

# SkillsUSA Tennessee PS Virtual Interview Contest

## Veterinarian Technician

SkillsUSA is focused on preparing students for career success. With the changes in our world, it is now more important than ever that you know not only how to interview for your future career, but how to do it in a virtual format.

Starting in summer 2020, SkillsUSA Tennessee Postsecondary is hosting statewide Virtual Interview Contests in all industry sectors!

### Virtual Interview Contest Process:

**Step #1:** All chapters will receive “*How to Prepare for Virtual Interviews*” training packet created by the SkillsUSA Tennessee PS State Director

**Step #2:** Students practice virtual interviewing skills with their instructor. Create a professional resume geared towards the job description included. Participate in a virtual in-class competition to determine top 3 overall students in their program area.

**Step #3** The top 3 students from each program submit their recorded virtual skills demonstration interviews and their professional resumes to the state director to be judged by industry professionals.

*\*Scenarios and detailed instructions are included in this packet*

**Step #4** The Top 10 finalists from each sector will be notified of their scheduled time to interview in using *Microsoft Teams* with a panel of industry professionals from their sector. Interviews will be recorded, and once all are scored the overall winners will be awarded Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals.



# Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers

## Job Summary and Responsibilities:

Feed, water, and examine pets and other nonfarm animals for signs of illness, disease, or injury in laboratories and animal hospitals and clinics. Clean and disinfect cages and work areas, and sterilize laboratory and surgical equipment. May provide routine post-operative care, administer medication orally or topically, or prepare samples for laboratory examination under the supervision of veterinary or laboratory animal technologists or technicians, veterinarians, or scientists.

## Required Competencies:

### Occupational Competencies

- **Biosecurity related to animals:** Familiarity with awareness of hygiene and bio-security measures when working with animals, including causes, transmission and prevention of diseases and use of policies, materials and equipment.
- **Signs of animal illness:** Knowledge of physical, behavioral and environmental signs of health and ill health in various animals.
- **Animal welfare legislation:** Experience with the legal boundaries, codes of professional conduct, national and EU regulatory frameworks and legal procedures of working with animals and living organisms, ensuring their welfare and health.
- **Animal welfare:** Familiarity with "Universally recognized animal welfare needs as applied to species, situation and occupation. These are:
- **Physiology of animals:** Knowledge of the study of the mechanical, physical, bioelectrical and biochemical functioning of animals, their organs and their cells.
- **Environmental enrichment for animals:** Experience with types, methods and use of enrichment for animals to allow the expression of natural behavior, including the provision of environmental stimuli, feeding activities, puzzles, items for manipulation, social and training activities.
- **Safe work practices in a veterinary setting:** Familiarity with safe work practices in a veterinary setting in order to identify hazards and associated risks so as to prevent accidents or incidents. This includes injury from animals, zoonotic diseases, chemicals, equipment and working environment.
- **Anatomy of animals:** Knowledge of the study of animal body parts, their structure and dynamic relationships, on a level as demanded by the specific occupation.
- **Animal behavior:** Experience with the natural behavioral patterns of animals, i.e. how normal and abnormal behavior might be expressed according to species, environment, human-animal interaction and occupation.
- **Veterinary terminology:** Spelling and meaning of commonly used terminology of veterinary terms.
- **Animal production science:** Animal nutrition, agronomy, rural economics, animal husbandry, hygiene and bio-security, ethology, protection and herd health management.

## Foundational Competencies

- **Active Listening:** Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Monitoring:** Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
- **Service Orientation:** Actively looking for ways to help people.
- **Active Learning:** Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
- **Complex Problem Solving:** Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
- **Coordination:** Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.
- **Critical Thinking:** Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- **Reading Comprehension:** Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Social Perceptiveness:** Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- **Speaking:** Talking to others to convey information effectively.

### Example Activities:

- Hold or restrain animals during veterinary procedures.
- Clean and maintain kennels, animal holding areas, examination or operating rooms, or animal loading or unloading facilities to control the spread of disease.
- Fill medication prescriptions.
- Assist veterinarians in examining animals to determine the nature of illnesses or injuries.
- Monitor animals recovering from surgery and notify veterinarians of any unusual changes or symptoms.
- Clean, maintain, and sterilize instruments or equipment.
- Examine animals to detect behavioral changes or clinical symptoms that could indicate illness or injury.
- Educate or advise clients on animal health care, nutrition, or behavior problems

## **Pre-Recorded Skills Demonstration Scenario**

### **Veterinarian Technician**

For this portion of the virtual interview contest, you are to record yourself responding to the following scenario. You may choose to use props, but they are not required. You will be scored on your ability to communicate the process clearly, and to demonstrate your knowledge of the technical skill.

#### **Scenario:**

You work for Anderson Veterinary Clinic and a young woman, Grace, has just arrived holding her beloved 6 month old Toy Aussie, Panda, in her arms. Grace is very upset as she explains she was out walking Panda when a stray dog ran up and attacked her. Grace tells you a neighbor ran to their aide and subdued the stray dog. Panda is bleeding and whimpering. Talk through the process you will take from your initial contact with Grace in the waiting room to diagnostic exams that you will assist the veterinarian in performing. Conclude with what injuries Panda has based on the testing, and how you will console Grace depending on the injuries determined.

*\*You have the freedom to determine the injuries*



<b>Skills Demonstration Scenario</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Professional Appearance/Grooming	5		
Virtual Setting: Backdrop, Lighting, Audio, Technical Quality, No Distractions	5		
Eye Contact/Body Language	5		
Demonstration of technical skill/knowledge	15		
Verbal communication skills/clarity	10		
Overall Impression	10		
Total	50		
<b>Virtual Interview</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Greeting and Introduction	5		
Professional Appearance/Grooming	5		
Eye Contact/Body Language	5		
Demonstration of knowledge of the position and technical skills required for the job	10		
Verbal Communication Skills/Clarity	5		
Presentation: Self-Confidence, Persuasiveness	5		
Preparation: Knowledge of Position Applied for and Personal History	5		
Overall Impression	10		
Total	50		
<b>Resume</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Personal Information:</b> Name, address, phone & email	1		
<b>Skills:</b>	2		
<b>Education:</b> Include program of study/Major	2		
<b>Employment:</b> And/or volunteer work or list NA	1		
<b>Activities, Awards and Honors:</b> Should include SkillsUSA membership/activities	2		
<b>References:</b> Or references available upon request	1		
<b>Spelling, Punctuation &amp; Grammar</b>	1		
Total	10		
<b>More than One Page (-1pt)</b>			