



MVTA Newsletter

JANUARY, 2010

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

Welcome to the MVTA Newsletter!

We are very excited to debut our first newsletter! If you have articles or photos you would like to submit, please email those to MVTA@mvta.us.

MVMA Annual Convention

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association's annual convention is scheduled for January 29-31, 2010 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in St. Charles, MO. This year the MVTA is proud to be hosting the very first Student Academia Bowl! We hope that this will become an annual event for our veterinary technology students. For more information, visit the MVMA website here:

<http://www.mvma.us/movmaweb.nsf/LinksView/D92610A4E98A23B08625722C006AE593>. The Missouri Veterinary Technician Association will have a booth in the exhibition hall, so please stop by and say hi!

From your President

It's always asked, that quintessential grade school question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Young voices shout out replies such as, "teacher, firefighter or veterinarian." Time will often change these young dreams and life will take them down a different career path. For reasons yet to be fully known my career choice was made by the ripe old age of nine and I seem to be a "lifer" in the fabulous field of veterinary technology. There isn't a day that passes that I don't count my blessings for being so lucky...and happy.

Gone are the days of manual processed radiographs, the absence of kitty analgesics, and a dismal prognosis for a cancer patient. Today we are quickly swirling in the world of profound veterinary medical advancements. It's been discovered that cats really can acquire heartworm disease, kidneys can be transplanted, and an ingestion of a few raisins could kill our canine companion. Also, the field of veterinary technology has taken quantum leaps in the past several years and the accomplishments made are thrilling to say the least.

In addition, it is great to watch the next crop of technicians grow with enthusiasm as they move into their bright futures. As for me, my passion remains strong and constant for my chosen career and where it will lead me next remains to be seen. One thing is sure, I'm not quite ready to hand over the "catheter torch", I have many more dogs to wrestle only to accomplish a simple nail trim.

Debbie Bauer, RVT
MVTA President

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We're on the Web!

www.mvta.us

New Website!

Please take a look at our new website at www.mvta.us. We are still in the process of building pages, but we welcome you to stop by and take a look at what we have so far. There is a page for pictures from our members. Please send pictures you would like posted to us! In addition, we will be running all classified ads free for one month on the site. If you have a picture to submit or a classified, please email those to MVTA@mvta.us.

Promote Yourself

(submitted by Rhonda Haywood, RVT)

Veterinary Medicine has come a long way in the past 10-20 years. The day of the glorified animal handler is gone and a new age of specialized veterinary professionals has emerged. All of us have an obligation to be a "poster child" and an advocate for the journey we and our predecessors have accomplished and all we have to look forward to in the future.

Although there is a lot to be said about OTJ trained assistants, the rigorous academia required to graduate from an AVMA-accredited program is a milestone to feel proud to have accomplished. Even the application process is a challenge to overcome, not to mention the physical, financial, and emotional sacrifices one has to make in order to succeed as a Registered Veterinary Technician.

Upon graduation, one has the daunting task to pass the state and national board exam. Even though you have been "studying" throughout your entire expedition in the Veterinary Technician Program, it still seems to be an impossible task.

After years of dedication and hard work, you become a member of an elite society, a Registered Veterinary Technician. Although human nurses are incredibly skilled individuals who are amazing in their own right, RVT's have their own unique set of challenges. You need to be affluent in differences between multiple species and breeds and methods of restraint and handling. This includes the patient weighing a few grams to one weighing several tons. Normal parameters of body condition and vital signs need to be committed to memory. You need to be well-versed in animal husbandry, behavior, anesthesia monitoring, surgical assisting, trauma stabilization, radiography, phlebotomy, clinical pathology, bereavement, awareness of pain management, physical therapy, nutrition, client education, as well as being a good detective. Deciphering body language and history to determine what the patient is trying to tell you is extremely important because they are unable to speak and their human counterparts cannot always communicate well for them nor have the resources available to do what is necessary to help them.

That is a pretty impressive resume although it is far from complete. If that wasn't enough, RVT's now have available many more options than ever before to include private small, mixed, and large animal practice, specialty and emergency clinics, exotic animal rehabilitation centers, zoos and wild animal parks, animal shelters, pet stores, grooming facilities, veterinary website and publication companies, major pet food companies, industry, large scale production farms, the military, the government, colleges and universities as technicians and educators, as well as many others. In addition to the multitude of career choices, a plethora of specialties has arisen. The dedication and hard work of those individuals who choose to specialize should be warmly applauded.