

# NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

Spring 2013

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings!

Can you believe it is already summer? I hope everyone is enjoying summer vacations and BBQ and Fourth of July Fireworks!

We are very excited to say CONGRATULATIONS to all the recent grads in NC. CCCC graduated one of its largest classes ever in May. We wish all of you the very best of luck taking your upcoming VTNE and NC State Board Exams.

Your NCAVT is hard at work planning for our Annual Fall Conference, this year to be held September 28, 2013 at Gaston College. This year's line up includes lectures on Hematology, Reproductive Medicine, Exotic Medicine and more. As always, 6 hours of all technician geared CE will be available (pending board approval).

Each year our Fall Conference gets bigger and better and we appreciate all of you who come out and support our conference and your association.

We are currently looking for volunteers who would like to serve on committees to help plan our conferences and also our Fundraising activities. Please contact us if you would be interested in helping at [info@ncavt.com](mailto:info@ncavt.com). We look forward to the opportunity to work with more of our members!

Thank you all for supporting your NCAVT. We enjoy serving the technicians of North Carolina very much and are always here to answer questions, take suggestions, and do all we can to make NC a great place to work in our field. We could not do it without your continued support! Enjoy your summers and I look forward to seeing all of you in the Fall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beckie Mossor, RVT  
President  
NCAVT 2013



### ***Inside this issue:***

Gaston College Graduation	2
NCSU Open House	3
CCCC Graduation	3
Fall Conference Registration	4
New AAHA Guidelines	5 & 6

### **Special points of interest!**

- New AAHA Guidelines
- Graduations!

## GASTON COLLEGE VMT PINNING CEREMONY

On May 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 the second year veterinary medical technology students, their family and friends, and VMT instructors gathered at the Cherryville Golf and Country Club. It was a wonderful celebration of all their hard work over the past two years. Angela Lawrence was awarded the Academic Achievement Award. Tearsha Hester was awarded the Clinical Excellence Award. Each was given a plaque by the instructors and a gift of \$100 by NCAVT for their accomplishment. All of the students received a free 1 year membership to NCAVT and a copy of the Veterinary Technician's Oath which was recited after all the graduates received their pin.



## NCSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE OPEN HOUSE

On April 27, 2013, NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine held its annual open house to the public. There was a lot to see and do. It was a great day to find out about all the opportunities there are within veterinary medicine. NCAVT was on hand as well to talk about the opportunity of becoming a registered veterinary technician and its rewarding career. Stacey Hathaway, RVT, manned the booth with two first year CCCC students. They were able to speak with many potential new students and their families on what a veterinary technician does and how they will be utilized within their chosen career. Many people were surprised to learn of the different colleges now offering Veterinary Medical Technology as an accredited program within our state. At the end of the day, all pamphlets were handed out and "Wolfie" stopped by for a photo op!



## CCCC 2013 GRADUATION

The VMT class of 2013 at Central Carolina Community College gathered together on May 10, 2013 at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center in Sanford with family and friends to celebrate the end of their academic careers and graduation. The first year students provided luncheon and gifts of personalized horseshoes for the group. Johnathan Loftis RVT, an instructor also provided a slide show for the group to outline what they experienced over the past 2 years. Many family members were surprised to see how involved the program was for their graduate. Stacey Hathaway, RVT acting as NCAVT representative, presented the two top students, Don Lohr and Colleen Cunningham, with a monetary gift of \$100.00 from NAVTA. All graduating students received one year free membership to NAVTA



## HAVE YOU HEARD?

AAHA has published their new 2013 guidelines for Dental care for Dogs and Cats. If you have an established dentistry program or are looking to take it to the next level, take a moment to see what AAHA feels is the best way to care for your patients clients and Staff. A PDF version can be found on the AAHA website or at [www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/Dental\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/Dental_Guidelines.pdf)

In 2005 the first set of guidelines were drawn up by the leaders in the veterinary dentistry field and now they have come together 8 years later to update them for a new generation of standards. Does your practice make the grade? Here are some of the highlights of this 8 page document.

### Facility Requirements

- A dedicated dental space must be separate from the sterile surgical suite and needs to be placed in a low-traffic area.
- Appropriate ventilation and anesthetic scavenging systems must also be used.
- Low-heat, high-intensity lighting, and equipment for magnifying the target area are required to adequately and safely visualize the oral cavity and its structures.
- The operating table must allow for drainage and be constructed of impervious, cleanable material.

### Materials, Instruments, and Equipment

- Instruments and dental equipment require routine and frequent maintenance.
- Instruments must be sharp and properly stored, and instruments in poor condition need to be replaced.
- dentistry, instruments that enter the oral cavity should be sterilized.

### Operator Protection

- Irrigating the oral cavity with a 0.12% chlorhexidine solution before dental scaling decreases bacterial aerosolization.
- The safety of the operator must be ensured during dental procedures by using radiographic, oral, respiratory, skin, eye, and ear protective devices
- Ergonomic considerations include proper seating, fatigue mats for standing, and proper positioning of both the patient and materials to minimize immediate and chronic operator injuries.

### Patient Assessment

- History and Physical Examination
- Assessment by Life Stage
- Oral/Dental Examination in the Conscious Patient
- The oral examination performed on a conscious patient allows the practitioner to design a preliminary diagnostic plan.

### Planning the Dental Cleaning and Patient Evaluation

- Use well-monitored, inhalation anesthesia with cuffed intubation when performing dental cleanings.
- Preoperative care includes IV catheterization to facilitate administration of IV fluid therapy, preemptive pain management, and antibiotics (when indicated).

### Non-anesthetic dentals are not acceptable

- Attempting to perform procedures on an awake patient that is struggling, under sedation, or injectable anesthesia reduces the ability to make an accurate diagnosis, does not allow adequate treatment, and increases stress and risks to the patient.

### Anesthesia

- Intubation is necessary
- During anesthesia, one trained person is dedicated to continuously monitoring and recording vital parameters.
- Prevention of hypothermia with warming devices is essential
- If oral surgery is planned, the institution of an intraoral local anesthetic is warranted in conjunction with the general anesthesia.



## AAHA GUIDELINES cnt..

### Dental Procedures

- Dental procedures must be performed by a licensed veterinarian, a credentialed technician, or a trained veterinary assistant under the supervision of a veterinarian in accordance with state or provincial practice acts.
- Surgical extractions are to be performed only by trained, licensed veterinarians.
- All extractions need to have postextraction, intraoral radiographs.
- a consistent method should be used to record findings in the medical record
- Positioning and safety of the patient is important.
- Avoid using mouth gags because they can cause myalgia, neuralgia, and/or trauma to the temporomandibular joint.

### Essential Steps for Professional Dental Cleaning

- Perform an oral evaluation
- Radiograph the entire mouth
- Scale the teeth supra- and, most importantly, subgingivally
- Polish the teeth using a low-speed hand piece
- Perform subgingival irrigation
- Apply antiplaque substances
- Provide instructions to the owner regarding home oral hygiene.
- Take postoperative radiographs to evaluate the treatment
- Examine and rinse the oral cavity.
- Recommend referral to a specialist

### Postoperative Management

- Maintain an open airway via intubation until the animal is either swallowing or in sternal recumbency.
- Continuously monitor and record vital signs until the patient is awake
- Assess and record pain scores throughout the recovery period .

### Client Education and Follow-up

- Postoperative Communication
- Discuss all operative procedures and existing/potential complications
- Discuss immediate postoperative home oral hygiene, including medications and their side effects. Provide antibiotics and medication for inflammation and pain as indicated.
- Provide individualized oral and written instructions at the time of discharge.
- Telephone the client the day after the procedure to inquire about the pet's condition
- Home Oral Hygiene
- Home oral hygiene plan includes the frequency, duration, and method of rinsing and brushing; applying sealants; and the use of dental diets and dental chews.
- The Veterinary Oral Health Council has a list of products that are reportedly effective in retarding the accumulation of dental plaque and/or calculus.
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### Progress or Follow-up Evaluation

- Set the number and timing of regular follow-up visits based on the disease severity.

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**We're on the web!**  
**[www.ncavt.com](http://www.ncavt.com)**



## *Spring 2013*



The North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians is a non-profit organization designed to support the veterinary technician profession. It began as a small group of dedicated veterinary medical technicians in the Wake County area in the early 1980s. The number of members grew to 62 in 1987 and became the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians. In 1992-93, officers of the NCAVT were instrumental in helping Bill 747 pass in the NC General Assembly. The bill essentially kept the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act from becoming open to individuals who had not graduated from an AVMA accredited program of veterinary medical technology and successfully completed the National Veterinary Technician Exam and State Boards.

## AVMA ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College  
340 Victoria Rd  
Asheville, NC 28801  
828-354-1921  
[www.abtech.edu](http://www.abtech.edu)  
Director: JoEtta Newman, RVT

Central Carolina Community College  
1105 Kelly Dr  
Sanford, NC 27330  
919-775-5401  
[www.cccc.edu](http://www.cccc.edu)  
Director: Dr. Kim Browning, DVM

Gaston College  
201 Highway 321 South  
Dallas, NC 28034  
704-922-6200  
[www.gaston.edu](http://www.gaston.edu)  
Director: Dr. Kristine Blankenship, DVM

Miller Motte College  
3901 Capital Boulevard  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
919-723-2820  
[www.miller-motte.edu](http://www.miller-motte.edu)  
Director: Dr. Camille Sherrod, DVM