

Connie Varnhagen – AAAHT Meritorious Award Recipient

Presenter: Ms. Erin Livingstone

Nominated by: Ms. Kim Eremko, Ms. Lucille Landals

Connie Varnhagen, a relatively new member to the AAAHT and the ABVMA, has made a mark through her enthusiastic and competent volunteer efforts on the AAAHT and the ABVMA. She works as Academic Director in the undergraduate research initiative of the University of Alberta. She is a professor of psychology at the University of Alberta.

Connie graduated from the veterinary technology training program at SanJuan College in Farmington, New Mexico in 2009. She became a member of the AAAHT on August 18, 2009.

Connie joined the AAAHT continuing education committee in 2012 and has contributed countless hours to the development of regional CE, speaker contact and hosting, attending ABVMA registration days as a volunteer table facilitator, and developed resource documentation of 'free' internet CE available for the RVT. She has worked with the CE committee efficiently to organize and host CE in regional areas. During these activities her attention to detail and bright spirit enhances the organization and coordination of the AAAHT CE events she has volunteered at.

Connie has served on many projects of the ABVMA and the AAAHT. She was active in the PALS program at the Edmonton Humane Society. As founder and President of the Alberta Helping Animals Society (AHAS) she has contributed to society by organizing assistance for care of pets belonging to the homeless and financially disadvantaged residents of the Edmonton area. She has also served on task forces at the ABVMA and the AAAHT when called upon. She is currently chair of the ABVMA Human Resources committee. Connie has also worked at many Alberta Spay and Neuter Task Force clinics which provide these services to our remote communities. Connie has volunteered at every single Task Force clinic since 2009.....she actually only missed this year's July clinic because she just had surgery on her wrist and they forced her to stay home :)

Connie also has worked internationally on spay and neuter programs in Ecuador and other countries. During all the generous time Connie has allocated to volunteer for these programs, she demonstrates her love of veterinary medicine and the role of the animal health technologist/registered veterinary technologist. She is a firm believer in the value of our professional organizations and donates her time to both the ABVMA and the AAAHT.

In all aspects of the criteria of this award, Connie Varnhagen is a deserving recipient of this award and an excellent role model for members of the AAAHT. Thank you Connie for all your work for the benefit of registered animal health technologists in Alberta!