

Hoffman Estates Animal Hospital

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"Providing Love and Care for a Lifetime"

Newsletter- May 2010

When They're Interested in Veterinary Medicine.... *Helping Them Find Their Way!*

We really love showing people around our hospital! We may not be as large as others, but what we lack in size, we make up for in staff spirit! We especially love to show our clients and the community what happens beyond the exam room door...the "behind the scenes" view. This usually happens when we are doing "job shadowing" for students from the local high schools or when we invite Brownie, Cub or Girl Scout troops in after hours to take a tour. We love to see the expressions on their faces and hear the "WOW!" as they look around and see all of the equipment, animals, doctors and technicians. It's an amazing place....

As many of you have discovered, especially if you know someone who has looked into the veterinary medical field, the road to becoming a veterinarian is a long one. There are a limited number of openings in the veterinary schools across the country. You need lots of school, then even more school, and your grades have to be great. Anyone who has absolutely decided that becoming a veterinarian is their life's calling will not let those things deter them. They will do whatever is necessary to achieve their goal; nothing will prevent them from getting that DVM degree.

For those people who do not want to go away to school, who have family commitments or do not want to go to school for the number of years needed for vet school, there is another career opportunity that we rarely find mentioned. It is that of a "Certified Veterinary Technician". Think about a human registered nurse—then imagine the veterinary equivalent of that. For those who want to dedicate their lives to the care of animals, this is a great option! We just find it mind-boggling that this career opportunity is rarely ever mentioned to high school students! How frustrating!

Becoming a Certified Veterinary Technician is not easy. You need schooling (two years at a full time school or up to 5 years in a qualified distance-learning program). You need good grades. And, after completing your schooling, you need to take your state's board certification exam. If you pass, you become a fully licensed, Certified Veterinary Technician. The job possibilities are endless!

We recently had the wonderful opportunity of having 13 students and their career advisor, Helen Henderson, from Hoffman Estates High School, come over for a lunch hour tour along with a question and answer time. Dr. Williams, Dr. Behm, and also our veterinary technician students, Kim Egan (San Juan College Veterinary Technology student) and Coral Ware (Distance Education Veterinary Technician Program-DEVTP through AAHA) speak about the veterinary industry and job opportunities. We discussed lots of things, including making sure that they look only at accredited school programs. There are many distance learning programs out there, but make sure it is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association before you sign on and pay your hard earned dollars.

We hope that this information will help those of you interested in the veterinary medical field. Or, maybe you'd like to forward this newsletter to someone who is looking to get into the industry. We have included links to the local accredited schools with programs geared towards a degree in Veterinary Medical Technology below. If you have any other questions, please give us a call. We'd be happy to help you get the answers you need!

- *Parkland College, Champaign, IL/ Veterinary Technician Program:* www.parkland.edu
- *Joliet Junior college, Joliet, IL/ Veterinary Medical Technology Program:* www.jjc.edu
- *American Animal Hospital Association website, under Education and/or Distance Education Veterinary Technician Program:* www.aahanet.org or www.devtp.org
- *San Juan College Veterinary Technician Distance Learning Program:* www.sanjuancollege.edu/vettech
- *American Veterinary Medical Association:* www.avma.org



Thought you might be interested...



- *Almost Home Foundation's "Pasta for Pets!" Italian Dinner Fundraiser:* Pasta, Pizza & more! Sunday, May 16th at the Fire Barn, 218 Main Street, Bartlett. Tickets: \$20 ea. / www.almosthomefoundation.org
- *Save-a-Pet's "Paws on the Path" Pet-athlon:* Saturday May 22nd at 10:00 a.m.—Registration: \$25, Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda. www.saveapetil.org

www.hoffmanestatesanimalhospital.com