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Pet Tag Sales Benefit the School

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Referral Coordination Under New Direction

Carole Contel, director of nursing at VHUP, has been appointed referral coordinator as part of her new position as director of nursing and technician education at VHUP.

"Carole is ideally suited as coordinator," said Barry Supine, associate dean and director of VHUP. "She was the ICU nurse for 12 years and we brought her into referral coordination because of her medical background. Her knowledge of procedures and her ability to understand the medical terms should enhance the feedback process and make it easier for practitioners to obtain information on referral cases."

Ms. Contel monitors the referral cases, and, when a practitioner calls on the hotline, she can quickly check the animal's status and provide the practitioner with an update. This should eliminate the delay incurred when the staff clinician in charge of a case is not available at the time. It should also ease the pressure on clinicians as pertinent information can be provided by someone other than the clinician. Ms. Contel's role is not designed to eliminate communication between referring veterinarians and staff clinicians, rather it is designed to augment it.

Ms. Contel is also coordinator of the Harcum practicum at VHUP. Currently there are 80 students enrolled in practica at the School. The School is planning to offer continuing education programs for animal health technicians working at VHUP. "We hope to offer lectures and seminars dealing with the different specialties," said Ms. Contel. "It will provide the technicians with a broader base of information. At this point everyone here is specialized and the lectures and seminars will offer an opportunity for technicians to learn about other areas."
The program will carry continuing education credits. Such credits are required if a technician wishes to maintain the state license.

The School is also trying to develop a continuing education program for technicians working in private practices. "We would like to offer a day-long program," said Ms. Contel. "We are seeking input from practitioners for topics to be covered in such a program."

In addition to one-day continuing education programs, the School plans to offer a new internship program for veterinary technicians. "This will be a full-time internship geared to those who wish to change direction within the profession," said Mr. Supine. "We will offer training in clinical care, business management, and laboratory animal science, and we will have the potential of zoo medicine/aquatic medicine as an elective area."

The length of the internship will be between six to 12 months and it will be organized around a core/ elective system. Participants will receive a small stipend and housing will be available. Participants must be certified animal health technicians.

"Participation in such a program can open up another whole new field for a technician," said Ms. Contel. Currently the internship animal health program is planned for VHUP only. For further information please contact Ms. Contel.

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Best Friend Pet Tags, a company based in Las Vegas, will donate $1 for each tag sold through a veterinarian to the veterinary school of the practitioner's choice. Tag displays with order forms are being sent to the U.S. veterinary college and his choice of school is registered with the company. When an order is received by Best Friend Pet Tags, the donation is sent to the school. A number of our alumni are participating in this program and the School has received checks. We think that this is a great way to help the School, and hope that our alumni will participate.