July 27, 2020

To: All Veterinary Technicians & Assistants

Fr: Kenichiro Yagi, MS, RVT, VTS (ECC) (SAIM)
    NAVTA President

RE: You Have Our Continued Support

Dear Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants,

During these extraordinary times, the Veterinary Community has witnessed uncertainty, unprecedented adaptation, and fallen into a “new normal”. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected us all, personally and professionally.

The NAVTA Executive Board wishes to first thank all of our colleagues who have courageously worked day in and day out to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of their patients and owners. We know it has been a difficult time. Having to quickly adapt to combat COVID-19 has not been easy, but as Vet Techs and Assistants, we are resilient, and if nothing else, resourceful.

To those in our community who have lost loved ones due to Covid-19, we grieve with you. To those who have lost their jobs, we stand behind you. To those who have been working overtime, we walk beside you.

As medical professionals, we understand that Covid-19 will now be a part of our lives for years to come, but we have the ability to protect ourselves, our families, our colleagues, and our communities. Please remember to utilize available PPE, physical distancing measures, and to stay vigilant while disinfecting and practicing recommended hand hygiene.

We urge all members to review the CDC’s Guidance for Businesses and Employers and visit the AVMA’s Covid-19 Resource page. But above all, please remember to take time to care for yourself – your physical and mental wellbeing are paramount in allowing us to take care of our patients.

Through the pandemic, NAVTA has taken several actions to aid our community. In mid-March, we reached out to every state medical exam board and encouraged them to consider temporarily implementing measures of leniency regarding continuing education requirements in credentialing. Included in the request was the suggestion to consider making more virtual/online courses eligible for CE, as well as to consider extending the timeline by which CE credits had to be earned (See “Education” on navta.net for CE accessible online). We also looked at our own credentialing bodies, our Approved Veterinary Assistant (AVA) Program and our Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties (CVTS), and recommended to them that they be lenient in their offerings to and requirements of those seeking CE credits.

NAVTA also issued a statement voicing support for technicians to be deemed essential employees, while advocating for safe business practices during the coronavirus pandemic.

We also partnered with Hill’s, Zoetis, and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation to provide $200,000 in grant funds directed at veterinary technicians and assistants to provide some financial relief during the pandemic.
We will continue to work alongside your state association through the pandemic to support our community in the best ways we can. We would like to invite each of you to reach out to us should you have specific ideas on anything else we might be able to do to help you and/or your team, or if you need something specifically from NAVTA. Please contact us at info@navta.net.

The most important thing to keep in mind is that this is one of the biggest challenges the world has faced in modern history. It is only natural we may be feeling some stress, helplessness, or overwhelmed. We will continue adjusting the best we can and get through this. Above all, we are in this together.

Sincerely,

Ken

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