



New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association

Summer 2009

P.O. Box 295
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Email: info@nhvta.org

President's Message

Julie Bellerose Cate, LVT, CVT

Happy Summer!

As you make your exciting summer vacation plans, your NHVTA board members are planning more opportunities for you to get CE seminars. We are partnering with other organizations so you can obtain your CE credits either with on-line programs or at locations near you.

Which brings me to my next topic: location. We are looking for individuals in the western and northern parts of the state to act as our connection to your local vet tech community so we may provide regular CE seminars in your area. As you know, National Veterinary Technician Week is October 11-17. What a great time to have a CE!

We would love to hear from you and about ideas you have. You can reach us by sending e-mail to info@nhvta.org or through the web site at www.nhvta.org.

Best

Julie

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Sable & Oliver

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: Open
Newsletter Editor: Terry Kelley
Webmaster: Terry Kelley

Seminars in 2009

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

In the first 6 months of 2009, the NHVTA presented (4) highly successful continuing education seminars.

Telephone Triage was on March 24, 2009 by **Jennifer Keefe, CVT, VTS** at Great Bay Community College in Stratham NH.

In April, **Dr. Michelle Posage DVM** presented **Working with the Aggressive Patient**, at the Animal Medical Center in Nashua, NH.

On May 7, 2009, **Jennifer Keefe, CVT, VTS** presented her second seminar on **Anesthesia** at the Animal Medical Center in Nashua, NH

Our most recent seminar was June 7, 2009, at Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital in Portsmouth NH. **Amy Levensaler, CVT, VTS** discussed **Anesthesia for Exotics**

Upcoming Seminar ...

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

“Basic Laboratory Skills for the Veterinary Technician” by **Betsy Hensley CVT**

Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital

215 Commerce Way, Suite 100, Portsmouth, NH (603) 433 - 0056

This seminar will review of all the basic lab skills from PCV's and fecals to retic counts and differentials, and much more. Join us at Port City for this information packed evening. This seminar is approved for (2) CE credits by the NHVTA and is limited to 35 participants and will be held at Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital in Portsmouth. To reserve a seat, please contact the NHVTA at: info@nhvta.org.

The New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association (NHVMA) will be hosting a monthly **NH Forum for Veterinary Practice** the first Wednesday of each month starting on **July 1, 2009**. Veterinary Technicians are welcome to attend! The format will be an informal discussion focusing on current veterinary topics, article reviews, and sharing ideas within the veterinary community.

The first topic will be “Chronic Pain Management” on Wednesday July 1st.
Location: Capital Area Veterinary Emergency Service (CAVES) - Concord, NH
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Jennifer Edwards DVM



From left to right

Treasurer **Lois Senecal, MS, LVT, CVT**
President **Julie Bellerose Cate, LVT, CVT**
Jennifer Keefe, CVT, VTS (Anest., ECC)
Board Member **Barb Burri BS, MBA, CVT**

And ... "Hawke" **Burri's Lofty LadyHawke, RN, TDIAOV, CSL-1, CSL3-F,CGC, CC**

You Are Not “Just A Tech”!

By: Jennifer Keefe, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia, Emergency Critical Care)

Technicians have always played an integral part on the veterinary team, yet they often underestimate both themselves and their profession. Our wonderful profession has progressed a great deal since the formation of the first veterinary technician specialist academy, the **Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT)**, in 1996. There are so many options and opportunities in the veterinary field that were unheard of 10 years ago. The technician's role can be developed into one of academics and/or being a reliable source of information and training in the veterinary field.

Since AVECCT's inception in 1996, four more academies have been recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the North American Veterinary Technician Association (NAVTA). They are the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA), the Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians (AIMVT), the Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT), and most recently, the Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (AVBT). There are more to come.

These academies have given technicians a chance to specialize and excel in their particular field. Once a technician has been working as a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT), or whatever designation their particular state or country assigns (LVT, AHT, etc), for three years in their chosen field, they can start the application process to become a VTS. **VTS stands for Veterinary Technician Specialist**. The application process consists of a year of case logs and reports with specific requirements for skills, continuing education, and recommendations.

Here is the general application timeline:

1. The application is usually due by the end of the year.
2. Notifications of acceptance or denial are sent out around March. Applicants who are accepted sit for the board exam in September. Time to study!
3. Notification of exam passing (or not) is sent six to eight weeks later.

I went through this two years in a row. My first was emergency and critical care (ECC) in 2006, and the second was for anesthesia in 2007. The process is not easy. It is stressful and challenging, but passing carries such a sense of accomplishment. The designation of being a specialist shows one's dedication to their field because you have to want to be a specialist. It is not something that can be done on a whim. It is important to remember that the stringent requirements are what made the academies respected early on, and only those standards will maintain that appreciation.

The importance of the technician's role in the academic world was not well understood before the academies. Now, VTSs are recognized to lecture for continuing education credit, and they have to lecture and/or publish to maintain their certification.

In 2008, I lectured at the **International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium (IVECCS)** with some of the top speakers in the profession. Blackwell Publishing approached the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA) to publish an anesthesia textbook that is written for technicians by technicians. I was fortunate to contribute a chapter to that text. The book is titled **Anesthesia for Veterinary Technicians**, and the date for publication has not been established.

Teaching has always been something I am passionate about and enjoy doing, especially when the technicians are eager to learn and care deeply about their patients. I have had the pleasure of visiting animal hospitals to speak about anesthesia and perform hands-on training with the staff. I have also given continuing education lectures for the NHVTA, and have been part of Angell Memorial's lecture series.

That is not to say I do not pursue more education because this profession is constantly evolving, and there is something to learn every day. The academies have given technicians a goal to aspire to that requires continued learning and challenging themselves. This career is what you make of it, and do not underestimate it. There are currently two VTSs in New Hampshire, myself and **Amy Levansaler, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia)**. We are both on the newly formed New Hampshire Forum for Veterinary Practice, and I hope to see technicians become more prominent in the field in this state.

This year, I have partnered up with a good friend and great veterinarian, Dr. Christina Barnett, to open **Rockingham Emergency Veterinary Hospital (REVH)** this August. We are located at 3 Cobbetts Pond Road in Windham, New Hampshire. We are 50/50 partners and this is our practice. There are very few technicians that have this kind of opportunity, and I am so excited to do this. Though a technician cannot be the sole owner of a practice in New Hampshire, they can be part-owner.

In 1996, I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a minor in Economics. After working in that field for a year, I knew it was not for me. I wanted to feel like I did something good for someone (human or animal) at the end of the day. I dropped everything I was doing and jumped into becoming a veterinary technician. Though I could not have imagined where this profession would take me, it certainly was the best decision I ever made. I encourage you to visit the websites for the academies if you seek more information:

Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT):

<http://www.avecct.org>

Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA): <http://www.avta-vts.org>

Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians (AIMVT): <http://www.aimvt.org>

Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT): <http://www.avdt.us>

Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (SVBT): <http://www.svbt.org>

There is also a good article titled "Taking It to the Next Level" by Sara Sharp, CVT, VTS (Dentistry) about the academies. The link is: <http://www.cacvt.com/specialties>

Please check out my hospital at <http://www.revnh-nh.com> and feel free to contact me at REVH2008@hotmail.com if you have any direct questions.

Tipps from Kipp!

Summer is here!

June was very rainy, but the warmer weather is coming!
A smart guy likes me just knows it and can't wait to play.

But if the weather outside is not to your liking, check out these fun web sites I found.

Free Kibble and Free Kibble Kat

<http://www.freekibble.com/>

<http://www.freekibblekat.com/>



These are fun trivia sites and have a new pet question every day. If you answer the daily Bow Wow and Meow Trivia questions (does not matter if you get the answer correct or not), you will help homeless animals and 10 pieces of kibble will be donated to shelters to feed hungry dogs and cats.

Everyone needs a daily chuckle, so check out these funny pictures of dogs, cats and more at "I Can Has Cheezburger".

<http://icanhascheezburger.com/>

<http://ihasahotdog.com/>

Enjoy! Your friend ... Kipp

🐾 When sending 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.

🐾 To make an ice pack, fill a resealable plastic bag with 50% rubbing alcohol and 50% water and place in the freezer. The alcohol prevents the water from freezing and the pack stays pliable.

🐾 To prevent blood tubes from breaking or cracking, while being shipped to the lab, place the tube inside an empty 1 ml or 3 ml syringe case. Just tape over the casing opening to prevent the blood tube from falling out.

🐾 Before removing porcupine quills from an animal, place a coffee filter in a bowl and add some water. When the quills stick to the hemostats, dip them in the water and the quill will fall off. When finished, just gather up the edges of the filter and lift from the bowl. The quills remain in the filter and are easy to dispose of.

Tips first appeared in the July and August 2007 and October 2007 Veterinary Technician magazine.

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

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

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 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.

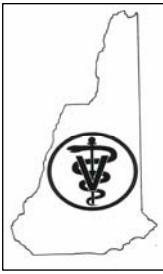
The AAVSB now offers a practice version of the VTNE. It has 75 questions and allows candidates to experience the structure of the examination. You must complete the practice exam within 90 minutes. The cost for this online practice exam is \$45.00

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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