

September 26, 2025

VET TECH FRIDAYS

Knowledge, News, and Updates



Staff Spotlight

Ashley Miller, MBA

Ashley Miller has been serving as the Director of since February 2025. She graduated from Indiana Business Administration and Communications and working in the Admissions Department at

After welcoming her first child, Ashley stepped she returned to the workforce, she transitioned into Manager for an ERP software company. Several to raising her three young children, while also Treasurer and a homeroom parent at their



Student Services at Vet Tech Institute of Indiana University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in soon after began her career in higher education International Business College in Fort Wayne.

away from her career to focus on family. When the business world as the Sales and Office years later, she again chose to dedicate her time staying active in her community as PTO elementary school.

In 2020, Ashley furthered her education by earning a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Human Resources from Indiana Institute of Technology. Now, with her children all in school, she is thrilled to return to higher education, and especially to Vet Tech Institute of Indiana. She says, "I truly love being back at VTI. This role feels like the perfect fit, and I enjoy both the work I get to do and the team I get to do it with." As Director of Student Services, she describes her most important responsibility as being a steady resource for students. She believes that building trust with students can make all the difference in helping them stay on track, especially during difficult times. "My goal is for every student to know they have someone who will support them, advocate for them, and celebrate their successes," Ashley explains.

Outside of work, Ashley enjoys a full and active life. She and her husband, Chris, have known each other since childhood, growing up in the same schools beginning in third grade. Their story came full circle when they reconnected while both working at a hotel front desk during college. They have now been together for 20 years and married for 11, raising three children: David, age 10, William, age 8, and Charlotte, age 6. Their family also includes Murphy, a one-year-old Great Pyrenees/Labrador mix rescue who Ashley lovingly describes as their "gentle giant." Together, they enjoy outdoor adventures like hiking, visiting the beach, and exploring nature, as well as spending time with family and friends.

Ashley is grateful for each step of her journey and is excited to continue building connections, creating a positive campus culture, and supporting the success of every student who walks through Vet Tech Institute of Indiana's doors.

Spotlight: Student of the Week

Taylor Achor

Taylor Achor has consistently shown herself to be engaged, and eager to learn. Taylor asks thoughtful understanding but also benefit her classmates.

In the lab, Taylor excels with hands-on skills and very best. She approaches every task with focus, great example for her peers.

Her reliability, hard work, and willingness to keep program. Congratulations, Taylor, on being

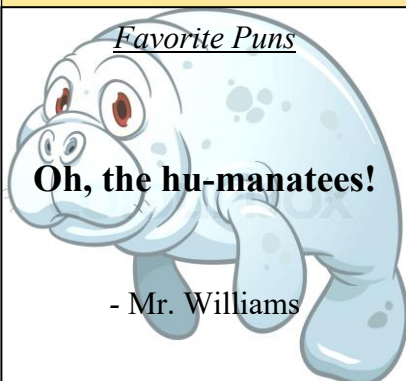


an outstanding student. She is always present, questions that not only help her own

demonstrates a strong commitment to doing her determination, and a positive attitude, setting a

improving make her a true standout in our recognized as Student of the Week!

Favorite Puns



Oh, the hu-manatees!

- Mr. Williams

What's Your Teaching Theme Song?

Crazy Train

By Ozzy Osbourne

🎧 Ms. Norton 🎧

What's Playing?

We asked, and you answered!

Student pick of the week:

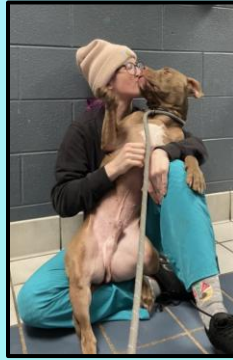
Devil in Disguise

By Marino

Alumni Spotlight
Katie Brown

Katie Brown, now serving as a Medical Shift Services, says choosing a career in veterinary her passions. “I grew up saying I wanted to be she shared. “When I realized there was a career been the best decision ever.”

She reflects fondly on her time at Vet Tech the program’s interactive learning hands-on so many of the classes were. I’m physically do the tasks we were studying was appreciated the support of her instructors: “They were always available to answer questions or take that little bit of extra time to help us figure it out.”



Leader at Indianapolis Animal Care technology felt like the perfect blend of a nurse and have always loved animals,” that included both, I went for it—and it’s

Institute of Indiana, where she thrived in environment. “I really enjoyed how not a book learner, so being able to a game changer,” Katie said. She also

Now working as a supervisor in a busy clinic, Katie continues to draw on the skills she gained during her training. “We do all of our lab work and radiographs in-house, so learning how to do those before starting my role was super helpful. Going through the surgery term was also a huge advantage. Every doctor has their own preferences, but it’s nice having the basics down before you get tossed into real life.”

One of Katie’s favorite parts of her role is mentoring students during their clinical experiences. “I love having students here. We see so much, and there are countless opportunities for them to learn different skills. It’s rewarding to slow down and help them build confidence in themselves. Watching them accomplish something they were nervous about—and seeing them light up when they get it—is one of my favorite parts of the job.”

To current students, Katie offers thoughtful encouragement: “This is an emotion-filled field. Pets come with people, and you have to care about them both equally. In shelter medicine, people are surrendering animals for one reason or another. I remind myself they’re not trying to be a problem—they’re having a problem. We’re here to help, not judge, even when that feels like the easier thing to do.”

Nearly nine years into her career, Katie wouldn’t change a thing. “This has been the hardest, most fulfilling decision I’ve ever made,” she reflected. “I’m almost a decade in, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Star Pet of the Week
Tyson!

Meet Tyson, a sweet and energetic boy who has stolen our hearts! Tyson loves nothing more than greeting everyone with his favorite Kong toy in tow, ready to share his excitement. He’s never met a person he didn’t want to shower with affection. Tyson is always eager for pets and attention from anyone willing to give them.

Not only is he full of energy and love, but Tyson also knows how to sit and pose like a pro, always looking handsome for any photo opportunity. He has the sweetest kisses and a big personality that brightens every room he enters.

As one student put it: “*He always makes my day.*”

Tyson is the perfect reminder of how much joy our pets bring to our lives every single day.





Student Song of the Week

What's Your Current Favorite Song?

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



Student Joke of the Week

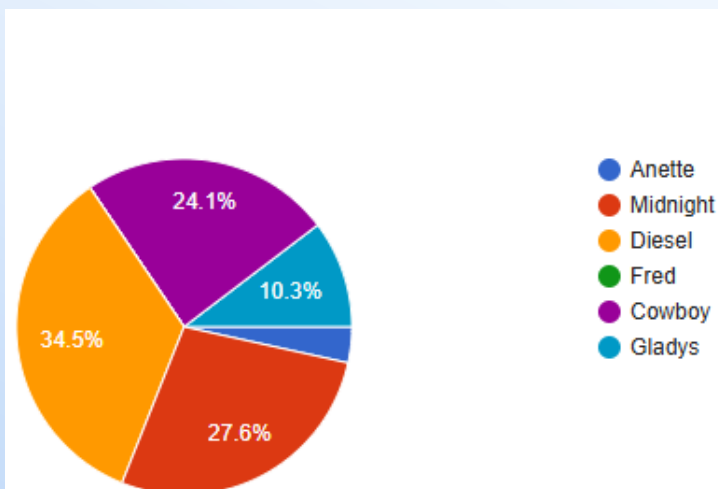


What's Your Favorite Joke?

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



Top Dog Ready to Party
Diesel!



Thank you to everyone who voted!

Underrated Animals

Otters: Playful and Intelligent Creatures



Otters are often overshadowed by flashier or more exotic animals, but they deserve recognition for being some of the most fascinating and playful creatures in the animal kingdom. Known for their sleek fur and streamlined bodies, otters are excellent swimmers, capable of gliding gracefully through rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. They use their webbed feet and strong tails to maneuver with ease, making them natural acrobats in the water.

What really makes otters special, though, is their intelligence and personality. They are one of the few non-human animals

known to use tools, cracking open shellfish with rocks balanced on their bellies. Social by nature, otters often live in family groups, where they play, groom, and even hold hands while they float together in the water, a behavior charmingly called "rafting." This not only keeps them close but also helps them avoid drifting away while they rest.

Beyond their playful appearance, otters are an important part of their ecosystems. By preying on fish, shellfish, and crustaceans, they help maintain balance in aquatic environments. In some regions, sea otters even play a critical role in protecting kelp forests by keeping sea urchin populations in check. Their survival is directly tied to the health of waterways, making them valuable indicators of environmental quality.

Though they may not always get the spotlight, otters combine brains, beauty, and ecological importance in a way few other animals do. They remind us that even the underrated creatures in nature have a vital role to play, and a lot of charm to share.

