LEVEL UP 2026 - 2027

NYS SkillsUSA



PURPOSE

To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding student's excellence and professionalism in the field of animal care.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to active Skills USA members enrolled in CTE program on the secondary level with animal science or care.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

NYS Health Care Attire:

- Official school clinical scrubs uniform with identification removed/concealed. Only plain white, collarless T-shirts may be worn underneath the scrubs
- Health professional's white leather work shoes, white socks, or skin-tone seamless hose.
- Shoes must be "all-white" leather (no canvas), completely enclosed (no open toe or open heel). Athletic style shoes that meet the criteria are acceptable.
- Hair must be pinned up and off the collar.
- Jewelry: Only one stud or small hoop earring in each ear is allowed. No facial piercings are allowed. All visible tattoos (including those on hands, arms and the neck or chest must be covered). No facial or tongue rings allowed. A watch with a second hand is allowed.

Note: Contestants must wear their contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting. Also bring #2 pencil, resume, and safety assurance form.

The PDT test will be taken at orientation.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the chairperson:
    a. All animals
    b. All equipment, materials, and items needed to conduct the contest.
2. Supplied by the contestant:
    a. Pen/Pencil
    b. All contestants must bring the safety assurance form (not the NCLS form) and turn it in at the same time as the resume.
    c. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit a hard copy at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty.
    d. "Note: Your resume may be judged as part of your contest"

DEVICES

Cell phones, smart glasses or other electronic devices not approved by the NYS Chairperson will be collected by the contest chair during the competition. Chairpersons will announce their acceptance by listing it on their standard or at the orientation meeting. In case of emergencies advisors should allow the competitors to take their phones to the contest areas.

If the competitor uses their device in a manner which compromises the integrity of the competition, the competitor's score may be penalized.

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

The scope of the contest is defined by industry standards.

Knowledge Performance

The contest will include a written knowledge test assessing general knowledge of basic animal care skills. Topics assessed may include but are not limited to life sciences related to animal health care, communication skills, employability, law and ethics, and work safety practices.

Skill Performance

The second portion of the contest will be a series of workstations in which contestants could be tested on the following topics but not limited to:

Clinical Skills
Emergency Care
Communication Skills
Key medical terms and abbreviations Medical Records
Office Management
Client Relationships
Ethics and Legal Issues
Dog Breed ID
Dog Care
Cat Breed ID
Cat Care
Pocket Pet Health
Pocket Pet Care
Restraint and Handling of Large/Small Animals
Safety of Large/Small Animals
Rabbit ID
Rabbit Care
Beef and Dairy Cattle ID
Beef and Dairy Cattle Care
Equine Breed ID
Equine Care
Swine Breed ID
Swine Care
Sheep and Goat Breed ID
Sheep and Goat Care
Poultry ID
Poultry Care
General Anatomy of Large/Small Animals
Nutrition of Large/Small Animals
Grooming of Large/Small
Animals Education and Careers in Animal

APRIL 28-30, 2027

Study Guide

Cluster Manager
Steve Marfione

Here is a list of equipment and materials you may be asked to identify:

Ambu bag
Anesthetic Machines 1& 2
Animal Clippers
Autoclave
Autoclave Tape Indicator
Backhaus Towel Clamp
Balling Gun
Bandaging Mati-Elasticon
Elasticon
Rolled Gauze
Vet Wrap
Bands (castration or docking)
Basket Muzzle
Betadine
Body Brush (soft bristle)
Dandy Brush (stiff bristle)
Pin Brush
Slicker Brush
Wool Card
Bulb Syringe
Cat Bag
Catch pole (dog snare)
Butterfly Catheter
IV Catheter
Urine Catheter
Centrifuge
Chain Twitch
Chemical Indicator Strips
Clipper Blades
Clipper Comb
Cold Sterile Tray
Curry Comb
Flea Comb
Scotch Comb
Cover Slips
Barnes Dehorner
Electric Dehorner
Scoop or Tube Dehorner
Dental Floats
Dental Retractor
Dental Scaler
Hypodermic Needles
Drench Gun
Ear Notcher
Ear Tag Pliers
Ear Tags
Elastrator
Elizabethan Collar
Emasculators
Endotracheal Tube
Fecal Loop
Fecalyzers
Feeding Tube
Small/Large Animal
Fetal Extractor
Fingertip Toothbrush
Alligator Forceps
Allis Tissue Forceps
Adson-Brown-Thumb Forcep
Crile Forceps
Halstead Mosquito Forceps
Kelly Forceps
Rat Tooth Thumb Forceps
Adson Tissue Forceps
Babcock Tissue Forceps
Gag Mouth Speculum
Small/Large Animal
Gavage Needle
Gravity Feeder- J Tube
Halter
Head Chute
Hog Snare
Hoof Knife
Hoof Pick
Hoof Rasp
Hoof Trimmers
Chain Twitch
Hydraulic Chute
IV Administration
IV Fluids
Laryngoscopes
Lead Rope
Leur Lock Syringe
Automatic Multi-Dose Syringe
Slip Tip Syringe
Microscope
Microscope Slides
Muzzle
Guillotine Nail Clippers
Plier Nail Clippers
Mayor-Hegar Needle Holder
Olsen-Hegar Needle Holder
Obstetrical Chain and Handle
Ophthalmoscope
Otoscope
Paste Gun
Pig Tooth Nippers
Pill Counting Tray
Radiology PPE
Rumen Magnet
Scalpel Blade
Scalpel Handle
Lister Bandage Scissors
Shedding Blade
Silver Nitrate Sticks
Small Animal Oxygen Cage
Snook Hook
Squeeze Chute
Staple Remover
Steel Lift Table
Stethoscope
Surgical Cap
Surgical Drape
Surgical Gown
Surgical Masks
Surgical Tray
Suture Material
Suture Needle
Tattooing Instrument
Small/Large Animal
Tourniquet
Trocar & Cannula
Weight Tape

Examples of contest skills that could be demonstrated.

- Identify animal breeds from photographs. Spelling Counts!
- Animal Body Language (dominance, aggression, fear, arousal, etc.)
- Demonstrate & record temperature, pulse and/or respiration of a large or small animal.
- Identify apical and femoral pulse sites.
- Identify common blood withdrawal sites.
- Patient history & Physical exam.
- Practical mathematical applications That are commonly encountered in the veterinary workplace. (weights, conversions, mixing concentrated solutions etc.)
- Identify directional terminology and body planes.
- Identify surgical instruments.
- Prepare and/or package equipment and/or supplies for sterilization. (Reference McCurnin)
- Gown folding (Reference McCurnin)
- Aseptic technique (common antiseptic and disinfectant agents)
- Sterilization Methods
- Identify diagnostic equipment used in Radiology, Dentistry, Surgical Nursing, Anesthesiology, Pathology and Parasitology.
- Apply principles of disinfection.
- Wound Management and Bandaging.
- Scientific Classification of various animal species.
- Identify external parasites and internal parasites. (Using scientific terminology)
- Perform a fecal Analysis.
- Principles of nutrition- basic needs, unique characteristics of individual species diet.
- Care of Birds, large and small Animals
- Identify the sex of various animal species.
- Identify common bedding materials.
- Proper restraint and handling techniques of various animal species.
- Identify External anatomy parts of small and large animals
- Identify Systems of the body and their function
- Diseases of domestic animals.
- Preventive health plans, vaccinations, and abbreviations.
- Knowledge of Animal Welfare and Animal Rights issues and agencies.
- Proper hand washing skills.
- Veterinary terminology and abbreviations.
- Pharmacology (Routes of Administration, dosage calculations & drug classifications)
- Identify grooming equipment.
- Identify parts of microscope
- Customer Service procedures
- How to tie knots
- Proper Method for Preparing a Label for a Syringe
- Proper Method for Filling a Syringe
- Removal of Sutures
- Bandage Removal
- Bandage Application
- Pill Counting Tray Procedure
- Administration of Topical Medication
- Administration of Subcutaneous Injection
- Administering Ophthalmic Medication
- Intramuscular Injection
- Administration of Aural Medication
- Catching and Haltering a Horse Tail
- Tying Your Horse
- Applying a Commercial Muzzle
- Restraint for Venipuncture
- Restraint in Lateral Recumbency
- Removing a Dog from a Cage or Kennel
- Restraint for Jugular Venipuncture
- Restraint for Cephalic Venipuncture
- Applying a Gauze Muzzle
- Grooming small and large animal

References: Cengage Books
Restraint and Handling for Veterinary Technicians and Assistants: Bonnie Ballard/Jody Rockett ISBN-13:9784354-5387-6 ISBN-10: 1-4354-5387-5
Veterinary Assisting Fundamentals & Applications; Beth Vanhorn/Robert W. Clark ISBN-13:978-1-4354-5387-6 ISBN-10: 1-4354-5387-5
Equine Science Fifth Edition; Rick Parker ISBN: 978-305-94972-0
Small Animal Care Management Fourth Edition; Dean M. Warren ISBN: 978-1285-42552-8