

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. Jackie Van Noy, CVT

V.P.

Sec. Deana Baker, CVT

Treas. Jody Fay, CVT

NAVTA Rep.

Deana Baker, CVT

Members At Large

Jennifer Albrecht

Jaime Voelz, CVT

Past Pres. Jody Fay, CVT

Newsletter Editor:

Deana Baker, CVT

2633 Bighorn Ave.

Cody, WY 82414

Bouteloua_gracilis@yahoo.com

WyVTA@yahoo.com

Website:

www.wyvta.org

Webmaster:

Jackie Van Noy, CVT

it_bytes_bigtime@hotmail.com

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President's Message

Greetings!

2011 is promising to be a challenging year in more ways than one. We had our election of officers in December and like usual, existing board members retained their current position by default. At this time, we do not have a vice president, as our previous VP has left the veterinary field.

The legislative session opened January 11 and the Veterinary Practice Act was among the bills presented. After a lot of hard work with Dr. Burnett, President of the Wyoming VMA, the VMA had worked up a proposed amendment to the Practice Act. This amendment would have recognized the Veterinary Technician field and allowed for the state to credential technicians. Dr. Burnett addressed this proposed change in her president's message to the VMA in the December/January newsletter.

Because the main fight that the VMA had in the legislature was to keep lay people from performing all kinds of veterinary procedures, like pregnancy testing in large animals, chiropractic and dentistry, and because the amendment was not written in the proper language, our amendment did not make it into the proceedings.

Even though the technician amendment did not make it into the Practice Act this session, the good news is that we have made our voice heard, and have a much better chance of having technicians recognized in the Practice Act the next time it is opened.

Since the Practice Act was not amended, it will remain in the hands of the Vet Tech Association to continue to provide certification for technicians. In order to keep going as an association and to be able to provide certification and CE opportunities, we need your participation. We do plan on

providing CE this fall, either in September or October. We are trying to arrange locations and speakers. Our goal is to have enough variety of topics and speakers that we can have 2 tracks during part or most of the day. If we can manage, this should provide informative sessions for front office people and assistants, as well as technicians. Details will be forthcoming.

The economy is continuing to provide challenges. We constantly have to improve our efficiency and our WOW factor to retain clients. Many clients are opting for euthanasia of pets with illness or injury rather than going through the expense of treating them. Many long time clients in good standing are now searching for the cheapest, not necessarily the best services. Pharmaceutical plant shut downs with resulting back orders and price increases are making it difficult to give the client the convenience of running to the vet clinic to refill a prescription after they have given the last dose.

Here's to meeting the challenge. Work hard, look for opportunities to improve yourself and your practice, educate your clients and be the best technician you can be.

Thanks,

Jackie Van Noy, CVT
WyVTA President

Secretary's Notes

Meeting January 10, 2011

Jackie Van Noy, Jody Fay, Carol Larson, and Deana Baker in attendance.

We still do not have a vice president. Carol is unable to commit to the office at this time. We're going to ask around and see if we can get some interest. Deana is hoping to contact Laurie Sparr to see if she can get her on board. It was felt that she would be a good person as she has a lot of marketing experience making her a good person to set up the conference.

Deana stated that she was getting quite a few renewals in. She's hoping to have most of them processed and sent out by the end of the month.

Jackie has been corresponding with Dr. Burnett concerning changes to the Veterinary Practice Act. It is hoped that veterinary technicians will be recognized in the Act. The legislative session will open January 11, 2011. This is under House Bill HB0007.

Jody had three bills to submit for payment \$10 as a refund for overpayment to Karen Wegner, \$25 to maintain our website to Jackie Van Noy, and \$52.32 to Deana Baker is reimburse postage and mailing. It was moved and seconded that these bills be paid. The vote was unanimous.

Jackie said that she checked the Eastern Wyoming College website. The WyVTA scholarship is listed. There have been no takers so far.

Jody is looking into putting some of the money into an interest bearing account. She said that she would look into further and bring it up at a meeting. It is hoped that there would be a vice president so that there would be a quorum.
Next meeting would be February 6, 2011 same time same place

Meeting February 6, 2011

Jackie Van Noy, Carol Larson and Deana Baker in attendance

Jackie discussed the current bills in legislation. The bill that would allow anyone to pregnancy check did not make it out of committee. The same amendment concerning pregnancy checking was introduced to be tacked on to the Practice Act bill HB0007. After a lot of heated argument, the pregnancy check amendment was not added. Several committee members felt that there were not enough veterinarians available to do pregnancy testing at the times that they were needed. It is unknown if this problem is with just one or two producers or if this is a statewide problem. The proposed amendment recognizing veterinary technicians did not make it to committee. There is still a slight chance that it might make it but it had not been introduced or worded properly. HB0007 did pass the house committee and is on its way to the senate. There is a slight chance that the veterinary technician amendment can be added at that time. No one is holding their breath.

Even if the amendment did not go through, it was felt that we got our name out there. It was felt that we got a lot of help from the Veterinary Association once it was known that we had no language in the bill that required the hiring of certified technicians. We are interested in only being recognized and defined in the practice act as credentialed technicians. There was some discussion on the conference. Laurie Sparr did agree to help put this on. She needs help from us as to what we would like to see at our conference. She was unable to come tonight because she was on vacation.

The next meeting will be March 7, 2011 same time same place.

Meeting March 7, 2011

Jackie Van Noy, Carol Larson, and Deana Baker in attendance

Deana apologized that she had forgotten about the meeting and therefore did not email anyone else reminding them about the meeting.

Jackie stated that the amendment to recognize technicians did not make it into the Practice Act. It is hoped that we will be more successful when the practice act is reopened in the future. Jackie mentioned that right now there is a force outside the state legislature that is trying to get lay people approved to practice some facets of veterinary medicine in the state. A group of producers or others is trying to create a new position in veterinary medicine tailored after the physician's assistant program in human medicine. Hopefully the VMA will get the AVMA involved in this.

Deana and Jackie mentioned attending the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas. They had attended many good sessions in several fields. Carol mentioned that she has attended the AVMA in the past and is looking forward to attending the Central Veterinary Conference in San Diego this year.

The next meeting will be April 3, 2011 at 8:00PM in the vspn meeting room.

The Dangers of Xylitol

Submitted by Jackie Van Noy, CVT

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener currently found in many sugar-free products such as candy, gum, pudding and also in toothpaste and paint balls. For people this has been a very good product and many dentists highly recommend xylitol products over those with sugar to help prevent tooth decay. In dogs and cats, however, it is a different story. While cats are not as prone to eat such things, dogs are notorious for eating anything and everything, especially if it is tasty. Ingestion of xylitol for a dog or cat can cause acute hypoglycemia. Untreated, it can cause liver damage, coma and death.

A 7 pound, 13 month old neutered male poodle presented with acute vomiting, explosive bloody diarrhea and lethargy. The dog has a history of GI troubles and occasionally gets into the owners compost pile. Because of the diarrhea, the owners had given the dog a bath before bringing him to the clinic.

Temperature was 97.4°F, tonsils inflamed, limp and listless, 5-7% dehydrated. Garbage intoxication is the initial rule out. Blood was drawn, an IV catheter placed, a fecal sample obtained and the dog was placed on a heating pad. A 14 panel chemistry and CBC were ordered and a blood glucose was done while waiting on the chemistry. The glucose reading was LO (<25) so the dog was started on warmed LRS with 5% Dextrose. Other chemistry values:

ALB = 5.1, ALKP = 190, ALT = 24 (first card indicated a high result), BUN = 50,
PHOS = 14.5, CREA = 1.5 1+ Lipemia

CBC results: WBC in normal range, RBC = 10.31, Hgb = 23.7, HCT = 69.23

Direct fecal smear showed presence of spirochetes. The dog was given Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate and Dexamethasone 2mg IV, Polyflex, Baytril and Reglan SubQ for shock and vomiting and he started to respond. Radiographs showed no foreign body. Within one hour he was able to stand. Two hours later he was listless and unresponsive again. Another bolus of 5% Dextrose was given and he responded. Knowing that the owner had children of varying ages, they were asked if there was any xylitol containing products in the house that the dog may have eaten. After some investigation, they found an empty package of gum on the floor. The dog was given several boluses of 5% Dextrose during the day and into the late evening. In the evening was given more Reglan for vomiting, Carafate and Pepcid to help protect the stomach. At 10:00pm he was offered 2-3 tablespoons of canned L/d. The next day he received fluids and started with some oral medications. He went home that evening and returned the next day for more fluids and more blood work. On day 2, his ALT was 1506. He was sent home with L/d and Amoxi. Blood chemistry values were checked again a week later and again 2 weeks after that. At his one month recheck, his liver values had returned to normal ranges and he was able to stop the L/d and return to his previous food. The owners have since fenced in the compost pile and are now very diligent about keeping other items that could be harmful out of his reach.

A Case of Botulism in Horses

Submitted by Taeha Collins CVT

We had a client from Natrona County with multiple cases of Botulism in horses. Apparently, he had shot a fox in August. The rancher threw the body on top of a large hay bale and then forgot about it. After two weeks, he disposed of the fox and set the bale aside so that it didn't get fed.

As we all do, he got really busy and he forgot that he pulled the bale out. He fed part of the contaminated bale by accident. The five horses had pasture available and were just being supplemented with the hay. The following morning, there were two horses down, two were acting sluggish and ataxic, and one remained normal. He was only able to load one of the odd acting horses and the normal horse to bring in to us. When he arrived at our clinic in Riverton, one horse was down in the trailer. Since we were not sure of the history, we placed a catheter and ran fluids with DMSO. A nasogastric tube was inserted Toxiban was administered. Dexamethasone and Banamine were also administered. We were able to get the horse up and unloaded. Once he was in the barn his condition deteriorated further. He went down again and became completely flaccid and unable to move. He was having respiratory difficulty but remained alert. He was euthanized two hours after arrival.

Turns out the normal horse is the low man on the totem pole and is frequently kicked away from feed. Chances are the lucky horse was not able to ingest the contaminated hay. While the owner was at our clinic, three of the remaining horses had died and the fourth horse was down. The normal horse that we sent home was the only survivor. Sad story. Yet a reminder to throw out any hay found with dead animals baled inside them, such as snakes or mice.

Thank you Taeha Collins, CVT and Jackie Van Noy, CVT for your wonderful case articles. I need more of these. It is good to be putting stuff in the newsletter that relates to what we see in practice. If anyone has any neat cases or not so neat please send them to me. They don't have to be written in any certain format. It would be nice to have large animal and small animal cases in every newsletter. Remember cases such as these are quite interesting to all of us.

Help Wanted

Alpine Animal Hospital Laramie, WY is looking for a CVT. This is mixed progressive practice. For more information contact Holly Kufahl at Phone: 307-745-7341 Fax: 307-745-3014 or email resume and cover letter to jobs@alpineanimalhospitalpc.com, Attn: Holly website: www.alpineanimalhospitalpc.com

Casper Animal Medical Center Casper, WY is looking for a CVT or qualified assistant. This is a small animal/equine practice. For more information contact Beth Hainsworth 4700 S Valley Road, Casper, WY 82604 307-237-8387 website: <http://casperanimalmedicalcenter.com>

Country Hospital for Animals Sheridan, WY is looking for a CVT. This is a small animal hospital. For more information contact Jody Fay at dogsetc@bresnan.net

Eastern Wyoming College Torrington, WY is looking for a veterinary technology instructor. For more information contact Tom McDowell HR, 3200 West C Street, Torrington, WY 82240 website: http://ewc.wy.edu/faculty/jobs/vet_tech.cfm

Funnies

Petey was just a little snake and lived in a pit with his mother. One day Petey was hissing in the pit when his mother said, "Petey, don't hiss in the pit, go outside the pit to hiss." So Petey went outside of the pit to hiss.

Petey was hissing all around when he finally leaned over and hissed in the pit. Petey's mother heard Petey hissing in the pit and said, "Petey, if you must hiss in a pit, go over to Mrs. Potts' pit and hiss in her pit.

Petey went over to Mrs. Potts' pit to hiss, but Mrs. Pott was not at home so he hissed in her pit anyway. While Petey was hissing in Mrs. Pott's pit, Mrs. Pott came home and found Petey hissing in her pit. She said "Petey, if you must hiss in a pit, don't hiss in my pit; go to your own pit and hiss."

This made Petey very sad, and he cried all the way home. When Petey got home, his mother saw him crying and said, "Petey, what's the matter?" Petey said, "I went over to Mrs. Pott's to hiss in her pit but Mrs. Pott was not at home, so I hissed in her pit anyway. Mrs. Pott came home and found me hissing in her pit and said, "Petey, if you must hiss in a pit go to your pit and hiss, don't hiss in my pit."

This made Petey's mother very angry and she said, "Why that mean old Lady! I knew Mrs. Pott when she didn't have a pit to hiss in."