



October 15, 2026

Welcome,

Thank you for your interest and for applying to become an Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT) credentialed Veterinary Dental Technician. Upon completing the credentialing process and passing the examination, you will obtain the title of Veterinary Technician Specialist (Dentistry) – VTS (Dentistry). This National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) recognized title gives you a sense of pride and accomplishment. You will become part of a leading group of veterinary technicians. NAVTA recognizes only fifteen other specialties: emergency/critical care, anesthesia and analgesia, internal medicine, behavior, zoo medicine, equine nursing, surgery, nutrition, clinical pathology, clinical practice, physical rehabilitation, ophthalmology, laboratory animal medicine, dermatology, and diagnostic imaging. The VTS (Dentistry) title also qualifies you to join the AVDT. Upon meeting the qualifications to begin the credentialing process, a credentials packet will be emailed to you by the end of the day on January 1, 2027. All work must be submitted by December 31, 2028, to be considered for the qualifying examinations.

Attached are the general requirements needed to complete the credentialing process. Rest assured, the AVDT is here to guide you every step of the way. **If referring to a previous year's credentials packet, it would be best to use the current application and credentials packets, as changes may have been made to the Class of 2029 requirements.** Additional detailed information will be included in the credentials packet. The non-refundable application fee covers the cost of your credentials packet and administrative charges. Annual administrative expenses of \$78 are due by December 31. Upon completing your two-year program, an additional non-refundable fee of \$78 will be collected to cover the cost of reviewing the credentials packet. The 2-phase credential exams are offered once a year, and the cost of these exams is determined annually. All payments must be made using U.S. funds.

Candidates who successfully pass the 2-phase credential exams will be required to volunteer at the Annual Veterinary Dental Forum (VDF) for at least 4 hours in the first two years of membership in the AVDT. The VDF requires the AVDT to provide members to serve as moderators in the technician track, assist with wet labs through behind-the-scenes tasks, and handle the cleanup and inventory of all instruments, equipment, and supplies at the end of the event. It is your responsibility to complete this volunteer time. Additionally, the AVDT encourages new members to join a committee or subcommittee that interests them. The Awards, Credentials, Exam, and MOC Committees require the most volunteers.

Additionally, candidates are responsible for tracking and submitting the requirements for Maintenance of Credentials (MOC). MOC is due five years after passing the exam, and every five years thereafter. The MOC Committee Chair will provide information on the requirements, a spreadsheet for tracking your progress, and direct you to a how-to video.



To ensure you stay updated with the latest advancements in veterinary dentistry, we strongly recommend you subscribe to the Foundation for Veterinary Dentistry (www.veterinarydentistry.org). The annual sponsorship of the Foundation for Veterinary Dentistry includes a subscription to the Journal of Veterinary Dentistry. It provides a valuable support system in your journey as a Veterinary Dental Technician.

We wish you the best of luck as you complete the credentialing process and pursue your VTS (Dentistry).

Erica Carr

Erica Carr, RVT, VTS (Dentistry)
AVDT Application Subcommittee Chair

Kara Touro

Kara Touro, LVT, VTS (Dentistry)
AVDT Credentials Chair

Imeldo Laurel

Imeldo Laurel, CVT, VTS (Dentistry)
AVDT Mentor/Mentee Committee Chair



Introduction

The Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT) wants to thank you for your interest in becoming a Veterinary Technician Specialist in Dentistry. The AVDT's goal in credentialing veterinary technician specialists is to ensure that the veterinary profession and the public know that AVDT-credentialed technicians possess the knowledge and experience needed to work effectively in a well-equipped and staffed dental care facility or private practice. The requirements for eligibility are rigorous. They are not intended to create obstacles that prevent applicants from becoming credentialed. Still, they aim to assure the public and profession that technicians holding the VTS (Dentistry) title are qualified.

General Requirements

- The applicant must be a credentialed veterinary technician/nurse in good standing within their state and the state in which they work.
- Applicants must prove they are legally credentialed to practice within their state or province.
 - A photocopy of your current license that hasn't expired will need to be submitted with your application packet.
- The applicant must prove they have graduated from an AVMA accredited veterinary technology program. You will be required to submit a documentation of this. Additional verification documents may vary due to the applicant's state, province, or country's veterinary technician requirements.
- All applicants are required to submit an up-to-date resume/curriculum vitae (CV).
- The applicant must be of high ethical and professional standing (see the AVDT by-laws in Article III, Section II: Active Members, which also apply to the applicant).
- It is ***highly recommended*** that each applicant be a member of good standing with the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA); however, it is not required.
- All applicants are required to complete and sign **Form 1**, Letter of Intent.
- All applicants are required to complete **Form 2**, Personal Information/Employment History (see letter A below for requirements).
- All applicants must establish a VTS (Dentistry) mentor and complete **Form 3**, Applicant/Mentor Contract.
 - Mentors can be any active member in good standing within the AVDT. No other veterinarians, veterinary technicians, or people in human dentistry are eligible to serve as an AVDT mentor.
 - Applicants who have emailed a potential mentor and have not received a response within 72 hours should continue to seek and secure a mentor or contact the AVDT Mentor/Mentee Subcommittee Chair at mentormentee.avdt@gmail.com for assistance. ***Do not wait until the last minute to find a mentor!***
- Applicants must provide the mentor with an outline detailing how they intend to accomplish the program. The mentor ***must*** then sign off that they have reviewed and approved of this outline. applicant must submit the approved and signed outline and Form 3 (Applicant/Mentor Contract) to proceed with the application. The outline must include a timeline spanning the two-year credentialing process. Within the timeline, the applicant should include how they plan to complete the application process, what lectures and wet labs they plan to attend, including those available at the Veterinary Dental Forums, communication with the mentor, how they are going to manage and document patient information into the Case Logs, and when they intend to begin and finish writing their Case Reports.

The applicant may also opt to detail how they plan to achieve the 75% requirement, performing animal dentistry (scaling, polishing, charting, and oral radiology), how they intend to complete the 10 hours of shadowing in a facility in which they are not employed, or how they foresee themselves completing the required reading list.
- All applicants are required to sign and submit the Extraction Statement **Form 4**.



- Even if the applicant resides in a state that allows technicians to perform oral extractions, the AVDT does not condone technicians performing them. This is considered oral surgery. Failure to comply with the Extraction Statement will result in the disqualification of an applicant from credentialing. In addition, a VTS (Dentistry) who fails to comply with the Extraction Statement will lose their specialty title.
- All applicants must provide proof of receipt of the paid AVDT application fee when submitting their Application Packet.

Any applicant missing three or more of the required documents or who submits an incomplete form will be disqualified from the application process and forfeit their application fee. An applicant who has been disqualified may reapply the following year.

- A. **Before** applying, the potential applicant must meet the following requirements:
- Three years of work experience with a minimum of 6000 hours in the field of veterinary medicine as a credentialed veterinary technician, with 2000 of these hours in the practice of veterinary dentistry within the two years **before** applying.
 - Applicants must acquire their cases in a veterinary facility where **intraoral** dental radiographs are available and obtained for any of the cases they plan to use in their Case Logs or Case Reports.
- B. Upon acceptance into the two-year AVDT mentorship program, the applicant must commit to the following:
- A minimum of 3200 hours practicing veterinary technology, with 2780 hours spent in veterinary dentistry.
 - The hours required are strict; if you cannot meet the hours required during the credentialing period, you will not qualify to pass your credentials, regardless of your Case Logs, Case Reports, CE Log, or other requirements.
 - A complete list of how these hours can be achieved will be included in the Class of 2029 credentials packet.
 - The applicant will be required to submit **THREE** documents along with their credentials packet at the end of their two-year mentorship.
 1. A signed letter from a supervising veterinarian or practice manager can verify they have worked 3200 hours in the field of veterinary technology and 2780 of those hours were spent in the field of veterinary dentistry.
 2. A summary of time worked from a timesheet printed out from your employer proving your 3200 required hours have been met.
 3. A letter of recommendation from their supervising veterinarian.

Applicants who cannot provide the documents listed above or meet the required hours will not be eligible to submit their credentials packet on December 31, 2028.

Registration with the AVDT and payment of applicable fees are required of all applicants throughout their entire credentialing period. Any changes to name, address, phone number, or email address must be submitted in writing to the Credentials Chair within one month of their occurrence.



Case Logs

Completed Case Logs with a minimum of 75 specific dentistry cases are required. All cases must be seen during the two-year mentorship program. Applicants must submit at least 75 cases that meet the AVDT definition of dental care. **However, if only 75 cases are submitted, a single unacceptable case could result in point deductions that could negatively impact your final score.** The case logs are used to confirm your dental experience and your mastery of advanced dental skills. Along with your case logs, you must pick and submit ONE completed dental chart from each category to demonstrate your ability to chart various cases accurately and adequately. You may be asked to submit additional dental charts upon request.

Case Reports

Five case reports are required. Each case report will consist of 8-10 pages of typewritten text. The report's body will be at least eight complete pages, not seven pages plus a few words on the eighth. It will be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font or 11-point Calibri (body), with 1-inch margins on top, bottom, and sides. Additional pages will be allowed for references, required pictures, and radiographs. The final page will be the dental chart associated with the case report(s). Cases for your reports must appear in your case log. Select five various cases from your log that will demonstrate your expertise in dentistry nursing skills. The case reports should describe how the patient was diagnosed and treated. The case report must also explain how you used your knowledge and experience to assist the veterinarian in diagnosing and treating the patient. Your mentor will be a valuable resource to help you select cases that will be successful as case reports.

Specialty Training/Continuing Education (CE)

The applicant must complete wet lab training, attend lectures on advanced dentistry procedures, and meet the general requirements. **Twenty-seven hours of wet lab training** and **twenty-two hours of advanced dentistry lectures** are required. During the two-year program, participation and attendance at wet labs and lectures are required. Teaching or assisting in a lecture or wet lab **cannot** be used to fulfill this requirement. Specifications of acceptable wet lab training and lectures will be outlined in your credentials packet upon approval into the program.

In addition to lecture and lab CE, a minimum of 10 hours of shadowing in a facility where the applicant is not employed will be required. This applies to all mentees, regardless of whether you work for a diplomate.

Dental Radiography Requirement

The applicant must provide a complete set of intra-oral dental radiographs for one dog and one cat. The radiographic requirement can be fulfilled as follows: a full-mouth series including all adult dentition and all roots. Skull radiographs are unacceptable. Cadaver radiographs are acceptable and do not require the specimen to be intact or intubated. However, all other requirements remain the same, whether it is a live patient or a cadaver. Radiographs should be mounted and labeled appropriately, identifying the client, patient, date, animal age, and breed. Digital radiographs are acceptable and encouraged. **Intraoral dental radiographs only.** **Tabletop skull and extraoral dental radiographs are not allowed.**

Timeline and Guidelines for Application

October 2026

- Download the application packet from the AVDT website.



October 15 - November 30, 2026

To be attached electronically:

- Complete Letter of Intent (Form 1).
 - Please title the file using the following format: Last name.First name.Form 1, for example, ***Doe, Jane, Form 1.***
- Complete Employment History (Form 2).
 - Please title the file using the following format: Last name.First name.Form 2 for example, ***Doe, Jane, Form 2.***
- Updated CV or Resume.
 - Please title the file using the following format: Last name.First name.Resume, for example, ***Doe, Jane, Resume.***
- Contract with VTS (Dentistry) Mentor (Form 3).
 - Please title the file using the following format: Last name.First name.Mentor, for example, ***Doe, Jane, Mentor.***
 - Please see the website for a complete list of available mentors for the Class of 2029. On the far-right column, there will be an available mentee count. If that number is 1 or more, please reach out to the mentor via email ASAP. If you do not get a response within 72 hours, please reach out to mentormentee.avdt@gmail.com.
- AVDT Extractions statement (Form 4).
 - Please title the file using the following format: Last name.First name.EXTRACT, for example, ***Doe, Jane, Extract.***
- Create an outline of the plan for training program completion and have mentor review and sign they have reviewed said outline.
 - Please title the file using the following format: Last name.First name. Outline, for example, ***Doe, Jane, Outline.***
- Attach a copy of current veterinary technician license.
 - Please title the file using the following format: Last name.First name.License, for example, ***Doe, Jane, License.***
- Attach a copy of the diploma from the AVMA accredited school attended.
 - Please title the file using the following format: Last name.First name.Diploma, for example, ***Doe, Jane, Diploma.***
- Complete payment of the non-refundable \$78 application fee via the link on the www.AVDT/us website.
 - Please include a copy of the receipt in the application packet and title the file with the following format: **Last name.First name.Receipt, for example, *Doe.Jane.Receipt.***

***If you pay via a spouse or family member's account, please ensure that **your name** is included along with the payment.

The application must be submitted **no later** than November 30, 2026, to be considered. **No exceptions!**

January 1, 2027 (All applications will be processed **after** December 1, 2026)

Credentials packets will be emailed by January 1, 2027, if all the above are complete and accepted.

January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2028

Complete requirements for credentialing.

www.avdt.us

Last revision Sept 2026



Meet with the mentor as outlined in your contract.

Meet all review deadlines defined on the Applicant/Mentor Contract (Form 3).

BEFORE December 31, 2028

The annual non-refundable AVDT applicant fee of \$75 + \$3 convenience fee is due upon notification.

Applicants who do not submit payment on time will be placed on an inactive list and will no longer receive communications from the Credential Chair.

December 31, 2028

Credentials packet due

Include the annual AVDT applicant payment of \$78 to the AVDT.

Any packet submitted without payment included will not be reviewed.

June 2029

Veterinary Technician Specialist (Dentistry) exam – Written.

September/October 2029

Veterinary Technician Specialist (Dentistry) exam – Practical.

Questions:

Kara Tourot, LVT, VTS (Dentistry), AVDT Credentials Chair at credentials.avdt@gmail.com.

Erica Carr, RVT, VTS (Dentistry), AVDT Application Subcommittee Chair at application.avdt@gmail.com.

Imeldo Laurel, CVT, VTS (Dentistry), AVDT Mentor/Mentee Subcommittee Chair at mentormentee.avdt@gmail.com.

Please put 'AVDT' in the subject line when emailing.



Form 1

Letter of Intent

I, _____, do hereby notify the Board of Directors of the Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians of my intention to begin the credentialing process to become a Veterinary Technician Specialist (Dentistry). I will start my required training and documentation (mentorship program) on _____. I intend to fulfill all the requirements by _____. I have read and agree to the general requirements for the application. I have contracted with a veterinary dental mentor. I have practiced for at least three years (with a minimum of 6000 hours) as a graduate/credentialed veterinary technician, with 2000 of these hours spent in the past two years in veterinary dentistry.

Signed,

Signature

Date

Print Name



Form 2 Personal Information

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Address _____

Phone Home (_____) _____ - _____ Work (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail address _____

(Please Print Clearly – this is our primary means of contacting you.)

Present Occupation _____ Credentials: CVT/ LVT/ RVT (circle) Other:

Have you graduated from an AVMA-approved school of veterinary technology?

Yes (☐) No (☐)

School name _____ Year _____

Are you currently credentialed to legally practice as a veterinary technician in the state where you work?

Yes (☐) No (☐) If yes, date first issued _____ State _____

Estimate, as accurately as possible, how many hours you have spent practicing veterinary technology as a **credentialed/graduate** veterinary technician: _____ hours (6000 minimum)

Estimate, as accurately as possible, how many hours you have spent practicing **veterinary dentistry as a credentialed/graduate** veterinary technician in the last two years:

_____ hours (2000 minimum)

List your employment history as a credentialed/graduate veterinary technician.

Name of Practice/ Institution	Average number of hours worked per week	Average number of hours spent in the dental department	Type of practice (general, surgical, dental, emergency, etc.)	Starting date - Ending date



Form 3

Applicant/Mentor Contract

We have both entered the mentoring relationship voluntarily. As a mentor, I agree to dedicate the necessary time to fulfill the requirements outlined within this contract. As a mentor, I will be available to address any questions and issues that arise for the mentee. I shall try to reply to the mentee promptly or provide a timetable for an intended response. As a mentee, I will respect the mentor's time and avoid last-minute requests. However, we must understand that there may be occasions where time is limited, and we agree to do our best to work through such challenges. As a mentee, I must know that failing to maintain regular communication with my mentor may result in a negative outcome during the tracking process.

We shall agree to the expectations as outlined.

I. Communication

- a. The mentor and mentee will meet in person, via telephone, or email within the program's first month. The mentor shall review the mentee's letter of intent and provide advice and/or modifications. The mentor shall review the packet and guide the individual through each section. The mentor and mentee shall discuss and plan regular communication times throughout the program, which will be documented in the credentials packet. The mentor must stress the time and financial investment required to complete the program.
- b. The mentee shall inform the mentor and credentials chair upon any decision to suspend or exit the tracking process. Any prolonged failure of communication may result in dismissal from the program.

II. Packet points of Emphasis

- a. The mentor and mentee shall review continuing education opportunities. The mentor shall guide the selection of the best options for each category throughout the tracking process.
- b. The mentor shall ensure that the mentee has promptly acquired or has a plan to develop the texts listed in the packet and has prepared a study plan.
- c. The mentor shall review the standards for case logs and case reports. The mentor must stress that the mentee shall focus on the specific abbreviations in the packet, as they will be responsible for that information during the examination process.
- d. The mentee shall only seek advice regarding packet content format from the mentor or a Credentials Committee Chair to maintain consistency of information.
- e. The mentee shall submit all completed packet content no less than every three months or at an alternative time at the mentor's discretion.
- f. The mentor and mentee shall discuss a plan for case report completion and a deadline for submission. The mentee shall not submit case reports in the final packet that the mentor has not reviewed.
- g. The mentee shall submit a final draft of the packet to the mentor no later than December 31st of the second year of tracking.



Form 3 Applicant/Mentor Contract

III. Examination Preparation

- a. The mentor shall begin to prepare the mentee for the examination process by providing regular evaluations of knowledge. Such evaluations may take the form of quizzes or thorough discussions.

IV. Grievance

- a. The mentor and mentee shall attempt to resolve any conflicts themselves. However, the mentor or mentee shall contact the Credentials Chair in the event of an unresolved dispute. Conflicts include failing to meet communication deadlines and not responding to questions promptly.
- b. Any grievances may be resolved unilaterally by the Credentials Chair or collectively by the Credentials Committee.

V. Oversight

- a. Brief status reports shall be submitted quarterly to the mentee's mentor.
 - i. Status reports may be brief statements summarizing the mentee's progress.
 - ii. A final status report at the end of the tracking process shall include the case reports approved and whether the final packet has been reviewed.

We understand and agree to hold ourselves to the standards outlined in the contract.

Date: _____

Applicant:

Mentor:

(Signature)

Date

(Signature)

Date

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

Mentor Contact Information:

Address

Email Address (*Please Print Clearly* – this is our primary means of contacting you.)

Phone



Form 4

Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians Extraction Position Statement

The AVDT does not condone, endorse, or recommend that veterinary technicians, credentialed or not, perform dental extractions, diagnose, or prescribe medication. Extraction of teeth is oral surgery and should be performed by a licensed veterinarian, per the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC), American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the American Animal Hospital Association's (AAHA) 2019 Dental Guidelines.

[AVDC Position Statements](#)

[AVMA Veterinary Dentistry Policy, Role of Veterinary Technicians and Assistants in Veterinary Dentistry, AAHA AAHA Dental Guidelines 2019](#)

"Veterinary dentistry, oral medicine, and oral surgery are, therefore, to be performed by licensed veterinarians in accordance with their state veterinary practice act.

Appropriately trained veterinary healthcare workers may be allowed to perform specific non-surgical oral and dental procedures only under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian in accordance with state regulations."

"As with other areas of veterinary practice, veterinary dentistry, oral medicine, and oral surgery require a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to protect the health, safety, and welfare of animals."
Quoted from the AVMA Veterinary Dentistry Policy

A Veterinary Technician Specialist Dentistry, VTS (Dentistry), is a credentialed technician specializing in dentistry and oral surgery. VTS (Dentistry) technicians have extensive knowledge and training in dentistry. With these advanced skills, VTS (Dentistry) technicians can educate the veterinary community and clients alike, providing patients with thorough and efficient anesthetized dental care as part of the veterinary healthcare team.

Exodontics or dental extractions are defined as:

Purposeful and intentional removal of any tooth structures through means of using an instrument such as a surgical blade, dental elevator, luxator, periosteal elevator, root tip pick, extraction or root-tip forceps, or any other tool that can be used to facilitate the removal of a tooth from the alveolus. Exodontics also includes using a high-speed dental handpiece with a dental bur to purposefully and intentionally remove alveolar bone and section multirooted teeth to facilitate instrumentation to remove tooth structures from the oral cavity of an animal.

Assisting a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) in exodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, prosthodontics, and periodontics is allowed; however, under no circumstances should a member,



Form 4

a candidate, or mentee of the AVDT, independently perform any of these advanced procedures. The AVDT is here to advance the knowledge of the entire dental team by promoting a team approach to veterinary dentistry.

As a veterinary technician, an AVDT member, candidate, or mentee is limited to the following duties: performing intraoral radiographs and other imaging techniques, intraoral examinations, charting, performing dental cleaning using appropriate instrumentation for supragingival and subgingival cleanings, and polishing teeth. Additionally, it is suitable for the veterinary technician to perform regional nerve blocks and assist a DVM with open root planing and any other surgical or dental procedure. Diagnosing dental disease, recommending treatment options, prescribing medications, and performing extractions are the responsibility and duty of the DVM.

Members, candidates, mentees, and applicants of the AVDT found to be diagnosing, making treatment recommendations, prescribing medication, and/or performing oral surgery (extractions) that permanently alter the patient will be dismissed or disassociated. The VTS (Dentistry) title of AVDT members will be revoked permanently. If a candidate, mentee, or applicant is dismissed, they cannot reapply.

Abiding by these positioning statements is a good-faith requirement of all AVDT members, candidates, and mentees to ensure the highest level of patient care and safety revolving around dental procedures that permanently alter the patient's oral cavity, including bone, tooth, or soft tissue removal.

I, _____, a member, candidate, mentee, or applicant of the AVDT, agree to abide by this extraction position statement set forth by the AVDT so long as I am a member, candidate, mentee, or applicant of the AVDT. I understand that my title of VTS (Dentistry) or my candidate, mentee, or applicant status will be revoked if I am found to be diagnosing, making treatment recommendations, prescribing medication, performing surgical extractions, or performing any other duty that is strictly reserved for a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Refusal to sign this document will result in immediate dismissal or dissociation.

(Signature)

Date _____ / _____ / _____