

# How to Best Utilize a Research **RVT**

Laura Kent, **RVT, RMLAT**



“ RVTs are essential to research facilities because they act as a voice for the voiceless. Their never-ending compassion, technical/surgical skill set, and attention to detail are second to none. ”

Mary Fowler, **RVT, RLAT**



“ RVTs have an ideal blend of in-depth animal knowledge and compassion making them an essential part of a research team. RVTs have a pivotal role to provide stewardship and comfort for all research animals in their care. ”

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.**<sup>1</sup> The report also states that almost 25% of clinics surveyed said that their vets often or always perform RVT duties.

## The needs in Laboratory Animal Science are different.

RVTs work alongside veterinarians, scientists and researchers with the goal of discovering new techniques, treatments and breakthroughs in medicine. Together, RVTs and scientists deliver leadership and support through education, diligence and involvement, ensuring that the highest quality animal care is attained for all research animals, thereby reducing variables in study data.

### RVTs can:

**Identify** subtle changes in the health and behaviour of laboratory species, allowing the veterinary team more time to assess and provide treatment.

**Recognize** pain in laboratory animals at the very early stages, allowing provision of humane interventions well before suffering occurs.

**Assess**, triage, and implement treatment protocols, perform surgeries, and manage containment level environments.

**Offer** educated advice to scientific staff on the best course of action for projects that will involve surgical procedures, any required follow-up treatments, and behavioural enrichments for the animals being used.

**Strive** to ensure that every animal under their charge is healthy and stress-free. RVTs provide a watchful eye, and are instrumental to the facility running smoothly.

**Ready to hire an RVT?**  
Post a job ad for an RVT at  
[www.oavt.org](http://www.oavt.org).

#### References:

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