

January 30, 2026

VET TECH FRIDAYS

Knowledge, News, and Updates



The Paws Behind the Faces Teacher and Faculty Pets



Romeo arrived as a tiny black spaniel puppy, just six months old, covered in painful hot spots and skin wounds. He was itchy, uncomfortable, and clearly hurting. When Dr. Ritz first met him, he even tried to bite, not out of aggression, but because he was ouchy and overwhelmed. Dr. Ritz says their first meeting was anything but smooth, but it ended up being the start of something special.

The owners told the clinic they had “tried everything the other vet recommended.” When Dr. Ritz reviewed the records from their previous veterinarian, she saw they had tried two different treatment plans that had already failed, including antibiotics, steroids, and antihistamines, and Romeo’s skin still wasn’t improving. The decision was made to try one final option. If it didn’t work, the owners planned to euthanize him to end what they believed was ongoing misery.

When the last treatment plan; a therapeutic trial of Ivermectin (in case it was an atypical presentation of mange) didn’t work, the paperwork was completed and everything was ready for his euthanasia; Dr. Ritz looked into Romeo’s eyes and froze. He was just a baby. Six months old. She couldn’t do it.

Instead, she called the family and asked if she could use the money set aside for the euthanasia to neuter him instead, try one more treatment, and find him a new home if he improved. They agreed.

Dr. Ritz tried Benadryl and fatty acids. This time, it worked. His skin cleared. His hot spots healed. And somewhere between follow-up sessions and wagging tails, Dr. Ritz realized she didn’t need to find Romeo a new family. He had already found his.

At home, he settled easily into family life. Dr. Ritz and her husband like to joke that Romeo was their first “baby,” their practice child before they became parents to their children. He even had his own nightly routine. Every evening after dinner, he got a Greenie, and if Dr. Ritz ever forgot, Romeo would wait patiently by the cabinet until she noticed.

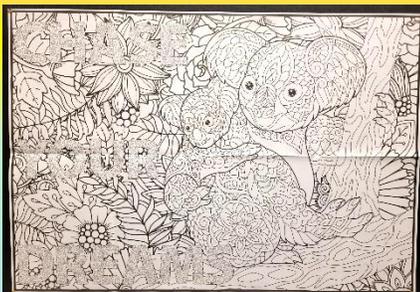
Student of the Week Catherine Cardwell



This week, we are excited to recognize Catherine Cardwell for her consistent presence and positive energy in the classroom. Catherine is always engaged, asking thoughtful questions and contributing meaningfully to class discussions. Her curiosity and willingness to participate make every lesson more dynamic and enjoyable for those around her.

Catherine brings a genuine passion for veterinary medicine into everything she does. She approaches each day eager to learn, grow, and better understand the care and compassion that go into supporting both patients and their owners. Her dedication and enthusiasm truly make her a joy to have in class, and we are proud to celebrate her this week at VTI.

New Hallway Coloring Page Chase Your Dreams!



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

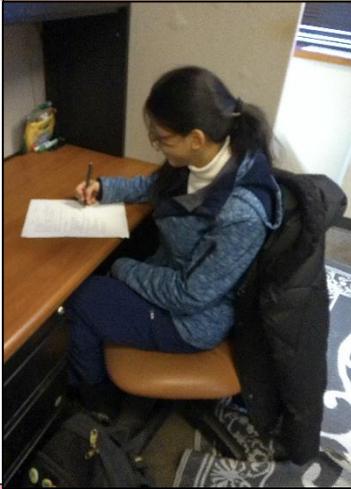
Student Song of the Week

Hypotheticals

By Lake Street Dive

Photos Around Campus

11DV24 student Guadalupe Castenada reviews surgery prep work in one of our Recharge Rooms.



07DV25 students are all ears during their Large Animal Theory I lecture class with Mrs. Kleiman.



Mrs. Norton guides 11DV24 student Danaya Casey as she assists her patient with a breath during pre-surgical preparation.



11DV24 students Delaney Meyers, Hannah Bowers, and Jaycee Bailey work as a team to monitor anesthesia while Evan Voss tracks vital signs.



Dr. Paul and 11DV24 student Ericka Rouse share a quick conversation while scrubbing in for surgery, highlighting the mentorship and teamwork that shape future veterinary professionals.



11DV24 student Jaden Jones smiles while holding a scrub boat, a key tool used to prepare catheter and surgical sites as part of her hands-on clinical training.



Mrs. Norton demonstrates proper patient restraint as surgery gets underway with the help of her assistants, 11DV24 students Mara Powers and Danaya Casey.

Snow Day Photos



11DV24 student Destyne Basler's kitty cat claims "her" chair while the pooch sniffs around outside in the frozen tundra.



11DV25 students Wynter Harris, Madison Neal, and Aubri DeLong make the most of the beautiful snowy weather, heading out together for a fun afternoon of sledding and laughter.



07DV25 student Emalee Goss's Aussie mix, Bruiser, soaks up the snow and wonders why it can't be winter all year long.



11DV24 student Emma Gentry and a friend share some time with Emma's pony, Stormy, and Hoosier the horse.



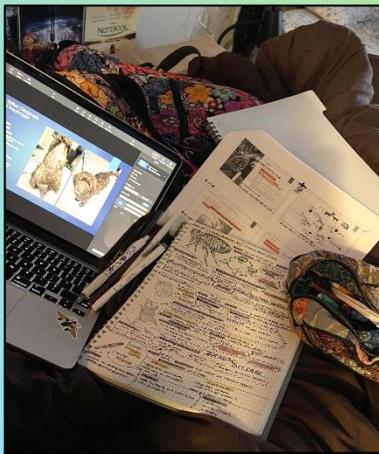
07DV25 student Cheyanne Black spent her extended break cozing up with her black cat and two sleepy pups.



11DV25 student Keysha Koors stayed busy on the dairy farm during break, capturing sweet moments with mamas and their newborn babies.

Snow Day Photos

An angel with paws stretches out, reminding 07DV25 student Mara Porter that it's the perfect time to stay cozy in bed.



07DV25 student Alyssa Sutton dedicated her extended weekend to studying ectoparasites, diving into the details of identification, prevention, and treatment.



11DV24 student Grace Wise says staying warm inside is easy with these three cuties to snuggle up to.



07DV25 student Mara Porter's three angels make staying indoors way too tempting.



A snowy adventure for 07DV25 student Mia Myers' pups as they chase, jump, and explore the winter wonderland.



11DV25 student Sophia Stevens' puppy "helps" with studying by keeping her lap warm and stealing a little extra love.



Off on a wintry walk with her favorite, 11DV25 student Sarah Somerville!



After braving the snow, 11DV25 student Catherine Cardwell's 15-year-old companion, Olivia, warms up indoors.



11DV25 student Keysha Koors's two dogs enjoy a playful moment together in the snow.

Underrated Animals

Giant Hadal Amphipod: An Alien of Earth's Deepest, Darkest Waters

Far below the deepest places most humans and submarines can reach lives a creature that looks more like something from another planet than from Earth, the giant hadal amphipod. Often described as a massive, transparent shrimp, this elusive crustacean roams the very bottom of the ocean in the hadal zone, a realm that begins around 20,000 feet below the surface and extends into the deepest trenches on the planet.

At depths of 30,000 to nearly 36,000 feet, the pressure can exceed 16,000 pounds per square inch, a crushing force more than one thousand times what we experience at sea level. The giant hadal amphipod survives this extreme environment thanks to a surprisingly tough and flexible exoskeleton that is reinforced with aluminum compounds drawn from seawater, forming a natural shield that helps protect its body from being crushed.

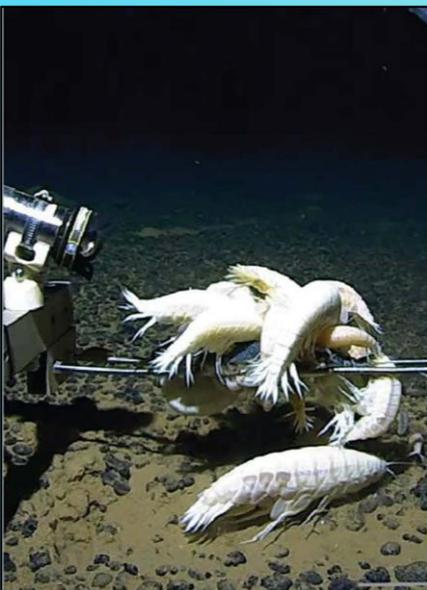


These amphipods are found in the deepest ocean trenches, especially in the Pacific Ocean, including the Mariana, Japan, and Tonga Trenches. They have also been recorded in parts of the Southern Ocean, wherever the seafloor plunges into extreme depths. Because these regions are so remote, most sightings come from baited cameras and robotic vehicles, not human-operated submersibles, which can only reach these depths on rare, specialized missions.

Despite living in one of the most barren environments on Earth, the giant hadal amphipod is both a scavenger and an active predator. It feeds on anything it can find, from sinking organic debris and dead animals to soft-bodied trench fish and invertebrates. When a larger animal dies and sinks into the trench, swarms of amphipods can appear within hours, rapidly breaking down the remains and recycling nutrients back into the deep-sea ecosystem.

Very little is known about their reproduction, but scientists believe giant hadal amphipods carry their developing young in a brood pouch, similar to other amphipod species, rather than releasing free-floating eggs. The young emerge as tiny, fully formed versions of the adults, already equipped to survive the intense pressure and cold of the hadal zone.

Because they live so far below the surface, giant hadal amphipods never wash up on beaches. Their bodies are adapted for extreme pressure, and a rapid rise to the surface would cause severe damage. On the rare occasions when related deep-sea crustaceans have been found near shore, it is usually after major underwater disturbances or powerful currents that disrupt deep-water ecosystems.



Even in this extreme world, the giant hadal amphipod still faces threats. Its predators likely include hadal snailfish and other large trench-dwelling fish, as well as competition from other amphipods in massive feeding swarms. Instead of speed, it relies on its transparent body and the endless darkness of the trench to remain nearly invisible.

One of the most fascinating facts about the giant hadal amphipod is that it has been found at the deepest point in the ocean ever explored by humans, making it one of the deepest-living animals on the planet. Its aluminum-reinforced shell, ghost-like appearance, and role as both hunter and recycler make it a powerful symbol of how life not only survives, but thrives, in the most extreme environments on Earth.

 Student Song of the Week 



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!



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!



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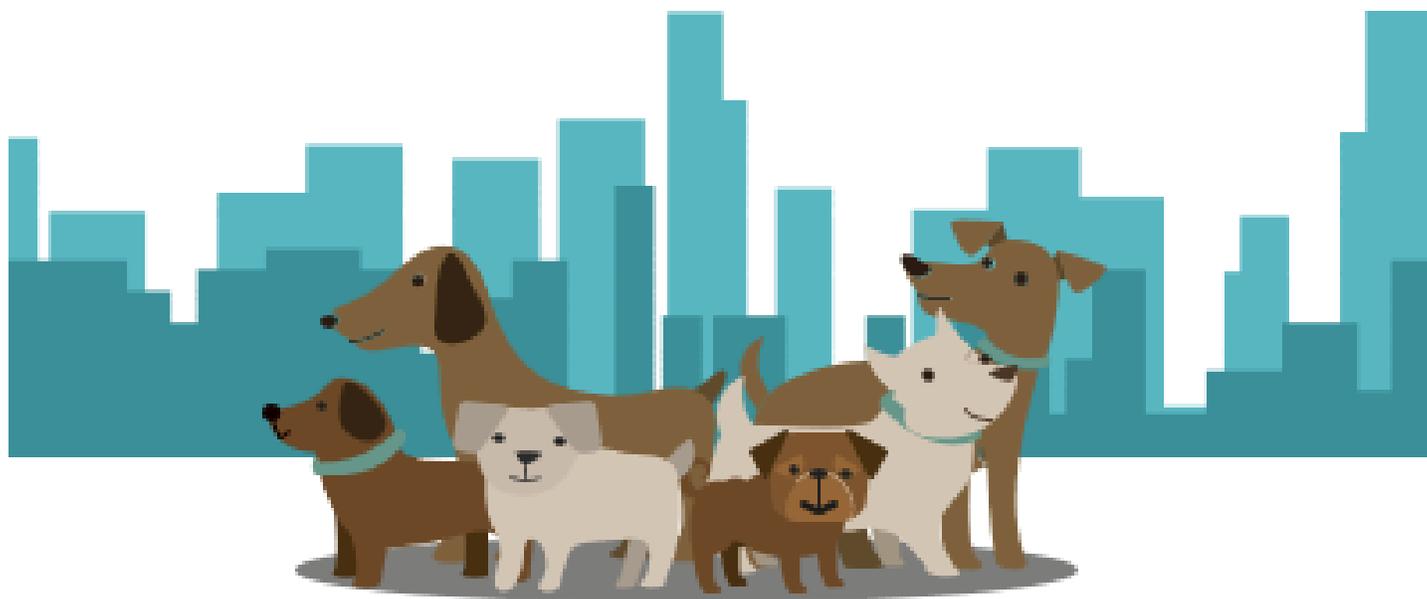
APRIL

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.](#)