

Faculty Focus



Susan Walker

Dr. Susan Walker, D.V.M is the Program Director for the Veterinary Technology Program. She also teaches Veterinary Anesthesia, Practical Medical and Surgical Experience, and Large Animal Techniques.

Dr. Walker loves veterinary medicine because “It is about helping animals.” Anything that is directly related to taking care of animals is something that she has always enjoyed. She is most proud of the quality of care that we can instill in students that directly impacts how animals are cared for within the veterinary industry.

When she is not teaching or working on her program director duties, Dr. Walker also enjoys working with animals. In the summer, she is a part of an equine therapy team for a non-profit psychiatric residential treatment facility for children.

Dr. Walker credits her father as the person who had the most influence on her career path. She grew up taking care of animals. When she went to college, she originally pursued a degree in computer science. That changed when she decided she could not see herself enjoying a career in computer science and her father told her she should do what she is good at. She then pursued a degree in veterinary medicine. The best advice her father gave her was to always have something nice to say. Dr. Walker is inspired by her family.

The last book that she read is titled *Birds, Beasts, and Relatives*, by Gerald Durrell.

The most adventurous thing that she has ever done was touring Europe and swimming out in the ocean. She would swim a quarter mile out to a platform and felt that it was, “pretty darn scary” because she said she started thinking about the movie *Jaws*!!

Something that most people do not know about Dr. Walker is that she has taken the Master Gardener course. However, she is ashamed to admit that she is still excellent at growing noxious species of plants!

Dr. Walker's teaching philosophy involves meeting the students at the level that they are at in order for them to be successful. Because of this philosophy, she feels she spends a lot of time with the students in the veterinary technology department. This program is very intensive and takes up a lot of time. This helps the vet tech faculty get to know the students in their program better in order to help them succeed.

Outside of education, Dr. Walker is a member of the Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association Board, the Association of Veterinary Technology Educators, and the American Veterinary Medical Association. When thinking about her profession, she is amazed at the advances in veterinary medicine with autologous stem cell research. She hopes that this type of stem cell therapy can be utilized to a greater extent in human medicine like it is in veterinary medicine.



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