



2018 MVTA Conference Lecture Descriptions

Behavior - Track #1

Behavior Essentials: Learning Theory for the Veterinary Technician

Monique Feyrecilde, BA, LVT, VTS (Behavior)

Learning happens all the time, whether we want it to or not! We will discuss how pets learn, and how this is relevant to the relationship between the veterinary team and the patient – even if your clinic “doesn’t do behavior.”

Brainwashing Can Be Good! Desensitization and Classical Conditioning Done Right

Monique Feyrecilde, BA, LVT, VTS (Behavior)

Desensitization and Classical Conditioning are the cornerstone of many behavior modification protocols. Learn how to properly implement this technique, common mistakes to avoid, and what to expect during the treatment process.

Think Inside the Box: Feline House Soiling

Monique Feyrecilde, BA, LVT, VTS (Behavior)

Periuria and Perichezia are the most common unwanted behaviors described by cat owners. Is it medical? Is it behavioral? Is it both? How can I prevent it? What about treatment? Learn helpful tips on differentiating different types of house soiling, and what you can do to help.

No Restraint? No Problem! Cooperative Veterinary Care: Setting the Stage

Monique Feyrecilde, BA, LVT, VTS (Behavior)

Cooperative Veterinary Care is the art and science of building a care plan around the pet’s comfort level and needs. From distractions all the way up to complete cooperative unrestrained blood draws or x-rays, Cooperative Veterinary Care starts with a great plan to set the stage for handling and training.

No Restraint? No Problem! Cooperative Veterinary Care: Consent Points & Skills Training

Monique Feyrecilde, BA, LVT, VTS (Behavior)

Can an animal sign a consent form? Can a pet learn to give blood with training rather than restraint? Learn the answers to these questions and many more from this next-level presentation.

Change is Good! How to convince your team to care about behavior

Monique Feyrecilde, BA, LVT, VTS (Behavior)

Change is always a challenge. It can be so frustrating to go to a conference, learn wonderful techniques and ideas, then return home and have your team resist your brilliant suggestions. Implementation is part knowledge and part strategy. Learn how to convince your team to see things your way, and be the change you want to see.



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ECC & Toxicities - Track #2

Putting Your Finger On The Pulse: Arterial Blood Gas Sampling and Basic Interpretation for the Veterinary Technician

Patty Pate, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Arterial blood gas analysis is the gold standard for evaluating a patient's oxygen/ventilation status. In this lecture, technicians will review the importance of arterial blood gas monitoring, including the benefits of testing. Attendees will leave with an increased understanding of basic blood gas interpretation, acid/base balances, and how the results are applied to their patients. Technicians will review arterial blood gas sampling techniques and discuss some trouble shooting ideas.

DEA 1. WHAT? – Demystifying Transfusion Medicine for the Veterinary Technician

Patty Pate, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Transfusion medicine has been around for centuries and gone are the days of transferring your patient to the emergency hospital for a blood transfusion. As the veterinary medical profession grows, transfusion medicine is being incorporated into the day-to-day practices of most veterinary hospitals. Technicians play an important role in the patient testing, handling and administration of these products. Participants will leave with an understanding of blood components, their uses, crossmatching techniques, administration and monitoring protocols and so much more.

Marijuana Toxicity: CBD, THC and Everything in Between

Samantha Kowalski, CVT, VTS (IM, ECC)

With recent legalization and loosening of restrictions for medical and recreational use, marijuana is quickly becoming one of the most common drug toxicities seen in the veterinary ER. This lecture will discuss the chemical components of this plant, its most commonly ingested forms, the presentation of patients often seen upon triage and treatments that can be implemented to decrease clinical signs.

Neurology- Track #2

Is it REALLY a Seizure? A technician's guide to seizures.

Jessica M. Weber CVT, VTS (Neurology)

"Fluffy took a seizure" is a common complaint in veterinary medicine, but the seizures are rarely seen in practice. Therefore, determining a seizure diagnosis can be difficult. This lecture covers the basics of what a seizure is, including common causes in small animals. How to obtain a seizure history and differential diagnoses for seizure-like episodes including vestibular disease, behavioral episodes, and muscle disorders will also be discussed.

Navigating the sea of seizure therapies



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Jessica M. Weber CVT, VTS (Neurology)

Phenobarbital and potassium bromide are no longer the only treatments in small animal epilepsy. Newer medications including levetiracetam, gabapentin, zonisamide, topiramate, clonazepam, and midazolam will be discussed. Alternative therapies including CBD, acupuncture, and dietary management will also be discussed.

Sea Sickness on Land: The physiology and diagnosis of vestibular disease in small animals

Jessica M. Weber CVT, VTS (Neurology)

Balance disorders are common in veterinary medicine. This lecture will discuss the normal physiology of the balance system in dogs and cats as well as common dysfunctions including idiopathic, inflammatory, infectious, and neoplastic causes. Nursing care of animals with vestibular disease will also be discussed.

Anesthesia & Analgesia - Track #3

Anesthesia With Limited Opioids

Jaime Maher, CVT, VTS (ECC, Anesthesia)

Opioid backorders and shortages are affecting everyone nowadays. It is the hot topic of blogs, social media posts, anesthesia groups, and staff meetings everywhere. There are other options! This lecture will discuss the current predicament and offer solutions that will still provide your patients with adequate analgesia using a multi-modal approach.

Local Blocks for Everyday

Jaime Maher, CVT, VTS (ECC, Anesthesia)

Continuing with the discussion of opioid shortages, it is important that we learn how to provide locoregional anesthesia whenever possible. This lecture will highlight several local blocks that can be performed easily by veterinary technicians in any type of practice.

Defining and Describing Pain in Veterinary Patients

Jaime Maher, CVT, VTS (ECC, Anesthesia)

This lecture covers an overview of the various definitions that surround the term, "pain." A selection of methods for analyzing and documenting pain scores in cats and dogs will be highlighted. Case examples and scenarios will be utilized to give attendees practical, real-life examples of how we can identify and treat pain.

Treating Pain - the Whole Patient

Jaime Maher, CVT, VTS (ECC, Anesthesia)

After identifying and defining a level of pain in a patient, we now need to decide the best course of treatment. Is this surgical pain, post-operative pain or something requiring more long



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term management? We need to tailor the analgesic plan to meet the patient's needs. Several case scenarios and their appropriate therapies will be discussed.

Anesthesia Monitoring: Troublesome Troubleshooting Part I

Meghan Dakin, CVT, VTS (ECC)

This lecture will focus on cardiovascular monitoring techniques for the small animal anesthetic patient, common issues that may arise, and what we can do to pre-empt and correct for these issues. Topics will include commonly encountered cardiac arrhythmias and hypotension under general anesthesia. This lecture will include a brief review of anesthesia monitoring techniques.

Anesthesia Monitoring: Troublesome Troubleshooting Part II

Meghan Dakin, CVT, VTS (ECC)

This lecture will focus on respiratory monitoring techniques for the small animal anesthetic patient, common issues that may arise, and what we can do to pre-empt and correct for these issues. Topics will include low pulse oximetry readings, as well as abnormal capnometry readings and capnography waveforms under general anesthesia. This lecture will build upon information discussed in part I.

HOT TOPICS - Track #4

Judicious Use of Antibiotics in Poultry and Livestock

Christopher Hannafin, DVM

This presentation will address the judicious use of antibiotics in poultry and livestock. The focus will be on poultry and non-traditional species (goats, camelids, swine) with a emphasis on the current laws concerning veterinary feed directives (VFDs) and extra label use of antibiotics. Lecture will include recommendations for the best husbandry and biosecurity practices needed to prevent disease and reduce the need for antibiotics.

Vet Techs Role in Lameness Diagnosis and Treatment

Brett Gaby, DVM

Outlining of technician's familiarity with digital xray and ultrasound, manipulating images. Familiarity with procedures, intra-articular injections, including aseptic prep, types of needles. Familiarity with medications, organization. Lameness cases: video presentations, identification of lameness, imaging, treatment. Time depending, may include 2-3 cases.

Narcan & the Working Dog: Reversing the Opioid Overdose

Samantha Kowalski, CVT, VTS (IM, ECC)

With the advent of the opioid crisis, naloxone has been the ever present savior helping animals and humans alike from overdose. This lecture will focus on an in depth discussion of naloxone and how it works, the differences we see in overdoses from in hospital administration of



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opioids vs. exposure types working dogs come in contact with while out on the street, and how to help these animals when they present to your ER.

Patient Advocacy 101

Patty Pate, CVT, VTS (ECC)

We as veterinary technicians have entered a profession to serve as caregivers for all animals, big and small. We have gone to great lengths to educate our brains and equipped ourselves with the skills and abilities that will help us to carry out a number of nursing care orders, but these skills can only take our patient care so far. What happens when orders are missing for a patient vs treatment plan? When does the need for critical thinking set in? How do we ensure that we are an active member of our patient's medical team? Finding the answers to these questions can sometimes be the difference between a good technician and a GREAT technician! In this lecture we will discuss the meaning of being a patient's advocate and review ways of developing this essential skill in order to take your career to the next level!

Veterinary Nurse or Veterinary Technician?

The Veterinary Nurse Initiative: An Update to the Veterinary Technician Credentials

Ed Carlson, CVT, VTS (Nutrition)

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) has launched the Veterinary Nurse Initiative (VNI). The goal of the VNI is to standardize the credential for our profession in terms of credentialing requirements, title, and scope of practice throughout the nation. A standardized credential will unify the profession and grow professional recognition. Some of the questions this presentation will answer include:

- Why change the current "Veterinary Technician" title to "Registered Veterinary Nurse"?
- How will changing the title of Veterinary Technician impact credentialing standards?
- How might this affect me?
- Will this open new career opportunities?

A Dark Horse: Illuminating the Price of Compassion Fatigue

Patty Pate, CVT, VTS (ECC)

The terms "burnout" and "compassion fatigue" are often used interchangeably but these terms are not synonymous for a multitude of reasons. The cost of compassion fatigue on an individual and veterinary team is so much more detrimental than any amount of burnout. In this lecture we will review the definition of compassion fatigue and the differences between compassion fatigue and burnout. Participants will learn to identify who on their team may be more susceptible and the warning signs associated with those who might be suffering from compassion fatigue. We will cover the impact that compassion fatigue can have on a hospital, its teams, its clients and its patients, as well as review programs and methods to care for your team and prevent compassion fatigue from taking its toll.