MVMA Veterinary Technician Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:30-8:30pm  
ZOOM Meeting


1) Al Balay called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.  
   a. Welcome / Introductions

2) Approve (email) meeting minutes from May 11th, 2020  
   a. MOTION: To approve May 2020 meeting minutes. Seconded and approved.  

3) MVMA Update  
   a. As of today, there are 370 CVT’s left to renew their 2020 certification renewal. Hosted a CVT webinar July 30th with Sigrid Rea, CVT, VTS on Anesthetic and Perioperative Considerations in the Feline Patient and will be hosting another CVT webinar October 14th on Equine Emergencies by Shana Lemmenes, CVT, VTS.

4) Updates from VT Schools  
   a. Dakota County Technical College (Nicole Niemen-York, CVT)  
      i. No update; not present
   b. Rochester Community and Technical College (Dr. Kimberly Rowley)  
      i. COVID had an impact on number of students this fall; down about 25% of where it has been. Labs are being performed face to face. High flex lectures-half in person and ½ ZOOM. Capacity of 25 students per lecture.
   c. Vermillion Community College (Dr. Peter Hughes)  
      i. Student numbers are good. Capped at 32. Down to 28 now. 100% retention; students who were partway through program and had to switch to online, all of them came back versus dropping out. Labs are small face to face. High flex-offer lectures via ZOOM or person (most students prefer zoom online versus coming into campus for lecture). Have a theater room for lectures so students can spread out.
   d. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (Dr. Julie Hansen)  
      i. Capped program with a long waiting list. 24 per year: 22 1st year class, 22 in 2nd year class. Had some transfers and lost 1 student during COVID. Labs are small, face to face. Adding face shield in addition to face mask for labs. Have a theater room so they can spread out for lectures, also online lectures as well.
   e. Ridgewater College (Dr. Perry Burros-Lemke)  
      i. Last year 113 students started, now have 107 enrolled. Had 1 student not attend due to COVID. Most of labs are face to face, small. Most of lectures are ZOOM.
5) Tracey Kitching, CVT, MAEd dissertation proposal
   a. Tracey has been in the education system for over 15 years and noticed veterinary technology students struggling with mental health; therefore, she would like to research mental wellbeing in veterinary technicians. Awareness has happened with veterinarians but not specifically with veterinary technicians. Would like to research what leadership practices help build resilience and which are successful.
   b. Would like MVMA to send out a survey to identify mental wellbeing. In agenda, Tracey provided a scale that many companies have found to be reliable. Would like veterinary technicians to provide leaders to interview to provide qualitative information. MVMA would be provided a copy as well. Not sure how the survey would look at this point but figuring out if open comment or check the boxes would work. Would be nice to give an opportunity for veterinary technician to comment. Will also need institutional review board approval.
      i. **MOTION:** To endorse Tracey’s dissertation proposal. Seconded and approved.
      ii. Dan and Matt to present to MVMA board next month.
      iii. Survey to be ready by January 2021.

6) Verify a CVT is now up and running on the MVMA website (https://www.mvma.org/verify-a-cvt#/).
   a. Disclaimer stated on website that pending and lapsed CVT’s will not display. Pending indicates they are missing information submitted for 2020 renewal or non-compliant. Will turn to lapsed beginning of 2021 if they do not submit requirements. Graced status may still show up because we extended the deadline of certification this year due to COVID. After September 30th, certification status turns to lapsed.
   b. Maria has noticed an increase in lapsed CVT’s wanting to update certification status.

7) VT Shortage Article by Al Balay published in MVMA newsletter and CVT Newsletter.
   a. Al Balay and Kim Horne are working on series of articles. Next article to go out in MVMA newsletter in October (what is the CVT role and how a CVT can impact the practice financially).

8) Credentialing Subcommittee Update (Kim Horne, CVT)
   a. Formed this subcommittee over a year ago. Recently lost Sally Lightner, CVT but now we have Cassie Panning, CVT, VTS. Overall, the committee has great representation of people in private practice and referral hospitals. Maria reviews all reports first, then goes to committee for review.

9) Open discussion regarding mandatory credentialing:
   a. When Julia Wilson started her position at the Board of Veterinary Medicine in 2013, there wasn’t full support of technician licensure when brought to legislature. Currently, board members are in full support of credentialing. Will help craft whatever is needed. AAVSB model language is available to us and has model practice act for VT. Also, has legal commentary on what you decide to use for certain language. AVMA has similar practice act model. No legal commentary. Great building blocks that can be used for referencing when language is used for crafting. Timing is right to allow this to move forward. Composition of board changes, amount of info
out there, no push back on recognition, could create havoc in rural areas where there is a shortage of technicians?

b. Grandfathering is important, more inclusive than exclusive. Look at other states/provides for criteria to grandfathered in. Will there be push back from rural vets? There are underutilized opportunities.

c. If you had a CVT and more things delegated to them, would we use a skills list that a specific CVT can do? That is the language in many practice acts.

d. In the past, the equine community has been the most vocal. They could feel they could educate their workers better than entry level technicians graduating from VT school. Now that we have more VT, that may have changed? Look at national resources as well as Minnesota-equine has a session in February: wellbeing and practice management. We can craft scenarios we can talk about. Topic in practice management on Fridays lectures...related to alleviating stress. Marta powers president of AAEVP, works with CVT’s.

e. Action steps
   i. Put something together for governmental affairs meeting. Will be a zoom meeting. MVMA did a survey awhile ago, would this help gauge. Would help to get lobbyist on this vet tech committee meeting. 2021 would be a good time to put in proposal. Emphasize public safety. Don’t know where members are on this issue. Not sure if sediments today on survey are still valid but worth looking at.
   ii. Articles in next newsletter and then follow up with a survey.
   iii. Get on agenda for governmental affairs.
      1. Dan get Dr. Balay on agenda at Governmental affairs meeting Nov 19th.
   iv. Would like data on obtaining retention of LVT’s in other states. CVTEA has data on individual states. Kristi and Kim will take that on.
   v. Al to reach out to AVMA.

10) Meeting Adjourned at 8:07pm.
   a. Next meeting scheduled: TBA