Coverage of the 143rd AVMA Annual Convention continues in this issue of the JAVMA. Among the highlights from this year’s meeting in Honolulu was the exhibit hall. There, convention-goers could see the latest innovations in veterinary medicine and also learn about emerging tickborne diseases, dog behavior, and the like, thanks to the new Exhibit Hall CE Theatres. Exhibitors and corporate sponsors alike help make the AVMA Annual Convention possible.
In this issue

lead
Miyahara takes home top AVMA award ......................... 883

take notice
USDA seeks input on captive elephants ......................... 884

featured articles
Veterinarians at the pinnacle ........................................ 885
Executive Board meets pressing needs .......................... 889
AVMA Answers: One world, one health, one medicine .... 892
Improving human health protection ............................... 893
The advantages of practicing diversity .......................... 895
Student AVMA convenes in Hawaii ............................... 897
Honor roll members inducted ...................................... 904
AVMA Auxiliary raises support for veterinary medicine ... 907
Pictures from paradise .............................................. 909
Veterinary family practice association debuts ................ 910

AVMA news...
Picture from paradise:
Visitors get temporarily tattooed at AVMA Family Night, part of the AVMA Annual Convention in Honolulu. 908

Departments

AVMA news ........................................................................ 885
veterinary community ..................................................... 911
obituaries ........................................................................ 912

Coming up soon

• Government announces potential sites for bio- and agro-defense laboratory
• New knowledge test closer for foreign graduates
• Global warning system for zoonotic diseases launched
Dr. Allen Y. Miyahara of Honolulu has spent the better part of his 52-year career forging ties with veterinarians around the globe in an effort to strengthen the veterinary profession internationally.

Most recently, he served as the AVMA ambassador for Pacific Rim development for the 2006 AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii. Because of Dr. Miyahara’s efforts, approximately 450 veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and others from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Taiwan attended the convention.

“Our goal was to have veterinarians from the Orient attend the largest veterinary meeting ever held in the Pacific, and to give them an opportunity to establish closer ties with our leaders and educators that could help them obtain their goals in the future,” Dr. Miyahara said during the convention at the Opening Ceremony, sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc.

During the ceremony, Dr. Miyahara received the 2006 AVMA Award, which recognizes distinguished contributions to the advancement of veterinary organizations.

“We live in an era where there’s too much hostility in the world, and building closer relationships in other countries is essential if we are to successfully combat things like bioterrorism and major public health diseases such as avian flu, which the whole world is concerned about,” he continued. “For many of these things, veterinarians can have an impact on the outcome.”

Dr. Miyahara graduated in 1954 from the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. His interest in the Pacific Rim was sparked by a chance meeting with a veterinarian from Japan at the Hawaii VMA annual meeting in 1972. As executive vice president of the state association at that time, Dr. Miyahara encouraged more Japanese practitioners to attend the conference during subsequent years and offered them fully translated educational sessions. As a result, approximately 250 veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary technician students from Japan annually travel to the Hawaii state meeting.

Dr. Miyahara also developed relationships while attending the biannual meetings of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations. During the conferences, he encouraged FAVA members to attend the AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii. He also promoted the AVMA while visiting veterinary schools and private practices in the Pacific Rim.

Dr. Miyahara’s in-depth knowledge of the Association stems from his experience as AVMA vice...
president from 1995-1997, during which he spent ample time working with the Student AVMA. He has also served as an AVMA alternate delegate to the House of Delegates for 25 years.

“Over the years, I’ve been the intermediary between the AVMA and the Japan VMA,” he said. “Unless they know you personally, they don’t want to contact you. They feel awkward about it.” Dr. Miyahara said that the 2006 convention served as an opportunity for all the presidents of the associations and companies to connect.

At convention, the AVMA provided four days of educational programming translated into Chinese Mandarin, Japanese, and Korean. In addition, Dr. Miyahara noted that many of the attendees from the Pacific Rim comprehend English. Another valuable source of information was the AVMA exhibit hall. In the Pacific Rim, he said, veterinary conferences typically have considerably fewer exhibiting companies than U.S. conferences.

There are a number of differences between the veterinary profession in the Pacific Rim and in the United States. Dr. Miyahara pointed out, for example, that many countries in the Pacific Rim don’t have colleges of veterinary medicine; rather, they have departments of veterinary medicine within a college of agriculture.

“We’ve been trying to get one or more of the Japanese schools to work toward getting their schools accredited by the AVMA, and particularly so since there are no schools in the region that have achieved this,” Dr. Miyahara said. “Luckily, last October, we were invited to make a presentation at the largest annual meeting held in Japan about educational standards in the United States and our accreditation process.”

Another difference is that the veterinary profession in the Pacific Rim tends to focus more on livestock than on companion animals. However, as the countries’ economies have improved and the recognition of the human-animal bond has grown, he said, small animal medicine has become stronger.

In 1980, Dr. Miyahara organized one of the earliest and most comprehensive programs on the human-animal bond and invited 10 of the more prominent authorities on the subject, including Dr. Leo K. Bustad. Held in Honolulu, the meeting led to the establishment of strong educational programs on the subject in Hawaii and Japan. Dr. Miyahara has also given lectures on the subject in China, Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand.

“We live in an era where there’s too much hostility in the world, and building closer relationships in other countries is essential if we are to successfully combat things like bioterrorism and major public health diseases such as avian flu, which the whole world is concerned about. For many of these things, veterinarians can have an impact on the outcome.”

—DR. ALLEN Y. MIYAHARA

AVMA awards continue on page 885.
CONVENTION COVERAGE

Veterinarians at the pinnacle
AVMA honors exemplary individuals for widespread contributions

The AVMA paid its highest tributes to 15 individuals, including 14 member veterinarians, during the Annual Convention in Honolulu. The honors were conferred at two events, the Opening Ceremony and the President’s Installation Luncheon.

Six awardees were feted during the July 15 Opening Ceremony at Fort DeRussy Beach Park in Waikiki, sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc.:

- Dr. Allen Y. Miyahara, AVMA Award
- Dr. Richard Meadows, Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year
- Senator Wayne Allard, DVM, AVMA Meritorious Service Award
- Dr. R. Tracy Rhodes, AVMA President’s Award
- Dr. Leon H. Russell, AVMA President’s Award
- Dr. Jeffrey S. Klausner, AVMA President’s Award

Dr. Allen Y. Miyahara received the AVMA Award for his contributions to the advancement of veterinary medical organizations; see story on page 883.

Dr. Richard Meadows (TEX ’81) received the Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award for outstanding work in increasing understanding of, preserving, and protecting human-animal relationships. The award was established by Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc., together with the Delta Society and the AVMA. Dr. Meadows is director of community practice at the University of Missouri-Columbia Veterinary Teaching Hospital. He also directs the Helping Overpopulation Through Education project, a volunteer, extracurricular spay-neuter program he created.

At MU, Dr. Meadows serves as a faculty adviser for the student chapters of the AVMA and the American Animal Hospital Association and Pets are Loving Support. A diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Dr. Meadows serves on the board of directors of the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians.

Senator Wayne Allard (COL ’68) received the AVMA Meritorious Service Award for contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine and for bringing honor and distinction to the profession through personal and professional activities conducted outside organized veterinary medicine and research. A U.S. senator from Colorado since 1996, Dr. Allard is Senate deputy majority whip and chair of the Senate Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Space caucuses. Earlier, he established the Allard Animal Hospital in Loveland, Colo., which he operated full time while serving in the Colorado State Senate, and then he served in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The senator chairs the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, and the Housing and Transportation Subcommittee of the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. He is a member of the Budget and Banking committees. A proponent of elected officials being citizen legislators, Sen. Allard has conducted more than 700 town meetings across Colorado. He has led a congressional effort to resolve the Japanese embargo on American beef.

The AVMA President’s Award was presented to the following three veterinarians who have had a positive impact on animal, human, or public health and on veterinary organizations and the profession. The recipients were selected by Dr. Henry E. Childers, 2005-2006 AVMA president.

Dr. R. Tracy Rhodes (COL ’60) completed his term representing District IX on the AVMA Executive Board this past July. Strongly committed to organized veterinary medicine, he currently chairs the board of directors of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. For 12 years he was a trustee on the AVMA Group Health & Life Insurance Trust, also serving as secretary, vice chairman, and chair.

The former owner of a mixed practice in Buffalo, Wyo., Dr. Rhodes now does relief work and ranching. He
is a past president of the Wyoming VMA and the Wyoming State Board of Veterinary Medicine. He served as Wyoming’s alternate delegate and delegate to the AVMA House of Delegates. Active in his community, Dr. Rhodes has led several organizations and served as a county commissioner.

Dr. Leon H. Russell (MO ’56) is president of the World Veterinary Association. Prior to his election as the first American president of the WVA, Dr. Russell served as vice president and councilor. He has traveled the globe listening to and working with colleagues to preserve and advance the role of veterinarians. He has served on national committees and working groups for the Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other agencies.

At the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Dr. Russell is a professor of toxicology, epidemiology, and biostatistics. He has served as AVMA president and Executive Board member and chair, and as president of the Texas VMA. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Klausner (GA ’72) is a professor and dean of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Under his leadership, the college became the first in the nation to select students on the basis of behavioral competencies known to be associated with professional success. With the School of Public Health, the veterinary college developed a combined DVM/MPH program. Also during Dr. Klausner’s tenure, the college added an endowed chair in comparative oncology and a new equine center facility, and increased its budget from $44 million to more than $70 million.

Dr. Klausner’s research interests include prostatic neoplasia, immunosorbptive treatment for malignancies of dogs, transfusion medicine, and informatics. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

Nine award recipients showcased at luncheon

The contributions of nine individuals were celebrated July 18 during the President’s Installation Luncheon at Hilton Hawaiian Village, also sponsored by Hill’s. After his installation, AVMA President Roger K. Mahr said that no other profession has comparable value to society in its input on both human and animal health. Extolling the far-reaching achievements of the AVMA award winners, he said, “Here we have a showcase of the ‘one world, one health, one medicine’ concept”—the theme of his presidential initiative. The honorees were:

- Dr. John E. Madigan, AVMA Animal Welfare Award
- Dr. William S. Stokes, Charles River Prize
- Dr. Janice M. Miller, AVMA Lifetime Excellence in Research Award
- Dr. Robyn Elmslie, AVMA Practitioner Research Award
- Dr. James A. Roth, AVMA Public Service Award
- Marion Ehrich, PhD, Student AVMA Teaching Excellence Award—Basic Sciences
- Dr. Kevin D. Pelzer, Student AVMA Teaching Excellence Award—Clinical Sciences
- Dr. David M. Sherman, XII International Veterinary Congress Prize
- Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou, Karl F. Meyer—James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award

Dr. John E. Madigan (CAL ’75) received the AVMA Animal Welfare Award for his efforts to advance animal well-being, dedication to animal care, and contributions to his community and society. Dr. Madigan is a professor of medicine and epidemiology and clinician in equine medicine at the University of California-Davis Veterinary Teaching Hospital. He also heads its Veterinary Emergency Response and Helicopter Rescue teams. At UC-Davis, Dr. Anderson created the equine neonatal care facility. His research has unraveled the mysteries of the transmission of Anaplasma phagocytophila and Neorickettsia risticii.

Dr. Madigan developed the Anderson sling and Large Animal Lift for the rescue and rehabilitation of animals, particularly horses. A member of the AVMA Committee on Disaster and Emergency Issues, he has also served on other organizations’ emergency and disaster preparedness committees. During the floods in Yuba City, Calif., and Hurricane Floyd, Dr. Madigan helped with animal rescue. Following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, he has vigorously pursued state and federal legislation to ensure animal welfare during natural disasters.

Dr. William S. Stokes (OSU ’79) received the Charles River Prize for distinguished contributions to the field of laboratory animal medicine and science. The award is sponsored by the Charles River Laboratories Foundation. An international authority on the care and use of laboratory animals for biomedical research and testing, Dr. Stokes is currently director of the National Toxicology Program’s Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods. During his career with the National Institutes of Health, he established procedures to validate and gain regulatory acceptance of new safety testing methods that would reduce, refine, and replace animal use. As co-chair of the U.S. Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods from 1994-2001, he led the review and adoption of several new methods that significantly reduced the numbers of animals and the pain and distress involved in testing.

Dr. Stokes served as a council member for the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research of the National Research Council from 1998-2004. In 2003, the U.S. surgeon general appointed him chief veterinary officer for the U.S. Public Health Service.

The first AVMA Lifetime Excellence in Research Award was presented to Dr. Janice M. Miller.
(KSU ’62) for achievement in veterinary medical research. Dr. Miller was a veterinary medical officer with the Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service prior to her retirement in 2003. During her career as a federal research scientist, she focused on several problems of importance to the livestock industry, especially diseases associated with retroviruses, herpesviruses, mycobacteria, and prions. In addition to addressing the etiology and pathogenesis of infections with these agents, Dr. Miller developed diagnostic tests to detect them.

Earlier in her career, while working toward her doctorate, Dr. Miller discovered the bovine leukemia virus. Following completion of her PhD degree, she continued to work on bovine leukemia as a special fellow for the Leukemia Society of America. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Dr. Robyn Elmslie (MON ’86) was honored with the AVMA Practitioner Research Award for outstanding accomplishments in veterinary medical research by a practicing veterinarian. Dr. Elmslie is the founder of Veterinary Cancer Specialists, the oncology department of the Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado. Her goal was to combine her clinical oncology expertise with her immunology research background to improve the quality of life for pets with cancer and to contribute to the development and evaluation of innovative cancer therapies.

Dr. Elmslie has collaborated with veterinarians and researchers on clinical studies funded by the National Institutes of Health, Morris Animal Foundation, and several biotech companies. Her interest in research was first stimulated during summer breaks from veterinary school when she did fieldwork for Pfizer Inc. on vaccine and anthelmintic clinical trials. During an oncology residency at Colorado State University, she became increasingly interested in immunology research and subsequently undertook an immunology research fellowship at the National Jewish Center in Denver.

Dr. James A. Roth (ISU ’75) received the AVMA Public Service Award for outstanding contributions to public health and regulatory veterinary medicine. Dr. Roth is the Clarence Hartley Covault Distinguished Professor at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. At ISU, he also directs the Center for Food Security and Public Health, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center for Public Health Preparedness in Veterinary Medicine and Zoonotic Diseases. The CFSPH works to increase national preparedness for responding to accidental or intentional introduction of disease agents that threaten food production or public health.

Dr. Roth worked with the University of Iowa to establish a concurrent DVM/MPH program for veterinary students and supported 15 veterinarians as they worked toward their MPH degrees. He has also led the development of a library of materials on emerging, exotic, and zoonotic diseases. Dr. Roth is executive director of the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics, a World Health Organization collaborating center that provides training, facilitates harmo-
CONVENTION COVERAGE

Veterinarians’ words carry the authority of the healer

Aesculapian authority, the authority that society accords to healers, is both powerful and perilous—according to Bernard E. Rollin, PhD, a philosophy professor at Colorado State University.

Dr. Rollin spoke July 15, during the AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii, about “Aesculapian Authority and Communication in Veterinary Medicine.”

The ethicist indicated that explaining, eliciting consent, and empathizing are the three E’s of communication. He said veterinarians must learn to explain medicine for clients without being patronizing. Eliciting consent for procedures is moral and prudent. And empathy requires veterinarians to imagine themselves in the position of the client.

“No one wants to feel that their animal’s medical problems are to veterinarians as a clogged toilet is to a plumber,” Dr. Rollin said.

The concept of Aesculapian authority from human medicine increasingly applies to veterinary medicine because of society’s current view of pets. In the past 25 years, companion animal medicine has moved to a pediatrician model.

The authority of the healer is uniquely powerful, Dr. Rollin said. It compels patients to listen, follow orders, and undergo unpleasant procedures. Doctors reinforce their authority by never disagreeing in front of patients and always addressing one another as “Doctor.” Veterinarians sometimes use this authority to convince an owner with a sick pet, similar to pediatricians attempting to convince a parent with a sick child, to agree to let them proceed with treatment.

The perils of Aesculapian authority include self-fulfilling prophecies and the consequences of miscommunication. Veterinarians should ensure that the client understands what they mean. Estimates and prognoses can confuse clients, so veterinarians need to explain the uncertainties of medicine.

“You can say the same thing five different ways, and that’s not too much,” Dr. Rollin said. “Do not ever, ever use any medical terminology without explanation.”

Veterinarians need to take animals’ histories by asking questions in many ways. People rarely fault someone for speaking plainly.

Dr. Rollin said veterinarians who tend toward the pediatrician model often have moral stress when asked to euthanize healthy animals. Aesculapian authority allows veterinarians to suggest alternatives to convenience euthanasia of an animal.

Conversely, the healer’s authority allows a veterinarian to convince a client to let go of an animal in chronic pain. Dr. Rollin said veterinarians should answer when a client asks the question, “What would you do if it were your dog?” He said the veterinarian plays the role of counselor as well as doctor.

Dr. Rollin concluded by saying that the veterinary establishment needs to spend more time teaching ethics and communication.

—KATIE BURNS

Continued on 898
The 2005-2006 AVMA Executive Board held its final meeting July 13 in Honolulu, prior to the 2006 session of the House of Delegates and the AVMA Annual Convention. Dr. Robert E. “Bud” Hertzog, District VII, of Lee’s Summit, Mo., chaired the meeting.

Initiating discussion on a recommendation she submitted, AVMA immediate past president Dr. Bonnie V. Beaver asked the board to approve a procedure for updating sections of the Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia as new science becomes available in physiology, pharmacology, and species variations. Industry and organizations turn to the AVMA when knowledge develops about euthanasia methods, she said, and it would be helpful to have a process in place for the time between the convening of panels. Usually several years elapse between panels.

Board members agreed on the need to be timely in responding to inquiries about new procedures and agents of euthanasia, but some expressed concern over the recommendation’s provision to charge members of the Animal Welfare Committee with evaluating euthanasia methods between the convening of expert panels. In response, Dr. Beaver said that the AWC, as recently revised, comprises representatives from wide disciplines of expertise and with working knowledge, and the committee is charged with making science-based decisions.

Another concern was that changing the name of the document from the Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia to AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia might erode its authority. An AVMA member in attendance at the board meeting, Dr. Charles L. Stoltenow, said that in the world where he works—as an extension veterinarian at North Dakota State University and member of its institutional animal care and use committee—the panel report is the gold standard, and it is critical to maintain that credibility.

After deliberating, the board approved the recommendation. It provides that at least once every 10 years, the AVMA will convene a panel of scientists to review all literature that scientifically evaluates methods and potential methods of euthanasia, with the goal of publishing the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia. During interim years, any request for procedures or agents to be considered for approval by the AVMA that deal with causing, facilitating, or complementing existing procedures of euthanasia will be directed to the Animal Welfare Committee. The AWC will evaluate available science on the procedure or agent to determine whether it should be included in the existing guidelines. If so, the AWC will draft appropriate wording and determine where it should be inserted. The AWC will then recommend the revisions to the Executive Board for inclusion, and if passed, the revised document will become the official version.

A case in point relative to providing guidance on euthanasia procedures was a proposed policy recommended by the Animal Welfare Committee on disposal of unwanted chicks, poults, and pipped eggs. Dr. Beaver said the question is whether this should be approved as a free-standing policy or as part of the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia. During deliberations, any request for procedures or agents to be considered for approval by the AVMA that deal with causing, facilitating, or complementing existing procedures of euthanasia will be directed to the Animal Welfare Committee. The AWC will evaluate available science on the procedure or agent to determine whether it should be included in the existing guidelines. If so, the AWC will draft appropriate wording and determine where it should be inserted. The AWC will then recommend the revisions to the Executive Board for inclusion, and if passed, the revised document will become the official version.

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AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia as follows:

Disposal of Unwanted Chicks, Poults, and Pipped Eggs
Unwanted chicks, poults, and pipped eggs should be killed by an acceptable humane method, such as use of a commercially designed macerator that results in instantaneous death. Smothering unwanted chicks or poults in bags or containers is not acceptable. Pips, unwanted chicks, or poults should be killed prior to disposal. A pipped egg, or pip, is one where the chick or poult has not been successful in escaping the egg shell during the hatching process.

National disaster coordinator
The board approved a new position within the AVMA Scientific Activities Division titled national coordinator, disaster preparedness and response. The recommendation came from Dr. Beaver and Dr. Roger K. Mahr, who was AVMA president-elect at the time and is now president.

In the background to their recommendation, Drs. Beaver and Mahr stated that "one of the clear expectations" from the AVMA National Animal Disaster Summit this past May (see report, page 943) was that "the AVMA, viewed as an impartial group, lead the coordination of efforts to organize disaster response efforts."

At the board meeting, Dr. Beaver said the federal government, humane groups, and the American Kennel Club were among those that came to the AVMA requesting such a coordinator.

The new AVMA staff person will implement recommendations for national coordination of major animal disasters and facilitate the evolving scope of the "one medicine" concept. AVMA Executive Vice President Bruce W. Little said this national disaster position will be strategic, compared with the AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams, which are more operational in nature.

Dr. John Brooks, District II board member, said, "This is a step that clearly shows the AVMAs commitment to an area the public is demanding."

Enhancing certification examinations
The board approved a recommendation from the American Board of Veterinary Specialties to contract with Thomson Prometric to conduct a one-day job analysis workshop in February 2007 immediately prior to or after the ABVS annual meeting, at a cost of $11,000 for related costs.

Conducting a job analysis is considered the first step for specialty organizations to take toward enhancing their certification examinations. The systematic study provides information that will enable those planning examinations or other assessment tools to determine the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for successful job performance.

AVMA Harassment and Discrimination-Free Workplace Policy
A revised AVMA Harassment and Discrimination-Free Workplace Policy was approved by the board. It replaces the harassment policy dated November 2001. The existing policy
was sound and appropriate from a legal perspective, but it was reviewed in keeping with the five-year review cycle of Association policies.

The revised document reflects additional language to ensure that AVMA volunteers and staff members have a clearly defined complaint procedure under this policy.

July 19 meeting

On July 19, the final day of the convention, the 2006-2007 AVMA board conducted its first meeting of the new Association year. The first order of business was seating two new board members. Dr. Clark K. Fobian (MO ’77), Sedalia, Mo., succeeded Dr. Hertzog in District VII; since the close of the 2006 session of the House of Delegates, July 15 in Honolulu, that district comprises Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Dr. Theodore J. Cohn (TUS ’75), Littleton, Colo., succeeded Dr. R. Tracy Rhodes in District IX, which now comprises Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Utah.

Dr. James O. Cook (AUB ’76), District V, was elected chair, succeeding Dr. Hertzog. Dr. Cook has owned a mixed practice in Lebanon, Ky., since 1977. Dr. Larry Corry (GA ’66) of Buford, Ga., District IV, was elected vice chair. He owns two small animal hospitals and is a stockholder and board member for three emergency clinics.

The board approved a verbal motion to appoint Dr. Beaver to testify before the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection about the American Horse Slaughter Protection Act, H.R. 503. Appearing before the subcommittee July 25, Dr. Beaver said the bill does not provide the financial support required to ensure that horses given up by their owners would be adequately cared for (see JAVMA, Sept. 1, 2006, page 636).

Executive Vice President Little was authorized to attend the XX Panamerican Association of Veterinary Sciences Congress this November in Santiago, Chile. The Panamerican Association of Veterinary Sciences has eight member countries from North, Central, and South America: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, and the United States. The AVMA joined PANVET in the early 1970s, discontinued membership in 1984 because of concerns with organizational and financial matters, and rejoined the group in 2004 in recognition of AVMA’s focus on globalization.

As reported in JAVMA Sept. 1, 2006, page 650, the board approved funding for recruitment expenses related to the search for a successor to Dr. Little, who recently announced his intention to retire Dec. 31, 2007.

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CONVENTION COVERAGE

The Executive Board named the following individuals to the positions indicated. These veterinarians began serving in their roles at the conclusion of the AVMA House of Delegates session in July 2006. The duration of each term varies.

**Animal Welfare Committee**

*American Society of Veterinary Medical Association Executives*—Donald N. Schaefer, Orlando, Fla.; *Association of Shelter Veterinarians*—Dr. Leslie D. Appel, Ithaca, N.Y.; *State VMAs*—Dr. Veronica M. Jennings, Cranford, N.J.; *Aquatic Veterinary Medicine*—Jennifer A. Matysczak, Rockville, Md.

**AVMA Group Health and Life Insurance Trust**

*At-large*—Dr. Martha D. O’Rourke, Toms River, N.J.

**Clinical Practitioners Advisory Committee**

*American Association of Avian Pathologists alternate*—Dr. Danny L. Magee, Brandon, Miss.; *American Association of Bovine Practitioners delegate*—Dr. A. Andrew Overby, Harmony, Minn.

**Disaster and Emergency Issues Committee**

*American Veterinary Medical Foundation*—Dr. R. Tracy Rhodes, Buffalo, Wyo.

**Food Safety Advisory Committee**

*American Association of Avian Pathologists*—Dr. Martha M. Ewing, Ellisville, Miss.

**Governance Performance Review Committee**

*At-large*—Dr. Michael J. Topper, Harleysville, Penn.

**Member Services Committee**

*Honor roll*—Dr. Arthur Freeman, Indianapolis

**National Commission for Veterinary Economic Issues**

Dr. Robert E. “Bud” Hertzog, Lee’s Summit, Mo.

**Liaisons representatives**


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One world, one health, one medicine

Dr. Roger K. Mahr was between sessions at the U.S. Army’s Force Health Protection Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., when JAVMA News caught up with him in August. For the first time, a section of the military symposium was dedicated to veterinary medicine, indicating the growing reality of the one medicine concept, which unites veterinary and human medicine with the goal of improving and protecting animal and public health worldwide. When he addressed the symposium, Dr. Mahr emphasized that the military has been living the concept of “one world, one health, one medicine” throughout history.

In February, you said in an “AVMA answers” article that the shortage of veterinarians in the workforce would be the focus of your AVMA presidency. Why did you change the focus to the one medicine concept?

The veterinary workforce was identified as one of the top five strategic issues by the AVMA Executive Board two years ago. Of course, the main concern is the shortage of veterinarians in certain segments of our profession. As we address the veterinary workforce shortage, it’s important to look at what the entire scope of the veterinary profession encompasses, and the opportunities available to not only serve the needs of animals but also the needs of society.

As we look at that broad scope, it becomes evident that we really need to consider how the profession fits in with the one medicine concept. By reviewing that concept, and what our value to society is, we are able to readily identify the critical areas where we need more veterinarians, and in doing so, we can better address the veterinary workforce issue.

A study commissioned by the Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Coalition was released in June. It addresses the shortage of veterinarians in food supply veterinary medicine. That study coupled with two National Academy of Sciences’ studies released in 2005 reveals the importance of veterinary medicine to the one medicine concept. The studies help us to identify our needs in public health, food supply veterinary medicine, rural practice, biomedical research, academia, and government service.

The key here is that we need more students in the veterinary colleges to meet those areas of interest. We need to continue to partner with the veterinary colleges in our efforts to increase that applicant pool. The AVMA is partnering with the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges to pursue another NAS study, which will assess the current and future workforce needs for the veterinary profession in the United States. This study will provide more valuable data that will help support the need for funding of the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act, which we are hopeful will pass in Congress.

In addition to the goals you stated in your speech to the House of Delegates at the AVMA convention, how else do you plan to implement the one medicine concept?

Communication will be essential in conveying to the public, and our own profession, the value that veterinarians have to society. We will need to convey that message to the middle school students and high school students to increase the applicant pool at the veterinary colleges.

The food supply veterinary medicine study identified that the experience students gained in middle school and high school had an influence on the type of career they pursued. That study also identified that these individuals are looking for areas of work that help fulfill some of their personal values. I believe a lot of those personal values are related to serving society. If we convey the message of the immeasurable value that the veterinary profession has to society, I believe we can imprint on students a strong desire to pursue veterinary medicine as a career.

Another point is to not only get those young students interested in applying to veterinary colleges but also to expose veterinary students to the opportunities within the areas where we have workforce shortages.

When communicating within the profession, we need to make veterinarians aware of the diversity of our profession and the importance all segments have to society. Small animal practitioners, for example, must be able to communicate one-on-one with clients about various zoonotic diseases, not only those related to small animals, but those related to food animals and wildlife. That way, veterinarians can educate the public about those concerns and what the profession is doing to support efforts in controlling and detecting zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza.

This past spring, the AVMA hosted a workshop for an avian influenza and companion animals communications working group, which serves as a model of communication within the one medicine concept. Along with the AVMA, we had representatives from the American Association of Feline Practitioners, American Animal Hospital Association, Association

“Communication will be essential in conveying to the public, and our own profession, the value that veterinarians have to society.”

— DR. ROGER K. MAHR, AVMA PRESIDENT
Veterinarians will soon have more concrete infection control guidelines, thanks to the joint efforts of many individuals, including veterinarians and researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, and AVMA.

At the 143rd AVMA Annual Convention in July, Drs. Jennifer G. Wright and Jennifer McQuiston, both U.S. Public Health Service veterinarians who work for the CDC, discussed the results from a 2005 survey of AVMA members on infection control attitudes and practices. Serious consideration of infection control was spurred by their experience responding to the 2003 monkeypox outbreak. Of the 49 confirmed and probable cases counted by the CDC, 13 of those cases were veterinarians and their staff. For Drs. Wright and McQuiston, and others, the monkeypox outbreak was a wake-up call.

"We've had a fairly casual attitude about infection control," Dr. Wright said. "Most of our infection control has been focused on making sure dog A doesn't get parvovirus from dog B. We've been good at preventing illness from spreading from animal to animal, but not as good at protecting ourselves."

Dr. McQuiston agrees.

"Veterinarians can be kind of like cowboys," she said. "We provide a high level of care despite less-than-ideal situations, especially in the field, and we develop a sense of invincibility. But it only takes one event to get somebody sick."

More than 3,000 veterinarians participated in the joint AVMA/CDC survey. In addition to demographic data, the survey asked detailed questions about what kind of infection control practices veterinarians employ as well as how often and under what circumstances. It also surveyed on attitudes and concerns about infection control and personal health risks.

Dr. Wright was pleased to report that many veterinarians are doing a lot of things well—although she sees room for improvement.

Case in point: Dr. Wright applauds the fact that 95 percent of veterinarians surveyed have had their rabies vaccine—but she noted that most are not checking their titer often enough. Veterinarians have an opportunity each year at the AVMA Annual Convention to be tested at the Wellness Center, which is sponsored by the AVMA Group Health & Life Insurance Trust. Of the 1,162 Wellness Center participants at the 2006 convention, 584 included the titer test among their other health screenings.

Another case in point: The survey revealed that about half of respondents reported washing their hands every time between tending to patients or before eating, which means that half do not.
“We also found that 80 percent to 90 percent of the veterinarians report eating in the animal treatment areas,” Dr. Wright said. “Sometimes this is a function of lack of space, or it can be a lack of time.”

Dr. Wright believes it is important to the health of veterinarians and staff to not only have a dedicated break room, but to also provide enough break time so that individuals can get out of treatment areas for lunch.

The study did not assess cleaning techniques. However, anecdotal evidence from case reports of Salmonella infection outbreaks suggested that surfaces such as treatment tables and floors are being disinfected properly, but organisms can certainly be present on other surfaces. Dr. Wright urges veterinarians to “think outside the box” when considering anything that might be touched and contaminated, from light switches to door knobs.

She also noted that 80 percent of small animal veterinarians have a quarantine area and 70 percent use it when available, but what defines a quarantine area can vary widely from practice to practice. While a defined, separate room is ideal, some practices merely “quarantine” sick animals to one side of a room.

Some of the important finds of the study were that more than 90 percent of veterinarians report their needles, and more than 60 percent reported being stuck by a needle in the preceding 12 months.

“Needles should go straight into a sharps container,” Dr. Wright said. “If you are in the field and must recap, lay the needle on a hard surface and use forceps to hold the cap.”

The study revealed a substantial link between having a written infection control policy and good infection control practices, but fewer than 25 percent of veterinarians reported working in a practice that had a written policy.

Dr. McQuiston concurs that “having a written policy in place is a simple thing you can do that raises the awareness of infection control.”

“Knowing where an animal has been is helpful,” she said. “Are you checking a cat that has returned from a trip abroad with its owner? Are you examining a Greyhound coming from a (race) track with an ongoing outbreak of canine flu or kennel cough?”

The survey revealed that most veterinarians are more likely to use some sort of personal protection with an animal that is obviously ill than with an animal that doesn’t appear ill.

“Practicing standard veterinary medicine does not always call for gowns, eye protection, or respirators,” Dr. McQuiston said. But she and Dr. Wright think that taking a few extra precautions, even with apparently healthy animals, can be prudent.

“You don’t always know what an animal is bringing into your clinic,” Dr. Wright pointed out.

“One of my personal suggestions is to wear scrubs at work and to consider an on-site laundry (service) so your work clothes stay at work. That really lessens the chance of bringing in or taking home some kind of infection.”

Dr. Wright realizes the idea of scrubs might not immediately appeal to all veterinarians.

“We’re told from the very first day of school we’re supposed to dress professionally. But we deal with a much wider range of situations than the typical physician,” she said. “Very few human doctors are covered in feces and blood every day. It just makes sense to wear scrubs and even shoes that never leave the clinic.”

Scrubs should not be worn outside a veterinary practice. If scrubs are worn outside, veterinarians or their staff members who also wear them risk spreading diseases to their family and pets, and to the public.

“Imagine if you have Salmonella-contaminated feces on your clothes and your child gives you a hug when you walk in the door,” Dr. Wright said.

In addition to common risks such as Salmonella or Escherichia coli that veterinarians are already well aware of, Drs. Wright and McQuiston are concerned about the possibility of new diseases spreading in new ways.

“We must realize there could be new diseases sneaking across our borders. Veterinarians could be on the frontline,” Dr. Wright cautioned. “We could take an illness home to family members … or out to the community. Then it becomes a public health problem.”

“In veterinary medicine, we do not routinely have to deal with bloodborne pathogens,” Dr. McQuiston added.

“But in today’s world of emerging diseases, a bloodborne zoonotic disease could be just around the corner.”

“Rather than scrambling during an outbreak to put procedures in place, do it now,” Dr. McQuiston suggested.

Veterinarians looking for guidance in improving their infection control have access to numerous resources. For the past several years, JAVMA, working with the AVMA Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine, has published “Zoonosis Updates,” a series on zoonotic diseases. That valuable information can be accessed online at www.avma.org/reference/zoonosis.

Later this year, the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians will make available online a draft of the first national guidelines for infection control in veterinary medicine. This important resource will contain a model draft of a clinic plan, adaptable to all practice types. Veterinarians are urged to visit the association’s Web site, www.nasphv.org, to glean information and to provide comments. The feedback will be incorporated into the final version of the guidelines, which are scheduled to be printed in 2007.

The AVMA GHLIT supports all efforts that align with the Trust’s goals of enhancing the health and well-being of veterinarians. For more information about health insurance programs and wellness benefits, call the GHLIT at (800) 621-6360. 
The advantages of practicing diversity

Diversity, inclusion are not only altruistic but good for business

July 17 at the AVMA Annual Convention in Honolulu was “a great, great day for the diversity initiative” in the words of Dr. Evan M. Morse, a speaker and moderator for the second AVMA Veterinary Diversity Symposium. Dr. Morse, owner of a companion animal practice in Cleveland, praised the audience itself as diverse, noting that it included 21 of 28 U.S. veterinary deans as well as other educators and AVMA leaders.

Diversity is a corporate core value for Pfizer Animal Health, which sponsored the symposium.

“Some say AVMA and the veterinary profession have not been committed to diversity—until recently,” said AVMA President Henry E. Childers. “I think that’s true.” He said veterinarians are a loving, caring profession, but other concerns have dominated.

Dr. Morse said, “The past is the past ... and I feel there’s a total commitment (by AVMA now) to address the woeful inadequacies of diversity that exist in this profession.”

Dr. Childers recapped the Executive Board’s November 2004 adoption of a diversity policy and appointment of a Task Force on Diversity, which has met twice and will hold a final meeting before making recommendations to the board. In addition, the AVMA has begun collecting relevant data by way of a member information update form.

AVMA President-Elect Roger K. Mahr was in attendance, as was Dr. Larry M. Kornegay, board member and chair of the AVMA Task Force on Diversity, who later gave an update from the task force. Dr. Mahr told attendees that increasing diversity in the veterinary applicant pool will help fill diverse shortage areas in the profession, such as public health, rural practice, government, academia, and biomedical research.

Drawing on her background as the child of a Cherokee father and Greek-immigrant mother, Dr. Petrina York of Oklahoma State University shared insights about communicating effectively with a diverse clientele.

“You must recognize diversity in yourself first, including your ethnic background and the culture of your home, such as your religion and country of origin,” she said. She explained that minority clients often base their initial opinion of a practice on how well the team “disregards” their ethnic and cultural background. Does the practice staff talk louder to people with accents, or talk with other staff in front of such clients as though they were not present? Staff should be gently retrained about these things, she said.

Dr. Morse focused his own presentation on how increasing the racial diversity of one’s practice will increase the bottom line. Among the benefits are a wider talent pool from which to recruit, firsthand knowledge of emerging markets and the ability to target them, enhancement of community relationships, and revenue.
Among the “concrete business reasons” cited by Dr. Morse for cultivating a diverse client base and workforce were projections that between 1990 and 2009, blacks and Asian-Americans would double their buying power, Latinos will more than triple theirs, and Native Americans will increase theirs by 53 percent. In addition, gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender individuals are a relatively untapped and loyal market, the disabled have great discretionary buying power, seniors constitute 12 percent of the population, and women make 83 percent of all consumer purchases.

“To identify and capitalize on emerging and untapped markets, practices need employees who understand them,” Dr. Morse said. “The introduction of different voices will help practices identify opportunities and succeed in these emerging markets.”

Dr. Morse encouraged the cultivation of relationships with employees, clients, suppliers, and community leaders. Start with a mission statement that articulates the practice’s commitment to diversity and then communicate this image by advertising, direct marketing, telling the practice’s story to the media, and creating a Web site that details the practice’s commitment to diversity, among other things.

To quantify the economic return on the practice’s investment in diversity initiatives, Dr. Morse suggested using the Hubbard Diversity Return on Investment Analysis Model, available online at www.hubbardnhubbardinc.com.

Keynote speaker Robert DiMarzo, MBA, talked about leveraging diversity and inclusion for a competitive advantage in the global marketplace. President of U.S. operations for Pfizer Animal Health, DiMarzo learned from his cultural experiences working in the Central African Republic, Brazil, and Italy. His take-home message was that diversity and inclusion are not only the right thing to do but are also good for business, and one must be proactive with these initiatives.

“Altruism implies doing the right thing for the right reasons,” DiMarzo said. “The altruistic nature of what you do as a veterinarian will go away (without diversity).” As the U.S. population becomes more diverse and multicultural, pet ownership follows suit, he said. “We provide safe and wholesome food. How are we going to provide that if we don’t understand their cultures? This goes way beyond companion animals.”

Turning to the economics, he presented a basic business case, saying diversity results in a broader spectrum of experience, ideas, opinions, and perspectives, ultimately leading to more risk taking, a synergistic culture, and a broader competitive base. DiMarzo said that companies in the Standard & Poor’s top 100 that rated diversity as a priority saw an average return on investment of 18.3 percent, compared with those in the bottom 100, which had average returns of only 7.9 percent.

Leading off the afternoon sessions, Dr. Phillip Nelson, executive associate dean of preclinical programs at the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine, spoke about proactive mentorship and actively seeking diversity in the profession.

The featured speaker was Dr. Debbye Turner, contributor to the CBS Early Show. Dr. Turner said that perception, perspective, and vision are critical elements in building an exciting and fulfilling future in veterinary medicine. According to the former Miss America, the forum best suited to address these elements is the media. Her interactive session provided tips on getting on the news, giving a good interview, and dealing with negative press.

Plans are already under way for the 2007 AVMA Veterinary Diversity Symposium on Monday, July 16, during the AVMA Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. —Susan C. Kahler

The AVMA Government Action Center makes it easy to contact elected officials about important issues. Visit the AVMA Web site at www.avma.org and click on Get involved, under AVMA resources/Advocacy.
CONVENTION COVERAGE

Student AVMA convenes in Hawaii

International exchange opportunities, increased student interest in SAVMA programs among topics addressed

While the Hawaii sun and surf were a strong pull for AVMA convention-goers this July, the special events, continuing education lectures, and organizational meetings available were not to be missed. Nearly 300 veterinary students traveled to Honolulu to enjoy all that the 143rd AVMA Annual Convention had to offer. Of those students, approximately 60 came specifically to participate as members of the Student AVMA House of Delegates.

The SAVMA HOD consists of two elected representatives from each of the veterinary schools and colleges in the United States, along with representatives from the Atlantic Veterinary College, Prince Edward Island, Canada; Ross University on St. Kitts; and St. George’s University, Grenada, West Indies. Their July 16-17 meeting at the Hilton Hawaiian Village was one of two meetings for the SAVMA HOD this year.

The current SAVMA Executive Committee comprises Kara Tassone, St. George’s University, president; Justin Sobata, University of Florida, president-elect; Dr. Heather Manfredi, University of Florida, secretary; Laura Cauthen, Texas A&M University, treasurer; Karen Eiler, Western University of Health Sciences, international exchange officer; Dominic Tauer, University of Minnesota, international exchange officer-elect; Devon Hague, The Ohio State University, information technology officer; and Alix Partnow, University of Illinois, editor of The Vet Gazette.

During the meeting, delegates had the opportunity to discuss issues concerning students and determine ways in which SAVMA can benefit its constituents. Important topics addressed this year included international exchange opportunities for SAVMA members and the availability of student scholarship and contest money provided by SAVMA.

Delegates stressed that there is a need to increase student awareness regarding opportunities to travel abroad for participation in externships through the International Veterinary Student Association. Currently, the host organization is placing many international students in externships throughout the United States. The SAVMA international exchange officer, in conjunction with the International Veterinary Student Relations Committee, has made plans to streamline the application process for American students and hopes to see an increase in outgoing exchanges in the near future.

In addition to their work in the HOD, SAVMA delegates serve on various committees working to engage students in organized veterinary medi-
icine at a grassroots level. This year, many committees noted increased student interest in their programs. Highlighted areas include awareness of emerging issues, interest in the AVMA’s involvement in governmental issues, and student efforts to promote public awareness of the veterinary profession. To encourage student involvement in organized veterinary medicine as well as recognize individual achievements, the SAVMA HOD voted to increase funding for many committee projects in the coming fiscal year.

Between discussing student issues and reviewing their governance documents, members of the Student HOD attended the AVMA Political Action Committee Congressional Club luncheon, which featured an address by noted political analyst Charles E. Cook.

The SAVMA HOD meeting was honored by visits from several distinguished guests, and representatives from the Department of Agriculture and the AVMA Governmental Relations Divisions were invited to give short presentations to the delegates. As their meeting came to a close, SAVMA delegates expressed their gratitude and bid a heartfelt farewell to outgoing AVMA vice president and adviser, Dr. René A. Carlson. During her tenure, Dr. Carlson has served as an incredible advocate for students and inspired future veterinarians to step up and have their opinions heard.

The SAVMA is excited to welcome new AVMA Vice President Charles M. Hendrix. Dr. Hendrix is enthusiastic and passionate and will no doubt energize veterinary students across the country as he begins visiting schools and colleges this fall.

New SAVMA Executive Committee officers elected at the meeting were Rachel Shaff, University of Illinois, secretary-elect; Whitney Miller, Colorado State University, treasurer-elect; Maci Keithly, Washington State University, information technology officer-elect; and Erin Hicks, Tufts University, editor-elect of The Vet Gazette. These officers will be sworn in at the SAVMA HOD meeting during the Student AVMA Educational Symposium in March, which will be hosted by North Carolina State University.

—Alix Partnow, editor of The Vet Gazette

Veterinarians at the pinnacle from 888

International Development-sponsored program to establish a national network of private-sector veterinary field units in Afghanistan. He has worked and consulted in more than 20 countries for international agencies. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, he is known for his expertise in goat diseases.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Sherman was state veterinarian and chief of the Bureau of Animal Health in the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. At Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, he headed the Section of International Veterinary Medicine and helped create and direct the Center for Conservation Medicine. Dr. Sherman wrote “Tending Animals in the Global Village: A Guide to International Veterinary Medicine,” published in 2002.

Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou (MSU ’72) received the Karl F. Meyer—James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award for achievements that have significantly advanced human health through the practice of veterinary epidemiology and public health. The Hartz Mountain Corp. sponsors the award. At the University of Minnesota, Dr. Pappaioanou is professor of infectious disease epidemiology in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, School of Public Health, with a joint appointment in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Earlier, Dr. Pappaioanou served with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Public Health Service. During her distinguished CDC career, she conducted applied research in the control of malaria and echinococcosis. She also designed and implemented HIV/AIDS surveillance programs. Her expertise allowed her to work with ministries of health in developing countries and give direction in policy making and program management. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, Dr. Pappaioanou has maintained an international focus on public health and a strong interest in infectious diseases of wildlife and zoonotic diseases.

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Attendees learned about the challenges of treating livestock on organic farms during a session at the AVMA Annual Convention in Honolulu.

“In general, all natural materials are allowed, and all synthetics are prohibited, unless the (National Organic Standards Board) is petitioned by the industry or individuals, and the substance is subsequently allowed by the Secretary (of Agriculture),” explained presenter Dr. Hubert J. Karreman, a dairy veterinarian in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Karreman operates a dairy practice called Penn Dutch Cow Care and works with approximately 80 organic dairy farms. He serves on the NOSB and has participated on the AVMA task force that developed the Association’s revised Guidelines for Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Karreman’s session was especially timely, considering it was held one day after the Department of Agriculture proposed to permit additional substances in organic livestock production (see JAVMA, Sept. 1, page 639.)

“With the potential inclusion of the materials on the (Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking), the emergency treatment of organic livestock to relieve pain and suffering is greatly enhanced,” he said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Karreman said, veterinarians are dealing with a short list of approved synthetic materials when treating livestock on organic farms. If an unapproved synthetic product is used to treat an ill animal, the animal must be removed from the herd and may no longer be part of organic production. Appropriate medical care cannot be denied an animal in an attempt to retain its certified organic status.

During the session, Dr. Karreman explained some alternative treatments that are successful in cows. Cows with clinical pneumonia, for example, can be treated with a combination of biologics and botanicals. He advocated stimulating the non-specific immune system; augmenting the immune system with specific, passive antibodies; and using botanicals with known antimicrobial and immunomodulating effects. Pairing these efforts with proper hygiene practices, such as providing dry bedding, fresh air, and proper feed, he said, appeared to regularly cure pneumonia.

Dr. Karreman gathered much of the information he uses for treating livestock from old veterinary textbooks, which give scientific reports on many formerly used plant- and mineral-derived antiseptics and germicides. He balances the old information with current, peer-reviewed journal articles regarding plant medicines and biologics. Detailed information on the regulatory side of organic livestock production can be found on the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Web site, www.ams.usda.gov/nop.

Looking ahead, Dr. Karreman said, “I believe that the natural treatments that may be found to be clinically effective in organic livestock could spill over and be a benefit to conventional livestock as well.”

He noted that society has increasingly sought less reliance on routine use of antimicrobials in livestock. “People in society, whether they’re veterinarians or consumers, think the organic dairy industry is really interesting, and they want to see it grow,” he said.

—Allison Rezendes
CONVENTION COVERAGE

Sessions address twice-a-year veterinary visits

Twice-a-year veterinary visits for pets—particularly cats—were the subject of several sessions July 15 at the AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii.

Dr. James R. Richards, director of the Cornell Feline Health Center, spoke about the Healthy Cats for Life campaign, which is sponsored by the American Association of Feline Practitioners and Fort Dodge Animal Health. He also outlined sample wellness programs for kittens, adult cats, and senior cats.

Wendy S. Myers, a management consultant who is president of Communication Solutions for Veterinarians in Denver, spoke about ways for practices to implement twice-a-year wellness examinations and vaccine protocols for cats and dogs.

Myers said strategies for a successful transition from annual check-ups include establishing medical protocols, enlisting staff support, explaining the change to clients, promoting wellness inside and outside the hospital, adapting a reminder system for compliance, and improving compliance among cat owners.

“There are more cats than dogs, but veterinarians see them a lot less frequently,” she said. Cats visit the veterinarian half as often as dogs, according to the 2006-2006 National Pet Owners Survey by the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association.

Myers said clients will bring pets to the veterinarian twice a year if they believe it will lengthen and improve the quality of the animals’ lives. Twice-a-year visits also lead to prevention of health problems and early detection of diseases, saving clients money in the long run.

Myers said a practice should begin implementation by holding a veterinarians’ meeting and then a staff meeting to make decisions and assign responsibilities.

“Please allow a minimum of two months for the transition from annual to biannual exams,” she said, “so you set yourself up for success rather than falling flat on your face.”

Myers presented examples of twice-a-year wellness examinations for adult pets ages 1 to 6 years old and senior pets ages 7 years and older.

The first visit for adult pets could include a comprehensive physical examination, oral examination including grading of dental disease, vaccinations, intestinal parasite tests, heartworm test, body condition score, discussion of home dental care, and a wellness blood and urine screening.

The second visit would be similar but with different vaccinations. A veterinarian might recommend a professional dental cleaning, when necessary, and offer wellness screening again if the client declined it for the pet during the first visit.

The first examination of the year for pets ages 7 years and older could include an arthritis examination, discussion of nutrition, and senior wellness screening. The second examination might extend to additional diagnostics for blood pressure or glaucoma.

Myers suggested that staff members should begin appointments by asking clients questions from a checklist.

“One of the things that is key to do is involve the staff,” she said.

After the appointment, clients should receive an examination report card along with a written version of any instructions.

Myers also suggested sending out batches of appointment reminders weekly rather than monthly. She said the third reminder should be a phone call.

Materials and more information about twice-a-year wellness visits are available through the Web site of National Pet Wellness Month at www.npwm.com. 

–KATIE BURNS

CONVENTION COVERAGE

Delving into evidence-based medicine

Evidence-based medicine is to clinical practice as the scientific method is to research, according to Dr. Stanley R. Robertson, an associate professor at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Robertson spoke July 18, during the AVMA Convention in Hawaii, about “Evidence-Based Medicine: Application in Veterinary Medicine.” He said practitioners do base medical decisions on evidence—but the idea of evidence-based medicine is to follow a certain series of steps in making those decisions.

“In human medicine, it’s something they’ve been doing in the past several years,” Dr. Robertson said.

Some veterinarians have joined the movement to establish clinical medicine as a verifiable scientific activity. Technology has provided access to a wealth of information, and veterinarians looking at evidence specific to an individual case can also increase their general knowledge.

The traditional approach to individual cases is to rely less on research and more on an understanding of pathophysiology, extrapolations from other species, recommendations from experts, and personal experience. However, Dr. Robertson said, personal experience can be biased because veterinarians often remember either the best or worst outcomes.

He defined evidence-based medicine as a new approach to integrating the best research evidence with clinical expertise, patient values, and available resources.

“This still recognizes that clinical expertise as being important,” Dr. Robertson said. “Evidence-based medicine is often a balancing act between research evidence and clinical expertise.”

He described five steps to approaching a case through evidence-based medicine.
CONVENTION COVERAGE

Speaking up to make a difference

Civic involvement is important for professional interests

Veterinarians can make their voices carry farther on professional issues by communicating better with politicians, the press, and the public—according to speakers at the session “Bark Now or Forever Pay a Price” on July 17, during the AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii.

Adrian Hochstadt, assistant director for state legislative and regulatory affairs in the AVMA Communications Division, spoke on the topic of how to influence public policy regarding animal health and veterinary care.

“The rules are being rewritten,” Hochstadt said. “The question is: Who’s going to make up the rules?”

He said states wield a great deal of power over veterinary practice because they control licensing. Also, some counties and municipalities have begun to restrict or ban particular procedures.

“At the state and local levels, one person can make a huge difference,” Hochstadt said.

Individual veterinarians can influence public policy by developing relationships with local legislators, assisting with political campaigns, and simply writing letters. Veterinarians can work collectively through their state veterinary medical associations.

The AVMA offers resources for veterinarians at the local level through Hochstadt’s division and the State Advocacy Committee. The AVMA also will hold a symposium on state public policy in December. AVMA resources at the federal level include the Governmental Relations Division, Congressional Action Network, and Political Action Committee. More information is available online at www.avma.org under Advocacy.

Steve Dale, a syndicated newspaper columnist and radio host of “Pet Central” on WGN Radio in Chicago, spoke about how veterinarians can spread their mes-

—Katie Burns

“Dr. Robertson said the first step is asking answerable questions.”

“The components of an answerable question are the patient, population, or problem; the intervention or possible interventions; comparison of interventions; and the outcome. As veterinarians gain more clinical experience, they tend to ask fewer general background questions and more questions specific to the case.

“A lot of times, there are more questions than we have time to answer,” Dr. Robertson said.

The second step is to find the best available evidence. Sources of information include Web search engines, online veterinary databases, and Web gateways that search multiple databases.

“It takes some practice to become effective at these searches, and also some persistence,” Dr. Robertson said.

The third step is following rules of evidence to evaluate the information. The best evidence usually comes from systematic reviews of clinical trials.

The fourth step is applying the evidence to the case. The fifth and final step is to implement a treatment and examine the outcome.

Dr. Robertson said human medicine has made the process easier by creating brief analyses on a variety of subjects following the methodology of evidence-based medicine.

“We hope many of these analyses and tools developed for human medicine can be adapted to veterinary medicine,” he said.

A group of veterinarians recently formed the Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine Association, Dr. Robertson added. More information about evidence-based veterinary medicine and the new association is available at www.ebvma.org.

“I see this as a bridge between academia and private practice,” Dr. Robertson said.
Veterinarians should consider talking to their clients about dog parks, according to Dr. Melissa J. Bain, a lecturer in the Clinical Animal Behavior Program at the University of California-Davis.

Dr. Bain spoke July 16, during the AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii, about “The Role of Dog Parks in Society and the Impact of Behavior.” She said veterinarians can educate clients about how to handle off-leash dogs at parks, and about whether particular dogs should visit dog parks at all.

“Dog parks are not for everyone,” Dr. Bain said.

She suggested that veterinarians advise against taking aggressive or fearful dogs to dog parks, and puppies without a full set of vaccinations. She added that dog parks are not the place for dogs to learn how to socialize.

“This is not puppy kindergarten,” Dr. Bain said.

But other dogs can benefit from visiting dog parks. The positive effects include exercise, less pent-up energy, social contact, and mental stimulation. Dog owners also socialize and exercise at these parks.

Dr. Bain said veterinarians should teach clients who visit dog parks about the basics of canine interaction, including body postures and appropriate play. “You need to educate the owner on the signals that the dogs give,” Dr. Bain said. “The owners need to watch and control the play, if necessary.”

A study of California dog parks found that aggression was not a major problem. The study did reveal negative issues with jumping up and pushy behavior, as well as with fearful dogs. Another issue was dog walkers not being able to watch or clean up after multiple animals. Noise and sanitation were not major problems, however.

Dr. Bain said dog parks have become popular across the country. She said veterinarians can extend educational efforts on the subject beyond clients to park groups, local municipalities, and the general public.

“Your clients are going to go to the dog park,” Dr. Bain said. “Dog parks are not going to go away.”

---KATIE BURNS
CONVENTION COVERAGE

Animal facilities need to plan for disasters

A heart-wrenching video of animal rescue after Hurricane Katrina brought home the message of “Disaster Planning for Animal Facilities,” a July 17 session at the AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii.

The speaker was Laura Bevan, director of the Southeast Regional Office of the Humane Society of the United States. She said last year’s hurricane season demonstrated that no animal facility is safe from disaster.


She said disaster plans protect animals and people, reduce damage and downtime, and provide a usable facility in the aftermath. Bevan said only 15 percent to 20 percent of veterinary clinics on the Mississippi coast were operational after Katrina and that Katrina damaged or destroyed three dozen clinics in New Orleans.

CONVENTION COVERAGE

Veterinary technicians are key to behavior health programs

Technicians can be team captain in behavior treatment for pets by working with the patient, client, and attending veterinarian—according to Julie K. Shaw, senior animal behavior technologist at Purdue University’s Animal Behavior Clinic.

Shaw spoke July 16, during the AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii, about “Teaming Up: Utilizing Your Technician in Your Hospital’s Behavior Health Program.” She shared her thoughts about the role of veterinarians, role of veterinary technicians, time-effective behavior consultations, and owner compliance.

Shaw said the veterinarian’s role is to develop hospital policies and consult on cases—ruling out health issues, diagnosing behavior problems, prescribing treatment, and giving prognoses.

The veterinary technician’s role in behavior health programs is to advocate for the patient and communicate with the client and veterinarian. Veterinary technicians should guide, organize, clarify, and empathize.

“A lot of times, clients don’t think there’s hope,” Shaw said. “People are really pushing veterinary medicine to address behavior.”

Veterinary technicians should prepare clients for the consultation by emphasizing appropriate expectations, indicating what to bring, and providing a price quote. Shaw said her clinic tells clients to bring a hungry pet, treats, all collars and leashes, a video of the pet’s behavior, a diagram of the house when the patient is a cat, and information about all other pets in the household.

During the consultation, veterinary technicians can fill out a portion of the history form—which the veterinarian will complete. Technicians can try to determine the trainability of the patient and anticipate treatment options. While the veterinarian talks with the client, they can work with the patient.

Shaw said she watches the body language of clients to ensure that they will follow a treatment plan.

“‘It’s all about shaping their behavior, too,’” she said.

At the end of the consultation, the veterinary technician answers questions from clients.

“Sometimes, doctors are intimidating, and they are more likely to talk to the nurse,” Shaw said. The veterinary technician also should demonstrate any behavior modification techniques with the patient, while teaching the techniques to the clients.

When working with aggressive animals, Shaw advised remaining cautiously calm. Veterinary technicians should know how to avoid confrontation and when to back off.

—Katie Burns

Hurricanes aren’t the only disasters. Other risks are structure fires, hazardous materials, winds, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, and winter storms. A facility’s vulnerability depends on structural integrity, building design, and safety features.

Bevan said the four steps to developing a plan are mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery.

“Living things are always the top priority,” she said.

Mitigation involves physically changing the facility, perhaps by adding shutters or improving drainage, to decrease the probability of damage. Preparation can include establishing procedures for backing up records, identifying safe areas, and acquiring equipment such as power generators.

“Be part of the local community emergency plan,” Bevan said.

She said evacuation plans take extensive preparation and practice. In an evacuation situation, she suggested leaving early in case multiple trips are necessary.

“Make a written, chronological list of what you want to do,” Bevan said. Contact information is crucial because disasters do not necessarily occur during the workday, and employers should arrange a meeting place for employees in case lines of communication fail. Employers also must realize that their employees might need to tend to their own families.

Other obstacles to response and recovery range from a disruption in deliveries to an influx of animals from other facilities. Bevan advised stockpiling key supplies, educating pet owners about how to prepare for a disaster, and ensuring that insurance coverage is adequate.

Some resources for disaster planning are available through HSUS at www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center and through the AVMA at www.avma.org/disaster.

—Katie Burns

September 15, 2006 | JAVMA Vol 229, No. 6 | News
903
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Honor roll members inducted

The House of Delegates granted honor roll status to the following 364 AVMA members this year. These members have maintained membership for a period of 40 years or more and have reached the age of 70, or have reached the age of 72 and maintained continuous membership since graduation. Earlier this year, the new honor roll members were sent their gold honor-roll membership cards.

**District I**

Donald A. Ablt, East Falmouth, Mass.
Frederick R. Alisky, Essex Junction, Vt.
Lewis H. Berman, New York
Judson L. Butler, Manorsville, N.Y.
Leo R. Dube, Hanni, N.H.
William W. Dubiel, Bameveld, N.Y.
George C. Dudley, Woodbury, Conn.
Arnold L. Fleisher, Long Beach, N.Y.
Donald M. Gilbert, Plymouth, Mass.
Alfred Grossman, New York
Martin A. Gruber, Chelmsford, Mass.
Richard I. Harris, Braintree, Mass.
Robert S. Hirth, Cazenovia, N.Y.
Ronald D. Hunt, Concord, Mass.
Richard B. Jogodnik, New Rochelle, N.Y.
Paul C. Layer, Copake, N.Y.
Ralph W. Levine, Burlington, Mass.
John E. Lowe, Ithaca, N.Y.
Stuart M. Montrose, Weston, Conn.
Carl D. Nelson, Keene, N.H.
Kenneth H. Schulte, Suffield, Conn.
Fred W. Scott, Brooktondale, N.Y.
Edward P. Winnick, Sidney, N.Y.
William E. Zitek, Shelter Island Heights, N.Y.

**District II**

A. Cleveland Brown, Burtonsville, Md.
James W. Buchanan, Narberth, Pa.
Jacob Casper, Owings Mills, Md.
Richard A. Cecil, Fairfax Station, Va.
Robert C. Culladay, Mountain Top, Pa.
Peter E. Ebertz, Timonium, Md.
Nicholas H. Fisfis, Pittsburgh
Donald R. Flottelfy, New Kensington, Pa.
Paul M. Herr, Gap, Pa.
John M. Hermann, Fairfax, Va.
Edwin V. Jeszenka, Hummelstown, Pa.
Bryan S. Johnson, Toms River, N.J.
Raju G. Kammula, Rockville, Md.
W. Duane Kennedy, Reading, Pa.
Robert L. Lash, Adrian, Pa.
Albert W. Latschar, Scotch Plains, N.J.
J. Raymond Long, Hanover, Pa.
John D. McNeilis, West Orange, N.J.
Dorothy J. Miller, Egg Harbor Township, N.J.
David A. Morrow, State College, Pa.
Albert E. New, Rockville, Md.
Arnold M. Remson, Pennsburg, Pa.
Hansjakob Rothenbacher, State College, Pa.
Douglas N. Sorenson, Erie, Pa.
Stanley Steinberg, Richmond, Va.
Sheldon A. Steinberg, Haaverton, Pa.
Thomas E. Todd, Salisbury, Md.
Roy L. Wright, Cedar Bluff, Va.

**District III**

James R. Allen, Weaverville, N.C.
Henry J. Baker, Auburn University, Ala.
Foster F. Beasley, Fayetteville, Tenn.
Herman L. Boyd, Savannah, Tenn.
Robert L. Burgess, Archdale, N.C.
Paul W. Enoch, Gallatin, Tenn.
Edwin L. Freeman, Pendleton, S.C.
Robert E. Good, Franklin, Tenn.
David E. Goodman, Turbeville, S.C.
Robert Dean Horne, Auburn, Ala.
James R. Isbell, Gadsden, Ala.
Austin R. Johnson, Kinston, N.C.
James R. Allen, Weaverville, N.C.
Henry J. Baker, Auburn University, Ala.
Foster F. Beasley, Fayetteville, Tenn.
Herman L. Boyd, Savannah, Tenn.
Robert L. Burgess, Archdale, N.C.
Paul W. Enoch, Gallatin, Tenn.
Edwin L. Freeman, Pendleton, S.C.
Robert E. Good, Franklin, Tenn.
David E. Goodman, Turbeville, S.C.
Robert Dean Horne, Auburn, Ala.
James R. Isbell, Gadsden, Ala.
Austin R. Johnson, Kinston, N.C.
Thomas K. Jones, Franklin, Tenn.
Kenneth O. McDougall, Prosperity, S.C.
Cuthbert L. Padmore, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
W. P. Pinson, Burlington, N.C.
Harry H. Polk, Yemassee, S.C.
William H. Pyor, Jr, Greensville, N.C.
Robert G. Raplee, Lebanon, Tenn.
Ralph E Rhea, Cleveland, Ala.
James H. Sokolowski, Hendersonsville, N.C.
James D. Stembridge, Dothan, Ala.
Clyde E. Taylor, Starkville, Miss.
John E. Warren, Birmingham, Ala.
Gaylard P. Willard, Mobile, Ala.
James C. Wilson, Ripley, Tenn.
Childs R. Wright, Eden, N.C.

**District IV**

Richard P.Bradbury, Lawrenceville, Ga.
R. Kenneth Braun, Gainesville, Fla.
Lewis Cooper, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Dwight B. Coutler, Athens, Ga.
David W. Dreesen, Winterville, Ga.
Charles C. Duggan, Statoesboro, Ga.
J. Robert Duncan, Bishop, Ga.
Howard G. Fader, Boca Raton, Fla.
Albert B. Few, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Ronald R. Flansburg, Tequesta, Fla.
Don O. Gay, Monticello, Ga.
Charles L. Glicksberg, Coral Springs, Fla.
James G. Grove, Palm Harbor, Fla.
John J. Hartsfield, Eustis, Fla.
Gordon L. Hubbell, Gainesville, Fla.
William L. Huddard, Punta Gorda, Fla.
Frederick A. Ingle, Clermont, Ga.
James K. Isom, Plantation, Fla.
Charles B. Johnson, Vero Beach, Fla.
Arthur W. Knochenhauer, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
James L. Kupper, Cocoa, Fla.
Joe H. Maltby, Palatka, Fla.
John E. McCormack, Greensboro, Ga.
De Wayne O’Connell, Sanford, Fla.
Annie K. Prestonwood, Athens, Ga.
Willie J. Ray, Tampa, Fla.
Jose A. Simonet, San Juan, Puerto Rico
Andrew J. Stewart, Miami
D. F. Vernon, Archer, Fla.
Robert E. Walton, Sanford, Fla.
Donald W. Williams, Eaton, Ga.
Fred W. Wilmarth, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Richard E. Wooley, Athens, Ga.
Maurice R. Woulfe, Buford, Ga.
Paul A. Wysock, Dunedin, Fla.
James H. Yarborough, Bellevue, Fla.

**District V**

William L. Adams, Mount Vernon, Ky.
Paul B. Attemeule, Hebron, Ky.
Ronald L. Bell, Lewis Center, Ohio
Quentin W. Bosworth, Charlotte, Mich.
C. Perry Brown, Winchester, Ky.

† Deceased
AVMA President Henry E. Childers (center) with new honor roll members who attended the AVMA Annual Convention in Honolulu and were acknowledged during the Opening Ceremony.

Thomas M. Dillman, Trotwood, Ohio  
Daniel N. Ebert, Youngstown, Ohio  
Robert E. Ewing, Marysville, Ohio  
James B. Fox, Wayland, Mich.  
Lawrence J. Gfell, Norwalk, Ohio  
Scott T. Green, Frankfort, Ky.  
George W. Grimes, Louisville, Ky.  
Bobby A. Guilfoil, Glasgow, Ky.  
Charles B. Hardin, Kingston, Ohio  
Richard L. Jeffries, Grove City, Ohio  
Donald R. Knepper, Perrysville, Ohio  
Donald W. Lohnan, Portage, Mich.  
George E. Malaney, Manitou Beach, Mich.  
Sharron L. Martin, Westerville, Ohio  
Warren G. Nash, Danville, Ky.  
Roland G. Oliver, Hudson, Ohio  
Richard Roberts, Rocky River, Ohio  
James F. Sautter, Lexington, Ky.  
Lawrence E. Smith, Shreve, Ohio  
Richard D. Stewart, Morgantown, W.Va.  
William M. Taylor, Mount Gilead, Ohio  
Jack L. Timmons, Columbus, Ohio  
Richard P. Tschantz, Nevada, Ohio  
Cletus M. Vonderwell, Delphos, Ohio  
Kenneth A. Warner, Traverse City, Mich.  
Richard A. Weaver, Canton, Ohio  
William M. Williams, Versailles, Ky.  
Robert D. Williams, Cleveland  
Herman P. Wolfe, Mentor, Ohio  
William L. Yerse, Millersburg, Ohio  
Vernon W. Seltrecht, Northbrook, Ill.  
Chester C. Swanson, Random Lake, Wis.  
William H. Sweeney, Mount Horeb, Wis.  
James A. Walsdorf, New Holstein, Wis.  
Howard L. Whitmore, Champaign, Ill.  
James H. Withers, Princeville, Ill.  
Bernard C. Zook, West Lafayette, Ind.  

District VI
Norbert L. Arnoldi, Schofield, Wis.  
Roger S. Boone, Floyds Knobs, Ind.  
David M. Carlson, Greenfield, Ill.  
James L. Carpenter, Stratford, Wis.  
John A. Carson, Brodhead, Wis.  
Carl J. Christensen, Walkerton, Ind.  
William D. Eberhart, Angola, Ind.  
Rollo P. Greer, Sheridan, Ind.  
Joseph D. Holder, Indianapolis  
John D. Hotell, Decatur, Ind.  
Walter Jastremsky, Chicago  
Roland S. Jeans, Evansville, Wis.  
Gary L. Male, Dixon, Ill.  
Nikola Mihaiilovich, Chicago  
Dennis P. Rahn, Stone Lake, Wis.  
Ross D. Scoggins, Villa Grove, Ill.  

District VII
Jay A. Anderson, Oberlin, Kan.  
Elden R. Austin, Hutchinson, Kan.  
Joseph J. Bailey, Centerville, Kan.  
Carlos H. Contag, New Ulm, Minn.  
Ronald L. Davis, Coon Rapids, Iowa  
Stanley M. Dennis, Topeka, Kan.  
Marvin L. Denny, El Reno, Okla.  
Sherman M. Dickson, Milan, Mo.  
Albert L. Eliasen, Waverly, Iowa  
Clarence R. Fitz, St. Paul, Minn.  
Donald D. Ford, South Coffeyville, Okla.  
Dean C. Frey, North Liberty, Iowa  
Donald A. Gable, St. Joseph, Mo.  
James L. Gammell, Lindsborg, Kan.  
Harold E. Garner, Eureka, Kan.  
Samuel L. Graham, Kingman, Kan.
District VIII
Allan R. Allbritton, Gonzales, La.
Dellalene M. Baker, Denison, Texas
Edgar J. Baronne, Sunset, La.
Arlis D. Booth, Morrison, Ark.
David E. Breshers, Pine Bluff, Ark.
Malcom D. Cameron, Dallas
A. Bill Childers, Bryan, Texas
James R. Collins, Houston
Joe R. Davis, Houston
Glenn R. Eubank, Bedford, Texas
Charles H. Garrett, Jonesboro, La.
Dale R. Hodgson, Collegeville, Texas
Don F. Houston, Duncansville, Texas
Paul G. Lillard, Jacksboro, Texas
James A. McMullan, San Antonio
Kenneth E. Poole, Hot Springs Village, Ark.
Preston Prause, Columbus, Texas
Vannis W. Redman, Denton, Texas
Lloyd B. Sells, Adkins, Texas
Horace A. Smith, Bremen, Texas
Richard M. Smithwick, Howe, Texas

District IX
John A. Acree, Buena Vista, Colo.
J. D. Anderson, Afton, Wyo.
James P. Bailey, Pueblo West, Colo.
Richard D. Bair, McCook, Neb.
George L. Beckvermit, Lakewood, Colo.
Dwight G. Bennett, Fort Collins, Colo.
Martin E. Bergeland, Sinai, S.D.
Frank L. Black, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Joseph T. Blake, Provo, Utah
Lyle O. Brooksby, Kanab, Utah
William F. Brown, Delta, Colo.
George E. Burrows, New Harmony, Utah
James W. Carlson, Croton, Neb.
John H. Collamer, Saratoga, Wyo.
Donald D. Edwards, Highland, Utah
Duane E. Flack, Greeley, Colo.
Gary L. Heinze, North Platte, Neb.
Arvin D. Hullinger, Orem, Utah
Richard Jaggers, Alliance, Neb.
LaRue W. Johnson, Greeley, Colo.
Jerre L. Johnson, North Platte, Neb.
John C. Landman, Albuquerque, N.M.
Kenneth A. Larson, Fort Collins, Colo.
Edward T. McKenna, Albuquerque, N.M.
George W. Platt, Eagle, Colo.
Donald L. Roper, American Fork, Utah
Kenneth L. Rundle, Franklin, Neb.
Nolan C. Sharp, Steamboat Springs, Colo.
Richard C. Swanson, Longmont, Colo.
Richard H. Tucker, Rapid City, S.D.
D. Jesse Wagstaff, Pleasant Grove, Utah
Russell L. Wambeam, Laramie, Wyo.
James E. Wheeler, Bismarck, N.D.

District X
Donald L. Davies, Rodeo, Calif.
Ned E. Eib, Fresno, Calif.
Paul J. Geuther, Mesa, Ariz.
Benjamin L. Hart, Davis, Calif.
Allen F. Hawley, Victorville, Calif.
Jerry A. Hemphill, Susanville, Calif.
Roy V. Henrickson, Point Richmond, Calif.
Richard H. Keagy, Los Angeles
Donald M. Keagy, Apple Valley, Calif.
Larry C. Kidwell, Culver City, Calif.
Alexander B. Koss, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Edmond P. Le Tourneau, Madera, Calif.
Kenneth R. Levine, Arroyo Grande, Calif.

District XI
Edward R. Ames, Corvallis, Ore.
Glenn D. Bissell, Bandon, Ore.
Richard L. Chesterfield, Aloha, Ore.
Donald R. Cihak, Grass Range, Mont.
John W. E. Gee, Stanford, Mont.
John W. Kramer, Pullman, Wash.
Arthur A. Leck, Ashland, Ore.
John C. Lee, Meridian, Idaho
Earl H. McCauley, Bozeman, Mont.
William D. McFarland Jr., Fort Benton, Mont.
Jonathan G. Mercer, Sunnyside, Wash.
Richard A. Mitchell, Longview, Wash.
Norman D. Patterson, Lewistown, Mont.
Bill P. Patton, Cascade, Mont.
Jim E. Perry, White City, Ore.
William P. Rogers, Idaho Falls, Idaho
Elmer G. Stritzke, Caldwell, Idaho
Erich Studer, Carnation, Wash.
Robert S. Syrud, Poison, Mont.
Dale A. Tibbonits, Roy, Wash.
Randolph C. Valentine, Tacoma, Wash.
Howard C. Wagner, Grants Pass, Ore.
William R. White, Simcoe, Ontario, Canada
Robert A. Whitney, Steilacoom, Wash.
Andrew J. Williamson, St Thomas, Virgin Islands
Robert W. Yates, Roseburg, Ore.
The Auxiliary to the AVMA encouraged conventioneers to “Catch the Auxiliary Wave” this year with fundraisers and other activities at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Brenda Bullard of Powder Springs, Ga., outgoing president, remarked to the AVMA House of Delegates that Auxiliary members continue their mission of assisting students financially while enhancing and promoting veterinary medicine in whatever capacity they can.

“This is a wonderful profession that we also recognize and enjoy being a part of,” Bullard said.

The Auxiliary organized a silent auction, a friends table, and a partial Marketplace of States for the convention. Among the items for sale were paintings and handmade quilts, purses, and jewelry. The crowd was smaller than in past years, but the bidders and other shoppers were enthusiastic—with successful bidders applauding at the end of the silent auction.

The Utah VMA Auxiliary was a sale participant. Helen Esplin of Salt Lake City said members had a lot of fun and made a little money by selling homemade picture frames. Iowa State University’s student chapter of the Auxiliary sold cutlery again this year. Katie Vander Ley of Ames, Iowa, said the event went well and the crowd was larger than she had anticipated.

Proceeds of about $7,000 will support the AVMA Auxiliary’s Student Loan Fund and other projects. The Marketplace of States and Kritters Korner will return next year in full force with new merchandise for the convention in Washington, D.C.

At the Auxiliary House of Delegates, the Texas and Georgia VMA auxiliaries received $125 each for recruiting the most new members during a drive this past year. At the annual luncheon, the Auxiliary presented the Distinguished Service Award to Shirley Bartels of Auburn, Ala., and the President’s Award to Susan Sims of Louisville, Ky.


Carleen Corry of Buford, Ga., incoming president of the Auxiliary, said her theme for the year is “Strive to Make a Difference.” She said the Auxiliary will continue to support and administer the Student Loan Fund while also seeking new members and reclaiming former members.

“We have found that our greatest recruiting tools are our own members on a one-on-one basis, so that’s what we have been trying to do,” Corry said.
1. Between sessions, reading on steps overlooking a canal

2. Attendees chat in a hallway of the convention center.

3. A veterinarian peruses a program, pen at the ready.

4. Consulting a computer in the exhibit hall

5. A kitten finds a friend at a program about kitty kindergartens.

6. Concentrating during an interactive lab

At Family Night...

7. A greeter welcomes a guest.

8. As dusk approaches, a dancer twirls on stage.

9. Island music fills the tropical evening air.

10. Stringing flowers to create leis
The Association for Veterinary Family Practice made its official debut July 18 at a press conference during the AVMA Annual Convention in Hawaii.

The AVFP was formed in response to recent social and technologic changes—the ever-strengthening human-animal bond and medical advances, for instance—that have influenced the practice of primary care veterinary medicine.

Dr. Rick Timmins of the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine said the association’s mission is to identify and promote the specialized education required for an integrated veterinary team to provide primary health care for companion animals and enhance their roles in families and communities.

“Primary care must evolve from a reactive ‘repair shop’ paradigm to a proactive health maintenance organization focused on the pet’s role in the family, and emphasizing risk assessment, disease prevention, and wellness surveillance,” Dr. Timmins said.

Later this year, the UC-Davis veterinary school will offer a series of continuing education modules that will award participants credentials in veterinary family practice. This is the first step toward formation of an Academy of Veterinary Family Practice, and, eventually, specialty status for Veterinary Family Practitioners, according to Dr. Timmins.

For more information about the Association for Veterinary Family Practice, visit www.avfp.org.
A capital place for an AVMA convention

Join colleagues and friends in 2007 in what’s been called the most important city in the world—Washington, D.C. The AVMA Annual Convention experience and the American experience will come together July 14-18 in this family-centered city where most of the historical and cultural attractions are free and transportation is convenient. More than a thousand hours of continuing education and world-class exhibits will await attendees at the brand-new Washington Convention Center.

college news

International student group meets in California

About 100 veterinary students from across the country and around the world came to California from July 19-29 for the International Veterinary Student Association’s 55th Summer Congress.

Western University of Health Sciences and the University of California-Davis worked together to bring the congress to California. Previously, the congress had never met in that state and had only met once in the United States.

“Nothing could make me happier than to see an auditorium full of young people from all corners of the globe working together and getting along,” said Philip Pumerantz, founding president of Western University.

Students Karen Eiler and Terence Krentz co-chaired the organizing committee that created the program schedule, secured sleeping accommodations and transportation, and implemented initiatives to raise enough funds to host the event. The committee even built a Web site for students to enroll for the congress.

“Fifteen different countries from all over the world were all brought together by the work that we’ve done,” Krentz said. “It was an amazing experience.”

Participants traveled across California for lectures and meetings. They visited locations in Los Angeles, San Diego, Davis, and San Francisco during the 10-day event. When the participants were not in seminars, they took excursions to several landmarks. One of the veterinarians at Sea World treated the students to a behind-the-scenes tour.

assemblies

North Dakota VMA

Event: Annual meeting, July 26-28, Minot

Awards: Veterinarian of the Year: Dr. Perry Nermoe, Towner. A 1974 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Nermoe owns Towner Veterinary Service. Veterinary Technician of the Year: Brandi Clark, Minot. A member of the North Dakota Veterinary Technician Association, Clark works at Roosevelt Park Zoo.

Business: Upcoming legislation on the reporting of animal abuse was discussed.

Officials: Drs. Louis Pinkerton, Minot, president; Debra Trnovec, Jamestown, 1st vice president; Derine Winning, Fargo, 2nd vice president; Frank Walker, New Rockford, secretary-treasurer; and Gerald Kitto, McClusky, immediate past president.
**James P. Bailey**

Dr. Bailey (OSU ’47), 84, Princeton, W.Va., died June 28, 2006. Retired since 2004, he was the founder of Veterinary Associates Inc., in Princeton and Bluefield, W.Va. Dr. Bailey served on the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine from 1962-1974. He also served on the board of the Mercy County Humane Society, was a member of the Mercer County Horsemens’ Association, and assisted with the Mercer County Animal Shelter. In 1989, Dr. Bailey was named Veterinarian of the Year by the West Virginia VMA.

Active in civic life, he chaired the Mercer County Board of Health and the Green Valley-Glenwood Public Service District. In 1975, the reserveroir serving the district was named after Dr. Bailey. He also received a commendation from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for his contributions to conservation. Dr. Bailey’s wife, Margaret; a son; and a daughter survive him. His son-in-law, Dr. Larry A. Kerr (OKL ’71), is a veterinarian in Friendsville, Tenn. Memorials may be made to the Mercer County Humane Society, 1003 Shelter Road, Princeton, WV 24740; or Greenview United Methodist Church, PO. Box 6130, Bluefield, WV 24701.

**Jewell Bell**

Dr. Bell (TUS ’67), 66, Memphis, Tenn., died March 3, 2006. He worked for the Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service. Dr. Bell was a veteran of the Army. His wife, Helen; three sons; and a daughter survive him.

**Judd A. Chesnut**

Dr. Chesnut (KSU ’51), 81, Lamar, Mo., died Jan. 24, 2006. Prior to retirement, he practiced in Lamar. A World War II veteran, Dr. Chesnut served as a pilot in the Air Force. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Dr. Chesnut’s wife, Helen; two sons; and two daughters survive him.

**Donald E. Coulter**

Dr. Coulter (ILL ’64), 75, Evergreen, Colo., died June 20, 2006. Prior to retirement, he practiced in Panama for 10 years. Earlier in his career, Dr. Coulter practiced in Ramsey, Ill. He was a Navy veteran of the Korean War. Memorials may be made to Mount Evans Hospice of Evergreen, PO. Box 2770, Evergreen, CO 80437.

**George W. Eberhart**

Dr. Eberhart (KSU ’41), 94, Granite Bay, Calif., died March 13, 2006. Retired since 2005, he owned a practice in Moraga, Calif. During his career, Dr. Eberhart also worked as a meat inspector in New York during World War II; owned a practice in El Cerrito, Calif.; and served as an associate professor of surgery at Kansas State University. He also served briefly as a professor of surgery at Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria and helped found the Contra Costa Veterinary Emergency Center in Concord, Calif.

A distinguished life member of the California VMA, Dr. Eberhart was a past president of the Alameda County VMA and served as an assistant regional director for the American Animal Hospital Association. He was also a member of the Contra Costa County VMA, American Veterinary Radiology Society, American Veterinary Neurology Association, and American Gastroenterology Association. Dr. Eberhart received the Region 5 AAHA Service Award for 1975-1976.

His son and daughter survive him. Memorials may be made to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, PO. Box 27106, New York, NY 10087.

**Robertta L. Fitts**

Dr. Fitts (ONT ’45), 89, Hudson, Ohio, died June 19, 2006. She practiced with her husband, Dr. Robert H. Fitts (now deceased), in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, for 34 years. Dr. Fitts is survived by two sons.

**John M. Hetrick Jr.**

Dr. Hetrick (GA ’62), 70, Baltimore, died March 10, 2006. From 1975 until retirement in 2004, he co-owned Glen Burnie Animal Hospital in Glen Burnie, Md. Dr. Hetrick also helped found the Emergency Veterinary Clinic in Catonsville, Md. Early in his career, he served as service director for Wallace Chicks Inc., a hybrid poultry breeding company in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Dr. Hetrick was a life member of the Maryland VMA. His wife, Marge; a son; and a daughter survive him. Memorials may be made to the Maryland State Animal Response Team Inc., 8015 Corporate Drive, Suite A, Baltimore, MD 21236.

**Alex Hogg**

Dr. Hogg (KSU ’50), 86, Fort Calhoun, Neb., died July 18, 2006. Known internationally for his expertise in swine disease, Dr. Hogg was professor emeritus and former swine extension veterinarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In 1979, Dr. Hogg was president of what was then known as the American Association of Swine Practitioners (now, American Association of Swine Veterinarians). He also served on the AASP board of directors and as secretary-treasurer.

Instrumental in the eradication of hog cholera in the United States, Dr. Hogg was honored as the first recipient of the AASV Foundation Heritage Award, which recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievements in swine medicine. He also received the AASV Meritorious Service and Howard Dunne Memorial awards. The American Association of Extension Veterinarians and the Nebraska VMA each honored him as Veterinarian of the Year.

From 1950-1970, Dr. Hogg was in mixed practice in Coin, Iowa. Then he briefly practiced small animal medicine in El Cajon, Calif. Dr. Hogg joined the faculty of UNL in 1972 and developed numerous statewide extension programs.
programs, including some of the first farrowing schools for women. He mentored many students. Following his retirement from UNL, he served as a technical services consultant for MVP Laboratories in Ralston, Neb.

A veteran of World War II, he served in the Navy. Dr. Hogg is survived by his wife, Mary Lou, and a daughter.

Robert H. Imrie
Dr. Imrie (CAL ’75), 55, Seattle, died May 27, 2006. A small animal practitioner, he served as a relief veterinarian in Seattle. Dr. Imrie was a member of the Washington State VMA. Dedicated to promoting science in veterinary medicine, he served as an adviser for the Task Force for Veterinary Science, a group of veterinarians, academicians and scientists who have volunteered to make their expertise available to both the veterinary profession and the public. Dr. Imrie also served as associate editor for The Scientific Review of Alternative Medicine, a peer-reviewed journal devoted exclusively to analyzing the claims of alternative medicine.

Merl A. Parlin
Dr. Parlin (MSU ’45), 85, Kankakee, Ill., died June 23, 2006. From 1968 until retirement in 1985, he worked for Gaines Research Kennels in Kankakee, Ill. Following graduation, Dr. Parlin practiced small animal medicine in Chicago for two years. Then spent 10 years in large animal practice in central Illinois. Next, Dr. Parlin served as county veterinarian for Kankakee County.

He was a veteran of the Air Force, attaining the rank of captain. Dr. Parlin’s wife, Jean; a daughter; and a son survive him. Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 371 E. Court St., Kankakee, IL 60901.

Julie A. Richter
Dr. Richter (COR ’94), 39, Howes Cave, N.Y., died June 6, 2006. She was a partner at Howes Cave Animal Hospital since 2000. Following graduation, Dr. Richter practiced at Towne and Country Veterinary Hospital in Corning, N.Y. She then worked at Willow Street Animal Hospital in Willow Street, Pa. From 1998-2000, Dr. Richter practiced at Companion Animal Hospital in Elizabethtown, Pa.

She was a member of the New York State VMS. Dr. Richter’s husband, Dr. David P. Rummel (COR ’93), and a son survive her. Memorials may be made to the Julie Richter Memorial Scholarship, Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY 14853.

Girija N. Roy
Dr. Roy (RA ’66), 64, Scotch Plains, N.J., died Jan. 23, 2006. He owned Rahway Animal Hospital in Rahway, N.J.

Calvin W. Schwabe
Dr. Schwabe (AUB ’54), 79, Haverford, Penn., died June 24, 2006.

Keenly aware of the impact of animal health on human health, Dr. Schwabe paved the way for veterinarians to assume important roles in responding to threats of emerging infectious diseases.

Retired since 1991, he was professor emeritus at the University of California-Davis. Dr. Schwabe began his career in 1956 at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. During his 10-year tenure there, he was a professor of parasitology and epidemiology, headed the departments of parasitology and tropical health at the School of Medicine, and served as assistant director of the School of Public Health.

Dr. Schwabe served as a scientist with the Parasitic Diseases Program at the World Health Organization, initiating a global program of research and control of hydatid disease.

In 1966, Dr. Schwabe returned to the United States, joining the faculty of the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, where he created and chaired the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, the first of its kind in the world at a veterinary school or college. He developed a program for

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veterinarians leading to the Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine and Public Health. This program resulted in many veterinarians pursuing careers in areas of public health such as the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Schwabe was also a professor of epidemiology in the School of Medicine and Hooper Foundation for Medical Research at UC-San Francisco.

An early proponent of the “one medicine” concept, he emphasized the relationships between animals, the environment, and emerging human diseases in his research and teaching. Dr. Schwabe authored three editions of the classic “Veterinary Medicine and Human Health” and co-authored the textbook “Epidemiology in Veterinary Practice.” He was a member of the American Public Health Association, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, American Society of Parasitologists, and American Association for the Advancement of Science. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, Dr. Schwabe received its Distinguished Diplomate Award in 1983.

He is survived by his wife, Tippy; a son; and a daughter. Memorials may be made to Haverford Friends Meeting, 855 Buck Lane, Haverford, PA 19041; or American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Vercil F. Senseman

Dr. Senseman (AUB ’62), 75, Fort Myers, Fla., died May 1, 2006. Prior to retirement in 1993, he owned North Shore Animal Hospital in North Fort Myers. A founder of the Emergency Veterinary Clinic in Fort Myers, Dr. Senseman was a member of the Florida VMA, Caloosa VMS, and Lee County Humane Society. His wife, Lois Ann; three daughters; and two sons survive him. Dr. Senseman’s daughters, Drs. Sharon J. Powell (KSU ’90) and Karen J. Griffis (KSU ’91), are veterinarians in Florida.

Memorials may be made to the Lee County Humane Society, 2010 Arcadia St., Fort Myers, FL 33916; Animal Refuge Center, North Fort Myers, FL 33903; or Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, P.O. Box 150, Sanibel Island, FL 33957.

Charles W. Sprugel

Dr. Sprugel (ISU ’60), 76, Iowa Falls, Iowa, died May 12, 2006. From 1968 until retirement in 2004, he owned mixed practices in Dumont and Hampton, Iowa. Following graduation and until 1965, Dr. Sprugel owned a practice in Latimer, Iowa. He then worked as a district veterinarian with the Iowa Department of Agriculture. From 1966-1967, Dr. Sprugel served as assistant state veterinarian. During his career, he also briefly owned a mixed practice in Iowa Falls, Iowa; served as a federal meat inspector; and conducted research at Diamond Laboratories in Des Moines, Iowa.

A Navy veteran of the Korean War, Dr. Sprugel served as a medical corpsman. He was a member of the American Legion. Dr. Sprugel’s wife, Gladys, and two daughters survive him. Memorials may be made to Friends of Beeds Lake, c/o Marcee Sidmore, Treasurer, 1603 Quail Ave., Hampton, IA 50441.

Eugene W. Wood

Dr. Wood (AUB ’67), 75, Lone Grove, Okla., died Jan. 21, 2006. He practiced at 991 Equine Center in Lone Grove since 1983. From 1975-1977, Dr. Wood served as director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, attaining the rank of staff sergeant. Dr. Wood is survived by his wife, Brenda; two sons; and a stepson. Memorials may be made to the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, 180 Greene Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849.

Behzad Yamini

Dr. Yamini (TEH ’63), 66, East Lansing, Mich., died May 15, 2006. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, he was a professor of veterinary anatomic pathology at Michigan State University. Dr. Yamini’s diagnostic expertise included cancer, prostatic disease, and several nutritional diseases. His wife, Nahid; a son; and two daughters survive him. Memorials may be made to the Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, 4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing, MI 48910.