

March 13, 2026

# VET TECH FRIDAYS

*Knowledge, News, and Updates*



## The Paws Behind the Faces

### Teacher and Faculty Pets: Mrs. Crocker and Lua



My "heart dog" was a Shar Pei Pit Bull mix named Lua. I adopted her from ARPO (Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership) when she was just three months old. She was a fawn and white, loose skinned bag of wrinkles and bones. When I adopted her, she fit just perfectly curled up in my crisscrossed lap! Lua was my very first (of many) pitbull rescues. To say she set that bar high, is an understatement. Lua was squishy and sweet. She played hard with her brother dogs Muddbone, Biggie, and Milo who were Staffordshire/Pitbull mixes. In 2011, Lua and I moved out of my parents' home and in with my now husband, Derek. Lua and I were close before, but our bond truly

blossomed when we moved. She followed me into the bathroom and even snuck her head into the shower (she didn't want to get in, but didn't mind getting her head soaked to stay close to me). She slept next to me in bed. Sat by me on the couch. Every time I got home she would dance and chuff at me in excitement. Lua only really gave ME kisses whereas she would sniff others only to sneeze in their face when they expected a



smooch! Ha! She loved to sunbathe in the yard and feel the wind in her hair. She nurtured her toys instead of destroying them. Lua was there for me when my brother was sick with Leukemia. She was there through the end of high school, through heartaches and triumphs of young adulthood, and my prime developmental years. Through Vet Tech School, a puppy (Jolene, Whippet/pitbull mix in 2014) and a Wedding (2015). Jolene was a rotten stinker of puppy (she's perfect now) and I think this only made Lua and my bond even stronger. Lua and I didn't speak the same language, but we really and truly understood each other. Lua passed away at 15 years old in April of 2023. 15 years is a HUGE chunk

of your life. I will never stop missing her high fives, her snore, the way her jowls schlopped when she ate or drank, her squishy muzzle, or her boundless love and loyalty. I hope with every ounce of my being that every person experience this kind of bond with a pet! I have her portrait tattooed on my left shoulder so she will be with me for always.

## Student of the Week

### Abigail Covert



Abi Covert has been selected as our Student of the Week for her leadership, reliability, and willingness to step up when her team needs her most.

When her kennel leader was injured, Abi immediately stepped into the lead role without hesitation, taking on the added responsibility with confidence and a positive attitude. A few weeks ago, when another leader had to call off from kennel, Abi found herself as the sole lead for the evening. She remained calm, organized, and ready to handle the shift on her own. Although another former leader stepped in to help that night, Abi had already shown she was fully prepared to manage everything herself.

Abi is a valued member of her kennel team, and her hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed.

Photos Around Campus



07DV25 students Brynlee Gilbert and Jaclyn Jackson show off their yummy pistachio and almond snacks.

**REMINDER...**  
Stop by Ashley Miller's office for your once-a-week complimentary snack!

This fun-loving kennel crew took a break after their animal care duties to enjoy a sweet treat at Cold Stone Creamery!

These students play an important role in keeping our kennel animals happy, healthy, and comfortable each day.

Their teamwork, dedication, and positive attitude help make kennel operations run smoothly, and it was great to see them spending time together and celebrating their hard work.



03DV25 students getting hands-on experience learning about pig behavior and handling techniques at the farm. Experiences like this help prepare our future veterinary technicians to care for animals of all kinds.



03DV25 students Constance Baniaga, Miranda Silvestre, Jane Guest, Liz Dodd, and Berk Huckins gather around for a hug with Theo the pig.

Weighing in at about 900 pounds, Theo is definitely the biggest friend they made that day.

*Photos Around Campus*



07DV25 student Jaelyn Jackson spends some advocacy time in an empty classroom with a very sweet puppy named Bella Norris, enjoying a quiet moment together.



Mrs. Norton and Ms. Lewis are all smiles during skills day in Animal Technology III class. Today students learned how to give sub cue injections.



11DV25 student Sarah Somerville gives Cosmo the cat some affection to help him relax before his injection.



Hands-on learning in action! Bernice Tooley administers a sub-Q injection while Grace Voorhis and Kenzy Triezenberg assist with restraint. Ms. Lewis provides guidance from behind as the 11DV25 students practice their clinical skills.



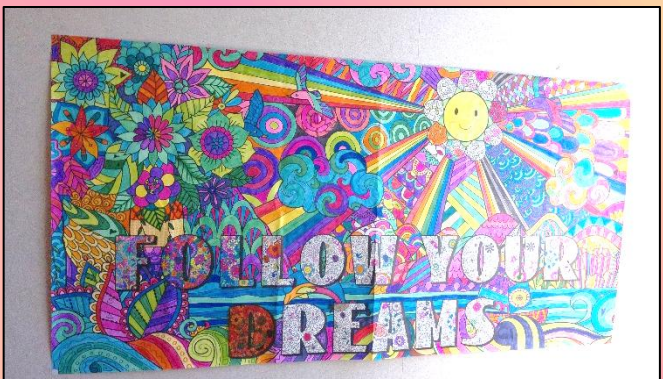
03DV26 students Hunter Willock, Aaliyah Cannon, Gemma Fairbanks, and Nashara Jackson pause in the hallway during their second week as they continue getting settled into the program.



Working together, Sarah Somerville performs a sub-Q injection on Cosmo the cat while Arianna Smith and Sophia Stevens provide gentle restraint to ensure a safe and smooth procedure.

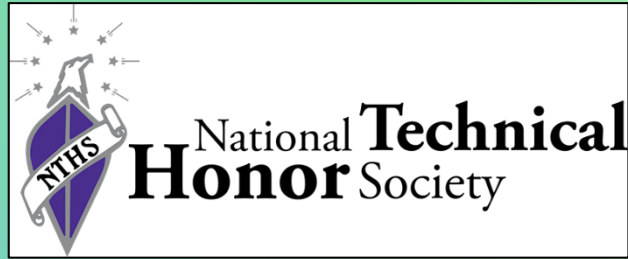


Smiles in the surgery suite from 11DV25 students Bernice Tooley and Kenzy Triezenberg, with Dunkin the cat getting some attention from Kenzy.



Need a quick mental reset? One of our unfinished coloring pages is now hanging in Recharge Room #2. Stop by, add a little color, and take a moment to recharge. Follow your dreams!

*National Technical Honor Society (NTHS)*



Informational Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 26

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Room 116

---

### **What is the National Technical Honor Society?**

The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in career and technical education. It celebrates students who work hard, show leadership, and are committed to building strong careers in their field.

NTHS helps students grow both academically and professionally while recognizing their dedication to their program and future career.

---

### **Why Join NTHS?**

Members of NTHS have the opportunity to:

- Be recognized for academic achievement in technical education
  - Develop leadership and professional skills
  - Participate in service projects that support the community
- Build connections with fellow students who are motivated and career-focused
  - Strengthen resumes, job applications, and externship opportunities
- Apply for exclusive scholarships available only to NTHS members
  - Wear honor cords and receive recognition at graduation

---

### **Who Can Join?**

To become a member of NTHS, students must meet the following requirements:

- 3.6 cumulative GPA or higher
- 80% attendance rate or higher
- Demonstrate professionalism, responsibility, and dedication to their program

---

### **Interested in Learning More?**

Even if you do not yet qualify, you are welcome to attend the informational meeting to learn more about the organization and how you can work toward becoming a member.

Come find out what NTHS is all about and how it can support your future career!

♦ Join us on March 26 at 2:30 PM in Room 116.  
We hope to see you there!

*Show Your School Spirit*

**The webstore will be open through Tuesday, March 31 at noon, and orders will be delivered to the school office by Friday, April 24.**



**[CLICK HERE TO ORDER VET TECH INSTITUTE OF INDIANA APPAREL](#)**



## Underrated Animals

### The Ocean's Most Beautiful Sea Slugs

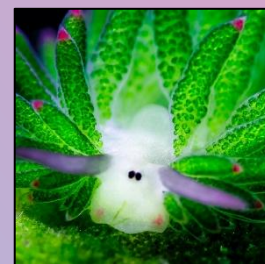
When people think about fascinating ocean animals, they often picture dolphins, sharks, or colorful reef fish. Yet some of the most extraordinary creatures in the sea are tiny, slow-moving mollusks called sea slugs, particularly a group known as nudibranchs. Despite their delicate appearance, these animals possess incredible adaptations, vibrant colors, and unique survival strategies. From dragon-like drifters to slugs that can perform photosynthesis, these underrated animals are some of the most remarkable organisms in the ocean.

The **Blue Dragon Sea Slug** is one of the most visually striking sea slugs in the world. With its silver and electric blue body and wing-like appendages, it resembles a tiny mythical creature drifting across the ocean surface. Unlike many sea slugs that crawl along reefs, the blue dragon floats upside down at the ocean's surface using a small air bubble stored in its stomach. This allows it to drift with currents across warm oceans worldwide. Despite its delicate appearance, the blue dragon is a formidable predator. It feeds on the Portuguese man-of-war, a venomous siphonophore. The slug stores the stinging cells it consumes and concentrates the venom in its own appendages, making it capable of delivering a powerful sting to potential predators or curious humans.



The **Spanish Shawl Nudibranch** is often considered one of the most beautiful sea slugs found along the Pacific coast of North America. Its vivid purple body is covered with bright orange appendages called cerata, which serve several important purposes. These structures assist with respiration, digestion, and defense. When threatened, the nudibranch can incorporate stinging cells from its prey into these cerata for protection. The name "Spanish shawl" comes from its flowing, dramatic appearance, which resembles the fringed shawls used in traditional Spanish dance. As it moves across reefs and rocky coastal habitats, the cerata sway like fabric moving through water.

The **Leaf Sheep Sea Slug** is a tiny marine animal that has become famous for its adorable appearance. With two black eyes and ear-like rhinophores, it resembles a miniature cartoon sheep grazing underwater. This species typically grows to only about 5 millimeters long, making it incredibly difficult to spot in the wild. It lives primarily in shallow tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific, where it feeds on certain species of algae. What makes the leaf sheep truly remarkable is its ability to perform a form of photosynthesis. When it eats algae, it retains the chloroplasts from the plant cells in its own tissues. These chloroplasts can continue producing energy from sunlight, giving the sea slug an additional energy source in a process known as kleptoplasty.



The **Sea Bunny** is another tiny sea slug that has captured attention because of its unusual resemblance to a small rabbit. Its body is covered with tiny sensory structures called caryophyllidia, giving it a soft, fuzzy appearance. The two structures on its head that resemble ears are actually rhinophores, which help the animal detect chemicals in the water and locate food. Sea bunnies are found in the Indo-Pacific region and typically grow to only about 1 centimeter in length. Despite their cute appearance, they are specialized predators that feed on marine sponges.

These small but extraordinary creatures demonstrate that some of the most fascinating animals on Earth are also the most overlooked. Hidden among reefs and drifting across ocean currents, sea slugs continue to surprise scientists and ocean lovers alike with their beauty and unusual biology.

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!



**15**

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.](#)