

Penny Steffen, RVT – 2022 ABVTA Appreciation Award Recipient

Penny has dedicated her time and energy to volunteering for the ABVTA for the past several years, with a significant portion spent serving on the executive committee. Her commitment to the association has amounted to thousands of hours generously given from her personal life.

Remarkably, Penny has served as president for not just one, but two terms, with one of those terms coinciding with the challenging period of the Covid pandemic. Throughout her tenure, she has displayed exemplary leadership, always prioritizing the well-being of our membership. Penny's decision-making process has been inclusive and considerate, taking into account the unique circumstances of each member, whether they work with small animals, large animals, lab animals, are in the industry, or on leave. She and her board have made thoughtful decisions to support all of us during our time of need.

Penny played a pivotal role in ensuring that the entire veterinary profession was recognized as essential workers. She has also actively engaged in government relations, representing the ABVTA alongside the ABVMA and their government advocate. Through her involvement, RVTs are consistently at the forefront of discussions about the veterinary profession as a whole. Furthermore, she played a key part in the creation and interpretation of the workforce study, contributing to a better understanding of our profession.

When Penny is not championing government and RVT advocacy, she can be found at the board table, where she leads with warmth and inclusivity. Her welcoming nature extends to newcomers and guests, ensuring they feel comfortable and valued. As the chair of our meetings, Penny demonstrates compassion and understanding, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to voice their opinions and be heard. Her extensive experience on the executive committee has allowed her to mentor and inspire all of us, and we deeply admire her unwavering dedication to our association.

However, the primary reason for the nomination of Penny is her significant contributions to advancing not only the ABVTA but the veterinary technology profession as a whole. Whether she is advocating for our profession in meetings with government officials, participating in discussions within the ABVMA committee, volunteering at the SPCA, working with large animal producers in the industry, or even in her daily life, Penny has played a vital role in elevating our association and profession provincially, nationally, and internationally. It is for these reasons that I wholeheartedly nominate Penny for this award.