



MVTA Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2

December 2011

Board of Directors:

Rhonda Haywood, RVT

President

Charlotte Waack, RVT, CVT

Vice-President

Jodelle Rhodes, RVT

Membership Chair, Secretary

Julie Al-Thalathini, RVT

Scholarship Chair

Debbie Bauer, RVT

Board member

Shawna Estep, BS, RVT

Board Member

Nancy Roth, RVT, SRA

Board Member

Inside this issue:

- Overview of Association news **1**
- MVTA/KVTA 2011 Fall Conference Highlights **2**
- Did You Know? **2**
- Maple Woods College SCNAVTA News **3**
- Upcoming continuing education **4**
- MVMA/MVTA student Academia Bowl **4**
- Mission Statement **4**

Welcome once again to the MVTA Newsletter!

As some of you may have noticed, it has been a very long time since we have published our member newsletter. We apologize for the long delay and assure you that we will be sending you your association news every other month from now on. Since we have a lot of updates to pass along, this publication will be a bit lengthier than future editions.

We have been very active in restructuring our board to maximize our ability to serve our members. Although we have lost some of the founding members of the association over my terms as President (as a result of their perusing other activities), our dedicated group remains focused on meeting and exceeding our association goals now and in the future.

We are very happy to have our newest board member Julie Althathini (pictured at right with Dr. Marty Becker) join our fantastic group. She has been appointed to the position of scholarship chair. She will soon be announcing the winner of our 2011 MVTA Student scholarship essay contest. The winner will receive a much

deserved \$100 award. This is the first of many awards that Julie will be coordinating in the future with the help of our generous sponsors.

The MVTA has been attending a number of veterinary conferences to meet with our members, discuss future plans with our sponsors and speakers and have appointed a member of our board to sit in on future Missouri Veterinary Medical board meetings to keep a pulse on important issues.

We have also been updating our bylaws and researching the steps necessary to update our not-for-profit status with the IRS.

In addition, we have been coordinating our efforts to co-host the 2012 Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) / Missouri Veterinary Technicians Association (MVTA) Academia bowl.

We also recently co-hosted our annual CE conference at the KC Zoo, and are making plans for an event in the St. Louis area in 2012!





(Top) Dr. Wm Kirk Suedmeyer holding up the tusk root of an elephant during the behind the scenes tour of the KC Zoo hospital

(Right) An illustration of the thermal imaging diagnostic capabilities of the KC Zoo Staff

MVTA / KVTA 2011 Fall Conference Highlights

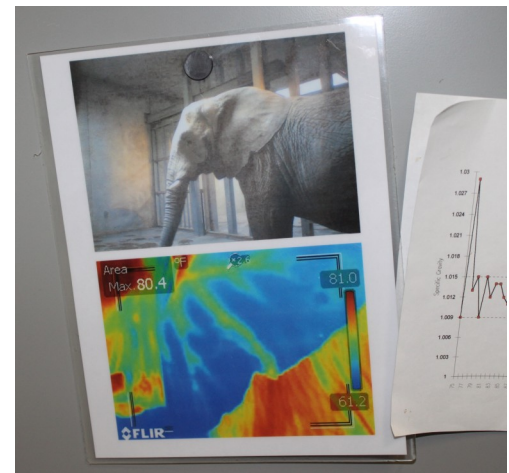
On October 1, 2011 the Missouri Veterinary Technicians Association (MVTA) and the Kansas Veterinary Technicians Association (KVTA) partnered to co-host the MVTA/ KVTA Fall CE Conference at the Kansas City Zoo.

There were 79 technicians, assistants and students who came to enjoy the day with us. We gained valuable knowledge about diabetes mellitus, monitoring without monitors, updates in heartworm prevention, zoo animal medicine, zoo veterinary technology, Leptospirosis, as well as an update from the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA).

Through the generous support of Hills Pet nutrition, we were able to provide all of our attendees with a spiral-bound, full color copy of our conference proceedings. Contributions from Boehringer Ingelheim, Banfield Pet Hospital, Bayer Animal Health, Blue Pearl Veterinary

partners, Elanco, MWI, NAVTA, Novartis, Nutramax, Pfizer, Rolling Acres, Surgivet, Virbac, Merial, Living Art N Life, and Veterinary Pet Insurance also made this event possible.

Attendees were provided a day pass to tour the zoo exhibits, and zoo bucks to purchase their lunch in the park. A number of door prizes were raffled off during the event, including a GPS! An opportunity was also provided to tour behind the scenes in the zoo hospital. Dr. Kirk Suedmeyer and Andrea Lowery, RVT led the fascinating tours.



Did you know?

Our board of directors consists of seven credentialed veterinary technicians who live across the states of Missouri and Illinois who work full time as well as volunteer their time to support this fantastic association.

We publish our news quarterly in the *NAVTA Journal* and the *MVMA Quarterly*.

We want to post your pictures on our website! Have someone take your

picture performing a technical skill and email it to mvta@mvta.us and we will post it under the "techs in action" tab.

We also want to hear about any interesting news from your school, SCNAVTA, work, or any animal related community project you have participated in so we can share these stories in our newsletter, website, Facebook page, and other journals we submit to. Please email your news to rjhay@hughes.net.

We organize a continuing education conference every year (worth at least 5 hours of CE) that is FREE to full members and at a discount to all other MVTA members! This is a HUGE member benefit that we work very hard to provide; we encourage you to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

We have a website and a Facebook page!

Website: www.mvta.us

Facebook: Missouri Veterinary Tech-Assoc.

Maple Woods Community College SNAVTA News

Two words to describe the fall semester for the Maple Woods SNAVTA....organized chaos!

The semester kicked off with a welcome luncheon for students and staff.

October was packed full of activities! To increase visibility with campus students the SNAVTA participated in Love Your Pet Day. Dogs, cats and Billie the goat created artistic masterpieces with paint, paws and tails. Each unique piece was personally signed by the artist.

The 4th Annual 2nd Year vs. 1st Year Powder Puff football game and cookout officially opened National Veterinary Technician Week. This event has become a tradition and allows family and friends to visit the program facility. The game was close but the 1st year students were victorious.

Each day was celebrated during Vet Tech Week! Food was flowing for breakfasts, lunch and desserts. Mid-week the 1st and 2nd year classes celebrated together with a baked potato bar. Each student received a unique bookmark designed and made by technician instructors. SNAVTA students recognized program technicians daily with surprise gifts and food. Students were encouraged to be proud of their chosen profession and share their pride with clients and employers throughout the week.

A pet adoption day was held on October 16th for program animals. Three animals found forever, loving homes. Adoption days offer opportunities for the students to educate the community about veterinary technology.



The Maple Woods Vet Tech Haunted Barn and Fall Festival took place on October 29th. This was the students first large scale event open to the entire college student body and surrounding community. Although the scope of the project was intimidating, they undertook the task with enthusiasm!

The Fall Festival was geared for young children and included carnival games, a haunted maze and costume contest. Face painting and snacks were the highlights of the carnival.

The theme of the Haunted Barn was demented anesthesia and surgery experience. In the reception room, participants were greeted by injured patients and a creepy receptionist. Moving through an examination room, anesthesia, and surgery to find themselves in a morgue was frightening. Chased through the forest by a zombie wielding a chainsaw, trapped in the cattle chute by the grim reaper then walking through the graveyard seeing their name on headstones shocked patients and added a caring, personal touch!

This event was the first collaborative event between campus clubs. Attendance was recorded at 125, including a few alumni, for the evening. The SNAVTA students donated \$200 to the Maple Woods Emergency Book Fund from the event profits. Word on campus is that the Haunted Barn and Fall Festival will become an annual event....

The finale for the semester will be pictures with Santa Paws, holiday luncheon and gift exchange in December. A long break is what is needed before the start of the spring semester!

Submitted/written by Joan Gorman, RVT



**MISSION
STATEMENT:**

The mission of the MVTA is to represent, promote, and advance the field of veterinary technology through education, legislation, and providing superior animal care.

Congratulations to Team CROWDER COLLEGE, the winners of the 2011 MVTA/MVMA student Academia Bowl!

Pictured (upper right) (left to right): Meg Storey, Mandie Matthewson, Jessica Dalton, Pam Artman, and Lynn Howerton (center)

Pictured (lower right) (left to right) are MVTA board members Shawna Estep, Debbie Bauer, Jodelle Rhodes, Rhonda Haywood, and Nancy Roth.

Upcoming Continuing education

We are making plans for our annual MVTA Fall Conference to be held in the St. Louis area in 2012. We are considering a number of venues and will keep all of you updated as we make our selection and confirm a date.

We distributed a survey recently through survey monkey to all of our members and conference attendees asking for feedback regarding our 2011 conference as well as plans for our 2012 event. Participating in this survey will be very valuable to us as we plan for next years conference.

The MVMA Annual conference will be held in St. Charles, Missouri on January 27-29, 2012. In addition to CE tracks for veterinarians, there will be a CE track for technicians, students and assistants. Those who wish to register for the entire event may also do so. As we will discuss below, the third annual student academia bowl will also take place during this conference. For more information or to register for the conference, please visit www.movma.org.

MVTA/MVMA Student Academia Bowl

2012 will be our 3rd year co-hosting in the MVTA/MVMA Academia bowl. The bowl is a fun game where students from Missouri VT programs compete by answering questions related to veterinary medicine. The winners are awarded a traveling trophy they can proudly display at their school. Team members receive complimentary registration to the Veterinary technician and Practice Staff track of the MVMA convention. Come join the fun as we will have



seven MO student teams participating in the 2012 event! The game will take place on January 28, 2012 in St Charles, MO at the St. Charles Convention Center.