

WYOMING VETERINARY TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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The main goal of the Wyoming Veterinary Technician Association is to promote the professional and educational advancement of Veterinary Technicians and the Veterinary Support Staff.

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Greetings!

Once again, it is time for the Association to begin planning our annual Continuing Education seminar. Putting on this seminar takes a lot of time and planning. We try to provide a full day of quality education for the technicians and assistants in Wyoming. In order to continue to provide this education opportunity, we are asking for your help.

In the past we have held our conference in Casper, Torrington and Sheridan, usually in the fall. There have been a few times it was offered in the summer. We want the location to be the most convenient for the most people to attend. We have also tried to pick a time when the majority of you might be able to attend.

Here's what we need from you: In order for us to get the ball rolling, we need to know what you want to learn. What subjects do you want to know more about, and do you have a speaker in mind? We have tried to balance the topics between small and large animal, management and nursing, but we are running out of ideas. Ask your coworkers what they would want, even if they don't plan on attending. We also would like to know your opinion on location, and whether you would like to see us add speakers to the Wyoming Veterinary Meeting in June, or keep the technician meeting completely separate.

We're not asking for a time commitment from you, just your ideas. We'll do the legwork, you just need to let us know what you want at this conference. Please write, email, call any of the board members and voice your opinion.

Thanks,

Jackie Van Noy, CVT

WyVTA President

Secretary's Notes

The February 8, 2010 Meeting was attended by, Carol Larson, Jennifer Albrecht, Jody Fay, Deana Baker, Jaime Voelz, and Jackie Van Noy.

Deana was congratulated on the newsletter. There hasn't been one for several years. She stated that she needs articles, as she does not want to be the one to write it. Some articles suggested included parasites and control; rattlesnake vaccine; puppy socialization; MDR1 gene; and weird cases. Deana hopes to have the next newsletter out in early March. Because of her work schedule, she cannot do them more than once every other month.

There is \$9784.45 in the checking account as of February 8, 2010. Jody is still having a hard time getting the bank account transferred from Cody to Sheridan

Jackie stated that she submitted the scholarship stuff to Eastern Wyoming College Financial Aid Dept. They are going to run it past the veterinary technology department and then put it on their website.

Jaime Talked to Patti Sue Peterson about strengthening the relationship between the WyVTA and EWC. The WyVTA is going to be promoted more in classes and activities. It is hoped that we can get some student members from this also. There are two slots on the board for student members that have never been filled since the association's inception. Deana will email Patti Sue a newsletter when she gets it done.

Next meeting will be March 7, 2010

The March 7, 2010 Meeting was attended by Carol Larson, Jody Fay, Deana Baker, Jackie Van Noy.

Deana got the membership and renewal cards sent to current members. She has also sent renewal letters to people that are overdue in their 2010 membership. She is starting to get a response back on the notices.

Jody has finally gotten the bank stuff straightened out. She now has a signature card and address changed so that Deana will no longer be getting the bank statement. There is \$9784.45 in the checking account at this time. Deana presented a bill for mailing and copying for \$61.47. Since there is not a quorum, this was not voted on.

Jackie discussed some topics that we might want to have at our next conference. Andy was not present to add into the discussion. One topic mentioned was grief, burn out and compassion fatigue. Carol mentioned that she felt this would be a good topic, as did Jackie. Both have seen a lot of euthanasia as well as other issues at work. A time, date or place has not been set. Jody will not be able to attend the first week in October as she has other obligations. Jackie was also considering asking the WVMA if the association could be included in their CE as they do have good speakers and topics. Carol mentioned that she attended a WVMA meeting several years ago in Sheridan and saw quite a few techs there. Jackie and Deana attended one in Casper several years ago and also noticed that there were a number of techs in attendance.

The next meeting will be April 11, 2010 because Easter is on April 4th.

Submitted by,
Deana Baker, CVT
Secretary, WyVTA

New Puppy Socialization Guidelines

Submitted by Jody Fay, CVT

The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) has released new guidelines for socializing puppies. For many years, puppy owners were told to keep their puppies close to home until they had had all their vaccinations. As a result of this, puppies missed being socialized during their critical development period that ends at 16 weeks. Puppies who are not socialized during this critical period are at greater risk for behavioral problems such as fear, avoidance, and/or aggression. This has become particularly important now because the number one reason dogs are relinquished to shelters is behavior problems. The number one cause of euthanasia in dogs is behavior problems.

The most important time for puppy socialization is the first 3 months of life. During this period sociability outweighs fear, giving the puppy the best opportunity to adapt to the stresses and experiences of new people, animals, noises and situations. Socializing puppies means exposing them to new people, new animals, and new environments. It also can include puppy socialization classes where the puppies get to interact with other puppies of the same age/size/development.

The AVSAB believes that puppies should receive socialization before they have been fully vaccinated. Puppies should be able to start socialization classes as young as 8 weeks. They should have a minimum of one set of vaccinations at least 1 week prior to starting class and should continue to have regularly scheduled vaccinations during the class. Puppies should continue socializing throughout the first 2 years of their life. Adult aggressive behavior patterns first appear during adolescence, so young dogs must learn how to get along with other dogs while they are forming these patterns. Socialization allows puppies to learn to communicate with other dogs correctly and to read body language. Socialization with new situations and people, allows the puppies to learn to handle the stresses of these experiences at a period in their development when they are less likely to be permanently affected by fear.

Recommendations for socializing include:

Avoid high traffic public areas where unvaccinated dogs may be present such as dog parks and parks. Keep puppies safe but expose them to a variety of new experiences, people, animals, and noises. Attend a puppy socialization class for puppies that uses positive training methods and divides puppies by age. Puppies 4-5 months old have different social and physical skills than younger puppies.

Help Wanted from www.vetquest.com

Head Vet Technician

Calling all veterinary technicians desiring to combine their hands-on technical skills with management opportunities! We've got a position available for a lead veterinary technician at our six doctor mixed animal practice situated in the wide open spaces of Wyoming and only 130 miles from Denver, CO. The right candidate will have 4-5 years experience as a technician and/or at least one year of experience as a lead technician. We would prefer a certified veterinary technician, but will consider experienced technicians without their certification as long as you are committed to continuing education. In addition to general medical and technical responsibilities, our lead technician will be responsible for scheduling and training of both technicians and assistants. We offer a flexible, engaging practice environment and our technicians are utilized to the fullest. Our veterinarians are great communicators, and the lead technician will be treated as a member of our management team and encouraged to share in strategic planning and implementation of new policies and procedures to further improve our practice.

 910-795-0219  866-347-8543

Funnies

Subject: A Horses View Of The World

Arena: Place where humans can take the fun out of forward motion.

Bit: Means by which a rider's every motion is transmitted to the sensitive tissues of the mouth.

Bucking: Counterirritant

Crossties: Gymnastic apparatus.

Dressage: Process by which some riders can eventually be taught to respect the bit.

Fence: Barrier that protects good grazing.

Grain: Sole virtue of domestication.

Hitching Rail: Means by which to test one's strength.

Horse Trailer: Mobile cave bear den.

Hotwalker: The lesser of two evils.

Jump: An opportunity for self-expression.

Latch: Type of puzzle.

Lunging: Procedure for keeping a prospective rider at bay.

Owner: Human assigned responsibility for one's feeding.

Rider: Owner overstepping its bounds.

Farrier: Disposable surrogate owner; useful for acting out aggression without compromising food supply.

Trainer: Owner with mob connections

Veterinarian: Flightless albino vulture