



NHVTA NEWS

New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association -- PO Box 100 --Newfields NH 03856
(603)778-7687 ext. 316 <http://www.nhvta.org> – info@nhvta.org

President's Message

The Association has completed another successful year. IDEXX sponsored one of our first lectures of the year and agreed to do another in March 2005. Pfizer sponsored our June lecture and Annual Meeting. By the way, only 2 members attended last year's annual meeting. Keep it in mind and make an effort to attend. We need your input!

We administered the VTNE for the first time ever in the state. We currently have 36 NH Certified Veterinary Technicians. We hope to at least quadruple that number in 2005! Remember, the exam is held on the third Friday of January and June.

Our survey results are enclosed in this newsletter. We had a handful of people request that we host lectures in other parts of the state. We have had conferences in Windham, Manchester, Bedford, Nashua, Hampton, and Portsmouth. Our highest turnout has always been at the Seacoast. I would be more than happy to hold future lectures in other parts of the state, but we have to **fill seats!**

I am extremely grateful to all those who have volunteered their time. I especially want to thank our editor, Barb Burri. She maintains our website and (of course) is the editor for this newsletter. Julie Bellerose-Cate spent an entire morning folding, stuffing, and mailing invitations for the

IDEXX lecture on March 9th. Couldn't have done it without her! Rose Holliday prints and mails all of the certificates and Kim Gifford is responsible for faxing all of the invitations. Thanks everyone!

Looking forward to a good year!

Kim Belliveau, BS, CVT
President, NHVTA

VTNE – June 2005

The NHVTA will be offering the VTNE on June 17, 2005 at the New Hampshire Community Technical College in Stratham. Watch the website (<http://www.nhvta.org>) for applications later this spring...

NHCTC VetTech Program Update

A new class has been added to the program; Pharmacology (1 credit) taught by Dr. Sonnya Dennis. This course will double the amount of pharmacology our students have and will address the fact that the field of pharmacology changes so fast. It's a way of keeping up-to-date on a very important area of Vet medicine. Students from other majors, other than Vet Tech, have shown interest and requested to take the course for their own knowledge.

It is expected that 20 students will graduate this May.

NHVTA SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY SAYS.....

This fall your Vet Tech Association conducted the first ever survey of Vet Techs in New Hampshire to get a sense of where we are now as a profession. It was a voluntary, anonymous survey where individuals could respond by fax, email, or regular mail.

We had 34 responses, out of about 240 which were mailed out, a 14% response rate.

The first area of questions were about length of service and average pay. The average length of service as a vet tech is 7.5 years, ranging from .5 to 17 years.

Average pay is \$13.28 /hour
Median Pay is \$13.00 /hour (50th percentile)
Salaries range from \$9.00- \$18.00 /hour

The following is a comparison of average rate of pay and years of experience

Experience In years	Average hourly rate
0-2	\$10.25
2-5	\$13.04
5-10	\$13.52
10-15	\$15.71
15+	\$14.13

Our next set of questions regarded hours worked and benefits provided to working techs.

The range of hours for full time Vet Techs is from 35-45 hours/week. (A few respondents work at multiple practices and are over 40 hours a week between these.) Full time averages 39 hours/week. For those identifying themselves as part time employees, the average is 23 hours a week.

Benefits

- ◆ 85 % have health insurance available. The average percent contribution is 47% and the average co pay is \$14.00.
- ◆ 82% offer vacation time
- ◆ 53% offer paid sick time,
- ◆ 61% pay a uniform allowance or issue uniforms

Continuing Education

- ◆ 79% say their hospitals encourage CE
- ◆ 67% give time off for CE
- ◆ 67% pay for CE
- ◆ 12% indicated that their hospitals require CE

What do NH Vet Techs want??

- ◆ Higher pay and more respect.
- ◆ CE events in all regions of the state, wet labs, all day seminars,
- ◆ More CE topics including dentistry, client communications, supervisory issues, anesthesia, IV catheters, interpreting blood work, cytology, urinalysis, feline topics, specific diseases, kidney, liver, thyroid, cardiac information, new treatments and products
- ◆ More involved seminars on topics that are pertinent to emergency care or diagnostics
- ◆ All techs in all hospitals to have the same higher standards of care
- ◆ Encourage all techs to become certified whether employer requires it or not
- ◆ Refresher courses at NHCTC Stratham, pharmacology, zoonotic, parasitology,
- ◆ To see the profession promoted as a career itself and not a stepping stone to vet school,
- ◆ Paid sick/personal days
- ◆ More/better recognition from the public that we are nurses not secretaries
- ◆ Recognition by veterinary profession as critical members of the veterinary team
- ◆ Recognition of the education, degree and certification

Continuing Ed

"Diagnostic Hematology by the Veterinary Technician A critical role that can be played with simple practice"

Dennis B. DeNicola, DVM, PhD, DACVP: Chief Veterinary Educator, Clinical Pathologist

Dr. DeNicola completed his DVM in 1978, and PhD in 1981, both at Purdue University. For more than 20 years he served as educator of veterinary students in clinical pathology, veterinary pathology residents in clinical pathology and surgical pathology and veterinarians and technicians in clinical pathology. In addition to his academic duties, he also directed the primary cytology and surgical pathology service at the veterinary school laboratory and ran a private pathology service for 15 years. A speaker at more than 100 national and international education symposia, Dr. DeNicola also has authored or co-authored more than 150 publications in various aspects of veterinary clinical pathology.

DATE: March 9th, 2005

TIME: 6pm Registration
And Cash Bar

6:30-7:30 Buffet Dinner

7:30-8:30 Lecture

8:30-8:45 Break

8:45-9:45 Lecture

PLACE: Sheraton Harborside

250 Market Street

Portsmouth, NH 03801

603-431-2300

RSVP BY: March 1, 2005

TO: Kim Belliveau 603-778-7687
ext. 324

*Speaker and Banquet Facilities
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Help Wanted

The Emergency Veterinary Clinic of the Seacoast is looking for an experienced Veterinary Technician to join our team. Our facility is a 24 hour emergency hospital with a fast paced environment and a Board Certified Emergency and Critical Care doctor on staff. Benefits (Health/Retirement) available. Shifts vary. Salary commensurate with experience. If interested please call BJ at (603) 431-3600 or fax resume to (603) 431-1751.

Website Update:

Be sure to check out the <http://www.nhvta.org> website - there are help wanted ads available on the employment link. The calendar link has information on Continuing Education classes around the region including offerings from Tufts and online offerings.

Certification

The following individuals recently obtained certification from the NHVTA -For more information on Certification see the website at:

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

Erika Charlton
Samantha Dean
Tina Douglas
Sara Gardner
Cheryl Hollis
Jennifer Houston
Michelle Lovell

Barbara Nichols
Elizabeth Pultar
Florence Sheehan
Shannon Susan Winn

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 - thanks, Barb Burri - Editor

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