



All you need to know about VTNE

Dear AHT,

In our last survey, you expressed a desire to receive information about certification and the VTNE.

The VTNE was created in the United States by the P.E.S. (Professional Examination Service). Since 2001, it has been used throughout Canada and the United States by animal health technician (AHT) associations.

The goal of the VTNE is to continue the standardization of the AHT profession in North America. The VTNE is a 3-hour exam that includes 150 multiple-choice questions related to the AHT profession (plus 20 trial questions). The questions are composed by veterinarians and animal health technicians representing all fields in the domain. These questions must be validated and then placed in a question bank by PSI Business.

In this special newsletter, you will find information to help you achieve your certification goals, including the tools offered to prepare for the exam, the registration procedure, and eligibility criteria.



Benefits of Certification

The exam aims to ensure compliance and a high level of competence for AHTs. Choosing to take the VTNE adds credibility to AHTs and our role within the veterinary team, which helps improve working conditions. Finally, the exam provides AHTs with self-satisfaction and increased professional awareness.

The exam is offered by all Canadian and American associations, including the s. Certification allows you to transfer your certification status from one province to another or even to work in the United States.

Preparation Tools

Candidates can study the 10 main subjects, which are:

1. Pharmacy and pharmacology (13%; 20 questions)
2. Surgical techniques (13%; 20 questions)
3. Laboratory procedures (9%; 14 questions)
4. Animal care and nursing (20%; 30 questions)
5. Diagnostic imaging (6%; 9 questions)
6. Anesthesia (13%; 20 questions)
7. Dentistry (7%; 10 questions)
8. Emergency medicine and intensive care (7%; 10 questions)
9. Pain management and analgesia (7%; 10 questions)
10. Communication and support services for professionals (5%; 7 questions)

To prepare for the exam, you can visit the ATSAQ store and purchase the ATSAQ Study Guide for Animal Health Technicians or access the VTNE practice test.

ATSAQ Study Guide for Animal Health Technicians - in French

French version of "Mosby's Comprehensive Review for Veterinary Technicians 5th Edition" by Monica M. Tighe RVT BA and Marg Brown RVT BEd Ad editors.

Translated by Isabelle Carrière AHT M.A. trad.



The manual is entirely in French and available in the [ATSAQ store](#).

725 pages divided into 29 chapters.

Review manual to help animal health technicians prepare for the national or provincial exam.

Covers all aspects of training and practice in veterinary technology, such as basic sciences, diagnostics, applications, and professional practice and issues.

Each chapter begins with an overview of objectives, followed by detailed essential information. The chapter ends with a glossary and questions with answers to help the reader assess their knowledge and understanding (590 questions with answer keys).

At the end of the manual is a simulated exam with 150 questions and answer keys.

VTNE Practice Test

The VTNE/VTNE National Exam Practice Test is available in French.

75 multiple-choice questions covering the 10 official VTNE sections. The exam is not timed, and you can navigate through the questions. However, once you "Finish" the last question, you will end your access.

The online practice test is a preparation exam that is conducted exclusively online. The *Review - questions and answers* manual is no longer printed in French.

English Tools

Amazon.ca and American publishers offer various study guides, but "Mosby's Comprehensive Review for Veterinary Technicians, 5th Edition" by Monica M. Tighe RVT BA and Marg Brown RVT BEd Ad is specifically designed for AAVSB exam preparation.

The AAVSB offers an English practice test with 75 questions to be answered in less than 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Finally, by searching for the keywords "VTNE" and "practice," you will find some applications and websites with questions similar to those on the exam.



Eligibility Criteria for the Certification Exam

To be eligible for the exam, you must **be a member of the ATSAQ** and have **completed your studies in a recognized AHT program**.

In Quebec, only an **ATSAQ member who has graduated** (i.e., obtained their college diploma in animal health, transcript, or graduation certificate provided by their educational institution) will be **able to use the title "Certified Animal Health Technician (CAHT)"** once the exam is completed and passed.

Here's how you can become a member of the ATSAQ:

If you are joining the ATSAQ for the first time, simply go to www.ATSAQ.org and click on "BECOME A MEMBER." Select the "New Regular Member" type of membership and follow the simple steps to complete the transaction and then access the member area with its exclusive content.

If you have previously been a member of the association, you do not need to create a new account! Click on "Forgot Password" using the email address of your account at the time of your active membership to receive the reset link (if you did not have an email or do not remember it, simply write to us).

Then, log in to renew:

1. In the left menu, click on "My Memberships."
2. Click on the "Renew My Membership" button.
3. Choose the "New Regular Member" option and follow the steps.

*** Do not create a new account**

Registration Procedures for the Exam: A 3-Step Process!

There are **three registration periods** associated with their respective exam periods:

Registration between December 15 – February 15: take the **VTNE between March 15 - April 15**

Registration between April 15 - June 15: take the **VTNE between July 15 - August 15**

Registration between August 15 - October 15: take the **VTNE between November 15 - December 15**



Registering for the Exam

- a. Access the AAVSB website (you can choose "French Canadian" as the exam language in the form) and go to the "Submit your online application" section. Here, you can review the Candidate Handbook and note that you will need to pay a fee of **\$355 USD via credit card** to complete your registration.
- b. Scroll down to the bottom of this window and click on "VTNE application."
- c. Create an account on the AAVSB platform and fill out the form, making sure to select the **jurisdiction of ATSAQ or Quebec**, the diploma type as "**AHT diploma**," and don't forget to select the exam language as "**French Canadian**". This will ensure that your exam is in French (you will also be able to see the question in English to verify the meaning if the French question is unclear). If you mistakenly select English, you will only see the questions in English.

For Current Year Graduates, you will need to upload your final transcript, which confirms that you have completed and passed all courses and internships in your program. You may need to wait a bit before registering, as you will have access to your final transcript around the end of May, once you have finished your last internship. For the summer exam, don't worry, you have until June 15 to register.

Confirmation of Eligibility by ATSAQ

Once the form is filled out and the fees are paid, the AAVSB processes your application and contacts ATSAQ to confirm that you are a member of the association, that you have passed all the courses, and that you have completed the 145.A0 program.

If you indicated that you need accommodations, the documents will be verified by ATSAQ, as they will likely be in French.

Choosing the Exam Mode and Time Slot

Once we have confirmed the eligibility requirements for the exam, the AAVSB finalizes your registration and sends you a message inviting you to select the mode (online with live supervision or in person at an exam center in Montreal) and the time slot on the PSI platform (the company that handles the technical aspects of the exam).

To assist you in the process and exam preparation, I invite you to read the "[Schedule your exam](#)" section on the AAVSB website to understand how it works, the computer requirements for the remote exam, and the restrictions during the exam.

In the document, you will find the phone number to contact PSI if you need technical support or if you need to speak with customer service to reserve your time slot.



If you encounter problems on the AAVSB registration platform (e.g., selecting the exam language) or have technical questions, you must contact the AAVSB directly at vettech@aavsb.org. They usually respond fairly quickly.

If English is a challenge, don't hesitate to use online translation tools, which are increasingly effective, such as Google Translate or the automatic translation tool (DeepL) from Linguee.

After the Exam: Result Transmission

To pass the exam, you need to achieve a score of **60% in each of the 10 sections**.

All answer choices are checked, and each question is graded individually, contributing to the final exam score. Candidates are therefore encouraged to answer all questions. **You will know immediately whether you have passed the exam or not, as the results are available live at the end of the test.**

Afterward, PSI sends the candidate scores to ATSAQ via email. ATSAQ is responsible for sending you your result and certificate (if you passed) within **2 to 4 weeks after the exam period ends**.

Maintaining Certification: A Quest for Knowledge!

After passing the VTNE, it is **mandatory to maintain your certification by remaining a member of ATSAQ and accumulating continuing education credits**. These requirements are comparable to those imposed on AHTs, veterinarians, nurses, doctors, lawyers, and others across Canada. The purpose of continuing education credits for maintaining your certification is to ensure and standardize excellence as a Certified Animal Health Technician (CAHT).

CAHTs must accumulate a minimum of 20 credits every 2 years. In the first year, the period is calculated to ensure that members have a full 2 years. For example, candidates who passed the VTNE in July 2024 will need to accumulate 20 credits by December 31, 2026.

Any certified member who does not accumulate the required continuing education credits or does not remain a member of the association loses their CAHT status and must retake the VTNE to regain their title.



Become a member

The ATSAQ brings together AHTs, CAHTs, and VTSs in Quebec. With over 1,200 members, we are the voice of AHTs, and the more of us there are, the stronger our voice will be. If your colleagues are not yet members, invite them to join us to benefit from:

- Access to support from the ATSAQ team when you have questions.
- Access to the largest network of AHTs/CAHTs and their collaborators.
- Certification and support while preparing for it.
- Exclusive member content on the website: The Vie de TSA journal (4 issues per year), the job bank, the salary guide, and much more.
- Enjoy a 30% member discount on items from the ATSAQ virtual store.
- Join the private Facebook group. A golden opportunity to discuss fun and relevant topics with other members.

[Click here to become a member](#)