



ARAV Monthly Herp Blerp

Issue 7, August 2013

Greetings from the ARAV Technician Liaison

Hello my Reptilian and Amphibian shugs,

The end of summer is drawing near (not that it was particularly warm in the US Midwest) and September is coming up fast! School starts for our vet and technician students, herps are getting ready to bed down in temperate zones, and best of all the ARAV Conference will be in Indianapolis, Indiana! It doesn't get much better than this folks!

I strongly urge you to consider bringing yourself, your co-herts, your technicians (techs bring your doctors!) and students that may be working with you. You won't find a better conference focused solely on reptile and amphibian care. Did I mention we will be partnered with AEMV for all your mammalian needs as well?! Oh yes! Register today at, www.arav.org.

Technician and Student Members: \$255 or \$125 for 1-day only

Interns/New Grads/ Residents: \$345 or \$165 for 1-day only

Veterinarian Members: \$495 or \$195 for 1-day only

This newsletter is for you because ARAV wants to hear what you have to say! Help us continue to inspire with our dedication to up to date herpetological medicine. Race on over to Indy with us to learn something unique!!

Your Herp Blerpin' Tech,

Erica Mede, CVT

Becoming a One in a Million Technician

Every CVT, RVT, and LVT aspires to be good at their job. A few aspire to be more than good and want to be the best they can be, these shooting stars often seek specializations. The problem with being technicians that love reptiles and amphibians is trying to find a specialization since most are focused on dog and cat care.

Fortunately, the Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice (AVTCP) now offers a Veterinary Technician Specialty (VTS) in exotic companion animals. This specialization demonstrates that the technicians are capable of providing superior quality care and a commitment to reptilian medicine. Technicians can apply for their VTS in exotic companion animal care after 5 years (10,000 hours) of experience with at least 75% of that time being spent working with exotics.



What's the catch!? You will be expected to be knowledgeable and able to demonstrate your expertise. The main focus is on surgical nursing, knowledge of anatomy, common diseases, dentistry, anesthesia, behavior, laboratory testing, and practice management. There is a test that will be administered at their annual conference held over Halloween.



This is a rare chance for technicians to advance themselves. Before, this was just a chance for veterinarians but there is a need for advanced and dedicated technicians in the reptilian and amphibian field! Come step up and be a pioneer!

For more information and to start your process go to:
www.avtcp.org

August Epic Quick Case for Techs

Every veterinarian talks about amazing cases that they diagnosed, corrected, and otherwise saved the day on. But what about the veterinary technician? This little section here is to help veterinary technicians see all they do in these situations to help the doctor manage the cases!

History: Patient came in unable to utilize back legs. This tortoise was rehomed to the current owner with an obvious carapacial deformity.

Diagnosis: Rear leg paralysis caused by severe spinal deformity from advanced NSHP

The Technician's Job:

Demonstrate Medications - Both oral and injectable. Must be able to explain to client the purpose of each medication.

Scooter Care— Educate the owner on the proper care and use of the scooter to compensate for rear limbs.

X-Rays— On large reptilian patients this can be difficult. Anytime acute paralysis is seen it is important to take care not to jostle the spine unnecessarily.



Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Save the Date:

Annual Conference of the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians will be hosting their 33rd conference **September 5-9, 2013**.

20th Annual ARAV conference in conjunction with the **AEMV** (Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians) will be held **September 14-19, 2013** in **Indianapolis, Indiana, USA**.

Questions, comments, or just wish to submit something to the newsletter?

E-Mail Erica at: e.medecvt@gmail.com

Tips, Tricks, and Toys

Having trouble feeding your tiny-mouthed frogs, anoles, and geckos? Try using a 22-24 gauge over the needle catheter (minus the needle) on a 1 cc syringe. The plastic catheter is gentle enough not to damage the mucosa and skin while sturdy enough to resist minor bites.

- **Jessica**

Have a helpful tip? A fun trick? Or a review on a new machine? Submit them to us!

Student Chapters Corner

Great news!

Dr. Colin McDermott told us that



the student chapter website it being renovated. In even better news, the listing of intern and externships will be updated soon as well!

Stay tuned.