

Big Sky Veterinary Technician Association
C/O Leah Anderson
2575 Dry Creek Road
Belgrade, MT 59714

A big thank you for sponsoring the fall newsletter goes out to:



Message from the Editor

Welcome to our updated newsletter! We are always open to any questions, concerns, hints, or content ideas. If you would like to contribute simply email us at: bsvtnewsletter@gmail.com. We will be sending out print and digital copies quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter).



Contact us:
Website: www.bigskyvettech.org
E-mail: bsvtnewsletter@gmail.com



BSVTA Newsletter

FALL 2015

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Message from the Editor

PIMA Medical Institute opens campus in Dillon, Montana As the first Veterinary Technician School in the state



Through a collaboration with the University of Montana Western, Pima Medical Institute is going to start offering Veterinary Assistant and Veterinary Technician programs in Dillon, Montana. The Pima program will be the first accredited Veterinary Technician program in the state of Montana. Classes are scheduled to start on November 9th, with the first graduating class in May of 2017.

Pima Medical Institute has hired both a Program Director and Clinical Director. Jan Winderl, DVM and Trisha Stone, CVT are both Montana residents and excited to have an opportunity to offer veterinary education to students across Montana. The goal for the Veterinary Assistant and Veterinary Technician programs are to produce graduates that meet the needs of employers providing veterinary care. In a recent survey by Pima Medical Institute, 91% of Montana veterinary technician employers reported difficulty finding qualified technicians.

Pima Medical Institute started offering career education in Tucson, Arizona in 1972. The institution has grown to 16 campuses across the Western US offering 26 health science programs including nursing, respiratory therapy, dental hygiene, radiography, and veterinary technician. Pima Medical Institute is dedicated to its mission to improve quality of people's lives by providing best value in medical career education.



Ty Druse, PhD, DPT
Regional Director of Operations
Pima Medical Institute

The mission of the Big Sky Veterinary Technician Association is to advance the profession of veterinary technicians through continuing education, dissemination of information and the promotion of integrity and compassion in our field.

Become a Member of BSVTA Today

Membership is open to Technicians, Assistants, Receptionists, and any other veterinary professional interested.

Visit our website for more details or send us an email!

www.bigskyvettech.org
bsvtanewsletter@gmail.com

Continuing Education Opportunities

Large Animal Rescue and
 Emergency Planning
 Saturday October 17, 2015
 Dillon, MT

MVMA Winter Meeting
 January 22-23rd, 2016
 Bozeman, MT

Employment Opportunities

Please visit www.bigskyvettech.org for further details and even more opportunities!

- Amherst Animal Hospital, Butte, Seeking licensed Veterinary Technician
- Amherst Animal Hospital, Butte, Seeking Client Service Supervisor/Retail Buyer
- Animal Medical Center, Bozeman, Seeking experienced Veterinary Technician
- Banfield Pet Hospital, Bozeman, Seeking experienced Veterinary Technician
- Best Friends Animal Hospital, Great Falls, Seeking Certified Veterinary Technician
- Big Sky Animal Medical and Surgical Referral Center, Great Falls, Seeking 2 Certified Veterinary Technicians
- Bridger Veterinary Hospital, Helena, Seeking experienced Veterinary Technician
- Copper Spring Ranch, Bozeman, Seeking Veterinary Technician
- Creekside Veterinary Hospital, Bozeman, Seeking Veterinary Nurse
- Highlands Veterinary Hospital, Butte, Seeking Veterinary Technician
- Pet Emergency and Trauma Services, Bozeman, Seeking Veterinary Technicians
- 360 Pet Medical, Bozeman, Seeking Veterinary Technician

Be advised that all listings may not be current as of printing

Thoughts from a Tech by: Kari Risa Murch

I was asked to write this short opinion piece by my good friend and certified veterinary technician Marcia Cantrell. Marcia and I have worked together in the veterinary field for about ten years and I learned much of what I know from her. I am not a certified technician, I have a Bachelor of Science Animal Science degree and most of my learning was on the job training. I was lucky enough to work with numerous veterinarians and technicians that were willing and great at teaching. During my years working as a veterinary technician, there had always been the topic of certified technicians versus the uncertified. As the years have gone by there has been movement in the field toward all technicians being certi-

fied and becoming more independent in their scope of practice. I am not going to lie I was not excited about this, I did not like the idea, and that if this happened I would be out of a job. I would no longer be able to do the job that I have been doing for years, and felt that I was competent at.

After going back to school and getting my Bachelor of Science of Nursing and working as an RN, my opinions have changed some. At the time I worked in the veterinary field I thought that I had a significant amount of knowledge and understanding. After continuing my education I was able to gain a greater understanding of the importance of education and how little I knew. Now I have a firm belief that if the veterinary technician field is going

to advance, education is key. If technicians want to become independent practitioners they must have a solid educational base to stand on with set standards. In the nursing field there are various levels of education, there is a 2 year associates degree and also 4 year Bachelors of Science degree. We all take the same test to get our license and we have the same scope of practice. At most hospitals they hire nurses with their Associates' Degree and expect them to continue their education and obtain their bachelor's degree. I bring this up because I think that the veterinary technician field also needs to find a way to include technicians that have experience even if they have not obtained their degree. I think that it is awesome that the veterinary technician field is progressing the way it is and I hope it continues to do so.

Tech On The Go

Donna Hoyt

I live, work and play in Great Falls. I graduated from Eastern Wyoming College in 2001 with my Associate of Applied Science degree. I have been with Skyline Veterinary Clinic in Great Falls since. I have two dogs and two cats that rule my abode at the moment. I enjoy reading, cooking/baking, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends. I am an active member of my local American Pool Association league in which I play both 8-ball and 9-ball. Currently, most of my spare time is taken up with studying and taking courses for Canine Massage Therapy through the Rocky Mountain School of Animal Acupressure and Massage based in Elizabeth, CO.

