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Q: Why did you join IVAPM?

A: I joined the IVAPM to find colleagues that are as passionate about pain management and animal welfare as I am.

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

A: Working with non-verbal species that are still highly sentient I believe it is our responsibility to learn all we can about how pain can acutely and chronically affect animals and their wellbeing. While pain management is only one component of keeping animal healthy and happy it is something I have dedicated my career to.

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

A: My dear friend and co-director, Tasha McNerney, coined the idea of Animal Pain Awareness month. It has been an honor to help this initiative grow. I am also part of leadership for the Veterinary Anesthesia Nerds which works collaboratively to enhance awareness and best practices in the areas of anesthesia and analgesia.

I have been involved in pain research since 2009 and have had the pleasure to publish on the topic.

Q: What passion veterinary projects are you currently involved?

A: Besides the Veterinary Anesthesia Nerds I am also the co-founder of the Veterinary Cannabinoid Academy which also strives to educate veterinary professionals about the complexities of using cannabinoids in practice.

I am fortunate to be working with a very supportive boss who is allowing me to explore EEG monitoring for anesthetic cases to assess levels of consciousness and anesthetic impacts on the brain and how this translates to the periphery systems.

Stephen is employed by Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Stanford University School of Medicine in the Department of Neurobiology. In addition to conducting research, Stephen is an award-winning international lecturer on anesthesia, pain management, cannabis, and best research practices. He is on the DVM360 Editorial Advisory Board, has contributed to numerous textbooks/articles, and was also a column coordinator for one of Nature's journals. He believes strongly in promoting diversity and veterinary technician elevation within the industry.