



New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association

Spring 2009

P.O. Box 295
Greenland, NH 03840
(603) 775 - 2316

Web: <http://www.nhvta.org>
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President's Message

Julie Bellerose Cate, LVT, CVT

Greetings!

This past January your Board met to discuss our exciting plans for you in 2009.

We have more continuing education seminars planned for you this year and several will be presented by veterinary technician specialists (VTS). In case you are not familiar with who or what a VTS is, let me explain. A veterinary technician specialist is a technician who furthered their career knowledge by pursuing a specialty in their area of interest.

Currently, a technician can become a VTS in Emergency and Critical Care, Anesthesia, Dentistry, Internal Medicine and Behavior. Each of the academies has rigorous criteria which may take up to a few years to complete. Becoming a VTS can create many opportunities for career advancement and personal growth. If you are thinking or have thought of becoming a VTS, talk with someone who has accomplished this goal.

We look forward to seeing you this year!

Julie

Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
Seminars in 2009	2
Disaster Planning	3-5
Feral Cats ... How Vet Techs Can Help	6-7
Tipps from Kipp!	8
Web site & Newsletter	9
Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE)	9
Membership Application	10
NH Certification Application	11
NH Certification Renewal Application	13



Daisy and Penny (12 week old Yorkie pups)

Board Members 2008 - 2009

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: Terry Kelley
Newsletter Assistant Editor: Dianne Lopez
Webmaster: Terry Kelley

Seminars in 2009

NHVTA seminars are free and worth (1) CEU for each hour of seminar

Telephone Triage

Jennifer Keefe, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia & ECC)

Tuesday March 24, 2009

6:30 p.m. (registration)

Lecture is 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

[Great Bay Community College](#)

277 Portsmouth Avenue, Stratham NH 03885

(603) 772 - 1194

This seminar is worth (2) CEUs and is now full.



Jack

Working with the Aggressive Patient

Dr. Michelle Posage, DVM

Wednesday April 16, 2009

6:30 p.m. (registration)

Lecture is 7:00 to 9:00 p.m

[Animal Medical Center \(AMC\)](#)

168 Main Dunstable Road, Nashua, NH

(603) 821 - 7222

This seminar is worth (2) CEUs and is now full.



Molly

Anesthesia

Jennifer Keefe, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia & ECC)

Thursday May 7, 2009

6:30 p.m. (registration)

Lecture is 7:00 to 9:00 p.m

[Animal Medical Center \(AMC\)](#)

168 Main Dunstable Road, Nashua, NH

(603) 821 - 7222

This seminar is worth (2) CEUs and is now full.

Upcoming Seminars ... Dates to be determined

- Hill's Nutrition will be offering an all day seminar in May.
- Amy Levensaler, CVT, VTS will present a seminar in Portsmouth, NH
- Betsy Hensley CVT will present a seminar on Lab Work in Portsmouth, NH.

Rhode Island Veterinary Technician Association

Saturday and Sunday, May 16 & 17, 2009

2 Day Veterinary Technician Seminar!

Lectures and Wet Labs

<http://www.rivta.org/symposium.html>

Disaster Planning

By: Barb Burri, BS, MBA, CVT, LVT

A lifetime as a Girl Scout has left the motto “Be Prepared” engraved on my brain. I tend to be a belt and suspenders, raincoat in the shower kind of gal, ready for whatever might come my way. The New England Ice Storm of 2008 tested my abilities to prepare for disaster, and I hope some of my findings will be useful to others.

Post 9/11 and post Katrina, I gave much thought to what would be needed should disaster strike here at home. Watching the news on Katrina, it became clear to me that shelters would not be a good alternative for our family with 3 dogs, as the Red Cross does not allow pets in their shelters. With my Girl Scout background in place, I already have many of the supplies needed to ride out a disaster: propane stove, water containers, sleeping bags, lanterns and flashlights. We are readily prepared to “take the show on the road” as the dog van is permanently outfitted with crates, dog first aid kits, medical records, proof of ownership and vaccination, and spaces allotted for water jugs, human luggage, etc. To complete the picture, I live in a suburban neighborhood, with a shared community well. This leads to a situation where there is no water at our home if there is no power. Our ongoing response to any threat to power is filling the 5 gallon potable water jug that typically travels to dog shows, for use in our house.

December 11, 2008 brought some snow and a good quantity of freezing rain. By 10:30 p.m. the lights were flickering, and by midnight the power was out. Hurricane lanterns were taken down from the mantle and filled, flashlights set out and the evening’s preparation included filling the 5 gallon water jug and every Nalgene bottle in the house with water. Dawn broke on the 12th to a beautiful array of icy trees, no power, and the sound of chain saws clearing our road so access could be possible. No work today, just clearing the driveway and enjoying a day off. As the day went along, the news stories on the battery operated radio indicated that this might be more than a momentary outage, half a million homes in New Hampshire were without power, and as many in Northeastern and north central Massachusetts were out.

The house grew cool, but wise use of doorways, pulling down all blinds and curtains to preserve heat kept things at the 50° degree mark. Cooking took place on the propane stove and the sleeping bags were fished out of the attic. By Saturday the “adventure” was growing old. Most of the neighbors had bailed for warmer locales, hotels, motels or friends’ homes. We decided to continue to shelter in place. A visit to friends with power for showers and an opportunity to fill the two backup 30 gallon Nalgene bottles set us up for continued home sheltering. The fireplace is not an ideal source of heat, but added some warmth to the night. Having 3 labradors to pile on the bed at night is a great advantage as well. As the weekend dragged on, it became clear it was time to drain the pipes and secure the house for a prolonged outage. Each day progressed, and having a day with temperatures in the 50’s went a long way to keeping the house intact.

For us the power finally returned on Tuesday night, 117 hours after it had gone out. There were those around here not quite so lucky. The toll on our household was the entire freezer full of meat and other goods, 10 frozen ducks for hunt training, and (1) 45 gallon tank of tropical fish.

This was uncomfortable, cold, dark and miserable sometimes, but our homes were intact, and our lives went on without too much interruption. The part that did have parallels to other disasters was the anger and the sense that there is available help that is not coming here. The news media spoke often of the power crews coming from other states to help, but when you're still in the dark, rolled up in two sleeping bags, listening on a battery radio and reading by candlelight, you wonder exactly where that help is.

So what did we learn? Our presumption that we would have to shelter in place or go away is a good plan for us. Interestingly enough, many of the shelters in New Hampshire did start allowing pets to come in as the duration of the outage progressed. People would sleep in their cars with their pets in the shelter parking lots, so shelter officials decided to allow pets in, into a separate area of the shelter, with the provision that the pets were in carriers. This is a huge breakthrough in the notion of keeping people and pets together in times of disaster. Local animal hospitals and humane societies opened their doors to accept pets that couldn't be sheltered or taken to hotels.

Other decision points after our decision to shelter in place turned out to be good assumptions as well. We can get along with bottled water for drinking, cooking, and flushing. Knowing the location of available hot showers, friends, shelters, school, and the fire station helps brighten human moods! It's important to know how cold the pets can get. It was unfortunate for the tropical fish, but the labradors and the cat were fine even at 42 degrees with sufficient warm bedding.

Here in New England, there is now a rush to obtain generators, surely at a higher price than such a decision made last August would cost. We have only had a few prolonged outages in the 28 years I've lived in New England, and would be hard pressed to make such a purchase to provide electricity of a grand total of 11 days without electricity in 28 years! For some, a generator is the right decision.

There are changes we would make to our own set up, adding a fireplace insert so we could have efficient heat instead of a fireplace that takes more heat from the room than it adds. This is one addition that would add to the comfort of sheltering in place for our situation.

So what decisions do you need to make before disaster approaches? Consider the types of weather and natural disasters your region is prone to, are these events likely to destroy property, flood property, remove power and services, cause evacuations? Breaches of homeland security would be harder events for which to prepare, but basic disaster preparation would go a long way.

- If your home is intact, do you shelter in place or go?
- If sheltering in place are you prepared?
 - Water
 - Food reserves
 - Cooking?
 - Source of heat for humans and pets
 - Source of electricity and fuel for the source (obtaining gas for a gasoline generator consumed hours of effort for those in line at the few open gas stations)
 - Emergency supplies, food, batteries, lanterns and flashlights (by 2 days into the outage there wasn't a D battery in the county to be purchased)
 - What is your bail out point? This can be a huge source of argument during a disaster, know ahead of time the point at which it is time to go. Number of days, a particular temperature?
 - Pet and human first aid supplies in place
- If your home is threatened or there is a forced evacuation in place:
 - Where do you go? Plan this out ahead of time.
 - Friends?
 - Pet friendly hotel?
 - Do you have everything you need to go?
 - Pets' food and bedding
 - Crates and cages
 - Water
 - Necessary pet medications
 - First aid supplies
 - Identification and medical records for the pets
 - Proof of ownership for the pets
 - Human supplies

Prior planning can turn an inconvenient stressful disaster into one of those stories that is retold for generations. Prior planning can turn a horrible disaster into a happy ending. Don't wait for government agencies and public utilities to help out in a situation, be proactive and prepared.

If you aren't the type to think through the lists of what might be needed to be ready for a disaster, the American Veterinary Medical Association has put together some very thorough resources to help plan for disaster.

http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family_brochure.pdf is a brochure with excellent lists of what to have on hand for helping all kinds of animals in a disaster situation.

At <http://www.avma.org/disaster/> there are listings by state of state emergency resources as well as a 400 page comprehensive guide to planning for animals in disasters.

Feral Cats ... How Veterinary Technicians Can Help

By: Alley Cats Allies

Feral cats live all over the United States, in every landscape-urban, rural, college campus, business park, alley, or farm.

Feral cats are members of the domestic cat species and most have never known any other kind of life than the one they have outdoors. Some are stray cats who have lived outside for a prolonged period of time and have become feral. They usually live among humans (or around human habitat), but they are not socialized to people and have no desire to snuggle on the couch. Instead, they live among their own in family groups called “colonies”, and unless spayed or neutered, those colonies grow. Tomcats prowl for mates, females become pregnant, and the cycle of reproduction continues. But what if there were no new kittens?

Trap-Neuter-Return is a Humane Approach for Feral Cats

Alley Cat Allies endorses **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)** for feral cats and affordable neuter services for all cats. Groups and individuals all over the country use this program to help outdoor cats live healthier lives, without the strains of mating or pregnancy. Trap-Neuter-Return is a program in which outdoor cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian (at a veterinary hospital or spay/neuter clinic) to be vaccinated and neutered. Cats who are friendly toward humans and young kittens are put up for adoption. Adult feral cats who have undergone Trap-Neuter-Return are identified by their “eartip” (while under anesthesia the tip of their left ear is clipped). They are then released to their original colony site.

“Trap-Neuter-Return is the only proven program for feral cats,” says Becky Robinson, President of Alley Cat Allies. “Catch and kill is the traditional animal control approach, and it is documented to be unsuccessful, since more cats move in to take advantage of available resources and breed to capacity. This documented phenomenon is called the “vacuum effect”. While the cycle of catch and kill is endless, neutering gets to the root of the issue. With Trap-Neuter-Return cats can live healthier lives in their outdoor homes, but without kittens. It just makes good sense.”

Veterinary Technicians Have a Role to Play

Because the foundation of Trap-Neuter-Return is veterinary care, as a veterinary technician, you can serve a unique and critical role in improving the lives of these cats. For Trap-Neuter-Return to be successful, veterinary technicians and veterinarians must be educated about, and comfortable with, the specific methods and procedures necessary to provide appropriate care for feral cats.

Here’s what you can do:

Learn more about working with feral cats.

Feral cats require a special veterinary approach that takes into account their unique needs and the fact that they are unsocialized to humans. To ensure safety and risk reduction for both professionals and cats, it is key that all staff know how to work quietly around them and about the importance of keeping feral cats in humane traps until anesthetized and then handled when fully sedated. Alley Cat Allies' veterinary guidelines provide feral cat-specific information about anesthesia, testing, surgery, eartipping, and recovery at: www.alleycat.org/Veterinarian.

Learn more about high-volume surgical approaches.

High-volume techniques for feral cat neuter surgeries allow one surgeon to neuter as many cats as possible in a short period of time while maintaining quality. In assembly line fashion, different stations help guide a cat from trap to anesthesia and through surgery (where smaller incisions are made), to other necessary treatment areas. Stations often include: check-in/registration, anesthesia, prep, surgery, vaccination, grooming, and discharge/recovery. Alley Cat Allies' videos (www.alleycat.org/Videos) can help with your training: The *Feral Cat Clinic Procedure* video demonstrates a clinic walk-through; *Spay and Neuter Day Demonstration* explains why high-volume techniques are important, and *Veterinarian Testimonials* features veterinarians describing the effectiveness of the techniques and how they can be applied even in their regular practices. You can also expand your training with information from the Humane Alliance (www.humanealliance.org) and the Feral Cat Project (www.feralcatproject.org).

Lend a hand—provide your services to help feral cats in your community.

Once you are educated about the importance of providing treatment to feral cats, you can start making a difference. Research your local area to learn more about what is available for feral cats—find out if there are local clinics or veterinary practices that may be looking for volunteer help by using Alley Cat Allies' online request form: www.alleycat.org/Response. Talk to the veterinarians at your practice about the importance of providing low-cost neuter services and about the potential of providing special feral cat neuter days and discounts. Become a Feral Friend Network member, and join Alley Cat Allies' database of individuals, groups, and veterinary practices with feral cat expertise so that you can serve as a resource to folks in your community at www.alleycat.org/FeralFriend.

Feral cats are not a new phenomenon—they have lived outdoors among people for 10,000 years—a reality that is not going to change. With your help, we can protect and improve their lives.

Alley Cat Allies

Alley Cat Allies promotes and expands humane methods of care for cats. Through outreach, education, and community building, Alley Cat Allies serves as the expert on Trap-Neuter-Return and supports the efforts of citizens humanely caring for cats. We promote and launch programs that benefit both cats and communities, and we educate about ways cats and people can peacefully co-exist. Backed by our world-recognized best practices for humane care of cats, we publish materials and provide training and advice to the thousands of Americans caring for stray and feral cats. We research, document, and teach about the domestic cat species and its relationship with humans. We work with like-minded organizations, united under the common goals of effecting change and supporting compassion toward cats.

Tipps from Kipp!

Spring is in the air!

Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy ... it's been a long, cold winter and a guy can only snack, nap and watch TV so many hours in a day. Finally ... Spring is COMING! Yippee!

Soon it will be time to run, chase squirrels, sniff, take long walks, snooze in the sun, and do all the things dogs LOVE to do! I love Spring ... and then Summer will be here too!

But, just so you know, I did do my research this winter and came up with some great tech tips to share. Take a peek.

Your friend ... Kipp



🐾 Trying to size an ET tube correctly? Place the end of the ET tube between the patient's nostrils and if it fits (without blocking the nasal openings), it should be the appropriate size for the patient.

🐾 Try using glass paint (it comes in a pen form) to color-code surgical instruments. Apply the glass paint to the instruments, let it dry for 24 hours and then bake the instruments in an oven at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. The paint withstands ultrasonic cleaning, milk and autoclaving!

🐾 Looking for a way to monitor seizure patients? Tape a small bell to one of the patient's legs. When the patients moves, you will hear the bell and be able to respond quickly.

🐾 If you use topical flea and tick products and have children, apply the product at night after the kids are in bed. In the morning, the treatment will be dry and the children will not come into contact with the product.

🐾 For SNAP tests (4DX and FeLV/FIV), here is an easy way to remember how much conjugate and blood to mix. **R - E - D** has 3 letters and matches the 3 drops of blood needed. **B - L - U - E** has 4 letters and matches the 4 drops of conjugate.

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

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By Email: info@nhvta.org By Telephone: (603) 775 - 2316 Web site: www.nhvta.org

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)**Planning on taking the June 19, 2009 VTNE?**

Online applications are open from February 1, 2009 through April 6, 2009 (last day).

Planning on taking the January 15, 2010 VTNE?

Online application will be open from August 1, 2009 through November 2, 2009 (last day).

There has been an increase in the VTNE fee. It is now **\$200.00** and you must apply online. Your exam results will be reported to you approximately 8 weeks after the examination date.

The AAVSB now offers a practice version of the VTNE. It has 75 questions and allows candidates 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>

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.

After **December 31, 2010**, **VTNE candidates in all states** 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. This requirement was already implemented in New Hampshire in January 2007.

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



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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