October 11-17 is National Veterinary Technician Week; Celebrate The Heroic Work of Veterinary Technicians

Bridgewater, NJ - September 21, 2020 – They are the unsung heroes at veterinary hospitals, clinics, academia, research and laboratories, shelters, zoo and wildlife care facilities, and many other areas. And this year they’ve been put to the test like never before. Deemed essential personnel, they went to work every day, exposing themselves to the possibility of contracting a virus that threatened the world. If that weren’t stressful enough, many of them faced furloughs and layoffs due to a sudden drop in hospital or clinic appointments. When they did go back to work, the caseload was nonstop as clients rushed to get their pets caught up on wellness appointments. But their love for animals drove them to show up every day.

Who are these amazing heroes? Veterinary Technicians!

That is why the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) has set aside the entire week of October 11-17, 2020 as National Veterinary Technician Week (NVTW). NVTW will celebrate, recognize, and promote the valuable contributions credentialed veterinary technicians make to the veterinary profession and society. This year’s NVTW theme is “Credentialed Veterinary Technicians: This Is Who We Are; This Is What We Do.”

“While members of our profession perform heroic deeds every day, we use this week to especially call out the unsung heroes in veterinary medicine,” said NAVTA President Ken Yagi, Program Director for the RECOVER CPR Initiative and the simulation lab manager of the Park Innovation Laboratory at Cornell University. “We want the world to see not only the valuable work we do as credentialed veterinary technicians, but to make everyone aware of the depth and breadth of our education, skills, and roles.” Yagi has a Master’s degree in Veterinary Science and two specialty certifications: one in emergency and critical care, and another in small animal internal medicine.

In general, veterinary technicians have either an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree in veterinary technology or nursing and must pass a national credentialing exam to earn designation as a credentialed veterinary technician. Some veterinary technicians decide to further specialize in a certain area, such as dentistry, anesthesia, internal medicine, or emergency and critical care, to obtain advanced certification as a Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS). These professionals enhance their already-deep knowledge with further education and training to meet requirements set by NAVTA’s Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties and the VTS Academies that focus on their area of interest. After passing an exam in the specialty area, these veterinary technicians can use their credentials to further their career.

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Veterinary technicians have been educated in the care and handling of animals, the basic principles of normal and abnormal life processes, and in many laboratory and clinical procedures. Veterinary technicians work under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian or other scientist. While a veterinary technician can assist in performing a wide variety of tasks, they cannot diagnose, prescribe, perform surgery, or engage in any activity prohibited by a state’s veterinary practice act. Veterinary technicians are trained to handle many tasks and scenarios; the most common include:

- Obtaining medical histories
- Collecting specimens and perform laboratory procedures
- Providing specialized nursing care
- Preparing animals, instruments, and equipment for surgery
- Administering and monitoring anesthesia
- Performing diagnostic and medical procedures
- Assisting in surgical procedures
- Performing diagnostic imaging
- Educating clients
- Supervising practice personnel
- Performing dental prophylaxes

“Veterinary technicians are integral players on the veterinary healthcare team,” Yagi continued. “We are on the frontlines, compassionately working with clients whose beloved animals need care. We work tirelessly in exam rooms, labs, and operating rooms, putting to work our vast technical and scientific knowledge treating and caring for every species of animal. Our broad skills – both professional and personal – allow veterinarians to work more efficiently and effectively. And we do it all with love and a smile, day after day.”

The 2020 National Veterinary Technician Week celebration will include daily prizes on NAVTA’s social media outlets, three free CE webinars for NAVTA members, and a robust public relations push.

For a complete media kit, please visit https://www.navta.net/page/nat_vet_tech. The media kit includes information on how to prepare for NVTW, a sample press release, optional scripts for public service announcements, and ideas for how to raise awareness of veterinary technicians.

National Veterinary Technician Week 2020 is sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition. In addition to their financial supports, Hill’s will arm their field representatives with NVTW posters and a special edition of this Journal to provide to their clients, ensuring nearly 5,000 practices are aware of veterinary technicians and the great work they do.

To get your digital copy of the poster, please click HERE.

About NAVTA
NAVTA is a dynamic community of credentialed veterinary technicians dedicated to advancing the profession of veterinary nursing through advocacy, awareness, and professional development. For more information, please visit www.navta.net.