

July 25, 2025

VET TECH FRIDAYS

Knowledge, News, and Updates



Staff Spotlight Marcia Brown, B.S.

Marcia Brown has been a welcoming presence at Vet Tech full-time in March 2021, following her initial role as a high demeanor and willingness to help, Marcia is a favorite getting to know students and offering encouragement colleagues in any way possible.



Before coming to VTI, Marcia spent over 30 years as an developmental math. Her background includes a B.S. in Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri. Her career has contributing to greeting cards, advertising copy, newspaper *The Thankful Principle: A Journey into Thankful Living*.

Institute of Indiana since she joined the front desk team school presenter in 2019. Known for her warm among students and staff alike. She takes pride in whenever she can, and she enjoys supporting her

adjunct faculty member at Ivy Tech, teaching Elementary Education with a math endorsement from also spanned into the world of freelance writing, columns, and even authoring the inspirational book

Marcia has a wide range of interests outside of work. She plays piano, writes poetry, composes music, and enjoys researching genealogy. She's traveled extensively, with trips to South Africa, Europe, Mexico, and across the U.S., including Hawaii. A self-proclaimed "DNA detective," she even uncovered the identity of her paternal grandfather through careful research and a close DNA match.

Fun facts about Marcia: she once pitched stories and songs to *Barney and Friends* under a work-for-hire contract; she's a proud bargain hunter whose motto is "Never pay retail"; her favorite dog breed is the dachshund; and two of her four siblings were adopted from Korea. She also has a one-of-a-kind love story; her parents met her future husband David at a conference and gave him her contact information. After weeks of letters and phone calls, Marcia and David met in person and were engaged just two days later. Married for 37 years, Marcia and her husband have four children and eight grandchildren.

Marcia's rich background in education, writing, and life experience make her an incredible asset to the VTI community. We are grateful for the heart and insight she brings to campus every day.

Spotlight: Student of the Week Kate Hawkins

This week, we are proud to recognize Kate Hawkins as our exceptional dedication both inside and outside of the class-process of transferring rats into their new enclosures, for the exotic animals. Kate's commitment to excellence everything was in order and that the animals were



Kate's enthusiasm for learning shines through in genuine excitement for the new exotic animals have made education she's receiving but also takes pride in applying it to

Student of the Week. Kate has demonstrated room. She went above and beyond to help with the ensuring everything was set up and cleaned perfectly didn't stop there, she followed up to make sure comfortable in their new homes.

everything she does. Her attentiveness in class and her stand out as a student who not only values the real-world situations.

Her hard work, attention to detail, and passion for animal care make Kate truly deserving of this recognition. Keep up the great work, Kate! Your contributions make a difference, and we look forward to seeing all you continue to accomplish.

What's Your Teaching Theme Song?

Stand Out

from The Goofy Movie Soundtrack
By Tevin Campbell

🎧 Mrs. Crocker 🎧

Favorite Puns

What's the scariest type
of dinosaur?...

....*A Terror-dactyl!*

- Mrs. Stout

SCNAVTA Soda Bar Returns

Friday, August 1

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

\$3/soda or two for \$5!

Cash / Venmo accepted

Unusual Case Study **Wolf-Hybrid with Lymphoma Defies the Odds**

Mrs. Kleinman and Mrs. Stout treated a long-term oncology patient who was no ordinary dog, she was a wolf-hybrid who initially presented to the emergency department in respiratory distress. Imaging revealed pleural effusion, and a thoracocentesis was performed. Cytology confirmed the diagnosis: lymphoma. She was classified as stage Vb, the most severe stage.

Flow cytometry further confirmed B-cell lymphoma. The team began treatment with a CHOP chemotherapy protocol, which is often the first line of defense, but unfortunately, the patient didn't respond. The treatment plan shifted to single-agent doxorubicin, and to everyone's relief, the patient achieved remission.

During this remission period, she underwent a spay procedure due to pyometra. Later, she relapsed and was treated with Tanovea, which again achieved remission. But perhaps the most unusual aspect of her case came later: a subcutaneous lymphoma mass developed on her vulva, a highly atypical presentation. This new manifestation responded to mitoxantrone. Eventually, a final relapse occurred, this time with a subcutaneous mass at the shoulder, which proved more resistant to treatment.

While her story involved ups and downs, this patient far exceeded expectations. Despite a median survival time for lymphoma of just 9 to 12 months, this brave wolf-hybrid lived two full and meaningful years after diagnosis, an incredible testament to the power of persistence, thoughtful oncology care, and compassionate treatment.

This case will stay with the team for years to come, not only for its clinical complexity but for the remarkable resilience of the patient they were privileged to care for.

VTI Student Picks

What's Your Current Favorite Song?

Click Here to Answer!

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

Interested in Joining a Student-Led Study Group?

Looking for a way to study smarter, not harder? We're forming a student-led study group, and we're looking for students who want to collaborate, review material, quiz each other, and share tips.

- Open to all programs and levels
- You'll help decide the subject focus, meeting time, and location
- No teachers, no pressure, just peer support

Want to be part of it?



Email Ashley Miller at amiller@vettechinstitute.edu to be included in the group intro thread.

Underrated Animals **Sharks: Always Moving Forward**

Sharks! Just the word might send a shiver down your spine, but let's be honest, they're seriously cool.

These fascinating creatures have been around for over 400 million years, long before dinosaurs ever roamed the earth. Yet despite their legacy, sharks often get a bad reputation thanks to scary movies and sensational headlines. The truth? Sharks aren't the villains they're made out to be. Most species want nothing to do with humans and play an essential role in keeping ocean ecosystems healthy.



What makes sharks so inspiring isn't just their power or mystery, it's their mindset. Sharks *literally* can't swim backward. Their survival depends on forward motion, always moving, always progressing. There's something poetic about that. Sharks remind us to keep going, even when things feel tough. *Don't get stuck in the past, just keep swimming forward.*

So, the next time you hear the *Jaws* theme in your head, take a second to remember: sharks aren't monsters, they're misunderstood legends with a powerful perspective on life. - Mrs. Stout

IVTA Continuing Education Zoom Session
Osteoarthritis Pain in Cats and Dogs



Wednesday, August 27th @ 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Join us for a FREE RACE-approved Continuing Education session with Dr. Finley from Zoetis as she dives into the latest insights on Osteoarthritis Pain Management in companion animals.

This session will deepen your understanding of chronic pain and treatments.

[Click Here to Buy Tickets \(*Free with Your IVTA Membership\)](#)

Soda Bar Returns
Friday, August 1st

Join us for another round of fun at the soda bar next Friday!

Last time, we had a blast creating unique and hilarious concoctions like the "Urine Analysis," just one of the many quirky drinks that had everyone laughing. Whether you're looking to try something wild or enjoy a classic soda, we've got something for everyone.



Don't miss out on the fun!

Spotlight: Creepy Dog
The Unsung Hero of the Classroom

By now, chances are you've met our beloved (and slightly unsettling) teaching assistant: *Creepy Dog*. While he may not have a beating heart or a voice of his own, this ever-patient model stuffy has earned a special place in the hearts of students and faculty alike.

Recently, one thoughtful student even gifted Creepy Dog an adorable little hat, because what's more charming than a hardworking dog model in a tiny hat? Whether you find him endearing or just a little eerie, there's no denying his commitment to student success.

Creepy Dog is a vital part of hands-on learning here at Vet Tech Institute of Indiana. He quietly supports students as they master directional terms, positioning techniques, restraint practice, and so much more. Always present, always polite, and never one to interrupt a lecture, Creepy Dog is the ideal classmate.



He maintains unwavering eye contact, shows up on time and never complains, no matter how many times he's handled in lab. And while he may not be eligible for Student of the Week, he's certainly earned an honorary mention.

So, here's to you, Creepy Dog. Thanks for being a silent but steadfast supporter of every future vet tech who passes through our halls!

Save the Date
AZVT Annual Conference

September 25th – 28th
Virtual Option: \$50 total for all 3 days

Any and all students interested in zoological medicine are encouraged to take advantage of this awesome learning and networking opportunity!



[Click Here to Register!](#)

Discount code: AZVTStudentVirtual2025