VERMONT TECH

Dear Accepted Vet Tech Student,

Congratulations on your acceptance to the VTC Veterinary Technology Program. Admissions standards are high and acceptance shows that we have confidence in your ability to complete the program and ultimately pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) and to be a valued member of the veterinary health care team

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and a few animal friends here at the college. My name is Professor Craig Stalnaker, and I am the Department Chair of the Veterinary Technology Program. In addition to our normal population of cats, dogs, cattle, horses, goats, rabbits and rodents, we have two turtles and a bearded dragon.

Our student population is a range from recent high school graduates to non-traditional students seeking a career change. Many of our graduates do go directly from school to work in a clinical practice or related fields, while others decide to continue their education. Others opportunities here at Vermont Tech for a Veterinary Technology graduate are to stay an additional two years and earn a Bachelor's degree in either Business Technology and Management or in Diversified Agriculture. Students, who complete this degree would have additional marketable skills, for example, in the area of practice management.

The Orientation Program during the summer months will be an excellent opportunity to explore our facilities, in addition to getting all of your important questions answered. More information will follow with the pertinent details of the mandatory orientation. At these sessions important topics will be discussed, including human rabies prophylactic vaccination and other expectations outlined in the Veterinary Technology Student Handbook. The handbook is full of very useful information on all program requirements. Our goal in providing all this information is to assist students in making a successful transition into the program.

Before enrolling, it is important that each student consider the following regarding the academic and physical demands of the Veterinary Technology program. Academically, students are enrolled in a very challenging curriculum that is heavily science and math based, in as many as 18 credit hours per semester. During their two- year program of study, students are expected to complete over 300 tasks required by the American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation

standards, many of which are performed on live animals. In addition, other physical challenges include hands on care of the program teaching animals, for a total of approximately 4 weeks each semester in the first year. This is accomplished through enrollment in VET 1051 and 1052, Animal Care 1 and 2. Students are partnered with classmates and are supervised by second year students. Morning Animal care shifts begin at 6:00 a.m. and evening shifts start at 5:00 pm, with each shift lasting approximately 2 hours. Thus the program is challenging in many ways. If a student is unsure about whether or not they have chosen the appropriate degree program, I strongly recommend that each student shadow a veterinary technician in a veterinary practice as a means of deciding on this as a career path. Most veterinary practices are very amenable to students coming in and the insight gained can be very valuable.

I hope that you will take some time to think about all of the information I have provided and use it to help make a good decision about your academic future. I look forward to meeting you at orientation. If you have any questions at any time regarding the program curriculum or requirements, please feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached via email, Cstalnaker@vtc.edu , or by phone, 802-728-1309.

Sincerely,

Craig Stalnaker, CVT
Department Chair
Veterinary Technology