

# elevate

*Raising the Standard, Together*

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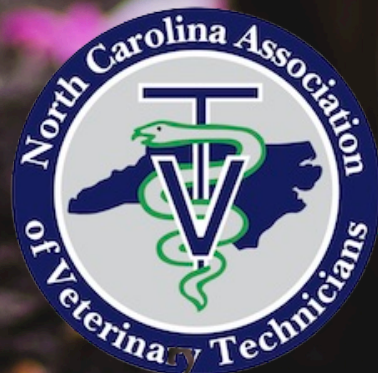
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# elevate

## Raising the Standard, Together

Elevate is the official quarterly newsletter of the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians, dedicated to advocating for the recognition, utilization, and advancement of registered veterinary technicians while investing in the future of the profession.

### THE NCAVT BOARD

President

Nicolette McNeely, BS, RVT

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Public Relations Coordinator

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(Ophthalmology)

NAVTA Representative

Justin Blanton, BS, RVTg

NCVMB Representative

Robin Lazaro, RVT, VTS (ECC)

Members at Large:

Brandi Rousseau, RVT

Amanda R., BS, RVTg

Heather Henderson, RVT

Melissa Slaughter, RVT

Mandy Morgan, RVT

### **YOUR Association, YOUR Newsletter**

Do you have an inspiring idea that deserves a spotlight in our newsletter? Whether it's volunteer opportunities to share, a fascinating case to discuss, or an unforgettable experience you want to share, we'd love to hear from you!

Send your ideas to our Public Relations Coordinator, Krystina Phillips at [publicrelations@ncavt.org](mailto:publicrelations@ncavt.org)

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear valued NCAVT members,

As I begin my term as President of the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians, I want to first introduce myself and express how honored I am to serve in this role. My name is Nicolette (Nicky) McNeely, and I have had the privilege of serving in various positions on the NCAVT Board since 2018. It is truly a privilege to now continue that journey as President.

I am incredibly grateful for the leaders who came before me. Their hard work, dedication, and example have helped shape this organization into what it is today, and I continue to benefit from their guidance and support. They have dedicated so much of themselves to this role and to our profession, and I hope to honor and continue the legacy they have built.

Veterinary technology is a profession I care deeply about. I firmly believe that the education, knowledge, and skills of registered veterinary technicians make a meaningful difference every day for our doctors, our teams, our patients, and the clients we serve. I look forward to listening to and learning from the many voices within this profession, and I vow to uphold the mission of NCAVT as we continue working to advance and support veterinary technicians across North Carolina.

I am also continually inspired by the members of this Board. Their willingness to volunteer their time on top of the demanding work they already do in private practice, specialty medicine, academia, and beyond, speaks volumes about their commitment to this profession. Their dedication is truly inspiring, and I am humbled to work alongside them.

I encourage anyone who loves this profession to become involved with NCAVT in whatever way feels meaningful to them. Whether through serving on the Board, joining a committee, maintaining membership, or simply sharing your thoughts and perspectives. Your voice matters! The advancement of our profession depends on the collaboration, passion, and advocacy of those within it.

Thank you for your trust and support. I hope to make you proud as President, and I look forward to the work we will accomplish together in support of RVTs and the veterinary team as a whole.

Sincerely,

Nicolette McNeely, BS, RVT  
President, NCAVT 2026-2028



The NCAVT is honored to recognize our 2026 sponsors whose generosity and commitment continue to drive our mission forward. Their support directly impacts the growth and success of our organization, allowing us to provide valuable educational resources, professional development opportunities, advocacy initiatives, and community engagement programs that benefit Registered Veterinary Technicians throughout North Carolina. Together, we are investing in the future of our profession and the animals entrusted to our care.



*Let's strengthen veterinary care together through partnership!*  
Email Katie to [fundraisingcoordinator@ncat.org](mailto:fundraisingcoordinator@ncat.org) for more information.



# NCAVT SPRING CONFERENCE *RECAP*



The NCAVT Spring Conference brought together veterinary technicians, assistants, students, and industry partners from across North Carolina for a day of education, networking, and professional growth. Attendees participated in a variety of continuing education sessions, explored the exhibitor hall, and connected with colleagues who share a passion for advancing veterinary medicine. The NCAVT would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our attendees, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors for helping make this year's conference a tremendous success. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



# MAKE AN IMPACT

## Are you looking for a meaningful way to support the veterinary technician profession?

The NCAVT is seeking enthusiastic members to serve on our committees and help shape the future of our organization. Whether your interests include continuing education, membership engagement, fundraising, communications, advocacy, or event planning, there is a place for your talents and ideas. Committee service is a rewarding opportunity to connect with colleagues, develop leadership skills, and make a lasting impact on veterinary technicians across North Carolina.

We invite you to get involved and help us continue advancing our mission.

1. Executive Committee - Nicky McNeely, RVT (Chair)
  - Consists of President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer
  - Identifies top priorities for the Board
2. Education Committee - Carrie Fellows, RVT (Chair)
  - Plans conferences and Continuing Education Opportunities
3. Fundraising Committee - Katie Clark, RVT (Chair)
  - Strategy and planning to cultivate new sponsors
  - Identify ways to elevate brand visibility/engagement/demonstrate measurable ROI
4. Newsletter/Public Relations Committee - Krystina Phillips, RVT (Chair)
  - Develops newsletter content
  - Creates social media posts
5. Membership Committee (New)
  - Plans National Vet Tech Week
  - Identifies ways to better serve NCAVT members
  - Develops marketing strategies to recruit members
  - Reviews platform



Interested in joining a committee? Email **Nicky** at [president@ncavt.org](mailto:president@ncavt.org) to learn more information about these committee member support opportunities!



*Congratulations!*  
**TO OUR**  
**2025**  
*RVT of the Year!*



**Dawn McKelvey, RVT**

To the NCAVT Board Members,

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Dawn McKelvey for the honor of Veterinary Technician of the Year in North Carolina. With nearly 20 years of experience in the veterinary field, Dawn exemplifies the dedication, expertise, and passion that define the very best in our profession.

Dawn's commitment to veterinary medicine was evident from the very beginning of her career. Even as a student at Bel-Rea, her instructors recognized her exceptional work ethic, deep compassion, and natural ability to connect with both animals and people—qualities that continue to shine through in every role she has held.

It was clear early on that Dawn was destined to make a lasting impact in this field. Dawn has also made a lasting impact on veterinary education and training in North Carolina. She served on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at Cape Fear Community College during its early development, where she played an integral role in establishing high standards for animal care and research ethics. She was instrumental in helping to establish Eastern Carolina Veterinary Medical Center (ECVMC) as a clinical site for students, creating opportunities for hands-on training in emergency medicine and even involvement with the clinic's blood bank program. These efforts have enriched the learning experiences of countless students and strengthened the foundation of veterinary education in the region.

Beyond these achievements, Dawn has been an unwavering supporter of the Veterinary Medical Technology program at CFCC and of the veterinary technician community as a whole. She has consistently volunteered her time and expertise—assisting with student information sessions, supporting the NCAVT Conference, guiding controlled substance compliance, and participating in fundraising events. Her efforts extend far beyond professional obligation; she truly cares about the success of students and the advancement of the profession.

Dawn's professional excellence is complemented by her vibrant personality. Known for her love of pugs and motorcycles, she brings an energy and enthusiasm that inspire those around her. She is a role model not only for her technical skill and leadership but also for her ability to balance dedication to her work with joy in her personal passions.

For her nearly two decades of outstanding service, her leadership in advancing veterinary education and standards of care, and her steadfast dedication to both colleagues and students, I cannot imagine a more deserving recipient of this award. What sets Dawn apart is not only her exceptional technical skill and leadership, but also the generosity, integrity, and compassion she brings to every aspect of her work. Dawn embodies the very best of what it means to be a veterinary technician in North Carolina.

Thank you for considering this nomination. I am confident that recognizing Dawn's contributions will not only honor her, but also highlight the profound and positive impact veterinary technicians have on our profession, our patients, and our communities.

Sincerely,  
Brandi Rousseau, RVT



# 2026



## *RVT of the Year*

# NOMINATIONS

GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR:

- NOMINATIONS MUST BE MADE BY A NCAVT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING WITH NCAVT AND NCVMB
- NOMINEES MUST BE A NCAVT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING WITH NCAVT AND NCVMB

CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN NCAVT
- LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION
- LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD WITHIN THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN COMMUNITY AT LARGE
- CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

**DEADLINE: 8/31/26**

NOMINATE HERE!

**OR GO TO [NCAVT.ORG](http://NCAVT.ORG)**

# A Letter From NCVMB Board Member Robin Lazaro



I write to you as I reflect on the past 10 years I have served on the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. The opportunity to join the Board was presented to me as I was finishing up my career as a Vet Tech after 30 years at NCSU CVM. The timing was perfect and I dove into the position with the intention of representing Technicians and fighting for better standards. Little did I recognize the 'scope' of the job and that my true purpose was to serve the community at large, protecting the pets and the people in our state. I embraced this challenge and served on a committee of investigation for all 10 years, 9 of which I was the Chair. Tending to client complaints and delivering disciplinary actions to DVMs and RVTs became part of my routine overseeing hundreds of cases.

My true alliance was held to the Technicians of our state, and working on fixing a profession I had such a passion for, as I know many of you do as well, became my goal early on. Ten years ago, picking up the Practice Act for NC and reading the Technician section left my head spinning. What did this even mean?? There was a lot to fix, but I broke it down into 3 sections. Title Protection, Reciprocity, and Scope of Practice. I thought we had decent title protection, but a deep dive into what it really meant revealed it was lacking. No one should be able to be called a Veterinary Technician unless they are licensed or registered as such. We fixed this in language and are still working on the 'office culture'. But I already see a big change in how Veterinary Assistant or non-credentialed staff are referred to.

Step two was reciprocity. This simply means the transfer of a license from one state to another OR who can license in our state. New language was approved and is currently on Senator Rabon's desk to allow graduates of foreign country programs that complete PAVE certification to license here, and Vet Tech Specialists, regardless of their means of licensure in another state, to license here.

Next up is Scope of Practice, I have had a committee of Techs from NCAVT working with me to better define supervision levels and delegated tasks to non credentialed staff and RVTs. We are in the final draft stages and have gained support from the NCVMA as we push toward our goal of a distinct scope. Provisions and compromises are still on the table as we collaborate with the NCVMB legislative committee as to the language we can all agree on but I am hopeful this amendment will go before the Board for approval in the near future.

As I transition off our states Board I have been elected to the AAVSB Board of Directors and will continue my work at the national level focusing on one national tech title (RVT, LVT, CVT, LVMT) and full utilization of tech scope to alleviate the need for a mid level position, license standardization, testing standards (VTNE), tech representation on all state Boards as well as the many veterinary national issues we deal with.

Being a Vet Tech can go beyond the obvious roles of advocating for and caring for pets in our neighborhood veterinary practice. Please consider reaching out to do more. Apply for my position! Get involved with our Tech association! We are lucky to have such a well-organized group that provides CE and advocacy for the techs in NC, but they need help!

Thank you all for your dedicated, super hard work as RVTs. Here's hoping you can look back on your career, as I can, and be proud of the work you do every day, despite the challenges; this profession is worth fighting for.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,  
Robin Lazaro, RVT, VTS(ECC)  
NCVMB Board Member  
AAVSB Board of Directors



# Congratulations Graduates!



**NASH  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
11 GRADUATES**



**GASTON  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
25 GRADUATES**

# Congratulations Graduates!



**CENTRAL  
CAROLINA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
23 GRADUATES**



# Career Day at North Garner Magnet Middle School

On May 15, NCAVT had the opportunity to participate in Career Day at North Garner Magnet School. Julie Nettifee, RVT, MS, VTS (Neurology), and Carrie Fellows, MVCC, RVT represented the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians, sharing information about veterinary medicine and animal health careers with students. The event was a wonderful experience, and the students were enthusiastic, engaged, and eager to learn about the many career paths available in the veterinary profession.



*North Garner  
Magnet Middle Career Day  
Carrie Fellows, RVT, MS  
Julie Nettifee, RVT, MS, VTS  
Cedric Rogers, NGMS*



# HONORING 5 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & DEDICATION TO THE NCAVT

The North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians proudly recognizes Susan Bray, RVT, for her unwavering dedication to the veterinary profession and her loyal service to NCAVT over the past five years.

Susan has consistently embodied the values of professionalism, compassion, and service that strengthen our organization and our profession.

Through her commitment to supporting fellow veterinary technicians, advancing professional development, and contributing her time and talents to NCAVT initiatives, she has become a valued and respected member of our community. Her willingness to serve, to lead, to collaborate, and to advocate for veterinary technicians has helped further the mission of NCAVT and positively impact countless colleagues throughout the state of North Carolina.

With heartfelt gratitude for Susan's dedicated service, NCAVT is proud to welcome Katie Clark, RVT, as the new Fundraising Coordinator. A long-standing NCAVT supporter and committed advocate for the profession, Katie will begin her first term serving in this role from April 2026 through April 2028.





Monthly CE opportunities proudly brought to you by Action Vet Tech Services, a Platinum-Level Sponsor of the NCAVT, dedicated to supporting the growth, education, and success of veterinary technicians across NC!



Got a CE topic request? **Email Katie** to [fundraisingcoordinator@ncat.org](mailto:fundraisingcoordinator@ncat.org)



# Fix-It Lady

medical service and repair



# Lungs Under Pressure: Preventing Barotrauma in Veterinary Patients

Don't miss **Fix-It-Lady**, a proud  
Silver-Level Sponsor of the NCAVT,  
will be presenting at NCVC!  
November 7, 2026 ~ 10:30–11:20am





# North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps



## About

The North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps (NCVRC) is a North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services initiative in partnership with the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association and the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. It is a volunteer group of professionals from the animal care community who are trained to help improve preparedness and response to disaster events that affect livestock and companion animals in NC.

The mission of the North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps is to train and coordinate volunteer veterinary professionals to assist local officials during emergencies in order to preserve animal well-being and protect public health and welfare.

## Membership

Membership is open to North Carolina veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, and veterinary and veterinary technician students.

## Benefits

Contribute to preparedness and response during disaster events that affect animals  
Access to unique training opportunities and continuing education  
Networking and partnership with other NCVRC members

## Training Requirements for Responding (accessible on Emergency Programs Website)

ICS 100, 200, 700 (online)  
Training Module 1: North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps  
Training Module 2: Animal Sheltering  
Biosecurity/PPE/Hazardous Materials Awareness Training  
Signing the NC VRC Code of Conduct

## Deployment Examples

Assisting with animal care and intake at animal sheltering locations  
Providing or facilitating veterinary medical care as needed to animals impacted by disasters  
Assisting with surveillance during a zoonotic or animal disease outbreak  
Provide damage assessments and situation reports



## Registration

If you are interested in joining the North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps, please scan the QR code or visit the NCVRC page at <https://www.ncagr.gov/oep/Respond/VRC>

## Program Coordinator

Dr. Daniel Kish [Daniel.kish@ncagr.gov](mailto:Daniel.kish@ncagr.gov)



## JOB OPPORTUNITY NASH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Position: Adjunct Instructor, Veterinary Medical Technology

### Minimum Qualifications:

- A current NC licensed DVM or RVT who is a graduate of an AVMA or CVMA-accredited program with at least 3-5 years experience.
- The ability to demonstrate the educational background and occupational experience appropriate to understand and fulfill program goals, instructional assignments, and promote the role of the veterinary technician in the veterinary health care team. Applicants must be able to meet the physical and emotional demands in all aspects of animal care, maintain current knowledge and competence in veterinary practice, and have the ability to maintain a positive, collaborative working relationship with students, staff, faculty and representatives from various animal health professions and settings. Well-developed clinical, technical, computer, organization, time management, and communication skills are necessary.

[CLICK HERE](#)  
[FOR MORE INFO!](#)



# NCAVT JOB BOARD



## Current Listings:

Anesthesia Equipment Service  
Technician (RVT)  
Interested RVTs contact  
cynthia.burns@fixitladyrvt.com

Veterinary Assistant/Technician  
Westchester Veterinary Hospital  
High Point, NC

Veterinary Technician (RVT)  
Noah's Ark Companion AH  
Franklin, NC

Veterinary Assistant/Technician  
Cobb Animal Clinic  
Greensboro, NC

Veterinary Technician (RVT)  
PetDocks Veterinary Hospital  
Morehead City, NC

Veterinary Technicians (RVT)  
Carolina Veterinary Specialists  
(PetVet)  
Matthews, NC

Veterinary Technician (RVT)  
Trinity Animal Hospital  
Holly Springs, NC

Radiation Oncology, IM, ER, Anesthesia,  
Surgery-Veterinary Technician (RVT)  
BluePearl  
Cary, NC

Relief-Veterinary Technician (RVT)  
Blue Pearl  
Durham, NC

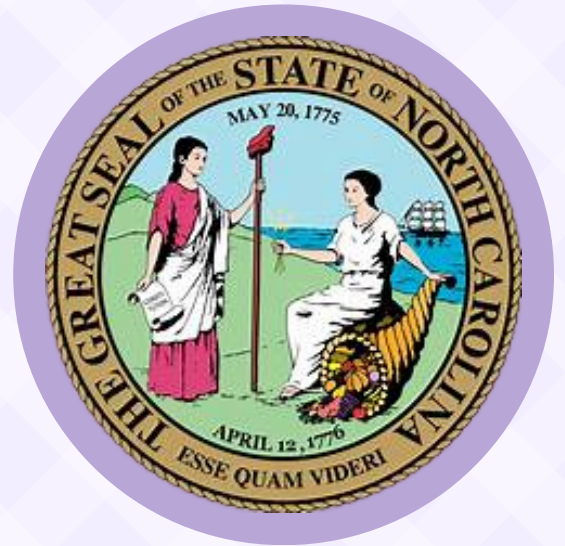
ER-Veterinary Technician (RVT)  
BluePearl  
Raleigh, NC

ER/ICU-Veterinary Technician (RVT)  
Skyline Vet Specialists (BluePearl)  
Matthews, NC

Veterinary Technicians (RVT)  
Points East Veterinary Referral &  
Emergency (Vets Pets)  
Wilmington, NC

Go to <https://ncavt.careerwebsite.com/> for more info!

# Upcoming NCVMB Meetings



**Did you know you can actively participate in NCVMB meetings? Whether in person or via Zoom, this is your chance to stay informed about critical developments in the North Carolina veterinary community.**

**The NCAVT is partnering with the NCVMB to foster positive changes in our profession, and your presence is vital. Join us at these meetings to show your support and help create a strong, united front for our community. Together, we can make a significant impact!**

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## 2026 Board Meetings Schedule

MEETINGS BEGIN: 8:00AM  
at the Board Office  
1611 Jones Franklin Rd.  
Suite 106  
Raleigh, NC 27606

July 23  
September 10  
November 19

More information and the  
Zoom meeting link can be  
found at [ncvmb.org](https://ncvmb.org)



# Partner-Sponsored CE Opportunities

## JUNE



LIVE Webinar  
**June 17th**  
7 - 8p (EST)

**"Don't Monitor Your  
Anesthesia Monitoring  
Equipment"**

Speaker: Chelsey Vanetten RVT,  
VTS(Anesthesia/Analgesia)



## JULY



LIVE Webinar  
**July 20th**  
7 - 8p (EST)

**"ETCO2 And You-A guide to  
Capnography and ETCO2"**

Speaker: Meagan Smith RVT,  
VTS(Anesthesia/Analgesia)



## AUGUST



LIVE Webinar  
**August 10th**  
7 - 8p (EST)

**"Taking the Pet out  
of Petrified"**

Speaker: Jessica Christol RVT,  
LSHC-S, LSHC-F, FFCP, CFVP



LIVE Webinar  
**June 24th**  
7- 8p (EST)

**"Creating the Perfect Recipe:  
Anesthesia Protocols +  
Choosing Anesthesia Drugs"**

Speaker: Chelsey Vanetten RVT,  
VTS(Anesthesia/Analgesia)



## IDEXX

### Webinars & Podcasts

Earn CE credit from  
upcoming live and  
on-demand webinars  
delivered by industry  
experts.

**[Click here to browse all  
CE opportunities!](#)**



**Half-Day CE Event**  
*"Summer Sessions  
with Vets Pets"*

 **Marriott Raleigh  
Crabtree Valley**

**August 15th**  
8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

Official registration link  
to come on NCAVTs  
Social Media pages!