

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