MEET THE NJVMA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. Joshua Portner, DMV, DACVECC
NJVMA Executive Board Member

Q: Why/how did you decide to become a Veterinarian?
A: In high school, I had my first job as a veterinary assistant and groomer's assistant. I knew then that becoming a veterinarian was the only career path I would choose. Why did you volunteer to serve on the NJVMA Executive Board? I volunteered to try and give back to the NJ veterinary community that has been so supportive of my professional growth. I wanted to be involved as a leader in the development of the profession as a whole.

Q: What do you feel is your greatest professional/personal accomplishment to date?
A: It is hard to say what my greatest accomplishment is, having been the first ECC specialist at one of the largest specialty hospitals in the state, starting the blood banking program there, speaking at several conferences, and growing into an emergency service director and then medical director. My greatest accomplishment is taking all of these former parts of my professional life and turning that into my current life as an independent consultant and running a successful mobile ultrasound service. My single greatest personal accomplishment is becoming a parent to my three beautiful daughters. I could not be more proud of being there to support and observe each one of their own accomplishments.

Q: How do you balance your work/volunteer/home commitments?
A: Unfortunately, the simple answer is not a very good one. I balance all of these things as best as I can, but it helps to be an insomniac and function from very little sleep. I am grateful for the support and understanding from my family and my friends that my business requires long hours, and I do my best to make sure I carve out as much as I can to be there for them as often as possible.

Q: Cat person, dog person, other? Why?
A: Our home has a menagerie of pets, including dogs, a cat, a snake, and chickens, but my favorite of all was the pet rat I had during college. She used to travel with me everywhere and would even hang out on my shoulder when I was cleaning the vet hospital I worked at after everyone else went home for the night.