The New York City Veterinarian

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Anthony Miele, DVM

The changes in our profession over my career have been significant. Beecham and UpJohn are no longer leading veterinary pharmaceutical companies, diathal and pellitol are no longer available, not to



mention all the other changes in the way we practice today. One thing that hasn't changed much is organized veterinary medicine. VMANYC today is very similar to the same organization that I joined back in the 1980's. One event, COVID, did however impact our association in a significant way. As of the writing of this message, we've not had an in person meeting since it's appearance.

Our June meeting will finally bring us all together again for a great CE meeting in a cozy setting over food and drink. While not being of much historical significance, this meeting will be a "new beginning" for the association. It will be the first live meeting that we've had and will probably make us all feel like we never missed a beat.

One change that our association will undergo, is our CE programming. A special shout out here to the committee, Meghan McGlinn and David Wohlstadter, for keeping our meetings top notch and sponsored despite the trying times and constant changes. Over the years, our programming has traditionally been with world class speakers from all around the

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President's message continued ...

country. This will not change, however, we will be incorporating more local speakers into our schedule. The greater New York City area has some of the best in the profession and they too will be part of our 2022-2023 programming. These changes should bring some renewed local energy into our upcoming meetings too. As always, now more than ever, we are open for speaker suggestions from the membership.

Please, let me know what you think about this change as well as any other we could incorporate into our association. Email your suggestions to igrappino@gmail.com.

THANKS!

Calendar of Events

Program Committee - Megan McGlinn, VMD and Jennifer Tsung, DVM

The schedule of the VMA of NYC Continuing Education meetings for the 2022 calendar year is listed below, including the speakers and topics. The meetings will start at 7:00 pm. Members must register prior to each meeting.

June 8, 2022

Speaker: Brooke Britton, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

Topic: Cancer Diagnostics and the Essentials of Compassionate Oncologic Care

September 7, 2022

Speaker: TBD Topic: TBD

October 12, 2022

Speaker: Caroline Betbeze, DVM

Topic: Restoring Brilliance- Update on Dry Eye Disease

November 2, 2022

Speaker: TBD Topic: TBD

December 7, 2022

Speaker: **J.** Catharine Scott-Moncrieff, DVM

Topic: Endocrinology

December 7, 2022 - Holiday Party

If you have any suggestion for a continuing education speaker or timely topic, please email the VMANYC at info@vmanyc.org.

2022 VMANYC High School Student Awards

By Lisa Esposito

The award recipients for the VMA of NYC High School Awards for 2022 are a group of senior students with exceptional academic, extracurricular and ambitious pre-veterinary endeavors. We are pleased to have them interested in our profession and certainly, this group is on the right track. The Award Recipients are of the following:

Emily Brown - Baruch College Campus High School. Emily's commitment to her academics is evident because she was accepted to nine of the eleven universities she applied to. She also demonstrates unending commitment and energy to her desire to become a veterinarian by working tirelessly in every aspect at a veterinary practice in which she excelled. In addition, her family fostered six dogs during the COVID-19 pandemic and she volunteered at the Bidawee Animal Shelter and Blind Dog Rescue Alliance. Furthermore, upon the 20th Anniversary of 911, she volunteered to coordinate the job of finding and organizing current contact data for the 200 private volunteer veterinarians and technicians who were helping to schedule the treatment of care of the SAR dogs of Ground Zero in 2001. Emily is beyond mature for her years and will one day, be a member of our profession.

Melody Baquerizl - Midwood High School. Melody is an intelligent, friendly, personable young lady who is enrolled in the medical science program. Melody was inspired by the death of her dog, Nina when she was in the fifth grade. She shared the quote "Empathy is really the opposite of spiritual meanness. It is the capacity to understand that every war is both won and lost. And, that someone else's pain is as meaningful as your own" - Barbara Kingsolver. She is currently the Secretary of the Latino Student Union and a member of the lacrosse team. She plans to major in Animal Science in college and would like to be a veterinarian. Melody is well-respected by her peers and is someone the students look to for guidance.

Janae Trotman - John Bowne High School. Janae is described as an outgoing and dedicated student at the Educational Program. She has an interest in Animal Care especially Exotic Animal Medicine. She has worked at the reptile laboratory in school and has spent multiple summers working with snakes, fish and exotic animals. She also aided by teaching students proper handling and husbandry. She is an active member of National Future Farmers of America and Captain of the Sales and Marketing FFA Team. She has spent hundreds of hours working in the Land Laboratory, helping with the care of animals. Janae is driven to succeed at everything she tries including her aspiration to become a veterinarian.

Kaylee LoPiccolo - St. Francis Prepatory High School. Kaylee was highly recommended and already has a science research paper out for publication and in competition at Regeneron. Her research paper focuses on anxiety and aggressiveness in dogs, her study aim was to determine owners' perception of their dogs behavior pattern in trends, and determines the presence or absence of behavioral issues in dogs. The study encompassed questions to 110 owners on basic ownership and basic behavior questions, behavior diagnosis and medication. Kaylee's study was interesting and impactful making her outshine the other students dedicated to the study of veterinary medicine.

David Tolmach - Susan E. Wagner High School. David is in the top ten percent of 884 seniors. He has taken honors classes, weighted scholar levels and classes, business-related electives and is a member of the Academy of Finance. He already has 12 college credits and has one of the fullest, most

Wellness Corner

Recognizing Burnout on your Team

By Jennifer Tsung

Over the last couple of years, we have had to learn how to readjust our lives to living with the changes in our work and society. Change is not something that everyone is able to manage well as we have seen an uptick of stress and anxiety in both our staff and our clients. Anxious clients have increased stress in all staff members and even ones which I have not seen stress in before.

I recently received a text message from a staff member that I have worked with for years. 'I cannot keep up anymore. I do not know if I can keep working like this. I do not know if it is partially me getting older, but the stress is starting to affect me a lot personally.' Over the years, this individual was always happy and one of the most helpful and motivating people to be around. His demeanor is one to be admired. Burnout affects people we have known for years who never had these feelings before. In different polls that I have looked at, they put the statistics of burnout over the last couple of years at 50 to 69% of the workforce.

We should try to recognize signs of burnout with our coworkers. Commons signs that are seen in burnout is being tired all the time, lack of motivation, absenteeism, and a change in your normal attitude to work. The downward spiral of burnout can happen quickly so trying to see these signs early may help us to prevent some of the stress from burnout.

Burnout at work can come from both internal and external factors. There is always a person's life outside of work. There can be worry about family and friends. Work related burnout is what we can try to help control which could come from rude clients, heavy workloads, lack of recognition and perceived unfairness at work.

Helping to prevent burnout in staff may mean having a different mindset from pre-pandemic times. Some team members need more affirmations than before to help them to feel more valued. People need to hear more positive comments to ward off the feelings from negative comments. We may need to adjust work loads and tasks at work. Even if someone has had the same tasks for years, it may be worth some changes to make the load feel lighter. A schedule change or change of roles during the day. The most important way to help team members who seem to be experiencing burnout is just to have a conversation. Is there some way to make things less stressful for this person at work?

One thing that the pandemic has taught us is that there is a new emphasis on mental health. We have seen firsthand how fragile our mental health can be. I believe that we will collectively as a society recover from these years as we return to more normal activities and are able to be more kind to each other. We need to be more aware now about individual needs and what people can handle at this time. Hopefully by making these efforts, we can continue to evolve and grow with new and old team members in keeping a positive mindset.

Ukraine Animals in Crisis

By Gorge Korin

When Russia attacked and invaded Ukraine on February 24,2022, for the purpose of eradicating an entire nation, Ukrainians in the northern, eastern and southern regions were forced to either shelter in place, or because of heavy artillery bombardment, were driven to flee to the safety of western Ukraine, and then to Western Europe. Ukrainian refugees currently number about 13.7 million (out of a population of approximately 40M people) 6 million of which have fled Ukraine, with half of those emigrating to Poland, and 7.7 million are internally displaced.

Many of these citizens have pets and although it is difficult to know how many pets have been affected, it is estimated that between 750,000 dogs and 5.5 million cats have called Ukraine home as of 2014. Of these, thousands have been displaced, abandoned or have traveled with their refugee caretakers many miles to safety.

In March and early April, many dogs and cats were left behind, locked within abandoned apartments, let loose into the streets, or left behind in heavily bombarded shelters. Unfortunately, most of these died due to starvation, thirst or artillery shelling. Near Kyiv, the village of Bordyanka was heavily destroyed by Russian forces. In an animal shelter approximately half of the 500 dogs died of starvation because in the midst of the occupation, no one was able to take care of them.

In the northwest suburb of Kyiv in the village of Hostomel, 77 year old Asya Serpinska, founder of an animal shelter 22 years ago, would not think of abandoning her post. Despite constant shelling, followed by an occupation by Russian military forces, she with 2 other elderly volunteers continued to feed and care for the animals there. Volunteers caring for shelter animals have had to deal with so many difficulties from finding food sources and potable water for the animals, to the threat of being wounded or killed from aerial bombs or snipers. Once the armies around Kyiv retreated, many dogs were found dead from the shelling and from being shot to death.

The resilience the Ukrainian people have shown in defense of their country has also been reflected in their devotion to their animals. Many of the refugees, mainly women and children, were observed carrying their pets with them to western borders. Some traveled by train, some by car, but many traveled on foot. A woman carried her infirm German Shepherd on her back dozens of miles to finally arrive at the Polish border.

To help mitigate the terrible suffering of the pet population a number of rescue organizations have provided help.

The Network for Animals started an ambulance service that is sending cat and dog food into Ukraine and rescuing dogs, cats and even small farm animals from Ukraine into Western Europe. They have facilitated pop up holding shelter and feeding stations within Ukraine. Feeding pets became more desperate when Vetmarket Pluriton, a large pet food manufacturing plant was destroyed by missile attacks.

At the border crossing in Medyka, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has created a shelter processing centre for refugees crossing with their animals. At the "blue tent" veterinarians and volunteers triage, feed and rehabilitate animals before they and their caretakers journey to their final destinations in Europe. As the premier border crossing, the "blue tent" has helped close to 2000 animals. Many countries outside of Ukraine have eased their animal travel restrictions to help facilitate the rehoming process.

The AVMA with help from Merial/Merck are donating \$200,000 to the animal refugee crisis.

Veterinarians without Borders, a Canadian organization of veterinarians entering conflict areas, have mobilized efforts to help Ukrainian animals.

UAnimals and Happy Paw are 2 verified Ukrainian non-profit organizations that are providing food for shelters and zoos within Ukraine.

The Humane Society International is working with the Romanian Red Cross to provide food and bedding for animal shelters, zoos and to care for homeless street animals within Ukraine.

The war has also severely affected Zoos within Ukraine. The three primary large zoos in Ukraine are the Kyiv Zoological Park, the Nikolaev Zoo and the Feldman Ecopark in Kharkiv. Each has faced aerial bombardment of some kind. The zookeepers have faced difficult decisions of whether to try to move their animals to safety amid an ongoing war, or to euthanise the population as a humane solution.

In Kharkiv, a volunteer loaded up a van with kangaroos to transport them to another zoo in Europe. After this he went back for the tapirs. However, these acts of bravery are not without danger, as several employees including a 15 year old were killed by Russian soldiers as they tried to evacuate animals. Shelling and starvation have also killed about 100 animals there. As of now many of the large animals have been evacuated, however the stresses of bombardment, travel, and lack of nutrition continue to threaten their lives.

The fate of farm animals is still unknown. Many farmers had to leave the war zone and thus the animals may not be getting properly fed, cleaned, and cows, sheep and goats may not be getting milked. A large egg producer Avangard has announced that several of their farms have been destroyed, and most of the flocks have had to be slaughtered due to lack of feed.

It's striking that there are so many stories and pictures from this war that involve animals. It is also apparent how strong the human-animal bond is, as humanity is now focused on helping with the animal tragedy in Ukraine. But, it is so truly unfair that animals need to suffer so much during any war. There is hope that perhaps animal welfare and environmental advocates can include the care and protection of animals in times of crises such as war or other disasters.

For more information or if you wish to help consider these verified organizations:

http://ifaw.org https://www.hsi.org https://networkforanimals.org/campaign/ukraine-crisis/ https://happypaw.ua info@uanimals.org

Smoking, Vaping, and Pets: How Veterinarians Can Help New Yorkers and their Pets

Tobacco Policy and Programs (TPP Unit)

Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Over a third of New Yorkers who smoke have a dog or cat at home, based on internal analysis of New York City Community Health Survey data. Veterinarians can talk to pet owners about seeking treatment for smoking or vaping to protect their pets from secondhand smoke and toxins while also improving their own health. ¹²

Pets in homes where someone smokes are at increased risk of numerous illnesses, which may manifest acutely or after years of exposure. Exposure to secondhand smoke has been associated with cancer of the nasal cavity and sinuses among dolichocephalic breeds,³ and lung cancers among mesaticephalic and brachycephalic breeds.⁴ Dogs may also be at risk of respiratory issues or secondary infections.⁵ Cats are at increased risk of developing malignant lymphoma, especially when the exposure to secondhand smoke continues for five or more years. Data on the impacts of secondhand smoke on birds are limited but suggests they may be at risk of respiratory, skin, or eye issues, including secondary infections, as well as some cancers.

Pets in homes where someone smokes or vapes can ingest toxins by eating discarded cigarette butts or vape cartridges, or by licking their fur or owner's skin or clothing where toxins from secondhand smoke may linger. Potentially fatal nicotine toxicity can occur in as little as 15 to 30 minutes of ingestion of a discarded vaping cartridge. Advise your clients to seek immediate veterinary care if they suspect their pet has ingested a cartridge.

Talk to your clients and let them know that New Yorkers who smoke or vape and are interested in treatment have lots of options, they can:

- Visit the <u>New York State Smokers' Quitline</u>, or call 866-NY-QUITS (866-697-8487), to apply for a free starter kit of nicotine medications and to talk to a quit coach.
 - Call the Asian Smokers' Quitline, Monday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to midnight, for services in Chinese (800-838-8917), Korean (800-556-5564) or Vietnamese (800-778-8440), or visit <u>asiansmokersquitline.org</u>.
- Talk to their healthcare provider about tobacco treatment medications. Most health insurance plans, including Medicaid, cover medication options to help New Yorkers quit.
- Find a local quit smoking or vaping program on the NYC Health Map.
- Text **DROPTHEVAPE** to **88709** to enroll into This Is Quitting and get free support quitting vaping if they are between ages 13 and 24.

New Yorkers who are not ready to quit smoking or vaping can use nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to avoid smoking at home and reduce their pet's exposure to secondhand smoke and toxins. New Yorkers can learn more about NRT, including tobacco treatment medication options and how to access them, once they decide which medications they are interested in trying. The nicotine in patches and gum can harm pets, so they should store them in a safe place, out of reach of pets.

There are also many materials available to help pet owners get treatment for smoking or vaping on the <u>NYC Quits</u> and <u>NYC E-cigarettes</u> webpages. Veterinarians can order print materials to share in their offices:

- via 311, including:
 - <u>Still Smoking? Brochure Español</u> | 繁體中文 | 简体中文 | <u>Pусский</u> | <u>Français</u>
 - Smoke-Free Housing Health Bulletin
 - <u>Guide to Smoking and Vaping Cessation Programs</u>* <u>Español</u> | 繁體中文 | 简体中文 | Русский
- Through the NYS Smokers' Quitline ordering page, including Quit for your Pet cards.



For questions or additional information, please contact the TPP Unit at tobacco@health.nyc.gov.

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¹ American Veterinary Medical Association. Stop Smoking – For Your Health and Your Pets' Health. Accessed 19, January 2022. https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/petcare/stop-smoking-your-health-and-your-pets-health.

² U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Published April 1 ,2021. Accessed January 19, 2022.Be smoke-free and help your pets live longer, healthier lives. https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/animal-health-literacy/be-smoke-free-and-help-your-pets-live-longer-healthier-lives.

³ Reif JS, Bruns C, Lower KS. Cancer of the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in pet dogs. *Am J Epidemiol*. 1998;147(5):488-492. doi:10.1093/oxfordjournals.aje.a009475

⁴ Reif JS, Dunn K, Ogilvie GK, Harris CK. Passive smoking and canine lung cancer risk. *Am J Epidemiol*. 1992;135(3):234-239. doi:10.1093/oxfordjournals.aje.a116276

⁵ Zwicker GM, Filipy RE, Park JF, Loscutoff SM, Ragan HA, Stevens DL. Clinical and pathological effects of cigarette smoke exposure in beagle dogs. *Arch Pathol Lab Med*. 1978;102(12):623-628.

⁶ Bertone ER, Snyder LA, Moore AS. Environmental tobacco smoke and risk of malignant lymphoma in pet cats. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2002;156(3):268-273. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwf044

⁷ Miesle J. The Effects of Tobacco Use on Avian Species. *Academia*. March 2018.

⁸ Hackendahl NC, Sereda CW. The dangers of nicotine ingestion in dogs. *Veterinary Medicine: Toxicology Brief.* 2004:218-224. https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/zj-toxbrief_0304.pdf

VETERINARIANS WANTED

ABC Animal Hospital in the East Village seeking per-diem veterinarian for 2 to 3 days a week. We are a fully equipped hospital with a digital x-ray, surgical suite, and multiple exam rooms. Looking for an independent and experienced veterinarian who would work well with the team. Open to discussions regarding compensation and scheduling. Please email shireo@gmail.com for more information.

Broadway Veterinary Care. Join our rapidly growing practice 20 miles from NYC on the south shore of Nassau County. Serving an upscale community with high quality medicine, surgery, an advanced dental operatory, and digital radiology and ultrasound. Privately owned and operated and ready for the right individual to move into the future. This would be an ideal position for a new or experienced veterinarian. We can accommodate your existing client base or you will have the opportunity to build your own loyal clientele. Very competitive compensation, vacation and benefits package, and a flexible schedule. To apply submit your resume to glendina@optonline.net

Queens Animal Hospital. Growing practice in Forest Hills, NY is seeking veterinarians to join our team. New graduates are welcome, Bilingual is a plus. Willing to train with existing veterinarians in holistic and conventional medicine. We will beat any salary and benefits offered in the NY area. Also looking for feline specialists. Our hospitals are equipped with digital x-ray and complete in house blood equipment. Email resume to nyvet-care@gmail.com.

Steinway Court Veterinarian. Part time associate for Astoria veterinary office. Busy clinic with great staff and the ability to practice quality medicine. Experience preferred. Great opportunity to get into a thriving practice. Please contact Dr. Glasser at rglasser@steinwaycourtvet.com.

Westside Veterinary Center is looking for an energetic and compassionate associate veterinarian. A veterinarian who is confident in their ability to diagnose and treat complex medical cases. Westside Veterinary Center offers great mentoring because we have many experienced and knowledgeable veterinarians. We are one of the largest private veterinary hospitals in Manhattan established in 1985. Several of our veterinarians have been trained at the Animal Medical Center and at other advance training hospitals. Our experienced and talented support team provide outstanding care for our patients 24 hours/7 days a week. We have a full range of equipment and all necessary tools to excel in both the diagnosis and treatment of medical, surgical and dental cases. We continually strive to grow the knowledge base of our practice and embrace new ideas. Competitive salary and benefits offered. If you are interested in job opportunity at Westside Veterinary Center please contact: Dr. Karen Cantor, Director at Cantor@westsidevetcenter.com. 212-580-1800 / 917-836-7417.

VETERINARIANS WANTED

Full or Part-Time. Veterinarian seeks work at small animal practice in New York City. NY licensed. Contact Eduarda Krieger, DVM at 917-239-3377.

Per Diem/Part-Time Veterinarian. Available most Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Excellent people skills. Good practice builder. 35 yrs experience. References available. Dr. Tobias Jungreis at 516-295-1125.

Per Diem Veterinarian Available. 39 years of experience. Recently sold my practice after 33 years in the same location. Can perform most routine surgeries. No orthopedics please. Willing to travel up to 40 miles from central Nassau county. Call Paul Fish DVM 516-241-7278 or email PaulFishdvm36@gmail.com.

Relief/Per Diem Veterinarian. General practice. Orthopedic and Soft Tissue Surgery. DVM, Cornell. Internship Oradell. Residency in Small Animal Surgery, Cornell. Phone Dr. Kathy Sevalla at 718-578-9085.

Relief Veterinarian. NYC Relief vet in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Lorelei Wakefield, VMD, internship-trained with 9 years of experience. Soft tissue surgery, derm. expertise. NY/ DEA licensed. 917-930-8936. lorelei@wakefieldvet.com.

VARIOUS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) has many new and exciting job openings available at this time. If you love working with animals and helping people they may have a great career opportunity for you. Some of the positions that are available are Communications Associate, Volunteer Liaison, Veterinarian, Licensed Vet Tech, Animal Care Officer, and Animal Control Officer. If you are interested in learning more about the available positions or want to apply, please visit their website at www.nyacc.org.

Banfield Pet Hospital seeking Associate Veterinarians in New York! Leadership Positions, Flexible Full and Part-time Schedules! Banfield Pet Hospital is seeking Veterinary professionals for leadership positions, as well as full time and part time Associate Veterinarian positions with flexible schedules. As an Associate Veterinarian, you will be able to make independent medical decisions, continually grow and learn as a Veterinary professional, as well as fulfill a higher purpose by improving the quality of life for millions of pets across the United States. You will also have the opportunity to work alongside a highly trained team, providing the best preventive care possible for both clients and their pets, improving the quality and business performance of our veterinary hospital. A typical day for an Associate Veterinarian will include performing all surgeries, including the use of state of the art medical instruments and equipment. You will diagnose, treat and control diseases and injuries in pets, prescribe and administer drugs and vaccines and educate clients on all aspects of pet health, including Optimum Wellness Plans®. To hear more, or simply to see what we have available, call Andrew Cowley at (360) 784-5057 or e-mail Andrew.Cowley@banfield.com.

Bideawee, a leading pet welfare organization serving the metropolitan New York and Long Island, is seeking Associate Veterinarians to join our team in the Manhattan location. Associate veterinarians provide care for dogs and cats in our adoption centers including spay/neuter surgeries/dentals, as well as surgical and medical care for clients of our animal hospitals that is open to the public. The following is a list of essential job functions. This list may be revised at any time and additional duties not listed here may be assigned as needed: Wellness exams, preventative care, management of medical and surgical cases for shelter animals and client-owned animals; Performing spay/neuter and other surgery including dental procedures; Working with our trainers to manage behavior issues; Leading staff and volunteer training sessions in animal care; Participation in educational events held for the community or volunteers/donors; Some administrative work required. Requirements: At least 7 years of experience as a veterinarian; NYS veterinary license required; Shelter medicine experience preferred; Able to perform soft tissue surgeries including but not limited to spays and neuters of dogs and cats; Graduate with a DVM or VMD from a U.S. accredited veterinary school required.

InstaVet is a modern veterinary practice, with a focus on providing pets with top level care in the comfort, convenience and stress-free environment of home.. We are looking for an experienced veterinarian to join our growing team, serving clients at home, in the office or local preferred partner clinics. An ideal candidate would be someone who understands the value of administering care in the patients own environment, on demand... while remaining cool, calm and determined under extenuating circumstances. A team player fully invested in their colleagues' success...someone who takes enormous pride in their ability to listen and speak to clients like a trusted friend...a service-minded professional who is energized by the once in a lifetime opportunity to revolutionize the field of in home veterinary care forever.

Skills and Qualifications: A Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree, or equivalent, from an accredited university, Licensure in good standing to practice in New York or New Jersey; Professional demeanor and appearance, with excellent interpersonal skills and a positive, friendly attitude, The ability to make decisions and communicate clearly and effectively with fellow team members, A commitment to practicing the highest standard of medicine, upholding the veterinary code of ethics. Please note we have PER DIEM, PART TIME and FULL TIME positions available. Benefits include generous compensation, professional discounts on pet care, continuing education opportunities and more!Please reply with a cover note and attach your resume. To learn more about our services, please visit our website: www.InstaVet.com. Required experience: 2 years. Salary commensurate with experience. Salary: \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 /year.

2022 VMANYC High School Student Awards continued ...

difficult senior schedules. David accomplished all of this while maintaining extracurricular activities that showcase his passion for animals and science. He is a long time Junior Docent at the Staten Island Zoo - a coveted position. He participated during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Science Olympiad heading up its Ornithological Division - his pursuit of research opportunities related to animals. "I have not often met a student as devoted and focused as he (David) but it is important to note that David is also kind, humble and self-deprecating despite his many fine attributes", said Principal J. O'Connell - College and Career Counselor.

Amy Veras - High School for Climate Justice. Amy completed high school early and has been accepted by early decision at Cornell University to study pre-veterinary biology. She was inspired every summer when she would visit the Dominican Republic and go to her abuela's house where she would see a lot of stray dogs pass by. The first dog she took care of was dog named "Cherry". She was meticulous in the care for Cherry and word spread and she started to get more clients. She started Amy's Petsitting Services. Amy had a special place in her heart for Cherry but eventually she found out that Cherry had cancer. Amy made the last couple of months with Cherry count but knew that she would have be put to sleep. It was Cherry that inspired Amy to know she wanted to work in the field of animal science - hoping to be a part of making sure all animals have the chance to live a long and healthy life. "I know becoming a veterinarian comes with financial debt, stress and studying for years but the hard work will be worth it for me when I see smiles on owners' faces when their pets return home and healthy.

The VMA of NYC wishes these fine candidates much success in their college years and hope they continue their pathway to veterinary medicine with academic excellence and compassion.

VMA of NYC

The mission of the Veterinary Medical Association of New York City is:

To improve and advance the education of veterinarians and the science of veterinary medicine; to foster and maintain high standards of integrity, honor, courtesy and ethics in the profession; to foster protection of the public health, and enlighten and inform the public in regard to veterinary medicine, science, knowledge and the avoidance of cruelty to animals, wherein it affects the public good and welfare.



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