

technicians. However, with the fancier name comes the necessity of some formal training and testing and the need of the employer to expect to pay a higher salary. With our human counterparts also having nurses, medical technologists, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians, it appears that the veterinary profession will also have its animal technicians.

As for regulations, it appears to me that practice acts should be amended to encompass technicians with some sort of certification program installed. The role of the technician should be defined in general terms, rather than fine specifics, in order to vary with individual practice needs. The animal technician must work under the direction of a veterinarian. The veterinary profession, then the individual practitioner, must accept responsibility for the actions of their technicians as we have done in the past.

### District VI

**Dr. Earl S. Thompson**  
*Clarks Grove, Minnesota*

I have been impressed by the applicants that I have interviewed for jobs. The results of the questionnaire resulted in 28 stating that they do not use animal technicians. Of these, five stated they planned to use them and 13 said they had no need for them. Another five said the cost was too great and five gave no reasons. Twenty-six stated that they use technicians and of these, 13 trained their own and 13 are formally trained. We had one for a year and she did very well; we did a lot more bacteriological examinations.

### District VII

**Dr. R. H. Spencer**  
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District VII includes the states of Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas. Recently, an animal technician questionnaire was sent to all members of the AABP. I received 27 from my District. Thirteen veterinarians used technicians in their practice. Fourteen did not use animal technicians in their practice. Of the 13 veterinarians who did use animal technicians, three employed technicians with formal training and ten trained their own technicians. Of the fourteen who did not use technicians, only two were opposed to the concept and most of the other twelve stated it was a good concept or they would use technicians if practice would warrant it. Salary range for technicians ranges from \$100 per week to \$10,000 per year. The technicians were used in assisting the veterinarian, laboratory procedures, monitoring anesthesia and some emergency treatments. None of them were used to prescribe, diagnose or perform surgery.

We now have one accredited school in Kansas. They have had 48 graduates since 1971. The state of Oklahoma does not have any schools. Missouri has a school graduating their first class in 1975. They hopefully will be accredited by the AVMA by the time of graduation.

As far as State Veterinary Practice Acts are concerned, Kansas rewrote their Practice Act a number of years ago. Their Practice Act is very adequate to regulate animal hospital technicians according to AVMA guidelines and also approval of the Attorney General. Missouri has been informed by their Attorney General that their Practice Act is not adequate to regulate the technicians and they must either revise it or seek a new ruling. The veterinary associations of Oklahoma have just formed an advisory committee to proceed on technicians and to study their existing Practice Act.

### District VIII

**Dr. James H. Denton**  
*College Station, Texas*

In some instances, they have their own horses to round them up, separate the calves, and work them. They'll do everything under the sun to them—vaccinate, castrate, dehorn and etc. The majority of ours did answer that they administer drugs and medication, that they dehorn, that they do castrations, so it's according to what side of the fence you are on as to whether castration is proper or not. If you are an equine practitioner you wouldn't have your lay person castrating a horse. Is it all right to worm a cow, worm a calf? Is it all right for a lay person—animal technician—to tube worm a horse? Some of them said we didn't have to get into these discussions, but these are things we're going to have to face head on; we're not going to solve any problems by dodging them, let's meet them. Three of our states—Texas, Oklahoma, and I believe they said Mississippi—contain about 89 or 90% of the brucellosis reactor herds in the United States. A few years back—eight or nine years—we busted the state and federal regulatory people because they had laymen testing cattle. The job's got to be done. Now, in our state we have lay technicians that can bleed and use a card test. They have to be supervised. About all you have to do as supervising veterinarian is sign your name to the test sheets. They draw blood samples.

One of the things we've talked about is the administration of anesthetics. It is hard on some veterinarians to administer an anesthetic and keep an animal any length of time and do surgery, worry about the patient, and worry about the operation too. They assist in obstetrical work. We have some people who do specialized practices. Dr. Larson—I'm sure you all know him from San Antonio—teaches his clients to deliver calves, to do OB work, and remove retained