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Montana Veterinary Medical Association

# 2026 Winter Meeting

JANUARY 22-24

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BOZEMAN, MT

## ▪ Meeting Information ▪

14 Continuing Education Credits | Large Animal, Small Animal & Technician Tracks

### Pre-Registration—by January 5

*Register early for the best rates.*

- MVMA Members—All session rate - \$390
- MVMA Life Members for CE Credit - \$350
- Non-MVMA Members—All session rate - \$520
- Technicians/Office Staff—All session rate - \$215
- Single-day rates also available. See registration form on last page for more details.

### After January 5 or On-Site Registration

- MVMA Members—All session rate - \$415
- MVMA Life Members for CE Credit - \$385
- Non-MVMA Members—All session rate - \$560
- Technicians/Office Staff—All session rate - \$255
- Single-day rates also available.

### Free meeting registration for Students and Life Members not requesting CE

- Pre-registration is requested; meal tickets must be purchased separately.

### Ways to Register

- **Online:** Fast, easy and secure. Complete registration form and pay by credit card at [mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org).
- **Mail:** Complete the registration form on the back page of this brochure and mail with payment to:

MVMA, PO Box 6322, Helena, MT 59604

### Proceedings

Proceedings will be available to all registrants online prior to the meeting, and can be downloaded and/or printed on your own.

*Printed proceedings will not be available at the meeting.*

### CE Certificates

Once attendance is verified, CE certificates will be sent to attendees within two weeks of the meeting.

## ▪ Room Reservations ▪

A block of MVMA rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn in Bozeman.

- \$119/night plus taxes.
- Discounted rates will be available through December 22 or until sold out.
- The online room block link is on the MVMA website ([mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org)), or call the hotel directly at 406-587-5261 and request the MVMA block.

**Questions?** On the web: [mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org)

Email: [info@mtvma.org](mailto:info@mtvma.org) | Phone: 406.447.4259

*Continued next page*

Thursday, January 22

- Afternoon** MVMA Executive Board Meeting
- 5:30 - 7:00 pm** Opening Mixer with Conference Registrants, Veterinary Students & Current Power of 10 Cohort  
*Complimentary Appetizers & Beverages*



Friday, January 23

- 7:00 – 8:00 am** Registration/Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 – 10:00 am** **Combined Large/Small/Technician Session – 2 CE**  
*Grand Ballroom*

**Panel Discussion on Effectively Utilizing Veterinary Technicians**  
*Becky Vaughan, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia and Clinical Practice-Small Animal, Canine/Feline); Nursing Manager, VEG ER for Pets - Lincoln Park, Chicago*

*Bridget Heilsberg, DVM - Practice Owner*  
*Crown 3 Equine Veterinary Services – Whitesboro, TX*

The success of veterinary practices relies on the performance of the whole veterinary care team, which includes the effective use of veterinary technicians. This panel discussion will explore how having credentialed veterinary technicians on the veterinary team is a critical part of building an efficient practice.

- 10:15 am – 12:15 pm Large/Mixed Animal Session – 2 CE**  
*Hyalite/Clark Rooms*

*Bridget Heilsberg, DVM-Practice Owner*

- Building an Effective Mission/Vision for a Veterinary Practice: Discussion on leadership, mentorship, and the challenges facing today’s veterinary professionals. She will also highlight the importance of establishing a mission, vision and values in the veterinary practice.

**Small Animal Session – 2 CE**  
*Lewis/Madison Rooms*

*Jodi Matheson, DVM, DACVR, University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center; Associate Teaching Professor - Radiology*

- Small Animal Radiology

- 10:15 am – 5:15 pm Veterinary Technician Session – 6 CE**  
*Aspen Room*

(break for lunch – approximately 12:15 pm)

**Becky Vaughan, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia & Analgesia)**

- Sleeping Beauties: Anesthetic Pharmacology Review. Review of the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of most commonly used anesthetic and analgesic drugs, in an effort to provide a refresher on the primary benefits.
- How Did I Get Here? Solo In Surgery (Tips to get you through when staffing is low and stakes are high). Being the only one scheduled in surgery can be a challenge, but it is often the reality. By building systems and planning ahead, you can create an environment that is not only functional for you but safe medical care for your patients.
- Sailing the C’s: Common Complications and Comorbidities. By considering the reason for anesthesia and the effects of the disease or conditions of the patient, the anesthetist can be prepared for potential complications with anesthesia, and support the surgical procedure at hand.
- How Low Can You Go? Troubleshooting Intraoperative Hypotension. Review of the anatomy and physiology of vascular resistance and discussion on common root causes of anesthetic hypotension: anesthetic drugs and patient condition.
- RECOVER review and updates for consideration. A review of RECOVER Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support techniques will be discussed, and resources for completing RECOVER courses will be shared.
- You’ve Got This! Emergent Patient Stabilization. Emergencies are, by nature, unexpected. By reviewing quick assessment techniques and early response considerations, you can feel more prepared and equipped to unexpected patient presentations and stabilize them appropriately.

- 12:15 – 1:15 pm** Lunch – MVMA in Atrium; BSVTA in Aspen

- 1:30 – 5:30 pm Large Animal Session – 4 CE**  
*Hyalite/Clark Rooms*

*Angela Pelzel-McClusky, DVM, MS – Equine Epidemiologist*  
*USDA APHIS Veterinary Services*

- Emerging Issues in Equine Infectious Disease
- Bushtracking and Blood-Doping: Disease Impacts of Unsanctioned Racing
- Overview of Recent High-Profile EIA Outbreaks
- Role of the Equine Practitioner in Regulatory Disease Response and Biosecurity

**Friday, January 23 (continued)**

**Small Animal Session – 4 CE**

*Lewis/Madison Rooms*

**Jodi Matheson, DVM, DACVR**

- Radiology Wet Lab

5:30 -7:00 pm Hosted Social Hour and Appetizers  
*(dinner on your own)*  
Entertainment TBA

**Saturday, January 24**

7:00 -8:00 am Registration—*Foyer*  
Breakfast Buffet—*Atrium*

**8:00 am - Small Animal Session – 4 CE**

**12:00 noon** *Lewis/Madison Rooms*

**Carrie Breaux, DVM, MVSc, DACVO – Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist, WestVet Meridian, ID**

- Small Animal Ophthalmology

**Large Animal Session – 4 CE**

*Hyalite/Clark Rooms*

**Blake Miller, DVM- Owner/Founder, Northwest Mobile Vet, OR**

Camelid Medicine & Surgery. Practical, field-ready techniques for working with llamas and alpacas, including:

- Basic preventative medicine
- Common diseases and issues,
- Safe anesthesia protocols
- Efficient castration methods
- Common dental procedures
- Reproductive ultrasonography

**Elizabeth Hardy, DVM – Twin Pines Animal Hospital, Bothell, WA**

Backyard Farm Pig Medicine. Practical overview of these increasingly popular but difficult to manage companion animals with regard to:

- Common medical conditions

- Annual exams and preventative care
- Safe handling and restraint
- Anesthesia protocols
- Surgical techniques.

**8:00 – 10:00 am Veterinary Technician Session – 2 CE**

*Aspen Room*

**Becky Vaughan, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia & Analgesia)**

- The ABC’s of ECG: The anatomy and physiology of a normal cardiac rhythm. Review of physical and electrical anatomy of the heart, including blood flow, electrophysiology, and understanding how the directionality and amplitude results in the standard Lead II ECG for interpretation.
- Don’t break my Heart: Identifying and Interpreting cardiac arrhythmias. Review of all categories of ECG arrhythmias to help identify specific abnormalities, including understanding the cause of the arrhythmia, as well as potential for perfusion complications and considerations for treatment.

**10:00 am – 5:00 pm Veterinary Technician Session – 6 CE**

*Aspen Room*

**Bridget Heilsberg, DVM**

Noon – 1:30 pm MVMA General Membership Meeting/Lunch

*Atrium*

BSVTA Working Lunch – *Aspen Room*

**2:00 – 4:00 pm Large/Small Animal Joint Session – 2 CE**

*Grand Ballroom*

**Current Animal Disease Update - MT Dept of Livestock**

- Review of current brucellosis regulations, activities update, management priorities and strategies for affected herds.
- New World screw worm current status in Central America, preparation for possible U.S. detection.
- Status of no-cost RFID tags, including allocation methods and use of electronic ID and options for CVIs/test charts/etc.
- Update on B.Canis cases in Montana, including demographics, testing protocols, and management of positive animals.

**Special thanks to Dr. Julie Oghigian, MVMA president-elect and chair of the 2026 MVMA Winter Meeting. We are grateful for all of her time and dedication toward making the event a success!**

**Carrie Breaux, DVM, MVSc, Diplomate, ACVO**, is a Board-certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist at WestVet in Meridian, ID. She joined WestVet Boise in 2008 and joined the Meridian team in 2025. Dr. Carrie Breaux earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from Eastern Illinois University. She then completed her DVM

at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, followed by internships in equine medicine and surgery, and veterinary ophthalmology. Finally, she earned a master's degree in veterinary medicine and completed residency training in veterinary ophthalmology at the University of Saskatchewan. She truly enjoys both challenging surgical cases for dogs and cats with cataracts or glaucoma, as well as taking care of animals in need of more advanced medical care for chronic eye conditions such as dry eye (KCS) or Pannus. In her free time, Dr. Carrie can be found outdoors with family, friends and horses.

**Elizabeth Hardy, DVM**, grew up outside of St. Louis, MO, and completed her undergraduate degree at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. She spent time after graduation working on conservation research on leopards in South Africa before taking a job working with sheep at Colorado State University until applying to veterinary school. She graduated from Western University of Health Sciences- College of Veterinary Medicine in California in 2011 and spent time studying alpacas in Peru. Dr. Hardy worked as a mixed animal veterinarian at Woodinville Veterinary Hospital from 2011-2017 and currently owns Twin Pines Animal Hospital in Bothell, WA. Her areas of specific interest in small animal medicine are oncology, dermatology, breed-specific health problems, and working and livestock guardian dogs. She particularly enjoys working with small ruminants (goats, sheep), ducks, pigs, and camelids (llamas, alpacas), and has been a member of the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners since veterinary school, also serving on the board as a regional director. Dr. Hardy spends her free time skiing, hiking with her dogs, golfing, gardening, and brewing beer. She has two dogs, one black cat, 5 chickens, and wants to get ducks!

**Bridget Heilsberg, DVM**, was born and raised in rural upstate New York, receiving a bachelor's degree in animal science with a focus on reproduction and genetics from Cornell University in 2003. Shortly after, she enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve and moved to California. In addition to her Reserve training and duties, she worked with horses and cattle throughout the Central Valley, teaching riding lessons and breaking and training horses for all

levels and disciplines. In 2006, Dr. Bridget was activated with the Navy in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She spent time in both Kuwait and Iraq with a small boat unit, doing shallow water, high value asset, and anti-terrorism force protection. Upon returning home, she worked as a veterinary technician at Animal Medical and Surgical Center of Scottsdale, AZ. She graduated in 2013 from Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences. After graduation, she completed an internship at JEH Equine Reproduction Services and Hospital and was welcomed on as an associate once the internship concluded. In May 2016, Dr. Bridget left JEH Equine to start her own ambulatory practice in the North Texas and Texoma area, Crown 3 Equine Veterinary Services. In her limited spare time, Dr. Bridget enjoys riding her Harley-Davidson FatBoy motorcycle, working with the Crown 3 Ranch horses, and volunteering with the Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative. She routinely travels and speaks at regional and national veterinary conventions on leadership, mentorship, and the challenges facing today's veterinary professionals. She currently lives in Whitesboro, TX, with her other half, Dr. John Middleton, three cats, and her constant canine companion Lucy.

**Emily Kaleczyc, DVM**, is the assistant state veterinarian for the Department of Livestock. A 2013 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Kaleczyc began her career in Helena, where she practiced mixed animal medicine before joining the DOL. At that time, she worked in the brucellosis program and in meat and poultry inspection. She then spent five years with the USDA as a field veterinarian and epidemiologist. In that role, she gained extensive experience in disease investigation, emergency response, and national animal health surveillance programs. As assistant state veterinarian, Dr. Kaleczyc supports disease control and traceability efforts, regulatory oversight, and emergency response initiatives across the state. She also works closely with producers, veterinarians, and partner agencies to advance the Department's mission of protecting animal health and food safety in Montana.

**Jodi Matheson, DVM, DACVR-Radiology**, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (BS), and the University of Missouri (DVM). She completed a clinical internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Kansas State University and a diagnostic imaging residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She joined the Mizzou faculty in 2016, and serves as an associate teaching professor of Radiology at the University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center.



**Blake Miller, DVM**, is the owner and founder of Northwest Mobile Vet, a four-doctor mobile practice serving northwest Oregon. He earned his DVM from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014. During veterinary school, he received university research funding to study the Barber Pole Worm and targeted deworming strategies in mature dairy goats. He was also awarded the Dr. William Magrane Clinical Ophthalmology Award for his early interest in veterinary ophthalmology. Originally from the Midwest, Dr. Blake now lives in Oregon with his wife and their animals. When he's not out on calls, he spends time fly fishing, cooking in the kitchen, and pursuing photography—particularly film photography and darkroom printing.



**Angela Pelzel-McCluskey, DVM, MS**, is the National Equine Epidemiologist for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services and is based in Fort Collins, Colo. She obtained her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 2001 from Texas A&M University. Dr. Pelzel-McCluskey was in equine private veterinary practice in both Texas and Colorado and has served as an epidemiologist with state and federal animal health agencies since 2004. Her international work includes training veterinarians in epidemiology and animal disease outbreak response techniques in western Africa, Central America, and the Middle East. In 2016, she was the recipient of the United States Animal Health Association's Federal Partnership award in recognition of her years of collaboration with states, academia, laboratories, and the equine industry. Dr. Pelzel-McCluskey completed her Master of Science degree in Veterinary Immunology and Infectious Disease from Washington State University in 2017. She received Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine Outstanding Alumna award in 2022 and the American Horse Council's Hickey Award in 2025 for service to the equine industry. Dr. Pelzel-McCluskey currently oversees the federal response to reportable equine disease outbreaks nationwide and has been the lead epidemiologist for more than 40 state, regional, and national disease outbreak responses during her combined state and federal service.



**Brenee Peterson, DVM**, serves as program veterinarian for the Montana Department of Livestock. She grew up on her family's farm north of Havre, raising Polled Hereford cattle and wheat. Dr. Peterson earned her bachelor of science degree in Animal Science from Montana State



University. She attended veterinary school and was part of the inaugural class of the WIMU program through Washington State University, graduating in 2018. Following graduation, Dr. Peterson worked as an associate veterinarian in communities throughout the state, specializing in mixed animal medicine and soft tissue surgeries. Dr. Peterson joined the DOL in 2024, and is focused on emergency preparedness. In her free time, Dr. Peterson enjoys hiking, camping, traveling and helping on the farm. She also enjoys going on adventures with her two mutts Tony and Turk, along with playing fetch with her cat Tang.

**Tahnee Szymanski, DVM**, is the State Veterinarian for the Montana Department of Livestock. She is a Montana native and a 2004 graduate of Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She first joined the DOL in 2008 after working in a large animal ambulatory practice. In 2023, she was appointed State Veterinarian, and in her nearly 2 decades of regulatory experience, Dr. Szymanski has worked on a variety of complex issues, including the state's first tuberculosis affected herd in at least a half century and the ensuing epidemiological investigation, a large multi-state Q fever outbreak with associated human cases, and a large trichomoniasis outbreak in central Montana. While female veterinarians have served in interim or acting capacities as State Veterinarian in the past, Dr. Szymanski is the first ever female to be officially installed as State Veterinarian of Montana on a permanent, ongoing basis.



**Rebecca Vaughan, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia & Analgesia), (Clinical Practice-canine/feline)**, graduated from Manor College in Jenkintown, PA, in 2002. Her career has taken her to General Practice, Specialty Surgery, Radiology, Dentistry, and Emergency Services in Philadelphia, rural Vermont, and the Chicagoland area in a variety of patient care, teaching, and leadership roles. Becky is currently the Nursing Manager for VEG ER for Pets in Lincoln Park, Chicago. She is the Past President for the Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice, and serves on the Credential, Exam, and Recertification Committees, and is the AVTCP representative for the Committee for Veterinary Technician Specialties of NAVTA. Becky has lectured on a variety of topics, primarily anesthesia, since 2007. She has contributed to magazines, textbooks, and VPSN, as well as was a previous instructor for VetMedTeam. Becky has a special interest in critical anesthesia, feline analgesia, and leadership development. She loves working with patients of all species, and shares her home in Downers Grove, IL, with her family and her furry, scaled and finned pets.



**Registration Available Online!** Save postage and time—pay with a credit card at [www.mtvma.org](http://www.mtvma.org).

*Please Print*

First CE meeting?  Yes  No

Name *As it should appear on your name badge*

Clinic

Mailing Address City State Zip

Phone Email

2-Day Registration   Total of 14 CE Hours	Early Bird Registration By Jan. 5	After Jan. 5 & On-Site	Total (includes meals)
MVMA Member, VMA Member of Other State (not practicing in Montana)	\$390	\$430	
Life Member requesting CE	\$350	\$385	
Non VMA Member	\$520	\$560	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager	\$215	\$255	
Student/Life Member <i>not</i> requesting CE	free	free	(any meals must be purchased below)

Single-Day Registration: Friday: 8 CE Hours Saturday: 6 CE Hours	Early Bird Registration By Jan. 5	After Jan. 5 & On-Site	Total (includes meals)
MVMA Member, VMA Member of Other State Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$325	\$365	
Life Member requesting CE Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$295	\$330	
Non VMA Member Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$455	\$495	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$185	\$225	
Student/Life Member <i>not</i> requesting CE Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	free	free	(any meals must be purchased below)

Guest/Life/Student Meals	Guest Name:	Meals – Life w/o CE, Students, Guests ONLY	
Both Days – all meals			\$155
One Day Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday		Friday only	\$100
		Sat. only	\$80
Friday Evening Social Hour/Entertainment ONLY			\$25

Please note any dietary restrictions below:

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to MVMA.*

**Lodging:** A limited number of discounted rooms is available at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn in Bozeman for \$119/night plus taxes/fees until sold out or Dec. 22. To reserve, call (406) 587-5261 and refer to the MVMA Room Block.

Send Registration Form with payment to: MVMA, PO Box 6322, Helena, MT 59604  
Or register online at [mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org).

Questions? Call or email: [info@mtvma.org](mailto:info@mtvma.org) | (406) 447-4259