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## **The Bridge Club Brings The Challenges of Veterinary Technicians Forward**

*Asks veterinary medicine to prioritize sustainable solutions*

PALATINE, Ill. — August 6, 2024 – Known for fostering crucial dialogues, [The Bridge Club](#) is gearing up for another significant event: a virtual discussion focused on the often-overlooked profession of veterinary technicians (Vet Techs) and the growing challenges they face. **Scheduled for September 18**, the online gathering aims to provide a platform for veterinary technicians to voice their opinions on what the overall profession should prioritize to enhance their role and recognition.

There are approximately 118,000 individuals using the title of veterinary technician/veterinary nurse according to Animal Health Economics 2021 report. Despite their crucial role in veterinary care, veterinary technicians continue to encounter numerous challenges, including title protection, underutilization, low compensation, and high turnover rates.

Since 2018, the veterinary community has engaged in numerous discussions on how to convince veterinarians to place greater value on their veterinary technicians. “Sadly, the majority of veterinarians still do not leverage their technicians to their fullest capabilities,” says Mark Cushing, Founder of Animal Policy Group and advocate for veterinary technicians, “It is time to take a different approach beyond changing veterinarians’ attitude towards veterinary technicians. It’s time to actually solve the challenges and create a successful path forward for all technicians.”

The Bridge Club conversation is free and open to all veterinary professionals, Vet Techs, and interested parties to join this essential conversation and contribute to shaping the future of the veterinary technician profession. The conversation will explore whether progress has been made in certain practices and what concrete steps can be taken to further improve the situation without relying solely on veterinarians' actions or approvals.

### **Key Issues to Address:**

1. Establishing a licensing board and control of accreditation for veterinary technicians, similar to the system in place for human nurses.
2. Ensuring equal representation of veterinarians and Vet Techs on state veterinary boards.
3. Allowing Vet Techs to own veterinary practices, either independently or in partnership with veterinarians and investors.
4. Clarifying and endorsing practice rights and privileges for Vet Techs, beyond the four features of practice limited to veterinarians (diagnosis, prognosis, prescriptions, surgery).
5. Completing licensure of Vet Techs in all 50 states as a priority for the entire veterinary industry.

This event is a critical step in elevating the conversation from attitudinal changes to actionable solutions that empower Vet Techs. By recognizing credentialed Vet Techs as professionals with accredited degrees and national board certification by the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE), administered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, the veterinary community can take meaningful steps towards addressing core issues comprehensively.

For more information and to register for the event, please visit <https://www.thebridgeclub.com/events/lets-prioritize-veterinary-technicians>.

**THE BRIDGE CLUB CONVERSATIONS, INC.**

The Bridge Club is dedicated elevating veterinary medicine by recognizing those who are making a difference and is committed to helping the profession build bridges to address the biggest challenges facing veterinary medicine through critical conversations. To learn more about those who are changing veterinary medicine or add your voice to a conversation visit [www.thebridgeclub.com](http://www.thebridgeclub.com).

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