

Passion

When I was asked to write this column, I started to reflect on my passions in life—what they were when I was a child, and what they are today. I have been lucky enough to transform some of my early passions into my career. As a child, I loved being outside, playing with animals. You could often find me out playing with our pets, the neighbors' pets, stray pets... I was the child who rescued stray cats and stood up for abused animals. I distinctly remember, as a girl of about 8, chasing some neighbor boys and pelting them with rocks because they were throwing rocks at a stray cat. (Over the years, I have learned better coping mechanisms when confronted with animal abuse, such as volunteering at a humane society.)



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I also had a passion for learning. I still do.

Being able to turn my passion for animals into a profession is a blessing, and it was other people's passion that allowed it to happen. People like Dr. Harold Knirk, who saw the need for formal training of veterinary technicians and spearheaded the program I attended at Michigan State University, and Dr. John Thurmon, who hired me into the anesthesia section of the University of Illinois and took me under his wing. All the veterinarians who had faith in me and pushed me to do more than I thought I could, and my husband, who always told me I could do anything I set my mind to. When others have faith in you, it truly gives you wings. I am grateful to all those in my profession who have given me that strength and allowed me to reach heights I never expected.

The road hasn't always been easy, or even straight. Attending Michigan State was not an easy decision. It was a 6.5-hour drive from my home, in a state where I didn't know a soul. I had to take a leap of faith and step out of my comfort zone. After graduating, I worked at a private practice. My goal was to work at a university in emergency and critical care, but a job in the anesthesia section came up first, and the human resource representative told me I should take it. Little did I know where it would lead! I thoroughly enjoyed my time there, only leaving because I married a resident and we moved.

I took several years off to raise our children (another passion of mine), but I kept up with my love of animals by volunteering at a local humane society and spay/neuter clinic and reading my husband's veterinary journals. When I went back to work, I jumped in with both

continued on page 11



WHAT MOVES YOU?

Veterinary technicians are the heart of veterinary medicine. We are passionate and dedicated, and we each have a story to tell. *Today's Veterinary Technician* wants to hear yours!

What drives you?
What inspires you?
What moves you?

Send us your story at
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Submissions should be approximately
500 words or less and may be
posted on our website or edited
for publication in the journal.

Tell us your story!

*"If you follow your
passions, you will never
be disappointed."*

—Brenda Feller