

Dr. Bess Pierce

Dr. Bess J. Pierce is an associate professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. She also leads the Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Community Practice. Pierce earned her M.Z.S. in wildlife biology in 1990 and her DVM in 1992 from Auburn University. Additionally, she has trained in canine rehabilitation and veterinary basic acupuncture. Pierce is also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Veterinary Corps. Prior to joining the college in 2007 she completed 15 years of active duty military service and was last assigned to the National Capital District Veterinary Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. She has also served as chief veterinarian at California's Edwards Air Force Base and a staff veterinarian with the Okinawa Branch Veterinary Services in Okinawa, Japan. She then conducted a three-year residency in small animal internal medicine at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. Following that, she returned to Japan to serve as chief veterinarian of the U.S. Army's Japan District Veterinary Command, Okinawa Branch for three years. From there, she moved to San Antonio, Texas, where she served as chief of medicine and outpatient clinics for the Department of Defense Military Working Dog Service. Pierce's research interests are canine sports medicine and rehabilitation. She is board certified by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Canine Sports Medicine Association, the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society and the American Veterinary Dental Society.