

Sunday Speaker Bios

Mary Berg, BS, RVT, RLATG, VTS(Dentistry)

Mary is a Charter member of the Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians and received her Veterinary Technician Specialty in Dentistry in June 2006. She completed her maintenance of certification as a VTS (Dentistry) in 2020. Mary worked in research for over 29 years, specializing in products aimed at improving the oral health of companion animals, and continues to work with companies to evaluate the efficacy of their products. In addition to her research background, she was the practice manager and dental technician specialist at a general practice for seven years. She is an adjunct at two distance veterinary technology programs and is currently the president of Beyond the Crown Veterinary Education; she has over 15 years of experience teaching dentistry to veterinary teams, using practical and easy to master methods. Mary is actively involved in NAVTA, AVDT, AVMA, AAVSB, F4VD, and KVTA. Mary was named the NAVTA Veterinary Technician of the Year by NAVTA in 2020 and received the AVDT's Excellence in Dentistry Education in 2019. In addition, Mary is a speaker and wet lab instructor at numerous state and national conferences. Mary lives on a small farm near Lawrence, Kansas with her husband, Doug, and has two sons and four grandchildren.

Lynda Vermillion, CVT, VTS (SAIM)

Lynda Vermillion has worked in the veterinary field for more than 35 years, starting as kennel help and as a tech assistant at a general practice in Virginia. After graduating from NVCC and obtaining her LVT certification, she moved with her family to Wisconsin and worked in a mixed animal practice for a few years before settling in New Hampshire. While working in GP she was afforded the opportunity to try emergency medicine and continued to do both for several years before deciding to pursue a VTS in small animal internal medicine. Achieving that VTS designation in 2016 she continued to work in various positions as well as SAIM and is currently working at the Veterinary Emergency Center of Manchester as a mentor for technicians looking to expand and deepen their patient care knowledge and skills. In her rare spare time, Lynda enjoys reading, knitting, and traveling to visit friends and relatives.

Tabitha Kucera, RVT, CCBC, KPA-CTP

Tabitha Kucera is an Elite Fear Free and Low-Stress Handling Certified Registered Veterinary Technician, VTS (Behavior), Certified Cat Behavior Consultant, and Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner. She is the owner of Chirrup and Chatter Cat and Dog Behavior Consulting and Training in Cleveland, Ohio and the host of the podcast, Tails from a Vet Tech.

Patty Pate, CVT, VTS (ECC), CFE

Patty Pate, CVT, VTS (ECC), CFE has nearly 25 years' experience in the veterinary field with 17 years focused on emergency and critical care. Patty is a Certified Veterinary Technician in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and in 2012, Patty earned her Veterinary Technician Specialty in the discipline of Emergency and Critical Care. As Technician Learning and

Development Manager for Ethos Veterinary Health, Patty supports educational opportunities for nearly 1,000 veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants. She was instrumental in the development of the Ethos AVA Program and is a primary instructor for the program. Patty is a certified Compassion Fatigue Educator and lectures regularly on emergency, critical care, and compassion fatigue. Patty served as the past president for the New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association and as a mentor for technicians interested in advancing toward their VTS(ECC).