Seller Spotlight
John Howard, DVM

My Story:

After completing undergrad at Fresno State in Microbiology, which also included a stint at the Fresno Zoo and the Immunology Lab at Valley Children’s Hospital, I attended Vet School at UC Davis. Graduating in 1983, I went to work at Muller Veterinary Hospital in Walnut Creek, CA. Over the last 30 years, I’ve worked as a solo practitioner in Napa to a 4 ½ DVM practice. Despite always being in small animal practice, there were definitely differences. New people brought new ideas, techniques, and skills. During interviews for Associate DVM positions in the last 7 - 10 years, it became evident that there have been changes developing in new graduates. There is a tendency to be less focused on buying into a practice and more concern over dealing with their student loans. As I found myself somewhat reluctantly entering “the golden years”, this became something of a concern.

Why I Chose NVA:

Conversations, when Vets get together, pretty much tend to gravitate towards work and occasionally working conditions. This sometimes includes the various corporate entities in the field. There were mixed emotions when my co-owner, Dr Corey Thompson, mentioned NVA.

I made some phone calls to classmates and acquaintances. I found Dr Rich Dietrich, UCD class of ’84, and he spoke of a big lack of cookie-cutter, recipe driven medicine. I heard of real discussions, a supportive attitude, and a quality oriented medicine that sounded like something I could very likely live with. Active discussion between myself and my partners followed and then we made the decision to go with NVA and finalized the deal in early November, 2012.

Life After NVA:

During the negotiations, the acquisition, and in the following months, there was and is an attitude of mutual professionalism and respect. My partners, business associates and staff were impressed. Our clients and their pets receive our style of medicine. Where change has come, it appears to me to have been handled as smoothly as humanly possible. We are being handed some new tools to work with and for our clients. It is up to us to use them as best we can. But we have both active and experienced help in utilizing those tools in ways that make good sense to us. I’m impressed.

John Howard, DVM
University of California at Davis, 1983
Vacaville Animal Care Center
Joined NVA November 2012