



June 2026 BCVTA Board Meeting

Key Highlights:

- Welcomed new Board member Kerri Vivian
• Elected Anne Pauluzzi as Treasurer
• Discussed what went well and what can be improved from the 2026 AGM and Conference
• Confirmed the 2027 Conference will be held in Kamloops, BC on May 27-29, 2027
• Reviewed the progress on the current Strategic Priorities
• Heard update from the Executive Director regarding the recent national Executive Director meeting in Edmonton, BC
• Received initial results from the Wage and Compensation Survey

Next Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2026



BCVTA leadership at the AVP RVT Awards Dinner. This year's theme was "I didn't have anywhere to wear this!"

R -> L top row: Amanda Barker (President), Emily Carefoot (Vice-President), Kim Holbrow(Student Liaison), Carly Chaput (Communications Coordinator); bottom row: Amber Gregg (Executive Director), Anne Pauluzzi (Director at Large), Ashley Bourdeau (Secretary), Rebecca Finley (Finley & Associates)

2026 BCVTA RVT Award Recipients

Congratulations to this years nominees and winners!



Mentorship Award
Melissa Thiboudier



Animal Care Facility of the Year Award
Columbia Valley Veterinary Clinic



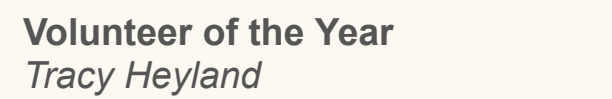
Appreciation Award
Brynne Hagerman



Awards for 2026 were handmade and sculpted by Katy Burgess from Burnt Sugar Pottery. Katy is a former Veterinary Receptionist!



RVT of the Year
Call Ernel



Volunteer of the Year
Tracy Heyland



What's in a Name? The Evolution from AHT to RVT

by Carly Chaput, RVT

If you've been in the profession for a while, you may remember when we were known as Animal Health Technologists (AHTs). As of 1988, the change was made from Animal Health Technician to Animal Health Technologist. Today, we proudly use the title Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT).

But why the change? The answer lies in the evolution of our profession in British Columbia.

The term Animal Health Technologist reflects the roots of veterinary technology programs in Western Canada. As veterinary medicine advanced, so did the role of credentialled veterinary professionals. What began as a profession focused primarily on supporting animal healthcare grew into one requiring specialized knowledge and skills in anesthesia, dentistry, diagnostic imaging, laboratory procedures, nursing care, client communication, and much more. As responsibilities expanded, so did the need for a title that better represented the profession and the expertise behind it.

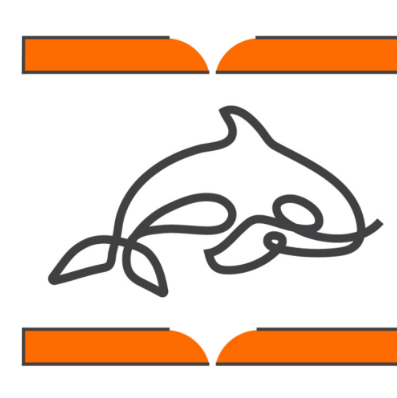
In 1988, British Columbia adopted the title Animal Health Technologist (AHT). The transition helped create a clearer connection between our work and veterinary medicine. While "Animal Health Technician" accurately described our focus on animal health, it didn't always help the public understand our role within the veterinary healthcare team. "Technologist" more clearly communicates that RVTs are educated, credentialled professionals who play a vital role in patient care.

The change was also part of a broader effort to strengthen professional identity and recognition. Over the years, the BCVTA has advocated for increased awareness of the education, skills, and contributions of RVTs. The title reflects the profession's growth and the increasingly complex responsibilities entrusted to veterinary technologists.

Today, the distinction remains important. In many veterinary practices, the term "technician" is commonly used to describe a variety of support roles, including positions that do not require formal veterinary technology education or registration. To help the public identify credentialled professionals who have met educational, examination, and registration requirements, the BCVTA encourages members to use the term "technologist" when referring to their professional designation. While both terms may be familiar within the veterinary community, "technologist" helps distinguish RVTs as regulated professionals with specific qualifications and responsibilities.

Many members still remember and identify with the AHT designation, and that history remains an important part of our profession. The move from AHT to RVT wasn't about leaving that history behind; it was about building upon it. Whether you entered the profession as an AHT or an RVT, one thing remains unchanged: the dedication, compassion, and expertise that veterinary technologists bring to the animals, clients, and veterinary teams they serve every day.

Come back next month to learn more about the definition of titles in government legislation!



CLEVERORCA VET TECH

Canadian Animal Blood Bank Summer Clinics

- June 24, 1-5: Ironwood Animal Hospital (Richmond)
• June 26, 12-4pm: VCA Canada Vancouver Animal Emergency and Referral Centre (Vancouver)
• June 27, 8:30am-12:30pm: Tsawwassen Animal Hospital (Delta)
• July 8, 9:30am-2:30pm: Sardis Animal Hospital (Chilliwack)
• July 11, 11am-3pm: A Niu Veterinary Hospital (Richmond)
• July 12, 2pm-7pm: Abby Veterinary Hospital & Emergency (Abbotsford)
• July 15, 10am-3pm: Eagle Hill Animal Hospital (Mission)

To get involved or if you have questions, email BC@canadiananimalbloodbank.ca

As a reminder, there is always looking for donor doggies and volunteers; if a clinic is full, not to worry! They usually return to partnering clinics every three-four months.

Tips from CleverOrcaVT A Trick to Help You Focus

This is a great warm up exercise that you can do any time you plan to focus. With one hand, make the "ok" sign (pointer finger and thumb touching, with the other three fingers straight). With the other hand, gesture like you would for the number three (thumb holding down pinky finger, with the other three fingers straight). Now switch the gestures in each hand at the same time — the hand gesturing three now switches to the "ok" sign and the "ok" sign hand now switches to gesturing three. Do this back and forth a few times, you will find it challenging to do it simultaneously. Our brain likes symmetry and so challenging it to do two different actions really forces us to focus to make that happen.

Find more tips at https://www.cleverorcavet.com/



Animal Health Monitor

The Animal Health Monitor is a collaborative newsletter produced by the staff at the Animal Health Centre. This newsletter includes articles about:

- Animal diseases occurring in the province
• Current issues in animal health
• Case reports
• Updates on the scope of diagnostic services, expertise, programs and support available at the Animal Health Centre
• Information about food safety, biosecurity and issues that are affecting or may affect local animal, human and environmental health

Click here for more information.

Join Hill's for a free virtual CE event

This year's Hill's Global Symposium (HGS) theme: "Healthy Skin Starts From Within"

The live event will be held June 23 & 24 in Phuket, Thailand. Due to the significant time zone difference, we will host a simulated live stream on the HVA platform approximately 12 hours after the live event. The simulated livecast is scheduled for June 24-25 from 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM EDT both days (7am-4pm in BC)

Register here



Advertisement for LETSLOCUM THE BASIC'S OF LOCUMING WEBINAR. Host: Kara Beggs, BSc, RVT, WR, Owner/Founder of LetsLocum. Register at: www.letslocum.ca/events



- June 24-26, 2026 - CVMA Conference
• July 10-14, 2026 - AVMA Convention
• August 15-18, 2026 - WVC Nashville
• Aug 30-Sept 3, 2026 - Exotics365
• September 14-17, 2026 - IVECCS

Check out the website for more continuing education opportunities!

Keep an eye on the BCVTA Job Board for career opportunities! Don't forget to update or add yourself to the locum directory! Check out the ABVTA locum directory here.

