



New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association

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President's Message

Julie Bellerose Cate, LVT, CVT

Greetings to all!

Let me introduce myself. My name is *Julie Bellerose Cate* and I am your NHVTA President. I have been a member of the NHVTA for some years now and was voted in as your President last fall.

We, the NHVTA board members, want you to know we are here for you and welcome all, not just the certified or licensed technicians, to join us in making the NHVTA active and successful.

Let me also introduce your board members. *Lois Senecal*, who is a professor at the NHCTC-Stratham for the veterinary technology program, is your Treasurer.

Sarah Gardner, a veterinary technician at the Animal Hospital of Barrington, is your Secretary.

Barb Burri, a veterinary technician at North Hampton Animal Hospital and long-time dog trainer, and *Terry Kelley*, a veterinary technician and long-time dog trainer, are your At - Large board members.

Georgia Smith manages our membership database and is the new receptionist at North Hampton Animal Hospital.

We are all here to support you and encourage you to join us.

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Thank you to this edition's contributors!
Julie Bellerose Cate, Barb Burri, Lois Senecal,
Sarah Gardner, Terry Kelley and Kipper Senecal!

Board Members 2007 - 2008

Chair: Julie Bellerose Cate, LVT, CVT
Treasurer: Lois Senecal, MS, LVT, CVT
Secretary: Sarah Gardner, CVT
Members at Large: Barb Burri, BS, MBA, CVT and Terry Kelley, CVT, CPDT
Board of Directors: Barb Burri, Julie Bellerose Cate and Lois Senecal
Membership Database: Georgia Smith, CVT
Newsletter Editor: Kipper Senecal
Webmaster: Terry Kelley

We had our annual meeting this past April to discuss where we have been and where we would like to go. We would like to thank *Dr. Selvi Kumaresan* and her staff at the *Veterinary Emergency and Surgery Hospital* in Brentwood for the use of their conference room.

We have plans for a lot of CE meetings regarding a myriad of topics. We are also planning a big meeting next winter and hope to have a representative of NAVTA (National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America) join us.

As you know through our web site (managed by Terry Kelley), we did write (twice) to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) in 2006 after they purchased the Veterinary Technician National Exam in April 2006. We asked them to give us an extension so we could offer the test one more time for all veterinary support staff who wanted to take it. They said no both times. For more details, please visit our website at: <http://www.nhvta.org/certification.htm>.

We have two CE meetings scheduled for this fall. On *Sunday September 30th*, we will meet at the Animal Rescue League in Bedford for an animal behavior seminar. We are asking all attendees for a \$10 donation at the door, which will go to the shelter. *Dee Ganley CPDT/CABC/CDBC* and *Dr. Christine Schlupf DVM* will be presenting the lectures.

On *Tuesday October 16th*, we will meet at the practice of *Dr. Katherine Evans* in Concord for a CE on Holistic medicine. This meeting is limited to 16 participants. Details for both seminars are listed on our website at: <http://www.nhvta.org/calendar.htm>

We do have plans to visit our colleagues in the western part of the state and in the North country. We will have more information on this in future newsletters and on the web site. We also have fun plans for Veterinary Technician Week, October 14-20, 2007. So be on the lookout for a NHVTA member in your area!

Please join us at the upcoming CE events. We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Julie

Donations Needed

The NH Community Technical College Veterinary Technician program is looking for equipment donations to assist the students with their hands-on skills.

If your clinic has used, outdated or expired medical equipment please consider donating these items to the vet tech program. We would greatly appreciate an X-ray machine or Vet Test analyzer (any type of laboratory equipment would be helpful). Also, blood tubes, IV pumps, LRS bags, SNAP tests (4DX, Combo, Giardia) etc. would be very helpful.

For more information on how you can help the program, please contact Lois Senecal (email: lseneal@ccsnh.edu) or Dr. Peg McGregor (775-2317 or email: pmacgregor@ccsnh.edu). Donations to the program may be tax deductible too.

Heartworm and Tick Borne Disease Testing Takes an Upgrade

By: Barb Burri, BS, MBA, CVT

IDEXX, the Westport Maine company that produces the 3DX blood test for Lyme, Heartworm, and Ehrlichia has a new version called the 4DX. This upgrade adds Anaplasma to the testing suite. So what exactly does this mean?

Anaplasma (*A. phagocytophilum*) is the new name for the tick-borne pathogen *Ehrlichia equi*.

In the late 1990's *Ehrlichia equi* was reclassified with *E. phagocytophila* to be *A. Phagocytophilum*. Anaplasma is transmitted by the Ixodes ticks that carry *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterial agent that causes Lyme disease.

If a dog tests positive, it is not a cause to worry if the dog shows no clinical signs of this tick-borne disease. The clinical signs of infection may include: fever, lethargy, anorexia, lameness, joint pain and thrombocytopenia (a lack of the cells for clotting) - these are also the signs of other tick-borne diseases. A positive test indicates that the dog has the antibodies for these pathogens, but they might not be sick. Although humans cannot get these tick-borne diseases from dogs, they can get these tick-borne diseases directly from the ticks, from a bite, just as the dogs do.

The 4DX test is a SNAP test, requiring just 3 drops of blood. It takes 8 minutes to run, and can give a quick answer for a dog who is lame, lethargic or not quite themselves.

One of the current questions in the veterinary world is, what do we do with a dog who tests positive for one of the tick-borne diseases who shows no clinical signs?

Many veterinary practices will choose not to treat the animal, and just monitor them for signs, but other practices will treat. This should be discussed with your veterinarian should your dog test positive for one of these pathogens. If treatment is required, antibiotics in the tetracycline family, typically Doxycycline are usually used.



What can an owner do about tick-borne diseases? For both canines and humans, tick prevention is important. Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis, as well as Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, Q-fever, Colorado tick fever, and Powassan encephalitis are all transmitted by ticks. Wear light colored clothing, long sleeves, and long pants, stay out of tick infested areas (not easy for those hunt test training their Lab!), use chemical repellants containing DEET or permethrin on humans, and use tick prevention products on your dog.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/ticktips2005/>
<http://www.idexx.com/animalhealth/testkits/4dx>

Supersized Pets

By: Terry Kelley CVT, CPDT

Along with our increasing girth, our pets' waistlines are also expanding at a rapid pace. Recent studies have concluded at least 25% of our dogs (and cats) are overweight and 5% are obese. Overweight is defined as 10% above their ideal weight and obese is 20% or more above their ideal weight.

Veterinary hospitals see overweight and obese pets every day. Some of these pets are so hefty they can barely walk or get up. Even minor movement results in labored breathing, joint pain and stress. Yet their owners are blind to their suffering and in denial about their weight problem.

Slentrol - Doggy Diet Pill

In January 2007 the FDA approved a diet drug for canines called **Slentrol**. Slentrol (dirlotapide) is produced by Pfizer, a leading drug manufacturer. The original intent of their drug research was to assess its ability to lower cholesterol in people. But now Slentrol is targeted at dogs considered obese (it is not approved for cats because of potential liver damage) and can only be prescribed by a licensed veterinarian.

Slentrol's mode of action is known as a **selective microsomal triglyceride transfer protein inhibitor**.

Basically, it functions by blocking the production and release of lipoproteins (a substance composed of fats and proteins such as Cholesterol) into the blood stream. However, exactly why Slentrol causes weight loss is not yet fully understood.

They believe it results from a reduction in fat absorption, along with a corresponding feeling of being 'full'. The cost per day for this drug is estimated at \$1-2. Canine side effects include: vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and loss of appetite. For more details on the drug specifics, please refer to the package insert information at Pfizer's web location:

http://www.pfizerah.com/slentrol/sl_pi.pdf

Lest people get the idea they can benefit from this new drug, Slentrol will carry a warning about the dangerous side effects it can have on humans and clearly indicate it is 'not for use in humans'. The FDA's side effects warning for humans include (but are not limited to): nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal distention and pain.

There are several concerns with using Slentrol for our chubby canine companions. First, it was originally intended for humans, but research data deemed it unsafe. So how safe can it be for other species? Second, it has an unknown mechanism of action. Meaning, the longer term effects of this drug cannot be determined at this time. Third, the known side effects are very unpleasant in both dogs and humans.

True, in rare cases, there may be a very small number of dogs for which a weight reduction drug may be medically necessary. But the vast majority of dogs and cats can achieve weight reduction if their owners simply limit their food intake and slowly increase their daily exercise. It's that easy.

Extra, Extra! Read All About It!**National Veterinary Technician Week****October 14 - 20, 2007 is
National Veterinary
Technicians Week**

The NAVTA 2007 theme is “*Our Team Cares for Your Animals*” and events will focus on the team work that provides for our patients’ well being.

For more information, please visit the NAVTA website at: <http://www.navta.net>

Web Site 2007

If you have not visited our web site recently, please take a few minutes to check it out. It has been re-designed and contains lots of great information on special events, VTNE, CE seminars, job postings, certification news, links and much more.

<http://www.nhvta.org/>

Newsletter Contributions

We would like to encourage everyone to contribute to this newsletter!

If you have suggestions for continuing education workshops, articles, tech tips, fun facts, brags, congratulations, event information, announcements, or cute pet pictures, to share with your fellow technicians please let us know.

You can email items to us at:

info@nhvta.org

New Postal Address & Contact Info

Please note our postal address has recently changed. We can be reached by mail, email or telephone at:

New Hampshire
Veterinary Technician Association
P.O. Box 295
Greenland, NH 03840

By Email: info@nhvta.org

By Telephone: (603) 775 - 2316

Web site: www.nhvta.org

Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE)

If you are planning on taking the VTNE on **January 18, 2008**, the deadline for registering is **November 5, 2007**. Check out our web site: <http://www.nhvta.org/certification.htm>

Are you a veterinary technician who wants to take the VTNE, but have not graduated from a 2, 3 or 4 year AVMA accredited veterinary technician program? You can still take the VTNE, in Georgia, until June 2008. After June 2008, Georgia will no longer permit technicians to take the VTNE, unless they have graduated from an AVMA accredited program.

For more information visit the Georgia Veterinary Technician Association at:

<http://www.gvtaa.org/professional.development/vtne.htm>

Tips from Kipp!


Howdy!

Let me introduce myself. I'm **Kipper** and this is my new advice column for vet techs. We (my learned associates from the canine, feline, small and large critter world) would like to share our ideas, secrets and innovations with all of you fabulous vet techs.


So with every newsletter, we'll be highlighting tips from our years of experience, which we hope you will enjoy and find helpful in your daily lives! If any of your two or four-legged experts have ideas they would like to share, please send me an email at info@nhvta.org.





Now, I'm off to play in the yard with my buddy Renny! Woofs to all ... **Kipp!**


 Now, that autumn and cooler weather has arrived, remember to continue to check your dogs and cats for fleas and ticks. These pesky critters will be looking for new homes for the winter months. So, make sure you thoroughly check all pets at least once a day and remove any unwanted hitch-hikers.

“Ticked Off” is a handy device that helps pet owners easily remove ticks. It is a small plastic scoop, with a notch that easily fits under the tick’s head and body. Just lift up and back, and Mr. Tick has worn out his welcome. Available at pet stores and online at: <http://www.tickedoff.com/>

 After surgery on pocket pets, fill an exam glove with hot water, tie in a knot and use it as a hot water bottle for the patient.

 For new puppies coming in for vaccinations, squeeze small bits of Nutri-Cal on the table and allow them to have a taste. Many puppies are so food motivated that they don't feel or react to vaccines, temps, even nails trims. You can also smear Pill Pockets or chicken baby food on the table as well. These food rewards make vet visits a positive experience for the puppy and you have a happy patient and a happy owner!

 When trying to draw blood from an old or frail cat, if you are having a hard time visualizing the vein, try wrapping the cat snugly in a towel and lay it on its back on your lap. This helps get a little better exposure and works well with cooperative cats.

 If you need a tourniquet and can't find one, just use a latex glove. Wrap it around the leg and tie once. It will help the leg vein stand out and when you are done, the glove is easy to release too.

Congratulations

The Veterinary Technician program at NHCTC has a reason to be **very** proud!
The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) and Bayer K9 Advantix along with the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA), awarded scholarships to 25 students from 24 U.S. accredited schools of veterinary technology. All twenty-five awards that were given are in the amount of \$1,000.

One of the 2007 recipients was our own ***Amanda Glover***.

Amanda will be a second year student, and is the first recipient of the AKC technician scholarship in New Hampshire. Amanda is also the president of our newly formed student association of NAVTA. Many of us have tried to get a student NAVTA chapter going, but Amanda was the one who made it happen. An outstanding student (and all around great person) Amanda exemplifies what a great Veterinary Technician Student should be!

Congratulations Amanda!

May 19, 2007

Congratulations to the New Hampshire Community Technical College Class of 2007 Veterinary Technology Graduates! The following students have completed all of the requirements for the Degree of Associate in Science in Veterinary Technology.

Sarah Bedard	Stephanie Bouchard	Corin Brennan	Gerri Cantor
Kim Corbett	Mim Coward	Kiersten Culleton	Jessica Farwell
Joanna Gilbert	Kim Gilbert	Ann Johnson	Cheryl Kimball
Christine LeHoullier	Sara Miles	Melissa Missud	Catherine Morency
Sarah Mullaney	Rebecca Pucko	Katheryn Selva	Amelia Sperry
Jessica Theriault	Renee Tucci	Emily Wilson	Stephanie Wolfe
Elizabeth Wolfram			

June 29, 2007

On June 29th, you may have heard our own **Sarah Gardner** being interviewed by WOKQ 97.5 to promote her 4-H group. For the last 11 years, Sarah has been the leader of the "**Rolling Bones 4-H Dog Club of Merrimack County**". Five years ago the 4-H members decided to raise money for the Working Dog Foundation, to outfit a K-9 police dog with a bullet proof vest. It was a huge success and they raised the \$500 needed to buy the vest. The following year, they raised even more money for a K-9 vest. But an idea was presented to the group to continue raising contributions with a new goal of purchasing a K-9 police dog! If the group raised the \$5000, they would be able to name the new K-9 police dog. So, that became their new goal.

Each year, the 4-H club puts on a 'Fun Match Dog Show' in Epsom New Hampshire. It is a qualification for members who would like to participate at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA and represent the New Hampshire Dog Program. The show hosts 35 - 45 4-H members between the ages of 8-18 years, from around New Hampshire. Members do not have to own a dog as they can borrow a dog from a friend or family member. The dogs can be any mix, breed, age and gender and have ranged in age from 7 months old up to 12 years old.

This year, the group had their 'fun match' on July 7th. Police Officer Johnson and his canine partner 'Zeke' presented a 45-minute demonstration for the audience. It was a great success and at the end of the demo, Officer Johnson answered questions and Zeke greeted the public.

All proceeds of the event were donated to the 'Working Dog Foundation'.

The Rolling Bones group has spent the last 4 years working towards their goal of purchasing a police dog. They need about \$300 dollars to reach their goal and with your donation, you could help them cross the \$5000 finish line. If you would like to be part of this worthwhile effort, please contact Sarah at: agilelab@metrocast.net.



NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Name: _____ NHVTA member? Y / N
(print clearly) Last First Middle

Address: _____
(street) (city, state, zip)

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Are you currently certified, licensed, or registered in another state? _____
If yes, attach a copy of your current documentation of **Certification, Licensure, or Registration**

Verification of Employment / Experience if required: (Refer to *Requirements for Certification* Form)

(1) Hospital: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____
(street) (city, state, zip)

Supervisor: _____ Title: _____

Employment Dates: From: _____ To: _____

Average hours/week: _____ Total hours worked: _____

List specific skills, duties, and responsibilities performed while employed and include percentage of time the skill was performed:

_____	_____ %	_____	_____ %	_____	_____ %
_____	_____ %	_____	_____ %	_____	_____ %
_____	_____ %	_____	_____ %	_____	_____ %
_____	_____ %	_____	_____ %	_____	_____ %

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

NHVTA Use Only		
Approved:	Denied:	Certification # :

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