

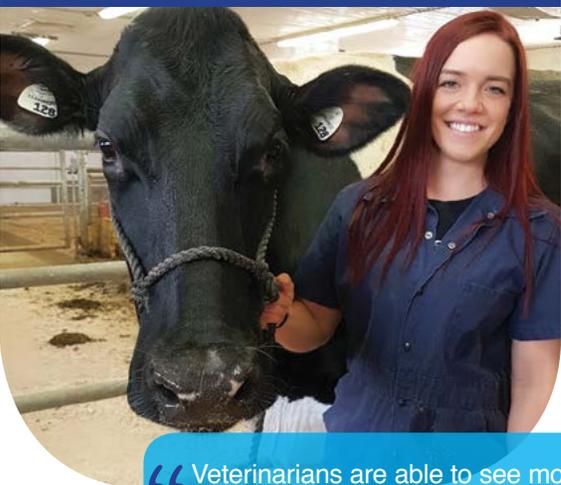
How to Best Utilize a Large Animal RVT

Rachel Genore, RVT



“ RVTs have a role to play in calf growth, health, performance and welfare monitoring and auditing; an area not frequently incorporated into typical herd health visits. Early identification of problem areas allows for open discussion of prevention and management strategies with herd veterinarians and farmers. ”

Marlies Beach, RVT



“ Veterinarians are able to see more herds and complete more emergencies and can complete more tasks in a single day with an RVT on staff. RVTs have been utilized in many ways in the veterinary field to improve the health of animals and to complete more tasks effectively, and it should always be considered on farm for livestock as well. ”

In early 2019, ACER Consulting released the results of a study exploring the function, level of utilization, impact, and ultimately the value that Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs) bring to Ontario veterinary practices. It was found that each extra RVT per vet increased gross revenues per vet by over \$78,000.¹ The report also states that almost 25% of clinics surveyed said that their vets often or always perform RVT duties. Save yourself time and money, and consider using an RVT for things such as:

Assisting with health and production monitoring programs during routine consultations, for identification of subclinical ketosis and/or mastitis in the lactating herd, to allow for early intervention and treatment as necessary.

Visiting farms on a regular basis to dehorn calves at an appropriate age, assist with record keeping and data entry, vaccinate the herd, and identify areas of concern to report to the herd veterinarian. While on-farm, RVTs are an asset in training farm staff and assisting producers with preparation for quality assurance program evaluations.

Monitoring calf performance by assessing health, collecting total protein samples to evaluate colostrum management protocols, calibrating automated feeders, and monitoring treatment records. This benchmarking is necessary for fostering continuous improvement, and is useful for establishing SOPs.

Collecting samples when on-farm and performing laboratory work when back in the clinic, then reporting results for the veterinarian. This allows the veterinarian to continue with herd and emergency work and to review results with the client at a convenient time.

Assisting with setting up, retrieval, recording, and cleaning instruments during IVF or embryo transfer.

Ready to hire an RVT?
Post a job ad for an RVT at
www.oavt.org.

References:

1. Exploring the value that Registered Veterinary Technicians bring to Ontario companion animal practices, ACER Consulting, 2019