



## **MINUTES**

### **Ventura College Veterinary Technology Program Advisory Committee Meeting April 21, 2025**

#### **In Attendance**

Mckenzie Rasmussen-Hagerty, DVM  
Ann Welton, DVM  
Michelle Anderson, RVT  
Patrick Connolly, DVM  
Tamera Kilbourn, RVT  
Sharon Schieltz, RVT  
Tracy Darling, RVT  
Dorothy Farias, Ed. D. (via zoom)  
John Marquez  
Janis Shinkawa, DVM  
Kathy Jonokuchi, DVM  
Ian Holsworth, BVSc, DACVS, Diplomate ACVS  
Heather Hartman, Current Student

#### **Absent**

Felicia Duenas, Program Dean  
Christina Sisk, DVM  
Cait Zacha, DVM  
Alex Flores  
Jill Muraoka Lim, DVM  
Stephanie Hernandez, RVT (graduate cohort #1)

The meeting agenda was distributed via email on 4/14/2025.

#### **Welcome, Introductions and Voting**

Dr. Welton began the meeting at 5:28pm by introducing Dr. Dorothy Farias who attended via zoom for the first 20 minutes. She explained the new AS degree in Animal Science which should be available Fall 2026. The college only has to add a small ruminant class to the curriculum. The degree will fall under the Agriculture Department, not the Vet Tech Program.

Dr. Welton then welcomed everyone to the Ventura College Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee meeting. Members and guests introduced themselves and gave their credentials.



### **Advisory Committee**

The purpose, role and duties of the advisory committee members was explained and discussed.

### **Program Update and Announcements**

- The program is still actively looking for full-time faculty, but it has been difficult filling the position. Dr. Rassmussen explained that the program needs a full-time director and full-time faculty although at this time two part-time instructors (Dr. Rassmussen & Dr. Welton) fill the director position. The accrediting body would prefer one full-time person but allows two part-time people for the director's position. The program is searching for a DVM.
- Fall 2025 will have twelve classes so there is a great need for more full-time and adjunct instructors.
- Student Enrollment Data-cohort #3 graduated in December, and we will be accepting cohort #6 in the fall. Attrition and the lottery were explained. Some members wondered if the counselors had a good understanding of what is needed to pass the classes and the VTNE. Heather suggested the counselors come to the classes to understand what the students are learning.
- New strategies to improve passing rates for the VTNE have been implemented this semester.
- Update for cohort #3 and their pass rates. Seven students have taken and passed out of thirteen eligible to take the test.
- Internships will be divided into multiple semesters instead of just the summer before graduation. This change is to prepare the students to be as ready as possible for their career once they have graduated.
- Dr. Welton explained a new application, Vet+Safe, which the students will use to learn pharmacology.
- The Lokahi lab's open house and Career Exploration events were successful.
- John Marquez asked the members if there is anything Santa Paula Chamber can do for the program. The Chamber's main goal is to build business in Santa Paula and VC is an integral part of that plan.
- Program challenges and needs were discussed for the upcoming year. The most pressing need is hiring faculty and a full-time director. The need to hire more ILTs for next fall was discussed especially for the dental class.



The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm by Dr. Welton and she thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and being a part of the Vet Tech Advisory Committee. Next scheduled meeting will be October 2025.