

Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians

Advancing reptilian & amphibian medicine, surgery, & conservation worldwide



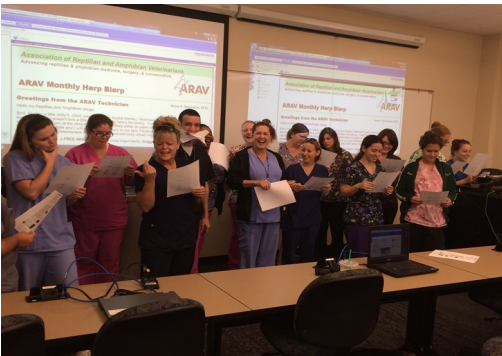
ARAV Monthly Herp

Issue 10, December 2013

Greetings from the ARAV Technician Liaison

Hello my Reptilian and Amphibian shugs,

The moment we have all been waiting for! We have had some fantastic submissions for the November Herp Blerp photo contest! We will be doing this again in a few months so keep your eye on this newsletter for your chance to win a **FREE T-SHIRT!** (Who doesn't need more t-shirts?!) And the winner is, **Ryan O'Shea!**



He had his Avian and Exotic Tech class take a photo with the Herp Blerp. They laughed, they cried, apparently one of his students suffers from pica and decided to digest it in a more literal way. He also has been contemplating extra credit to those students that write an article for our epic newsletter, hint hint to all those reading this with students or employees. Congratulations shug! Thank you to all who played along with our little game! ARAV is more than just an educational association, it's also a community.

In other exciting news, you may have noticed that the layout of our newsletter is different. That is because we have so much information we couldn't pack it into our tiny little one page space anymore! This

is all because of you folks and I know I am tickled pink that we have so many members that are enjoying this with their technicians and students! I hope to see more and more technicians and students become involved with the Herp Blerp in the future!

If you want to write an article (I'll happily provide the witty title and even a topic), write a Tip or Trick, or just let us know what you want to see in the future! Contact me at e.medecvt@gmail.com and let your voice be heard.

Your Herp Blerpin' Tech,
Erica Mede, CVT

Turtle Power!: What's New with the TSA

In 2013, the Turtle Survival Alliance finalized the purchase of the Turtle Survival Center (TSC), and began the labor of love that is now well on its way to becoming a world class facility for endangered chelonian assurance colonies. Located in the South Carolina low country, the TSC has so far become the home for 350 animals of 28 species, many of which are critically endangered.

A major focus of the TSC's living collection is Asian box turtles (genus *Cuora*). All species in this genus suffer from massive uncontrolled pressures from the food, traditional Chinese medicine, and pet trades. Besides the grave need to bring these animals back from the literal brink of extinction, they were also chosen for captive management programs at the TSC because of their suitability for the South Carolina climate, which closely matches the climate of most of their natural habitats. (Continued on page 2)



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Currently, the TSC is home to *C. amboinensis*, *C. flavomarginata*, *C. aurocapitata*, *C. mccordi*, *C. mouhotii*, *C. trifasciata*, *C. cyclornata*, *C. galbinifrons*, *C. bourreti*, *Cuora pani*, and *C. zhoui*. The center also houses the largest existing collection of critically endangered Sulawesi forest turtles, *Leucocephalon yuwonoi*, and is dedicating an entire barn and pasture to the critically endangered Asian mountain tortoise, *Manouria emys phayrei*. Most of the species in the collection are Asian, with a few from Africa and Madagascar as well. Unfortunately, *ex situ* population management is likely the only way to save these disappearing animals, as protection in the wild is simply not possible in most cases.

The site was previously owned by Samuel Seashole, DVM, and was a wildlife rehab center, as well as conservation facility for crocodilians and venomous snakes, making it incredibly suitable for transformation into a turtle center. A full veterinary clinic, conference room and barn, and seven securely fenced ponds with open-flow ground water systems made the acquisition a perfect beginning for the Turtle Survival Center.



The existing barn has since been renovated to accommodate turtles, and a 20x50' quarantine building and 20x40' tortoise barn have been erected, and two outdoor forest complexes are currently under construction. Because the first phase of outdoor enclosure construction is still underway, most animals are overwintering indoors in the first year.



Veterinary support is provided by Terry Norton, DVM, Diplomate ACZM, of Georgia Sea Turtle Center. Generous support is also provided by a volunteer team of veterinarians, including staff from South Carolina Aquarium, New England Aquarium, Bronx Zoo, Riverbanks Zoo, Houston Zoo, and Zoo Atlanta.

Atlanta.

While the Turtle Survival Center is not open to the public, ample volunteer opportunities are available for approved applicants, including veterinary contributions. If interested in donating time, funds, or equipment, please contact Heather Lowe at hlowe@turtlesurvival.org. The staff lives on site, and limited housing for guests is available. Information on all of the TSA's global programs can be seen at <http://turtlesurvival.org>.

Sheena Koeth, RVT

Turtle Survival Alliance

(All photos in this article are credited to Sheena Koeth)

Tips, Tricks, and Toys

There's nothing worse than a stubborn reptile except a small and stubborn reptile! Don't fret about breaking the jaw of your petite patient by using the finger nail pick found in most individually wrapped surgical hand scrubs. The little piece of blue plastic has helped us gain access to even the most stubborn of geckos and turtles!

- **Bethany H.**

Have a helpful tip? A fun trick?

Submit them!

Student Chapters Corner

Keep your eyes peeled for the Call for Posters. More information will be coming soon!



Quick Note from the Membership Committee

ARAV has two standing banners for all of your representation needs. If you are interested in running a table for your association at a reptile show, veterinary conference, etc please contact us!

Want More?!

If you are looking for even MORE information and articles on what is new in the scientific community along with cutting edge techniques become a member! Our medical journal is full of helpful clinical techniques, scientific research, and our newest addition, ARAV Care Sheets. Go to www.arav.org today and sign up! Don't miss a single issue!

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Save the Date:

ARAV, AAVAC, and the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Group of the Australian Veterinary Association Combined Conference will be held **April 22-24, 2014** in Cairns, Australia.

Watch your inboxes, a call for papers will be coming sooner than you think! Start those papers now folks!

Have you renewed your membership for the upcoming year? If yes, GREAT WORK! If no, go to www.arav.org and renew now and we won't tell Wilbur or Rachel on you!

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

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