

CETs and CVTs FAQ

The Board has been asked questions about the differences between Certified Euthanasia Technicians (CETs) and Certified Veterinary Technicians (CVTs). The purpose of this statement is to explain the Board's laws that apply to CETs and CVTs and the differences between them.

Certified Euthanasia Technician (CET)

Under ORS 475.190 (a statute in the Uniform Controlled Substances Act https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors475.html), humane societies and animal control agencies, if registered with the Board of Pharmacy, can purchase and possess sodium pentobarbital and sedative and analgesic medications to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted domestic pets and other animals. A person registered with the Veterinary Board as Certified Euthanasia Technician (CET) can administer sodium pentobarbital and sedative and analgesic medications to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted domestic pets and other animals for the humane societies and animal control agencies.

- A CET must obtain either a CET intern or CET certificate from the Veterinary Board before administering sodium pentobarbital and sedative and analgesic medications to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted domestic pets and other animals for a humane society or animal control agency.
- A CET can only administer the medications that are specified in Veterinary Board rule OAR 875-040-0000. <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=280601>
- When acting as CET, the CET must follow Board rules, see OAR 875-040-0000 and OAR 875-040-0010. <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=280601> and <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=280562>
- When acting as a CET, the CET must be working at a humane society or animal control agency registered with the Board of Pharmacy as a volunteer or employee.
- A CET does not need to be supervised by an Oregon licensed veterinarian when acting as a CET in conformance with Board rules regarding CETs. See ORS 686.040(6). Please note that a CET Intern may not act independently but only under the immediate supervision of a CET or Oregon licensed veterinarian.
- A CET cannot practice veterinary medicine other than administering sodium pentobarbital and sedative and analgesic medications to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted domestic pets and other animals for a humane society or animal control agency.
- A person with CET certificate can also assist with the practice of veterinary medicine outside administering sodium pentobarbital and sedative and analgesic medications to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted domestic pets and other animals for a humane society or animal control agency. However, this would not be as a CET. When doing so, the person would be subject to the Division 30 rules and would need to be acting under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian:
<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=4115>

What is a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT)?

A Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT) is a person certified by the Board to perform duties, as allowed by Board rule, under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

- To become licensed as a CVT, the person must apply to the Veterinary Board and meet the criteria in the rules in Chapter 875, Division 30.
<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=4115>
- CVTs can only perform the acts allowed under Board rule, OAR 875-030-0040, and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=4115>
- CVTs are subject to Board rules regarding unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.
<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=4112>
- CVTs cannot independently euthanize an animal. CVTs can administer topical, oral hypodermic, and intravenous medication as directed by the supervising veterinarian and can assist a veterinarian in medical proceedings, including euthanasia.
- A CVT, if qualified, could also obtain a CET certificate and act as a CET for a humane society or animal control agency. However, a person with a CET license cannot independently administer sodium pentobarbital and sedative and analgesic medications to euthanize injured, sick, homeless or unwanted domestic pets and other animals on animals except when acting as an employee or volunteer for a humane society or animal that is registered with the Board of Pharmacy. If working at a veterinary clinic, the person must act under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.