



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 4, 2008**

**Contact: Lori Aldrete: 916-552-2654 (office) or 916-501-2654 (cell)**

### **Innovative Program for Veterinary Technicians Announces Fresno Class**

*Seventeen week program answers the call to bring a California  
Alternate Route program to the Central Valley*

**Need:** The shortage of licensed veterinary technicians is growing worse. Experts in the field contend for each practicing veterinarian, there should be one licensed veterinary technician. But the gap only appears to be widening with veterinarians outnumbering veterinary technicians by at least a 2-to-1 margin.

New statistics released by the federal Department of Labor reveal the number of veterinary technician jobs is expected to increase by 41 percent from 71,000 to 100,000 by 2016. For every one technician graduating from an accredited program, there are 6-8 jobs available.

**Solution:** Veterinary Allied Staff Education (VASE), an established alternate route veterinary education program whose curriculum has been accepted by the California Veterinary Medical Board, will open a Central Valley class site in Fresno to join the current sites in Sacramento and San Diego. The program is specifically designed to help aspiring technicians complete the State of California's educational requirements for licensing, therefore opening more doors for a greater number of currently unlicensed veterinary staff to progress in their chosen field by becoming licensed Registered Veterinary Technicians. The popular program will open in Fresno on the campus of San Joaquin Memorial High School on August 11, 2008.

**Success:** Students enrolled say the short 17-week program is financially feasible and the evening classes allow them to work and earn pay in a veterinary hospital setting while fulfilling the classroom requirements of California's Alternate Route, a program for those already employed in the veterinary field.

**To Register:** Potential students should call the Veterinary Allied Staff Education office at 888-499-8273 for more information or to register for upcoming classes.

**Interviews:** VASE founders and Program Directors Al Aldrete, DVM, former chair of the California Veterinary Medical Board, and Alex Henderson, RVT are available to speak about the program, the continuing vet-tech shortage and what's being done to increase the supply of licensed veterinary technicians.

**Contact:** Lori Aldrete (916) 552-2654 for more information or to arrange interviews.