

PROGRAM COURSE

1. **PROGRAM TITLE: The Sixth Annual National Association for Black Veterinarians Conference**
2. **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** This year's event will be themed **"Inspiring the Next Generation of Black Veterinarians: Empowering Voices for Diversity in Veterinary Medicine,"** Our goal is to reflect a shared mission to raise awareness, support inclusive pathways into the profession, and promote leadership among Black veterinary professionals at every stage of their careers. This conference represents a critical initiative by the Institute for Healthcare Education Leadership and Professionals (iHELP) to confront the persistent underrepresentation of Black professionals in the field of veterinary medicine. With a strong emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and equity, this national convening will bring together students, professionals, educators, researchers, and institutional leaders to create actionable solutions and amplify Black voices within the veterinary profession. Through a dynamic program of keynote presentations, panel discussions, student-led sessions, networking opportunities, mentoring events, and a celebratory scholarship gala, the conference aims to inspire, equip, and mobilize attendees to advance change within academic institutions, clinical practice, government, and community-based veterinary services.

General Topics Areas:

- Evidence-based practices in Recruitment, Admissions, and Enrollment
 - Climate for Inclusion in Veterinary Schools
 - Education and outreach in pre-veterinary programs and veterinary schools
 - Professional and Financial Support for Students
 - Mentoring and Student Experiences
 - Practice Management and Finance
 - Clinical Research and Practices
 - AI in Veterinary Practice
3. **LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of the conference, participants will be able to:**
 - Identify and articulate diverse career pathways in veterinary medicine, drawing inspiration from the lived experiences and journeys of Black veterinary professionals and role models.
 - Recognize systemic barriers contributing to the underrepresentation of Black professionals in veterinary medicine and propose actionable strategies to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging within academic and professional spaces.
 - Navigate academic and career pathways effectively, including accessing scholarships, internships, externships, research opportunities, and professional development resources that strengthen entry into veterinary medicine.
 - Establish and sustain meaningful mentorship relationships, leveraging structured networking opportunities to build long-term professional connections with peers, faculty, and practitioners.
 - Demonstrate enhanced clinical, academic, and leadership competencies through engagement in educational sessions, panels, and skill-building workshops.
 - Engage collaboratively with institutions and industry partners, understanding how veterinary schools, HBCUs, healthcare organizations, and government agencies contribute to recruitment, retention, and student success initiatives.

- Explore how AI is reshaping diagnostics, clinical workflow, documentation, imaging, and practice management.

4. PROGRAM AGENDA:

	<p style="text-align: center;">Announcing the 2026 National Association for Black Veterinarians Conference Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Theme: "Inspiring the Next Generation of Black Veterinarians: Empowering Voices for Diversity in Veterinary Medicine"</p> <p>Join Us for the 6th Annual National Association for Black Veterinarians Conference and Scholarship Gala!</p> <p>This conference represents a critical initiative by the Institute for Healthcare Education Leadership and Professionals (iHELP) to confront the persistent underrepresentation of Black professionals in the field of veterinary medicine. With a strong emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and equity, this national convening will bring together students, professionals, educators, researchers, and institutional leaders to create actionable solutions and amplify Black voices within the veterinary profession. Through a dynamic program of keynote presentations, panel discussions, student-led sessions, networking opportunities, mentoring events, and a celebratory scholarship gala, the conference aims to inspire, equip, and mobilize attendees to advance change within academic institutions, clinical practice, government, and community-based veterinary services</p> <p>The 2026 National Association for Black Veterinarians Conference is more than an event: it's a movement toward creating a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable veterinary profession. Join us to connect with like-minded professionals, enhance your understanding of racial equity, and help shape a future of inclusivity in veterinary medicine.</p>
I	<p>General Session: Wellness and Self Care and Professional Growth</p> <p>Session: The Black Tax <i>Presenter:</i> Mr. Shawn Rochester, Keynote Speaker, Director of Trident Capital Group and CEO of Good Steward LLC (GSL) <i>Session Length:</i> One hour <i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define the concept of the "Black Tax" and explain how systemic inequities produce cumulative financial disadvantages. 2. Identify key systems — including education, housing, employment, healthcare, and criminal justice — where disparities create economic impact. 3. Analyze how historical policies and contemporary practices contribute to wealth gaps

	<p>and limited economic mobility.</p> <p>4. Interpret data and research findings related to racial economic disparities.</p> <p>5. Discuss actionable strategies that organizations, policymakers, and communities can implement to reduce inequities.</p> <p>6. Reflect on their own sphere of influence and identify opportunities to promote economic fairness and equity.</p>
2	<p>General Session: Wellness and Self Care and Professional Growth</p> <p><i>Session: White Coat, Black Face</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Pamela Buchanan, Keynote Speaker, TEDx Speaker, Author, and Compassionate Physician</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>1. Understand what stress is: Stress is a signal, not a sentence. Stress is not the problem. Your relationship to stress is. Attendees will leave with a new understanding of what stress is telling them — and practical tools to respond instead of react.</p> <p>2. Understand the Emotional Flatline: We can do hard things — and here’s how we don’t flatline doing them. Black professionals carry an additional tax that the mainstream wellness conversation ignores. Dr. Buchanan introduces the Emotional Flatline™ — what it is, how to recognize it, and most importantly, how to prevent it.</p> <p>3. Understand Purpose: Purpose is the prescription. Reconnecting to your why is what makes hard things sustainable. Purpose doesn’t eliminate the difficulty — it makes you inextinguishable in the face of it.</p>
3	<p>Concurrent Session: Strategies for Promoting Racial Equity in Veterinary Education and Professional Growth</p> <p><i>Session: Mic’d Up Medicine: Storytelling as a Catalyst for Black Representation in Vet Med</i> <i>Presenter: Ryan Johnson, CEO</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>1. Understand how digital media platforms (podcasts, video, and social) can elevate Black voices and disrupt underrepresentation in veterinary medicine.</p> <p>2. Learn the basic tools and strategies needed to launch culturally relevant content that drives impact and builds visibility.</p>

	<p>3. Explore how brand partnerships, interviews, and authentic storytelling can lead to professional and financial growth for Black veterinary professionals.</p>
4	<p>Concurrent Session: Professional Growth and The Climate for Inclusion in Research at Academic Health Sciences Centers</p> <p><i>Session: Impact of DEI in the Animal Research Setting</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Mildred Randolph, DVM, DACLAM</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using DEI training to Improve Workplace Culture 2. Assessing Inclusiveness in the Animal Research Environment 3. Improving Job Satisfaction by addressing DEI issues
5	<p>Concurrent session: Professional Growth</p> <p><i>Session: The Power of Choice</i> <i>Presenter: Julius Rhodes, SPHR</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow participants to better understand how their mindset, a focus on resilience and inclusion helps to optimize one's ability to move forward with confidence in the field of veterinary field.
6	<p>Concurrent session: Wellness and Self Care</p> <p><i>Session: Inclusion Through Increasing Connections</i> <i>Presenter: Julius Rhodes, SPHR</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objective: Understanding and implementing personal branding to increase inclusion and connection</p>
7	<p>Concurrent session: Clinical Experiences</p> <p><i>Session: “Keepin’ It Real”: The Most Common Cases Seen In Small Animal GP</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Jayda Bussey-Spratling, DVM</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To gain knowledge in understanding how to develop a problem-list, how to diagnose, and how to develop an appropriate treatment plan 2. Understand how to select a treatment plan that is most suitable for clients of differing economic backgrounds 3. Learn how to select the appropriate diagnostics based on presenting complaints and physical exam findings.
8	<p>Concurrent session: Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion in Veterinary Workplaces and Schools</p> <p>Session: Harnessing Your Voice: Advocacy and Leadership in Veterinary Medicine <i>Presenter: Avery Alston, Director DEI</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empower students and professionals to recognize the unique value of their voices 2. Equip students and professionals with practical strategies for effective advocacy 3. Inspire students and professionals to become agents of change and future leaders
9	<p>Concurrent session: Professional Growth</p> <p>Session: Beyond the Code, From Imposter to Innovator: A Journey to Professional Confidence <i>Presenter: Avery Alston, Director DEI</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To help Black veterinary students and professionals recognize and understand the psychological and social factors that erode their professional confidence. 2. To equip attendees with a practical toolkit of self-awareness and action-oriented strategies for building and sustaining their professional confidence. . 3. To inspire attendees to view their newfound confidence as a catalyst for professional leadership and a means to help create a more inclusive and equitable veterinary field.
10	<p>Concurrent session: Professional Growth, Wellness and Self Care</p> <p>Session: Beyond the Basics: Advancing Leadership and Performance Strategies in Veterinary Medicine <i>Presenter: Akeem Robinson, PhD</i></p>

	<p><i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify advanced leadership practices that foster psychological safety and long-term career sustainability in veterinary teams. 2. Apply the C.A.R.E. framework to strengthen motivation, communication, and trust among high-performing professionals. 3. Develop actionable strategies to enhance retention, resilience, and success in veterinary careers through purposeful leadership.
11	<p>Concurrent session: Clinical Research and Practices</p> <p><i>Session: RECOVER 2.0: Updates in Veterinary CPR</i> <i>Presenter: Joseph DeFulio, CVT, CFE, CCFP, CVBL</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the key components associated with basic and advanced life support (BLS & ALS). 2. Participants will be introduced to the updates that were made to the RECOVER guidelines in 2024, along with developing an understanding of what influenced said updates.
12	<p>Concurrent session: Professional Growth</p> <p><i>Session: The Effective Approach to Client Concerns</i> <i>Presenter: Joseph DeFulio, CVT, CFE, CCFP, CVBL</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will demonstrate a foundational understanding of service recovery and its application in the veterinary clinical practice setting. 2. Participants will be able to explain and apply the L.A.S.T. method of service recovery. 3. Participants will be introduced to different mechanisms that will allow them to more objectively identify and analyze thematic client concern opportunities within their practice.
13	<p>Concurrent session: Professional Growth, Wellness and Self Care</p> <p><i>Sessions: Electronic Overload: Managing the Influx of Communication</i> <i>Presenter: Joseph DeFulio, CVT, CFE, CCFP, CVBL</i></p>

	<p><i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will develop a foundational understanding of the key characteristics of information overload. 2. Participants will be able to identify the causes, symptoms, and solutions associated with information overload. 3. Participants will be equipped with tools and resources that will help them to more effectively navigate the influx of communication moving forward.
14	<p>Concurrent session: Clinical Research and Practices</p> <p><i>Sessions: Practical Tips for Wound Management</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Karyn Collier, DVM</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objective: What wounds can be comfortably managed in the GP setting; primary closure vs. second intention healing; when to refer</p>
15	<p>Concurrent session: Clinical Research and Practices</p> <p><i>Sessions: Equine Medicine and Surgery 1</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Nolton Pattio, VMD</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objective: To share experience, strength and hope in equine veterinary medicine</p>
16	<p>Concurrent session: Clinical Research and Practices</p> <p><i>Sessions: Equine Medicine and Surgery 2</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Nolton Pattio, VMD</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objective: To share experience, strength and hope in equine veterinary medicine</p>
17	<p>Concurrent session: Professional Growth, Wellness and Self Care</p> <p><i>Session: You Belong Here: Navigating Imposter Syndrome as a Minority in Early Veterinary Practice</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Tonya Cooksey, DVM</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. . Define imposter syndrome as it appears in veterinary medicine and identify personal, clinical, and profession-specific factors that contribute to imposter thoughts in early practice. 2. Differentiate healthy self-reflection and learning-related uncertainty from harmful,

	<p>persistent self-doubt, and recognize how imposter syndrome influences clinical decision-making, feedback interpretation, and professional confidence.</p> <p>3. Apply practical, evidence-informed strategies to manage imposter thoughts in real clinical settings while building a personalized support, mentorship, and growth framework to promote resilience and confidence in early-career veterinary practice.</p>
18	<p>Concurrent session: Neurodiversity, learning styles, and equity in veterinary education</p> <p><i>Sessions: From Survival to Strategy: Neurodiversity, Test Performance, and thriving in Vet School</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Donita McCants- Prepti, DVM</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify common neurodiverse learning and processing patterns. 2. Differentiate between intelligence, learning style, and test performance. 3. Apply practical strategies for studying, retention and understanding the role of academic accommodations.
19	<p>Concurrent Session: Professional Growth, Wellness and Self Care</p> <p><i>Session: Designing a Sustainable Veterinary Career: Relief Work, Leadership, and Career Ownership</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Ashley Hopkins, DVM</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendees will gain practical tools and mindset shifts to design a veterinary career that supports wellbeing, financial stability, and long-term professional fulfillment. 2. This session will explore how relief work, leadership development, and intentional career planning can expand options, prevent burnout, and empower veterinarians to build careers aligned with their values and life goals.
20	<p>Concurrent session: Students' Symposium: Student Experience</p> <p><i>Session: More than a Beach: The Truth About Island Students</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 1: Treasure Howard, DVM Candidate</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 2: Atim Kilama</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 3: Voris Bryant II</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 4: Teighlor Dukes</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 5: Emerald King</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 6: Darius Caffey</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p>

	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dispel common myths about Caribbean veterinary schools by understanding the academic rigor and clinical training island students complete. 2. Recognize the resilience, cultural competence, and adaptability developed through training in an international and resource-diverse environment. 3. Advocate for equity and inclusion by challenging stigma and supporting the value island-trained veterinarians bring to the profession.
21	<p>Concurrent Session: Professional Growth, Mentorship program</p> <p><i>Session: Faith Over Fear: Pivoting Paths to Veterinary Ownership</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Krista Miller, DVM</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Own Your Path: Explore real-world pathways to veterinary practice ownership. 2. Lead Through Faith & Resilience: Turn setbacks and life pivots into growth and opportunity. 3. Build Legacy & Community: Mentor, serve, and create impact while thriving professionally and financially
22	<p>Concurrent Session: Students Symposium: Support for Students</p> <p><i>Session: Calm the Noise: Reducing Academic Stress, Test Anxiety & Imposter Thoughts for STEM and Pre-Professional Students</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Tyra Davis, DVM, CTHP</i> <i>Session Length: One hour</i> <i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define academic stress and test anxiety, and explain their physiological effects on the brain and memory recall. 2. Identify common imposter thought patterns, particularly among high-achieving and marginalized students in STEM. 3. Differentiate between thoughts and facts to reframe negative or inaccurate self-beliefs. 4. Demonstrate at least two evidence-based breathing techniques (Box Breathing and Physiological Sigh) to regulate stress in real time. 5. Apply a 3-minute journaling framework to reduce cognitive overload and improve focus.

	<p>6. Develop a personalized action step to manage stress and enhance academic performance.</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>Concurrent Session: Professional Growth, Mentorship program</p> <p><i>Session: "High Stakes, High Reward: Communication as Your Competitive Edge"</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Tyra Davis, DVM, CTHP</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Equip participants with practical communication strategies to perform effectively in high-pressure, high-stakes professional and clinical situations. 2. Strengthen participants' ability to use clear, confident, and adaptive communication to improve outcomes, teamwork, and decision-making. 3. Enable participants to recognize communication as a critical tool for reducing errors, building trust, and gaining a competitive advantage in professional settings.
<p>24</p>	<p>Concurrent Session: Professional Growth, Mentorship program</p> <p><i>Session: Preparing for Veterinary Practice Financing: A Roadmap for Early-Career Veterinarians</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Alexandra Kohrs</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the basic financing pathways for future veterinary clinic ownership, including startup, purchase, and expansion options. 2. Differentiate between personal and business credit and explain why both matters early in a veterinary career. 3. Identify practical first steps to begin building strong financial and credit profiles, even before clinic ownership. 4. Recognize the key financial factors lenders consider when evaluating veterinary practice loan applications. 5. Avoid common early-career financial missteps that can delay or prevent future clinic funding and Create a simple, personalized roadmap for preparing for veterinary practice financing within the next 3–10 years.

25	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical Session</p> <p><i>Session: Urine Sediments and Urinalysis</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 1: Dr. Athema L. Etzioni, DVM, MS, DACVP</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 2: Ajiona Lunsford, CVTg</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpret common urine sediment findings and recognize their clinical significance. 2. Identify and apply key diagnostic techniques used in urinalysis procedures. 3. Correlate urinalysis results with relevant clinical conditions and patient presentations and implement best practices for accurate urine sample analysis and reporting.
26	<p>Concurrent Session: Professional Growth, Mentorship program</p> <p><i>Session: Transitioning in Veterinary Careers</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 1: Dr Athema L. Etzioni, DVM, MS, DACVP</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 2: Ajiona Lunsford, CVTg</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>This panel will explore educational pathways, career progression, and practical insights for veterinary professionals at every stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vet Assistant to Veterinary Technician • Veterinary Technician to DVM • Undergraduate to DVM Pathway
27	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session: Wet Lab Focus: Hematology and Blood Smear Mastery</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr Athema L. Etzioni, DVM, MS, DACVP</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p>

	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The critical importance of peripheral blood smear evaluation. 2. Differentiating normal vs. abnormal hematologic findings across species. 3. Recognizing inflammatory changes, toxic neutrophils, and left shifts. 4. Avoiding misinterpretation from automated analyzers. 5. Practical blood smear preparation techniques. 6. Case-based learning highlighting diagnostic pitfalls
28	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session:</i> Optimizing the Care of Pets with Chronic Kidney Disease</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Dr Rhesa Houston</p> <p><i>Session Length:</i> One hour</p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore Strategies to Optimize Care for Pets with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) 2. Review and discuss best practices and innovative approaches to improving outcomes for animals diagnosed with CKD. 3. Emphasize the Importance of Early Diagnosis of Kidney Disease and Highlight the benefits, processes, and available tools for identifying CKD in pets sooner. 4. Explain the Role of Nutritional Management in CKD and Demonstrate how targeted nutritional plans support pets, benefit pet owners, and assist the veterinary team. 5. Define the veterinary team’s vital role in recommending nutritional management for CKD. 6. Present Recent Advances in Microbiome Research Related to Kidney Health and Discuss the connection between the health of the intestinal microbiome and kidney function in pets. 7. Identify actionable ways to leverage microbiome knowledge to enhance support for pets with CKD.
29	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session:</i> Interpreting the CBC: Attention to Detail is Everything</p> <p><i>Presenter :</i> Dr. Joy Bunkley, DVM</p> <p><i>Session Length:</i> One hour</p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the key components of the complete blood count and describe their clinical relevance 2. Demonstrate the significance of hematology in the well and non-well patient 3. Utilize dot plots for interpreting the hemogram, leukogram, and thrombogram 4. Differentiate common patterns of anemia, leukogram changes, and thrombocytopenia 5. Review the importance of, and clinical options for blood film evaluation
30	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session:</i> Serum Chemistry in Context: More than Just Abnormal Values</p> <p><i>Presenter 1:</i> Dr. Nancy A. Sanders, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), DACVECC</p> <p><i>Presenter 2:</i> Dr. Joy Bunkley, DVM</p> <p><i>Session Length:</i> One hour</p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Appreciate the value of the chemistry profile in the well and non-well patient 2. Learn to group analytes on a chemistry panel into organ or systemic categories and recognize patterns of abnormalities for certain diseases 3. Distinguish clinically significant abnormalities from incidental or artifactual findings 4. Embrace the concept of appropriate vs. inappropriate results (vs. “normal” and “abnormal”) 5. Integrate chemistry data assist internal medicine case management
31	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session:</i> Urinalysis, Titers, PCR, Endocrine Tests, Cultures, and other Miscellaneous Diagnostics: Choosing and Interpreting the Right Test</p> <p><i>Presenter 1:</i> Dr. Nancy A. Sanders, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), DACVECC</p> <p><i>Presenter 2:</i> Dr. Joy Bunkley, DVM</p> <p><i>Session Length:</i> One hour</p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Interpret urinalysis results in relation to a variety of internal medicine disorders 2. Select appropriate infectious disease tests based on clinical context 3. Recognize benefits and limitations of various endocrine tests 4. Embrace the concept of appropriate vs. inappropriate results (vs. “normal” and “abnormal”) 5. Develop differential diagnoses lists, diagnoses, and further diagnostic plans from various laboratory results and interpretations.
32	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session:</i> Limitations of Laboratory Diagnostics: Understanding when to Question the Results</p> <p><i>Presenter 1:</i> Dr. Nancy A. Sanders, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), DACVECC</p> <p><i>Presenter 2:</i> Dr. Joy Bunkley, DVM</p> <p><i>Session Length:</i> One hour</p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify common laboratory interferences 2. Recognize patterns suggestive of hemolysis, lipemia, or sample handling errors 3. Understand test limitations related to sensitivity, specificity, and reference intervals 4. Determine when repeat testing or alternative diagnostics are indicated 5. Communicate laboratory uncertainty effectively in clinical decisionmaking
33	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session:</i> New diagnostics: How and When to Use them”</p> <p><i>Presenter 1:</i> Dr. Joy Bunkley, DVM</p> <p><i>Presenter 2:</i> Dr. Nancy A. Sanders, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), DACVECC</p> <p><i>Session Length:</i> One hour</p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the clinical indications for newer diagnostic tests (e.g., SDMA, cystatin B, FGF23,

	<p>cancer diagnostics, fecal antigen tests)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Compare traditional versus emerging diagnostics for common internal medicine conditions 3. Recognize limitations, confounders, and appropriate interpretation of novel biomarkers 4. Determine when advanced diagnostics add value to patient care 5. Incorporate new test results into evidence-based clinical reasoning
34	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session:</i> Interactive Case Rounds: Applying Laboratory Data to Internal Medicine Cases</p> <p><i>Presenter 1:</i> Dr. Nancy A. Sanders, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), DACVECC</p> <p><i>Presenter 2:</i> Dr. Joy Bunkley, DVM</p> <p><i>Session Length:</i> One hour</p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synthesize CBC, chemistry, UA, and specialized diagnostics into cohesive case assessments 2. Develop prioritized problem lists and differential diagnoses using laboratory data 3. Justify diagnostic and treatment decisions based on lab interpretation 4. Identify knowledge gaps and areas of diagnostic uncertainty 5. Apply a systematic approach to lab interpretation across diverse internal medicine cases
35	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session:</i> AI in Veterinary Medicine</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Dr. Gareth J. Buckley, MA, VetMB, DACVECC, DECVECC</p> <p><i>Session Length:</i> One hour</p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request:</i> One CE Credit</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the different types of AI, use cases for each and progression of model capability. 2. Have awareness of the rapid expansion of AI capabilities and to assess impacts on client and patient care, and veterinary professionals

	<p>3. Understand some of the cybersecurity and environmental impacts of AI use and how to mitigate them</p> <p>4. Have knowledge of tools and use cases currently available both for clinical and non clinical support, where they perform well and where they don't and develop the confidence to experiment.</p> <p>5. Understand the impacts of AI in education, training, mentorship and career pathing</p>
36	<p>General Session: Climate of Inclusion in Veterinary Schools</p> <p><i>Session: Two Institutions, One Journey: 45 Years Navigating HBCUs, PWIs, and the Pursuit of Belonging in Veterinary Medicine</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. K. Paige Carmichael, DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share historical perspectives on veterinary medical education through a lived experience 2. Identify strategies that foster success such as mentorship, and mind-set change 3. Offer insights into methods that support persistence and resilience
37	<p>Concurrent Session: Practice Management and Well being</p> <p><i>Session: Leveraging Your Vet Med Superpowers to Navigate Rudeness in the Workplace</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Gay Smith-Spike</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Factors that have contributed to the rise of rudeness 2. The mythology of kindness campaigns 3. Applying our everyday skills, knowledge and abilities with patients to encounters with people
38	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Professional Growth</p> <p><i>Session: AI: What It Is, What's Out There, and What's Coming</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Heidi Hill, MA, CVPM</i></p>

	<p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Walk away with a clear understanding of AI terminology — what AI, machine learning, generative AI, and large language models actually mean for veterinary professionals. 2. Recognize the AI tools already showing up in practice — from diagnostic imaging and AI scribes to clinical decision support. 3. See where veterinary medicine stands versus human healthcare on AI adoption — and what the data tells us about where our profession is heading. 4. Leave with practical next steps for evaluating AI tools, adopting them responsibly, and advocating for inclusive AI in your practice.
39	<p>Concurrent Session: Clinical and Practice Management</p> <p><i>Session: Innovative Frontiers in Veterinary Medicine: Nutraceuticals, Peptides, Ionic Minerals, and Plant-Based Interventions</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dr. Mallory K. Tate, DVM, RBP, DACLAM</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe key mechanisms of action and proposed benefits of selected veterinary nutraceuticals, bioactive peptides, ionic mineral formulations, and medicinal plant-derived compounds used in dogs and cats, and summarize how these products are generally regulated relative to drugs and feeds. 2. Identify at least three clinical conditions in which evidence supports adjunctive use of these interventions, including trace and ionic mineral supplementation, alongside conventional therapies, with emphasis on musculoskeletal, dermatologic, and gastrointestinal disease, while recognizing regulatory and labeling boundaries. 3. Apply an evidence-based framework to evaluate product claims, regulatory status, and safety, including mineral tolerances and potential over-supplementation, and communicate appropriate expectations, legal considerations, and risks to clients considering these therapies.
40	<p>Concurrent Session: Well Being</p> <p><i>Session: iWILL 'til i'mWELL</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Jillandra Rovaris, Ph.D.</i></p>

	<p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the core principles of the “iWILL ‘til i’mWELL” philosophy and how personal willpower, authenticity, and self-awareness contribute to achieving overall wellness and informed life decisions. 2. Explore the “Jill Approach” (Journey In Life and Living) as a therapeutic framework for guiding individuals toward self-discovery, identity development, emotional wellness, and purposeful living.
41	<p>Concurrent Session: Practice Ownership</p> <p><i>Session: Round Table Discussions: Pathways to Veterinary Practice Ownership</i></p> <p><i>Presenter: Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Peyton, DVM</i></p> <p><i>Session Length: One hour</i></p> <p><i>CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare corporate and independent veterinary practice ownership models and evaluate their impact on professional growth, autonomy, and long-term success. 2. Identify practical strategies for building sustainable, community-centered veterinary practices that support entrepreneurship and leadership development. 3. Understand the importance of representation in veterinary practice ownership and explore pathways toward long-term financial growth and wealth building within the profession.
42	<p>General Session: Diversity and Inclusion, Mentorship</p> <p><i>Session: From Awareness to Action: Breaking Barriers to Diversity and Inclusion in the Veterinary Profession (Panel of Black Women in Veterinary Medicine)</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 1: Dr. Annie Daniel, PhD</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 2: Dr. Nancy A. Sanders, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), DACVECC</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 3: Dr. Joy Bunkley, DVM</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 4: Dr. K. Paige Carmichael, DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP</i></p> <p><i>Presenter 5: Dr. Gay Smith-Spike. DVM,</i></p>

Session Length: One hour

CE CREDIT request: One CE Credit

Objectives:

1. Describe key intersectional barriers uniquely impacting Black women in veterinary medicine.
2. Identify how race- and gender-based bias influence recruitment, retention, leadership advancement, and workplace climate.
3. Explain the concept of intersectionality and its relevance to professional experiences in veterinary settings.
4. Recognize behaviors and organizational practices that contribute to exclusion or psychological harm.
5. Implement at least two evidence-informed strategies to foster inclusive, equitable, and supportive professional environments for Black women and other underrepresented colleagues.

General Session: Mentoring

Presenter 1: Dr. Annie Daniel, PhD

Session Length: One hour and 30 minutes

CE CREDIT request: 1;5 CE Credit

Session: Connect & Collaborate: Speed Networking with Veterinary Leaders at NABV 2026

Session Length: 90 minutes

Objectives:

1. Cultivate impactful interactions connecting industry pioneers with current students and seasoned veterinary specialists.
2. Offer comprehensive perspectives regarding organizational structures and diverse career trajectories within the veterinary landscape.
3. Foster a culture of partnership and professional mentorship among all conference attendees.

This ninety-minute engagement facilitates rapid professional exchange between prominent figures in the field and a diverse cohort of veterinary practitioners and aspirants.