Dear highly esteemed colleagues,

The world is changing, and so is our veterinary technician profession. Now more than ever, we are working on caseloads that never seem to end. And now, more than ever, we are proving our value to our employers, our clients, and our community by fully putting into practice all of our advanced education, knowledge, and skills…day after day, hour after hour. We, as veterinary technicians, have truly been heroes during this pandemic.

Now, when someone asks us about our chosen profession, they are in awe of the level and type of work we do, as well as the depth and breadth of our knowledge of veterinary medicine. It is very common for someone to equate what we do for animals with what Registered Nurses do for humans.

Multiple surveys that have been conducted consistently showed that the majority of credentialed veterinary technicians support unifying under one credential: Registered Veterinary Nurse. Seeing this need, more companies, educational institutions, and publications are changing their vernacular from veterinary technician to veterinary nurse/nursing with the intent of promoting understanding and bringing recognition to what we are trying to accomplish.

These efforts to change the vernacular align with the Veterinary Nurse Initiative (VNI), which has worked with state associations to introduce legislation to replace the current credential, Registered Veterinary Technician, with Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). The VNI also sets a model for the RVN title with appropriate credential requirements, scope of practice, CE requirements, and title protection. Unfortunately, Covid19 has put these legislative activities on hold for the time being.

To keep the VNI momentum going, we would like to make a series of videos that show what is important to you regarding the VNI. The vision is to show that the VNI is more than simply a name change, but an effort to move our profession forward by showcasing our knowledge, talent, and expertise in the medical field. Within the effort, we are trying to gain as much support as possible and simultaneously educate the public regarding our profession.

**We need your help in visually educating and advocating for our profession.**

In this video series, we would like to focus on the pillars of the VNI (Scope of Practice, Title Protection, Technician Utilization, Veterinary Nurse Title, Standardized Credentials, & Reciprocity) and which one means the most to you. We hope that this video series will help showcase all the wonderful parts of the VNI and why they are all equally important.

If you are willing, please record a video of yourself (or another veterinary technician) describing your/their role in veterinary medicine and say why the VNI is important to you/them. It can be on any of the pillars that the VNI stands for, along with the tagline *Progression for Our Profession.* It will be ideal if the veterinary technician is in scrubs and a clean hospital background, though it's ok if it's a video taken at home.
The person on video would:
1. Introduce themselves as a veterinary technician, including credentials, and state their role in the practice/profession.
2. Explain which of the VNI pillars is most important to you and why.
3. End by saying, "Progression for our profession."

For example:

Hello. My name is Ashli Selke. I'm a Certified Veterinary Technician in the State of XX. I am the Surgical Department Supervisor in the state's only 24-hour Emergency and Specialist Hospital. I sit on the States EB as State Representative, and I also am the District 8 Representative with NAVTA.

We need your help in standardizing our credentials under the title of Registered Veterinary Nurse. Please support the Veterinary Nurse Initiative to help us establish our identity as veterinary nurses.

"The VNI represents to me a change that we need to see in our field. All the pillars of the VNI are very important, but the pillars that are nearest and dearest to my heart are Title Protection and the Title Registered Veterinary Nurse. I truly believe that it starts with title protection. Right now, as it is, many places can hire anyone and call them a veterinary technician and keep that starting pay way down. Why would they need to pay credentialed veterinary technicians a higher livable salary if they can do it much cheaper? I mean it's a business, and I do understand the concept of business, but at what point do we stop letting that happen? More states have got to get involved and speak with their VMA's and VMEB to help change these policies. Also, with the title change to Registered Veterinary Nurse, I truly believe the public would understand what we do daily. I had an encounter out while wearing a shirt that said, "VET TECH." A person asked me, "Ma'am, your shirt. Are you a Veteran?" I replied, "yes, I am a Veteran, but this shirt says vet tech, and I am a credentialed veterinary technician." To that, he replied, "oh, so you are a veterinarian?" I had to explain to him that I was not a veterinarian but a CVT, and he still did not understand. It wasn't until I said, "I am like a nurse for animals," and then it clicked to him, and he said, "Oh, that's amazing, and thank you for what you do!" It was this simple conversation that cemented in my brain why the VNI is so important! When all of the pieces come together, this is how we get our future; this is how we get to that next step. We know our skillset is powerful, and we know what we deserve; now, we need to educate and advocate for the VNI! Did what I do during my daily practice sound like what a nurse does in human healthcare?

Progression for our profession."

We especially would like videos of a variety of veterinary technicians (research, large animal, different specialties, hospice care, students, etc.)

The video can be taken with a phone. Try to capture the video in a quiet room with the person close enough to the camera/phone so that audio quality is not compromised.
Submit your video to VNIVideoproject@gmail.com, along with the names, credentials, and state of practice so that we can edit it into the videos.

We appreciate your help.

#Progression4ourProfession