

September 12, 2025

VET TECH FRIDAYS

Knowledge, News, and Updates



Faculty Spotlight **Autumn Norton, RVT**

Mrs. Norton brings her passion for veterinary Indiana, where she now teaches and mentors college after years of hands-on experience in including her time at IndyVet Emergency and versa technician, rotating through departments surgery, while also training new hires. Because was needed, she gained a wide variety of skills teaching today.



medicine and education to Vet Tech Institute of future veterinary technicians. She joined the both specialty and general practice settings, Specialty Hospital. There, she worked as a such as emergency, internal medicine, and her role required her to step in wherever she and experiences that continue to shape her

When asked what she enjoys most about her role, Mrs. Norton laughs, "Aside from my patients?!" She explains that her greatest motivation comes from education, whether it's teaching clients about their pets, mentoring new technicians, or encouraging students. She is a firm believer that "education is key," and she takes pride in helping others build both skills and confidence in themselves.

Outside the classroom, Mrs. Norton has a fun fact to share; she considers herself an intermediate fish keeper and enjoys caring for betta fish and other species. At home, she also has two cats, Milo and Cleo, and a dog named Jack. Over the years she has cared for many animals and still fondly remembers her beloved cat Figaro, who has since passed.

Her hobbies are just as varied as her career experiences. She loves all things Disney, enjoys reading, and often dives into crafts, drawing, and painting. "You name it," she says, "I've likely hyperfixated enough to get myself through it!" Her advice to students is simple but powerful: "You are smarter than you give yourself credit for. Give yourself grace, you aren't perfect, and no one truly expects you to be. And like my old elementary school principal always said, 'School is like the bank. You only get out of it what you're willing to put in it.' Apply yourself, and don't be afraid to rise to the challenge!"

Spotlight: Student of the Week

Ashlynn Buchan

Ashlynn has quickly stood out as an excellent With her strong background of working in a skill, confidence, and professionalism. What makes students naturally look to her for guidance, track. That kind of quiet leadership speaks stuff, and her dedication sets an inspiring example experience make her a trusted role model, and we are proud to recognize her as Student of the Week.



student, both in the classroom and in the clinic. clinical setting, she consistently demonstrates Ashlynn especially remarkable is the way newer watching her to confirm they're on the right volumes. Her peers recognize that she knows her for others to follow. Ashlynn's knowledge and

Favorite Puns

Why do rabbits like diamonds?

Because they are made of carats.

- Dr. Ritz

What's Your Teaching Theme Song?

Back 2 School

By Adam Sandler

🎧 Ms. Lewis 🎧

What's Playing?

We asked, and you answered!

Student pick of the week:

Goodbye Earl

By The Chicks

Life at Vet Tech Institute of Indiana: This Week in Photos



Dedication on display! 11DV24 students Minnie Cline and Hannah Bachmann hard at work in the student lounge.



Break time = brainstorming! 07DV25 students Ge'Niaya McDowney, Leilany Moreno, & Nevaeh Smith-Burke planned their music and movement design for the parking space chalk art contest.



FREE hot dogs & fries for all, provided by Vet Tech Institute of Indiana and served up by Gimi Hot Dogs at our Fall Party!

Fall Party fun!

03DV25 students Jane Guest, Lucy Jones, Bonnie Rexroat, and Elizabeth Dodd rocked matching dinosaur tattoos.

ROAR! 🦖



Piggy-back party fun! Allie Jenson (07DV24) and Lexi Lloyd (03DV25) share a laugh at the Fall Party.



After a quick caffeine run, 11DV24 students Sierra Adkins, Delaney Meyers, Robin Mitchell, and Lilly Carson, along with 03DV25 student Lucy Jones, took advantage of the warm weather for an outdoor study session.



Friends + food line = Fall Party fun for 07DV25 students Brynlee Gilbert, Cheyanne Black, Jaelyn Jackson, & Makayla Anderson.

Who Wore It Best?
Ready to Party!



1. Anette



2. Midnight



3. Diesel

[CLICK HERE OR SCAN QR CODE TO VOTE](#)



[CLICK HERE OR SCAN QR CODE TO VOTE](#)



4. Fred



5. Cowboy



6. Gladys

Star Pet of the Week
Fred!

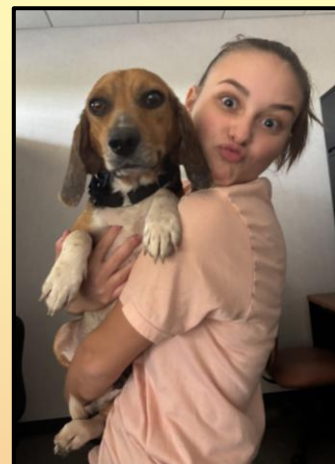
Meet Fred, a 5-year-old from Tails and Trails.

Fred may be an old soul, but he is as sweet as they come. When he first arrived, he looked very nervous, like he had been through a lot.

Despite whatever he may have faced in the past, Fred has accepted every helping hand when it comes to love and the medications he needs to heal.

He especially enjoys physical affection and loves being picked up and held in your lap. In just a short time, Fred has already started to let his personality shine through, and Hannah Bachmann shares that she can't wait to see what his future holds.

Fred is a reminder of how resilient and loving animals can be, and why they deserve every bit of care we can give them.



Pictured above: 11DV24 student Hannah Bachmann and Fred sharing a sweet moment.

Veterinary Technicians: The Unsung Heroes of Animal Care



When most people think of a veterinary technician, they picture someone gently holding a puppy or kitten during a check-up. While that's certainly part of the job, the reality is that veterinary technicians are the backbone of every clinic and hospital, doing far more behind the scenes than most clients ever realize.

More Than Meets the Eye

Vet techs are highly skilled professionals who wear many hats in a single day. They draw blood, run lab tests, monitor anesthesia, assist in surgery, place catheters, clean teeth, take radiographs, and provide critical nursing care. They are also the ones who carefully track a patient's vital signs during procedures, ensuring that every pet receives safe and attentive care from start to finish.

Just as important, technicians are teachers. They educate pet owners about everything from medication administration to proper nutrition and preventive care. By bridging the gap between veterinarians and clients, vet techs make sure families leave the clinic with the knowledge they need to keep their animals healthy. They often spend the most time with patients during a visit, which means their observations can make the difference between catching a problem early or missing it altogether. Their compassion for both pets and people is what makes the clinic experience less stressful and more reassuring.

Why the Role Is Crucial

Without veterinary technicians, clinics simply couldn't function. They are the steady hands that keep procedures running smoothly, the eyes and ears that notice subtle changes in a patient's condition, and the compassionate voices that comfort nervous pet owners. Their work allows veterinarians to focus on diagnosing and prescribing, while ensuring each patient gets the highest standard of care.

In emergencies, vet techs are often the first responders in the clinic, providing immediate support while the veterinarian determines a treatment plan. In routine visits, they're the friendly faces clients often see most, helping to build trust and long-term relationships with the clinic.

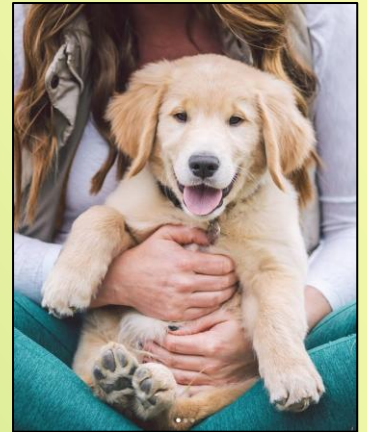
Preparing Tomorrow's Heroes

At Vet Tech Institute of Indiana, students are training every day to step into this vital role. Through hands-on labs, clinical practice, and externship experiences, they're learning the technical skills, from anesthesia monitoring to dental prophylaxis, as well as the communication and teamwork skills that make great technicians.

By the time they graduate, VTI students are ready not just to assist in animal care, but to lead with confidence, knowledge, and compassion. They'll carry that preparation into every clinic, hospital, or specialty practice they join, proving every day that veterinary technicians are truly the unsung heroes of animal care. Their dedication ensures that every animal, from the tiniest kitten to the largest horse, receives the best possible chance at a healthy life.



From Puppies to Parrots: Snapshots of Vet Techs in Action





Student Song of the Week

What's Your Current Favorite Song?

[Click Here or Scan QR Code to Answer!](#)



Student Joke of the Week



What's Your Favorite Joke?

[Click Here or Scan QR Code to Answer!](#)

CONGRATULATIONS To Our Parking Space Chalk Art Team Contest Winners

THANK YOU to everyone who participated!



1st Place

07DV25
Students:
**Whittney,
Tannah,
Lucas,
Kate, &
Caitlin**

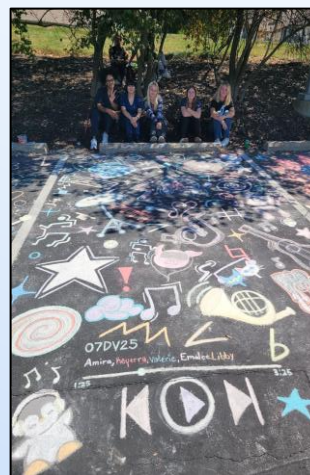
Prize:
\$15
cash/ea



2nd Place

03DV25
Students:
**Elizabeth,
Lexi,
Taylor,
Lucy,
Jane, &
Rayonna**

Prize:
\$10
Starbucks
gift
card/ea



3rd Place

07DV25
Students:
**Amira,
Keyerra,
Valerie,
Emalee,
& Libby**

Prize:
Team
Pizza
Party

We loved seeing the creativity come to life in chalk form, thank you for making our campus even more colorful! It wasn't easy to choose; every square told its own story and showcased the imagination of our students!

Underrated Animals

The Manatee: Gentle "Sea Cow" of the Coasts



When most people think of ocean wildlife, sharks, dolphins, or sea turtles come to mind. But drifting quietly through warm coastal waters lives one of the most gentle and underrated creatures of the sea: the manatee. Often nicknamed the "sea cow," this slow-moving, plant-eating mammal plays a vital role in its ecosystem.

Manatees are sometimes mistaken for large, lazy animals because of their leisurely pace, but in reality, they are hardworking "gardeners of the sea." By grazing on vast amounts of seagrass, they keep underwater meadows trimmed and healthy. This not only prevents overgrowth but also supports countless species of

fish, turtles, and invertebrates that rely on these habitats for survival. Without manatees, seagrass beds would quickly decline, harming entire marine food chains.

What makes manatees so unique is their evolutionary history. Believed to be distant relatives of elephants, they can weigh up to 1,000 pounds and still glide gracefully through the water. Despite their size, they survive almost entirely on vegetation, consuming up to 10% of their body weight in seagrass every day. Their peaceful nature is so remarkable that they have no natural predators—only humans pose a real threat to their survival. Boat collisions, habitat loss, and pollution have pushed manatees to vulnerable status in many regions, making conservation efforts essential.

Beyond their ecological role, manatees remind us of the value of gentleness in a world that often celebrates speed and power. They embody patience and quiet resilience, teaching us that strength can also be found in stillness. Protecting manatees means preserving not only a unique species but also the health of the coastal ecosystems they sustain.



So next time you picture ocean life, don't just imagine sleek dolphins or colorful fish, remember the humble manatee, the true "sea cow" of the seas, floating peacefully among the seagrass and quietly keeping the ocean in balance. – Mrs. Norton