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2019
SPRING

A quarterly conversation starter about Veterinary Technology in North Dakota

The

NDVTA

Beveled Edge



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Content from website www.vin.com/VSPN

Look no further for the best, most comprehensive online CE courses taught by world-class instructors.

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INCREASED LEPTOSPIROSIS RISK DUE TO FLOODING

While many of your family, friends, neighbors, and clients are dealing with the devastating effects of flooding, it is even more important than ever to educate your clients now about the increased risk of leptospirosis. Particularly since wildlife and livestock (common carriers) are potentially shedding leptospirina into the rising and receding waters.

Leptospirosis is an infectious zoonotic disease found worldwide, and is now recognized as an emerging problem in pets in the United States.

While vaccination for Leptospirosis has been available for several decades, diagnosis, screening, safe handling, and treatment practices have not been universally standardized and accessible.



NDVTA Clinic of the Quarter

Dedicated to our friend Yvette!



107 Industrial Road

Rugby, ND 58368 US

701-776-5726

Our Services:

Blood Transfusions, Cancer Treatment, Dental Care, Emergency and Critical Care, Parasite Prevention and Control, On-Site Laboratory, Radiology (X-Rays), Microchipping, Euthanasia Services, Pain Management, Fully Stocked Pharmacy, Rabbits and Small Mammal Care, Herd Health Consultation, Farm

Calls: Our doctors are able to visit your farm with fully equipped vehicles to help out with situations when moving your large animals to our facility is impossible. Herd work and down cows can be seen right in your own barn.

Laser Surgery: All of our surgical procedures (with the exception of cat neuters) are performed with a surgical CO₂ laser. The laser is used instead of a scalpel. When cutting tissue with the surgical laser nerves and blood vessels are cut in such a way that bleeding, swelling, and post-operative pain are reduced. Even cat declaws can be done with minimal discomfort.

Nutritional Counseling: Nutrition is an important component to keeping your pet happy and healthy. It is also a crucial part of any healing process. The staff at Rugby Veterinary Service can help you decide what the best product is for you to feed your pets. We carry a full line of Science Diet / Prescription Diet for your convenience.

Laser Therapy: Our clinic now has the ability to treat your pet's wounds and pain issues with a drug-free option. We have seen amazing recovery from injuries with the addition of laser therapy to our treatment protocol.

Want to see YOUR clinic featured here? Send photos and information to our newsletter editor stacey.ostby@ndsu.edu

Camera in a Capsule: A New Way to View Horses' GI Tracts

– Author Alexandra Beckstett “The Horse” 3/11/19 (www.thehorse.com)

What if your horse could swallow a tiny capsule containing a camera, giving you and your veterinarian a look at the nearly 100 feet of twisting, turning intestinal tract, and any gastrointestinal issues therein? This isn't futuristic musing—one veterinarian has determined that the approach, called wireless capsule endoscopy, is a workable way to check the gastrointestinal mucosa (lining) for ulcers and injury, though maybe for just the first 80-or-so feet.



Renaud Leguillette, DVM, Msc, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, ACVSMR, professor of equine internal medicine in the University of Calgary's Department of Veterinary Clinical and Diagnostic Science, in Alberta, Canada, wanted to be able to see “intraluminal” lesions within the small and large intestines. These are likely quite common but challenging to diagnose with current imaging techniques. So, taking a page from human and small animal medicine, he recently tested the new imaging technique in horses, presenting his findings at the 2018 American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention, held Dec. 1-5 in San Francisco, California. The capsule technique is safe to use in equids of all sizes, he said. “It provides excellent detailed visualization of the pyloric area of the stomach, of the small intestinal mucosa, and of the ileocecal junction.”

After administering the capsule via nasogastric tube, reintroduce water and feed at three and 12 hours, respectively, he said. Leguillette recommended feeding the horse hay only, four times a day, and keeping him in a stall or small pen for best results. One of the challenges with this technique, he said, is that it can take anywhere from two to 14 days for the capsule to pass through the horse in his manure. This requires the owner or barn staff to collect all manure and store it (e.g., in large plastic bins) for inspection. Leguillette said he used radiography (X rays) to detect the capsule in these bins if it wasn't immediately visible.

Argosy University Closes after 37 years educating Veterinary Technicians & Assistants (mavt.net)

Argosy University, located in Eagan, MN closed in late February as the parent company filed for bankruptcy. *Dream Center Education Holdings* is currently being investigated by the Department of Education for unlawful withholding of student financial aid dollars.

A statement made by the Minnesota Higher Education Commissioner noted that their office was monitoring the situation and helping students to get as much information as possible, including potential programs to transfer their current credits completed to.

The loss of this program, reduces the current programs offering a degree in Veterinary Technology in the state of Minnesota to three.

- Dakota County Technical College – Rosemount
- Ridgewater College – Willmar
- Rochester Community and Technical College – Rochester

Newsworthy info >>>

Education Update

Hello from Robinson Hall! As the semester comes to an end we wanted to share a little update of the happenings in our busy little corner of the NDSU campus.

Our program accepted 26 qualified applicants to begin the Professional Program in Fall 2018. As those students roll into their second year within the professional program this fall, we are poised to accept another class of applicants. We have 34 application packages to review this summer.

The mean starting salary for our new graduates is \$30,000 plus benefits and we continually show a greater than 90% pass rate on the National Licensing Exam. Our students completing an Externship this summer are traveling to the following states:

North Dakota – 10	Minnesota – 6	Colorado – 2
Washington – 1	Kentucky – 1	
Indiana – 1	Kansas – 1	

www.ndsu.edu/vettech



Legal Lingo and Assistance Animal Use

"Excerpt from AVMA – "Animal Welfare" www.avma.org "

Many people want to own pets. Many people live in a housing environment that does not allow pets. Over the years, animals that live with a human to provide a service have become somewhat misunderstood. As veterinary professionals, we can help to clarify the specifics to our clients and even community members as to what the legalities are associated with each of the Assistance Animal uses.



The Legal Context For Assistance Animal Use - Definitions

Classification	Definition	As Defined By
Assistance Animal	<p>“Any animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability,” as defined by the ADA.4</p> <p>“Individuals with a disability may be entitled to keep an assistance animal as a reasonable accommodation in housing facilities that otherwise impose restrictions or prohibitions on animals. In order to qualify for such an accommodation, the assistance animal must be necessary to afford the individual an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling or to participate in the housing service or program. Further, there must be a relationship, or nexus, between the individual’s disability and the assistance the animal provides. If these requirements are met, a housing facility, program or service must permit the assistance animal as an accommodation, unless it can demonstrate that allowing the assistance animal would impose an undue financial or administrative burden or would fundamentally alter the nature of the housing program or services.”</p>	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (FHEO-2013-01)
Service Animal	<p>“Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.” Miniature horses have been added as a specific provision to the ADA. The miniature horse must be housebroken, under the handler’s control, can be accommodated for by the facility, and will not compromise safety regulations.</p>	Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 (Section 35.136)
Emotional Support Animal	<p>An emotional support animal (ESA) may be an animal of any species, the use of which is supported by a qualified physician, psychiatrist or other mental health professional based upon a disability-related need. An ESA does not have to be trained to perform any particular task. ESAs do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but they may be permitted as reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities under the Fair Housing Act. The Air Carrier Access Act provides specific allowances for ESAs traveling on airlines, though documentation may need to be provided.</p>	Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. Part 3604) and Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and C.F.R. Part 382.117
Therapy Animal	<p>A therapy animal is a type of animal-assisted intervention in which there is a “goal directed intervention in which an animal meeting specific criteria is an integral part of the treatment process. Animal-assisted therapy is provided in a variety of settings, and may be group or individual in nature.”</p>	Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and CFR Part 382; AVMA Animal-Assisted Interventions: Definitions

Tic, Tac, Tech Talk

5 Changes to Make Before *Veterinary Technicians* Can Be Called *Nurses*

(www.helpthevet.com webpage, Author is VSS Company Employee, Katie CVT. 3-27-19)

You may have heard that the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Board of Directors voted to support the Veterinary Nurse Initiative (VNI) during their 2018 fall meeting. And, in 2018, the VNI attempted to establish the title of “veterinary nurse” as a recognized name for technicians in two states. The first bill failed in Tennessee, and a second is mired in political scandal in Ohio. Overall, it seems the VNI is not off to a great start.

Nurse vs. Technician: terminology matters

My friend reminded me that in our state of Colorado, the term “nurse” is a protected title and is restricted to people who are licensed according to the state’s nursing act.

According to the [American Nurses Association](#), this “is a protection for the public against unethical, unscrupulous, and incompetent practitioners. Nurse practice acts describe entry-level qualifications, such as education, practice standards, and code of conduct for continued privilege to practice nursing.”

During our conversation, my friend also mentioned that human nurses must hold a degree in their field, are responsible for the lives of human patients, and work under their personal license (not the license of a doctor, like vet techs do). Veterinary technicians, on the other hand, can have a bachelor’s degree or an associate’s degree, and some have no degree at all. Some have passed the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE), and some states require additional state exams (if you’re credentialed). Some states don’t require any continuing education to maintain your license, while some require 10 hours a year or more.

Imagine: A veterinarian walks into your practice to apply for a job. His resume says he’s a high school graduate—no bachelor’s, no doctorate. He explains that in his home country, let’s call it Wonderland, as long as people can pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE), they aren’t required to have a degree. How would you feel about hiring this doctor to work in your practice? How would your other doctors feel about this person being hired on to do the same job they studied more than eight years to do? Can you see how human nurses might feel protective of their title?

Standardizing veterinary technicians

The discussion with my friend and my research since have inspired a change in my opinion on this debate. The VNI is focused on the wrong part of the initiative. Instead of focusing on gaining the term “veterinary nurse” in a few states that don’t currently protect that title, there are a multitude of changes to standardize veterinary technicians across the country that must take place before we can truly be recognized and respected in the same way our human counterparts are. Here are five of those necessary changes:

#1: Technicians need to be held to a higher standard

Now that we offer associate’s degrees for technician assistants, we need to hold our technicians to a higher standard. All previous techs can apply to be grandfathered into the new policy or to complete their remaining schooling, but all future technicians should complete a four-year program to become credentialed. We can’t hope to understand veterinary medicine on a deeper level—and be respected more—after completing the same degree as our technician assistants.

#2: There should be more focus on passing the VTNE

This process starts with attending vet tech programs that have high pass rates for the exam. With so many new schools being accredited by the AVMA every year, there are many options for each student in every state. Too many students graduate from tech programs and never become credentialed by passing the VTNE. We must do better.

#3: Technicians need to be held accountable

Once technicians pass the VTNE and are credentialed, they need to bear more responsibility for the medicine they practice. If a tech makes a mistake and causes injury to a patient, it should be that tech's license on the line, not the license of the "supervising" doctor.

#4: Technicians should be appropriately compensated

More knowledge, more student debt, and more responsibility should garner a higher pay range. According to a study by the AVMA, a *well-leveraged* credentialed technician can earn a practice \$93,000 on average each year. In Denver, Colorado, the average cost of living is \$40,772. According to Indeed, the average technician position in Denver pays \$16.40 per hour (roughly \$34,000 per year before taxes). Our technicians need to be making \$25 per hour or more to afford to live in Denver. Appropriately leveraging our technicians increases job satisfaction as well as the clinic's bottom line. Let's focus on leveraging our technicians better so that we can pay them what they deserve!

#5: Uncredentialed employees should not be called technicians

Now, before the internet blows up over this comment, please hear me out. I have worked alongside some phenomenally intelligent uncredentialed technicians whom I would trust with my own fur child in any scenario. However, I invested in my education, I passed the VTNE, and I earned my CVT with my time and talent. In the same way that "nurse" is a protected title in 39 states across the country, we should hold our title with pride as well.

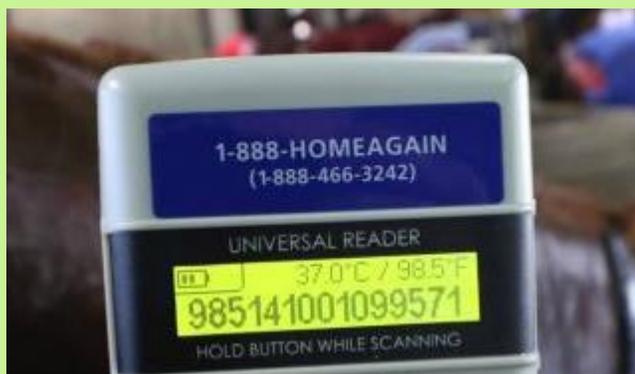
In the end, it doesn't matter if we're all veterinary nurses, CVTs, LVTs, or RVTs. Only when we standardize our requirements, hold ourselves accountable, and wear our title with pride will we earn recognition for our accomplishments from our clients and the rest of the veterinary community.

AQHA Microchip Pilot Project

AQHA recently announced its collaboration with Merck Animal Health and Homeagain to be the association's microchip provider.

The Homeagain Tempscan TM technology will allow for a quick, safe and accurate identification process, and the scanning feature will instantly measure equine body temperature.

In the near future, you will be able to enter your horse's 15 digit microchip ID number using a module on AQHA's website. Until that tool is available, you can contact AQHA Customer Care at 806-376-4811 to put your horse's microchip ID number on its record.



NDBVME

Seeking New Executive Secretary

The North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is seeking a new Executive Secretary, to replace Dr. John Boyce, who is retiring later this year.

The candidate should have good writing and computer skills. Responsibilities include preparing materials for board meetings, preparing minutes, maintaining the licensee databases and the board website, processing license applications and license renewals for veterinarians and veterinary technicians, processing complaints against licensees, and responding to correspondence received in the board office by mail, email, and telephone.

The Board presently leases a small office in Bismarck, though a new Executive Secretary could operate the office from another location or from their home. This is a part time position open to both DVM's and LVT's.

For additional information, please contact the NDBVME office at 701-328-9540 or ndbvme@nd.gov

final thoughts...

The Cat Friendly Practice® Program - Elevating Feline Care



The Cat Friendly Practice® (CFP), created by knowledgeable feline practitioners, equips you with the support and resources needed to deliver elevated and quality care that incorporates the cat's perspective throughout the entire experience.

The program consists of **10 topic areas** that help guide your practice in setting the standard of providing optimum feline care through an online self-assessment. Many of the techniques and criteria contained in the practice checklist are readily achievable because they focus on approach and organization.

The program does not require remodeling of your practice, but provides creative solutions for you to help decrease stress during feline-care visits. The most important step is to recognize that there is a need to make these adaptations in order to provide a better experience for cats, their caregivers, and your team.

Benefits of the Cat Friendly Practice® Program*

- Less stress on feline patients and staff.
- Demonstrates how much you care about your patients.
- Higher satisfaction among current clients.

- Increased staff knowledge and expertise in clinic.
- Highlighted practice listing on AAFP cat caregiver [website](#).
- Gain more new feline patients

How to Get Started:

There must be at least one AAFP veterinarian member to access the Cat Friendly Practice® program resources. AAFP membership has several other perks including a subscription to the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* (JFMS), Feline Specific CE Webinars, Practice Guidelines, Position Statements, and more.

Once an AAFP Member, you receive access to the Cat Friendly Practice® Checklist, Guide, and other materials in the Member Center.

Build your team, enlist another team member or launch a team of cat advocates to work on completing the checklist. Once completed, submit your online application for review and you'll soon be on your way to becoming a designed Cat Friendly Practice®.

Still not sure if you can complete the criteria or if Cat Friendly Practice® is right for you?

We can help! Email info@catvets.com or call (800-874-0498).

Since each veterinary practice is different, there's no "one way" to complete the program. A few misconceptions we often hear are that practices think they can't become a Cat Friendly Practice® because of space issues, they are not in a position to make business decisions, or they have difficulty getting fellow staff members on board with the plan. Luckily, there are alternative approaches and solutions for each of these reasons so that all clinics can take the leap forward and become a Cat Friendly Practice®.



coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue: Planning for the Fargo NDVTA CE Convention October 4-5, 2019

North Dakota Veterinary Technician Association
For Corrections/Edits, Please contact stacey.ostby@ndsu.edu
www.ndvta.org NEXT NEWSLETTER May 15, 2019

