

HOOF PRINTS - VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

SPRING 2007

MANOR COLLEGE



www.manorvettech.com

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Many students feel a pang of anxiety when the words "Clinical Externships" are mentioned at the end of the academic year. Freshmen complete an 80-hour, part-time observation period called the Freshman Clinical Externship (VT210), while sophomores complete a 12 week, full-time Sophomore Clinical Externship (VT229). Students can generate a plethora of scenarios in their minds as they prepare for an externship experience. Will I be matched with a suitable site? Will I know enough to succeed? What if I am verbally attacked for making a mistake? What if they do not like me? What if I do not like them?

The transition from the supportive climate of on-campus clinical laboratories to the excitement of real-life veterinary practice is both challenging and rewarding, but one that is sometimes rich with the anxiety of change. Experienced "post-externship" students return to Manor far more confident in their abilities than when they left. This is particularly clear during the on-campus externship meetings in which returning students relay to their uniniti-

ated classmates the wonder and excitement of their clinical experience off campus. Those who will be venturing forth listen attentively, while the experienced lean back in their chairs and provide advice about the importance of asking questions and taking initiative.

Manor is fortunate to be outside of Philadelphia where there are some of the finest veterinary practices in the country. Our sophomores spend 6 weeks at each of two practices to complete their twelve-week clinical externship. One of the two practices must be selected from a list of pre-approved *Core Sites*. This list of *Core Sites* includes emergency, specialty and critical care practices as well as excellent state-of-the-art companion animal, mixed animal and equine practices. The second site however, which is called the "elective site," allows students to pursue a particular interest such as zoo, feline or wildlife medicine. Because the vast majority of Manor graduates pursue companion animal practice immediately after graduation, most students chose to attend two core sites rather than one



core and one elective site. Sophomore externships may be completed in the summer, fall or spring semesters, while freshmen externships are only completed in the summer. Because the Sophomore Clinical Externship is the last requirement before graduation, students often find employment in one of their externship sites.

What constitutes an approved externship site? Eligible practices must employ certified veterinary technicians and must support full utilization of the veterinary technician as part of its health care delivery plan. In addition, most core sites, but not all, employ multiple veterinarians. The facility must include standard OSHA safety precautions such as the use of dosimeters, lead not be a worthwhile site for



Brandy Terry
CVT, VTS (ECC)

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aprons, and thyroid shields. Anesthetic scavenging systems, intra-operative monitoring devices, and current pain management protocols are also examined. Most important is the practice's interest in teaching. A practice can have a beautiful physical plant and practice at a high level of medicine, but if it is not really committed to teaching, it will not be a worthwhile site for the student. Wanting to teach, having the knowledge to teach good skills and having a caseload that supports adequate opportunity for practice are the three most important qualities of an excellent externship site. The facility is secondary. Manor has

had excellent practices offer exceptional experiences and excellent practices offer poor experiences. The difference is usually in the people who are teaching.

Sophomore students sign-up for sites in February, are assigned to core sites in March and set up interviews at the sites in the April. All externship students must complete a formal interview and tour of the practice before the externship begins. Externship supervisors are not required to accept all of the students who interview nor is the student required to attend the site to which s/he is assigned. Sometimes, though rarely, the student or the site (or both)

discover that the match is not appropriate. In this case, the student would be assigned to another site. In this way, the interview process gives both the student and the externship site choice in the externship process and helps to ensure a successful experience; the first in what becomes an exciting and rewarding career.

For more information about Manor's externship programs go to

www.manorvettech.com/vt229

or

www.manorvettech.com/vt210

or contact Dr. Bassert at jbassert@manor.edu.

Program Mission Statement

The Program of Veterinary Technology at Manor College strives to:

Create an environment that supports the development of strong student-teacher relationships.

Generate critical thinkers whose knowledge base prepares them for a successful career of life long learning in veterinary technology.

Instill in its students respect and compassion for animals and a commitment to providing excellent patient care and dedication to animal welfare.

OUR BELOVED PONY PASSES ON....

I am saddened to announce the passing of our beloved pony, Frosty, who passed away on Saturday, February 3, 2007. He was 30 years old.

Frosty was born in the winter of 1977 on a farm in Horsham, Pennsylvania. Being almost pure white, the foal was barely noticeable as he lay against the snow that covered the ground. His owner, Gina Rondinelli Montgomery, therefore named him Frosty.

Frosty was raised with a "brother" pony named Boy, and when he was moved to

the Motherhouse Farm in 1990, Boy came with him. The two ponies shared the corner stall for many years and were known to happily get into trouble together. Frosty remained in the same stall after Boy's death and subsequently became a teaching pony for the Program of Veterinary Technology. In the last several years of his life, Frosty struggled with many old pony problems, but remained charmingly impish despite the physical and dietary restrictions placed upon him. He was a tough little

guy, and was, to the end, a skilled escape artist and connoisseur of fine food. He will be sorely missed.



FOCUS ON MANOR ALUMNI, BY JENNIFER HARRISON '07

This summer, veterinary technology student, Jennifer Harrison, traveled to a number of veterinary practices to interview Manor College graduates to find out where they were in their professional and personal lives. Here is the second interview in this series

Bio:

Alumna: Wendy Grohol, AS, CVT

Class of: 2005

Area of Interest: Complimentary and Alternative Medicine

Current Position: Veterinary Nurse, Animal Healing Center, Yardley, PA

Interview:

Jennifer: What is your most exciting professional moment so far?

Wendy: An emergency blood transfusion. A sick dog needed blood immediately and I found myself trying to keep the donor dog, an excitable Labrador Retriever, on the surgery table while the collection bag filled. Helping to save the life of a critically ill animal is very rewarding.

Jennifer: What do you like best about your current job?

Wendy: My relationships with the animals and the clients. The Animal Holistic Center does not have the traditional hospital atmosphere. It is homier. Many animals are not scared, as they would be at a regular veterinary hospital. Even after a despised ear cleaning that they clearly are not enjoying, many dogs turn to give me a kiss. Who else gets kisses all day at work? I miss the animals on my days off.

Jennifer: What was your career path to your current job?

Wendy: It wasn't exactly a "career path. I received an Associate in Applied Science in Chemical Technology from Middlesex County College in 1984. I then attended Rutgers for a year.

I worked as a laboratory technician in semiconductor cleaning for a few years. Without any prior computer experience, I wound up being a UNIX(R) wiz helping my fellow scientific staff members create papers on mainframe computers. When a position opened in the computer group, I jumped at the opportunity. I loved my job and was very successful. However, after 15 years of doing computer support, I found myself burnt out. At that time it finally occurred to me that working with animals makes me happy and would be a rewarding career. Over the years, I had traveled extensively and tried to visit every zoo possible. I found myself in awe of the keepers and thought how I would love to do that. I started researching what I would need to do to become a zookeeper. It appeared a Bachelor's degree in Biology or a Veterinary Technician degree would do the trick. Since a Veterinary Technician degree could be achieved in two years, I started looking at the closest programs. Manor's program looked like the best. Shortly thereafter, I quit my job to attend Manor College full time.

Jennifer: What is your recommendation to others interested in your field?



REMEMBER THE OATH...

I solemnly dedicate myself to aiding animals and society by providing excellent care and services for animals, by alleviating animal suffering, and by promoting public health. I accept my obligations to practice my profession conscientiously and with sensitivity, adhering to the profession's Code of Ethics, and furthering my knowledge and competence through a commitment to lifelong learning.

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Wendy: Talk and visit with people doing the job you think you are interested in. Find out the good, the bad and the ugly about the field. Take a part time job as "kennel help" or volunteer to get in there and really experience what goes on to see if this is what you'd like to do.

Jennifer: Is there any other information about your field you would like to tell people to get them interested in your field?

Wendy: The Animal Healing Center is often the last chance for many dogs and cats. Many people walk in telling me their local vet offered to put their pet to sleep on the spot. I have seen Dr. Khalsa turn many pets around, many having a good quality of life for years afterward.

When prospective veterinary technicians find out what goes on at our practice they are turned off and will not take a position because they are not familiar or do not understand the medicine practiced here. We use proven conventional medicine as well as homeopathy, different forms of acupuncture, Chinese herbs and, allergy elimination. We promote nutritious, high quality food without harmful ingredients and prevent over-vaccination.

Jennifer: Thank you, Wendy. I hope this interview has opened the minds of students who are not familiar with Alternative Medicine and was also helpful for those students who started this program later in life, and need encouragement to continue to succeed.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Philadelphia Animal Care and Control Association (PACCA) for their generous support of our sophomore surgery labs this semester. This year our goal is to spay and neuter 45 cats during the students' five-week anesthesia and surgical assisting portion of their laboratory course. We are proud to partner with PACCA in their ongoing efforts to help Philadelphia's homeless and unwanted animals.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

PVTA SPRING CONFERENCE: EQUINE ANESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA

Speakers: Dean Knoll, CVT and
Nancy Shaffran, CVT VTS (ECC)

Place: Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA
Date: Saturday April 21, 2007
Time: all day
Fee: \$20 for students

Included in the program will be a demonstration of anesthetizing a live horse. For more information, visit the PVTA website: <http://www.vtaap.org>.

CREDITS: 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE NURSING

Speaker: Alison Gottlieb BS, RVT, VTS (ECC)
Four Paws Consulting LLC

Place: Wednesday, October 17, 2007
Date: Manor College, Basilian Spirituality Center
Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Fee: \$45

Cats are special! Let's treat them that way. Feline trauma and advanced disease are some of our most challenging cases. In this lecture, we will discuss how to provide them with the best possible care.

CREDITS: 2 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

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TEACHING AIDS NEEDED

Thank you to everyone who have been donating money and resources to the Veterinary Technology Program. With your help we have acquired two Vet Test 8008 machines and an Idexx LaserCyte Hematology machine. We have received a few donations that will be used to purchase a Vital Signs Monitor for use during surgery. The monitor that we are interested in is

the Vet Specs VSM7. We will be testing the machine this semester during our sophomore surgery labs to ensure that this is the best piece of equipment for the program. Any future donations would be greatly appreciated.

We are also looking to acquire another isoflurane vaporizer with or without the entire anesthesia machine. If you have one to donate please

contact Brandy Terry at bterry@manor.edu.

We are in the process of upgrading our small animal clinical equipment. We would like to have one teaching model per two students so everyone will have the hands-on experience needed to gain and practice essential clinical skills. The following chart details the items that we are interested in acquiring.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT OF
THE VETERINARY
TECHNOLOGY
PROGRAM**



Brandy Terry, CVT demonstrating placing an intravenous cephalic catheter

Items Needed	Number of Models	Manufacturer	Cost/model	Total price
CPR/Resuscitation Models	4	Rescue Critter (#505) "Advanced Airway Jerry"	\$1,649	\$6,596
Endotracheal Intubation Model	4	Rescue Critter (#606) "K-9 Intubation Trainer"	\$509	\$2,036
Female Urinary Catheterization Model	4	Rescue Critter (#910) "Female K-9 Urinary Catheter Training Mannikin"	\$579	\$2,316
Dog Jugular Model	4	UC Davis (Catalog# DOGH1)	\$480	\$1,920
Dog Cephalic Model	4	UC Davis (Catalog# DOGL1)	\$325	\$1,300

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS BY BRANDY TERRY CVT, VTS (ECC)

The field of veterinary technology has changed dramatically in the past 10 years, particularly with the exciting growth of specialty groups, which offer advanced study and certification in certain medical fields. Becoming a specialist opens many doors for the proactive and determined veterinary technician.

In 1994, the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) formed the Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties (CVTS), whose purpose is to develop and monitor veterinary technician specialty groups.

A group of technicians interested in forming a specialty group formally petitions the CVTS to start the ball rolling. The CVTS and the group survey the veterinary community to see if there is an interest and a need for a particular specialty group. If the response is positive, the next

step is to form an organizing committee. Each committee member must have a minimum of seven years experience in the field of interest, with at least 75% of their time devoted to the specialty. The organizing committee develops a name, forms bylaws and becomes incorporated as a non-profit organization in their state.

Once the organizing committee has accomplished everything that the CVTS requires, they are granted a provisional recognition, that allows the group to function as a specialty group under NAVTA supervision.

These groups then submit an annual report to the CVTS for ten years after which time they can petition for full recognition from the CVTS. The specialty groups also have to complete a five- and ten-year comprehensive report to maintain recognition from NAVTA.

The Academy of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT) was the first specialty group formed, being granted provisional status in 1996. After much hard work, the organizing committee held their first exam in September 1998 in which all 26 participants passed. Since that first exam, the organization has thrived and received full academy status from NAVTA in 2006. AVECCT has opened many doors for veterinary technicians and they continue to be the leader in the specialty technician field.

Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA) is a new and fast growing specialty group. Their mission is to promote patient safety, consumer protection, and professionalism and excellence in anesthesia care. Veterinary anesthesia is constantly evolving and improving techniques, therefore the veterinary

technician has to strive to stay educated.

In 2002, the Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT) was granted provisional academy status and they offered their first exam in June 2006. Their next examination will be in June of this year in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians (AIMVT) was granted provisional recognition by NAVTA in 2006. This specialty group is unique, since it incorporates several different disciplines. A technician can become certified in any of the following disciplines: cardiology, small animal internal medicine, large animal medicine and oncology. The first examination will be held in 2008 in conjunction with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) annual forum.

For more information in the specialty groups listed in this article, please visit their website

Academy of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT)
www.avecct.org

Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA)
www.avta-vts.org

Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians (AIMVT)
www.aimvt.com

Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians (AVDT)
www.avdt.us

HOOF PRINTS - VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

TWO FULL-TIME FACULTY POSITIONS

Program Coordinator

The Program of Veterinary Technology seeks an energetic, creative and forward thinking educator to serve as Program Coordinator. This position reports directly to the Program Director and includes teaching, student advising, coordination of the Freshman Clinical Externships, coordination of a 2-week on-campus, small animal clinic and other administrative duties. The applicant must be a veterinarian, credentialed veterinary technician or LAT and must be licensed in the state of Pennsylvania. In addition, the candidate must possess a minimum of three years of clinical experience, excellent communication skills and a commitment to building a positive and challenging educational experience for students.

Applicants with particular strengths in one or more of the following areas are preferred:

Small animal surgery or surgical assisting/anesthesia

Equine medicine/nursing

Laboratory Animal Science

The position start date is August 14, 2007. Deadline for applications is March 30, 2007 or until the position is filled.

Education Coordinator

The Education Coordinator works closely with the Program Director and is responsible for the management of Program inventories including books, teaching materials and equipment. In addition, the Education Coordinator teaches, advises students and serves as the faculty advisor to the Vet Tech Club. Candidates for this position must demonstrate strong organizational skills, neatness, team-man-ship, attention to detail and excellent communication skills. Applicants must be a certified veterinary technician or LAT and must possess two to three years of clinical experience and a license to practice veterinary technology in Pennsylvania. Prior experience in education is not required but is preferred.

The position start date is August 14, 2007. Deadline for applications is March 30, 2007 or until such time as the position is filled.

LAB ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are currently compiling a list of CVTs interested in serving as laboratory assistants for any one or more of the following laboratories:

- Large Animal Clinical and Emergency Procedures
- Animal Anatomy and Physiology
- Small Animal Clinical and Emergency Procedures
- Hematology
- Parasitology
- Small Animal Anesthesia and Surgery
- Laboratory Animal Management

Please send your name, contact information and the lab(s) you are interested in to Dr. Joanna Bassert at jbassert@manor.edu.

Applicants should send a resume and the names of three references to:

Dr. Joanna Bassert, Director
Program of Veterinary Technology
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