

Subject: Registered Veterinary Nurse Initiative

While the North American Veterinary Technician Association's (NAVTA) is to be commended for their efforts to advance and standardize the education and title of technicians across the U.S., the following state nurses' associations, affiliates of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the ANA do not support the use of the title "nurse" for this role, nor designation of a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

The title "nurse" has always been linked to the care of humans in the United States. Prior to 1903, anyone could call themselves a nurse and practice nursing, as there was no standardized training, registration or licensure. Nursing pioneers fought hard to establish criteria for licensure identified in state nurse practice acts with the goals of protecting the public and increasing credibility of the practice of nursing. It is universally accepted within the US that the practice of nursing is providing care to individuals and groups requiring specialized knowledge, judgment, and skill derived from the principles of biological, physical, behavioral, social, and nursing sciences. Such care includes identifying patterns of **human** responses to actual or potential health problems.

We are not suggesting any pet owner will confuse a staff member in a veterinary clinic or hospital as a human healthcare practitioner. The issue at hand is the title nurse and the connotations and respect that come with that title. For 16 years in a row, the Gallop poll has recognized nurses as the most ethical and trusted profession. A majority of states have also created language in statute, limiting use of the title "nurse" to only those who have fulfilled the requirements for licensure as a registered nurse or licensed practical or vocational nurse. We believe that a distinction should be made between those who provide care for human beings, and other forms of life; just as those providing medical care for animals are called veterinarians, not physicians. Rather than co-opting another profession's title, we urge NAVTA to unify under one of the four existing titles currently in use. If it's deemed absolutely necessary to create a new title, we have asked NAVTA find to a title that best suits the credentialing and educational preparation of veterinary technicians. Perhaps the title "veterinary practitioner" would offer a solution, without using another profession's well-established title.

It is our hope that state policy makers will appreciate the distinctions between care of humans and animals and note the importance of maintaining use of the title nurse to the nursing profession.

ANA- California
ANA-Illinois

ANA- Massachusetts
ANA-Michigan
ANA-NY
ANA-Rhode Island
Arizona Nurses Association
Colorado Nurses Association
Connecticut Nurses Association
Delaware Nurses Association
Florida Nurses Association
Iowa Nurses Association
Kansas State Nurses Association
Louisiana State Nurses Association
Maryland Nurses Association
Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses
Missouri Nurses Association
Montana Nurses Association
Nebraska Nurses Association
New Hampshire Nurses Association
New Jersey State Nurses Association
New Mexico Nurses Association
North Carolina Nurses Association
North Dakota Nurses Association
Ohio Nurses Association
Oklahoma Nurses Association
Oregon Nurses Association
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
South Carolina Nurses Association
South Dakota Nurses Association
Tennessee Nurses Association
Texas Nurses Association
Utah Nurses Association
Washington State Nurses Association
Wyoming Nurses Association