PARTNERSHIP to promote preventive care for pets

Partners say declining frequency of veterinary visits poses risk to pet health

By Katie Burns

The decline in the frequency of veterinary visits for cats and dogs in the United States is posing a risk to pet health, according to the new Partnership for Preventive Pet Healthcare.

The AVMA, American Animal Hospital Association, and 14 other organizations announced the pet health partnership with a press conference and an educational session the morning of July 18 at the AVMA Annual Convention.

The new partnership is planning a multiyear initiative to promote preventive care for pets within the veterinary community and to pet owners. The AVMA and AAHA have started by developing Preventive Healthcare Guidelines for cats and dogs, available on page 625 of this issue of the JAVMA.

The problem
“We’re seeing some evidence in some data sets of increasing disease prevalence, and these diseases are the kind of things that are very easily prevented,” said Dr. Michael R. Moyer, AAHA president, during a presentation at the press conference.

The Banfield Pet Hospital’s State of Pet Health 2011 Report indicated increases in certain preventable conditions—including dental disease, otitis externa, and flea infestation—among Banfield’s canine and feline patients from 2006-2010.

The mean number of veterinary visits per dog and cat per year remained nearly the same between 2006 and 2010 at Banfield, a member of the pet health partnership. Dr. Jeffrey S. Klausner, Banfield’s chief medical officer, said after the convention that Banfield believes “in making a better world for pets through preventive care.”

Data from other sources indicate a decline in the frequency of veterinary visits for pets, starting before the recession, Dr. Moyer said during the partnership’s press conference.

According to the AVMA’s 2007 U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook, dogs averaged 1.5 veterinary visits in 2006, down from a mean of 1.9 visits in 2001. Cats averaged 0.7 veterinary visits in 2006, down from a mean of one visit in 2001.

Fifty-one percent of practice owners reported a decrease in patient visits in the past two years, according to the second phase of the recent Bayer Veterinary Care Usage Study. Bayer Animal Health, Brakke Consulting Inc., and the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues released the results of the second phase of the study at the AVMA Annual Convention the afternoon following the announcement of the pet health partnership. The Sept. 15 issue of JAVMA News will provide details about the results.

The second phase of the study found that 95 percent of practice owners believe dogs and cats require at least one wellness examination annually. Nevertheless, 65 percent of practice owners believe their clients don’t value annual wellness examinations.

“We know that we have tremendous value to offer our patients, but we have more to do as a profession to communicate that value, the importance of those preventive care visits, to pet owners,” Dr. Moyer said after the convention.

Dr. Moyer made the same point during the press conference announcing the pet health partnership. He also said veterinarians have room to improve the experi-
ence of veterinary visits for pets and pet owners, particularly in making the experience less stressful for cats.

The partnership

“With the magnitude of the issues that we’re facing, it is going to take a dramatic and broad-based effort if we’re going to overcome those challenges,” said Dr. Ron DeHaven, AVMA chief executive officer and chair of the pet health partnership, during the press conference.

A coalition of veterinary associations, industry, and academia met in November 2010 to discuss the trends. A number of the organizations pledged funds to hire a consultant and public relations firm. In January 2011, the AVMA Executive Board approved honoring the pledge with $25,000 in seed money from the AVMA.

The coalition has become the Partnership for Preventive Pet Healthcare. In addition to the AVMA and AAHA, the partnership currently consists of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and 13 animal health companies.

The mission of the partnership is “to ensure that pets receive the preventive healthcare they deserve through regular visits to a veterinarian”—at least once a year, Dr. DeHaven said. The vision of the partnership is to improve the overall health of pets.

“We’re talking about transformational change within the profession,” Dr. DeHaven said. “We need to shift from a focus of treating illness and injury to one of promoting health.”

The objectives of the pet health partnership are to address the increasing prevalence of certain preventable conditions in pets, improve pet owners’ perception of the value of preventive care, ensure that regular veterinary visits become the norm, improve understanding of the veterinarian’s role in pet health, and make preventive care for cats a priority.

Dr. DeHaven said the multiyear initiative will involve outreach to the profession as well as the pet-owning public.

To begin, the AVMA and AAHA created a task force to develop the new Preventive Healthcare Guidelines. The task force consolidated existing resources to provide one page of guidelines for dogs and one page of guidelines for cats.

The next step is for the pet health partnership to provide additional tools to help veterinary practices promote preventive care, such as communications tools or possibly model preventive care programs. Dr. DeHaven encouraged practice teams to become fully engaged participants in the initiative.

The final phase will be for the partnership to reach out to pet owners. The partnership will start public outreach after determining that practices have begun to implement programs to promote preventive care.

Information about the partnership is available at www.pethealthpartnership.org. The website also provides a link to sign up for updates.

The following organizations comprise the Partnership for Preventive Pet Healthcare and have sponsored the initiative at various levels.

AVMA
American Animal Hospital Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Abbott Animal Health

Banfield Pet Hospital
Bayer HealthCare
Boehringer Ingelheim
Butler Schein Animal Health
Elanco
Hill’s

Merck Animal Health
Merial
MWI Veterinary Supply
Novartis Animal Health
Pfizer Animal Health
VPI Pet Insurance
Meet me in St. Louis
AVMA Annual Convention attracts thousands of attendees

By Katie Burns

About 8,800 attendees convened July 16-19 in St. Louis for four full days of education, exhibits, and events during the 2011 AVMA Annual Convention.

Many sponsors supported the 2011 convention—notably Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc. and Merial, the AVMA’s P3 Partners, as well as Bayer Animal Health.

Dr. Ron Banks, chair of the AVMA Convention Management and Program Committee, said, “An outstanding continuing education program assembled by the CMPC section managers, truly top-notch social and entertainment opportunities organized by the AVMA convention division, and partnerships with numerous allied professional groups such as the Poultry Science Association all combined to create the one spot in 2011 where attendees could obtain what they needed and what they wanted.”

Kelly Fox, director of the Convention and Meeting Planning Division, noted that the AVMA MapIt online agenda planner, sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, was back for a second year. One of the MapIt! improvements for 2011 was an application for iPads.

Among numerous other new technologies, the AVMA introduced radio-frequency identification chips in convention-goers’ badges to track continuing education. Attendees may print CE certificates by visiting www.avmaconvention.org.

Convention highlights
The convention program began with the opening session, sponsored by Hill’s, in a new talk show format. Keynote speaker Philippe Cousteau Jr., grandson of aquatic explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau, talked about the animals in his life.
and shared experiences from his nature expeditions (see story, page 542).

The educational program this year offered more than 600 sessions. The Beyond the Basics sessions were back for a third year, providing in-depth information on a variety of clinical topics. New for 2011 were Inside the Issues sessions, frank discussions about controversial issues affecting the profession, and Hot Topics sessions on late-breaking subjects such as the impacts of the tsunami in Japan. Also new for this year, some sessions featured audience polls via text messaging.

The AVMA Pavilion in the exhibit hall was the location for two AVMA Live town hall meetings. Dr. Banks described the meetings as “an opportunity to ask questions of AVMA leaders and subject matter experts concerning any aspect of the AVMA, to openly discuss what’s important to you.”

Dr. Banks and Fox invited convention-goers to celebrate World Veterinary Year. 2011 is the 250th anniversary of the founding of the first veterinary school in Lyon, France, and, therefore, the 250th anniversary of veterinary medicine as a profession.

The convention celebration featured a daylong Vet2011 educational symposium with a reception afterward for symposium attendees. The AVMA Pavilion included a Vet2011 display. The exhibit hall housed hundreds of booths. This year, convention-goers could earn two hours of CE credit for spending time with exhibitors discussing how various services and products can impact the clinical care of patients.

Among the highlights of the hall were the New Product Showcase and a reception for all convention-goers. The AVMA Pavilion provided information about all things AVMA and served as the location for a live broadcast of the AgriTalk radio show.

Convention entertainment included a night at the St. Louis Zoo in support of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, with premier sponsor Nestle Purina; a concert by the Plain White T’s, sponsored by Merial; and Sunday Night Live, sponsored by Bayer Animal Health. Sunday Night Live began with the three finalists in the AVMA’s Got Talent contest warming up the crowd for comedian Jay Mohr.

Giving back
Fox said the AVMA convention is about giving as well as receiving. She noted that convention participants gave back to the St. Louis community with the Convention to Community events and other efforts.

Dozens of convention-goers volunteered to spruce up area animal shelters as part of the AVMF Our Oath in Action Shelter Rehab project, with Hill’s as the premier partner.

Proceeds from the AVMF Trails for Tails 5K Walk/Run, with partners Abbott Animal Health and MyVeterinarian.com, benefited area animal shelters and AVMF animal welfare programs.

A new program allowed convention-goers to donate their convention bags for distribution to local school-children in need of book bags. Moreover, at the close of the convention, exhibitors donated leftover products to animal shelters and educational programs for veterinary technicians.

The AVMA convention remains unique as a major veterinary CE conference that is a not-for-profit event and rotates among locations across the country, Dr. Banks and Fox said. A multitude of groups, this year including the Poultry Science Association, also meet in conjunction with the convention.

The Sept. 15 JAVMA News will feature coverage of AVMA Live and the Vet2011 symposium and additional convention highlights. Reports from veterinary groups that met at the convention and Diversity Symposium coverage will run in the Oct. 1 issue. ❧
Dr. John W. Albers thought he would become a bench scientist, but he ended up in veterinary practice instead.

Later, he agreed to serve as interim executive director of the American Animal Hospital Association. He recently retired from AAHA after 23 years at the helm.

On July 19 at the AVMA Annual Convention, Dr. Albers accepted the AVMA Award for contributions to organized veterinary medicine—the AVMA's highest honor.

Dr. Michael T. Cavanaugh, the current AAHA executive director, nominated Dr. Albers for the award. Dr. Cavanaugh noted in his nomination letter that Dr. Albers has participated in many key initiatives for the benefit of the profession.

In the late '80s, Dr. Albers served on the panel that authored “Future Directions for Veterinary Medicine” on the delivery of veterinary education. In the late '90s, he participated in the comprehensive economic study on “The Current and Future Market for Veterinarians and Veterinary Medical Services in the United States” and the subsequent formation of the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues.

Specific to AAHA initiatives, Dr. Cavanaugh wrote: “Dr. Albers worked with many board members and committee members to make AAHA the outstanding, respected organization that it is today. The impact on the veterinary profession of the AAHA Standards of Accreditation, guidelines, position statements, and the output of numerous committees through the years is profound.”

Starting out, Dr. Albers studied microbiology as an undergraduate student at Michigan State University. He went on to the veterinary college with the intention of becoming a bench scientist, but exposure to clinical practice changed his mind.

After earning his veterinary degree at MSU in 1967, Dr. Albers served briefly as an officer with the Army Veterinary Corps. His tour of duty included time at Fort Carson in Colorado and a posting in Korea.

Dr. Albers returned to Colorado and joined Anderson Animal Hospital in Denver as an associate, later becoming an owner. He also become involved in organized veterinary medicine in the area and then with AAHA.

When Dr. Albers was AAHA president-elect, the association's executive director moved the AAHA headquarters to Denver but then stepped down. Dr. Albers agreed to lead AAHA for a year as president and interim executive director. It turned out that he enjoyed being executive director, so he accepted a permanent position.

“I just really liked the engagement that I was getting into, in terms of a broader view of the profession,” Dr. Albers said.

Each year, AAHA grew and pursued new opportunities. The association constructed its own building, conducted studies on the market for veterinary care, and established programs to provide products and services to members at a low cost and generate revenue for the association. Practice management became a focus for AAHA, Dr. Albers said, while accreditation of animal hospitals remained one of the association’s main endeavors.

“Clinical education was always very important,” Dr. Albers continued. “We made a lot of strides in that, from just having an annual convention for veterinarians but then expanding training to technicians and to front office staff and particularly the practice management.”

Beyond the annual conference, AAHA began offering a variety of other in-person and online educational programs.

After Dr. Albers stepped down as AAHA executive director, he founded Albers Veterinary Strategies as a part-time consultation business. He has been consulting with veterinary companies and associations on development of new products and programs.

“How fortunate I am to have been involved in this profession,” he said. “I have no complaints about my career. I would do every single bit of it over again if I could.”

See page 543 for the recipient of the Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Practitioner of the Year Award. The Sept. 15 JAVMA News will feature career highlights of the recipients of other awards presented during the AVMA Annual Convention.
“I’m thrilled to be here, certainly in a room with kindred spirits committed to animal welfare like myself, of course,” keynoter Philippe Cousteau Jr., a leading champion of the environment and conservation, said July 16 at the AVMA Annual Convention opening session sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc.

Cousteau connected with the veterinary audience, saying he and his mother combed through old photograph albums for pictures only his family had seen before that he could share with attendees. They show him growing up with assorted animals—including deer, a runt pig, a raccoon, snakes, a prairie dog, poultry, and a squirrel that chose to become a family pet—being cared for by his mother, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. “We spent a lot of time with vets,” he said.

People must keep their eyes open, Cousteau said. He described how his famous grandfather, Jacques-Yves Cousteau, dreamed as a young man of becoming a pilot until an automobile accident forced him to change course. Swimming in the Mediterranean every day during his recovery opened his eyes to nature and led him to co-invent the scuba tank.

“Learning about AVMA … you share this idea of looking at the world in a different way, especially (through) ‘one health,’” Cousteau said.

As a teenager accompanying his grandfather to remote Papua, New Guinea, he saw “an example of how the golden threads unite everyone on the planet” when, while walking down a dusty jungle path, his group encountered tribesmen in native dress—except for a few who wore L.A. Lakers T-shirts.

“We are all connected. We all have an echo in the world around us,” he said. That’s why Cousteau and his sister, Alexandra, named the nonprofit they founded EarthEcho International. Its mission is to empower youth to protect the planet’s water.

Today a billion people don’t have fresh water, and the first genocide of the 21st century—in Sudan—was over water, he said. Cousteau said the world’s population of 7 billion is projected to grow to 9 billion by midcentury, bringing water and energy challenges and a need to increase food production by 70 percent. “We’re eating 1.5 Earths a year,” he said.

No one has the right to sacrifice the clean water and air of the next generation, and whatever one’s views on climate change, being open to knowledge is important, Cousteau said, offering evidence that “unprecedented changes” are under way.

Cousteau previewed a clip from the CNN “Extreme Science” documentary in which he joined scientists searching for answers about climate change in the Arctic.

Sometimes environmental change happens slowly, outside today’s fast-paced news cycle, he said. To show the extent of just two decades of damage and species loss in the Florida Keys, he contrasted footage of the world’s third-largest barrier reef taken by divers in the late ’80s with recently shot video. “Ocean acidification will be called the other carbon problem,” he said. Species such as coral, shrimp, and oysters can’t extract calcium carbonate to make their shells. “A lot of this is caused by us,” he said.

Asked what an individual can do, he suggested baby steps such as eating less meat, looking closely at political candidates, and being open to new ideas.

“If there’s a universal truth we say at EarthEcho, it’s not that you can make a difference; the truth is that everything you do makes a difference. Our choices have consequences. That’s a hope-filled message,” Cousteau said, “because it means every single one of us has the power to change the world.”
Patient advocate receives Bustad award

Dr. Nancy D. Kay wrote “Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life” to help dog owners navigate veterinary medicine—and she has since lectured and written extensively about patient advocacy.

In recognition of her efforts to promote the human-animal bond, Dr. Kay received the 2011 Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Practitioner of the Year Award during the July 16 opening session of the AVMA Annual Convention. Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc. sponsored the opening session and co-sponsors the Bustad award with the AVMA and Delta Society. The Delta Society seeks to improve human health through therapy and service animals.

Dr. Kay’s “Speaking for Spot” came out in late 2008. The book covers topics ranging from medical decision making, finding a veterinarian, and the office visit to second opinions, money matters, and euthanasia.

Dr. Kay is an internist at VCA Animal Care Center, a 24-hour emergency and specialty center in Rohnert Park, Calif. She founded a support group there for people struggling emotionally with the illness or loss of a pet. For employees, she facilitates rounds on client communication.

In addition, Dr. Kay provides financial support for animal-centered nonprofit organizations via the Speaking for Spot Gives Back Program.

Dr. Kay is a 1982 graduate of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

AVMA announces participants in Future Leaders Program

By Katie Burns

The AVMA officially launched the Future Leaders Program on July 16 at the AVMA Annual Convention by announcing the 10 early-career veterinarians who will be the inaugural participants.

The AVMA established the yearlong pilot program with support from Pfizer Animal Health to develop future leaders for the AVMA and other veterinary associations. Working with a professional facilitator, participants will develop leadership and problem-solving skills relevant to organized veterinary medicine.

“Today the veterinary profession is experiencing a time of change and uncertainty, which can be a challenging combination that requires capable and confident leadership,” said Dr. Larry M. Kornegay, then AVMA president, during the program launch.

Participants in the Future Leaders Program will collaborate on a project to provide the AVMA with strategies to help increase the leadership skills of veterinarians across the country.

One of the participants spoke during the program launch. Dr. Libby Todd, a companion animal practitioner from Birmingham, Ala., said she is passionate about servant leadership—the philosophy that leaders exist to serve others.

“So the Future Leaders Program immediately appealed to me because of the opportunity to work together on one focused project impacting organized veterinary medicine,” Dr. Todd said. “I have seen the benefits that can be attained when individuals work together to achieve common goals.”

The Future Leaders Program received nominations for more than 70 AVMA members who had graduated from veterinary school within the past 15 years.

The 10 participants in the 2011-2012 Future Leaders Program are as follows:

- Dr. Melissa Austin-Gundel, Kansas City, Mo., companion animal practice.
- Dr. Abigail Bowers, Eldridge, Iowa, mixed animal practice.
- Dr. Dustin M. Brown, Midwest City, Okla., companion animal practice.
- Dr. Erin Casey, Washington, D.C., companion animal practice.
- Dr. John T. Feutz, Princeton, Ind., mixed animal practice.
- Dr. Christopher Gargamelli, Durham, Conn., companion animal emergency practice.
- Dr. Micah Kohles, Lincoln, Neb., industry.
- Dr. Shannon Mesenhowski, Minneapolis, companion animal practice.
- Dr. Elizabeth Nunamaker, Chicago, laboratory animal medicine.
- Dr. Libby Todd, Birmingham, Ala., companion animal practice.
St. Louis SNAPSHOTS

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1. Philippe Cousteau Jr., grandson of legendary ocean explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau, gave the keynote address at the opening session of the 2011 AVMA Annual Convention. Sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc., the event was presented in a lively talk show-style format.

2. The Saint Louis Zoo was the ideal venue for the American Veterinary Medical Foundation charity event with Nestlé Purina as the premier sponsor. After feasting, attendees roamed the zoo grounds, home to nearly 18,000 animals, including a playful orangutan.


4. Dr. Bernard Vallat, director general of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); Professor Jean-François Chary, inspector general of the French Ministry of Agriculture and president of the Vet2011 Animation and Coordination Committee; Dr. Ron DeHaven, AVMA CEO; and Dr. Larry M. Kornegay, 2010-2011 AVMA president, raised a toast at the World Veterinary Year Reception.


6. The educational program at the AVMA Annual Convention offered more than 600 sessions, including the ever-popular interactive labs.

7. The AVMA Live town hall meetings held in the exhibit hall offered a forum for dialogue about the Association and the veterinary profession.

8. Grammy-nominated Plain White T’s were the headliners for the 5th Annual AVMA/Merial Concert. Fans clustered around the stage as the indie band from Chicago belted out “Hey There Delilah,” “1, 2, 3, 4,” “Take Me Away,” and other hits.

9. Dr. Rachel Tapp, a small animal practitioner from Rock Hill, S.C., helped out by walking dogs at Stray Animal Rescue of St. Louis as part of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation’s fourth annual voluntourism event, sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc.

10. Kelley Rohlfing Marchbanks, University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine development officer, won the AVMA’s Got Talent contest with a rousing performance of “Defying Gravity” from the Broadway musical “Wicked.”

See more photos from the 2011 AVMA Annual Convention online at www.avma.org in JAVMA News Photo Galleries.
AVMA members, staff to study global activities

Veterinary school accreditation, AVMA’s international role to be examined

By Greg Cima

A proposed task force is expected to examine whether U.S. veterinarians benefit from the AVMA Council on Education’s accreditation of foreign veterinary schools.

And AVMA staff will likely be tasked with providing a report to members this year on the role and costs of the Association’s involvement in global affairs.

The proposals are the product of debates in the AVMA House of Delegates over the Association’s role in international activities and the impact of the COE’s accreditation of foreign veterinary schools on the veterinary profession in the United States. On July 15, the House approved recommending that the AVMA Executive Board form the task force and order the report, and previous recommendations from the Executive Board indicate it will proceed with both measures.

Dr. Billy D. Martindale, the delegate from Texas, urged creation of the task force to address his constituents’ questions regarding whether they and the profession are served by the accreditation of foreign schools. The VMAs from Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah submitted the resolution. The COE has accredited 16 schools outside the United States. In March, the council granted accreditation to the National Autonomous University of Mexico School of Veterinary Medicine, which is in Mexico City, and Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, which is in St. Kitts in the West Indies.

The resolution included a statement from the sponsors that warned that the recent accreditation of these two additional foreign schools and site visit requests from others raised concerns about veterinary graduates coming to the U.S. without being tested to demonstrate equivalence.

Dr. Mark D. Cox, alternate delegate for Texas, said in a follow-up interview that the resolution is not intended to call for examination of the accreditation of Canadian veterinary schools, which have been involved in the accreditation process since the COE was formed.

By its vote, the House of Delegates recommends that the Executive Board approve spending about $25,000 on two meetings and four teleconferences for a 10-member task force.

Joseph M. Esch, who represents the Student AVMA, said his organization’s members had conflicting opinions on the measure. SAVMA has members in schools outside the U.S. as well as members who are concerned about accreditation. However, the members he spoke with indicated the impact of graduates from foreign veterinary schools was not their top concern.

“Foreign accreditation is not as big of an issue to them as increasing class size and the results on the quality of education that veterinary students get as class sizes increase,” Esch said.

Brig. Gen. Timothy K. Adams, AVMA delegate for the Uniformed Services, contended that the issue should be addressed through communication with members rather than establishment of a new task force. He said the accreditation process is essential for
Global perspective

Prior to the votes by the full House, a committee of delegates debated the merits of the two measures. In the debate over the proposed task force on accreditation of foreign veterinary schools, proponents indicated the proposal was intended to provide quality control for veterinarians practicing in the U.S. and examine how accreditation of foreign schools affects AVMA members.

However, Dr. Tjeerd Jorna, president of the World Veterinary Association, said following the committee meeting that the proposal on accreditation of foreign veterinary schools seemed to be related to protection against competition. He also indicated that such debates occur throughout the world.

Dr. Jorna noted that he is a graduate of the Government University of Utrecht in The Netherlands, which was first accredited by the AVMA COE in 1973. More than 200 Dutch veterinarians are practicing in the U.S., he said.

“Nobody is complaining about Dutch veterinarians going to the States,” Dr. Jorna said.

Dr. Jorna said the debate involves decisions about licensing veterinarians from Mexican schools and whether they will compete with graduates from U.S. and Canadian schools. He said that, in Europe, veterinary diplomas are harmonized and only language differences prevent veterinarians from practicing in other countries.

He also indicated that veterinarians in the United States and Europe have responsibilities for lead-
ERSHIP in global veterinary affairs, particularly in training veterinarians in many Asian, African, and Latin American countries. Such actions also benefit the U.S. and Europe by providing safer imported food.

Several veterinary association dignitaries also expressed in speeches to the House of Delegates that global collaboration is needed by the veterinary profession.

Dr. Christoph Buhot, president of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, said veterinarians on both sides of the Atlantic are addressing similar concerns such as food safety, antimicrobial resistance, and areas with insufficient numbers of veterinarians. He said shared values in the profession should be shown to the public and politicians. He expressed appreciation for the exchange of experiences and ideas with the AVMA and encouraged collaboration as a profession with one voice.

Dr. Jolle Kirpensteijn, president of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, talked about the importance of veterinarians’ global participation in human and animal health, particularly in connection with setting nutritional standards and combating obesity and malnutrition worldwide. He said making change in the world requires leadership.

“And if you want to lead, you have to participate,” Dr. Kirpensteijn said.

**AVMA to re-evaluate governance structure**

By Katie Burns

The AVMA House of Delegates makes policy on matters of veterinary medicine. So does the AVMA Executive Board, and therein lies a problem.

That’s according to Dr. Mark P. Helfat, then alternate delegate for New Jersey in the HOD, speaking during the regular annual session of the House. The HOD met July 14-15 in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Convention in St. Louis.

After debating multiple proposals relevant to the Association’s governance, delegates approved a resolution calling for the board to establish a task force to evaluate the entire governance structure of the AVMA.

**Current structure**

The Association’s current governance structure might not work in future years, said Dr. Ted Cohn, District IX representative on the board, advocating for the resolution during a meeting of a House reference committee. He emphasized a need for more input from AVMA members in the policymaking process.

The HOD currently comprises delegates from state VMAs and allied veterinary organizations, and the board comprises representatives from 11 multistate districts (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) and the AVMA officers. The House meets twice annually, while the board meets more frequently.

The AVMA Bylaws state that the House “shall be the principal body in the Association responsible for establishing policy and providing direction for matters relating to veterinary medicine.” The bylaws also state that the board “shall act for and on behalf of the House of Delegates between sessions of the House of Delegates.”

**Policymaking authority**

The recent debate about the authority of the HOD arose after the board approved revisions to the Veterinarian’s Oath last year. The House adopted the Veterinarian’s Oath in 1954 and approved revisions in 1969, and the board approved revisions in 1999 and 2010.

Delegates did not raise objections to the most recent changes, which identify animal welfare as a priority of the veterinary profession, but to the board’s making the changes.

Ten VMAs subsequently sponsored a bylaws amendment to give sole authority to the House to revise the Veterinarian’s Oath. Delegates approved the amendment.

“The oath controversy was the most recent example to show flaws in our overall process,” said Dr. Stewart W. Beckett, Connecticut delegate, at the full session of the HOD. “We have a process that has councils and committees that make recommendations on veterinary policy go to the Executive Board and bypass the House, and yet the House is charged in our bylaws with deciding matters pertaining to veterinary medicine.”

The Utah VMA proposed a bylaws amendment that would have directed the board to determine policy “after consultation with the House of Delegates on
“We have a process that has councils and committees that make recommendations on veterinary policy go to the Executive Board and bypass the House, and yet the House is charged in our bylaws with deciding matters pertaining to veterinary medicine.”

Dr. Stewart W. Beckett, Connecticut delegate

any matters relating to veterinary medicine.” The Utah VMA withdrew the proposal in favor of a proposal from the Connecticut VMA.

The Connecticut VMA proposed a bylaws amendment that would have designated as interim any policy changes relating to veterinary medicine that receive board approval, with policies becoming final only on HOD ratification.

Delegates discussed but defeated the amendment. Dr. John R. Brooks, then board chair, argued to delegates that the board needs the flexibility to act without waiting for a final checkoff from the House.

Governance evaluation

Delegates also discussed a resolution from the New Jersey VMA that would have called for a task force specifically to perform an analysis of the role of the HOD.

Advocating for an analysis of the HOD, Dr. Helfat said, “If we can admit that our present structure of governance needs improvement, we must choose our course of action. Do we just keep plugging away under the same system? Do we give up? Or, as I strongly recommend, do we regroup, study our faults, formulate a new approach, which will get us back on track with an improved system of governance?”

Delegates defeated the resolution from New Jersey, but they approved a resolution recommending that the board establish a task force to evaluate the entire governance structure of the AVMA.

The Executive Board and the House Advisory Committee proposed the broader resolution. A statement about the resolution cites recommendations from the report of the AVMA 20/20 Vision Commission, which offers a vision for the AVMA for the year 2020. The report, available at www.avma.org/2020vision, calls for a review of the entire AVMA governance and enhancement of member participation in governance.

According to the statement about the resolution, the board will consider various forms for the task force. The task force likely will consist of about 11 individuals with pertinent expertise or experience. The board also will consider the feasibility of the task force engaging external experts on association governance.

Details about the AVMA governance structure and a copy of the AVMA Bylaws are available at www.avma.org/about_avma/governance.
Delegates address practice, leadership issues

By Katie Burns and Greg Cima

The AVMA House of Delegates edited the organization’s guidance on veterinary practice naming and free-roaming, owned cats; created another path for individuals to become members; clarified the roles of some volunteer leaders; and increased the independence of an accrediting body.

The delegates voted on the matters July 15 during the House’s regular annual session, prior to the AVMA Annual Convention in St. Louis.

The HOD edited the AVMA policy “Guidelines for Classifying Veterinary Facilities,” which describes the types of services typically offered by veterinary facilities with names that include terms such as “hospital,” “office,” or “emergency.” The document is intended to provide guidance for newly opened facilities while remaining flexible enough to accommodate practices that change business models.

The updates approved by the House of Delegates altered language in all definitions as well as separated the guidance for the terms “hospital,” “office,” and “center” and provided separate guidance for “referral facilities” and “specialty facilities.”

For example, a veterinary or animal hospital typically includes inpatient and outpatient diagnosis and treatment, according to the updated guidelines. A clinic may include inpatient diagnosis and treatment. A center typically offers additional depth or scope of an area of practice, such as imaging or sports medicine.

The delegates also changed the AVMA policy “Free Roaming, Owned Cats” to stop encouraging cat owners in urban and suburban areas to keep their cats indoors, instead encouraging veterinarians to educate people about the dangers of allowing cats to roam freely outdoors.

The updated policy notes that cats roaming outdoors can be injured or killed by a variety of hazards, exposed to disease, and allowed to harm wildlife.

Background information provided with the proposed change indicates risks to cats are similar across urban and rural environments, and the changes in the policy encourage education instead of discouraging some owners’ practices.

The HOD also approved an AVMA Bylaws amendment that adds a new path to membership in the AVMA via endorsement by a veterinary specialty organization.

All members must receive an endorsement before joining the AVMA. The bylaws now specify four endorsement sources. The Association may grant membership to a veterinarian who is a member in good standing of a specialty organization, to strengthen the independence of the council from the board.

The HOD additionally approved bylaws amendments that update the charge of the Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine, clarify language on grounds for discipline of AVMA members, and clarify the handling of officer vacancies.
Carlson’s vision is a call to action
Innovation must come to veterinary economics and education, AVMA governance

By R. Scott Nolen

Dr. René A. Carlson envisions a time when veterinarians are fairly compensated for their services and are respected protectors of public health.
A time when veterinary education is affordable, diverse, and progressive, and the AVMA is the model of member-driven professional organizations.
A time when everyone understands just how much veterinarians help animals, people, and the environment.
Such a future is possible, Dr. Carlson says, if AVMA leaders and members have the courage, commitment, and determination to make it happen.
As the Association’s incoming president, the small animal practitioner from Chetek, Wis., was speaking about her vision for veterinary medicine and the AVMA during the House of Delegates regular annual session July 15 in St. Louis.
Dr. Carlson succeeded Dr. Larry M. Kornegay of Houston as AVMA president at the close of the Association’s Annual Convention July 19. She is only the third woman to hold the office since the AVMA’s founding nearly 150 years ago.
Prior to her election, the 1978 graduate of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine represented Wisconsin in the HOD for eight years and served two years as AVMA vice president. Additionally, Dr. Carlson represented private clinical practice on the AVMA Council on Education.
Just as the founding of the first veterinary school 250 years ago in Lyon, France, and the creation of the AVMA were watershed moments in the history of veterinary medicine, Dr. Carlson believes the profession is again at a pivotal time. During her HOD address, she said transformative change can be realized by immediately addressing three areas identified in the AVMA Strategic Plan: economics, education, and governance.
“2011 is the beginning of a new era for economic viability, educational renewal, and Association functionality,” Dr. Carlson explained.
High educational debt, inadequate pay, and decreased veterinary visits are destabilizing the profession’s economic viability. Dr. Carlson noted that the AVMA Executive Board was convening an economic working session this summer as the first step in addressing these problems.
Veterinarians need to do their part, Dr. Carlson added, and she encouraged them to engage and educate the public as consumers of veterinary services. “We have been silent and quietly revered heroes for too long,” she stated. “It is time veterinarians make their case for animal health...
Dr. René A. Carlson, AVMA president

and welfare, preventive medicine, food safety, one health, and tell the whole world about it.”

Dr. Carlson called on the AVMA and Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges to continue their efforts to improve the delivery of veterinary education. The North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium report, expected to be published soon, can be a guide to transform veterinary education, she said.

“We need to infuse both imagination and innovation to streamline education, much as private enterprise uses imagination and innovation to be the best in the world,” she observed.

Dr. Carlson called for the Association to adopt a more open and engaged leadership structure. The AVMA she envisions is one that is “more interactive and program-based for the benefit of members and the public; one that will engage and empower its members to be the authorities and leaders on issues of veterinary medicine; one that is fully engaged globally.”

All the pieces are in place for transformation to occur, according to Dr. Carlson: a willing leadership, a professional staff, and a membership open to change. “For this vision to become reality, we must truly believe in the urgency for change and its achievability. We must commit the time, persistence, money, and resources to develop plans for change that we can monitor and measure.”

The votes are in for AVMA councils, HAC

In St. Louis, the House of Delegates filled vacancies on AVMA councils and the House Advisory Committee. The results are as follows.

Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents
Drs. Jane G. Owens, Indianapolis, representing pharmacology; and Margie D. Lee, Watkinsville, Ga., representing microbiology

Council on Education
Drs. L. Garry Adams, College Station, Texas, representing basic science; John R. Scamahorn, Greencastle, Ind., representing private clinical practice; and Philip H. Kass, Davis, Calif., representing veterinary preventive medicine

Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine
Drs. Kendra E. Stauffer, Hawthorne, Fla.; and Mary Grace Stobierski, East Lansing, Mich., representing public health agencies or the armed forces

Council on Research
Dr. Harm HogenEsch, West Lafayette, Ind., representing veterinary medical research, predominantly engaged in active research at the time of the election

Council on Veterinary Service
Dr. Paul E. Cook, Atwater, Calif., representing private practice, exclusively food animal

Judicial Council
Dr. Linda K. Lord, Columbus, Ohio, representing members-at-large

House Advisory Committee
Drs. Daniel E. Lafontaine, Bel Air, Md., representing federal or state government; Benjamin Franklin, Roaring Gap, N.C., representing private practice, predominantly equine; and J.V. Bollar, Soda Springs, Idaho, representing private practice, mixed with several species of animals, including food animal or equine and small companion animal.
Treasurer: Passion is essence of profession

Delivering his final financial report to the House of Delegates July 14 in St. Louis, AVMA Treasurer Bret D. Marsh of Indianapolis was at times reflective. “We are here to serve for only a short time and then we hand on the profession, better than we found it,” he said.

The treasurer has steered the Association through the recession’s hurdles during the last several of his six yearlong terms and leaves the office at a time of AVMA financial upswing. His successor is Dr. Barbara A. Schmidt, Union, Ky. (see JAVMA, Jan. 15, 2011, page 134).

Dr. Marsh reported that at the end of June, the AVMA listed investments of $30.1 million—up $7.8 million compared with a year ago. Cash and government funds were $7.2 million, receivables were $530,000, and prepaid expenses were $192,000.

At the end of fiscal year 2011 (the calendar year), the reserves are projected to be $25.7 million, which is about 87 percent of the annual operating expenses.

Last year’s belt tightening and better than expected returns on investments resulted in a $3.1 million surplus at the end of FY 2010. The surplus was used to restore the reserves. Currently, the FY 2011 projection is a surplus of $1.7 million from an income projected to be $31.2 million.

Turning to the 2012 budget, Treasurer Marsh said, “Of the budgets I have presented to you over the years, I like this one the best.”

The 2012 budget projects year-end income of $29.9 million and income over expenses of $63,814. That includes $454,800 for AVMA program funding from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. Beginning with 2012, the AVMA operating budget no longer includes long-term investment gains or losses.

When he was first elected treasurer, Dr. Marsh and other new volunteer leaders were asked at an orientation program how they got here. He said it seems appropriate for the AVMA to answer the same question: AVMA, how did you get here?

He said part of the answer can be found at AVMA headquarters in the portrait gallery of AVMA past presidents dating back to 1863.

“These portraits ... are the face of all of the members of this Association at that specific point in time,” he said. “The decisions that were made over the decades ... are the foundation upon which we stand, and those decisions have been as pivotal to the success of the profession as any advancement of science.”

Likewise, he said the portraits of AVMA executive vice presidents represent the collective talent and contributions of AVMA staff.

Dr. Marsh believes that a less tangible part of the answer has sustained the AVMA. “Simply put, we love this profession. … I have seen this passion demonstrated over and over through countless acts of selfless service to the AVMA,” he said.

“We must keep the passion. This passion is the very essence of our profession.”

By Susan C. Kahler

AVMA, Liabilities, and Fund Balance (2001-2011)
By R. Scott Nolen

The AVMA House of Delegates has chosen Dr. Douglas G. Aspros of Pound Ridge, N.Y., as the 2011-2012 AVMA president-elect.

Delegates elected Dr. Aspros over Dr. Gary S. Brown of Princeton, W.Va., July 15 during the final day of the HOD regular annual session in St. Louis.

A small animal practitioner and former AVMA Executive Board member, Dr. Aspros campaigned as a seasoned veterinarian unafraid to challenge the status quo. He has said the problems facing the veterinary profession require the AVMA president “to be more than a cheerleader for the Association.” Rather, the president must be a credible representative of the profession, both to AVMA members and the public (see JAVMA, May 15, 2011, pages 1221-1222).

After the election results were announced, a clearly humbled Dr. Aspros addressed the HOD, thanking delegates for their confidence and Dr. Brown for running a worthy campaign. “I think it really was the Association that was the winner,” he said. “You got to elect a president, select a direction, rather than accepting the only choice that you’re offered.”

Dr. Aspros is a 1975 graduate of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. As well as being a small business owner, he has chaired the AVMA Council on Education and for five years was director of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

In 2006, Dr. Aspros won a special election to fill an unexpired term representing District I—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont—on the AVMA Executive Board.

From its simple beginnings in Lyon, France, to the present day, the veterinary profession has much to be proud of, Dr. Aspros told the HOD. The professional challenges of the present day are considerable, however, and he listed several: staggering educational debt; incursions into veterinary practice by nonveterinarians; declining office visits; distribution of small animal drugs through nonveterinary channels; the increase in nonprofit, corporate, and university practices; consolidation of the pharmaceutical industry; and the oversupply of companion animal practitioners.

Business is a necessary concern for the AVMA, Dr. Aspros said, and, with the turning of this century’s second decade, “It’s clear that what we thought about the economics of our profession no longer applies.” In addition, he said the AVMA needs to be a more effective leader and not simply a broker between other segments of the profession. “We can’t afford to be fainthearted or politically correct,” Dr. Aspros stated. “Unity isn’t about seeking the lowest level in debates.”

—Greg Cima contributed to this article.
Campaigns for AVMA presidency, vice presidency get under way

Dr. Clark K. Fobian of Sedalia, Mo., announced his candidacy for AVMA 2012-2013 president-elect July 15 at the Candidates’ Introductory Breakfast in St. Louis. Additionally, Drs. James E. Smallwood of Raleigh, N.C., and Walter R. Threlfall of Powell, Ohio, kicked off their campaigns for the Association’s vice presidency. The winner will succeed Dr. Jan K. Strother of Hartselle, Ala., who is AVMA vice president for 2010-2012.

Dr. Fobian has practiced small animal medicine since graduating from the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977. He currently represents District VII—Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota—on the AVMA Executive Board and chairs the American Veterinary Medical Foundation board of directors.

Dr. Fobian says he is running for the AVMA presidency out of a desire to provide the next generation of veterinarians opportunities for a successful and fulfilling career. “There can be a better economic environment for veterinarians, and I believe the AVMA has a role in that,” he said.

The AVMA vice president serves a two-year term as the Association’s liaison with the Student AVMA and AVMA student chapters. The vice president is also a voting member of the Executive Board.

Dr. Smallwood is a professor of anatomy at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine and faculty adviser to the college’s student chapter of the AVMA. Dr. Smallwood says the AVMA vice presidency would give him the opportunity to share his passion for veterinary medicine “with more students than just my own.”

Dr. Threlfall taught at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine for nearly 40 years before recently becoming a theriogenology consultant. Each generation of veterinarians faces their own particular set of challenges, according to Dr. Threlfall, who wants to use his knowledge, passion, and heart to aid this current generation.

Auxiliary board can act on loan fund proposals

The Executive Board of the Auxiliary to the AVMA received authority in July to convert the organization’s student loan fund to an endowed scholarship fund distributed by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation.

The Auxiliary House of Delegates granted the authority, provided that the board members and AVMF come to an agreement regarding the $2.1 million in the fund. Ginger Morton, Auxiliary president, said the latest proposal under discussion involved keeping some money within the Auxiliary to pay a staff member to continue collecting money owed through outstanding loans.

Michael Cathey, executive director of the AVMF, told the Auxiliary delegates that the Foundation was seeking the partnership out of a desire “to work together for the well-being of animals.”

Morton also said in a speech before the AVMA House of Delegates that the Auxiliary planned to continue promoting National Pet Week and needed to work in schools to promote veterinary medicine.
The AVMA Executive Board has directed Association staff to prepare a preliminary proposal for conducting a comprehensive study of current and future U.S. veterinary workforce supply and demand.

Meeting July 13 in St. Louis ahead of the AVMA House of Delegates regular annual session, the board approved the recommendation for the study proposal, submitted by Dr. Ted Cohn, the District IX representative to the board.

The staff proposal would define the appropriate scope, potential costs, and resources needed to conduct the workforce study and was to be provided to the Executive Board in time for its economic strategy session Aug. 21-23.

At press time, board members were slated to discuss the breadth, importance, and urgency of economic issues facing the veterinary profession at that session.

In his recommendation, Dr. Cohn noted that the U.S. veterinary workforce is a central economic issue and that its enhancement is one of the AVMA strategic plan goals. The Association wants to identify employment opportunities for veterinarians and design solutions that balance society’s need for veterinary services with the supply of veterinarians.

“Having staff’s preliminary proposal for a comprehensive veterinary workforce study would be very helpful to the development of the AVMA’s economics strategy,” Dr. Cohn wrote. The only business conducted at the July 19 Executive Board meeting was choosing a chair and vice chair and seating three new board members. Dr. Cohn of Lone Tree, Colo., was elected board chair, and District V representative Janver D. Krehbiel of Mason, Mich., was elected vice chair. Additionally, Dr. Barbara A. Schmidt of Union, Ky., succeeded Dr. Bret D. Marsh as AVMA treasurer, and Drs. Mark P. Helfat of Lumberton, N.J., and Chester L. “Chet” Rawson of Markesan, Wis., were welcomed as the new District II and District VI representatives, respectively.

AVMA Executive Board member Dr. Ted Cohn says a clearer picture of the U.S. veterinary workforce will aid the Association in developing a strategy for improving the profession’s economics.

**Board appoints representatives to committees, liaison**

The AVMA Executive Board, meeting July 13 in St. Louis, named the following individuals to the entities indicated, representing the designated areas. The duration of each term varies.

**Animal Welfare Committee**

*American Association of Corporate and Public Practice Veterinarians*—Dr. Hilton J. Klein, Indianapolis; *AACPPV alternate*—Dr. Kelly D. Heath, Larchwood, Iowa

**Committee on International Veterinary Affairs**

*Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*—Dr. Gary A. Vroegindewey, Bowie, Md.

**Legislative Advisory Committee**


**Member Services Committee**

*Private clinical practice*—Dr. Robert J. Krapfl, Omaha, Neb.; *board certified specialists*—Dr. Pamela J. Mouser, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

**National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments**

*AVMA liaison*—Dr. Paul Rapnicki, St. Paul, Minn.
Texas reduces brucellosis test payments, requirements

By Greg Cima

Texas authorities are no longer enforcing state regulations requiring brucellosis tests for cattle sold in the state, although most adult cattle still will be tested at slaughter.

The Texas Animal Health Commission announced that, as of Aug. 1, state authorities would stop enforcing requirements for brucellosis testing of adult, sexually intact animals when they change owners. Through a cooperative agreement between state and federal authorities, veterinarians had been paid to perform those tests.

The change comes despite the fact that the only brucellosis infections found in a Texas cattle herd in the past five years were discovered through such tests at a livestock market. In January, blood tests performed at a livestock market identified three infected cattle, and tests on the source herd in southern Texas identified six more, according to the TAHC. The herd was depopulated.

Dr. Andy L. Schwartz, assistant executive director of the TAHC, said his agency would have preferred to continue requiring tests for changes of ownership for at least two more years, but representatives of Texas’ cattle industry indicated the surveillance cost exceeded the value of the reduced risk. He said, however, that Texas’ cattle and cattle products are safe.

State regulations still require brucellosis tests during changes of ownership, but the TAHC commissioners directed agency personnel to stop enforcing those rules, Dr. Schwartz said. He said about half of livestock market operators indicated they would continue testing either all adult cattle sold or those not being sent to slaughter.

Despite the discovery of the infected herd in January, Texas is still considered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be free of brucellosis, a status the state has kept since 2008. A state or area can keep its brucellosis-free status if herds with infections are quarantined, infected animals are destroyed, and the state and herd owners follow USDA guidance and requests for plans, tests, and surveillance.

In states that have not been considered free from brucellosis at least five years, all state-inspected and federally inspected slaughter facilities have to perform brucellosis tests on at least 95 percent of cattle and bison ages two years and older that arrive at the facilities, USDA regulations state. Commercial milk producers also need to have brucellosis tests on their cattle’s milk at least twice yearly.

Those surveillance requirements don’t apply to states whose domestic herds have been free from the disease for at least five years and whose wildlife are free from Brucella abortus, information from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service states. Instead, they must, if requested by APHIS officials, participate in surveillance testing at slaughter.

The only known U.S. reservoirs of animals infected with brucellosis reside in the area surrounding Yellowstone National Park, where infections have been attributed to interactions between domestic herds and wild bison and elk. That area includes portions of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.
Groups want national hen housing law
Egg producer group, welfare advocate negotiate standards

By Greg Cima

A trade association for egg producers and an animal welfare advocacy organization will lobby for introduction of a federal law that would require more room for most egg-laying hens and cage enrichment for those birds.

In the agreement, the United Egg Producers and the Humane Society of the United States will also push for provisions that would require that euthanasia of egg-laying hens follow AVMA guidelines, require housing-related labels on egg cartons, set limits on ammonia concentrations in henhouses, and prohibit feed or water withdrawal to extend laying. The standards would apply to about 280 million hens.

The organizations jointly announced their agreement July 7, before any legislation was drafted or any members of Congress had agreed to sponsor such a bill. But the joint statement indicates the organizations agree that the legislation should include a requirement that producers give each egg-laying hen at least 124 square inches of floor space and that the provisions be phased in within 18 years of the legislation’s passage. The United Egg Producers’ Certified program currently calls for 67 to 86 square inches of useable space per hen in cage-based production, and those standards have been adopted by most of the industry. The joint press release indicates about 50 million other hens live in about 48 square inches of space per bird.

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the HSUS, said his organization and the UEP developed outlines for the legislation through weeks of debate and negotiation. “We certainly consulted our scientists on staff and some outside folks as we deliberated,” Pacelle said. “But we kind of knew what the basic framework was, and our view is that the birds should have more space in order to engage in more natural and normal behaviors.”

Gene Gregory, president and CEO of the UEP, said the HSUS had an ongoing campaign to use ballot initiatives to make egg producers switch to cage-free housing systems, which his organization has contended would be unsustainable for the egg industry and not necessarily better for the hens. However, the UEP could not sustain the expense of fighting that campaign in all states that allow ballot initiatives, and the campaign risked creation of a patchwork of standards that would interrupt commerce, he said.

The long campaign
Despite the agreement in July, the HSUS and UEP retained areas on their websites explaining their opposing positions. The HSUS asserted that the UEP gives welfare certifications to egg producers who keep hens in abusive conditions. The UEP accused the HSUS of pursuing an agenda that could harm animals and humans.

The recent agreement led the HSUS to suspend ballot campaigns in Oregon and Washington, both of which were intended to phase out cage-based housing systems. Since the introduction of those initiatives, Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire and Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber had signed into law bills that will, through 2026, phase in requirements that eggs and egg products produced and sold in their states come from hens in housing that meets American Humane Association standards for enriched.

Enriched cages similar to those shown would gradually become required for egg-laying hens if Congress were to pass legislation meeting requirements proposed by the Humane Society of the United States and the United Egg Producers.
organization has also negotiated an agriculture industry trade accord between his organization this year. He described the agreement as part of an ongoing dialogue with the agriculture community to "forge solutions rather than endure conflict."

Federal legislation on housing for egg-laying hens would save the HSUS from a state-by-state process of lobbying for changes in housing standards, Pacelle said. Like Gregory, he thinks the U.S. needs national standards for interstate commerce.

Pacelle expects the new standards could be enforced through existing Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration programs in cooperation with the UEP. Gregory indicated his only regret about the agreement relates to the decision to break from UEP policy of basing all hen welfare decisions on scientific knowledge. Although he thinks sufficient evidence exists to increase the minimum floor space for each bird to 116 square inches, the minimum of 124 square inches was based on negotiation.

Gregory added that enriched colony housing provides similar egg production for each hen in comparison with the typical U.S. cage, and scientists consulted by the UEP have supported the decision to provide 124 square inches of floor space per bird. The size of such enriched cages would, on average, require that hens currently in cages get double the room they now receive, which, he said, had been an important goal for the HSUS during the negotiations.

The American Humane Association, which operates a hen welfare auditing program, praised the endorsement of enriched colony housing but indicated rigorous monitoring and oversight would be needed. The organization questioned the decision to provide 124 square inches for each hen rather than the 116 endorsed by the AHA, used in Europe, and "considered the most progressive in the world."

“Current and widely recognized research has shown that 116 square inches provides space for hens to stand, sit, turn around and extend their wings,” Kathi Brock, a director of the AHA farm animal program, said in the organization statement. "We have not seen the science that supports 124 square inches per bird."

Avoiding a precedent

Kelli Ludlum, director of congressional relations for the American Farm Bureau, expressed concern that the legislative process doesn’t necessarily create science-based standards. The farm bureau prefers that animal care standards be developed by experts such as animal scientists and veterinarians. Ludlum said that even passing a bill based on current scientific knowledge would create requirements that would not be easily changed as knowledge improves. She also indicated passage of such legislation could provide a new target for animal rights activists regarding other species and unscientific standards.

In the absence of legislation, the farm bureau was still assessing the potential impact of the agreement on egg producers and members of other livestock industries, Ludlum said.

The National Pork Producers Council released a statement indicating legislation such as that proposed by the HSUS and UEP would set a dangerous precedent of allowing the federal government to “dictate how livestock and poultry producers raise and care for their animals” without measurable benefit for human or animal health and welfare. The trade group also lamented that such federal legislation would lead to increased meat prices and force producers to redirect resources from safety and competitiveness to meeting regulations.
VETERINARIAN
SERVED, THEN LED,
AFRICAN NATION
Dawda Jawara brought stability
to Gambia for 30-plus years

By Malinda Larkin

Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara expected
to spend his life after college
doing what he loved—being a
veterinarian.
“There’s not a cow in Gambia that
doesn’t know me personally,” he once
said.

But fate had a different plan for him.
Convinced that Gambia should
become independent of British rule,
he abandoned his profession in 1960
to enter politics. This move eventually
led to him becoming the nation’s first
president. Until a military coup in 1994,
this veterinary surgeon brought years
of stable democracy to Africa’s smallest
mainland republic.

From cattle to politics
Dr. Jawara was born May 16, 1924,
in Gambia, then a British colony. He
attended a local Muslim primary school
and a Methodist boys’ high school
in the nation’s capital, Bathurst (now
Banjul).

He spent a year studying science
at Achimoto College in Ghana before
being awarded a scholarship to study
at the University of Glasgow Faculty
of Veterinary Medicine in Scotland.

Dr. Jawara was president of the
African Students’ Union and social-
ized with African nationalists of
the day. He earned his BVSc from
Glasgow in 1953.

After his return to Africa, Dr.
Jawara worked in the countryside
vaccinating cattle as one of his
country’s only veterinarians. An
outbreak of rinderpest soon after
gave him a baptism by fire. His suc-
cess at helping mitigate the spread
won him the respect of the colonial
authorities, who in January 1957
promoted him to principal veterinary
officer of the colony, the highest
position an African could aspire to in
those days, according to Encyclopedia
Britannica.

His entry into politics came in 1959
when he joined the Protectorate
People’s Party.

At age 35, Dr. Jawara had a number
of friends who were influential civil
servants running the country. Also,
his veterinary work made him well
known among the rural population,
who were the party’s targeted sup-
porters, according to The Gambia
Echo, the nation’s online newspaper.

By December 1959, he was in charge
of the organization, which changed its
name to the People’s Progressive Party.
The following year he stepped down
from his government post to enter the
May elections.

Dr. Jawara was elected to the
Gambian House in 1960 and simul-
taneously served as education min-
ister. With Dr. Jawara’s rise to power,
the colonial administration began
a gradual withdrawal from Gambia,
with self-government granted in
1963. Dr. Jawara was appointed prime
minister the same year, according to
Encyclopedia Britannica.

Trials and tribulations
During this time, Gambians began
calling for independence from Britain,
which their nearby neighbors Kenya, Ghana, Guinea, and Nigeria had already achieved. Located on the West African coast, Gambia is a 30-mile-wide strip of land surrounded on three sides by Senegal.

Dr. Jawara reached out to the neighboring country’s president, Leopold Senghor, to form a coalition that would coordinate defense, foreign affairs, and overseas representation but still guarantee autonomy for both Gambia and Senegal, according to The Gambia Echo.

With a deal struck, on Feb. 18, 1965, Gambia became a parliamentary democracy and Africa’s 36th independent state. A year later, Dr. Jawara was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

When an April 1970 referendum changed Gambia’s status to a republic, Dr. Jawara became the country’s first president. In April of that year, he shouldered his new position with few illusions about the economic and social problems awaiting him, according to his autobiography, “Kairaba.”

Yet, Dr. Jawara was able to bring greater stability to the nation under his watch, even though West Africa was a troubled region during this period.

A threat to this peace came July 30, 1981, when a small Gambian radical group attempted a coup in Banjul. By Aug. 2, the uprising was over, but more than 600 had died as a result of the violence, according to The Gambia Echo.

By the 1990s, Dr. Jawara and his government had improved young children’s access to education, increased the availability of health care nationwide, and expanded the domestic economy with greater emphasis on bringing in tourists, according to “Kairaba.” In addition, the fishing industry thrived, and rice, cotton, and other crops broadened the country’s agricultural output.

But Dr. Jawara’s leadership could last for only so long. On July 22, 1994, a group of Gambian soldiers stormed Banjul. In a bloodless coup, Dr. Jawara was overthrown as he escaped unharmed to Senegal on a U.S. warship that was in the area when the coup began.

To this day, he lives in Gambia as a private citizen at the age of 87.

Exhibition tells history of profession through books

By Malinda Larkin

The National Library of Medicine is hosting an exhibition this year showcasing original illustrated manuscripts and early printed books from the library’s collection that feature the care and treatment of horses over the past five centuries.

The exhibition, “From Craft to Profession: The Transition from Horse Farrier to Professional Veterinarian,” is one of the World Veterinary Year celebrations that recognize the 250th anniversary of the founding of the first veterinary school in Lyon, France.

Michael North, head of Rare Books and Early Manuscripts at the NLM’s History of Medicine Division, curated the event.

“One thing I observed was the people who were treating horses before 1761 were using a lot of the same knowledge that was in play for humans. They believed in humoral theory, so they used hot compresses and bloodletting,” North said.

One practice that lasted longer among farriers than doctors was the use of astrology to make diagnoses. Farriers would make astrological charts that showed horses were susceptible to certain diseases or that parts of their body were subject to injury, depending on the season or what constellations were in the sky. This would affect the treatment they would select for the horse, North said.

This use of astrology was also common in human medical practice, but had generally ended by the early 16th century, though for horses it continued. North posits that this was because farriers were less literate than medical doctors and did not keep up with the latest conventions and knowledge.

“That’s what Claude (Bourgelat) wanted to do—bring the science forward for horses, so they could perform the same kinds of experiments and measurements on horses that they had on humans, and to compare the two systems.

On Sept. 28, World Rabies Day will raise awareness of rabies as a deadly but preventable disease. Information is available at www.worldrabiesday.org.
Wisconsin marks a century of innovation

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine will not only be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the profession this year but also its own 100-year anniversary.

It all started in 1911 with the Veterinary Science graduate program, which continues today at the university as the Comparative Biomedical Sciences program within the veterinary school.

In that time, the school and its faculty and students have made substantial scientific contributions to animal and human health. According to www.vetmed.wisc.edu/100years, these included the following:

- The late Dr. David T. Berman, professor emeritus of veterinary science and bacteriology, joined a group in the mid-1940s that was focused on U.S. Department of Agriculture-supported bovine brucellosis vaccination strategies. By 1956, the brucellosis eradication program in Wisconsin had succeeded in bringing the herd infection rate down to less than 0.1 percent. It later served as a model for the USDA’s nationwide effort to eradicate brucellosis.
- A young girl’s death of viral encephalitis in 1960 sparked a major research effort to discover what caused the fatality. From this, faculty and graduate students in the departments of Veterinary Science, Entomology, Preventive Medicine, and Wildlife Ecology showed that the La Crosse virus, which causes encephalitis in humans, shelters in mosquito eggs after the adult female dies in the first frost.
- Dr. Janice M. Miller, who came to the university to work on her doctorate in 1965, discovered the virus that caused bovine lymphosarcoma.
- Dr. Gerald E. Bisgard, now professor emeritus in the Department of Comparative Biosciences, demonstrated in 1969 that increased breathing at high altitude is mediated by an increased sensitivity of the carotid body to low oxygen levels.
- Dr. Oliver J. Ginther, while on faculty in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, led cutting-edge research in mare reproductive biology. In the 1970s, work from his laboratory introduced veterinarians to two hormone preparations—GnRH and PGF-2alpha—for improved breeding management practices in horses.
- Drs. Bernard C. Easterday and Dean Pawlisch were in Brodhead, Wis., investigating outbreaks of swine influenza in the area during the 1970s. In November 1976, Dr. Pawlisch was called to a farm where there were pigs with signs of influenza and a farm worker ill with symptoms of influenza. SI virus was recovered from the worker and from several of the pigs—conclusive virologic demonstration of transmission of the virus from pigs to humans.
- Dr. Ronald M. Schultz Jr., professor and chair of the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, made what UW-Madison states were the first recommendations on a vaccination program for cats and dogs, in 1998. His recommendations are based on research results, clinical observations, and his experience in infectious diseases and immunology for the past 30 years.
- Dr. Yoshi Kawaoka, a professor of pathobiological sciences, developed a novel technology called reverse genetics, in 1999 that allows the generation of influenza viruses entirely from plasmids, which can be used to introduce any maturation into the genome of influenza viruses. This technology is now used for the generation of tailor-made influenza vaccines.

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Exhibition, from 561 (physiology) and disease patterns,” North said.

In 1761, French riding master Claude Bourgelat founded the Veterinary School of Lyon, marking the beginning of the scientific study of horses, eventually replacing the traditional art of farriery. Farriers were often blacksmiths and the equivalent of barber surgeons for horses who learned their trade through apprenticeship.

In the century after Bourgelat’s school opened, the practice of veterinary medicine became a credentialed profession requiring an academic degree and strict licensing, replacing the old system of farriers and apprenticeships.

The exhibit at the NLM, a division of the National Institutes of Health, showcases its extensive collection of rare veterinary medical texts, many published before 1800.

“Probably 98 percent of the books are related to horses because that was such an important feature economically and militarily. The dog hasn’t come on the scene nor cats. They were there, but people were not writing about them or studying them much,” North said.

Some of the most treasured items include a manuscript on horses published in 1583 in southwestern Germany and a reprint of the second veterinary text printed in the United States, which was published in 1764 in Wilmington, Del.

The public is invited to visit from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays (except Labor Day weekend), through Oct. 7 in the NLM History of Medicine Reading Room, Building 38, on the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Md.

To view a slide show of the exhibition on Flickr.com, visit www.flickr.com/photos/esteemedhelga/sets/72157627057355897/show.

Alabama VMA

Event: Annual meeting, June 2, Destin, Fla.

Awards: Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Fred M. Garrett Sr., Dothan, for his dedication to the association and his achievements and contributions to the advancement of the veterinary profession. A 1957 graduate of the University of Georgia, Dr. Garrett retired in 1996 from what was known as Garrett Veterinary Hospital in Dothan. He is a past president of the ALVMA and served on the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners from 1988-1993. Service Award: Dr. Frances P. Kendrick, Selma, was honored for her contributions to the most recent revision of the Alabama Veterinary Practice Act while acting as chair of the Alabama VMA Small Animal Affairs Committee. A 1992 graduate of Auburn University, Dr. Kendrick owns Valley Creek Veterinary Hospital. She is president of the West Alabama VMA. Lay Person of the Year: Dana Johnston, Birmingham, for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of the veterinary profession and the association. Johnston is a police officer in Fultondale who helps educate pet owners on proper pet care. She has served as a Birmingham Animal Cruelty Investigator and trained with the National Cruelty Investigation School.

Officials: Drs. William K. Holland, Dothan, president; Dr. William M. Allen, Gardendale, president-elect; William G. Bledsoe, Camden, vice president; John R. Hammons, Athens, member-at-large; H. Winston Pirtle Sr., Montgomery, treasurer; and Libby C. Todd, Birmingham immediate past president.

California VMA

Event: Annual Pacific Veterinary Conference, June 30-July 3, Anaheim

Awards: Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. James F. Peddie, Ventura, for his contributions to the veterinary community as a veterinarian, leader, mentor, and educator. Dr. Peddie graduated from the University of California, Davis, in 1969. He is a past president of the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC) and received the CVMA’s Distinguished Service Award in 2004. He is a past member of the California State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and has served on numerous committees of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). He is a past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and a former member of the California State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. He is a past member of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and has served on numerous committees of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). He is a past president of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and has served on numerous committees of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

Officials: Drs. Bennie I. Osburn, Downey, president; Dr. Chris Cowing, Downey, president-elect; Dr. James F. Peddie, Ventura, vice president; Dr. Richard G. Johnson, Downey, member-at-large; Vicky Ograin, Downey, treasurer; and Dr. Scott H. Weldy, Downey, immediate past president.
businessman. A 1965 graduate of Cornell University, Dr. Peddie was an instructor and staff veterinarian in the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program at Moorpark College and co-owned with his wife, Dr. Linda Peddie, a practice exclusively for animals in the motion picture and TV industry, prior to retirement in 2004. Earlier in his career, he was a partner at Conejo Valley Veterinary Clinic in Thousand Oaks. Dr. Peddie served as treasurer of the AVMA from 1999-2005, is a past chair of the CVMA Finance Committee, and is a past president of the Santa Barbara-Ventura VMA. California Registered Veterinary Technicians’ Outstanding DVM of the Year: Dr. Richard G. Johnson, El Cajon, for his support, education, and promotion of registered veterinary technicians. A 1977 graduate of the University of California-Davis, Dr. Johnson owns Animal Medical Center of East County. He has served on the California Veterinary Medical Board’s Multidisciplinary Advisory and RVT Committee. Dr. Johnson is a guest lecturer for the San Diego-Mesa College’s RVT training program and donates his time as a guest surgeon in the college’s wet labs. Outstanding RVT of the Year (non-private practice): Vicky Ograin, Topeka, Kan. Ograin is a technical information services analyst at Hill’s Pet Nutrition and has co-chaired the CVMA technician session at the Pacific Veterinary Conference since 2007. She is also a member of the CVMA RVT Committee, is a past member of the CVMA RVT Task Force, and has served as an RVT representative on the CVMA House of Delegates. Meritorious Service Award: Dr. Scott H. Weldy, Lake Forest, and Jackie Hobe, Nipomo, won this award, given to those providing special attention to or promoting the human-animal bond in California. A 1985 graduate of the University of California-Davis, Dr. Weldy owns Serrano Animal and Bird Hospital. He also provides his services to the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound in Rosamond and the Orange County Bird of Prey Center and is on call with local wildlife agencies, biologists, and fish and game officials to assist with injured wildlife. An advocate for lost, abused, and homeless dogs, Hobe owns Nipomo Pet Camp. She fosters dogs while attempting to track owners, having the dogs spayed or neutered, and finding loving homes for the homeless ones. Distinguished Life Membership Award: Dr. Bennie I. Osburn, Wilton. A 1961 graduate of Kansas State University, Dr. Osburn recently retired as dean of the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. During his tenure, there was an increase in the numbers of graduating students and residents in training, and Centers of Excellence were established in several areas, including comparative medicine, wildlife health, one health, vector borne disease, companion animal health, and food safety. Officials: Drs. Jay Kerr, San Ramon, president; Chris Cowing, Foster City, president-elect; George Bishop, Carmel, treasurer; Dean Henricks, Carmichael, immediate past president; and Ron Kelpe, Coto de Caza, member-at-large.
Community Obituaries

Member
Honor roll member
Nonmember

John S. Armstrong
Dr. Armstrong (ONT '49), 92, Towson, Md., died March 3, 2011. He was a small animal practitioner. Dr. Armstrong is survived by two sons. Memorials in his name may be made to The Maryland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 3300 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21211.

John R. Carney
Dr. Carney (COL '47), 86, Scottsdale, Ariz., died May 10, 2011. A small animal practitioner, he practiced in Arizona at Chandler and Mesa for more than 50 years. Dr. Carney served in the Army during World War II and was a captain in the Air Force during the Korean War. Active in civic life, he was a member of the Rotary Club and served as chair of the Arizona state bicentennial celebrations in 1975. Dr. Carney’s wife, Yvonne; two daughters; three sons; two stepdaughters; and a stepson survive him. Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St., Phoenix, AZ 85014.

Eugene R. Carroll
Dr. Carroll (CAL '59), 77, Colorado Springs, Colo., died May 10, 2011. Prior to retirement in 1984, he owned Valley Large Animal Hospital in Morgan Hill, Calif., focusing on equine surgery. Earlier, Dr. Carroll practiced at the San Jose, Calif., location of the hospital. He served on the AVMA Judicial Council from 1987-1993, was a distinguished life member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and was a member of the California VMA. Dr. Carroll is survived by his wife, Barbara, and two daughters. Memorials may be made to TwoCor Projects, 625 Arrawanna St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909; or to the Class of 1959 Endowed Scholarship Fund (with checks payable to UC Regents), University of California-Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, Office of the Dean—Development, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616.

Harry F. Cook
Dr. Cook (WSU ’45), 88, La Conner, Wash., died Jan 1, 2011. During his career, he practiced in Mount Vernon, Wash., and Miles City, Mont., and worked 28 years for the Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Dr. Cook is survived by four sons and three daughters.

Anthony J. Costa
Dr. Costa (COL ’42), 92, Roseville, Calif., died June 10, 2011. Prior to retirement in 1982, he worked for the California Department of Food and Agriculture in meat inspection for 25 years. Earlier in his career, Dr. Costa was a partner at Roseville Veterinary Hospital. He served as an Army veterinarian during World War II. Dr. Costa is survived by his son and daughter.

Jonathan R. Denton Sr.
Dr. Denton (TUS ’88), 49, Ellenwood, Ga., died April 5, 2011. He was a veterinarian with Banfield Pet Hospital in McDonough, Ga. Dr. Denton also served as a relief veterinarian with the Atlanta Humane Society. Earlier in his career, Dr. Denton practiced small animal medicine in Georgia at Roswell, Douglasville, and Riverdale. He was a veteran of the Army. Dr. Denton is survived by his wife, Felisha; a son; and a daughter. Memorials toward a scholarship in his name may be made to Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee, AL 36088.

Charles F. Helmboldt
Dr. Helmboldt (MSU ’38), 96, Rockport, Maine, died March 9, 2011. He was professor emeritus of animal diseases at the University of Connecticut since 1971. During his tenure at the university, which began in 1946, Dr. Helmboldt served as head of the Department of Animal Diseases for 10 years. Earlier in his career, he owned a practice in Unionville, Mich., and worked for the Department of Agriculture in tuberculosis eradication. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, Dr. Helmboldt focused his research interests on avian pathology. He was a past member of the editorial board of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and served as associate editor of Diseases of Poultry. Dr. Helmboldt was a member of the International Academy of Pathology, Poultry Science Association, Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, Connecticut Public Health Association, and Connecticut VMA. He was the recipient of the Special Research Fellowship of Yale University in 1965 and was honored with the New York Farmers Prize in 1967. In 1968, Dr. Helmboldt received the University of Connecticut’s Distinguished Alumnus Award and in 1972 he was named Special Veterinarian of the Year by the Connecticut VMA. He was an Army veteran of World War II, attaining the rank of major. Dr. Helmboldt is survived by a daughter. Memorials may be made to the Coastal Mountains Land Trust, 101 Mount Battie St., Camden, ME 04843.

Jesse W. Houdeshell
Dr. Houdeshell (OSU ’58), 77, Port Saint Lucie, Fla., died April 8, 2011. He was a consultant and past president and past chief executive officer of Innovet Inc., based in Florida. Following graduation, Dr. Houdeshell practiced mixed animal medicine in Bluffton, Ohio, for nine years. He then joined what was known as Schering Corporation as a clinical veterinarian. During his tenure at Schering, Dr. Houdeshell served as manager of clinical research and technical services, was director of pharmaceutical research in the animal health division, and served as vice president of animal health research. He was a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Animal
Martin T. Johnson
Dr. Johnson (IL ’84), 51, Campton Hills, Ill., died May 10, 2011. A small animal practitioner, he was a partner at Carol Stream Animal Hospital in Carol Stream, Ill. Earlier in his career, Dr. Johnson practiced at Green Trails Animal Clinic in Lisle, Ill., and Countryside Veterinary Clinic in Yorkville, Ill.

Walter F. Juliff Jr.
Dr. Juliff (TEX ’46), 89, College Station, Texas, died May 30, 2011. He retired in 2004 from Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences as professor emeritus and director of Governmental Professional Development Programs. Following graduation, Dr. Juliff worked in Colorado City, Texas. In 1950, he moved to San Angelo, Texas, where he bought a small animal practice that became the San Angelo Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Juliff joined the TAMU-CVM in 1976 as an associate professor of small animal medicine and surgery. During his tenure, he also directed continuing education for the college for almost 10 years.

Dr. Juliff was a past president of the AVMA and Metropolitan New Jersey VMA. In 1985, Dr. Houdeshell received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. His wife, Donna; three sons; and a stepson survive him. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 15120, Chicago, IL 60693.

James C. Lawrence
Dr. Lawrence (AUB ‘58), 80, Sanford, Fla., died May 12, 2011. A small animal veterinarian, he established Lawrence Veterinary Hospital in Sanford, Fla., in 1960. During his career, Dr. Lawrence also served as veterinarian for the Sanford Orlando Kennel Club for more than 50 years and donated his services to what is now known as the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. Dr. Lawrence’s wife, Peggy; a son; and three daughters survive him. Memorials may be made to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Central Florida, 2800 County Home Road, Sanford, FL 32772.

James A. McKitterick III
Dr. McKitterick (KSU ’50), 84, Laguna Niguel, Calif., died June 14, 2011. During his career, he practiced small animal medicine in Mexico, Mo., for 23 years, and then worked 20 years at Washington Boulevard Animal Hospital in Whittier, Calif. Dr. McKitterick was a past president of the Missouri, California, Northeast Missouri, and Southern California VMAs and was a member of the American Animal Hospital Association. Active in civic life, he was a past president of housing and urban renewal for the city of Mexico and was a member of the Kiwanis Club. Dr. McKitterick’s wife, Shirley, and two sons survive him. Memorials in his name may be made to South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Parkway, Monarch Beach, CA 92629.

Philip G. Page
Dr. Page (UP ’66), 70, Lancaster, N.H., died May 26, 2011. A small animal veterinarian, he founded Lancaster Veterinary Hospital and practiced there until retirement in 2006. Early in his career, Dr. Page practiced in Middleton, Vt., and in Concord and Dover, both in New Hampshire. Active in civic life, he was a member of the Lancaster Rotary Club and served on the Lancaster Budget Committee and Lancaster Zoning Board. Dr. Page is survived by his wife, Nancy; three daughters; and a son. Memorials may be made to Northwoods Home Health and Hospice, 278 Main St., Lancaster, NH 03584; or Lou Leaver Memorial Fund, 16 High St., Lancaster, NH 03584.

Eugene Papp
Dr. Papp (BUD ’43), 91, Athens, Ga., died Jan. 18, 2011. During his veterinary career, he taught at the University of Georgia, developed and implemented a livestock artificial insemination project for the government of Colombia, and worked for the World Health Organization. Following his retirement from the WHO in 1979, Dr. Papp established a career in real estate. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Sally O. Papp (GA ’70); a daughter; a son; and three step-daughters.

John G. Ravnikar
Dr. Ravnikar (KSU ’57), 82, Plant City, Fla., died March 13, 2011. Prior to retirement, he served as vice president of animal health and production for Bayer Corporation in Shawnee, Kan. During that time, Dr. Ravnikar was responsible for the manufacture of biologicals and pharmaceuticals, biological research and development, and regulatory compliance, and served as a liaison with the Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the biological section of the Animal Health Institute in Washington, D.C. Earlier in his career, Dr. Ravnikar was division manager of animal health and production for Fort Dodge Laboratories in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He was a veteran of the Navy. Dr. Ravnikar is survived by his wife, Antoinette, and a daughter.
Gilbert Samuelson
Dr. Samuelson (ISU ‘57), 83, Peoria, Ill., died April 22, 2011. Prior to retirement in 1990, he worked as a veterinary medical officer for the Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, Md., where he reviewed new drug applications for safety and efficacy for use in swine and beef cattle. Before that, Dr. Samuelson was with the Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service’s Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Md., where he was responsible for the animals used in research projects. Early in his career, he practiced mixed animal medicine in Princeton, Ill. Dr. Samuelson was a veteran of the Navy. His wife, Mary Alice, survives him. Memorials may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, P. O. Box 5018, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

Robert A. Squire
Dr. Squire (COR ‘56), 80, Vero Beach, Fla., died May 27, 2011. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, he was a professor of comparative medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine since 1984. From 1980-1998, Dr. Squire also served as president of Robert A. Squire Associates Inc., a consulting firm that helped determine which chemicals have the potential to cause cancer.

He began his career in Fair Haven, Vt., where he was in private practice for four years. Dr. Squire went on to earn a doctorate in pathology from Cornell University in 1964. That same year, he joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins with a joint appointment as assistant professor of pathology and assistant professor of laboratory animal medicine. Dr. Squire’s research interests focused on animal oncology. In the 1970s, he worked for the National Cancer Institute, where he served as head of the Tumor Pathology Section and directed what is now known as the National Toxicology Program. Dr. Squire chaired the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Laboratory Animal Disease from 1968-1972 and the NAS Committee of the Histologic Classification of Laboratory Animal Tumors from 1976-1982. He also served as a director-at-large of the Universities Affiliated for Research in Experimental Pathology. Dr. Squire’s wife, Florence; two sons; and a daughter survive him.

James C. Taylor
Dr. Taylor (OSU ‘53), 89, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, died March 31, 2011. He was an Army veteran of World War II. Dr. Taylor is survived by six sons and two daughters. Memorials may be made to the Northeast Ohio Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals No Kill Shelter, 9555 Brookpark Road, Parma, OH 44129; or Crossroads Hospice of Cleveland, 9775 Rockside Road, #270, Valley View, OH 44125.

David J. Wakefield
Dr. Wakefield (MSU ‘54), 85, Filion, Mich., died May 23, 2011. A mixed animal practitioner, he founded Bad Axe Medical Clinic in Bad Axe, Mich., in 1973 and retired in 1993. Earlier in his career, Dr. Wakefield practiced in Michigan’s Huron County. He was an Army veteran of World War II. Dr. Wakefield’s wife, Sally; two daughters; and a son survive him. One daughter, Dr. Kathleen E. Wakefield (MSU ‘79), practices small animal medicine at Clark Animal Care Center in Penfield, N.Y. ¶