



**Jennifer Johnson, VMD, CVPP
Arizona, USA**

Q: Why did you join IVAPM?

A: I joined IVAPM specifically in an effort to earn my Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner (CVPP) certification (which I earned in 2012). However, I quickly became involved as I enjoyed the interaction with like-minded professionals who became mentors.

Q: What is the importance of pain management in veterinary medicine?

A: As a general practitioner, I had an "ah-ha" moment upon realizing if I concentrated more on the identification of pain and the treatment of pain in my patients, I was going to have better outcomes and provide better quality of life. I completely changed my mode of practice; instead of focusing on determining the disease and treating the illness, I began focusing more on patient pain assessment and comfort. As a result, my practice in veterinary medicine is much more rewarding and positive.

Q: What vet medicine pain management related initiatives are you involved with and/or most proud of accomplishing?

A: I've been a private, small animal practitioner for 25 years. Most recently, I was an AAHA-veterinary practice owner for 10 years and built the practice from a small two-veterinarian practice into a six veterinarian, 45-staff member, high-quality practice. Additionally, I've been honored to be a veterinary educator for the last 12 years, and have enjoyed travelling throughout the US teaching about pain management and anesthesia in private practice, thermal imaging, laser therapy and small animal practice management.

Q: What passion veterinary projects are you currently involved?

A: In 2017, I became involved with Los Peluditos de Ecuador, which is a branch of the non-profit [eagleYcondor](#) and brings veterinary care to pets and street dogs in Ecuador. Additionally, I'm a former board member and still active consultant for [PACT for Animals](#) - an organization providing temporary homes for pets of deployed service personnel.

Dr. Johnson is an undergraduate of West Chester University and earned her veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania.