



NHVTA NEWS

New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association -- PO Box 100 --Newfields NH 03856
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President's Message

We're coming to the end of another year and the association has accomplished so much. In January, **IDEXX** sponsored Dr Dennis DeNicola who gave an awesome lecture and slide presentation on Diagnostic Cytology at the Portsmouth Sheraton. In May, **AAHA MarketLink** and **ProLabs** held an informative seminar on Managing Your Inventory Investment at the Wayfarer Inn in Manchester. On June 2, **Pfizer Anima Health** sponsored Dr. Cyndy North who lectured on Immunity, Serology, and Vaccines-a hot topic this year! The lecture was held in Nashua at the Crowne Plaza. September brought **Merial** to our list of sponsors. Dr Andrew Eschner gave an update on Lyme Disease Myths and Facts held at the Ashworth By The Sea in Hampton. December brings us to our last lecture this year. **Pfizer** will again sponsor another lecture this time on Dermatology tentatively set for December 13, 2004.

The NHVTA hosted the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) this past June. This is the first time the exam has been administered in New Hampshire! What an accomplishment! Lois Senecal, MS, LVT, CVT organized the entire project. Presently, Lois teaches at the New Hampshire Community Technical College's Veterinary Technology program. The exam was administered at the college where Lois coordinated all the efforts leading toward its completion. Great job Lois! Thirty-one people sat for the exam this year and 25 passed. We will continue to host the exam on the third Friday in June and January. Keep visiting our website for updates on future exams.

Certification is now being offered in New Hampshire! Another first for our state! I urge everyone to pursue Certification in New Hampshire so we can impress

upon the public and the veterinarians the importance of veterinary technicians and the role they play in the improvement of patient care and customer service.

The NHVTA website was developed this year. Barb Burri, BS, MBA, CVT was and still is the *master behind the plan!* After graduating from the New Hampshire Community College's Veterinary Technology Program this past June, she sat for the VTNE, passed and obtained Certification. She is presently employed at North Hampton Animal Hospital and is a member of the NHVTA Board of Directors where she is the Chair for both the Newsletter and Public Relations Committee. Barb continues to maintain our website! She does a fantastic job. Thanks Barb!

I recently sent out a survey to all of the veterinary hospitals in New Hampshire as well as the members of the NHVTA. The results are still coming in and will be posted on the website at the beginning of the year.

I look forward to the challenges of the upcoming year. The NHVTA Board of Directors will be developing new strategies to move the NHVTA forward!

Kim Belliveau, BS, CVT
President, NHVTA

VTNE – January 2005

The NHVTA will be offering the VTNE on January 21, 2005 – in a location in or about Concord NH. If you are interested in sitting for the exam in January, applications are available online at <http://www.nhvta.org>, and a copy is also enclosed in this newsletter

Career Directions in Veterinary Technology

Chicago Pet Relief, Inc. (C.P.R) was established by a dedicated veterinary technician/nurse who saw an opportunity to improve the quality of patient care and staff morale throughout veterinary clinics and hospitals across the nation. Before starting C.P.R., Heather Darbo worked in many veterinary clinics and hospitals in different states. Her goal was to diversify her continued education in the field while earning a living. As she traveled from one clinic to the next, Heather noticed the growing demand for qualified veterinary technicians and nurses with the passion and dedication she possessed. After some time spent working with in various clinics in more than one state, Heather decided to create an opportunity for other veterinary technicians to expand their education, professionalism as well as experience the reward of helping improve the level of patient care in veterinary hospitals. She did this by starting Chicago Pet Relief, Inc., a company whose mission is to help veterinary hospital and clinic teams provide the very best care possible to their patients, while contributing to the improvement of veterinary care everywhere. C.P.R. accomplishes this by providing the kind of quality relief staffing that allows them to run their hospitals in a less stressful atmosphere during their times of short staffing. C. P. R. Relief Nurse/ Technicians have the opportunity to work side by side with a diverse range of veterinary doctors and technicians. This not only gives veterinary technicians the chance to sharpen their technical skills, but also to share their knowledge, expertise and passion for animals with others.

In addition to diversifying your continued education in the Veterinary field, providing relief staffing for hospitals in their time of need creates a new appreciation for the important role veterinary technicians' play in veterinary medicine. Through a partnership with relief agencies, Veterinary doctors and hospital managers are beginning to recognize the need to treat credentialed veterinary technicians/nurses with the respect and admiration such dedicated professionals deserve. Moreover, they start to realize the importance of sharing new medical

knowledge with the veterinary technicians/nurses responsible for providing quality care to their patients.

If you have a strong passion for your career as a veterinary technician/ nurse, then Chicago Pet Relief, Inc. has an opportunity for you. C.P.R. can supply you with new and challenging adventures. Working on a temporary basis, you can have the luxury of making your own schedule. Day, night, weekend and other shifts are available. Depending on your skill level and interest you will have the opportunity to explore many aspects of Veterinary Medicine. C.P.R. can keep you growing as a Veterinary Technician/Nurse. Having provided relief staffing successfully for over 2 year in various clinics in the Midwest, our nursing staff has worked and trained with several known veterinary specialists. They will be happy to pass their knowledge and enthusiasm onto you.

If interested, please tell us all about you and your love for Veterinary Medicine by emailing (ChicagoPetRelief@aol.com) or fax (1-866-PET-RELIEF) us your resume.

Heather Darbo, LVT, VTS (ECC)
President/Training and Recruiting Coordinator
Chicago Pet Relief, Inc.

Survey

Did you receive the recent NHVTA Vet Tech survey mailed out to hospitals?

If not, please fill out the one enclosed with this newsletter and mail or fax back to the association. If online is more your style, see the survey on our website at <http://www.nhvta.org/survey.htm> and cut and paste it into an email to respond. THANKS!

Tales of the VTNE

I have been asked to share my experience with taking the VTNE Veterinary Technician National Exam. Thoughts of the exam do not bring warm fuzzy memories to mind. About me: I have been a full time veterinary technician for over 15 years. I would like to think that all of the hospitals I have had the pleasure of working for are very progressive veterinary hospitals. I have also worked as an emergency veterinary technician for as long as day practice, making my weekly hours close to 60. I have attended UNH for pre-veterinary medicine but did not graduate with a degree.

What happens next.....

I decide it is high time that I promote my occupation as a technician and decide to sit for the national exam. Certainly some one with 15 plus years of experience such as mine would not need to study for the exam, right? Bearing in mind that I do not have any formal veterinary technician schooling; I found the exam to be exceedingly challenging. I would say that in this year's national exam, 15% of the questions were on items that I have occasion to use in every day practice while the remaining items were far more textbook oriented. I did take the national exam with several of the Vet Tech students from the New Hampshire Community Technical College who certainly did not appear to have the same distressed strained look on their face that was on mine.

The short story is that an envelope containing the test results arrived a few weeks later. I was sure that I had failed.

The moral of the story is; if you would like to pass the exam I would seriously consider schooling or at the very least a committed, rigorous program of study. There are several good review texts available that probably would have worked best if I had opened them.

Wendy Munroe CVT

My experience with the VTNE was from a student perspective. Being a nerd, I took time in our final semester to run a Jeopardy game (all apologies to Alex Trebec) on Tuesdays at the lunch hour at school to prepare for the exam. I mapped out the 13 weeks of the semester into the core competencies that would be covered in the exam and we shared out the task of reviewing those areas. We had question sheets, and then played Jeopardy on the topic. If time permitted before lab, we'd take turns challenging each other with questions from the review texts.

I did some studying on my own, and participated in two online review sessions. One with <http://www.vetmedteam.com> and the other with <http://www.vspn.org>. The VetMedTeam class was self paced with many review sheets, and the opportunity to access resources via email. The VSPN course had weekly review questions and word lists, and a weekly chat session that was very valuable, and ended with a practice exam that was rapid fire online questions. Both are excellent reviews. I found the online chat session to be valuable for me mostly because I work well in that format and having to be able to answer things in the discussion session made me dig into the books in the time between sessions.

When June 18, 2004 dawned, I was probably over-prepared but I was sure I could squeak through. I kept track of questions I was sure of, and ones I was doubtful about so that I could track my own progress – and left the room feeling sure that I had at least a 65 on the exam, and comfortable that my guesses would bring me to passing. My only trepidation was when one of my co-workers finished up and left about 45 minutes into the test – I began to worry that I was missing something somewhere. I was pleasantly surprised with a good score when the exam results arrived! My advice is – study – review – get buddies to study with so you are more rigorous in your efforts, and you'll do fine.

Barb Burri, CVT

Certification

The following individuals recently obtained certification from the NHVTA – These techs are our very first NH Certified Veterinary Technicians, congratulations to all!!!! For more information on Certification see the website at:

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

Susan Adams
Dianne Albert
Lisa M. Ansell
Kimberley J. Belliveau
Patricia J. Bradley
Kathy Breault
Amy Breton
Barbara Anne Burri
Julie Bellerose Cate
Sarah Ann Harnden
Danyelle M. Hart
Jennifer MacLaughlin

Julie A. Marquis
Jamie Mason
Erica L. Maxam
Scott A. Merrill
Jennifer L. Morgan
Wendy Munroe
Sherry A. Osborne
Melissa L. Rhoads
Pamela Jo Rogan
Lois J. Senecal
Kristin Touma
Sonette van der Merwe
Lynda L. Vermillion
Elizabeth Whitcomb

Does your hospital need staff? Do you have an event to promote? NHVTA News takes advertisements
Do you have a Vet Tech story to share with our members?
Let this be YOUR newsletter, email newsletter@nhvta.org

New Hampshire Veterinary
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03856
Permit #100

Upcoming CE: Dec 13,2004
Dermatology – sponsored by Pfizer
Save the date!!!! Caselton Windham