



2023 Board Members:

President:

Arlene Gross
RLAT
Labcorp

Vice President:

Jen Thompson
BS, RVT, RLAT
Labcorp

Secretary:

Katie Harris
BS, RLATG
Labcorp

Treasurer:

Beth Skiles
RVT, VTS(LAM), RLATG,
LSSBB
IU School of Medicine

2023 Council Members:

- Amanda Darbyshire
DVM, DACLAM
Purdue University
- Jen King
LAT, ILAM
Teconic Biosciences
- Andi Barber
RVT, LATG
Labcorp
- Lindsey Dice
BS, RLAT
Labcorp
- Stephanie Blevins
BS, LAT, SRA
Envigo
- Melony Cambell
RALAT
Labcorp



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A Letter From the President:

Welcome back to the Indiana AALAS Branch everyone! I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for taking the time and interest in helping to revitalize this branch! I am looking forward to working with you all to make the INAALAS an active and fun branch! We have many great technicians in our state and now we can look forward to fun new ways to make friends, educate and spread the word about all the great things AALAS has to offer!

We have a very busy time ahead of us as we rebuild our branch. We will need to build a new membership, have fun and educational in person meetings, set up online CE, build a new website, and work to secure vendor memberships and sponsors. I would love to hear any ideas you may have to help obtain these goals.

We had an overwhelming response to our call out for board members and I am excited to say we have representation from the majority of our laboratory animal organizations in the state!

Now I am hoping to see that same overwhelming response during our membership drive! We want to include anyone and everyone that is interested in learning and teaching about what we do! The board is excited to announce that there is NO FEE to become a member for the remainder of 2023! AND, we have an "early bird registration" discount for 2024! Please spread the word about our branch so we can include anyone and everyone possible.

Please feel free to reach out to the board and myself with any ideas you may have for fundraising, how to get involved with our communities, volunteering, etc.

I am looking forward to an exciting time as we bring this branch back stronger than ever!

Arlene Gross, RLAT

INAALAS Branch President





Committee Chairs:

**Branch Technician
Representative:**

Andi Barber

Newsletter:

Katie Harris

Board Member Spotlight:

Board Member: Jen Thompson

Position: Vice President

Q: Where do you work and what is your current position?

A: I am a Senior Research Assistant at Labcorp in Greenfield, IN. I started out as a veterinary technician and 2 years ago I was promoted to Senior Research Assistant, where I do more administrative work for the clinical veterinary and habituation teams.

Q: What would you say is your area of expertise?

A: I have worked in the clinical veterinary department for the last 4 years. I obtained my bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology in 2004. I worked in general veterinary practice, emergency and critical care, education, management, neurology, specialty medicine and laboratory animal science.

Q: How long have you worked in the field of Laboratory Animal Science?

A: 4 years.

Q: What makes you passionate about what we do in our field of work?

A: As a veterinary technician in laboratory animal science, my purpose is to protect animals from pain and distress. Our veterinary team and myself take that responsibility seriously and we do everything to ensure that happens. My job allows me to help and protect animals as well as help humans. I am proud to be a part of developing medications and treatments that can change and heal people's lives.

Q: When did you realize you wanted to work with animals?

A: I grew up on a farm, so I was always hanging out with dogs, cats, horses, pigs, goats and cows. I started following the veterinarian around every time they came to the farm and was fascinated by everything they did. That is when my interest was sparked.

Q: What is your favorite species to work with and why?

A: Laboratory Animal Science is what makes this question so great! We work with a plethora of different species and you wouldn't get that experience anywhere else. Monkeys are my favorite species to work with. They are smart, interactive, personable, funny, lovable and feisty.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Most of my time is spent with my 12-year-old daughter and husband of 18 years. My free time is spent crafting, home decorating, painting and staining old furniture.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I have an 11-year-old Retriever mix, 1 ½ year old Golden Retriever and a 4-year-old 20 pound Siamese who runs the house.





Helpful Links:

AALAS Learning Library

<https://aalaslearninglibrary.org/>

AALAS Webinars

<https://www.aalas.org/education>

AALAS Publications

<https://www.aalas.org/publications>

AALAS Bookstore

<https://www.aalas.org/store>

Want to Learn More?

Register for AALAS Webinars at www.aalas.org/education

Join us for the next AALAS webinar!

Our upcoming webinar, **The Risk Assessment Process: It Takes a Village**, will be on August 22, 2023, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm CT.

The speaker will provide:

- An overview of the basic risk assessment process as it applies to research involving live animals
- Examples that show how personnel and animals can be protected by applying basic risk assessment principles



Technician Spotlight:

Technician: Heather Horton

Q: Where do you work and what is your current position?

A: I work at Envigo in 202A, Operations Team Lead

Q: What would you say is your area of expertise?

A: Being a good leader

Q: How long have you worked in the field of Laboratory Animal Science?

A: 9 years

Q: What makes you passionate about what we do in our field of work?

A: I have had multiple family members benefit from pharmaceuticals ranging from cancer treatment to rheumatoid arthritis. They were lucky to have benefitted from medications that animals in research helped pave the way to getting the medications available to humans. Our animals save lives and that is something I am passionate about!

Q: When did you realize you wanted to work with animals?

A: I have always loved animals and working with them is just a bonus for me.

Q: What is your favorite species to work with and why?

A: My all-time favorite is Hamsters. I love that they have a unique personality. If you know you know.

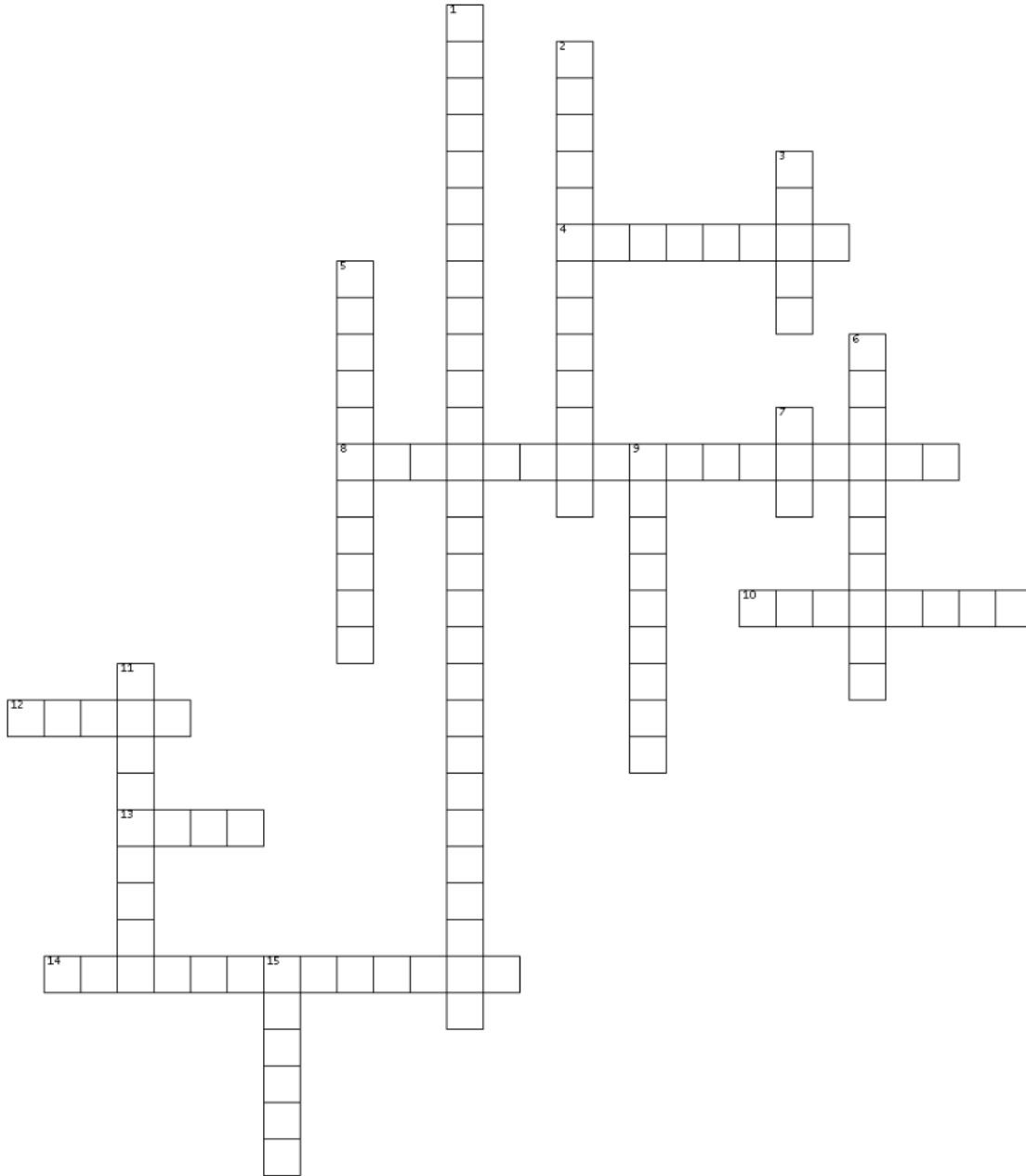
Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I love to read and binge watch tv shows

Q: Do you have any pets?

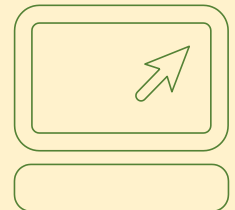
A: I three dogs and several cats including foster kittens





Have a Technician you would like to be spotlighted?
or
Have Content you would like to be featured?

Contact Katie Harris at kaitlyn.harris@covance.com to nominate a technician to be spotlighted, submit articles, tech tips, or ideas you have that you think we should highlight in our Newsletter.



AALAS Puzzle of the Month:

ACROSS

- 4. Another name for "difficult birth."
- 8. What instrument monitors the electrical activity of the heart?
- 10. What injectable anesthetic is commonly used with primates?
- 12. Commercially prepared rabbit diets have a high _____ content.
- 13. Taurine is an essential amino acid for what animal?
- 14. Scientific name of African Clawed Frog.

DOWN

- 1. HEPA is the acronym for _____.
- 2. Who is responsible for the implementation of the protocol and the conduct of the study?

- 3. The most common allergen of mice, the Mus m 1 protien, is found in their _____.
- 5. In a rodent-breeding colony, which type of breeding scheme should be used to obtain minimal homozygosity in the shortest period of time?
- 6. Eating feces is termed _____.
- 7. A male ferret is called a _____.
- 9. Sterilizes instruments, equipment, and glass items using superheated steam and pressure.
- 11. Using 100 mice in a research study instead of 150 would be an example of which of the 3 Rs?
- 15. The golden hamster is also known as the _____ hamster.



Want to Obtain an AALAS Certification? Here's How:

Technician Certification



The AALAS Technician Certification Program sets professional standards for the advancement of laboratory animal science. This program was developed to recognize professional achievement and provide an authoritative endorsement of a technician's level of knowledge in laboratory animal technology.

AALAS certifies technicians at three levels:

- Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT)
- Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT)
- Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG)

The technician certification designations of ALAT, LAT, and LATG are well known and widely used throughout the varied fields of laboratory animal care. In fact, these certifications have come to be a common requirement for a lab animal care position.

		Education level				Lab animal work experience (years)
		Current cert. level	HS/ GED or higher	AA/AS or higher	BA/BS or higher	
ALAT Exam	<input type="checkbox"/>					2
	<input type="checkbox"/>		•			1
	<input type="checkbox"/>			•		0.5
LAT Exam	<input type="checkbox"/>		•			3
	<input type="checkbox"/>			•		2
	<input type="checkbox"/>				•	1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ALAT	•			0.5*
LATG Exam	<input type="checkbox"/>		•			5
	<input type="checkbox"/>			•		4
	<input type="checkbox"/>				•	3
	<input type="checkbox"/>	LAT	•			0.5*

* Work experience must be acquired after attaining the specified certification.
 ** Option for those without documentation of education level.

	ALAT	LAT	LATG
Number of questions	120	155	180
Time limit	2 hrs	2.5 hrs	3 hrs
Anim Hus, Health, Welfare	66–92%	65–91%	50%
Facility Admin & Mgmt	8–34%	9–35%	50%

Steps to take the Exam:

1. Fill out an application here: <https://www.aalas.org/certification/technician-certification>
2. Submit your application with everything filled out and all required documents.
3. You will receive an email containing your authorization to test letter and instructions to set up a Prometric testing date and time. This must be done within 90 days of receiving the email.
4. Study up and prepare for the level you are trying to attain. Materials to study can be found at: <https://www.aalas.org/certification/technician-certification/technician-certification-resources>
5. You will know if you Pass/Fail as soon as you finish the exam and will be given a printout of proof and an email confirmation to give your workplace.
6. Your certificate will be sent out and delivered to your house about 2 weeks later.

Requirements to take the exam can be seen on the left.



Here's what each exam covers.





Indiana AALAS Chapter Membership

NO CHARGE for 2023!!

2024 Membership Opportunities:

**** Individual Membership Early Bird Special****

\$25 if received by November 15, 2023

Individual Membership (after November 15, 2023): \$30

Student Membership (proof of school registration required): \$15

Institutional Memberships: \$30 per member

0-10 members / No discount

11-20 members / 5% discount

21-50 members / 10% discount

51-75 members/ 15% discount

76+ members / 20% discount

Vendor Memberships:

\$100 - Includes 2 memberships and placement on newsletter

(Additional memberships available for \$30 each.)

AALAS Puzzle Answers:

Across

- 4. Dystocia
- 8. Electrocardiogram
- 10. Ketamine
- 12. Fiber
- 13. Cats
- 14. Xenopus Laevis

Down

- 1. High Efficiency Particulate Air
- 2. Study Director
- 3. Urine
- 5. Outbreeding
- 6. Coprophagy
- 7. Hob
- 9. Autoclave
- 11. Reduction
- 15. Syrian

Upcoming AALAS Events:



Save the Date!
2024 District 5
AALAS Meeting

May 1-3, 2024
Columbus, Ohio
Renaissance Westerville-Polaris Hotel

