A letter from the new Executive Vice President

Dear Colleague,

I would like to take a moment to let you know how pleased I am to be representing you as the newest executive director of the American Veterinary Medical Association. It is an honor to join the AVMA team, and I anticipate many good things to come.

This is a particularly challenging time for our profession, as we are at several crossroads. But with these challenges come many opportunities, which makes this a particularly exciting time for me to be joining the outstanding staff at the AVMA.

My experience working at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for 28 years has prepared me well for my new position here at the AVMA. These two positions—as administrator of APHIS and now executive vice president of the AVMA—are very complementary in terms of large organizations with broad scope and responsibility.

The variety of activities at APHIS, ranging from ensuring the health of the nation's animals and plants to field testing genetically modified crops, made my job at the agency very challenging, and equally rewarding. The issues facing veterinary medicine and the AVMA are also many. From addressing critical shortages in the workforce to strengthening the profession's economic viability and being a leading advocate for veterinary-related legislation, we have our work cut out for us.

I am confident we will address these issues head-on. We cannot rest on past successes or ignore future opportunities. We can be the top proponent and resource for animal welfare. We will maintain the highest level of accreditation standards of veterinary education. We will further cement our place in a world of global change that demands greater leadership and responsibility from those who have dedicated themselves to the health and welfare of the world's animals, its people, and its environment.

As veterinarians, we are those leaders. We are a dedicated group—dedicated to our clients, dedicated to science, dedicated to education, and dedicated to public health around the globe. We are well-respected by the public, and we play an integral role in safeguarding the world's animals and its people.

Dr. Bruce Little, my predecessor here at the AVMA, has left this association stronger than ever. The AVMA is financially sound. The staff is second to none. Our vision is clear and forward-thinking.

That AVMA vision is a major reason why I was so attracted to this new career opportunity. I thank you for providing me this opportunity as we work to effect positive change in the veterinary profession.

Sincerely,

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
Executive Vice President
American Veterinary Medical Association