

February 20, 2026

VET TECH FRIDAYS

Knowledge, News, and Updates



Protect Your Peace During Finals Stress Management Tips for Finals Week

Music

Movement

Short Walks

Sleep

Balance

Deep Breathing

Study Breaks

Recharge

Hydrate

Student of the Week

Emma Gentry

This week we are proud to recognize Emma Week!

Emma has been absolutely shining in surgery. patients, and her team with a calm, collected room. Whether she is assisting, anticipating humor, Emma brings both skill and light



Gentry from 11DV24 as our Student of the

She consistently shows up for herself, her presence that makes a real difference in the the next step, or offering a well-timed bit of wherever she goes.

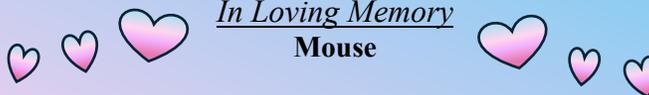
Her diligence and attention to detail do not go unnoticed. Emma works hard to ensure things are done correctly and thoughtfully, always prioritizing patient care and teamwork. She is kind, dependable, and ready to jump in wherever she is needed.

Beyond surgery, Emma has always been a joy to have in the classroom. Her steady work ethic and positive attitude set a strong example for those around her.

Emma, we are so proud of the growth you are showing. Keep bringing that steady confidence and heart into every procedure. Your patients and teammates are better for it.

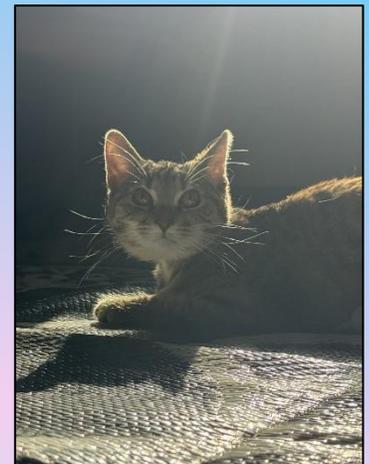
In Loving Memory

Mouse



Adopted by VTI student Lucy Jones, Mouse, (formerly Milky Way), spent her final months surrounded by comfort and joy.

Lucy shared: *“Mouse lived a wonderful two months at home, filled with more love than she had ever known. She discovered the comfort of a warm bed, spent her days running and playing with her brother, and even developed a deep appreciation for Kraft mac and cheese. Her time was far too short, but her life was overflowing with warmth, joy, and the kind of love every animal deserves.”*



In Loving Memory continued..

Mouse

Her Final Days

About a week before her passing, Mouse began to decline. She developed a noticeable pot-bellied appearance while simultaneously losing weight and muscle tone, which deeply concerned her family. On Tuesday the 10th, she was taken to VCA Emergency, where doctors removed yellow fluid from her abdomen and diagnosed her with FIP (feline infectious peritonitis), a devastating and often fatal disease. Given the severity of her condition and how quickly she was declining, the heartbreaking decision was made to humanely euthanize her that same day to prevent further suffering.

Understanding Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a serious and often fatal disease caused by a mutation of the feline coronavirus within a cat's body. While many cats are exposed to feline coronavirus, only a small percentage experience the mutation that leads to FIP. The disease most commonly affects cats under two years of age, and Mouse was just 10 months old.

There are two main forms of FIP: wet (effusive) and dry (non-effusive).

Mouse was diagnosed with the wet form, which is characterized by the accumulation of fluid in the abdomen or chest. This fluid is typically thick, yellow, and high in protein, often described as sticky or viscous. Cats with wet FIP may develop a pot-bellied appearance due to abdominal effusion, along with muscle wasting, weight loss, lethargy, and a sunken facial appearance as the disease progresses.

The dry form of FIP does not produce obvious fluid accumulation. Instead, it causes inflammatory lesions (granulomas) to form in organs such as the kidneys, liver, eyes, or brain. Because there is no large volume of fluid to sample, dry FIP can be more difficult to recognize and diagnose. Clinical signs vary widely depending on the organs affected and may include neurologic changes, ocular inflammation, persistent fever, or gradual weight loss.

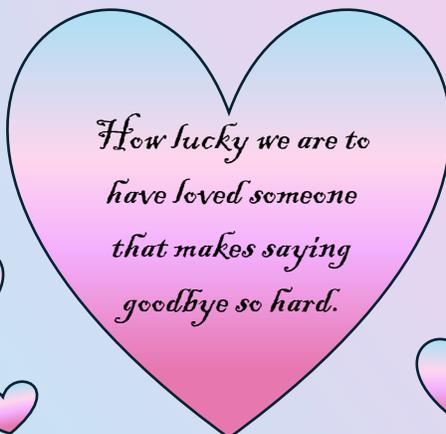
There is currently no single definitive test for FIP. Diagnosis is typically based on a combination of clinical signs, fluid analysis (in wet cases), bloodwork abnormalities such as elevated protein levels, and imaging findings.

In recent years, antiviral treatments have been developed that have dramatically improved survival rates when started early. However, these medications are extremely expensive and not always accessible, which can make treatment difficult for many families. Prior to the availability of these therapies, FIP was considered almost universally fatal.

Students in Clinical Medicine III will explore FIP in greater depth, including pathophysiology, diagnostics, and treatment considerations.

A Reminder for Us All

FIP is a heartbreaking reminder that illness does not discriminate. It can happen to any cat, in any home, to any owner. Working in veterinary medicine does not make our own animals immune to disease, and knowledge cannot prevent every mutation or outcome. What it does offer is awareness. It allows us to recognize subtle changes sooner, to understand when suffering is present, and to make informed decisions rooted in compassion. In Mouse's case, that knowledge did not change the diagnosis, but it did ensure that her pain was not prolonged. Sometimes the greatest act of love is knowing when to say goodbye.



Photos Around Campus



07DV25 student William Conner enjoys watching a favorite show during a break in one of the Recharge Rooms.



03DV25 students Taylor Achor and Rayonna Wilson snag a coffee during break between classes.



Buffalo Chicken Dip + Game Night = the perfect combo 🧀 🎲

It is always so fun seeing our students relax, laugh, and build community in housing.



Nights like this make it feel a little more like home.



Photos Around Campus



Dr. Joy Ritz and Zoie Butcher show us their hearts are in it!



11DV25 students Alitza Goar, Sarah Somerville, Grace Vorhis, and Ava Scheerer can often be seen together walking between classes.



Fueling up the 03DV25 way, Bonnie Rexroat and Jane Guest bring the heat with Flaming Hot Cheetos on their walk to class.



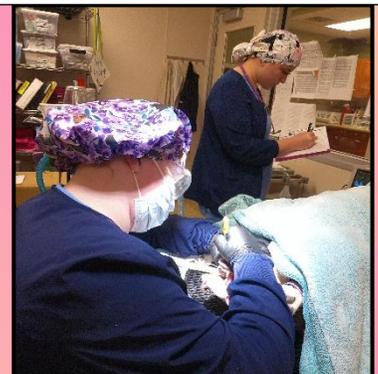
Mrs. Norton guides 11DV24 student Josy Garcia through the final polishing step following ultrasonic scaling on a feline patient.

With steady hands and focused attention, Darryasia Whitfield prepares hematocrit tubes for her feline patient's diagnostic testing.



03DV25 student Lexi Lloyd and 07DV25 students Lexi McCormick and Mia Myers are ready for class!

Teamwork in action: 11DV24 student Emily Trammel completes a canine dental procedure as Sydney Sickafus closely monitors anesthesia to maintain a safe and stable patient.



IT'S TIME TO COMPLETE YOUR

26-27 FAFSA

FINANCIAL AID WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE HELP COMPLETING THE APPLICATION.

If you have any questions, please see Kesia immediately. We look forward to helping you complete your FAFSA for the 26-27 academic year!



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APRIL

Deadline

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE THIS ON YOUR OWN, YOU AND YOUR PARENT(S) CAN FILE YOUR FAFSA AT HOME.

Please Join Financial Aid for

26-27 FAFSA WORKSHOPS



DEADLINE IS APRIL 15TH

Please have your FSA ID ready! Parents are welcome to join, BUT if they cannot make it, please have their email address available so we can invite them to your FAFSA.

[FINANCIAL AID WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE HELP COMPLETING THE APPLICATION.](#)

If you have any questions, please see Kesia immediately. We look forward to helping you complete your FAFSA for the 26-27 academic year!

2:30 PM TO 4 PM
RM: 104

Time & Room

TUESDAYS &
THURSDAYS

Days

[IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE THIS ON YOUR OWN, YOU AND YOUR PARENT\(S\) CAN FILE YOUR FAFSA AT HOME.](#)