



# New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association

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## President's Message

*Julie Bellerose Cate, LVT, CVT*

### **Hello!**

Spring and summer were great. For most of us, it was the busiest time of year. Especially with regards to emergencies; everything from hit by cars to porcupine quills to lacerations to dog fights at the park.

As good technicians, we encouraged our clients to be careful with pets being left in vehicles or outside in the sun. We encouraged our clients to use high quality flea and tick preventives. Many pets accompany their families on their summer vacations. Some pets stay at kennel facilities. Either way, we assisted our clients in preparing ahead.

With all of the journals and periodicals we have available to us, there are many good ideas we can share with our clients during their visit to the clinic or hospital. Clients look to veterinary technicians to give them good advice and tips for the safety and well-being of their pets. Visit our web site regularly for details.

I hope you all had a happy and safe summer and you are enjoying the cooler months of fall!

*Julie*

### Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
Seminars in 2008	2-3
Seminars in 2009	3
Congratulations	3
Vet Proofing your Puppy!	4
Canine DNA Breed Analysis	5-6
Tipps from Kipp!	7
Web site & Newsletter	8
Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE)	8
Membership Application	10
NH Certification Application	11
NH Certification Renewal Application	13



### **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, BS  
**Board of Directors:** Barb Burri, Julie Bellerose Cate and Lois Senecal  
**Membership Database:** Georgia Smith, CVT  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kipper Senecal  
**Webmaster:** Terry Kelley

## Seminars in 2008

After a long, snowy winter, spring finally arrived and with it two successful CEU seminars!

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. John MacGregor DVM, DACVIM presented a discussion *Clinical Manifestations of Congenital Canine Cardiac Diseases* at the Animal Medical Center in Nashua, NH.

This enlightening presentation was well received by the audience members, who came away with a better understanding of canine cardiac diseases (as well as 2 CEU credits).

A big “Thank you” to Dr. MacGregor for being a supporter of the NHVTA and always willing to participate in our seminars.

And ... A special “Thank you” to **Beth Robinson**, Dr. MacGregor’s clinical care coordinator and **Ann Secor**, Executive Assistant to Dr. Bishop for all of their help in organizing this seminar at the AMC. We could not have done this without you!



**Kodiak & Smokey**  
Celebrate Summer puppy style!

On Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, Novartis Animal Health sponsored a free, full day seminar on **Canine Atopy, Arthritis and Basic Dermatologic Cytology**, in Concord, NH.

Dr. Keith Hnilica, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVD, Associate Professor Dermatology, University of Tennessee presented a lively and informative discussion on the **Diagnosis and Treatment of Canine Atopy**. This was followed by a hands-on workshop focusing on basic **Dermatologic Cytology Techniques**.

In the early afternoon, Dr. Vikki Howard, DVM, Senior Professional Services Veterinarian, Novartis Animal Health presented her topic on a **Multi-Modal Approach to the Treatment of Canine Arthritis**. Closing out the seminar was a presentation by Patricia Morrissey, CVT, MEd, CVPM on **Canine Rehabilitation Techniques**.

Novartis provided a wonderful breakfast for all and after the morning presentations were completed, members were treated to a delicious buffet lunch and desserts. More than 50 people attended the seminar (including several veterinarians), representing over 25 animal hospitals in New Hampshire. It was one of our largest seminars to date and each attendee received a certificate worth 6 CEU credits. Thank you to all of our participants & volunteers!

Dr. Jason McClellan, Derry Animal Hospital, Derry, NH  
Dr. Sarah Garland, Countryside Animal Hospital, Hudson, NH  
Tara McCarthy, Novartis & her husband Chris and *Elsa* (Great Dane)  
Amanda Conner, Office Manager Derry Animal Hospital and *Niko* (German Shepherd)  
*Tutti* (Labrador), on loan from Beth Robillard, Practice Manager, Noreast Veterinary Associates

We cannot forget a special **Thank You** to our own **Sarah Gardner**, CVT for spending many, many hours organizing this event with Novartis! Great job Sarah!

### *Seminars in 2008*

Dr. Katherine E. Evans, DVM, CVA has been a long time supporter of the NHVTA and has generously offered a number of CEU seminars for veterinary technicians over the years. Last September 16<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Evans presented *Alternative Treatments for Pain and Joint Problems and Acupuncture* at her Holistic Veterinary Center in Concord, NH.

During this presentation, Dr. Evans demonstrated an acupuncture treatment on a 13 year old Golden Retriever, who has mobility issues. The results were amazing. Our canine volunteer was very relaxed during his treatment and audience members actually saw improvement in the dog's mobility, only minutes after his treatment was completed.

Upon completion of the seminar, the attendee earned a certificate worth 2 CEU credits. Our many thanks to Dr. Evans for another wonderful seminar on alternative treatments for our companion animals!

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Idexx sponsored a seminar on *Interpretation of In Hospital Diagnostic Testing for Technicians: What and So What?* in Portland Maine. The seminar covered: sampling methods, hemogram, blood smears, plasma proteins, clinical problems, serum biochemistry profiles, urinalysis and case examples. The NHVTA granted 2 CEU credits for attending this seminar.

### *Seminars in 2009*

#### *January 2009*

Hills will be presenting a full day seminar in January 2009. Topics to be discussed will include Nutrition Basics and Prescription Foods. This seminar will have CEUs awarded to participants. Date and start time are TBD, so our web site will be updated with the information once details are settled (<http://www.nhvta.org/calendar.htm>).

### *Congratulations*

#### *May 17, 2008*

Congratulations to the Great Bay Community College Class of 2008 Veterinary Technology Graduates! This year was our biggest class ever and we had a wait list for fall 2008 enrollment! The following students have completed all of the requirements for the Degree of Associate in Science in Veterinary Technology.

Jennifer Abreu  
Christina Bouras  
Amanda Burnette  
Kimberly Coleman  
Sarah Coppola  
Jodi Dube  
Jacqueline Ferro  
Kellie Fischer  
Ashley Gallant

Susan Gibellan  
Amanda Glover  
Sara Hebert  
Tasia Hewitt  
Jaimie Jenkins  
Leslie Kemp  
Alyssa Mann  
Lisa Maron  
Kevin McCormack

Trisha Olsen  
Amanda Parker  
Ashley Reagan  
Karen Richard  
Stevie St. Hilaire  
Amanda Soper  
Amanda Stafford  
Laura Szopa

## Vet Proofing Your Puppy

By: Barb Burri, BS, MBA, CVT

Here are some tips to follow yourself or share with those who procure your puppies that will enable your pup to grow up having a good experience at the veterinarian's office.

\* Riding in the car is fun! Take pup for rides, not just to the vet for vaccines, but to the local ice cream shop, to a dog park, to a friend's house. Let the dog learn that rides in the car go to many wonderful places and earn many wonderful treats. Life in a car is not just a trip to the vet.

\* Play with puppy's mouth. Open his mouth put a hand in, look down his throat. In the long run this will make it easier to pill pup, and will help a decade plus of veterinary health professionals assess your dog by being able to open the pup's mouth, check gum color, look at teeth and find wayward sticks.

**Tip!** Reward your pup with yummy treats (bits of cheese, hot dogs, etc.) each time you handle his mouth, check ears or feet, take his temperature, etc. This helps him associate all of the handling as a positive experience. So, look in an ear, give him a treat! Pick up his foot, give him a treat! You can also associate a verbal cue, with each part of the handling, so puppy knows what to expect. Keep the cue simple. Say Ear (check ear and give treat), Eyes, Mouth, Paw, Tail ... followed by a treat!

\* Play with puppy's feet. Touch his toes, squeeze his feet. Give him lots of treats while this takes place. Dogs who don't mind having their feet touched make the difference from the free home nail trim to the costly one day of hospitalization nail trim under sedation scenario. Many of these problems can be prevented by early socialization and play.

\* Get puppy used to restraint. Not everything in this world is going to go puppy's way. Let him learn that gentle restraint and cooperation is the key to fast procedures and easy vet visits.

No one wants to have the dog that takes three technicians to tackle for a heartworm test. No one wants the dog that gets stressed to the max by having to be restrained for X-rays. Get puppy used to being held, being restrained. Make it part of his early training.

**Tip!** Remember to bring your yummy treats to every vet visit and to use your word cues during the exam. If you have trained your pup well, he will understand the verbal cue, know what to expect and get a yummy treat for each handling experience and for remaining calm and cooperative!

\* Get puppy used to being touched all over. If the dog isn't fussy about being restrained and being touched, it can make the difference when a thorough exam is necessary between the dog that has to be brought "out back" and muzzled to take his temperature, and the dog who can take it all in stride.

\* Get puppy used to having his ears touched. Labs especially can be notorious for "bad ears". Life in a wet, swimming environment, combined with floppy ears can lead to a host of ear problems. Start from day one with pup getting used to having his ears looked at and cleaned- it will make life easier for you and your vet when the day comes that he needs drops or ointment in those ears!

\* Get puppy used to a variety of experiences - new surfaces, new noises, new people and new activities. Lots of strange sounding things happen at the vet's office: x-ray machine, dental equipment in the background, jumping up on the scale, meeting lots of new dogs in the waiting room, getting up on the table for exams. The quantity and variety of noises and surfaces your pup has experienced will make his visits to the vet, no matter what tests or diagnostics are needed, much easier.

## Canine DNA Breed Analysis

By: Terry Kelley, CVT, CPDT

Those of us who have a mixed breed dog, often wonder what amazing assortment of canine ancestry produced our unique canine companion.

Well, now you can discover what breeds are in your mixed breed dog's ancestry. **The Mars Wisdom Panel MX Mixed Breed Analysis** (<http://www.wisdompanel.com/>) is a DNA based blood test for dogs. Their literature states the test can identify more than 150 AKC recognized breeds and their web site provides a wealth of details on the testing research. Each test kit includes the blood tube and package for shipping it to the lab (postage is prepaid if mailed in the U.S and is included in the fee). The DNA results are available in 2 - 4 weeks and can be emailed, faxed or sent by postal mail.

### Benefits of Knowing Your Dog's Ancestry

Aside from the general curiosity factor of knowing who is in Fido's family tree, there are some positive reasons for considering this test. With advances in veterinary care, dogs are living longer, which is terrific! However, every breed has its share of genetic health issues and health risks. Knowing Fido's DNA would provide valuable information in regards to his long term health care. Owners can research the breeds in their dog's lineage and discover what health issues are present. Should their dog have a health problem, informed owners can notify their veterinarian of their dog's genetic makeup, which could lead to a more accurate and timely diagnosis. Illnesses and health risks such as diabetes, cardiomyopathy, progressive retinal atrophy, sensitivity to certain medications such as Ivermectin and more, could be monitored, prevented, diagnosed and/or treatment more effectively.

Temperament and personality are another reason DNA testing could be beneficial. If your dog is always trying to round up the kids or cats, or is nipping at their feet, then knowing he has some herding breeds in his ancestry would shed light on his behavior. This information could help the owner decide on appropriate classes and activities for the dog, to help channel his energy and talents in a more suitable manner.

### And the Downside

While the actual laboratory cost for the DNA blood analysis is about \$85, the price you pay to your veterinarian will vary. An average range in NH was about \$127 - \$135 for this test at a vet clinic. So, many owners will not be able to spend a substantial amount of money on a blood test which is not medically necessary for the current health of their pet.

Confidentiality. Once the testing and results are known, who could potentially have access to that information? Does the Mars organization keep a database of all dogs tested and control who has access to that database? We assume if the owner pays for the test, access to the results are strictly for the owner (and veterinarian). But in this day of high tech access to information, we can no longer be guaranteed privacy in any situation.

Consider owners who have "Boxer or Lab mixes" and are trying to rent an apartment, obtain housing insurance or are trying to obtain health insurance or pet insurance. Could insurance companies now mandate owners have DNA testing done to prove their dog is, indeed, what the owner claims it is? Too many insurance companies already have restrictions on owning certain types of dogs as they allege it increases the risk factor for insurance claims.

What about neighbors who do not like dogs ... or you? Could they instigate a dispute, claim your dog is a Pit Bull or Rottie to stir up trouble and demand you have your dog DNA tested?

Would the results of DNA testing lead to more breed specific legislation (BSL) and discrimination against canines and their owners? Could towns now legally require owners to have their mix breed dog tested, in order to insure it does not have ancestry from any breed that has been a target of BSL discrimination, in order to keep their dog?

As harmless as this DNA testing may seem, there are more serious consequences to knowing the answers to your dog's heritage. Each owner will have to weigh the pros and cons of DNA testing their mix breed dog. In some situations, maybe the old adage of "let sleeping dogs lie" is appropriate.

### The Challenge

Now, for all of you "canine detectives", here is a challenge to solve. We recently submitted blood samples for three dogs, whose pictures we have included in this article. Take a good look at each dog and see if you can discover what breeds may be in their heritage.



**Bella**



**Sugar**



**Player**

When you think you have the answers to this challenge, turn to **page 9** for the DNA results!

## Tipps from Kipp!

Greetings!

I hope everyone had a great spring and summer ... I know I did! Now it is fall and I have all those colorful leaves to play in and it's been great. I can hardly wait for the holidays to arrive.

But I have also been working hard, consulting with my friends from the animal kingdom discovering new ideas to help techs working with all sorts of critters. We hope you will enjoy and find our tips helpful! 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](mailto:info@nhvta.org).



🐾 You can use a pick of Scotch tape, to pick a flea off a patient. This keeps the flea from jumping back onto the pet and you can just fold the tape in half and toss away.

🐾 Before reconstituting oral suspensions such as Clavamox or Amoxi drops, tap the plastic bottle on a counter to break up the powder inside. This allows you to mix the solution easier and avoid clumping of the solution.

🐾 When placing an IV catheter in an animal with low blood pressure, flush the catheter with saline first. That way, you can see the blood flow better and insure a good stick.

🐾 If you have a hard time trying to get Barium into a dog for a study, try soaking marshmallows in the Barium overnight. Place the marshmallows in a jar, add the Barium and secure the jar lid. The next day, you will have 'treats' for the dog to eat. The marshmallows are gelatin based and will dissolve in the stomach, leaving behind the Barium.

🐾 When you send clients home with instructions for administering pills to their pets always give them an oral syringe as well. Explain to the clients they should always give a few mls of water, after pilling their pet, so it helps them swallow and prevents the pill from sticking in the pet's throat.

### *Web Site, Newsletter, Contact Info & Yahoo Discussion Group*

Please take a few minutes to check out our **web site**. It contains lots of great information on special events, VTNE, CE seminars, job postings, certification news, links and much more.

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

If you have ideas for the **newsletter** such as continuing education, articles, tech tips, fun facts, brags, congratulations, event information, announcements, or cute pet pictures, to share with your fellow technicians please email items to us at: [info@nhvta.org](mailto:info@nhvta.org)

We can be reached by **mail, email or telephone** at:

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In January 2008, our own Sarah Gardner set up a **Yahoo discussion group** for NHVTA members. It is a great way for people to share ideas, discuss technician topics and keep in touch with friends. To join this group, please visit this web site.

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHVTA/>

### *Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE)*

The January 16, 2009 VTNE application deadline is closed for the AAVSB, except for Washington, Arizona and Tennessee.

If you are planning on taking the **June 19, 2009 VTNE**, online applications can be submitted starting February 1, 2009 and the deadline for applying is April 6, 2009.

The AAVSB now offers a practice version of the VTNE. It has 75 questions and allows candidate to experience the structure of the examination. You must complete the practice exam within 90 minutes. The cost for this online practice exam is \$45.00

Visit this web site: <http://www.aavsb.org/TIVA/TIVAHome.aspx#VTNEPractice>

If you are planning on taking the VTNE, the AAVSB requires you to apply online. The fee is \$130.00 for the application. Your exam results will be reported to you approximately 8 weeks after the examination date.

Calculators are available for use when taking the VTNE. They will be provided (by the test proctors) with the test booklet at the time of the exam.

Please remember that after **December 31, 2010**, VTNE candidates must be graduates of an AVMA or CVMA approved veterinary technology program, or a program approved by the regulatory board of the jurisdiction where the examination is given.

Check out our web site for certification info : <http://www.nhvta.org/certification.htm>.

And the Envelope Please ...

**Bella** is 1 ½ years old and was brought to New England from Puerto Rico when she was a 3 month old puppy. She is about a 20 pound gal with short brown hair, floppy ears and a curly, Spitz tail.

She is truly a one-of-a-kind girl and Bella's DNA results detected distant traces of **Chinese Shar-Pei and Great Pyrenees**. According to the lab analysis there were also faint traces of other breeds, but they were not strong enough to identify.



And finally, we have **Player**. In any study you should have a control sample, where the results are known. Player was our 'control' canine and is a 9 year old purebred Belgian Sheepdog.



**Sugar** is a 5 year old from Tennessee, who was transported up north when she was 4 months old. At the time, her owners were told she was a Collie mix. As an adult, Sugar weighs in around 48 pounds, has short white hair, floppy ears and a curly tail. Her mom is convinced she is part Sighthound, such as Whippet due to her body type and speed.

Sugar's lab analysis reported she has distant traces of **Collie, German Shepherd and Shetland Sheepdog**. But the real surprise was the strongest breed detected in her DNA was **Alaskan Malamute!** Like Bella, Sugar's lab analysis found faint traces of other breeds, but they were not strong enough to identify.

His lab analysis detected only **Belgian Sheepdog** in his DNA. So, while no lab testing is 100% perfect, it appears the Mars Wisdom Panel MX Mixed Breed Analysis is fairly accurate in identifying many major breeds of canines.





**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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