



Veterinary Technician Program

2018 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

Ashworth College @ www.AshworthCollege.edu



Wait...it's WHAT day??

It's always a surprise how surprised we are to find another year drawing to a close! This has been an especially prosperous year for our program, with some exciting end-of-year news (see page 2). As we bid farewell to 2018, we'll take a peek behind-the-scenes with two clinical stories and a faculty focus article on one of our favorite team members. Plus, what would an end-of-year newsletter be without a story about an elephant?

Please share your clinical experiences or your experiences with the veterinary technician program for our next issue in 2019. Remember the newsletter isn't just for you, it's about you. Contact our coeditors (pg 4) to submit materials for upcoming newsletters.

Some ideas might be helpful!

- Write about a challenging experience
- Share a rewarding case with a client or their pet
- Why did you decide to be a veterinary technician? What motivates you?

You'll see your contribution in a future issue.

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Contact the Co-editors

It's Official!



The Ashworth College Technician Associate Degree online program is now accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities! The initial AVMA announcement is available online. You're now eligible to pursue professional credentialing/testing or licensure and reach your potential in the booming pet care industry!



"A rocking horse keeps rocking, but doesn't make much progress. Don't confuse motion with progress!"

Alfred A. Montapert

Stories You've Told Us

In a slightly different twist, in this issue we have two stories from the same person. Take it away, Abby!

Abby tells us about a patient she helped with last year. A 13-year-old Shih-Tzu arrived at the clinic with itchy and raw skin. The owner was desperate for a solution. The veterinary team clipped hair from his stomach, back and most of his head. After lots of TLC, antibiotics, and steroids the patient recovered. In addition, the senior was placed on a regimen of antibiotics to be administered at home. By the time his annual examination came around his hair had grown

back and there was no more itching. Abby notes "...it was one of the happiest recovery stories I've been part of."

Abby tells another story of Zeke, a five month old kitten, who came in with a broken leg. The team sedated and prepared him for a radiograph and placement of a splint. The next morning it was determined he was just too active. He flipped the splint around and his leg was no longer in alignment and required amputation. This doesn't sound like a happy ending, but Abby points out the resilience of animals. "When he woke up he wasn't slowed down a bit and acted like he didn't miss the limb."

"...it was one of the happiest recovery stories I've been part of."





Amy D'Andrea of Ashorth College has earned a multitude of awards including the Teaching Excellence Award, Distinguished Alumni Award and the Hill's Pet Nutrition Scholarship.

Faculty member **Amy D'Andrea** has been a credentialed veterinary technician for more than 22 years and holds registrations and certifications in numerous states.

She is a graduate of the Mount Ida College Veterinary Technician Program where she completed both her Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees in Veterinary Technology before going on to receive her Master's in Education from American Intercontinental University. Amy completed training at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in canine and feline basic and advanced life support earning a certification by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

Most of Amy's career has been dedicated to working in AVMA Accredited Veterinary Technology programs where she achieved the rank of Associate Professor. While teaching in higher education, she became a nationally renowned speaker and has authored various publications including five textbooks.

She has earned a multitude of awards including the Teaching Excellence Award, Distinguished Alumni Award and the Hill's Pet Nutrition Scholarship.

Amy served many years on the Executive Board of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America where she was president in 2006. Additionally, Amy served on the organizing committee for the Academy of Equine Veterinary Nursing Technicians, has held multiple positions in various state veterinary technicians associations and was chairperson for the Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties for three years.

We hope it's rewarding to know you're learning from one of the best!

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself.

Josh Billings



The Greatest Elephant

In his book *Modoc*, Ralph Helfer says she was “...the greatest elephant that ever lived.”

The book tells a story about a German boy and a female elephant and their fight to stay together for a lifetime as they cross three continents.

According to Helfer, the two are born on the same day and in the same hour. Bram’s father, a circus elephant trainer, wishes for a boy and a girl. He considers his dream fulfilled with Bram and Mosie. Bram is brought up to treat elephants with praise and respect of the highest regard, not with intimidation and threat of punishment for tasks not performed to perfection.

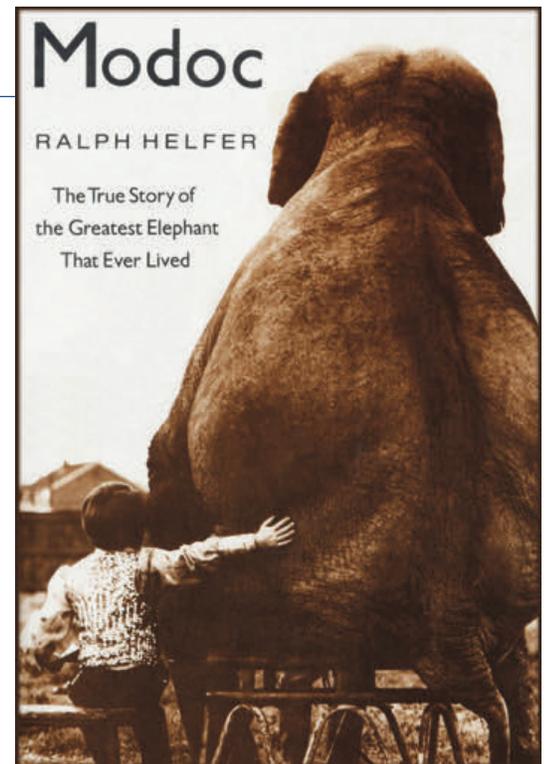
As Modoc matures she performs in European circuses. Circumstances intervene and the circus is sold to an American company. Now older, Bram cannot bear being parted from Mosie and becomes a stowaway as the circus crosses the ocean to New York City.

The ship encounters a formidable storm and was destroyed. Survivors stay afloat on Modoc’s back until they are rescued and not a minute to soon.

Modoc and Bram recuperate in India where Bram learns a great deal about elephants. Afraid the circus owner will find them, they escape into the teak forests.

The story turns to rebellion and the two come close to death. It is at this point they are captured by the owner and transported to America where they become stars of the big top. Modoc survives a poisoning attempt, a fire and a hook wielding drunk before the circus owner sells her without Bram’s knowledge.

Many years pass and Modoc’s life deteriorates as she is chained, abused and starved. The author, Helfer, who is an



animal trainer, discovers and acquires her. He quickly finds she can perform many acts easily. Bram, who never gave up searching for Modoc, finds her years later at Helfer’ ranch near Hollywood.

Modoc and Bram live out their lives in constant contact and nurse each other through old age. Bram is the first to die saying he will show Mosie the way to a new life where they will share eternity.

The author says his work is a true story. However, dates, names and places traveled are hard to verify. Nonetheless, true or not, this is a wonderful read about Modoc (aka Mosie) and his friend and trainer Bram Gunterstein.

You’ve read the last 2018 newsletter just for Ashworth College Veterinary Technician Program students.

We hope you’ve learned some things and liked the first year of publication.

We want you to share your experiences as students and your pictures too. Send them to:

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