Summary of CVT Workgroup Meeting Transcript 9/8/26

The meeting, led by Pete Burns (OVMEB Director), was the kickoff session for the second iteration of the Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT) Workgroup. After confirming audio, welcoming participants, and taking roll call, Pete outlined the goals, scope, and workflow for the group.

Key Points Covered

• Purpose of the Workgroup
– Conduct a comprehensive review of Oregon's CVT rules, including scope of practice, definitions, permitted duties, and limitations.
– Build upon foundational work completed by the first CVT Workgroup.
– Compare Oregon's rules with national models, especially the AAVSB Model Practice Act.
– Produce rule concepts, draft language, and a final report for board consideration.

• Process & Timeline
– Estimated six-month project, ideally moving faster.
– Monthly meetings.
– Pete and Charlie will facilitate and handle drafting between meetings.
– Workgroup members are encouraged to submit written feedback between sessions.

• Materials Provided to Workgroup Members
– AAVSB surveys, model regulations, and professional guidelines.
– Feedback from stakeholders.
– Prior CVT Workgroup recommendations.
– Current rules, including those for non-CVTs.

• AAVSB Presentation (Beth Venit)
– Overview of national survey of veterinarians and technicians (19,000 responses).
– Emphasis on expanding veterinary technician scope of practice.
– Introduction of a "co-accountability model," where vets and techs share responsibility for appropriate delegation.
– Discussion of expanded tasks techs might perform, including specific exceptions for certain minor surgical procedures (e.g., punch biopsies, dental extractions).
– Explanation of proposed regulations for unlicensed staff to clearly differentiate duties.

• Review of Prior Workgroup Recommendations
– Addition of tasks already common in practice (cystocentesis, imaging tasks, suturing, stapling, emergency care procedures).
– Clean-up of language and clarification of permitted duties.
– Consideration of CT/MRI operation being restricted to trained CVTs.

• **Discussion Topics & Input from Members**
– *Imaging*: Concerns and support for limiting CT/MRI operation to CVTs or specially trained personnel; need to align with Oregon Health Authority radiation regulations.
– *Vaccinations & Herd Health*: Interest in allowing CVTs more flexibility in administering vaccines (including rabies in certain settings), especially for underserved or rural communities.
– *VCPR (Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship)*: Discussion of whether CVTs could establish VCPRs for limited purposes, noting existing constraints in Oregon.
– *Rechecks*: Debate on how CVTs could manage follow-up appointments, distinguishing objective tasks (e.g., cytology) from subjective judgments (e.g., wound healing).
– *Specialty Technicians (VTS)*: Recognition that veterinarians may delegate more advanced tasks based on technician skills/training without needing separate rule categories.
– *Title Protection*: Updates that OVTA is pursuing legislation for title protection in 2027.

Next Steps
• Members should review all distributed materials, especially the AAVSB Model Practice Act.
• Submit suggestions, concerns, or proposed rule language to the board's rulemaking inbox.
• Pete will send follow-up documents and request date availability for an October meeting.

CVT Workgroup Meeting Minutes – Initial Session
Date: 9/8/26
Time: Meeting called to order at 11:04 AM
Facilitator: Pete Burns, OVMEB Director
Support: Charlie Esparza, OVMEB Inspector

1. Welcome and Attendance
Pete Burns opened the meeting, confirmed audio, and welcomed members as they joined. Roll call was conducted and attendance noted for meeting records.

2. Purpose of Workgroup
Pete provided an overview of the Workgroup's objectives:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of Oregon's CVT rules and scope of practice.
- Build upon foundational work from the first CVT Workgroup.
- Compare Oregon regulations with national models such as the AAVSB Model Practice Act.

- Review definitions, permitted duties, limitations, and adjacent rules.
- Produce recommended rule concepts and a final report for the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board (OVMEB).

3. Project Scope and Timeline

- Estimated timeline: approximately six months, with hope for faster progress.
- Meetings planned monthly.
- Pete and Charlie will act as facilitators and draft rule language between sessions.
- Workgroup members may submit feedback, questions, and suggested language between meetings.

4. Materials Distributed to Members

Members received the following to review before next session:

- AAVSB survey and model regulations.
- AAHA and equine technician guidelines.
- Relevant Oregon administrative rules for CVTs and non-CVTs.
- Stakeholder feedback collected to date.
- Prior CVT Workgroup recommended rule changes.

5. Presentation: AAVSB Overview (Beth Venit)

Beth presented key findings from AAVSB's national survey and draft Model Practice Act updates:

- Survey of ~19,000 veterinary professionals highlighted broad support for expansion of veterinary technician duties.
- Introduction of a "co-accountability model," emphasizing shared responsibility between veterinarian and technician for delegated tasks and supervision level.
- Expanded list of tasks that may be delegated to technicians, including specific exceptions to surgical prohibitions (e.g., punch biopsies, dental extractions, ear tipping).
- Proposed new regulatory language defining what unlicensed staff may and may not perform.

- Members encouraged to review the full model document and consider applicability to Oregon.

6. Review of Prior CVT Workgroup Recommendations
Pete and Emilio provided an overview of the first Workgroup's draft language:

- Additions included cystocentesis, imaging duties (CT, MRI), suturing, stapling, dental prophylaxis, and emergency care tasks.
- Clarified that duties are permitted only when the supervising veterinarian deems the CVT competent.
- Several recommendations borrowed terminology from AAVSB for clarity and consistency.

7. Member Input and Discussion
Members shared initial thoughts for consideration in future rule drafting:

• Imaging (CT/MRI):
– Discussion on restricting operation to CVTs or specially trained individuals due to radiation safety and diagnostic quality concerns.
– Recognition that Oregon Health Authority rules must be aligned with any proposed changes.

• Vaccination and Access to Care:
– Interest in allowing CVTs expanded ability to administer vaccines (including rabies in limited circumstances) to support underserved and rural communities.
– Consideration of herd-health–based approaches.

• VCPR Constraints:
– Discussion of whether CVTs could establish VCPRs in limited circumstances similar to rules in California and Ohio.
– Recognition that Oregon's current definition requires a veterinarian, though exceptions for public clinics may be possible.

• Recheck Appointments:
– Consideration of tasks CVTs may perform during rechecks (e.g., cytology, suture removal).
– Distinction between objective findings (e.g., test results) and subjective assessments (e.g., wound healing).
– Potential to use written protocols, standing orders, or supervisory check-ins.

• Specialty Technicians (VTS):
– Agreement that veterinarians may delegate advanced tasks based on technician training and skills without needing specific rule categories for VTS.

• Title Protection:
– Update that OVTAA has secured sponsorship for 2027 legislative session; title protection efforts are underway and may complement scope-of-practice modernization.

8. Review of Stakeholder Feedback Themes
Pete summarized broad feedback received from practitioners and organizations:

- Support for expanded CVT authority across preventive care, emergency triage, diagnostics, anesthesia, dentistry, and imaging.
- Request for flexible supervision requirements, especially in shelters with limited DVM availability.
- Interest in formally recognizing advanced CVT skills.
- Need for modernization and clarity in Oregon Administrative Rules.
- Desire to improve access to care via better technician utilization.

9. Next Steps and Action Items

- Members must review all materials provided, especially the AAVSB Model Practice Act.
- Submit written comments, questions, suggestions, and proposed language to the OVMEB rulemaking inbox.
- Pete will prepare a summary of today's meeting and send a request for October availability (targeting the 2nd or 3rd week).
- Future meetings will focus on detailed discussion and drafting based on member submissions.

10. Closing
Pete thanked all members for their participation and emphasized the value of the diverse perspectives represented. Meeting adjourned.