



ARAV Monthly Herp Blerp

Issue 3, April 2013

Greetings from the ARAV Technician Liaison

Hello my Reptilian and Amphibian Cohorts,

With the increasing temperatures (at least here in North America) and the increasing rains, many of us are excited for the end of winter and the return of field herping as well as client herping! Nothing makes me smile more than the warm weather bringing in new reptile and amphibian patients to be seen and some older ones resurfacing from their winter naps. Show your appreciation for your herp clients by keeping your staff and technicians up to date with what's new in ARAV!

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.

Your Herp Blerpin' Tech,

Erica Mede, CVT

Slithering to a Class Near You ...

Like many children, I had many dreams and aspirations of what I would be when I grew up. For the longest time I thought I would grow up to be a teacher. College lead me in a different direction and after some soul searching I found my path as a veterinary technician. I've worked in practice with small animals, exotics, and zoo animals and have loved every minute, every procedure, every fecal, and so on.

Some years into my career in zoo medicine I started talking with a few of my former teachers from the Veterinary Technology program. As the program continued to grow there came a need for more faculty members. I felt this was my chance to live out that childhood dream of being a teacher and having a chance to share my experiences with up-and-coming veterinary technicians.

I currently teach the Avian and Exotic Pet Medicine course at my local Vet Tech program (or as I affectionately call it, "the Snakes, Birds, and Things they Eat Class;" much to the dismay of some of my students who are very "fuzzy animal" oriented.) I've now taught this course for three semesters and have discovered the same thing after each semester.... It's very, very difficult to educate students (even interested students) on all the necessary, and most of the time basic, needs this group of animals need.

A typical semester involves, 3 weeks covering avian anatomy/physiology/medicine/husbandry, 3 weeks covering reptile/amphibian anatomy/physiology/medicine/husbandry, and the remaining weeks covering Ferrets, Rabbits, and other small fuzzy critters. However, as rigorous as this course is, many of my students walk away with either a better understanding of this field of veterinary medicine or a new appreciation for animals they never thought of working with.

Veterinary Technician students are amazing! Many of them work full time jobs on top of a full semester of coursework. They have a great interest in their field and want to know as much as possible. They push themselves to succeed in their studies, assignments, exams, and everything else thrown at them. I love being a veterinary technician, but my students have shown me the joys of being an educator.

- Ryan O'Shea, CVT

Adjunct Faculty - Veterinary Technology

St Petersburg College

Student Chapters Corner

Externships and internships that deal with exotic animal medicine is sometimes a real chore to find! Each month we will be highlighting a veterinary practice that offers externships or internships!

This month we are featuring **The Kipp Aquarium Internship through the Houston Zoo in Houston, TX.** They offer veterinary internships.

The Houston Zoo offers a full-time paid internship. The intern for the Kipp Aquarium will work with the Aquarists under the direction of the Aquarium Supervisor. This is a hands on internship and will also require interaction with guests.

Check out their website at: www.houstonzoo.org

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Save the Date:

First International Conference on Avian, Herpetological, and Exotic Mammal Medicine will be held **April 20-26, 2013.**

Conservation Medicine and Diseases of Amphibians and Reptiles Course will be held **June 23-29, 2013**

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.**

Tips, Tricks, and Toys

If you are having trouble medicating grassland tortoises a handy trick is to mix Oxbow Critical Care with the oral medications. Serve the Oxbow on a leaf of lettuce or other favorite leafy green. This obviously works best when the tortoise is eating on their own normally.

- Kelly H.

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

ARAV Trivia

The answer to last month's question is, A.

True or False: The North American box turtle's gender is determined by the temperatures their eggs are incubated at.

A. True

B. False

Check the newsletter next month for the answer!

Next month we will be having questions straight from the creators of AVTCP!

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

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