



Washington State Veterinary Medical Association

March 2, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Walker:

We would like to notify you that after more discussion and review of program materials, the WSVMA strongly opposes the proposed veterinary technician apprenticeship program introduced by Cascade Veterinary Clinics and the North Central Workforce Development Council.

The AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education & Activities (CVTEA) requires that graduates of accredited programs must demonstrate proficiency in over 300 essential skills, which can be found in the Veterinary Technology Student Essential and Recommended Skills List, [Appendix I](#). The proposed apprenticeship program as outlined does not appear to align with those skills.

Secondly, it's not clear proper oversight of the program or the students would be maintained. AVMA accredited veterinary technician educational training programs must be reviewed and visited at regular intervals with oversight by veterinary experts through the AVMA CVTEA accreditation process to ensure these programs are maintaining a high-quality education and meeting educational standards. There's no indication that the same high-level veterinary educational oversight will be provided for this program.

Being a licensed veterinary technician is not a trade. It is a highly skilled profession for individuals who, alongside veterinarians, provide a range of medical care to animal patients across many species in various practice sectors including companion animal, equine, food animal practice, biomedical research and other veterinary medical activities. It's imperative their training meets the needs of their required expertise. There are already many educational options that allow future veterinary technicians to work in the clinic while learning through an accredited program.

WSVMA requests that for the good of the public and the profession, any new training program under consideration by the Board meet the same high standards and high-level review guaranteed by the AVMA CVTEA.

Sincerely,

Richard DeBowes, DVM, MS, DACVS
President

Sincerely,

Candace Joy
Chief Executive Officer