Burk receives 2015 TVMDL Director’s Excellence Award

Annually, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) honors staff that has gone above and beyond their duty to ensure that one of the nation’s busiest laboratories runs smoothly. This year, Clinical Pathology Technician II Dana Burk receives a 2015 TVMDL Director’s Excellence Award for the Technician category.

The Clinical Pathology Section in the Amarillo laboratory benefits from Dana Burk’s keen awareness of client service, positive attitude and laboratory skills. For the past 10 years, Burk’s dedication to learning the in’s and out’s of veterinary diagnostics has led to her being a go-to when others need assistance with a variety of lab duties, from navigating the Qualtrax system for document and process management to equipment troubleshooting and operation.

Nominator Scott Reed, DVM, PhD, pathologist in the Amarillo lab said that Burk goes above and beyond her minimum requirements.

“Dana has been a great asset to the laboratory. She demonstrates a great attitude, is instrumental in laboratory team building and has a keen awareness of client service,” said Dr. Reed. “It is relatively easy to teach the skills needed to accomplish tasks within the lab, but it is almost impossible to teach a great attitude like Dana’s.”

In addition to leading by positive example in the Amarillo laboratory, Burk works to educate clients and animal owners outside of the lab. According to William Gilmore, DVM, PhD, Veterinary Pathology section head, Burk prepares and presents courses in cooperation with other higher education institutions.

Recently, a surge in Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) cases in Texas presented an opportunity for Burk’s education in wildlife biology to aid in her experience in diagnostics.

“Dana’s understanding of CWD in cervids has augmented client communications of the current control program in Texas,” said Dr. Gilmore. “Dana has a broad practical understanding of the many varied facets of animal agriculture and uses that knowledge to extend our services.”

Burk’s long tenure at the Amarillo laboratory has warranted her to assume responsibilities outside of her technician duties. She lends a hand to the quality assurance program and works to solve problems during the application of specialized technologies.

TVMDL employs more than 150 professionals that work diligently to uphold the agency’s mission to protect animal and human health through diagnostics. We congratulate all of the 2015 Director’s Excellence Award winners.

For more information on the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.