

January 23, 2026

VET TECH FRIDAYS

Knowledge, News, and Updates



The Paws Behind the Faces Teacher and Faculty Pets

Meet Mazie Jane, formerly known as Tator Tot from the Tails and Trails rescue facility. These days, Mazie is truly living her best life.

She has a fenced-in backyard to patrol, a pool to lounge by, and plenty of squirrels and rabbits to keep her entertained. But her favorite part of the day happens when her mom, Candra, comes home from work.

Like clockwork, Mazie jumps up on the couch and waits for her “momma love.” For a full five minutes, she soaks up all the attention before moving on to her next activity: toy time. Mazie proudly grabs her toys and tosses them around the room, making sure everyone is watching.

Mazie treats her toys like babies. She never chews on them, and if one squeaks, she panics, thinking it’s been hurt. She’ll quickly carry it upstairs and hide it somewhere safe. And just to be clear, Mazie’s toys are *Mazie’s* toys. You don’t play with them. Only she does.

From her rescue beginnings to her spoiled-dog lifestyle, Mazie has completely stolen Candra’s heart, and it’s easy to see why. We’re so happy she found her perfect forever home!



Spotlight: Student of the Week

Jaden Jones

This week, we are proud to recognize Jaden Jones leadership in the classroom.

Jaden consistently sets the tone for what it means always attentive, eager to participate, and quick to went above and beyond by volunteering to cover meant completing two procedures back-to-back

What truly stands out about Jaden is her character. attitude, works hard to strengthen her skills, and is commitment to learning and her willingness to support those around her make her a role model for her peers.



for her outstanding dedication, kindness, and

to be a supportive and engaged student. She is step in when someone needs help. Recently, she for a classmate who was out sick, even though it with very little time to prepare.

She approaches every challenge with a positive not afraid to ask for help when she needs it. Her

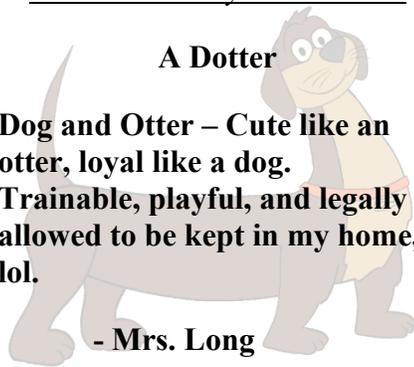
We are so grateful to have Jaden as part of the VTI community. Her dedication and compassion make a meaningful impact every day, and we are excited to celebrate her this week! Congratulations, Jaden!

Invent a New Hybrid Animal!

A Dotter

Dog and Otter – Cute like an otter, loyal like a dog. Trainable, playful, and legally allowed to be kept in my home, lol.

- Mrs. Long



Tutoring Schedule 1/5-2/26:

Monday through Friday:

7:00 – 8:00 AM

Monday:

1:30 – 4:30 PM

Wednesday:

1:30 – 4:30 PM

Thursday:

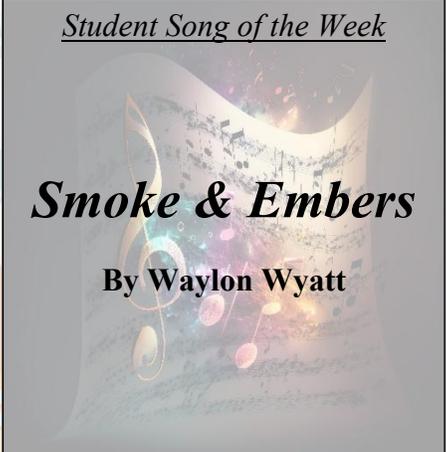
3:30 – 5:00 PM



Student Song of the Week

Smoke & Embers

By Waylon Wyatt



Alumni Spotlight

Addy Jensen

Addy Jensen (07DV24 Cohort) is making an exciting impact in the veterinary field as a Surgery Technician at VCA Advanced Care. In her role, she supports patients through critical moments in surgery while building meaningful connections with the pet owners who trust her with their care. Since graduating from VTI and earning her RVT credential, Addy has continued to grow professionally, bringing the same compassion and confidence into the clinic that she developed during her time as a student.

From the Field: Addy Jensen, RVT

Where are you working, and what is your job title?

I am currently working at VCA Advanced Care as a Surgery Technician.

What do you enjoy most about your role so far?

I love that I am able to help patients during surgery, and that I get to have a closer relationship with the owners.

What has been the hardest adjustment after college?

The hardest adjustment has been not having kennel anymore. I constantly feel like on Monday mornings I am missing something. I've also found that friends are now busy with work, and we do not have as much time to hang out anymore.

What do you feel VTI prepared you for the most in a clinic or hospital setting?

I think that VTI prepared me perfectly for the workplace, especially the class that goes over procedures, client communication, and explaining euthanasia. That class was very helpful when coming into the workplace.

Looking back, what is something you wish you had done more of while in school?

I wish that I would have taken more detailed notes. While I still have all the PowerPoints, what the instructors tell you during class that is not on the PowerPoints is very important.

Do you have any tips for VTNE preparation?

I personally took three days off from work and did nothing but study. It was very helpful for getting over test anxiety and focusing fully on preparation. I also recommend extending your VTNE Prep package. It has so many useful study tools.

What surprised you most about the VTNE or the exam experience?

Honestly, how different the testing center was. Going there was very nerve-wracking for me. But once I was sitting down in front of the test, I felt better. I recommend telling someone you trust that you are taking the exam, so you have support beforehand.

Is there anything else you would like to share with current students?

Talk with your instructors and ask all the questions, no matter how silly they are. If you have never been in the field before, do some job shadows. Do not be afraid of tutoring or using any of the resources the school has to offer. They are all there to help you. If you ever need to talk to a prior student, I am more than happy to help. Ask Ashley for my information.

What is something you wish someone had told you when you first started school?

The journey is going to be crazy, but it is all worth it. So much changed in my life during the time that I was at VTI, but I became a better person for it. I also met the best group of people I can call my best friends. The instructors will always be on your side and just want you to succeed.

Fun Update:

Addy passed her VTNE on the first try and is now officially a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT)!

Why We're Proud of Addy

During her time at VTI, Addy built strong connections across campus and became known for her kindness, dedication, and willingness to support those around her. From serving as a peer tutor through the Federal Work-Study program and offering private tutoring to classmates, to sharing her voice as a graduation speaker, she consistently showed leadership and heart. Addy brought a fun, energetic spirit to our community that made our school feel brighter, and while we miss seeing her in the halls, we could not be prouder of the RVT and professional she has become.



“The journey is going to be crazy, but it is all worth it.”

- Addy Jensen, RVT

Photos Around Campus

11DV24 student Guadalupe Castaneda and Mrs. Crocker working together to refill the Sodasorb container during surgery prep, a great example of teamwork in action.



11DV24 students, plus a special cameo from Jade the dog, patiently waiting for Mr. Williams' Personal Finance class to begin.



11DV24 student Madison Sprague and Dr. Joy Ritz show their hearts are in it while getting Gidget the cat ready for her spay surgery.

11DV25 buddies Kaden Rivera and Clayton Rodriguez make waiting for class a little more fun.



11DV24 students Abigail Blair and Emily Matthews spend a few minutes chatting together before class.



11DV24 students Robin Mitchell, Sierra Adkins, and Lily Carson take a moment to pose with Jade the dog, who visits campus weekly with Mr. Williams to greet students and beg for treats.



11DV24 students Sydney Wilkerson and Darryasia Whitfield taking advantage of a quiet space to study between classes.

Photos Around Campus



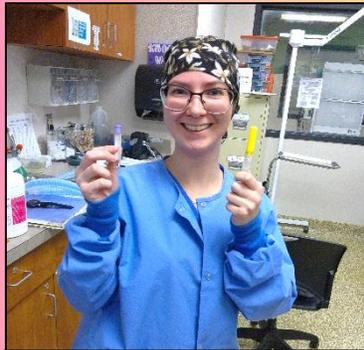
Local shelter animals get the royal treatment at VTI as Gidget the cat's spay surgery gets underway.



11DV24 students James Ball, Hailey Brower, Emily Dean, Hannah Bachmann, and Erica Alvarado take a break to enjoy some time with one of the cats during Advocacy Time.



07DV25 students Emma Brayton and Josie Earl snag a great spot to study in one of the labs.



11DV24 student Grace Wise smiling as she carefully prepares for an upcoming procedure, showing confidence and focus in the surgical lab.



11DV25 students Sarah Somerville and Grace Voorhis have been buddies since the start of their program. We love seeing the friendships that grow at VTI.



11DV24 students Delaney Myers, Lilly Carson, Sierra Adkins, and Robin Mitchell take a moment to pose by our "Pawsome" Board.



07DV25 students Avery Hirt, Caitlin Throop, and Whitney Wilcox pose while studying together in one of our computer labs.



What's Your Current Favorite Song?

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

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



Underrated Animals **The Flea (Yes, Really.)**

When most people think about fleas, they think “pest,” not “important part of the ecosystem.” But even this tiny parasite has a role in the bigger picture of the natural world and a surprisingly complex life story.

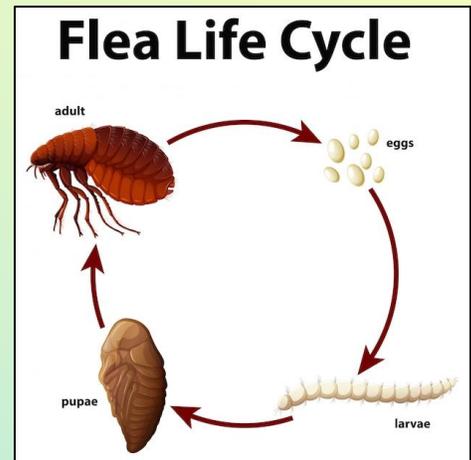
A flea's life cycle has four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. While adult fleas live on a host and feed on blood, most of their life actually happens off the animal. After feeding, a female flea can lay dozens of eggs per day, which fall into the environment. These hatch into larvae that feed on organic debris, including dried blood left behind by adult fleas. The larvae then spin a cocoon and enter the pupal stage, sometimes waiting weeks or even months for the right conditions, like warmth or vibration, to emerge.

Once they do emerge, adult fleas are not picky. Fleas have been found feeding on hundreds of different mammal and bird species, from household pets like dogs and cats to wildlife such as rodents, raccoons, and livestock. This wide host range is part of what makes them so successful and so difficult to control.

Despite their size, fleas sit right in the middle of a much larger food web. Birds, reptiles, amphibians, ants, beetles, spiders, and some mites will eat flea eggs, larvae, or adult fleas when they come across them. Flea larvae also help recycle nutrients by breaking down organic material in soil, bedding, and nesting areas.

But fleas are not just a nuisance. They can act as “vectors,” meaning they carry and spread disease between animals and, in some cases, to humans. Some of the most well-known flea-associated illnesses include plague, which is still found in parts of the western United States, murine typhus, and cat scratch disease, which fleas can spread between cats. Fleas are also closely linked to tapeworm infections in pets when animals swallow an infected flea while grooming. One of the most common flea-related health issues in dogs and cats is flea allergy dermatitis, a severe skin reaction caused by flea saliva that can lead to hair loss and secondary infections.

For future veterinary technicians, fleas represent far more than an itchy inconvenience. They are a real-world lesson in parasite prevention, environmental management, and client education. A single flea can turn into a full infestation if its life cycle is not interrupted, which is why consistent prevention and proper treatment of both the animal and the home are so important.



So, while fleas may never earn a spot on a “fan favorite” list, they absolutely deserve recognition as one of the most resilient and influential tiny creatures in veterinary medicine.

Did You Know?

-  **Flea Fact #1:** A single female flea can lay up to **50 eggs per day**, meaning one unnoticed flea can turn into hundreds in just a few weeks.
-  **Flea Fact #2:** Fleas can jump **more than 100 times their own body length**, making them one of the best jumpers in the animal kingdom relative to size.



Join us for
VTNE TRIVIA

#LIFEATVEG

EVENT DETAILS

Join Nikki and Jess for free and fun VTNE Trivia. Study and win prizes!



Nikki Lewis
CVT, VTS
(ECC)

LOCATION

Virtually via Zoom



Jess Fisher
CVT

DATE

02-09-26

TIME

6pm-7pm ET



**SCAN HERE
TO RSVP**

JOIN US FOR VET TECH TRIVIA



REGISTER

FEB 12, 2026 | 8:00 PM EST

Calling all Veterinary Technicians and students preparing to take the VTNE! Need a break?

Join us for a fun-filled, educational trivia night! Test your knowledge, unwind with peers, and compete for a chance to win a gift card!

3rd Prize
\$150

2nd Prize
\$300

1st Prize
\$500



 **REGISTER**

Plus, two (2) randomly chosen participants will be awarded a \$25 gift card!



Our team will use Kahoot to run the trivia game. Please be prepared to open a new browser on your computer or on your phone to participate in the fun.

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

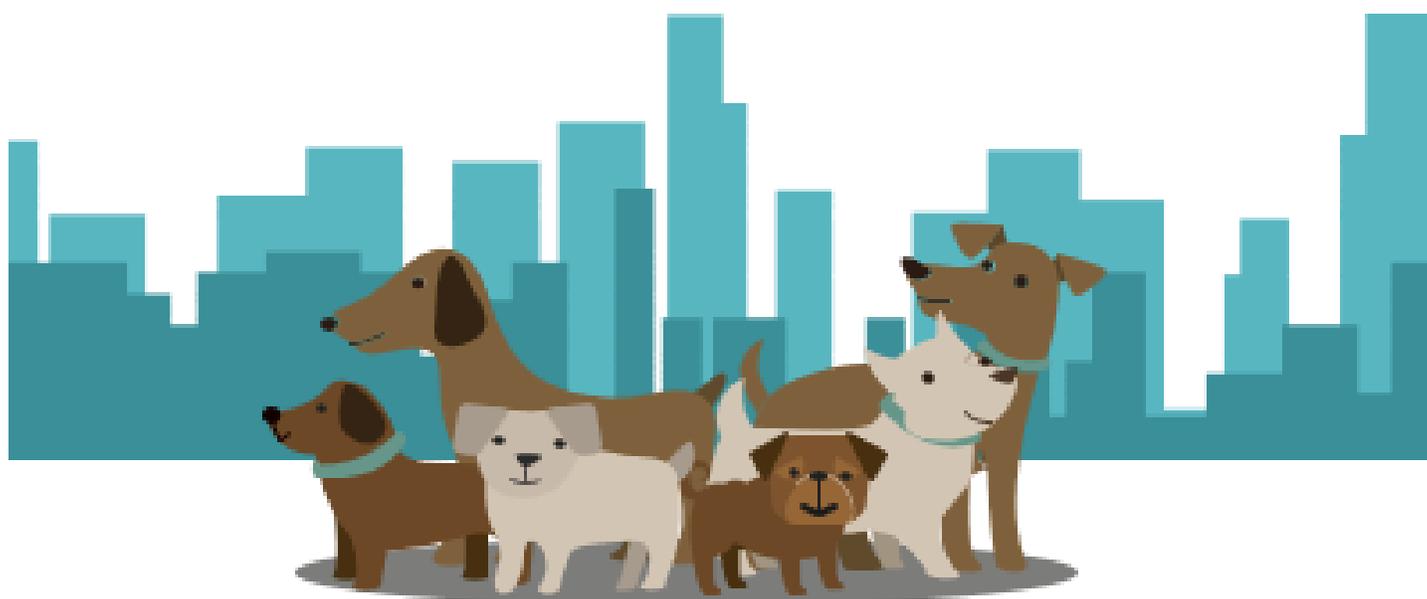
APRIL

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.](#)