

VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Guidance on Expanded Duties for Licensed Veterinary Technicians

Q: Does the extraction of single rooted teeth by a licensed veterinary technician LVT, allow the extraction of a multi-rooted tooth that has been sectioned (by the supervising veterinarian) into single-rooted portions?

R: The Board determined that once the tooth has been sectioned by the veterinarian, then it would be considered routine and would be acceptable for an LVT to extract.

Q: Since many veterinarians do not use skin sutures and close the skin with a subcuticular pattern and possible surgical adhesive, does the suturing of skin include subcuticular closure as an allowable duty for an LVT?

R: The Board determined that routine closure is limited to the skin and that subcuticular closure would not be permissible for an LVT to perform.

Q: Are LVT's allowed to place indwelling subcutaneous catheters and suture them in place? General anesthesia and a small incision similar to a cut down sometimes used for venipuncture are necessary for the placement.

R: The Board's answer to this question is no. An LVT may not place indwelling subcutaneous catheter and suture them in place.

Q: May an LVT perform cystocentesis?

R: The Board's answer to this question is yes. An LVT may perform Cystocentesis.

Q: May an LVT perform home treatments prescribed more than 36 hours previously by a veterinarian within the practice that an LVT is employed?

R: The Board determined that home therapies performed by an LVT based on an order or a prescription written by a veterinarian meets the requirements of the 36 hours because the veterinarian has made the diagnosis and ordered or prescribed that the patient needs ongoing treatment.

Q: May an LVT perform a simple, single layer closure of a previously created gingival flap?

R: Per the definition of surgery found in the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine*, surgery does not include skin closures performed by an LVT. The Board determined that oral mucosa is not skin, therefore, an LVT would not be permitted to perform closure of a previously created gingival flap.

Q: May an LVT perform fine needle aspirants or biopsies?

R: Fine Needle Aspirants – The Board determined that fine needle aspirants may or may not meet the definition of surgery depending on the location and circumstances of aspirant. Therefore, the performance of fine needle aspirants by an LVT is left up to the professional judgment of the veterinarian. Biopsies – The Board determined that biopsies meet the definition of surgery. Therefore, biopsies may not be performed by an LVT.