



CVMA CVA Program for Schools Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purpose of the CVMA CVA school program?

A: The CVMA established the Certified Veterinary Assistant (CVMA CVA) program in order to provide veterinary practitioners more qualified, more professional, more productive employees in the traditionally entry-level positions of the veterinary support staff. Initially offered as an on-the-job training program, CVMA CVA is now being offered by high schools, regional occupational programs, and technical colleges in partnership with veterinarians and RVTs who serve as mentors and program advisors.

Q: What is required of the student enrolled in the school CVMA CVA program?

A: The certification process requires the completion of four program components:

1. Complete, with a passing grade, a minimum of nine months or two semesters of an approved high school or adult learning curriculum designed to prepare students for employment in the animal care industry.
2. Complete the Skills Competency Validation List, comprised of 100 skills, under the supervision of a California-licensed DVM or RVT.
3. Complete a minimum of 500 hours practical veterinary assisting experience, at least 250 hours with live animals in a hospital setting, up to 250 hours laboratory time.
4. Score 75% or higher on the CVMA CVA final examination.

Q: Does CVMA CVA eliminate the need for Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs)?

A: Absolutely not! RVTs complete a comprehensive two-year college-level curriculum and pass the California RVT examination to receive certification from the California Veterinary Medical Board. CVMA CVAs may not use the title “technician”, nor may they perform tasks granted to RVTs by VMB regulations; rather, CVMA CVAs look to RVTs to be their mentors, advisors, and role models.

**CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
CVMA CERTIFIED VETERINARY ASSISTANT (CVMA CVA)
1400 River Park Drive, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95815
phone: 916-649-0599 fax: 916-646-9156
email: staff@cvma.net**

Q: What is required of the DVM and RVT?

A: Student CVMA CVA applicants are required to gain practical, real-world experience and demonstrate competency in over 100 skills under the supervision of a California-licensed DVM or RVT. In as much, veterinarians and technicians are needed to serve as mentors and program advisors. It is at the discretion of the DVM / RVT as to what they can offer to a school program. From direct supervision of a student performing tasks in the hospital to providing equipment donations, school CVMA CVA programs need support from their local veterinary practices.

Q: What is required of the CVMA CVA Instructor?

A: CVMA strongly recommends that educators offering CVMA CVA to their students complete the CVMA CVA Instructor Certification course. Many school districts require teachers to obtain, at a minimum, the same level of industry certification that is being offered to their students. The requirements are identical to the hospital employee CVMA CVA program, with the exception that instructors have up to three years to complete 500 hours practical experience. Instructors must demonstrate competency in the same set of skills, and as such need DVM / RVT mentors to supervise them. Instructor certification ensures that teachers have a clear understanding of what is expected of the CVMA CVA by an employer.

Q: Who is Animal Care Technologies?

A: CVMA has partnered with Animal Care Technologies (4act.com) to host the CVMA CVA program within an online learning management system. This provides convenience for the CVMA CVA instructors and applicants, as well as security for the testing materials. In addition to the CVMA CVA program, ACT provides over 750 training videos for every member of the veterinary support team. ACT videos and review questions comprise a portion of the CVMA CVA training templates. ACT can be contacted at 800-357-3182, 4act.com, or schools.4act.com.