requirement for any new program going forward.

As four prominent veterinary stakeholders that represent veterinarians and veterinary technicians from Washington and across the U.S., it's important that we be heard. We believe strongly that the Board must reject this and any future proposal unless AVMA accreditation is a guaranteed minimum requirement.

Respectfully,

Candace Joy  
Chief Executive Officer  
WSVMA

Ashley Byrne, LVT  
President, WSAVT

Janet Donlin, DVM, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
AVMA

Ed Carlson, CVT, VTS  
President, NAVTA