

## AVNT Advanced Skills List

All qualified candidates will have demonstrated advanced veterinary nursing skills. All VTS (Nutrition) candidates shall demonstrate expertise in the area of veterinary nutrition. **\*\*This advanced skills list and advanced knowledge list is tentative and this may not be the final skills/knowledge list\*\***

### Domain I. Assessment

- Perform body condition scoring
- Perform muscle condition scoring
- Obtain a detailed and accurate nutrition history
- Recognize patients at risk for malnutrition
- Perform a complete physical examination

### Domain II. Planning

- With veterinarian develop a nutrition plan
- Calculate RER
- Calculate MER
- Calculate DER
- Calculate caloric requirements based on RER/MER/DER
- Calculate feeding amount based on RER/MER/DER

### **Domain III. Implementation/ Intervention**

- Nutrition plan implementation
- Place and manage NE/NG tube
- Place and/or manage Esophagostomy tube
- Place and/or manage Gastrostomy tube
- Place and/or manage low-profile gastrostomy tube
- Place and/or manage Jejunostomy tube
- Manage diet transitions: TPN to enteral diet
- Manage diet transitions: Therapeutic to maintenance
- Fluid therapy calculation and management
- IV/ SQ/ IM drug administration
- Isoflurane/Sevoflurane administration
- Jugular catheter placement
- Endotracheal intubation canine
- Endotracheal intubation feline
- Perform an automated CBC
- Perform a urinalysis
- Prepare and/or administer TPN
- Prepare and/or administer PPN
- Administer enteral nutrition

(unassisted)

- Feeding tube management in hospital
- Feeding tube education with client
- Properly collect and process cytology samples
- Properly collect and process histology samples
- Perform microscopy for basic in-house cytology
- Perform endocrine testing including appropriate fasting protocols, proper dosing and correct timing of medications, and proper handling of sample
- Perform proper sample collection and handling for GI function tests such as, but not limited to PLI, TLI, cobalamin and folate
- Wound management (tube sites)
- Recognize effect of common drugs on GI motility
- Calculate Metabolizable Energy from guaranteed analysis
- Properly care for and maintain endoscopic equipment
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of anatomy and physiology as it relates to nutrition
- Demonstrate proper sterilization procedures for required equipment

- Able to identify proper landmarks for a variety of procedures and to perform an appropriate clip and scrub
- Able to position a patient properly for a variety of procedures
- Demonstrate ability to position patients for diagnostic quality pre/intra/post procedure radiographs
- Ability to suture in tubes/catheters as needed

#### **Domain IV. Patient Evaluation**

- Able to recognize signs of food aversion
- Able to anticipate nutrition related complications prior to onset
- Feeding tube management after discharge from hospital
- Feeding tube removal techniques
- Monitor progress of nutrition therapy
- Educate clients regarding diet use
- Educate clients regarding importance of diet compliance and disease management
- Educate clients regarding nutritional excesses and deficiencies

## AVNT Advanced Knowledge List

All qualified candidates will have demonstrated advanced veterinary technician nutrition knowledge. All VTS (Nutrition) candidates shall demonstrate expertise in the area of veterinary nutrition

**\*\*This advanced skills list and advanced knowledge list is tentative and this may not be the final skills/knowledge list\*\***

### Knowledge List:

- Identify 6 classes of nutrients in mammals
- Kcal amts for each class of nutrients
- Essential proteins for dogs and cats
- Non-essential proteins for dogs and cats
- Mineral functions and effects of excesses and deficiencies
- Vitamin functions and effects of excesses and deficiencies
- Antioxidant functions and identification
- Understand protein digestion in dogs and cats
- Understand fat digestion in dogs and cats
- Understand carbohydrate digestion in dogs and cats
- Estimate energy requirements for dogs and cats
- Calculate feeding amount based on energy requirements

- Who is AAFCO
- How can AAFCO certification be obtained?
- What are feeding trials? What are the requirements?
- Know how to read pet food labels
- What are the AAFCO food label guidelines?
- Key nutritional factors for an omnivore
- Key nutritional factors for a carnivore
- Key nutritional factors for an herbivore
- Key nutritional factors unique to cats
- Key nutritional factors unique to equines
- Key nutritional factors unique to avian
- Key nutritional needs during reproduction for cats and dogs
- Key nutritional needs during growth for cats and dogs
- Key nutritional needs for adult cats and dogs
- Key nutritional needs for senior cats and dogs
- Key nutritional needs for weight loss in cats and dogs
- Key nutritional needs for weight gain in dogs and cats

- Key nutritional factors for renal disease in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for diabetic dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for cancer in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for adverse food reactions in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for osteoarthritis in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for urolithiasis/ FLUTD in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for gastritis in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for intestinal disease in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for constipation in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for cardiac disease in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for hepatic disease in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for pancreatitis in dogs and cats
- Key nutritional factors for megaesophagus in dogs
- Key nutritional factors for esophageal strictures in dogs and cats
- AAFCO official feed definitions

- United States FDA responsibilities
- What is digestibility?
- How is digestibility determined?
- What are “product families”
- What are “lead products”
- Carbohydrate classes and effects:  
insoluble, moderately soluble, soluble
- Coax feeding techniques
- Signs of food aversions
- Signs of nausea related to feeding
- Assisted feeding techniques, pros and  
cons for each technique
- Appropriate food for different assisted  
feeding techniques
- What is TPN/ PPN?
- Indications for use of TPN/ PPN
- Complications associated with  
TPN/PPN
- What is Refeeding syndrome? Avoid,  
recognize, treatment
- Non-veterinary treats and health  
associated problems (chocolate, onions,  
grapes)
- Assess hospitalized/ outpatient animals  
for nutritional risk status
- Evaluate homemade diets for potential

risks

- Be familiar with methods used to access nutritional information on OTC and prescription diets
- Understand how nutrition can affect Acid-base balance
- Recognize physical and laboratory signs of nutritional deficiencies and excesses
- Able to critically evaluate scientific literature and advertising claims regarding nutrients and diets
- Benefits/detriments to homemade diets in dogs and cats
- Benefits/ detriments to vegetarian diets in dogs and cats
- Benefits/ detriments to vegan diets in dogs and cats
- Benefits/ detriments to raw food diets in dogs and cats
- Understand anatomy and physiology for GI tract in dogs and cats