

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.

Officers:

Pres. Jodi Fay, CVT

V.P. Jana Gregerson, CVT

Sec. Jackie Van Noy, CVT

Treas. Patti Sue Peterson, AHT

NAVTA Rep. Deana Baker, CVT

Members At Large

Past Pres.

Deana Baker, CVT

Newsletter Editor:

Deana Baker, CVT

2633 Bighorn Ave.

Cody, WY 82414

Bouteloua_gracilis@yahoo.com

Website:

www.wyvta.org

Webmaster:

Jackie Van Noy, CVT

it_bytes_bigtime@hotmail.com

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President's Message

Greetings from Snowy Sheridan, Wyoming!

We got our normal year's amount of moisture in one storm. I guess that works!

The Wyoming Veterinary Technician Association is planning a CE Conference in Casper the first weekend in October. We are looking for speakers and topics of interest. If you have a particular interest, please let one of the board members know.

Participation in your state association will help keep our accreditation process moving. While the state does not require you to be certified to work as a technician, many veterinarians are hiring only CVT's. You can help yourself and others by becoming involved in your association and by encouraging others to join.

Thanks,
Jody Fay, CVT
WYVTA President

Treasurer's Report

There is \$7,228.59 in the checking account.

AAVSB Announcement

VTNE Announcement: The online VTNE Application for the June 15, 2007 Administration is now available at our website at www.aavsb.org on the Veterinary Technician page for the following state boards/associations: **CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, ID, MA, MN, MT, NH, NJ, OH, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT and WY.**

The application deadline is **Friday, April 20, 2007.**

Applicants may also wish to know that an important instruction sheet and that the PES Candidate Information Booklet is also posted on the page, in pdf format, for easy download.

Contact the AAVSB:

Cate Daniels
Program Administrator (VTNE)
American Association of Veterinary State Boards
4106 Central Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

NAVTA NEWS

Nestlé reaffirms their commitment to providing the TNJ to Veterinary Technician Students

Dr. Dan Christian has recently reaffirmed Nestlé's commitment to providing TNJ in 2007 to second year (two year program) or fourth year students (four years program).

This will be for the Spring, Fall, Winter issues 2007. His commitment is a \$9500 contribution toward the distribution during those issues. Their recognition banner for the front cover will be altered slightly beginning in 2007. Distribution continues to grow with over 4000 eligible students receiving the journal.

Nestle will also continue to sponsor the Communication feature in the Education section.

Other News

Pet Food Recall

One would have to have been in a bubble not to hear about the "Menu Foods" recall last month. Some 90+ dog and cat food brands have been affected. Both premium and store foods have been involved as have canned/pouched and dry foods. The chemical still hasn't been identified although there are theories. Contaminated wheat gluten imported from China has been identified as the source. The symptoms are those identified with acute renal failure including lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, dehydration, and depression. The AVMA has a section on their website concerning this recall at <http://www.avma.org/aa/menufoodsrecall/faq.asp> including photomicrograph of some urine crystals on a urine sediment. Since more foods are being added to the list, many veterinarians are recommending that pet owners not feed any products containing wheat gluten. This also includes treats as some treats have been recalled also.

Another Food Recall

Eight In One, Inc., a division of United Pet Group, Inc., is voluntarily recalling nationally all lots of Dingo CHICK'N JERKY treats due to concerns that the jerky treats have the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*, which can cause serious infections in dogs and cats, and, if there is cross contamination, in people, especially children, the aged, and people with compromised immune systems.

The products affected were sold at Target, PetSmart and other retailers. The products subject to this recall are Dingo CHICK'N JERKY 3.5 oz. and 8 oz. for dogs and Dingo Kitty CHICKEN JERKY 1.5 oz. for cats and Dingo Ferret CHICKEN JERKY 1.5 oz for ferrets.

For details, please see the FDA press release at http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/eightinone03_07.html.

Hypothermia and Frostbite

I know that it's supposed to be "summer" but last weekend's snowstorm proved that Winter may not be truly over. Nanette Walker-Smith has submitted an article concerning frostbite and hypothermia. For those of you who don't know Nanette, she is one of the WyVTA's founding members and past president. She is also the Content Direct of VSPN. She and her family currently live in Fairbanks, Alaska. Granted this is written for mostly parents but there are parts that do pertain to veterinary medicine also

Frostbite, Hypothermia, and Our Kids

submitted by Nanette Walker-Smith, M.Ed., RVT, CVT, LVT

Wednesday, December 6, I attended the monthly Crawford Parent Advisory Committee meeting at 3 pm in the school library. The topic of the meeting this month was to show the frostbite and hypothermia video that all 400 of the Crawford students saw earlier this year. It was pretty graphic, but made some very blatant points about the care parents should be taking in making sure their children are adequately protected.

Why were there only 2 parents there (a parent/paid aide from the school and me)? I do know that

it was pretty disturbing since Mrs. Brazel the school principal reported recently in an article on frostbite that November 20 there were at least 32 students that showed up at school inadequately dressed for the cold; daily temperatures were around -15 degrees. That number was without all teachers reporting in and is a continuing daily occurrence at Crawford. What parents don't seem to realize is that cars break down, fire drills and evacuation events do occur during the school day, recess is everyday and the kids go outside for 30 minutes until the temperature falls to below -20 degrees. Once the kids leave school, how do the kids get home? What if the bus breaks down? What if the bus is late? Are they walking home? Too many what if questions for something that is so easily taken care of. These children are 8-12 years old and the teachers and aides have to stand at the doors reminding them repeatedly to put on gloves, hats, coats, boots, etc.

The video presented (required by the Fairbanks North Star Borough) showed what can happen when the joints and long bones of growing children are frostbitten or subjected to extreme cold. The cartilaginous tissue (forming bone and growth plates) is damaged and can result in stunted growth, joints that don't work, blisters the size of small water balloons, loss of fingers, toes, feet, hands, and more. These growth plates and cartilaginous tissues aren't mature until a person reaches 18-21 years of age. How many junior high and high school students have you seen walking in flip flops or thin jackets throughout the winter, because it looks cool and their tough?

Helpful tips were shown like how quickly ANY liquid that comes in contact with skin can freeze tissues at temperatures below freezing (32 degrees) almost instantaneously. How many times have diapers leaked, sucked thumbs are ungloved, or drinks have been spilled on kids and they head out to the cold without being dry? Cells burst when frozen just like water expands when it freezes.

The take home message was "Listen to your body":

If you are cold, get inside, change to warm, dry clothes and don't stay outside just to 'be cool'

- Layer clothes
- Waterproof gloves and shoes
- Keep liquid away from skin; any liquid can freeze tissue. This includes water, gasoline, alcohol, soda, etc.

Hypothermia signs:

- Skin turns white, is numb (loses feeling), and become difficult to bend or move (i.e. can't make a fist)

- Followed by blue lips, a chilled to the bone feeling

- Severe problems start when dizziness begins and difficulty speaking becomes apparent.

- The last stage is sleepiness

Treatment should be sought immediately with a professional. Re-warming someone with hypothermia requires cool water to allow the tissues to warm slowly. Hot water or hot blankets can actually do more damage to the frozen cells.

Mrs. Brazel's concern is seen daily as she has no less than 6 to 8 students in her office every morning to find out why they have come to school unprepared for the weather. "Parents are not ensuring their children are safe." She says. The word just doesn't seem to be getting out of this and other important issues that the Parent Advisory Committee meeting review every month. Suzie Crosby has put the announcements on her email blast list and calendars, the teachers put the links in their Monday packets to the FBNSB website where the Crawford newsletter can be downloaded http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us/index.php?&i_page=145 or they can pick up a hard copy at the front desk of the school, and reminders have been sent by the teachers themselves.

What I do as an adult is my own business, yes I should set an example. My coat is always in the truck with gloves, and emergency equipment, warming blankets, etc. are in my emergency kits.

My children are my charge and even though my husband has been through arctic survival training and all the base required courses on frostbite and hypothermia as part of his active duty status, I have seen only a few. I saw them because I sought them out and attended them to make sure I knew what to do. So, how many people on base are just blindly assuming the school will take care of outfitting their kids in the cold? Do people realize the school doesn't have funds to outfit children, or have a room for them to go to when it's their recess time? Thirty students without cold weather gear is more than a classroom full.

So as a concerned parent and part of this base's proud force, please take a moment and check your children. If you need help outfitting them properly, both the Airman's Attic and Thrift Shop have clothing. The Child Development Center held a winter gear swap in September which will become an annual event. Your children are your greatest asset, they are also completely dependant on you too look out for them; don't let them be a statistic. Get involved, get engaged; make your New Year's resolution now to participate in your child's life daily and support the teachers and aides that work so hard to keep your kids safe while at school.

Submitted by Nanette Walker Smith

Nanette@vspn.org

AFTAC Det 460 Spouse of MSGT Dave Smith

Continuing Education

Online courses

Now is the time to get your continuing education credits. Remember 10 units are needed every two years in order to remain certified. Here are some websites for online classes and some of these classes are free.

www.vspn.org offers many excellent courses covering basic and advanced veterinary techniques and practice management.

www.vetmedteam.com offers several free courses as well as courses in practice management.

www.idexxlearningcenter.com offers several free teleconferences and online courses.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Email Contact Information for WyVTA Officers

Pres. Jody Fay, CVT dogsetc@fiberpipe.net

V.P. Jana Gregerson, CVT ggrsn@wavecom.net

Sec. Jackie VanNoy, CVT it_bytes_bigtime@hotmail.com

Treas. Patti Sue Peterson, AHT ppeterso@ewc.wy.edu

NAVTA Rep. Deana Baker, CVT Bouteloua_gracilis@yahoo.com

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Jana Gregersen, CVT ggrsn@wavecom.net

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How to find the online Meetings

Our meetings (in theory) are held on the even months i.e. February, April, June, August, October, and December on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:00PM MT. Now there will probably be exceptions to this rule. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. In fact, the more the merrier.

Our meetings are held in the Meeting Room on www.vspn.org

Go to www.vspn.org

Click on CHAT on the tool bar at the top of the page

Go to the Bottom of the Page. In the RIGHT hand corner is an icon that says "VSPN Meeting Room Click Here"

Click on the icon and you are in the meeting room. After you log in of course.

VSPN is open to all members of the veterinary team and is the right price as in FREE.

Funnies

Chicken Story

A farmer rears 25 young hens and one old cock. As the old cock could no longer handle his job efficiently, the farmer buys one young cock from the market and puts it in the pen with the old cock and the hens.

Old Cock: Welcome to the farm. We'll work together towards productivity.

Young Cock: Whattya mean? As far as I know, you are old and should be retired.

Old Cock: Young boy, there are 25 hens here, can't I help you with some?

Young Cock: No! Not even one, all of them will be mine.

Old Cock: In this case, I challenge you to a competition and, if I win, you let me have one hen. If I lose you have them all.

Young Cock: Okay. What kind of competition?

Old Cock: 50-yard dash. From here to that tree but due to my age, I hope you allow me to start off the first 10 yards.

Young Cock: No problem! We race tomorrow morning.

Confidently, the following morning, the Young Cock allows the Old Cock to start off and when the Old Cock crosses the 10-yard mark, the young cock chases him with all his might. He was right behind the old cock in a matter of seconds and then -- BANG! Before he can overtake the old cock, he is shot dead by the farmer, who sighs and says, "Dammit. That's the fifth gay chicken I bought this week."

Deceit and treachery outlives youth and enthusiasm.