



# New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association

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## President's Message

*Julie Bellerose Cate, LVT, CVT*

### **Happy Winter!**

We have a lot of exciting plans this year with regards to continuing education and National Veterinary Technician Week. We encourage you to visit our web site to view the upcoming CE meetings that will help you obtain the 12 credits you need to renew your certification at the end of the year. Here are some examples of meetings we plan to participate in:

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Happy Tails of Portland, ME, will be hosting Dr. Nick Dodman DVM, a well-known and respected veterinary behaviorist from Tufts. His presentation will focus on "Canine Aggression". On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. John MacGregor DVM, a veterinary cardiologist from the Animal Medical Center (Nashua) will discuss "Clinical Manifestations of Congenital Cardiac Diseases".

Dr. Christine E. Schlupf DVM from The Cat Hospital (Nashua) addresses "Feline Heartworm Disease and Heartworm Associated Respiratory Disease" (TBD). And last October, Dr. Katherine Evans' seminar on "Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology" was so popular she has agreed to do another seminar this fall. Seating is limited, so sign up early!

In January we started a Yahoo discussion group as another way for us to keep in touch with you. Please refer to page 8 for more information.

The third week in October is "National Veterinary Technician Week". Our goal is to meet as many of you as we can and bring you lots of treats. We'll have more information on this event this summer. So, please join us at these events, as we look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

*Julie*

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**Tulip**

### **Board Members 2007 - 2008**

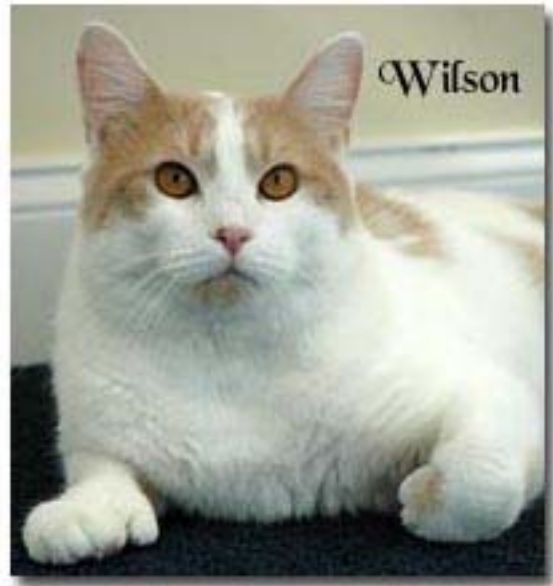
**Chair:** Julie Bellerose Cate, LVT, CVT  
**Treasurer:** Lois Senecal, MS, LVT, CVT  
**Secretary:** Sarah Gardner, CVT  
**Members at Large:** Barb Burri, BS, MBA, CVT and Terry Kelley, CVT, CPDT, BS  
**Board of Directors:** Barb Burri, Julie Bellerose Cate and Lois Senecal  
**Membership Database:**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

## Seminars in 2007 and 2008

On **September 30, 2007** we held our first behavioral seminar **“Oh No! Not the Vet!”** which addressed the topic of how to improve the clinical experience for pets and reduce their stress and anxiety. The seminar was held at the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire (ARL) in Bedford, NH, who co-sponsored the event.

Presenters included *Dee Ganley, CPDT, CABC, CDDBC*, noted NH dog trainer and behaviorist addressing canine issues and *Dr. Christine E. Schlupf, DVM* focusing on feline issues.

The event was a huge success with over 40 participants in attendance (including several veterinarians and shelter/rescue members). We raised over \$400 in donations for the homeless animals residing at the ARL! And “Wilson” one of the shelter cats and volunteers for the feline demonstration was adopted by Dr. Schlupf!



On **October 23, 2007**, Dr. Katherine Evans, DVM, CVA presented **“Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology”**. Dr. Evans is a long time supporter of the NHVTA and has presented various holistic seminars for students and veterinary technicians as well. Her seminar was very popular and we had a waiting list of people! So, it will be offered again in the fall of 2008!

**We are pleased to announce several exciting seminars for 2008!**  
Dates are still pending, so stay tuned for more information!

### ***Clinical Manifestations of Congenital Cardiac Diseases***

**Dr. John MacGregor, DVM, DACVIM**

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Registration starts at 6:30 p.m.

Seminar is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Animal Medical Center

168 Main Dunstable Road, Nashua, NH

<http://www.amcne.com/index.htm>

### ***Feline Heartworm Disease & Heartworm Associated Respiratory Disease (TBD)***

**Dr. Christine E. Schlupf, DVM**

The Cat Hospital

381 Main Street, Nashua, NH

### ***Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology***

Dr. Katherine E. Evans, DVM, CVA

Holistic Veterinary Center

34 West Street, Concord, NH

Fall 2008 - Registration starts at 6:30 p.m.

Seminar is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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

## *How to Find a Responsible Puppy Breeder*

As technicians, we are often asked by clients, how to find a quality puppy. Here are some suggestions you can use to help educate clients about finding the right puppy for their family and life style. This information can be used for any puppy, not just for Labradors.

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

Before you fall in love with the first adorable Labrador Retriever face you see, take the time in an initial phone call to ask the following questions. You may not find a breeder who fits 100% of these criteria but don't settle for anything less than one or two negative responses. At the end of the list you will find questions to ask yourself. You should be able to answer all of them affirmatively before you begin your search.

Remember you are adding a new member to your family for the next 10 - 15 years. **NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BARGAIN HUNT!** Be prepared to spend at least \$800.00 - \$1000.00 or more for a well bred puppy.

You may have known someone who has or you may yourself have purchased a "backyard" bred dog or a pet store or puppy mill dog and had great success. However, the high number of serious problems seen in the breed today makes this event unlikely to reoccur. Chief among these issues are temperament problems ranging from aggression to shyness to hyperactivity.

Hip dysplasia, eye problems causing blindness, heart defects that can severely shorten life span and auto immune disorders and cancer are also becoming prevalent.

Responsible breeders will do all they can to avoid these problems by researching pedigrees and screening parents for certain inherited problems before breeding.



**Caution!** Pennsylvania is now the leading puppy mill state due to the high number of backyard breeders and puppy farmers who have found it more profitable to raise puppies than poultry.

Keep this checklist by the phone when you make your calls and Good Luck!

### Questions to Ask the Breeder

\_\_\_ 1. Where did you find out about this breeder? Responsible breeders usually have a waiting list of puppy buyers. They usually don't find it necessary to advertise in newspapers or with a sign out in the front yard.

\_\_\_ 2. Do both parents (the sire and dam) have a hip clearance from the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals), Penn Hip or Wind-Morgan? Ask to see the certificates. "My vet okayed the x-rays" is not a valid clearance. Prelims can be done before two years, but some dogs can fail to get final OFA clearance at two, even if they passed before.

\_\_\_ 3. Do both parents have eye clearances from a Veterinary Ophthalmologist or CERF certificate (Canine Eye Registry Foundation)? This must be re-done every year. Ask to see the certificates.

\_\_\_ 4. Does either parent have other clearances, Elbow, Heart, Thyroid? These are some of the other problems Labradors can have and some breeders are checking for.

\_\_\_ 5. Are both parents at least 2 years old? Final hip clearances cannot be obtained before that age. Prelims can be done before two years, but some dogs can fail to get OFA clearance at two years, even if they passed before.

\_\_\_ 6. How often has the dam been bred? If it is every heat cycle, THIS IS TOO OFTEN, and may indicate that profit is the primary motive for breeding.

\_\_\_ 7. Do all four grandparents, siblings of the parents and any other puppies that they may have produced have these clearances? A responsible breeder will keep track of these statistics and honestly discuss any problems that have occurred in the lines and what has been done to prevent them from occurring.

\_\_\_ 8. Is the breeder willing to provide you with references and telephone numbers of other people who have purchased puppies from them?

\_\_\_ 9. Will the puppy have a limited registration with a mandatory spay/neuter contract? A breeder who cares enough about the breed to insist on these is likely to be a responsible breeder.

\_\_\_ 10. On what basis was the sire chosen? If the answer is "because he lives right down the street" or "because he is really sweet", it may be that sufficient thought was **not** put into the breeding.

\_\_\_ 11. WILL THE BREEDER TAKE THE DOG BACK AT ANY TIME (FOR ANY REASON) IF YOU CAN NOT KEEP IT? This is the hallmark of responsible breeding (and the quickest way to make rescue obsolete).

\_\_\_ 12. Is there a written guarantee against congenital health or temperament problems that does not require you to return your puppy or euthanize it?

\_\_\_ 13. Will the breeder be available to answer any questions you might have for the life of the dog? Is this someone you would feel comfortable asking any type of question?

\_\_\_ 14. Is the breeder knowledgeable about the breed? Is he or she involved in competition with their dogs (field, obedience, or conformation)?

\_\_\_ 15. Are there a majority of titled dogs (the initials: CH, OTCH, CD, JH, WC... before or after the dogs names) in the first two generations? The term Champion lines means nothing if those titles are back three or more generations or there is only one or two in the whole pedigree.

\_\_\_ 16. Are the puppy's sire and dam available for you to meet? If the sire is not available, can you call his owners or people who have his puppies and ask about temperament or health problems? You should also be provided with pictures or videos.

\_\_\_ 17. Have the puppies been raised in the home - not in a kennel, barn or the backyard?

\_\_\_ 18. Is the breeder knowledgeable about raising puppies, critical neonatal periods and proper socialization techniques? Puppies that are raised without high exposure to gentle handling, human contact and a wide variety of noises and experiences or are removed from their dam or litter mates before at least 7 weeks, may exhibit a wide variety of behavioral problems!

\_\_\_ 19. Does the breeder provide you with a 3 - 5 generation pedigree, a contract to sign, copies of all clearances and guarantee, health records and materials to help you with feeding, training and housebreaking?

\_\_\_ 20. Have the puppies' temperaments been evaluated and can the breeder guide you to the puppy that will best suite your lifestyle? A very shy puppy will not do well in a noisy household with small children, just as a very dominant puppy won't flourish in a sedate, senior citizen household. A caring breeder will know the puppies and be able to show you how to test them so that good matches can be made.

\_\_\_ 21. Do the puppies seem healthy, with no discharge from eyes or nose, no loose stools, no foul smelling ears? Are their coats soft, full and clean? Do they have plenty of energy when awake yet calm down easily when gently stroked?

\_\_\_ 22. Do the puppies have their first shots and have they been wormed and vet checked by the time they go to your home?

\_\_\_ 23. Does the breeder have only 1 or at most 2 breeds of dogs and only 1 or 2 litters at a time? If there are many breeds of dogs there, the chances are the breeder cannot devote the time it takes to become really knowledgeable about the breed and if there is more than one litter at a time it is very difficult to give the puppies the attention they need and may indicate that the primary purpose for breeding is profit, rather than a sincere desire to improve the breed.

\_\_\_ 24. Does the breeder belong to a Labrador Retriever Club and/or local All Breed Club?

\_\_\_ 25. Do you feel comfortable with this person? After all you are entering into a decade long relationship. Are you feeling intimidated or pressured? If so, keep looking!

### Questions to Ask Yourself ... Are You Prepared to?

\*\* Take full responsibility for this dog and all of its needs for the next 10 - 15 years? This is NOT a task that can be left to children!

\*\* Invest the considerable time, money and patience it takes to train the dog to be a good companion? (This does not happen by itself!)

\*\* Always keep the dog safe; no running loose, riding in the back of an open pick-up truck or being chained outside?

\*\* Make sure the dog gets enough attention and exercise? (Labrador puppies need several hours of both, every day!) Live with shedding, retrieving, drooling, and high activity for the next 10 - 15 years.

\*\* Spend the money it takes to provide proper veterinary care including but not limited to: vaccines, heartworm testing and preventive, spaying or neutering and annual check ups?

\*\* Become educated about the proper care of the breed, correct training methods and how to groom? There are many good books available, invest the time to read a few.)

\*\* Keep the breeder informed and up to date on the dog's accomplishments and problems. Take your questions to the breeder or other appropriate professionals before they become problems that are out of hand.

\*\* Have the patience to accept (and enjoy) the trials of Labrador puppyhood, which can last for three years, and each stage afterward.

\*\* Continue to accept responsibility for the dog despite inevitable life changes such as new babies, kids going off to school, moving or returning to work.

\*\* Resist impulse buying, and instead have the patience to make a responsible choice.

If you answered YES to ALL of the above, you are ready to start contacting breeders. Start early because most reputable breeders have a waiting list ranging from a few months to a couple of years. Remember, the right puppy or adult dog IS worth waiting for!

A word about rescue dogs. Rescue dogs may or may not be responsibly bred. However, since they are adults, we are able to evaluate them for any signs of a problem before you fall in love, something that can't be done with a puppy. We consider this only one of the many advantages to adopting an older dog!



## *What's New at New Hampshire Community Technical College? LOTS!*

*By: Lois Senecal, MS, LVT, CVT*

First of all, the college has changed its name! Though the college is still a part of the New Hampshire Community College System, it is now **Great Bay Community College**.

On January 30, 2008 the Governor and Executive Council unanimously approved changing the name of our college to **Great Bay Community College**. This new name signifies that we have truly become a comprehensive community college offering educational opportunities over a wide range of technical, career, and professional programs, as well as a Liberal Arts and Transfer program.

With this name change, we begin a transition where you will see our former name, NHCTC- **Stratham & Portsmouth**, less and less and our new name, **Great Bay Community College**, more and more. This transition will be complete by July 1, 2008 when all of our College publications and signage will reflect our new name.

We also have a new president. **Will Arvelo** became the college president in July of 2007. He has fresh ideas, lots of great enthusiasm, and a very open and engaging personality.

Presently the college has two campuses, one in Stratham and one in Portsmouth at the Pease Tradeport. By the summer of 2009, the entire college will be located at the Portsmouth site. Renovations are currently under way to expand the NHCTC Emerging Technologies building so the whole college can be housed at one location.

The Vet Tech program continues to grow! Currently, there are 31 first year students and we expect to graduate 28 second year students in May. That will be the largest graduating class so far. The program was provisionally accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1998 and then fully accredited in 2003. This September, the AVMA will be back for another visit to renew our accreditation.



***Wow! The techs from this program are great! We love them!  
Testimony from Max & Felix***

With the help of area veterinary hospitals and medical companies, our program continues to improve. We now have an X-ray machine donated by Mike Norris, VMD and a new Vet Test blood analyzer and computer station donated by Idexx. Both donations were incredibly generous and greatly appreciated.

So, things are changing and the future for the college and our program looks great!

Lois Senecal,  
Professor, Great Bay Community College

***Extra, Extra! Read All About It!***

***NAHERC Seeking Volunteers***

The ***National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps*** (NAHERC) is a national reserve emergency organization that consists of Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO), Animal Health Technicians (AHT) and Veterinary Technicians who compose an elite cadre for animal emergency management and response. They respond to exotic disease outbreaks and other disasters which effect livestock, poultry, companion animals, and wildlife. More volunteers are urgently needed. For more information, visit their web site at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ep/naherc/>

***Web Site & Newsletter***

Please take a few minutes to check out our new web site. 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/>

If you have ideas for the newsletter (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)

***Join the Yahoo Discussion Group***

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/>

***New Postal Address & Contact Info***

Please note our postal address changed in 2007. 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](mailto:info@nhvta.org)

By Telephone: (603) 775 - 2316

Web site: [www.nhvta.org](http://www.nhvta.org)

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

If you are planning on taking the VTNE on **June 20, 2008**, the deadline for registering is **April 7, 2008**. Check out our web site: <http://www.nhvta.org/certification.htm>. The fee for the VTNE will be \$130 for the online application. Calculators (provided by the test proctors) will be allowed beginning with the June 2008 Administration.

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 program. For more information visit the Georgia Veterinary Technician Association at: <http://www.gvtaa.org/>

### *Tipps from Kipp!*

Greetings!

It's me, *Kipper* and I introduced myself in our Fall 2007 newsletter. I hope everyone had a great holiday season, because I know I did. Now that it is 2008, I'm very excited to be writing my second 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. 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](mailto:info@nhvta.org).



🐾 Want to organize your surgical packs more efficiently? Color coordinate the pack, by wrapping your regular surgical packs in green and your orthopedic packs in blue.

🐾 If you want to build a better team, try letting staff members shadow other employees in the hospital, so everyone has an idea of what each position in the hospital is responsible for.

🐾 For fractious animals use a rolled up /folded towel and place it around its neck. You can hold the towel securely behind the animal's head and keep its body point away from you, in order to place a muzzle. Works well for animals that have short necks and little to no scruff.

Tips first appeared in the September and October 2005 Veterinary Technician magazine.

### *Donations Needed*

*The NH Community Technical College Veterinary Technician* program is looking for equipment donations to assist the students with their hands-on skills. Since our last newsletter, an X-ray machine has been donated to the program by Dr. Mike Norris from Milton Veterinary Hospital AND ... John Lesser, Area Manager for Idexx donated a new VetTest Chemistry Analyzer and Lab Station to the program!

If your clinic has used, outdated or expired medical equipment please consider donating these items to the vet tech program. We would greatly appreciate laboratory equipment, blood tubes, IV pumps, LRS bags, SNAP tests (4DX, Combo, Giardia) to help the students practice their new skills.

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





**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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