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A quarterly conversation starter about Veterinary Technology in North Dakota

The NDVTA Beveled Edge



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AAHA Supports Veterinary Nurse Initiative

-Content from AAHA website & news release Nov. 29, 2018 www.aaaha.org

LAKEWOOD, Colorado—In a future-focused move, AAHA announced it is lending its voice in support of the Veterinary Nurse Initiative.

The AAHA Board of Directors voted to support the initiative during their fall meeting. AAHA staff, which is made up of nearly 35% veterinary technicians, recommended the initiative be supported by the AAHA Board of Directors.

“At AAHA, we are all about standardization and excellence,” said AAHA Chief Executive Officer Michael Cavanaugh, DVM, DABVP

“By standardizing the term ‘veterinary nurse’, we increase consistency throughout the profession while also growing professional recognition and relevancy among pet owners. Ultimately, this makes our profession stronger.”

The goal of the initiative is to standardize the credential for the profession throughout the nation, with a goal of having a standardized title in use in all 50 states.

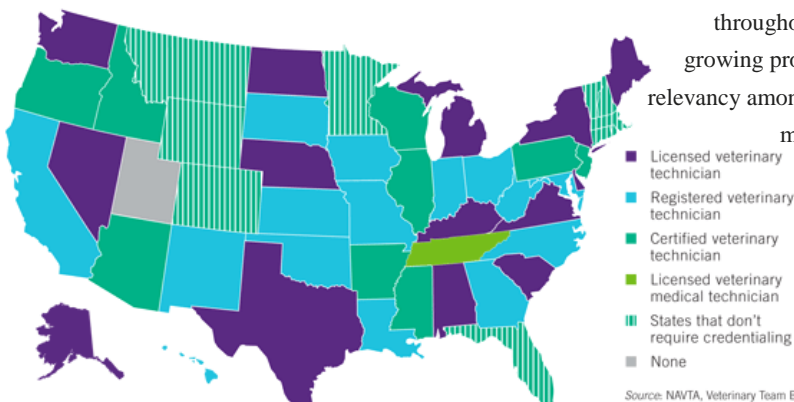
“The word ‘technician’ does not come close to encapsulating all of the care and passion these dedicated professionals share with their patients and clients,” Cavanaugh said.

“The Veterinary Nurse designation better aligns with the wide variety of valuable skills they perform every day to help clients and patients benefit from the human animal bond.”

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) is the accrediting body for companion animal hospitals in the United States and Canada.

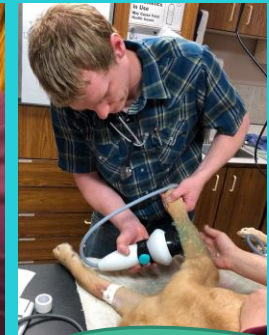
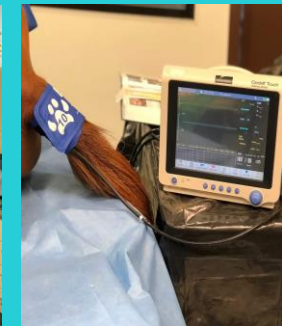
Purdue University in April 2018 changed the name of its educational programs to Associate’s and Bachelor’s degrees in **Veterinary Nursing**.

Veterinary technician credentialing by state



Source: NAVTA, Veterinary Team Brief

NDVTA Clinic of the Quarter



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

West Dakota Veterinary Clinic

is a full service AAHA- Accredited mixed animal veterinary practice located in Dickinson, ND.

Along with full service small animal and large animal services, West Dakota Vet Clinic features an Equine Center with an induction stall, surgical room and recovery stalls.

The equine center has Polylast flooring throughout the facility adding to the safety and comfort of horses and allows for easier cleaning and disinfecting between patients.

The induction room allows for safe anesthesia and hand-assisted recovery of equine patients.

The surgical room features a hydraulic Shanks surgical table for both lateral and dorsoventral positioning of patients as required by the procedure. The surgical room is equipped with a Mallard Anesthesia machine enabling gas anesthesia and IPPV for patients ranging 200-2000 pounds.

The surgical team is available for routine to emergency surgeries such as castrations, c-sections and colic surgery.

The equine center is equipped with an examination stocks for routine care and reproductive services such as AI with both fresh cooled and frozen semen and pregnancy exams.

Imaging services include a Sonosite ultrasound, Vettel/Metron DR radiology and upper airway and gastroscope endoscopes.

Treatment options offered are stem cell therapy for tendon and ligament lesions, joint injections, ProPulse Shockwave, Therapeutic ultrasound and cold laser therapy.



Animal concern close to home >>>

Tularemia has been identified in six Minnesota cats in 2018

The Board of Animal Health issued a veterinary alert to Minnesota veterinarians in August, when Minnesota's fourth case of tularemia was reported in a domestic cat. Since then, two more cats have been diagnosed with the disease and one confirmed human case has been reported to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) year-to-date. In 2017, 11 animal (7 cats and 4 rabbits) and 6 human cases were reported.

These additional tularemia cases serve as a reminder to veterinarians and technicians that cats with access to the outdoors, particularly those that hunt small mammals, including rabbits, are at a higher risk for contracting this disease. Tularemia is also a zoonotic disease and can be spread to people through a bite or scratch from an infected animal or from handling contaminated objects or infected animals.

*Content from MN Dept. of Health: Animal Bytes, November 2018



Newsworthy info >>>



a "Smoking" Hot Topic

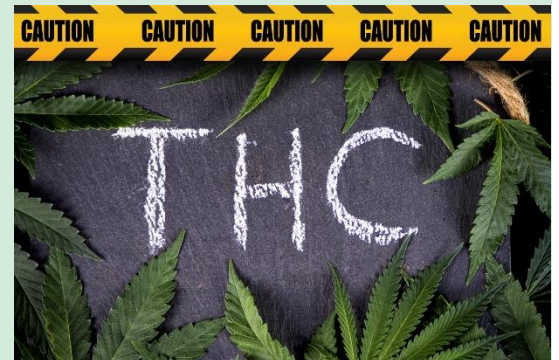
THC?? and CBD??

It's important to understand the difference between marijuana and hemp. Both are parts of the same cannabis sativa plant. The buds, leaves, and resin of the plant are the source of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC).

THC is the substance that causes a psychoactive effect, or "high" in humans. The rest of the plant is considered hemp, though that term is not recognized under federal law.

The hemp portion of the plant contains less than 0.3% THC but does include cannabidiol (CBD). CBD works by activating receptor sites in the body's endocannabinoid system.

Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States, federally designated as a schedule I controlled substance. Despite this, more than half of U.S. states have passed legislation permitting medicinal use of marijuana in humans under strict guidelines. Some states have even passed laws permitting its recreational use. These state laws are in direct opposition to federal law, so it is **important for veterinarians to understand and be able to communicate marijuana's legal status with our clients.** The danger of marijuana toxicity in companion animals makes it even more **important that veterinarians and veterinary technicians be able to observe signs, diagnose, and treat cases.**



To learn more and access specific information visit the AVMA website and read up on the article titled, **"Cannabis: What Veterinarians Need to Know"** – AVMA.org

Bovine Emergency Response Plan Program Prepares 1st Responders

"Excerpt from NDSU Extension 2018 annual Highlights"

Each year, hundreds of thousands of livestock are transported on U.S. roadways and, inevitably, crashes involving livestock trailers occur. Emergency responders are trained to deal with injured humans at the scene of an accident, but not always livestock.

NDSU Extension livestock specialist Lisa Pederson has helped change that. Pederson developed the Bovine Emergency Response Plan (BERP) program in 2015 with help from former Extension veterinarian Charlie Stoltenow, now the Extension assistant director for agriculture and natural resources. Their aim was to help emergency responders and law enforcement more appropriately address accidents involving livestock transport vehicles. "Imagine that a semi loaded with cattle has crashed and rolled over," Pederson says. "It's dark outside and cattle are injured inside the semitrailer and loose on the scene. Our plan helps emergency personnel know how to assess the situation, make critical decisions, and keep themselves and the public safe." Since 2015, the training has been presented to more than 30 emergency response teams in 14 states. In 2018, BERP trainings were conducted in Almont, Steele, Rugby, Ellendale and Buffalo, as well as the North Dakota Firefighter's Association fire school in Minot.

"This training was appropriate and eye-opening for myself, our sheriff and fire department staff that took it," says Charles Russell, Dickey County Emergency Management director. "There were things we had not thought about, like documentation, media involvement and urban versus rural accident scenes. I would absolutely take the training again." In addition to a decision tree for dispatchers receiving and dispatching calls, the plan has guidelines for: n Arrival protocols n Scene assessment n Scene security and containment n Extrication of cattle n Humane euthanasia n Relocation of cattle n Mortality disposal n Righting of the vehicle n Debriefing The Bovine Emergency Response Plan was created in collaboration with Extension staff at NDSU, West Virginia University, Iowa State University and the University of Tennessee, and funded through the National Beef Quality Assurance program using Beef Checkoff funds, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Smith-Lever Special Needs Grant. **FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lisa Pederson, 701-424-3606, lisa.pederson@ndsu.edu**



Practice Point:



WALDEN
VETERINARY SERVICE

Fall 2018 brought a new practice to the Hillsboro, ND area. Dr. Scott Walden opened his mixed animal practice at 215 1st St SE in Hillsboro, ND as well as seeing patients through house/ farm calls and one day a week based in Portland, ND. www.walden.vet
(701)-566-5500

Seeking a Technician....

Red Barn Vet in Sheldon, ND is hiring for its mixed animal but small animal focused veterinary clinic!

We are focused on good medicine and great service. We work well as a team and we have fun! Have almost all the high tech you want in the small family atmosphere where you can grow and lead and have a great career! Only 45 min from Fargo, live in the middle for great quality of life with less traffic and cheaper cost of living! Starting at \$14/hr for qualified new grads that pass the VTNE and are licensed. We are willing to pay for willingness to learn and work and kick butt at work and offer raises as soon as your effort earns it! Our clients rock and we use our techs at their best capabilities every day! Currently offering no weekends, health insurance for FT, AFLAC paid options, discount, and PTO! May even consider bonus after completion of successful internship if you want to come try us out after graduation and hiring! Come check us out and see why our little clinic is doing big things! Email resume to info@redbarnvetservices.com with cover letter and references.

~Charly Stansbery, DVM

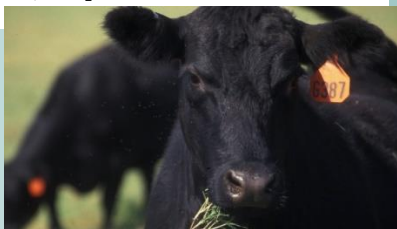
About our GREAT State >>>>

Q: How many beef cattle and calves call North Dakota home?

A: 1.86 million

That means, there are 2 cattle residents for every human resident in the state. Beef cattle are also raised in every North Dakota county.

****Random Cow fact: Cows have a GREAT sense of smell and can smell something up to 6 miles away! ****



something new >>>

Tic, Tac, Tech Talk

Are you finding the winter seems to be getting long not only for you but for indoor dogs? Maybe it is time to learn about some "Plyometric Training" for your canine companion or canine clients!

If we think of the following plyometric training in a similar fashion to the pilates exercises humans use to strengthen core muscles, we can easily understand the usefulness for our active pets. The extra benefit this time of year is more time spent working the mind of our often bored and confined pups to help eliminate unwanted behaviors due to lack of stimulation. In our frigid climate, many dogs are simply not suited to be outdoors and active, so consider some beginner plyometrics to help activate that pooch mentally and physically.

John Nielsen, CVT, VTS (ECC, Physical Rehab.), CVPP, CCRP of the Animal Emergency & Referral Center of Minnesota, recently spoke at the Minnesota Veterinary Conference regarding his methods and theories in using muscle strengthening to help dogs from many sports and our pets at home improve their muscle mass and use. Canines should be fresh (e.g. not fatigued) and free of injury before exercising. Proprioception is a vital part of balance, coordination, and agility, all of which are also required for safe plyometric workouts. Therefore, dogs with poor body awareness are not recommended to engage in plyometric exercises. Landing surfaces such as rubber mats, suspended floors or grass should be shock absorbing and used for depth jumps. Hard surface use is strongly discouraged. Adequate warm up is performed before a plyometric workout.

Example Exercises:

- Stairs

- Bow (down dog)

- Spin

- Sit up & Beg

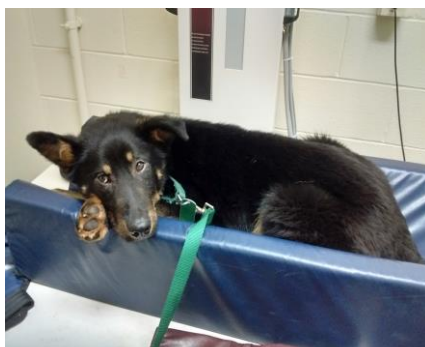
29th Annual NDVTA

Continuing Education Conference

*~ Fargo Save the Date
October 4-5, 2019*

As we begin planning for the Fargo Conference, our executive team is happy to hear suggestions on topics, speakers, activities, wet labs, and vendors that you would all like to see during the event.

Your input and knowledge of local happenings will really help make our conference TOP NOTCH!! Please contact any member of our executive team with your suggestions or ideas.
THANKS TEAM!!



Education Update:

Rockin the Rescue Scean~

The NDSU Veterinary Technology Program transitioned to working with local Animal Shelters and Rescues beginning in 2012 and continuing today.

All canine, feline, and avian "Animal Educators" are welcomed to Robinson Halls educational program and spend up to 4 weeks receiving their initial wellness care, preventative testing, and castration, prior to returning to their rescue organization to find their forever home.

Thank you to the following organizations for helping educate the Veterinary Technologists of the future!

- ✓ Turtle Mountain Animal Rescue
- ✓ Cats Cradle Shelter
- ✓ 4 Luv of Dog Rescue
- ✓ C.A.A.R.E (Avian)



finalthoughts...

A lesson in compassion and understanding from a most annoying woman

- Author Tammy Lenski
(www.tammylenski.com)



When we say we want to understand someone, but then view them through our own judgmentalism, we're not being honest with ourselves.

Compassion and understanding go hand in hand — when we let them.

A while back a woman I found irritating taught me a powerful lesson in compassion and understanding. She and I were in an all-day meeting together, participants in a group of twenty. We also shared a lunch table, despite my attempt to avoid her. Her pattern of behavior throughout the day was steadfast: She steered most conversation threads back to herself, repeatedly hijacking conversations. Once she had command of the conversation, she worked hard to keep it, rarely pausing for a breath and droning on about her projects. She seemed oblivious to the social cues of those around her, missing the eye rolling, the audible sighs, the shuffling of papers and moving forward in seats that typically signal people are ready to move on.

I found myself rather fixated on her because she seemed so desperately in need of attention yet unaware that the attention she'd commandeered was not the type she probably wanted. My thoughts about her were all unkind: She's selfish. Oblivious. Rude. Needy. Around 3:00 pm and a few minutes before we adjourned, I found myself watching her and asked myself, yet again, "What is going on for this woman? Why is she stealing attention again and again like that?"

This time, though, my heart was ready with an answer. A gentle voice in my head said, *She isn't grasping for attention. She's desperate for acknowledgement.* The link between compassion and understanding. What made my heart step in this time, when my critical self had ruled my observations about her all day? I think it was because I kept coming back to the same question: What is going on for her? What is going on for her? What is going on for her?

All day, I'd accepted the easy, judgmental answers. The answers born of selfish irritation over being repeatedly thwarted by her conversational hijacking. The answers born of irritation on behalf of others, too. But down deep, I must have known those answers were insufficient, because I kept returning to the question: *What is going on for her?* **It was only when I finally peeked past the conclusions drawn from irritation that my genuine curiosity could get a better view.**

To deeply understand someone, we have to step outside the boundaries of our own **frame of reference**. We have to make ourselves interested in seeing things from their frame of reference. **Trying to understand someone only from inside our own frame of reference is like trying on a friend's**

great new sunglasses without first taking off our own. It's bound not to work very well. It's really hard to do when we don't like them very much or seethe at their rhetoric. When I'm struggling with this, I find this question helpful for pushing me past judgmental territory:

What is going on for them?

As we were leaving, I saw her off by herself and walked over. I said, "Thank you for all you're doing...it's clear you have put so much energy into your projects for others and so much of your heart into caring about other people." It wasn't easy to say this. A part of me was still irritated about how much air and emotional space she had stolen from our day. Her response startled me. She put her face in her hands and began to sob. Eventually she said, "Thank you for saying that. It means the world to me that someone finally noticed." Then she hugged me fiercely and was gone. I stood there a long time, feeling that hug. I wondered how different our day might have been if I'd found it in myself to acknowledge her sooner. I wondered how much irritation we could all have **avoided**. She allowed me to re-learn something I know about myself and which the universe reminds me now and again:

When I allow my compassionate self to lead, instead of my judgmental self, I can change the trajectory not only of my mood, but also of what's happening around me.

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



Compassion alone isn't a cure-all, but compassion and understanding are kindred spirits. ~Tammy Lenski