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Dr. Melinda Merck is the owner of Veterinary Forensics Consulting in Austin, Texas. She provides expert case consultations including assistance with crime scene investigation and examinations of live and deceased victims, frequently testifying as a veterinary forensics expert. She provides support to large scale operations including exhumations of burial sites and examination of skeletal animal remains. Dr. Merck provides training for veterinary, attorney and law enforcement professionals internationally on the use of veterinary forensic science and medicine in the investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty cases and the link to crime against humans.

Dr. Merck is the Program Chair for NAVC VMX Veterinary Forensics: Animal CSI program and Course Coordinator for the VetFolio Veterinary Forensics online courses. She is Chair of the WSAVA Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee and serves on the Association of Prosecuting Attorney’s Animal Cruelty Advisory Council. She is the Past President of the Board of Directors for North American Veterinary Community and is the founding chair of the Board of Directors for the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association. Locally she serves on the Austin-Travis County Family Violence Task Force and the Texas VMA Animal Welfare Committee. Dr. Merck volunteers with SAFE, the Austin shelter for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

Dr. Merck is the editor and contributing author of the textbook, “Veterinary Forensics: Animal Cruelty Investigation, 2nd edition” by Wiley publishing, co-author “Veterinary Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty: A Guide for Veterinarians and Law Enforcement” and a contributing author on forensics in Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff, Reptile Medicine and Surgery, and Consultations in Feline Internal Medicine Vol. 7.

She developed the first Veterinary Forensics course for University of Georgia and Florida veterinary schools and frequently lectures at other veterinary, technician and law colleges. She teaches workshops on animal crime scenes and the processing of burial and surface remains. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Science and member of the International Association of Blood Stain Analysts.