



SCAVT NEWS

Summer 2022

SCAVT 2022
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"Dedicated to increasing public awareness of the vital role licensed technicians play in the veterinary healthcare team and to provide professional unity within South Carolina."

Title Protection-Where are We

Title Protection Update

We are working VERY hard to gain title protection for LVTs in SC! Several of the SCAVT board members were a part of the SC Veterinary Regulation Committee over the past few months and reviewed our current state veterinary regulations (<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/Chapter%20120.pdf>) with the other committee members. It is important to remember that the regulations are separate from the state veterinary practice act. We did not "open up" the practice act yet as that is a much more difficult and expensive process. Lengthy and sometimes heated discussions were had regarding title protection, duties, and supervision levels of veterinary technicians regarding the regulations. Veterinary assistants/aide duties and supervision levels were also discussed.

This committee was formed to review these regulations initially due to inconsistencies in the use of veterinary assistant and aide. We had high hopes for this process and saw it as an opportunity to make some changes for LVTs and we wanted some BIG ones. While this committee did not ultimately have the final say in any regulation changes, the proposals or suggestions they decided on will be presented to the state veterinary medical board so that the final decisions can be made by those voting members. The committee's decisions did not entirely reflect what the SCAVT wanted but we are nonetheless looking at the proposals being presented to the veterinary medical board as a big step in the right direction. We hope to AT LEAST gain full title protection and have guidelines for DVMs to follow regarding the levels of supervision for tasks/skills that unlicensed vet assistants/aides can perform. Full title protection was agreed upon in this committee BUT please remember, it is up to the veterinary medical board members to vote on whether or not they want to make this change to our state regulations. We do not have full title protection until the veterinary medical board votes to approve OUR proposed changes to the regulations.

So now we wait.

When we know more, we will be sure to share it with you all but until then PLEASE PLEASE tell your colleagues to get your SC vet tech licenses if they are eligible to do so. The major reason why BIG changes won't be made regarding our duties and supervision levels is because the DVMs of SC do not think there are enough of us in the state to be able to restrict certain skills/tasks to LVTs. We NEED strength in numbers, and we hope with full title protection that will encourage more individuals to get or renew their licenses in SC.

Thank you for being a member of the SCAVT and for all you do for the animals of SC! We're headed in the right direction. Stay with us!

Tech Spotlight



Name: Kendall Bak

Place of birth: Washington, D.C.

Graduated from: George Mason University (BMed) Northern Virginia Community College (AAS Veterinary Technology)

Current employer and how long? Charleston Veterinary Referral Center (ER/Critical Care) since January, as well as a remote consulting job with Veterinary Nursing Solutions out of Denver, CO, and I recently started my own consulting business called Southeastern Veterinary Education & Consulting.

What is your favorite task being a LVT? My running joke for years has been putting tubes in holes, but truly it is being able to use my critical thinking skills and experience to help my patients have the best outcome both medically and emotionally. I love figuring out where the favorite spot is for scratches, or when I offer crunchy food to the cat who hasn't been eating and watch them devour it. I love working collaboratively with my fellow technicians and with the DVMs. Mentoring other technicians is also top of my list. That's more than one, but after 20+ years in the field, I've found my enthusiasm is still strong!

What is your least favorite task being a LVT? A tie between administering a liter of fluids subcutaneously and spinning and reading a PCV. I hate standing still for that long!!

What pets do you have at home? A stubborn and hilarious cattle dog mix named Abbey that you would never know is 13, a shih tzu mix with not enough teeth to hold his tongue in his mouth named Walter, two cats- Clara (Torti) and Eleanor (black) that we're trying to clicker train currently, an axolotl named Reggie, and countless fish and shrimp!

What do you do when not working (interests): I fell in love with houseplants at the beginning of the pandemic, and I've been learning to garden over the last few years. I taught myself how to cook about 10 years ago and love the balance between cooking and baking, where cooking lets me be creative and not measure (which appeals to my musical and artsy side), and baking lets me use my tech brain for perfect measurements. I also picked piano back up after years of not playing instruments despite having a degree in Music Education!

What is your most memorable moment as a LVT? There are too many to count! The moments that give me the biggest thrill overall are when I can anticipate the needs of the patient and help to get them the care they need as quickly as possible. A 4-hour long porcupine quill removal when I was up in NY state is definitely up there. Getting to see one of my patients go home after almost 2 weeks in the hospital is another! Most of the other memorable moments are probably too gross to share!!

What is your most favorite parasite? Ohhhh, ear mites! So fun to watch them on the slide, and so easy to give an itchy pup or kitten some relief! And the gunk that comes out when you clean is so so satisfying.

Besides SCAVT is there any other professional organization do you belong to? There are a bunch- VECCS, AVECCTN, NAVTA, IVAPM, AVTE, Pride VMC, and AAFP

Do you have a specialty and if so, what? I have my VTS in Emergency and Critical Care

If coworkers were to describe you as an animal, what would it be and why? Oh geez, I don't know, probably a bulldog or some other tenacious creature. I advocate early and often and know the secret that we're all just people in this wild and slightly unhinged profession, so I don't have a problem pushing for what I think is right (respectfully) with people, regardless of their credentials. Maybe I'm a woodpecker!



Letter From Our President Melissa Entrekin, LVT, VTS (ECC)

Dear South Carolina veterinary professionals,

On behalf of the South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (SCAVT), I would like to share some exciting news but first, we would like to recognize that 2020 was an especially challenging year for our profession. Whether you practice in a clinical setting, management, research, education, industry, or any other part of veterinary medicine, the COVID-19 pandemic affected you in some way. Thankfully, the SCAVT can provide networking and collaboration opportunities while we navigate times such as these. Whether this networking is to share ideas, or to provide a platform for like-minded colleagues to find emotional support, we understand how powerful these relationships and opportunities can be.

Because of this understanding, the SCAVT executive board is gifting you with the opportunity to be a part of your state association for free. The SCAVT strives to bind professionals together and this gift of one free year of membership will help us accomplish this goal. For 2020 members, this will mean that your membership will automatically be renewed through December 31, 2021 and if you already paid your 2021 membership dues, membership will be automatically renewed through the end of 2022!

Please share this exciting information with your colleagues, visit our updated website which now makes membership renewals quick, easy and gives instant confirmation, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

The SCAVT is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the vital role licensed technicians play in the veterinary healthcare team and to provide professional unity within South Carolina. Please reach out to any executive board member listed on our website if you have any questions or would like to find out more about the SCAVT.

Kind regards,

Melissa P. Entrekin, LVT, VTS (ECC)

SCAVT, President

Education Page

Is your Anesthesia Machine Safe?
By: Michelle McConnell, LVT, VTS (A&A)

There are a few questions every anesthetist needs to ask when using an anesthesia machine to maintain patient and staff safety. Just because a machine has been in use for years does not necessarily make it safe. Also, proper yearly maintenance should be performed on the anesthesia machine to ensure all components are functioning correctly. Does your anesthesia machine function correctly?

All anesthesia machines should perform the following four functions:

1. Deliver oxygen
2. Deliver anesthetic
3. Remove carbon dioxide
4. Remove waste gas (WAG)

If your anesthesia machine does not perform these above functions all attempts should be made to upgrade or obtain a new unit. Most precision vaporizers can be mounted on newer anesthesia machines. This might be a way to obtain a new anesthesia machine while saving money by using an older style precision vaporizer. Vaporizers are required to be cleaned and recalibrated at least every 5 years to ensure parts inside the vaporizer are functioning properly and to maximize their life expectancy. This is a picture of an Ohio anesthesia machine. It does not have a precision vaporizer. The use of non-precision vaporizers is not recommended. Adding a new Tec 3 style vaporizer to this machine is recommended to ensure patient safety.

Is your machine old, outdated or missing important parts? The Ohio 970 Anesthesia Machine in the picture is also missing a pressure manometer. The pressure manometer or gauge allows the anesthetist to safely perform IPPV for the patient. The pressure manometer also allows the anesthetist to perform a pressure test on the anesthesia machine ensuring there are no hazardous leaks. A pressure test cannot be performed correctly without a pressure manometer. The machine pictured at the right has a pressure manometer installed. This upgrade can be performed on any Ohio 970 anesthesia machine.





The pictures below are a Surgivet anesthesia machine before and after a one-way valve upgrade. Upgrading from the vertical to horizontal one-way valves is recommended. The older style vertical one-way valves will allow rebreathing of CO₂. The anesthetist might even see ICO₂ or increased CO₂ levels if CO₂ is being monitored. This upgrade can be performed to your older model Surgivet machine.



Is your machine right for your veterinary patient? The veterinary market is starting to see used human anesthesia machines. These units might seem like an economic buy from a human hospital or found on eBay but unfortunately, they are not suited for the veterinary patient. The settings in the computer systems and ventilators are set to human standards, not veterinary patients. Due to

complexity of servicing the machines, the service and maintenance costs will be substantially higher. In the end, it is more economical and safer for veterinary patients to purchase a veterinary anesthesia machine.

It is the job of the anesthetist to ensure patient safety through an anesthetic episode. Ensuring your equipment is functioning and up to date will improve outcomes. All attempts should be made throughout the year to maintain anesthetic equipment ensuring patient safety and decrease harmful WAG to staff.

Michelle McConnell: michelle.mcconnell@vetamac.com

Works cited: Veterinary Anesthesia Lumb&Jones

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Veterinary Technician 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.

Fun Facts:

Did you know there are 750 Registered Veterinary Technicians in the State of South Carolina? How many credentialed veterinary technicians do you know that are not registered with the state of South Carolina?



Did you know every cow has a best friend that they hang out with every day?



