

September 5, 2025

VET TECH FRIDAYS

Knowledge, News, and Updates



Staff Spotlight Megan Lewis, RVT

If you've had Ms. Lewis in class, you know to every lesson. She joined Vet Tech Institute teaches Animal Tech courses, drawing from in the veterinary field.



she brings both expertise and enthusiasm of Indiana in January 2022 and primarily her many years of hands-on experience

Before VTI, Ms. Lewis worked as an RVT at for 13 years. She began her career as a kennel receptionist and technician assistant before she worked treated primarily dogs and cats acupuncture, and even the occasional exotic She also completed specialized training in canine rehabilitation through the University of Tennessee.

a general practice south of Greenwood assistant and later served as a becoming credentialed. The clinic where but also incorporated holistic medicine, patient like rabbits, birds, and reptiles.

Her favorite part of the job has always been the educational side of vet med, whether it was helping clients understand their pets' care or now teaching students who are just starting their journeys. Ms. Lewis says, "I love hearing the excitement from students when they get to see or do something for the first time. Watching their passion grow is the best part."

At home, Ms. Lewis's life is just as full. She and her family share their home with three large dogs, Cali the Great Dane, Bowie the Great Pyrenees mix, and Sosa the Pit Bull, as well as three cats, two guinea pigs, a cockatiel, a crested gecko, and even a pond of fish. With her daughter and son, she enjoys biking, gaming, camping, concerts, and DIY projects, and she admits she can never resist collecting a new houseplant.

Her advice to students is encouraging: "I know right now you may feel overwhelmed, but once you get out in practice and start applying your knowledge, it will click. Vet Med is a wonderful career, and the effort you put in now will be worth it!"

Spotlight: Student of the Week Delaney Meyers

Delaney Meyers has truly earned recognition as our Student consistently shows dedication to her studies and a genuine reflects not only her strong work ethic, but also her



of the Week! She is an excellent student who care for doing well. Her commitment to her grades determination to succeed.

She has embraced opportunities to participate and connect, and enthusiasm brighten the learning environment for wonderful example.

making her a joy to have in class. Her positive attitude everyone, and her instructors agree that she sets a

We are so proud of Delaney and excited to see all the success that lies ahead for her! Congratulations, Delaney, on being our Student of the Week!

Favorite Puns



Cheetahs never prosper; Cheetahs never win.

- Mrs. Hix

What's Your Teaching Theme Song?

**Jurassic Park
Theme Song**
By John Williams

🎧 Mrs. Stout 🎧

What's Playing?

We asked, and you answered!

Student pick of the week:
Bennie And the Jets
By Elton John

Life at VTI: This Week in Photos



11DV24 students Synaira Crosby, Lorelle Edenfield, Ksandra Alvarado, & James Ball coloring our "Follow Your Dreams" banner.



11DV24 students Sierra Adkins, Lilly Carson, and Delaney Meyers studying outside together.



07DV25 students Kate Lyons, Leilany Moreno, and Ge'Niaya McDowney enjoy studying at the picnic tables on campus.



Excitement in the air as Mrs. Dixon unwraps thoughtful gifts from her students!



A sweet surprise from the students for Mrs. Dixon and her growing family.



Celebrating Baby Dixon with the proud parents-to-be!

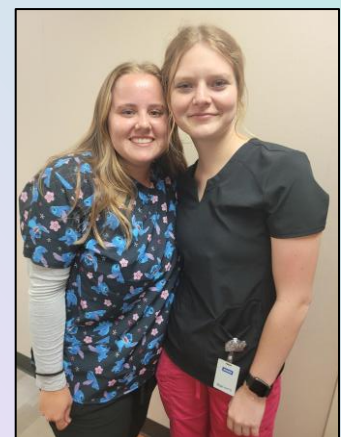


03DV25 student Lexi Lloyd and Mr. Williams pose with their matching scrubs.



Don't Forget!

Take a moment during the day to fill out a paw print to recognize a classmate, instructor, or staff member who you think is "Pawsome!"



07DV25 students Claire Schofield and Maddyx Osborne pose for a picture in the hallway while waiting for class to begin.

Alumni Spotlight **Reese Sommers, RVT**



Attending Vet Tech Institute was one of the best homeschooled through high school because of made me really nervous. But after touring the it was the right place. Orientation confirmed it. it feel like home right away.

"I loved the idea of becoming a licensed RVT in focused approach really stood out to me." The no matter the circumstance, ready to help, answer questions, or just be a listening ear when you need it.

decisions I've ever made. I was COVID, so walking into a classroom again school and meeting with admissions, I knew Meeting my instructors and classmates made

under two years, and the hands-on, career-instructors are amazing, they're there for you

It wasn't always easy. The pace is fast, and the pressure of preparing for the VTNE definitely got to me at times. But the prep classes, review sessions, and support from my instructors and classmates made a huge difference. Every small win reminded me I was getting closer to my goal.

Graduation day was one of the best days of my life, I was so full of pride and emotion. *"Taking the Veterinary Technician's Oath already licensed as an RVT made me feel full of gratitude and thankfulness to everyone who helped me during this program."* All the late nights, hard work, and stress were worth it, it paid off!

Right after graduation, I joined a general practice clinic and started using everything I learned during my time at VTI. I'm still working in clinic now, and I absolutely love it. Every day is different, and I believe that is one of the best parts of veterinary medicine.

If you're struggling, my advice is simple: *"Don't give up and just keep swimming."* The hard days are real, but the reward is too. Lean on your instructors, they genuinely care and want you to succeed. For anyone wondering if they should choose this program, *"without hesitation, do it! I would choose Vet Tech Institute again a hundred times over."*

What We're Craving **Faculty Favorites**

Tamales!
Also, I'm a sucker
for anything
smore's!
- Ms. Lewis

Thai!
Vietnamese!
Chinese!
Mexican!
- Mrs. Crocker

A quiet date night
with my wife...
- Mr. Williams

**Chicken
Alfredo!**
**Steak &
potatoes!**
- Mrs. Norton

Cereal!
- Ms. Hartman

**Meatloaf, mashed
potatoes, and corn!**
Anything Mexican!
**Steak with baked
potato!**
- Mrs. Golden

Sushi!
- Mrs. Kleiman

**Seafood entrée
with
cheesecake for
dessert!**
- Dr. Ritz

**Filet mignon-
medium, salad with
Ranch dressing-NO
tomatoes, & steamed
broccoli...**
- Mrs. Hix

**Movie theater
popcorn!**
A very overloaded
jacket potato.
I also love steak...
- Mrs. Long

**Pizza, tacos,
and pasta!**
- Mrs. Stout

Star Pet of the Week **Evan**



Meet Evan, a sweet boy with both heart and strength. Evan is full of personality and loves going on walks, making him the perfect companion for someone who enjoys being outdoors and active. Don't let his strong frame fool you, he has a gentle, affectionate side too.

One of Evan's favorite tricks is standing up on his back legs to ask for attention, and he especially loves belly rubs. He'll happily soak up all the love you're willing to give!

If you're looking for a loyal friend with energy to keep up on adventures and plenty of affection to share at home, Evan just might be the perfect match.

Smarter Study:
What Top Students Do Differently

Have you ever wondered how some students always seem to be on top of their classes, while others feel like they're constantly playing catch-up? The truth is, it's not about being "naturally smart," it's about *how you study*.

Students at places like Harvard often use study strategies that give them an edge. The good news? You can use the very same strategies right here at VTI!

1. Active Recall

Instead of just re-reading notes, quiz yourself! Close your book and try to explain what you learned. Use flashcards, practice questions, or even teach the concept to a friend. If you can *say it in your own words*, you truly understand it.

2. Spaced Repetition

Don't wait until the night before an exam to cram. Review material multiple times over days and weeks. Even short, 15-minute reviews spread out over time are far more effective than a late-night study binge.

3. Focused Study Sessions

Top students study in focused chunks, often 25-50 minutes of work followed by a short break. Find a quiet space, silence your phone, and give your brain time to fully lock in.

4. Preview Before Class

Skimming your textbook or notes before class makes a huge difference. You'll walk into class with a head start, and the lecture will feel like review instead of brand-new information.

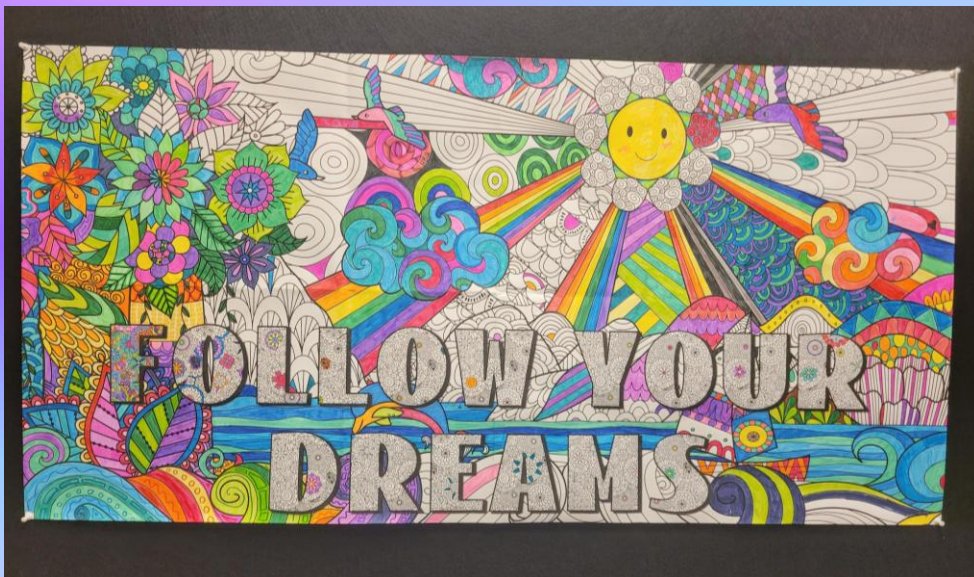
5. Ask for Help Early

High-performing students use office hours, tutors, and study groups to stay ahead. Don't wait until you're struggling, ask questions now, while the material is still fresh.

Extra Tips for Success

- **Chunk big tasks:** Break down chapters and assignments into smaller, doable pieces.
- **Mix it up:** Rotate subjects while studying to help your brain make connections.
- **Teach it back:** Explaining concepts out loud (to a classmate, a family member, or even your pet) makes the knowledge stick.
- **Sleep matters:** All-nighters actually hurt memory. Rest is part of learning.

💡 **Bottom line:** Students who build strong study habits at the *beginning* of the term usually have less stress, higher grades, and more confidence by finals week. Start now, you'll thank yourself later!





Parking Space Chalk Art Contest
Theme: Music and Movement



Do you love being creative? Here's your chance to show it off! Gather a group of 4–5 students and sign up to participate in this year's Chalk Art Contest.

The sign-up sheet is on the desk ledge outside Ashley Miller's office (look for it next to the green basket of mints).

- Once you sign up, your group will be assigned a specific parking space to decorate.
- Chalk will be available for pick-up from Ashley on Monday, September 8.
- All chalk art must be completed by Friday, September 12 at 8:00 AM to be considered for judging.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

This is your chance to step out of your comfort zone, team up with peers, and get creative.

Think outside the box, embrace the theme, and have fun bringing your parking space to life!

From the History Books:
Veterinary Medicine Then & Now

Veterinary medicine has transformed dramatically over the past century, and today's students are preparing to step into a field with more opportunities, tools, and responsibilities than ever before.

Then (50-100 years ago):

- Training for veterinary professionals was limited, and the role of a veterinary technician didn't even exist as we know it today.
- Care was often centered on farm animals and working horses, with far fewer services for companion animals like dogs and cats.
- Without advanced diagnostics, veterinarians relied heavily on observation, hands-on exams, and trial-and-error treatments.
- Surgery was basic and risky, with limited anesthesia monitoring and few medications to manage pain or prevent infection.

Now (Today's Veterinary Medicine):

- Veterinary technicians are highly trained professionals, supporting doctors in surgery, anesthesia monitoring, lab work, radiology, dentistry, and client education. This teamwork ensures animals receive the best care possible.
- Students learn to use advanced diagnostic equipment, like X-rays, ultrasounds, and laboratory analyzers, that make it easier to detect illnesses early.
- Preventive medicine, including nutrition, dental care, and wellness exams, is a major part of today's training, reflecting how much more proactive veterinary care has become.
- Modern anesthesia and pain management protocols are taught in detail, helping students prepare to keep animals safe and comfortable during procedures.
- The field now embraces a wide variety of species, meaning students at VTI are equipped to handle everything from household pets to exotic and zoo animals.



Why It Matters for VTI Students:

Looking back shows just how far the field has come, and looking forward shows how much of an impact today's students will make. By mastering the latest technology, skills, and knowledge, VTI students aren't just following in history's footsteps; they're shaping the future of animal care.

Looking Ahead:

The Future of the Veterinary Technician Profession

As veterinary medicine continues its rapid evolution, veterinary technicians are poised to play increasingly vital and dynamic roles. Here's a glimpse at some of the most promising developments currently shaping the future:

1. Artificial Intelligence & Smart Diagnostics

- **AI-powered detection and predictive tools** are already under development, helping identify early signs of conditions like lameness in sheep, forecasting disease outbreaks such as Lyme disease, and supporting rapid diagnosis of cardiac issues in dogs.
- **AI-equipped Holter monitors** are being tested to interpret heart rhythms in dogs, providing faster, more comfortable cardiac diagnostics and freeing up specialist time.

2. Telemedicine & Workflow Automation

- **Telehealth platforms** are transforming access to specialty care and follow-up consults, especially for rural and underserved communities.
- **AI scribes** like "Heidi Health" are being piloted in places like Australia, automatically documenting consultations to streamline administrative tasks, helping clinics see more patients efficiently.

3. Regenerative Medicine & Personalized Treatments

- **Stem cell therapies** are already helping with orthopedic issues (like tendon and ligament injuries) in horses and dogs. These regenerative treatments offer a glimpse into a future where healing and repair can go beyond traditional medicine.

4. Advanced Prosthetics & Organ Support

- **3D-printed prosthetics and customized orthopedic devices** are enhancing mobility and quality of life for injured animals, including innovative projects like low-cost prosthetics for dogs.
- **Organ replacement technologies**, such as heart valve replacements and kidney transplants (especially in cats), have already seen successful procedures; though rare, these advancements highlight how far veterinary care has come and where it may be headed.

5. One Health & Public Health Integration

- Veterinary professionals are increasingly contributing to **global health surveillance**. Initiatives like the Mars Petcare Biobank track pet health data to detect emerging threats, including zoonotic diseases like COVID-19, highlighting the critical role vets play in community health under the "One Health" framework.

Why This Matters for VTI Students

As future veterinary technicians, students are not just learning skills, they're becoming part of a rapidly advancing ecosystem. Here's how these innovations shape their journey:

Innovation	Impact on Students
AI Diagnostics & Wearables	Learn to analyze real-time health data and assist in tech-augmented workflow.
Telemedicine & Automation	Develop skills in virtual patient care and efficient documentation methods.
Regenerative Medicine	Engage in cutting-edge treatments beyond traditional care.
Prosthetics & Organ Support	Understand emerging surgical and rehabilitation technologies.
One Health Initiatives	Appreciate the broader impact of veterinary care on global public health.

By embracing these innovations, students gain future-ready skill sets and become leaders in an ever-evolving profession, shaping not just the future of veterinary medicine, but also its impact on entire communities.

Student Song of the Week

🎧 **What's Your Current Favorite Song?**

[Click Here to Answer!](#)

We will share a random student's music pick each week!

Student Joke of the Week

😄 **What's Your Favorite Joke?**

[Click Here to Answer!](#)

We will share a random student's joke pick each week!

Lost and Found

See Marcia at the Admissions Front Desk

Pair of Birkenstocks

Apple Air Pod Earpiece

Watches

Tablet

Glasses

Underrated Animals

Armadillos: Nature's Little Armored Wonder

When most people think of fascinating animals, armadillos don't usually come to mind, but they deserve a second look. These small mammals are instantly recognizable by their bony shell, which acts as natural armor. While only the three-banded armadillo can curl itself completely into a ball, all species rely on their protective plates to keep predators at bay.

Armadillos are also excellent diggers. With strong claws designed for burrowing, they create underground shelters and unearth their favorite meals, ants, termites, and other insects. In fact, their appetite for pests makes them surprisingly helpful to farmers and gardeners.



What may surprise you even more is that armadillos are good swimmers. Despite their heavy armor, they can hold their breath for up to six minutes and even inflate their stomachs to float across rivers. And here's a fun fact: the nine-banded armadillo, the most common species in the U.S., almost always gives birth to identical quadruplets, four babies that are exact genetic copies.

For future veterinary technicians, armadillos also highlight the importance of learning about exotic species. While you won't often see one walk into a clinic, understanding animals outside of the typical dog-and-cat spectrum prepares vet techs to handle the unexpected. The unique biology of creatures like armadillos, whether it's their armor, their digging behaviors, or even their ability to carry certain diseases, reminds us why a strong foundation in exotic animal care is such a valuable part of training. Though they may not be flashy, armadillos are tough, resourceful, and play an important role in the ecosystems they inhabit. They are a perfect example of why some of the most underrated animals in the world are also among the most extraordinary.

Tutoring Schedule

Term: 09/02/25 – 10/23/25

IN THE LIBRARY!

- Monday through Friday -
11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

- Monday through Thursday -
3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

**TUTOR FOR 30
MINUTES AND GET
A FREE SNACK!**

Take advantage of 19+ hours of FREE tutoring offered weekly on campus!

Indiana Beach

Free Ride Friday – Eat, Play, Jam! 🎵🍔

Kick off your weekend THIS **Friday, September 5th** at Indiana Beach with Free Ride Friday!

The event is FREE to enter and open to the public — so bring your friends, your appetite, and get ready for a night of fun on the boardwalk.



Food & Drinks

Select food stands will be open 5PM – 9PM with dinner, snacks, and sweet treats.



Rides (until 10PM)

Enjoy a limited ride package featuring:

Hoosier Hurricane

Music Express

Log Flume

Dodg'em Bumper Cars

Den of Lost Thieves

Tilt-A-Whirl

Sky Ride



Live Music at 7PM

Jam out with City Lites live at the Sky Bar, the perfect soundtrack for your Friday night.

