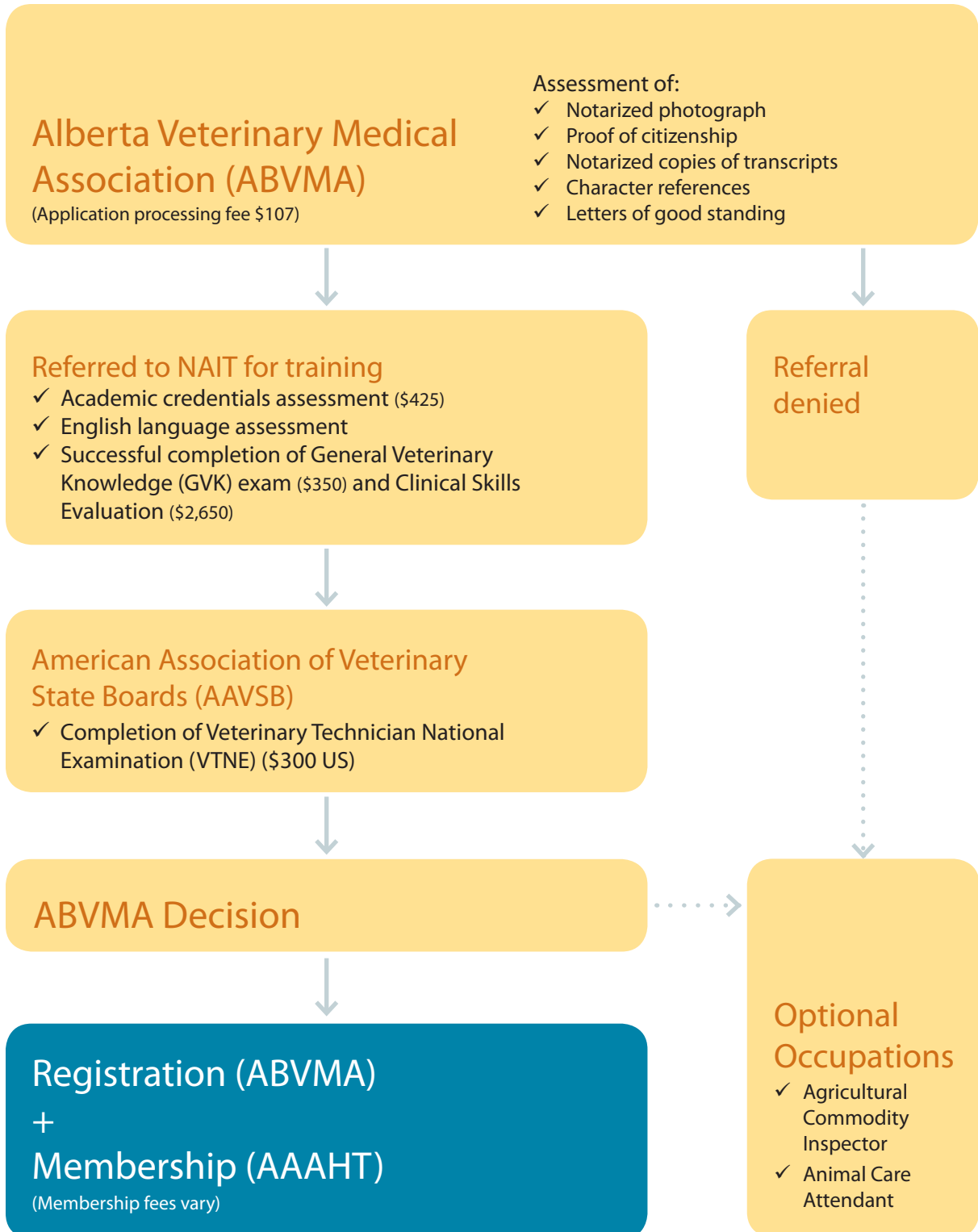


# Animal Health Technologist

## Registration Process



## Animal Health Technologist

Registration Process (for Internationally Trained Technologists)

### Description of Occupation

Animal Health Technologists help veterinarians treat and care for animals. Their duties might include performing laboratory tests, filling prescriptions, preparing animals for surgery and assisting in surgical operations, and monitoring and evaluating clinical symptoms. They may also have to perform office duties such as writing reports, training new staff and providing customer service, accounting and invoicing duties.

### Obtaining Registration in Alberta

To become an Animal Health Technologist in Alberta, you must be registered with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) and be a member of the Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists (AAAHT).

Both registration and membership can be completed by sending an Application Form to the ABVMA and providing the following:

- A recent, notarized photograph
- Proof of Canadian citizenship or your ability to work in Canada
- Notarized copies of your transcripts
- Three (3) character references
- Letters of good standing from each association or authority you belonged to as an Animal Health Technologist
- Declaration signed by notary public, commissioner of oaths or justice of the peace
- Applicable membership dues, registration fees and other fees

If the ABVMA feels you are a suitable candidate for registration, you will be referred to NAIT in Edmonton to complete the rest of the steps in the registration process. NAIT will assess your:

- Academic credentials
- English language skills

Then, you will complete the required examinations and be eligible to apply for full, unrestricted registration and membership as an Animal Health Technologist. You may apply for provisional registration once you've been accepted by NAIT, which will allow you to work while you complete the rest of the process.

Contact information and other resources are at the end of this document.

## Residency Requirement

You must provide proof that you are a Canadian citizen or are entitled to work in Canada in order to register as an Animal Health Technologist. You can do this by submitting a photocopy of one (1) or more of the following:

- A passport
- A birth certificate
- A social insurance number
- A work visa
- A permanent resident visa

## Requirements

Internationally educated Animal Health Technologists must meet the following requirements:

### 1. *Academic Credentials*

You need a diploma in Animal Health Technology or equivalent to obtain registration with the ABVMA and membership with the AAAHT. To confirm your education, the ABVMA requires the following:

- A notarized copy of your diploma
- Any other documents or certificates that support your credentials

Note: All documents must be presented in English and should be translated where necessary.

### 2. *Work Experience*

Previous work experience is not needed to apply for registration and membership.

### 3. *Good Character and Reputation*

The ABVMA Application Form requires you to assert whether you:

- have been suspended, expelled, or denied licensure from a professional association, licensing authority, or statutory body;
- have been convicted of any offence or presently face outstanding charges under the Criminal Code of Canada, the Narcotic Control Act, the Food and Drugs Act, or similar legislation in any jurisdiction;
- use substances listed in Schedules G and H of the Food and Drugs Act, or any of the substances listed in the Schedule to the Narcotic Act; or
- are incapacitated due to addiction to alcohol or by other circumstances when filling out the application; and
- will practice the profession of veterinary medicine in accordance with regulations set by the ABVMA.

In addition, you will have to provide:

- Three (3) character references with contact information; two (2) from recent veterinary supervisors, employers or instructors and one (1) from someone who is not a veterinarian or family member.
- Letters of good standing from each jurisdiction you have had membership in as an Animal Health Technologist, if any.

### English Language

You must demonstrate your ability to speak, read, listen and write in English in order to complete the NAIT portion of the registration and membership process.

Test	Overall Score
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Paper-based Test (PBT)	550
TOEFL Computer-based Test (CBT)	213
TOEFL Internet-based Test (IBT)	80 (with no individual component less than 20)
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	6.5 (with no band less than 5.0)
Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL)	60
Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)	85
University of Alberta English as a Second Language (ESL)	Successful completion

#### 4. Examinations

To complete the NAIT portion of the registration and membership process, you will have to take two exams/assessments:

- The General Veterinary Knowledge (GVK) Exam

The exam evaluates your knowledge and education in seven (7) key areas of animal health, including anesthesia, pharmacology, surgical and medical animal nursing, anatomy/physiology/pathophysiology, dentistry, diagnostic imaging and laboratory procedures.

The General Knowledge Exam is held several times throughout the year. You are given five (5) hours to complete the exam.

- The Clinical Skills Evaluation

This is a three (3) part assessment that covers topics such as basic and general skills, small animal skills and large animal skills.

In order to receive a Certificate of Completion, you will need to pass all three (3) components.

Once you have completed the NAIT portion of the process, you will be able to write the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). If you successfully complete the VTNE, you will be able to apply for full, unrestricted registration and membership.

The VTNE is administered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). It is a multiple-choice exam held three (3) times per year at NAIT. It takes approximately four (4) to five (5) hours to complete.

## Payment

<b>ABVMA Fees</b>	
Application	\$107
Membership (Full year – active)	\$247
Membership (Half year – active)	\$124
Membership (Provisional)	\$124
Student	\$103
<b>NAIT Fees</b>	
Education/Credential Assessment	\$425
General Veterinary Knowledge (GVK) Exam	\$350
Clinical Skills Evaluation	\$2,650
<b>American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Fees</b>	
Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE)	\$300 US
*Fees are subject to change. See associations for most up-to-date fees.	

## Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Animal Health Technologists, according to the Alberta 2009 Wage and Salary survey:

Average hours worked per week	38.1
Average wage per hour	\$19.71
Average salary per year	\$39,111

## Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as Agricultural Commodity Inspector, Animal Care Attendant or various livestock-related occupations in the agriculture industry.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website:

[Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Animal Health Technologist](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo) (for information on all occupations see [www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo)).

## Contact Information

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA)/  
Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists (AAAHT)  
#950 Weber Centre, 5555 Calgary Train NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5P9  
Telephone: 780-489-5007  
Toll-Free: 800-404-2862  
Fax: 780-484-8311  
Website: [www.abvma.ca/AAAHT](http://www.abvma.ca/AAAHT)

American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)  
380 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 101  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
Telephone: 816-931-1504  
Toll-Free: 877-698-8482  
Fax: 816-931-1604  
Email: [aavsb@aavsb.org](mailto:aavsb@aavsb.org)  
Website: [www.abvma.ca/AAAHT](http://www.abvma.ca/AAAHT)

## Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Animal Health Technologist registration visit the AAAHT website at [www.abvma.ca/AAAHT](http://www.abvma.ca/AAAHT).

### Application Forms and Information

Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists (AAAHT):  
[www.abvma.ca/Registration-and-Licensure/Registering-in-AB-AHT.asp](http://www.abvma.ca/Registration-and-Licensure/Registering-in-AB-AHT.asp)

Education/Credential Assessment from NAIT:  
[www.nait.ca/52402.htm](http://www.nait.ca/52402.htm)

### Examinations

General Veterinary Knowledge Exam:  
[www.nait.ca/52402.htm](http://www.nait.ca/52402.htm)

Clinical Skills Evaluation:  
[www.nait.ca/52402.htm](http://www.nait.ca/52402.htm)

Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE):  
[www.aavsb.org/VTNE](http://www.aavsb.org/VTNE)

### English Language

English Proficiency:  
[www.nait.ca/52402.htm](http://www.nait.ca/52402.htm)