More than half of U.S. households owned pets at year-end 2011, and three-quarters of these pet-owning households made at least one visit to the veterinarian during 2011.

By contrast, the presidents of the AVMA, American Animal Hospital Association, and American Association of Feline Practitioners suggest that every pet have at least one veterinary visit annually for preventive care.

The new data appear in the 2012 edition of the U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook, now available from the AVMA. The book draws on a 2012 survey of more than 50,000 households and on data from previous editions.

The report has provided a comprehensive picture approximately every five years since 1983 of the ownership and veterinary care of cats, dogs, and other pets.

Pet ownership

At year-end 2011, 56.0 percent of households owned pets, down from 57.4 percent at year-end 2006.

More households owned dogs than cats in 2011, but cat-owning households had a mean of 2.1 cats while dog-owning households had a mean of 1.6 dogs.

The population of pet cats decreased from 81.7 million at year-end 2006 to 74.1 million at year-end 2011, and the population of pet dogs decreased from 72.1 million to 69.9 million over the same period.

Dr. Roy Brenton Smith, AAFP president, did not expect to see a decrease in cat ownership.

“I think the economy has something to do with it. And people’s lifestyles have changed a lot, too, since I first started practice,” said Dr. Smith, who started practice in 1962. “But, of course, some of... their lifestyle change now is more conducive for them to have cats than to have dogs because they can be gone all day and not have to worry about coming home and taking the dog out.”
AVMA report details pet ownership, veterinary care

Among pet owners, 63.2 percent considered their pets to be family members. Another 35.8 percent considered their pets to be pets or companions. The remaining 1 percent considered their pets to be property.

“The human-animal bond is stronger than ever, but we are very concerned that pets may not be getting the preventive health care they need,” said Dr. Douglas G. Aspros, AVMA president.

**Veterinary visits**

Among cat owners, 44.9 percent did not take their cat or cats to a veterinarian during 2011, up from 36.3 percent in 2006. Among dog owners, 18.7 percent did not take their dog or dogs to a veterinarian during 2011, up from 17.3 percent in 2006.

The primary reason that cat and dog owners gave for not visiting a veterinarian during 2011 was that their pets did not get sick or injured.

“What is most perplexing is that so many dog and cat owners understand that routine check-ups and preventive health care are important for their pets,” Dr. Aspros said. “Nearly 90 percent of dog owners and 75 percent of cat owners surveyed indicated...
that routine check-ups and preventive care are either very or somewhat important.”

Dr. Mark Russak, AAHA president, pointed to the efforts of the Partnership for Preventive Pet Healthcare to promote the value of preventive care for dogs and cats. The partnership’s members are the AVMA, AAHA, AAFP, other veterinary associations, animal health companies, and other organizations.

Another 21.5 percent of cat owners and 29.3 percent of dog owners who did not visit a veterinarian said they could not afford it.

“The affordability factor is critical,” Dr. Russak said. “And I think if we make it more affordable for clients, then they’re going to tend to bring the animals in.”

Dr. Russak listed pet insurance, wellness plans, and credit as ways to make veterinary care more affordable. Among dog owners, 5.7 percent had insurance for their dogs in 2011. Among cat owners, 2.6 percent had insurance for their cats.

Despite the number of pet owners who did not visit a veterinarian, total veterinary visits increased from 193.0 million in 2006 to 202.4 million in 2011. Total veterinary visits for dogs increased from 119.4 million to 130.4 million, and mean number of veterinary visits per dog increased from 1.5 to 1.6.

Total veterinary visits for cats decreased from 63.3 million to 60.5 million, but mean number of veterinary visits per cat stayed constant at 0.7 because the population of cats decreased.

Data from the 2007 edition of the demographics sourcebook contributed to the current movement in the veterinary profession to address the disparity between cats and dogs in veterinary care.

Shortly after the release of the 2007 report, a group of organizations held a summit that led to the formation of the CATalyst Council to advocate for feline health and welfare.

Recently, the AAFP and CATalyst Council have created programs to help practices become cat-friendly, among other efforts to improve the care of cats.

In September 2012, the AAFP announced a partnership with Bayer HealthCare LLC to uncover and remove obstacles to routine veterinary visits for cats.

The care of cats

2 VISITS

1 VISIT

1987-2011

mean number of veterinary visits per dog, cat


1.5 1.8 1.9 1.5 1.6

0.8 0.9 1.0 1.0 0.7 0.7

The Partnership for Preventive Pet Healthcare also has an objective to make preventive care for cats a priority.

**Veterinary expenditures**

The 2012 sourcebook reveals that total veterinary expenditures for all pets increased from $24.5 billion during 2006 to $28.0 billion during 2011, an increase of 14.3 percent, as the Consumer Price Index increased 11.6 percent.

The Great Recession officially lasted from December 2007 to June 2009, although unemployment remains high.

“In 50 years, this is the first time in my practice I have really felt the effect of the economy,” Dr. Smith said. “But I see it coming back—slowly, but it’s coming back.”

The mean veterinary expenditure per cat increased from $81 during 2006 to $90 during 2011, and the mean expenditure per dog increased from $200 to $227.

Cat and dog owners reported that physical examinations and vaccinations were the top veterinary services or products provided at their most recent veterinary visit. Rounding out the top five services or products were laboratory tests, drugs or medications, and flea or tick products.

Income for pet-owning households was only slightly higher than income for all households.

For pet-owning households, veterinary expenditures increased in relation to income.

“Shouldn’t that number be the same, straight across the board?” Dr. Russak asked. “We are charging what we should be charging, but nobody ever explained to the pet-owning public why we’re worth it.”

He said the veterinary profession needs to improve marketing and customer service while finding ways to help clients afford care.

**Owner demographics**

Many more details about the demographics of pet owners are available from the sourcebook.

Families continue to be more likely to own pets than nonfamily households are, with 66.4 percent of families owning pets sometime during 2011. Nevertheless, pet
ownership among nonfamily households increased from 46.9 percent during 2006 to 54.7 percent during 2011.

Pet ownership was higher among people who lived in a larger household, worked full time, owned a home, and lived in a smaller community. Pet ownership was lower among people with an advanced degree beyond college.

White respondents were most likely to own pets in 2011 (65.6 percent), followed by respondents in the Spanish/Hispanic category (62.5 percent), Asian/Pacific Islander/American Indian/Aleut Eskimo category (47.7 percent) and Black/African-American category (32.7 percent).

Beyond cats and dogs

The sourcebook also offers details about the ownership and veterinary care of pets other than cats and dogs: pet birds, horses that owners categorize as pets, and specialty and exotic pets.

The population of pet birds decreased from 11.2 million to 8.3 million between year-end 2006 and year-end 2011. Just 12.4 percent of bird owners took their bird or birds to a veterinarian during 2011.

The population of pet horses decreased from 7.3 million to 4.9 million. Among horse owners, 53.8 percent of owners categorized their horses as pets.

A resource for disaster response

As Hurricane Sandy approached the East Coast in October 2012, the Federal Emergency Management Agency relied on the AVMA’s Pet Ownership Calculator to help plan response efforts.

The calculator uses community size and data from the AVMA’s U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook to give an estimate of the number of pet-owning households and pet population in a community.

Dr. Cheryl L. Eia, AVMA coordinator of emergency preparedness and response, said FEMA turned to the calculator to determine the number of pet owners and pets that potentially would need assistance with evacuation and sheltering during Hurricane Sandy.

While the calculator draws on national rates of pet ownership, the sourcebook also provides state rates of cat and dog ownership and regional rates of bird and horse ownership. The demographics of a community might be more similar to those of the state or region than the nation, although the state and regional data have a higher margin of error than the national data.

2011 primary reason for not taking dog, cat to veterinarian at any time

- 48.6% not sick or injured
- 29.3% couldn’t afford
- 17.5% didn’t need vaccines
- 0.9% too hard to transport

2011 mean veterinary expenditure per dog/cat-owning household income

- 53.9% not sick or injured
- 21.5% couldn’t afford
- 17.3% didn’t need vaccines
- 4.1% too hard to transport

2011 percent had veterinary visits for their horse or horses during 2011.

The percentage of households that own specialty and exotic pets decreased from 12.7 percent to 10.6 percent. Popular pets included fish, rabbits, turtles, hamsters, and guinea pigs. Households that owned specialty and exotic pets had a mean of 0.4 veterinary visits for those pets during 2011.

Many households own pets in more than one of the categories of cats, dogs, birds, horses, and specialty and exotic pets. Of pet-owning households, 15.3 percent own a combination of cats and dogs, while 25.5 percent own other combinations of pets. Dr. Russak sees an opportunity for veterinarians to work more with animals other than cats and dogs.

Ordering information

The AVMA has released the 2012 U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook in book form and as a downloadable PDF file. The report is available for purchase through the AVMA Store by visiting www.avma.org/products, then clicking on "Market Research Reports," or by calling (800) 248-2862, Ext. 6655.
A great teacher of great men

James Law, America’s first university veterinary professor, raised the bar for academic standards
Ezra Cornell insisted that the faculty of the university he co-founded in 1865 in Ithaca, N.Y., include a veterinarian. Dr. James Law, a distinguished veterinarian from Edinburgh, Scotland, took the job, making history as the first veterinary professor at an American university.

Over the next 40 years at Cornell University, Dr. Law taught students who would go on to become giants in the fields of veterinary medicine and animal health research, including Dr. Daniel Salmon, discoverer of the Salmonella bacterium. The Scottish expatriate also helped raise standards for veterinary education in the United States and championed the veterinarian’s role as a protector of animal and human health.

Beginnings

Dr. James Law was born in Edinburgh on Feb. 13, 1838. At 16, he enrolled in Edinburgh Veterinary College, and in 1857, at the age of 19, he graduated with honors. During the final year of his studies, Dr. Law befriended Dr. John Gamgee, a respected professor of veterinary anatomy and physiology, who mentored the young veterinarian and was instrumental in his emigrating to the United States.

Academically, Dr. Law stood head and shoulders above his peers; he was awarded the Highland and Agricultural Society’s medal for best general examination and a special medal for the best examination in general and descriptive anatomy.

Following his graduation, Dr. Law spent a year at the Medical School at the University of Edinburgh. There, his professors included Joseph Lister, the father of antiseptic surgery, who taught him the principles and practice of surgery. Afterward, Dr. Law studied at the veterinary schools of Lyons and Alfort in France. In 1860, he joined the faculty of the New Veterinary College in Edinburgh—started three years earlier by Dr. Gamgee—as professor of veterinary anatomy and physiology and materia medica.

On April 30, 1861, Dr. Law was awarded his diploma by the Board of Examiners of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and became a member of the RCVS. In 1867, he left New College and opened a private practice in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Coming to America

Cornell University was established by the New York State Legislature on April 27, 1865, in large part because of Ezra Cornell, a wealthy farmer and proponent of veterinary medicine, and Andrew White, who would serve as the university’s first president. Both men were members of the state senate and advocates for opening a land-grant institution in New York. Cornell even provided his farm in Ithaca as a site to build the university and half a million dollars of his fortune for an endowment.

Dr. Gamgee, who was in the United States at the government’s request to investigate Texas fever and contagious pleuropneumonia in cattle, heard about the new university and paid a visit to Cornell and White. When he learned the faculty would include a professor of veterinary medicine and surgery, Dr. Gamgee strongly recommended Dr. Law for the position.

“Gamgee saw Law as the star of veterinary medicine’s future in the U.S. and Canada,” explained Dr. Donald F. Smith, dean of Cornell veterinary college from 1997-2007.

During the 19th century, few veterinarians in the United States had academic degrees; those who did had usually been educated in Europe. While traveling in Europe to interview candidates for faculty positions at Cornell, White described the state of veterinary education in America to Dr. Law in a letter dated June 24, 1868: “There is at present hardly anything in the way of scientific veterinary teaching in America—indeed I may safely say there is none and to build up that department is acknowledged general among us to be of the first importance.”

White and Dr. Law met in London on July 2, 1868. White was so impressed with the Scotsman he wrote Cornell the following day: “As you know I have looked through the
principal Agricultural and Veterinary Colleges of Europe before arriving here. I have found several excellent candidates but I find Mr. Law vastly their superior. He has published books and articles which have given him a high reputation on this side of the water and personally he is everything we could desire. Modest, unassuming, quiet, clear in his statements, thorough in his work. He cannot fail to succeed.”

Six days later, the university board of trustees appointed Dr. Law as chair of veterinary medicine and surgery. On Aug. 7, Dr. Law sailed with his family from Glasgow to America. He would explain his motivation for leaving Europe's more advanced veterinary environment: “The call to do pioneer work, the new institution, in the new country, and under new conditions, I welcomed as an opportunity that the Old World could not offer.”

Off and running

Cornell University officially opened its doors Oct. 7, 1868. Ezra Cornell gave a speech during the opening ceremonies in which he underscored the value of veterinary medicine: “The veterinarian will shield him (the farmer) against many losses which are now submitted to as a matter of course by the uneducated farmer, and which, in the aggregate, amount to millions of dollars every year in our state alone.”

Ellis Pierson Leonard writes in “A Cornell Heritage: Veterinary Medicine 1868-1908” that the requirements for a veterinary degree at Cornell were higher than those at other U.S. institutions, which required at most three years of study. Under the standards set by Dr. Law at Cornell, students were awarded a Bachelor of Veterinary Science after four years and a DVM degree after two additional years.

During those early years, Dr. Law taught all the disciplines of veterinary medicine and stressed the importance of animal health and sanitary science in protecting the public from infectious diseases. Among his first students was Daniel Salmon. In 1876, Cornell granted Salmon a DVM degree, the first to be awarded by an American university. Dr. Salmon went on to discover the Salmonella organism, and in 1884, he established the Bureau of Animal Industry within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Other notable students of Dr. Law’s included Drs. Theobald Smith, Cooper Curtice, Fred Kilborne, and Veranus Moore.

“I believe James Law’s greatest contribution to veterinary medicine was in a very small number of students,” Dr. Smith said, adding that Dr. Law taught just four veterinary students who graduated during the first 25 years of Cornell. “He was a great teacher of a very, very, very few people who graduated with such distinction and went on to great things.”

Dr. Law was a strong proponent of veterinary medicine’s ability to control and eradicate infectious animal diseases. He was held in such high regard that he was appointed to nine state and federal livestock disease commissions from 1868-1896. His investigations included outbreaks of swine plague, lung plague, Texas cattle fever, and pleuropneumonia. In his reports, Dr. Law recommended veterinary inspection and diagnosis, quarantine and slaughter of sick animals, and owner compensation in response to such outbreaks.

In his 2008 paper titled “James Law: America’s First Veterinary Epidemiologist and The Equine Influenza Epidemic of 1872,” Dr. Thomas G. Murnane describes Dr. Law's report to the commissioner of agriculture as the most substantive report of the outbreak. “The forty-five page report, including some seven pages of weather data reflects Law’s, then 34 years old, broad range of professional talents. A thorough and careful investigator he employed the epidemiological tools of the era and reported his investigation in classical scientific and literary style. He was renowned for his writing ability as noted in comments by Professor Gamgee and President White.”

Infectious animal diseases were a highly contentious issue in the United States during Dr. Law’s day. There was no shortage of veterinarians and farmers who denied the existence of certain diseases, and there was much debate over whether vaccination or slaughter was a better means of controlling the spread of others. Dr. Law frequently lectured farmers about the harms of superstitious practices and imaginary diseases of the day.

Additionally, Dr. Law called for higher veterinary education standards. In 1877, he advocated for the establishment of government-supported veterinary schools: “If the Government can undertake the establishment of a veterinary college, with a sufficiently extended curriculum to make it worthy of the name, it will prove an excellent investment if properly officered and furnished.”

Another of Dr. Law’s ideas was appointing a veterinarian in each state to deal with disease outbreaks in livestock. In July 1885, New York Gov. Bill Hill named Dr. Law state veterinarian, a position he held until 1887, when the USDA sent him to Illinois to eradicate lung plague in cattle.

Dr. Law was an early advocate of the one-health concept. Leonard writes in “A Cornell Heritage” about an 1878 report to the Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture in which Dr. Law stated: “We have seen that in the days of Hippocrates medicine was to a large extent one, the physician was, in many cases, a veterinarian as well, and took lessons in anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics from his practice on the lower animals. For many, this catholicity of feeling and action pro-
duced a breadth of view and soundness of practice which has served to rescue their names from oblivion, and hand them down to us as the fathers of medicine."

In the article, Dr. Law suggested dual degrees in human and veterinary medicine: "I propose a new style of practitioner, more comprehensively educated and equipped than either physician or veterinarian—one who has given a longer time to acquire his education, who has earned both degrees by faithful and conscientious study, and who, in the hospitals for men and animals, has made himself thoroughly acquainted with the diagnosis and treatment of maladies of man and beast."

Dr. Law was an active member of New York’s Tompkins County Medical Society, for which he wrote a series of rules for dealing with a cholera outbreak.

**State support**

On Jan. 18, 1893, Dr. Law appeared before New York’s State Agricultural Society at Albany to famously explain why veterinary education should receive greater recognition and support. In his speech, titled “A Higher Veterinary Education, Essential to the Maintenance and Improvement of our Live Stock,” he attributed the millions of dollars lost annually to livestock diseases to a national neglect of veterinary science and a lack of properly trained veterinarians.

In condemning the typical method by which meat inspectors were chosen, Dr. Law wrote, "The inspector must therefore be a scientific man. The political appointee, whether butcher, cattle-dealer or veteran, has no place here, unless he adds to his other claims a thorough training in veterinary medicine, chemistry, microscopy, biology, parasitism and bacteriology. The fact that a candidate is a physician or even a veterinarian is not of itself enough. He must show by a theoretical and practical examination before a board of experts that he is familiar with this whole scientific field, and the health of the public may be safely intrusted to his care."

And finally, Dr. Law criticized the lack of public support for veterinary education in America. He proposed the New York legislature appropriate $200,000 for a faculty and facility to educate veterinarians, and for the creation of a state veterinary examining board.

In May 1893, Cornell trustees persuaded Gov. Roswell Flower and the legislature to provide $50,000 for a dairy building on the university campus. The following year, on March 21, Dr. Law’s dream of a veterinary college at Cornell was realized: An act was passed establishing a state-supported veterinary college at the university and $50,000 in funding. An additional $100,000 was appropriated the following year to build and furnish the new veterinary college.

The trustees appointed Dr. Law in June 1896 as director of the veterinary college and professor of principles and practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary sanitary science, and veterinary therapeutics. The New York State Veterinary College opened its doors on Sept. 21, 1896, to 11 students.

In 1906, two years before his retirement from Cornell, Dr. Law was elected president of the AVMA at the organization’s meeting in New Haven, Conn.
Report summarizes year in state legislation

The AVMA State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Department recently released a year-end report on several thousand bills and regulations that the department tracked in 2012. The report highlights new rules of interest to veterinarians, trends in legislative and regulatory affairs, and other developments.

Noteworthy developments include the following:

- California passed a law prohibiting landlords from adopting rental policies that require tenants to have animals declawed or devocalized as a condition of occupancy.
- California voters defeated a ballot proposition to require foods containing genetically modified ingredients to be labeled as such on packaging or supermarket shelves.
- California and Louisiana banned the sale of live animals in specified public places such as streets, parking lots, and sidewalks.
- Legislators in Alaska defeated a bill to allow out-of-state veterinarians to practice free of charge in rural areas of Alaska. State regulators adopted rules to allow veterinary technicians to provide care to animals under remote direction in communities without a veterinary practice.
- In Pennsylvania, a veterinarian who keeps a client’s animal while the practice is closed must now inform the owner who will be on the premises with the animal and what level of monitoring will be provided.

The report on state legislation is available at www.avma.org/advocacy/stateandlocal under “State Legislative Updates” on the left side of the page. AVMA members may subscribe to a monthly email newsletter on state legislation by clicking the button on the right side.

The AVMA produces a multitude of videos and podcasts for veterinarians and the public—with recent subjects including flea and tick products, ferrets, catnip, and deafness in pets. The Association posts videos on the AVMAvets channel on YouTube at www.youtube.com/AmerVetMedAssn. Viewers can click on “Browse videos,” then “Playlists,” to find collections such as AVMA TV for the public, videos for the AVMA membership, and videos on veterinary careers.

An archive of the Association’s podcasts is available by visiting www.avma.org, clicking on “News & Publications,” then clicking on “RSS Feeds.” Under the “Podcasts” heading are links to Animal Tracks podcasts for pet owners and Chew on This podcasts on food safety.

JAVMA joins forces with Veterinary Career Center

The JAVMA and the AVMA’s online Veterinary Career Center have joined forces in providing job listings for the veterinary profession.

Starting in January, JAVMA classified advertisements for jobs became available on the VCC. This integration offers employers a flexible way to target candidates for positions. Job seekers can visit a single website to search a comprehensive list of open positions.

Previously, employers had to call or fax the JAVMA advertising department to place job classifieds in the Journal. Now, employers can visit www.avma.org/vcc for a choice of where to post job advertisements.

One of the options is a JAVMA print advertisement that will coincide with free online posting on the VCC. For an additional fee, employers can post the job immediately on the VCC and on the Veterinary Career Network, a national alliance of more than 50 veterinary career websites.

The other option for job advertisements is to post only on the VCC and Veterinary Career Network for a 30-, 60-, or 90-day period.
Two appellate court judges ruled in December 2012 that a pharmaceutical salesman’s conviction for conspiring to sell prescription drugs for off-label uses violated his speech protections under the First Amendment.

A third judge wrote in a dissenting opinion that the ruling “calls into question the very foundations of our century-old system of drug regulation” and would let such pharmaceutical company representatives make any prescription drug claims not yet proved to be false or misleading.

The ruling vacated a conviction against Alfred Caronia, a pharmaceutical company salesman who had been convicted in October 2008 of a misdemeanor charge of conspiring to introduce a misbranded drug into commerce. He was sentenced to one year of probation and 100 hours of community service.

Orphan Medical Inc., now Jazz Pharmaceutical, hired Caronia in March 2005 to promote Xyrem (sodium oxybate), a controlled substance and CNS depressant approved for use in human medicine to treat two conditions connected with narcolepsy, court documents state. That fall, federal government agents investigating off-label promotion of the drug recorded statements made by Caronia to a physician about unapproved uses, including statements that Xyrem can be used to treat patients younger than 16 and to treat those with fibromyalgia, periodic leg movement, and Parkinson’s disease.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office could petition the appellate court for a rehearing by the 13 active judges on the 2nd Circuit, according to Thomas F. Liotti, whose law firm represented Caronia. The government also could ask the Supreme Court to consider the case if the 2nd Circuit judges deny the rehearing petition or deliver another judgment unfavorable to the government.

Liotti and his client are satisfied with the current decision, but he knows of lawyers in the pharmaceutical industry who would rather that the case be considered by the Supreme Court, which could deliver a ruling that would apply across the country. The 2nd Circuit includes Connecticut, New York, and Vermont. Liotti also expressed concern that the government could interpret the ruling to apply only to criminal cases and not civil ones.

Robert Nardoza, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York, said the office is reviewing the court decision and considering its options. He declined to answer a question about the potential impact of the case.
Billion-dollar case
Liotti expects pharmaceutical companies are delighted by the ruling, which they think will let them market their drugs off-label to any person.
“As long as they qualify what they’re saying and they say that a drug is prescribed or approved for a certain purpose, ’but there are these other scientific studies and there’s this other information out there,’ they’re at liberty to do that,” Liotti said.
The newly opened market makes the lawsuit a “billion-dollar case,” he said.
The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York announced in July 2007 that Jazz Pharmaceuticals had agreed to pay $20 million to settle criminal and civil cases connected with the same investigation that led to charges against Caronia.
Allegations connected with off-label marketing have been far more costly to other companies in recent years. Settlements and judgments delivered in 2012 alone will together cost billions of dollars for companies including Abbott Laboratories, GlaxoSmithKline, and Merck Sharp & Dohme.

Speech and intent
U.S. circuit judges Reena Raggi and Denny Chin noted in the majority opinion written by Chin that off-label drug use is allowed under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and that the FDA and courts have recognized the “propriety and potential public value” of such uses. The law defines misbranding on the basis of whether a drug is adequately labeled for its intended use, and the FDA can look to drug company promotional statements to prove how the company intends that customers use drug products.
Court documents indicate the government’s interpretation of the FDCA allows physicians, academics, and medical journals to talk about or publish information on off-label uses but forbids pharmaceutical companies from doing so. The majority opinion states that prohibiting only pharmaceutical company employees from promoting off-label drug uses does not help preserve the efficacy and integrity of the FDA drug approval process or reduce patient exposure to unsafe and ineffective drugs. But it does prevent physicians and patients from receiving treatment information.
“If the government’s objective is to shepherd physicians to prescribe drugs only on-label, criminalizing manufacturer promotion of off-label use while permitting others to promote such use to physicians is an indirect and questionably effective means to achieve that goal,” the majority opinion states. “Thus, the government’s construction of the FDCA’s misbranding provisions does not directly advance its interest in reducing patient exposure to off-label drugs or in preserving the efficacy of the FDA drug approval process because the off-label use of such drugs continues to be generally lawful.”

In her dissenting opinion, U.S. circuit Judge Debra Ann Livingston said Caronia was convicted of conspiring to sell a prescription drug for use outside its labeling, and his intent was revealed through his speech.
She noted that the district court explained to jurors what constituted conspiracy and misbranding. The First Amendment never prohibited the government from using speech as evidence of motive or intent, she said.
“Simply put, that Caronia was otherwise free to introduce Xyrem into interstate commerce does not give him a First Amendment right to introduce it into interstate commerce for any intended purpose he wished,” Livingston wrote.
Livingston further wrote that a drug is considered to be misbranded if its labeling lacks adequate directions for layperson use, and Xyrem’s labeling did not include any uses outside of treatment of excessive daytime sleepiness and cataplexy in patients with narcolepsy. Caronia’s trial focused on whether he, his employer, and others agreed that Xyrem would be distributed for off-label use.

Regulating sales
The government has other means to address concerns about misleading off-label promotion or evasion of the
drug approval process, the majority opinion states. Those include warning and disclaimer systems, required lists of intended indications with drug approval applications, caps on off-label prescriptions, liability reminders regarding off-label use, and prohibitions on some off-label uses. The FDA also remains able to regulate prescription drug marketing.

“We conclude simply that the government cannot prosecute pharmaceutical manufacturers and their representatives under the FDCA for speech promoting the lawful, off-label use of an FDA-approved drug,” it states.

Referring to the 1944 film “Arsenic and Old Lace,” Livingston said there may be no law forbidding arsenic consumption. “But this would not endow Abby and Martha with a First Amendment right to offer arsenic-laced wine to lonely old bachelors with the intent that they drink it.” Statements suggesting those women’s intent, including truthful statements, “would not be barred from evidence by the First Amendment.”

Livingston noted that the prohibition on off-label marketing is intended to make drug manufacturers conduct clinical investigations and provide evidence that a drug will have its purported effects, a central feature of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

“If drug manufacturers were allowed to promote FDA-approved drugs for non-approved uses, they would have little incentive to seek FDA approval for those uses,” Livingston wrote.

Instead, she wrote that the majority opinion would allow any substance sold for some purpose to be promoted by its manufacturer for any purpose so long as the manufacturer’s statements “are merely unsubstantiated, rather than demonstrably false or misleading.”

USDA awards $5 million for veterinarians in shortage areas

The Department of Agriculture announced Dec. 12, 2012, it will offer awards totaling $5 million to nearly 50 veterinarians that will go toward repayment of veterinary student loans in return for service in shortage areas.

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture offered the awards through the federal Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. Recipients must commit to three years of service in a designated shortage area.

“This assistance will help veterinarians return to rural America where they can provide needed services to our farmers and ranchers and continue to keep our food supply safe for all Americans,” said Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA director.

Following is a breakdown of the awards:

• The USDA offered 47 awards totaling $4,610,954, including loan and tax payments. The mean award was $98,105, including loan and tax payments.

• The mean eligible debt for repayment was $119,500. Eighty-three percent of recipients received the maximum payment of $25,000 per year, plus tax payments.

• Seventy-two percent of awards went to veterinarians who earned a veterinary degree within the past three years.

• The awards are for service in veterinary shortage areas in 30 states. These shortage areas include four in Texas and three each in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

• Five awards were for type 1 shortages, at least 80 percent food animal practice. Thirty-eight awards were for type 2 shortages, at least 30 percent food animal practice in rural areas. Four awards were for type 3 shortages, at least 49 percent public practice.

Read about the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program at www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp.
Farmer hopes lawsuit will affect disease practices

by Greg Cima

An Indiana farmer hopes his now-settled lawsuit against another pig producer will discourage others from intentionally infecting their own pigs with a deadly swine disease. The practice is used to acclimate pigs to a virus.

He wished others in the pork industry would have aided his efforts.

“I was disappointed all along that the industry wouldn’t join in and support me and support the cause,” Alan Wilhoite said in an interview.

Wilhoite, owner of Wilhoite Family Farms in west-central Indiana, said in court documents that his farm endured about $275,000 in losses after his pigs became infected in July 2009 with a strain of the virus that causes porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome. His lawsuit, filed the following month in Tippecanoe County, Ind., accused Dale Johnson, owner of a farm less than one mile away, and TDM Farms, a North Carolina–based company that owned the pigs on the Johnson farm, of intentionally infecting their pigs with the virus, which subsequently spread to the Wilhoite farm.

Wilhoite said more than 2,000 of his sows and nursery pigs were sickened, died, or had to be euthanized over several years.

In January 2008, a PRRS outbreak occurred among pigs in one of TDM’s North Carolina farms, and the company responded by negotiating with Johnson to use his Indiana farm to acclimate gilts to the virus. Gilts at the Johnson farm were inoculated with a serum developed from the North Carolina PRRS strain, according to documents filed in the Indiana Court of Appeals, which heard arguments on a motion denied in the lower court.

A confidentiality agreement prevents Wilhoite from providing details about the lawsuit settlement. But, when asked if he expects future outbreaks connected with intentional PRRS infections, he said, “Based on my settlement, I should not have any more problems with intentional inoculation around my sites.”

Adam Arceneaux, who represented TDM Farms, said he was glad those involved were able to resolve the lawsuit. But, when asked if he expects future outbreaks connected with intentional PRRS infections, he said, “Based on my settlement, I should not have any more problems with intentional inoculation around my sites.”

Dr. Derald Holtkamp, director of the Production Animal Disease Risk Assessment Program at Iowa State University, also had feared that the Indiana lawsuit would discourage farms from sharing information and participating in regional PRRS-elimination projects. But he has not seen any signs that the lawsuit had such an effect.

Veterinarians and swine owners seem to be shifting away from live virus inoculation and toward use of vaccines, more of which have become available in the past few years, Dr. Holtkamp said. He does not know whether the shift is related to the lawsuit, and he does not have clear evidence as to whether the vaccines are more effective than inoculation. But vaccine use creates fewer potential liabilities for pork producers, he said.

The appellate court agreed that a Tippecanoe County judge was right to deny a motion by TDM and Johnson to have the case dismissed.

Dr. Jeffrey Harker testified as an expert on Wilhoite’s behalf that the Johnson farm was the source of the PRRS contagion, as shown by genetic analysis of the virus present in the TDM pigs and other strains in the area, the appellate court documents state.

Wilhoite has farmed pigs since 1980, and he hopes to continue long term in spite of the challenges posed by the current prices of supplies such as feed.

Promote pet dental health in February

February is National Pet Dental Health Month, while the accompanying educational campaign extends year-round.

The “Pets Need Dental Care, Too” campaign provides materials to help veterinary teams promote better oral health for companion animals.

To mark National Pet Dental Health Month, the AVMA produced a video on periodontal disease for release in late January on YouTube at www.youtube.com/AmerVetMedAssn. The video features Dr. Cindy Charlier of Fox Valley Veterinary Dentistry and Surgery in Illinois.

Hill’s Pet Nutrition continues to provide free “Pets Need Dental Care, Too” campaign materials and support for veterinary clinics. Veterinary teams can request support materials by contacting their Hill’s representative or by calling (800) 354-4557.

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UC-Davis veterinarians identify new raccoon polyomavirus

Discovery could help explain how viruses cause cancer in animals and humans

Rare brain tumors emerging among raccoons in Northern California and Oregon may be linked to a previously unidentified virus discovered by a team of researchers, led by scientists from the University of California-Davis. Their findings, published in December 2012 in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases, could lead to a better understanding of how viruses can cause cancer in humans and other animals.

Necropsies conducted since March 2010 by scientists at the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and UC-Davis–led California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory found brain tumors in 10 raccoons, nine of which were from Northern California, the article reports. The 10th was sent to the university by researchers at Oregon State University.

The common factor found in all the tumors was a newly described virus, dubbed raccoon polyomavirus. Researchers suspect the virus contributes to tumor formation. Polyomaviruses are common but rarely cause cancer, nor do they typically cross species, so the outbreak is not expected to spread to people or other animals.

Two more raccoons with the tumor and the virus have been found in Yolo and Marin counties since September 2012, when the article was submitted to the journal for publication.

“Raccoons hardly ever get tumors. That’s why we take notice when we get three tumors, much less 12,” said study author Dr. Patricia Pesavento, a pathologist with the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Polyomaviruses are known to cause cancer under laboratory conditions. Less is known about their ability to
AASV removes “gestation” term from housing policy

The American Association of Swine Veterinarians has removed a statement on gestation stalls from its policy on sow housing, but the organization reportedly has not changed its position on that type of housing.

Dr. Tom Burkgren, AASV executive director, said the organization’s Pig Welfare Committee did not want to consider any specific type of sow housing apart from others, but rather, give general requirements. He also said certain housing terms, such as “gestation stall,” can be misused or their meanings can gradually change.

The policy enacted this past fall replaces a similar policy enacted in 2002. The policy, like its predecessor, lists attributes needed for the AASV to find housing to be appropriate.

The 2002 policy stated that scientific literature indicates individual gestation stalls meet all the AASV criteria for acceptable housing, “provided the appropriate level of stockmanship is administered.” However, dozens of companies, including national grocery store chains, restaurant chains, and food service corporations, announced during 2012 that they planned to eventually stop buying pork produced through use of gestation stalls.

Dr. Burkgren said the committee wanted the AASV policy to be correct and based in scientific literature and data, not a reaction to recent attention by news media and retail industries. Focusing on one type of housing is a disservice to sows, which need broader welfare considerations based in science, he said.

Dr. Burkgren thinks many retailers instead are deciding which sow housing is acceptable on the basis of marketing and brand protection.

The AASV policy update also adds a statement that sows and piglets should have housing that allows appropriate behavior and minimizes inappropriate behavior “within the constraints of the housing type.”

“This work to investigate natural associations of cancer verifies the importance of our one-health approach to addressing complex biomedical problems, such as viral causes of cancer,” said Dr. Michael Lairmore, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, of which the UC-Davis One Health Institute is a part. “Understanding how infectious agents may contribute to cancer in animals has provided fundamental new knowledge on the cause of cancer in people.”

Cause cancer in people under natural conditions, because such cancers often takes decades to develop. With their short lifespans of two to three years, raccoons can provide a model for studying how these viruses spread outside the laboratory, how they cause cancer, and how easily they can jump from species to species.

Of the 12 raccoons affected, 10 were collected from Marin County. This does not mean the virus is limited to that county or even to Northern California, according to Dr. Pesavento. Marin County is home to WildCare, an animal rescue and rehabilitation center that routinely submits animal remains for diagnostic testing, which might result in a sampling bias.

Other California raccoons were submitted by Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Contra Costa County and Sonoma Wildlife Rescue. Dr. Pesavento’s laboratory is collecting specimens and data from other sources across the country, looking for the virus and for raccoon exposure to it.

Dr. Pesavento said more research is needed to understand whether an environmental toxin, genetics, or something else is contributing to the cancer. The study notes that raccoons are exposed daily to human waste, garbage, environmental toxins, and environmental pathogens as the animals travel along sewer and water lines.

“This is just the beginning of a story,” Dr. Pesavento said, adding that high rates of cancer are found among animals that live in proximity to humans. “Wildlife live in our fields, our trash cans, our sewer lines, and that’s where we dump things. Humans need to be guardians of the wildlife-human interface, and raccoons are important sentinel animals. They really are exquisitely exposed to our waste. We may be contributing to their susceptibility in ways we haven’t discovered.”

Infectious pathogens are associated with 15 to 20 percent of all human cancers worldwide, according to the American Cancer Society. For example, papillomavirus can lead to cervical cancer in women, and feline leukemia virus can cause cancer in cats.

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Community

Accolades

**Government**

A federal veterinarian has been recognized for leading a research unit that developed disease control methods and diagnostic tests as well as created partnerships to combat diseases that threatened livestock in and beyond the U.S.

Dr. Donald P. Knowles (IL ’82) was added Dec. 5, 2012, to the Science Hall of Fame of the Agricultural Research Service in the federal Department of Agriculture. He is the veterinary medical officer who leads the ARS Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, Wash.

“Under his leadership, disease control methods and diagnostic tests, some of which have been licensed and are used worldwide, have been developed for infectious diseases that affect horses, sheep, cattle, goats and bison,” an ARS announcement states.

“He has created critical partnerships with industry, government and universities in the United States and internationally to address lentiviruses, anaplasmosis, malignant catarrhal fever, equine and bovine babesiosis, and prion diseases that cause mad cow disease and scrapie in sheep.”

**Academia**

Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine honored two distinguished alumni in fall 2012.

Dr. Ron DeHaven (PUR ’75) is executive vice president of the AVMA and previously served as administrator of the Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The Distinguished Alumnus Award honors his record of public service through his career with the USDA and his excellence and devotion in service to the veterinary profession as chief executive officer of the AVMA. He also received recognition as a role model for veterinary students considering alternatives to private practice.

Dr. Max Rodibaugh (PUR ’77) is founding partner of Swine Health Services in Frankfort, Ind. The Distinguished Alumnus Award honors his excellence in clinical practice, involvement in organized veterinary medicine, and service to his community. He also received recognition as a role model and mentor for veterinary students. He has served as swine industry representative on the Indiana State Board of Animal Health, an Indiana VMA board member, and president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians.

**Kentucky VMA**

Event: Annual meeting, Oct. 5-7, 2012, Louisville

Awards:

Veterinarian of the Year: Dr. David U. Fugate, West Liberty. A 1998 graduate of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Fugate co-owns West Liberty Veterinary Clinic. He is a past member of the KVMA Executive Board. In 2012, Dr. Fugate served as a first responder at the Appalachian Regional Medical Hospital following a tornado in Morgan County. Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Wade A. Northington, Hopkinsville, for dedication and continued service to the association and the veterinary profession. A 1972 graduate of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Northington is the director of Breathitt Veterinary Center. He is a past president of the KVMA and West Central Kentucky VMA and has served on the KVMA Informatics and Budget and Finance committees. Dr. Northington represented the KVMA on the Auburn University Alumni Advisory Committee from 2004-2005.

Officials: Drs. Deborah Spike-Pierce, Lexington, president; Mark Smith, Barbourville, president-elect; Vicky Owens McGrath, Bowling Green, vice president; Summer Buckner, Owensboro, secretary-treasurer; and Philip E. Prater, Morehead, immediate past president.

Submit a proposal to speak at the 2014 AVMA Annual Convention in Denver, July 26-29, by visiting the “Speakers” page at www.avmaconvention.org or contacting Patricia Kmak at pkmak@avma.org or (800) 248-2862, Ext. 6622.
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians


Awards: E.P. Pope Award: Dr. M. Grant Maxie, Guelph, Ontario, for noteworthy contributions to the AAVLD and the field of veterinary diagnostic laboratory medicine. A 1969 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Maxie is the director of the Animal Health Laboratory and executive director of the Laboratory Services Division at the University of Guelph. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and a past president of the AAVLD and Canadian Animal Health Laboratoryians Network. Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Donal O’Toole, Laramie, Wyo., for volunteering time, energy, and professionalism to substantially enrich and advance the AAVLD and the field of diagnostic veterinary medicine. A 1977 graduate of the University College Dublin School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. O’Toole is a professor in the Department of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. During his tenure, he has served as director of the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory and headed the Department of Veterinary Sciences. Dr. O’Toole is a past president of the AAVLD. Thermo-Scientific Award for Excellence in Diagnostic Veterinary Microbiology: Mike Donahue, PhD, Lexington, Ky., for research accomplishments that advanced veterinary medicine and animal health. Dr. Donahue earned his doctorate in microbiology at the University of Missouri in 1971 and joined the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory as chief of the bacteriology section. He served in that capacity for 41 years until retirement in 2012. Dr. Donahue’s research focused on several equine-specific diseases and conditions, including nocardioform placentitis in mares, equine pericarditis, equine abortion and premature birth, equine arthritis and osteomyelitis, and the microbiology of the equine placenta. Pioneers in Virology Award: Dr. Bruce W. Calnek, Ithaca, N.Y. A 1955 graduate of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Calnek is Steffen Professor of Veterinary Medicine emeritus at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. During his tenure at the college, he also served as chair of the Department of Avian and Aquatic Animal Medicine for nearly 20 years. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists and American College of Poultry Veterinarians, Dr. Calnek focused his research on encephalomyelitis in chickens, and viral neoplasms of chickens and other infectious agents, including Mycoplasma bacteria, reovirus, adeno-virus, infectious laryngotracheitis virus, reticuloendotheliosis virus, and Rous sarcoma virus. Life Membership Award: Dr. Pat Blanchard, Tulare, Calif. A 1982 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Blanchard is branch chief of the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System’s Tulare laboratory. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and a past president of the AAVLD. J. Lindsay Oaks Best Student Molecular Biology Oral Presentation-Poster Award: Dr. Christa Goodell, Iowa State University, for “Influenza A virus isolation from oral fluid and nasal swabs in IAV inoculated pigs.” Best Graduate Student Poster Award: Dr. Stephanie Ostrowski, University of California-Davis, for “Idiopathic generalized soft tissue mineralization in an Appaloosa filly.” Best JVDI Manuscript: Dr. Roxann S. Brooks, University of California-Davis, for “Quantitative duplex TaqMan real-time polymerase chain reaction for the assessment of the etiological agent of epizootic bovine abortion.” Best JVDI Brief Communication: Dr. David Bemis, University of Tennessee, for “Isolation of a variant Porphyromonas sp. from polymicrobial infections in central bearded dragons (Pogona vitticeps).” ACVP/AAVLD Diagnostic Pathology Travel Award: Dr. Amanda Crews, University of Tennessee. AAVLD Trainee Travel Awards: Drs. Kenitra Hammac, John Schaefer, Melissa Macias Rioseco, Noah Hull, Kerry Sondgeroth, Barbara Brito, Celeste Foster, Misa Komine, and Stephanie Ostrowski.
American Board of Veterinary Practitioners

The American Board of Veterinary Practitioners certified 47 new diplomates and recertified 28 diplomates following the board certification examination it held Nov. 2-4, 2012, in Chicago.

The new diplomates are as follows:

**Avian Practice**
- Hugues Beaufreire, Baton Rouge, La.
- Brenna Fitzgerald, Oakley, Calif.
- Leila Marcucci, San Francisco
- Kristin Sinclair, Manchester, Conn.

**Beef Cattle Practice**
- Arn Anderson, Bowie, Texas

**Canine and Feline Practice**
- Deborah Adams, Laguna Niguel, Calif.
- Elizabeth Berliner, Brooktondale, N.Y.
- Emily Cross, San Diego
- Stacy Eckman, College Station, Texas
- Mark Freeman, Newport, Va.
- Walter Haines, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Krista Hardy, Coral Springs, Fla.
- Riley Jones, Winter Haven, Fla.
- Brita Kiffany, Bellingham, Wash.
- Allison Magee, San Luis Obispo, Calif.
- Michael Napper, Westlake, Ohio
- Daschelle Roche, Phoenix, Ariz.
- Cheryl Roth, Lakeville, Minn.
- Matthew Schmidt, Port Saint Lucie, Fla.
- Heidi Sproul, Evanston, Ill.
- Katharine Thompson, Lithia, Fla.
- Kristy Utt, Bakersfield, Calif.
- Richard Wearing, Cookeville, Tenn.

**Dairy Practice**
- Darren Remsburg, West Grove, Pa.

**Equine Practice**
- Joan Howard, Kelley, Iowa
- Denise Newsome, Blue Ridge, Ga.
- Olivia Schroeder, Kennett Square, Pa.

**Exotic Companion Mammal Practice**
- Teresa Bradley-Bays, Belton, Mo.
- Thomas Donnelly, Ossining, N.Y.
- Michael Dutton, Weare, N.H.
- Peter Fisher, Virginia Beach, Va.
- Angela Lennox, Indianapolis
- Lauren Powers, Charlotte, N.C.

**Feline Practice**
- Elizabeth Colleran, Chico, Calif.
- Carrie Mark, Southlake, Texas
- Elise Robertson, Brighton, England
- Carlye Rose, Houston
- Elizabeth Ruelle, Okotoks, Alberta
- Sara Bennett, Forest Park, Ill.
- Mami Irimaji, Aomori, Japan
- Alexandra Moesta, Hannover, Germany
- Niwako Ogata, West Lafayette, Ind.
- Carlo Siracusa, Philadelphia

**Food Animal Practice**
- Laura Arnold, Nicholasville, Ky.
- James Lowe, Albers, Ill.
- Matthew Stock, Ames, Iowa

**Reptile and Amphibian Practice**
- Leigh Clayton, Severna Park, Md.
- Ryan DeVoe, Asheboro, N.C.
- Eric Klahfke, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Douglas Mader, Marathon, Fla.

**Swine Health Management Practice**
- Jeremy Pittman, Wakefield, Va.

The recertified diplomates are as follows:

**Avian Practice**
- Alan Fudge, El Dorado Hills, Calif.
- James McKinley, Hillisborough, N.J.
- Ethel Lindsey, New Castle, Del.
- David Love, Westlake, Ohio
- Philip Martin, San Antonio
- Peter Muller III, Tucker, Ga.
- Robert Nack, St. Louis
- James J. Pearce, Memphis, Tenn.
- Todd Prince, Naperville, Ill.
- Brett Sargent, Lakewood, Colo.
- Tia Simms, Chatham, Ill.
- James Speiser, Indianapolis
- Kent Stauffer, Indianapolis
- Tina Taylor, Buellton, Calif.
- William Taylor, Las Vegas

**Canine and Feline Practice**
- Michael Broome, Tustin, Calif.
- Conan Crocker, Kettering, Ohio
- Craig Datz, Columbia, Mo.
- Lonnie Davis, Troy, Ohio
- Diane Deresienski, Raleigh, N.C.
- Ryan Less, Davenport, Iowa
- Ethel Lindsey, New Castle, Del.
- David Love, Westlake, Ohio
- Philip Martin, San Antonio
- Peter Muller III, Tucker, Ga.
- Robert Nack, St. Louis
- James J. Pearce, Memphis, Tenn.
- Todd Prince, Naperville, Ill.
- Brett Sargent, Lakewood, Colo.
- Tia Simms, Chatham, Ill.
- James Speiser, Indianapolis
- Kent Stauffer, Indianapolis
- Tina Taylor, Buellton, Calif.
- William Taylor, Las Vegas

**Dairy Practice**
- John Fetrow, St. Paul, Minn.
- Jonathan Townsend, Lafayette, Ind.

**Equine Practice**
- Scott Toppin, Littleton, Colo.

**Feline Practice**
- James Schulke, Santa Monica, Calif.
United States Animal Health Association

Awards: USAHA Medal of Distinction: Dr. John R. Ragan, Bowie, Md., for outstanding leadership, exemplary service, and contributions to the advancement of the association. A 1966 graduate of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Ragan served as Tennessee state veterinarian from 1971-1997. He then joined the Department of Agriculture, working for the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service prior to retirement. Dr. Ragan is a past president of the USAHA. USAHA Federal Partnership Award: Dr. Donald Otto, Knoxville, Iowa, won this award, given to a federal employee for commendable service toward the betterment of animal health in the United States. A 1971 graduate of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Otto is a field veterinarian with the Department of Agriculture. During his career with the department, he has served on several animal health and disease task forces, and he is experienced in emergency response to animal disease outbreaks. APHIS Administrator’s Award: Dr. Don Hoenig, Belfast, Maine. A 1978 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Hoenig recently retired as Maine state veterinarian. He is a past president of the USAHA, has chaired the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Animal Health, and serves as an American Association for the Advancement of Science science and technology fellow in Washington, D.C. National Assembly Award: Dr. Jim Logan, Cheyenne, Wyo., for his tireless efforts and contributions to animal health. A 1975 graduate of the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Logan is Wyoming state veterinarian. He is known for his expertise in brucellosis issues and his leadership role in the sheep industry.
Business: The USAHA approved 23 resolutions that seek actions by the Department of Agriculture, Congress, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Interior, and state animal health regulators (see JAVMA, Jan. 1, 2013, page 18).
Officials: David Meeker, PhD, Alexandria, Va., president; Dr. Stephen Crawford, Concord, N.H., president-elect; Dr. Bruce King, Salt Lake City, 1st vice president; Dr. David Schmitt, Des Moines, Iowa, 2nd vice president; Dr. Boyd Parr, Columbia, S.C., 3rd vice president; Dr. Annette Jones, Sacramento, Calif., treasurer; and Dr. David Marshall, Raleigh, N.C., immediate past president.

Washington State VMA

Awards: Veterinarian of the Year: Dr. Dan DeWeert, Twisp. A 1974 graduate of the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. DeWeert owns Valley Veterinary Clinic. He helped establish the Washington Physicians Health Program, enabling members to gain the tools necessary to control their addictions and continue their careers in veterinary medicine. Distinguished Achievement Award: Dr. Terry Brown, Spokane, for his more than 25 years of service to animals, clients, and veterinarians in the Spokane area. A 1974 graduate of the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Brown was a principal at the Pet Emergency Clinic and Referral Center prior to retirement in 2009. During his more than 30 years there, he managed and served as a clinician at the center and helped in the development of the facility. WSU Faculty Member of the Year: Dr. Bryan Slinker, Pullman. A 1980 graduate of the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Slinker is dean of the WSU-CVM. During his tenure, he has guided the college to uninterrupted AVMA accreditation, despite a time of budget crisis. Dr. Slinker has established cooperative agreements between the college and Utah State University and Seattle Humane, and he is in the process of developing relationships with Montana State University and the Idaho Humane Society.
WSVMA Allied Industry Award: Mackenzie Martin, Portland, Ore., for exceptional service to the veterinary profession and the WSVMA. Martin is a financial adviser with McCoy Foat Wealth Management. In addition to providing business strategies and expertise, Martin has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining Practice Share, a professional network of female veterinary practitioners in Washington state. Distinguished Veterinary Staff Award: Betsy Wheeler, Pullman. Wheeler is a veterinary technician at the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She has helped build the Veterinary Teaching Hospital Oncology Service program and is known for her skills in patient care and satisfaction.
Officials: Drs. James McCutchan, Snohomish, president; Jocelyn Wood, Spokane, president-elect, Erin Hicks, Lakewood, 1st vice president; Candace Joy, Seattle, executive vice president; and John Cannon, Spokane, immediate past president.
Obituaries

AVMA member
AVMA honor roll member
Nonmember

Alex J. Bermudez
Dr. Bermudez (IL ‘86), 55, Columbia, Mo., died Oct. 11, 2012. He was director of the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and an associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Following graduation and after completing an avian medicine internship at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Bermudez joined the University of Connecticut-Storrs as an assistant professor in the Department of Pathobiology. From 1989-1991, he served as an assistant professor in the departments of Poultry Science and Veterinary Preventive Medicine at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Bermudez then joined the veterinary faculty at Missouri-Columbia as an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathology. He was named associate professor in 1997 and took over directorship of the VMML in 2005.

Dr. Bermudez was president of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians at the time of his death, having served in the same capacity from 1998-1999 and as its representative to the American Board of Veterinary Specialties from 2001-2007. He was an associate editor for Poultry Science for 10 years and served on the editorial board of Avian Diseases. Dr. Bermudez also served on the editorial board of the Avian Disease Manual and was a contributing author to the 10th, 11th, and 12th editions of “Diseases of Poultry.” He was a member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and served on several of its committees. Dr. Bermudez was also a member of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, World Veterinary Poultry Association, and Poultry Science Association. His wife, Lisa; two sons; and a daughter survive him. Memorials may be made to the International Community Church, 1107 University Ave., Columbia, MO 65201; or University of Missouri, W210 Vet Med Building, Columbia, MO 65211 (with the memo line of checks notated to College of Veterinary Medicine, in memory of Alex Bermudez).

Norbert A. Dahlke

Dr. Dahlke (ISU ’46), 88, Oshkosh, Wis., died July 11, 2012. Retired since 1984, he established Northern States Feeder Pigs, a livestock business in Sault Center, Minn., in 1978. Earlier in his career, Dr. Dahlke owned a practice in Waupaca, Wis., and served as chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Feeder Pig Marketing Cooperative. He was a past president of the National Feeder Pig Disease Association and Wisconsin Valley VMA.

Dr. Dahlke served on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Veterinary Health Committee and was a member of the Wisconsin Agricultural Animal Health Committee and Black Wolf Wildlife Association. He was also active with the Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, and Ducks Unlimited. Dr. Dahlke is survived by a son and two daughters. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 7th floor, New York, NY 10001.

Karl K. Dockery Sr.

Dr. Dockery (GA ’53), 83, Douglas, Ga., died Oct. 7, 2012. A mixed animal practitioner, he owned Dockery Veterinary Hospital in Douglas for 57 years. Dr. Dockery was a member of the Georgia and South Georgia VMAs. His wife, Mirtie; two sons; and two daughters survive him. One son, Dr. Karl K. Dockery Jr. (GA ’78), is a mixed animal veterinarian in Albany, Ga.

William I. Gay

Dr. Gay (COR ’50), 86, Adamstown, Md., died Oct. 11, 2012. A diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, he was director of the National Institutes of Health Division of Research Resources’ Animal Resources Program prior to retirement in 1988. Following graduation, Dr. Gay practiced small animal medicine on Long Island, N.Y., for two years. He then joined the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he served as chief of the Department of Animal Husbandry. In 1954, Dr. Gay began his career with the NIH in its Division of Research Services’ Laboratory Aids Branch. He went on to serve as chief of the branch’s Animal Hospital Section in 1955, was named assistant chief of the branch in 1962, and was appointed chief of the branch in 1967.

Dr. Gay subsequently served as acting associate director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and, in 1970, he became associate director of extramural programs for the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He was involved with the early stages of the NIAID’s HIV/AIDS research program, overseeing the evolution and growth of the NIH’s involvement in AIDS research. Dr. Gay later took over directorship of extramural programs, serving in that capacity until his appointment in 1980 as director of the NIH-DRR Animal Resources Program. As director of the program, he administered the activities of the NIH’s Regional Primate Research Centers and the laboratory animal sciences program, including upgrading institutional animal resources, supporting facilities engaged in the diagnosis and control of animal disease, training specialists in laboratory animal science, and developing colonies of laboratory animal models.

Following his retirement from the NIH, Dr. Gay served as a veterinary consultant with various biotechnology organizations in the United States. Active in organized veterinary medicine, he was a past president of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science and District of Columbia VMA and was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Gay chaired the Animal Care Panel on Ethical Considerations in the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, which led to the preparation of the NIH guide in 1963. He received the AALAS Griffin Award in 1971, and, in 1975, he was honored by the NIH.
for his leadership in the management of the NIAID's extramural programs and development of innovative methods for assessing ongoing special emphasis programs.

Dr. Gay is survived by his wife, Millicent.

**Ward D. Gilbertson**

Dr. Gilbertson (MIN '55), 86, East Grand Forks, Minn., died Sept. 27, 2012. He was a mixed animal veterinarian. Dr. Gilbertson's wife, Carolyn, survives him.

**Earl E. Grass**

Dr. Grass (MIN '53), 84, Fair Oaks, Calif., died Oct. 30, 2012. He worked for the Department of Agriculture for more than 35 years prior to retirement in 1988. During that time, Dr. Grass earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Minnesota in 1966, served as a regional epidemiologist in Fair Oaks, and worked in poultry services in Hyattsville, Md. He also served on several animal disease task forces and supervised the importation of horses for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Dr. Grass was a member of the Sacramento Valley VMA. He served in the Army from 1946-1947. Dr. Grass is survived by his wife, Margaret; three daughters; and two sons.

**Joe D. Green**

Dr. Green (COL '44), 99, Boulder, Colo., died Oct. 27, 2012. A mixed animal practitioner, he practiced at Boulder Veterinary Hospital from 1949 until retirement in 1981. Earlier in his career, Dr. Green worked in Wisconsin and Oklahoma. He was a past president of the Boulder Lions Club. Dr. Green’s son and daughter survive him. Memorials may be made to Humane Society of Boulder Valley, 2323 55th St., Boulder, CO 80301.

**Fred J. Hander**

Dr. Hander (TEX '57), 81, Fort Smith, Ark., died Oct. 9, 2012. A mixed animal practitioner, he served primarily Arkansas’ Logan and Franklin counties for almost 30 years, based out of Paris and Booneville. Dr. Hander was a past president of the Arkansas VMA and served two terms on the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Examining Board. In 1984, he was named Arkansas Veterinarian of the Year. Dr. Hander volunteered with the Sebastian County Humane Society animal shelter, served on the Paris School Board, and was a member of the board of directors of the Arkansas Native Plant Society and Arkansas Audubon Society. He also served as the Sebastian County representative for the Area Agency on Aging and was active with the Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Hander is survived by his wife, Helen; two daughters; a son; and two stepdaughters. Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 116 N. 12th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

**Robert A. Harwood**

Dr. Harwood (KSU '71), 65, Chanute, Kan., died Oct. 24, 2012. A small animal practitioner, he established Harwood Animal Hospital in Chanute in 1982. Earlier in his career, Dr. Harwood served as a captain in the Air Force and practiced at Animal Medical Center in Chanute. He volunteered as a trail veterinarian for the Iditarod Trail and Kuskokwim 300 Sled Dog races in Alaska and the Grand Portage Passage Sled Dog Race in Minnesota and Canada. Dr. Harwood was a member of the Kansas VMA.

Active in civic life, he was also a member of the Kiwanis Club, chaired the Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center board of trustees, was a past president of the Hospital Foundation Board, and volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America and 4-H Club. Dr. Harwood was the Kiwanis Family of Builders runner-up in 1993 and 1994 and received the Chanute Partner in Progress Award in 2010. His wife, Susan; a son; and a daughter survive him. Memorials may be made to the Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center Foundation, PO. Box 426, Chanute, KS 66720; or First United Methodist Church Bridges to the Future Campaign, 202 S. Lincoln Ave., Chanute, KS 66720.

**Sam J. Holman**

Dr. Holman (ISU '51), 93, Aberdeen, S.D., died Nov. 9, 2012. A mixed animal practitioner, he practiced in South Dakota at Wessington Springs and Aberdeen for 53 years. Dr. Holman was a lifetime member of the South Dakota VMA and a past member of the South Dakota Livestock Sanitary Board. He also served as Jerauld County coroner.

Dr. Holman was a World War II veteran of the Navy who participated in the battles of Tassafaronga and Iwo Jima. He received the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and a Presidential Unit Citation. Dr. Holman is survived by his wife, Jacintha, and five children.

**Ralph C. Knowles**

Dr. Knowles (COL '50), 85, Vero Beach, Fla., died June 16, 2012. He began his career as a staff veterinarian at Arvada Veterinary Hospital in Arvada, Colo. In 1953, Dr. Knowles established his own practice in Denver focusing on dairy cattle and horses. From 1955-1982, he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Knowles served as a field veterinarian in Wyoming; was an assistant veterinarian in Kansas; served as a staff veterinarian in Washington, D.C.; and in 1964, was named chief staff veterinarian in equine diseases.

In 1982, he joined the Maryland Department of Agriculture, serving as assistant state veterinarian until 1984. Dr. Knowles then worked three years as manager of veterinary services for Identification Devices Inc. in Colorado. From 1982-1987, he also spent a few months each year in Europe and South America, working on treatment of babesiosis in horses. His career from 1987-1997 included consulting for Taymar Inc. and Destron/IDI in Colorado, fieldwork with the MDA in the diagnosis and epidemiology of diseases in livestock and poultry, and an equine practice focusing on babesial treatment of horses. At various times, he also consulted on infectious equine diseases for the Canadian Department of Agriculture, Dominican Republic government, Mexican government, and a group of Venezuelan Thoroughbred breeders. Dr. Knowles remained a veterinary consultant until his death.

Dr. Knowles authored and co-authored several articles on equine infectious diseases and equine identification, including chapters on exotic equine.
Leonard W. Mohney
Dr. Mohney (KSU ’43), 92, Wichita, Kan., died Nov. 12, 2012. Prior to retirement in 1990, he owned a mixed animal practice in Pratt, Kan. Early in his career, Dr. Mohney served as a captain in the Army Veterinary Corps during World War II. He trained Belgian draft horses and was a member of the Kansas VMA and Pratt Saddle Club. Dr. Mohney was also a member of the Pratt Rotary Club and was active with the Boy Scouts of America. His wife, Betty; two daughters; and a son survive him.

Arthur J. Neves
Dr. Neves (CAL ’65), 71, Willows, Calif., died June 2, 2012. A mixed animal practitioner, he owned Willows Animal Hospital. Early in his career, Dr. Neves served in the Army; worked in Salinas, Calif.; served as a resident veterinarian at the El Capitan Ranch; and practiced in California at Santa Cruz, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo. He was a member of the California and North Valley VMAs, American Association of Equine Practitioners, Society for Theriogenology, Academy of Rural Veterinarians, and National, California, and Glenn Colusa cattlemen’s associations. Dr. Neves is survived by his wife, Margaret, and two daughters. Memorials may be made to the University of California-Davis Foundation, UC-Davis Gift Administration, 1460 Drew Ave., Suite 100, Davis, CA 95618; or Enloe Cancer Center, c/o Enloe Foundation, 249 W. 6th Ave., Chico, CA 95926.

Kelly A. Rada
Dr. Rada (OSU ’02), 38, Toledo, Ohio, died Sept. 25, 2012. She worked for Humane Ohio in Toledo. Earlier in her career, Dr. Rada practiced in Florida, working at St. John’s Veterinary Clinic, Jacksonville Humane Society, Miami Dade Animal Services, First Coast No More Homeless Pets, and Flagler Humane Society. She also established Shelter Vet to Go in 2005. Dr. Rada was an advocate of spaying and neutering and volunteered with the Prevent a Litter Society and the Rota Animal Welfare League. She co-authored “Feeling Stares: Places, Persons, and Pets” and the “Miller-Rada Commitment to Pets Scale.” Memorials may be made to the Dr. Kelly Rada “Spay it Forward” Memorial Fund, c/o Humane Ohio, 3131 Tremainsville Road, Toledo, OH 43613.

E. Byron Range Jr.
Dr. Range (TEX ’51), 91, Big Spring, Texas, died Sept. 28, 2012. During his career, he practiced mostly large animal medicine in Texas and taught in Texas and Oklahoma. Dr. Range was a member of the Texas VMA and was active with the Lions and Kiwanis clubs and Boy Scouts of America. He was an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II. Dr. Range’s wife, Jean; three sons; and a daughter survive him.

David E. Simington
Dr. Simington (CAL ’62), 82, Hemet, Calif., died Sept. 13, 2012. He was an equine practitioner, establishing a practice in Saugus, Calif., following graduation. Dr. Simington also founded the Hemet Raptor Rehab Center and was part of the veterinary team for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. During his career, he took care of animals at Disney Studios and Africa U.S.A. and served as an attending veterinarian on the movie “Seabiscuit.” Dr. Simington is survived by two daughters. Memorials may be made to University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA 95616; Trout Unlimited, 1300 N. 17th St., Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22209; or Stand up to Cancer, 1801 W. Olympic Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91199.

Gail D. Williams
Dr. Williams (MIN ’66), 70, Presho, S.D., died Oct. 10, 2012. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, he worked for Eli Lilly and Company in Greenfield, Ind., prior to retirement in 2005. In retirement, Dr. Williams raised Hereford cattle. Early in his career, he taught at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Williams’ wife, Debbie; a son; and a daughter survive him. Memorials may be made to The Gideon’s International, P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214.

Jack H. Williamson
Dr. Williamson (TEX ’50), 87, Spring Branch, Texas, died Oct. 29, 2012. A mixed animal veterinarian, he owned Williamson Animal Clinic in Beaumont, Texas, prior to retirement in 1997. Early in his career, Dr. Williamson practiced in Mineola, Texas. He was an Army veteran of World War II. Dr. Williamson is survived by two daughters and a son.

Jon R. Witt
Dr. Witt (ISU ’66), 70, Osage, Iowa, died Nov. 3, 2012. A mixed animal veterinarian, he practiced in Osage since 1980. Dr. Witt also farmed and co-owned J&J Auctions. Early in his career, he worked in Melbourne, Iowa. Dr. Witt was a member of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, Iowa Pork Council, and Iowa VMA. He taught at the World Wide College of Auctioneering for 33 years. Dr. Witt was a past president of the Osage Chamber of Commerce. He is survived by his wife, Jan; two daughters; and a son.

Allen Wolff
Dr. Wolff (OSU ’57), 80, Brunswick, Ohio, died Oct. 23, 2012. Prior to retirement in 1996, he practiced in Brunswick, initially as a mixed animal veterinarian and later focusing on small animals. In retirement, Dr. Wolff volunteered with the Humane Society VMA’s Rural Area Veterinary Services. He was a veteran of the Army. Dr. Wolff’s wife, Martha; two daughters; and a son survive him. Memorials may be made to the Brunswick Food Pantry, 1255 N. Carpenter Road, Brunswick, OH 44212.