

ALABAMA VETERINARIAN

A Bi-Annual Publication for ALVMA members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA



ALVMA NEWS

Volume 23, Number 1 • Spring 2012



2012 Summer Convention: Activities, Schedule, and Registration

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I don't know who, but someone once said that only two things in life are certain – death and taxes. If you happen to know who said it let them know they left one out. The other certainty is change. I think you would agree with me that change is a certainty. It is a certainty in every aspect of our lives both personally and professionally. How we deal with change can make or break us. Change has and is occurring in the practice of veterinary medicine both on the medical front and the practice management front. How we see ourselves and position our practices to deal with the changing landscape of veterinary medicine will determine how successful we are at accomplishing what we perceive as our mission.

The same is true for our association. Change is inevitable and we must position ourselves to deal with it. I recently saw an article about Eastman Kodak filing bankruptcy earlier this year. As the story goes, Kodak, historically a top notch American company, fell victim to the digital age. Remember, they were the pioneers of digital photography and credited with inventing the first digital camera in 1975. But, according to an article in Business Week in 1996, Kodak executives said they "could not fathom a world without traditional film and saw little incentive to deviate from their current course." When is the last time you bought film of any type? Losing sight of their mission and being unwilling to change proved to be catastrophic. Losing sight of our mission could be detrimental or even catastrophic.

What is our mission as an association? What is the stated purpose of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association? It is summed up in the following six statements.

- To advance the art and science of veterinary medicine
- To promote a cooperative spirit among veterinarians
- To promote and support sound legislation as it affects veterinarians
- To maintain high standards of professional qualifications through continuing education opportunities
- To promote and encourage responsibility in pet ownership
- To increase public awareness of the importance of veterinarians in animal health and disease control

I am proud to say that in the past year we have successfully adapted to change in the manner in which we provide continuing education. Our partnership with the Georgia VMA has been finalized and for the second year in a row, and many more to come, we will work together to provide some of the best CE available in one of the best locations available. Make plans to join us at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort on May 30-June 3, 2012 for the ALVMA/GVMA Annual Convention. You can check out the CE schedule and register by visiting the website of either association. Also be watching for news concerning regional CE offerings throughout Alabama beginning this fall. One of our industry partners has agreed to sponsor a series of meetings and we look forward to making you aware of these opportunities as the details are finalized.

Hope to see you at the beach,

Kirk Holland, DVM
ALVMA President

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AUBURN UNIVERSITY NEWS



Bricks being sold to support food animal and equine research at Auburn

Alumni and friends of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine have an opportunity to own a piece of college history while supporting its future thanks to the recently launched Brick by Brick program.

A limited quantity of bricks from McAdory Hall, the former large animal teaching hospital built in 1960 and dedicated in memory of Isaac Sadler McAdory, are now for sale. Each brick will come with a special plate attached that bears the image of the modernist building and the phrase "Remembering the Past, Inspiring the Future - McAdory Hall."

The minimum donation for a brick is \$150 with proceeds supporting new barns for food animal and equine research. The future state-of-the-art research facilities will include barns, procedure rooms, and fully equipped research laboratories.

Isaac Sadler McAdory succeeded founding dean Charles Allen Cary as dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn in 1935 after Cary's death. He remained dean until 1940 when he left administration to return to the faculty and the classroom as a professor of large animal medicine and surgery.

At Auburn the mission of food animal research is to enhance animal well-being and performance while preserving or improving the economic viability of the livestock enterprise. The equine health research program supports the interaction of scientists, veterinarians, and students to cultivate and integrate translational and clinical research. Through this collaborative effort, new discoveries in equine disease and treatments are delivered to the equine patient.

Pre-orders for the McAdory Hall commemorative bricks are now being accepted. Checks made payable to the Auburn University Foundation may be mailed to: Jan Chamblin, Auburn University Foundation, 317 South College Street, Auburn, AL 36849.

For information about Brick by Brick, contact the College of Veterinary Medicine at 334-844-6733 or giving@vetmed.auburn.edu.



Auburn canines help in search for Everglades' pythons

Auburn University researchers used detection dogs in the Everglades National Park to find Burmese pythons during a recent study on ways to manage and eradicate these nonnative, invasive snakes. Holding this pregnant python are, left to right, dog handler Jason Dewitt, researcher Christina Romagosa, doctoral student Melissa Miller and dog trainer Bart Rogers. Black Labrador retrievers Ivy and Jake, part of Auburn's EcoDogs program, were trained to find the large snakes. The College of Veterinary Medicine's Animal Health and Performance Program and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences developed the EcoDogs program to assist biologists and other natural resource managers.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY NEWS

Summer VET-STEP program Offers Hands-On Learning to Middle and High School Students

The Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine (TUSVM) has the goal each summer to help several young people get first-hand knowledge as to what it takes to become a veterinarian. This was again achieved during last



VET-STEP participants pay close attention during one of their classes during the summer.

summer when the Veterinary Science Training, Education, and Preparation Institutes (VET-STEP I and II) introduced the veterinary profession to rising ninth through 12th graders. Rising tenth to twelfth grade students had the opportunity to attend VET-STEP II on June 10-16 and eighth and ninth grade students attended VET-STEP I on July 15-21.

VET-STEP I and II included honor students representing the states of Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Georgia. Besides attending lectures on clinical veterinary medical concerns as well as environmental and public health issues, the students also took field trips to get an inside look at career options for veterinarians. Activities included

classroom instruction, guest lectures, demonstrations, and numerous hands-on activities to familiarize minority youth with career options and career opportunities in the veterinary medical profession. A pioneering move by the university's admissions office to offer early admissions to the VET-STEP honor students was a huge step in the right direction to attract the highly academically-prepared students.

Applications for the summer program can be obtained through the TUSVM Office of Veterinary Admissions and Recruitment, Mr. Rick Mosley, (334) 727-8309, mosleyr@mytu.tuskegee.edu. Visit www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu to get more information on TUSVM.

VET-STEP is funded through the Division of Public Health and Interdisciplinary Education, Bureau of Health Professions and Health Resources and Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Small Animal Health Fair Provides Excellent Opportunity for Veterinary Students and Community

Prevention is so much more cost effective than treatment, which can be very expensive for pet owners. This is one of the main reasons why the TUSVM has continued to hold its Annual Small Animal Health Fair for over a decade. On Saturday, Oct. 29, over 350 pet owners

came out to take advantage of the appointment-free environment.

During the health fair, all pets received complimentary physical examinations, heartworm tests, and fecal examinations for intestinal parasites. For a modest fee, pet owners were also allowed to update their dogs' and cats' vaccinations for rabies and other serious but preventable diseases plus get deworming and heartworm pills if needed. Also, dog obedience trainer Jerry Barnes was on hand to assist clients in questions about their pet's behavior.



Dr. Pamela Guy, small animal clinician, is the health fair coordinator

TUSVM Hosts Human-Animal Studies Summer Fellow from Ethiopia

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health (CVMNAH) faculty attended various group and individual sessions to learn about Dr. Abebaw Gashaw Kebede's Human-Animal Summer Fellowship project entitled, "Improving Community Animal Welfare in Jimma Zone, Southwestern Ethiopia." The objective of the project is to revamp the welfare of farm animals, pet, and equines as well as to promote public health and safety in Jimma zone and its surroundings through progressive education and outreach efforts in the community. Abebaw Kebede, D.V.M., Ph.D., is an associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Jimma University in Jimma, Ethiopia.



Abebaw's visit to Tuskegee is a result of being selected as the summer fellow for Human-Animal Studies at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Dr. Caroline Schaffer, director of the CVMNAH's Center for the Study of Human-Animal Interdependent Relationships, served as Abebaw's Tuskegee contact.

Dean Habtemariam (front row, far left), Dr. Abebaw Gashaw Kebede (front row, third from left), and other TUSVM faculty members, gather after the opening session.

MATTERS OF LAW

"Matters of Law" is provided courtesy of Fees & Burgess, P.C., of Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Roth practices in the areas of employment law; commercial and contract law; general corporate law; business transactional and regulatory law; and governmental contracting. He is a frequent lecturer, and has published numerous materials and presented numerous programs on various aspects of business and employment law, including programs for the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Law Association, and his wife, Wilma, is a Veterinary Practice Manager in Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Roth is admitted to practice law in the states of Alabama and Ohio, and is a member of the American, Federal, Alabama, and Huntsville Madison County Bar Associations. Mr. Roth holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Dayton, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Cincinnati in business administration.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUGGESTIONS FOR VETERINARY PRACTICES

With recent weather disasters striking the state, it only makes sense that veterinary practices, like other businesses, be prepared to deal with such contingencies, and have some plan to protect the practice and ensure continuity of service to clients and patients.

First and foremost, a practice must be sure that its employees know where to go and how to best protect themselves against a potential weather disaster, if working at the time of a threatened disaster. Employees should be well-trained in properly securing the premises, procedures to implement to protect patients, and "safe areas" in the event of a tornado or other storm. Employees should also be instructed and knowledgeable about dealing with hazards that may exist with respect to compressed gases, hazardous energy, and other potential hazardous materials and inventory. It is also advisable to have at least some of the staff trained in first aid procedures. Remember that every employer has an obligation under the OSHA General Duty Clause to provide its employees a workplace free from serious recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious injury.

A practice should be certain that its insurance coverage is up-to-date and adequately covers losses that might be encountered in a disaster. Issues that should be discussed with an owner's insurance agent include breadth of coverage issues relating to what disasters might be covered, for example, floods and earthquakes, which are not generally covered unless specified; at what value lost property will be replaced; policy deductibles; business interruption or business income insurance; and any policy exclusions. Some insurance providers provide policies covering loss to client's animals legal liability and valuable papers and records coverage, as well as mobile loss of income insurance, which might

be of interest to large animal and equine practitioners. Business umbrella insurance, which provides coverage in addition to property and general liability insurance, can usually be purchased at very reasonable prices with relatively substantial policy limits, and should be considered in every insurance program. In the event an owner or veterinarian is injured in a disaster, a practice should have some strategy for dealing with disability and income replacement issues, which might include "key-person" insurance.

Each owner or practitioner organized as a corporation or limited liability company should be sure that it has proper authorizations in place to allow the continuation of routine financial and business transactions with its accountant, bank, suppliers, and governmental agencies. For example, anyone acting on behalf of the practice in the absence of the owner, or while the owner is disabled, will need appropriate authority to deal with placing orders for supplies, processing employee payroll, applying for disaster aid, and other such matters.

Properly backing up client and patient files is also very important with respect to business continuity and disaster recovery. Files should be digitally duplicated in more than one location, and in a format that will facilitate useful file reconstruction and access. In addition to client, patient, and other important document files, equipment lists and videos which document the pre-disaster premises and equipment will be very helpful in making insurance claims. Post-disaster recordkeeping will also be important to document expenses incurred that may be covered by insurance.

Each practice should take appropriate steps to ensure the well-being of hospitalized or boarded patients. Appropriate fire protection should be the first step.

In addition, each practice should have some written plan with respect to relocating patients in the event of emergency, and contacting clients to communicate the status of patients under the care of the practice. Obviously, any contact list would also need to be stored somewhere other than at the practice to ensure its availability when needed. Patients should have secure identification tags that are suitable to survive the elements. Planning should provide for sufficient uncontaminated food and water, an emergency inventory stock, as well as electricity or other power sources to maintain the practice and facilitate recovery. The role of manufacturers' representatives and suppliers should be considered in planning for emergency response and recovery.

Premises security in the event of building damage or power outages should also be considered, along with any special precautions required to protect and document any inventory of federally-scheduled, controlled drugs. Personal identification cards identifying practice employees may also be helpful in allowing them to return to or be present in damaged areas after a disaster.

Every veterinary practice will have its own unique set of issues and concerns depending on where it is geographically located, what natural or other disasters it is likely to encounter, and whether or not it is in an urban or rural area and likely to be close to the practice of a colleague with an undamaged facility. Although this article is not intended to be a complete checklist, it will hopefully stimulate thought regarding disaster preparedness. Additional helpful information can be found at: <http://www.avma.org/disaster/>, http://www.aaep.org/emergency_prep.htm, and <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/livestock.shtm>.



Dr. Tony Frazier

NEWS FROM YOUR STATE VETERINARIAN

Thank you, Dr. Hoerr

When I took the job of State Veterinarian back in 2001, I knew that there was a date somewhere out there on the horizon that I would cross paths with if time took its normal sequence of events. I used to sort of “tongue-in-cheek” tell people that my worst day on the job as State Veterinarian would be the day that Dr. Fred Hoerr retired.....and that my second worst day would be the day that Dr. Hoerr let me know when the exact date that my worst day would take place. As I sit here today, I realize that there was more truth than jest in those remarks. Dr. Hoerr told me a few weeks ago that he planned to transition into another chapter of life and his retirement from the State Department of Agriculture and Industries would be effective March 1, 2012. And although I wish Dr. Hoerr the best as he continues down the road, I will have to admit, that was not a good day for me.

Over the past decade-and-some-change, I have experienced the retirements of several employees. Life has always gone on, but they have all been missed. Dr. Hoerr's retirement has given me the opportunity to focus on how fortunate we have been to have him as part of our Diagnostic Laboratory family since 1980 and Director of the Diagnostic Laboratory System since 1987. The fact that Alabama sits second in broiler production in the nation cannot be discussed without crediting Dr. Hoerr for being the key architect in developing the diagnostic support system that the poultry industry in our state enjoys today.

After receiving his D.V.M. degree in 1976 and his Master's degree in 1977 from Perdue University, Dr. Hoerr completed his PhD in 1981 shortly after joining the staff at the C. S. Roberts Diagnostic Laboratory at Auburn. Since that time Dr. Hoerr has become a major contributor in the field of poultry health. In the circles that I travel, at least those connected with the poultry industry, Dr. Hoerr is not only known, but respected as one of the foremost authorities on many diseases that affect poultry. I remember the old E. F. Hutton advertisement, “When E. F. Hutton talks, people listen.” It has been my experience that Dr. Hoerr has that same credibility in the poultry industry. “When Dr. Fred Hoerr talks, the industry listens.”

As Laboratory Director, Dr. Hoerr has seen the ebb and flow (much more ebb than flow) of working for state government. He has been through the droughts and the floods and has been able to keep the ship afloat and traveling in the right direction. During my time working

closely with him, Dr. Hoerr has been instrumental in overseeing the construction of three new facilities at Boaz, Elba, and Hanceville, as well as the “mother ship”, the Thompson Bishop Sparks State Diagnostic Laboratory, that opened in May of 2006. Additionally, he has seen his vision of the laboratory becoming fully accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Diagnosticians become a reality through his leadership and the hard work of the lab employees.

I have always believed that the fierce dedication and hard work performed by the diagnostic lab employees is a reflection of their leadership. When budgets have been cut and personnel numbers reduced, Dr. Hoerr and his staff have always just put on one more hat, dug their heels in a little deeper, and kept working. I wish there were a way that I could convey those intangibles that Dr. Hoerr provided that will continue to have a positive effect on the laboratory system for years to come. I have often wondered why someone who enjoys the status and respect of the poultry industry would continue to put up with many

of the frustrations that go along with running a laboratory that can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best while operating on a shoe string budget and never quite as many employees as you would like to have. Yet as often as I ponder the “why”, I am aware of the answer. Dr. Fred Hoerr has given 31 years of his life to the Diagnostic Laboratory System because of his dedication to the people, the veterinarians, the producers, and the animal agriculture and pet industries that the lab supports.



Dr. Fred Hoerr, (center), wife Martie and son, August Hoerr

Dr. Hoerr, allow me this opportunity to thank you for being the kind of employee whose retirement can be referred to as my worst day on the job. Thank you for the working relationship that we have enjoyed as we have often navigated through rough waters. Thank you for being the kind of director who never caused me to lose sleep worrying about how laboratory issues were going to be handled and the work get done. I especially thank you for your friendship. It will continue to mean a lot to me. I have always said that I believe that the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory system is the crown jewel of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. Thank you for making the jewel shine. I wish you the best as you travel down the road.

2012 WHITE COAT CEREMONIES

White coat ceremonies were held for junior veterinary students at Auburn and Tuskegee Universities on Tuesday, February 13, 2012. Auburn's ceremony was held at 5:00 PM at Overton Auditorium and Tuskegee's ceremony was held at 7:00 PM at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Dr. Kirk Holland, ALVMA President, presented white coats to the Alabama students at both schools and Dr. Deborah Spike-Pierce, Kentucky VMA President-Elect, presented the coats to the Kentucky students. Drs., Bill Allen (President-Elect), Dan Kuykendall (Student Affairs Committee Chair), and Charles Franz (Executive Director) also attended both ceremonies on behalf of the ALVMA. Pfizer has continued their generous sponsorship of the ceremonies and Dr. Harvey Crumm attended both of the ceremonies on behalf of the company.



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2012 ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention

Activities

Wednesday, May 30

Opening Reception - 5 - 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 31

Mingle at the Marina - a night for all

For kids:

5:30-6:30 - Kids events

1. Sand city building
2. relay races
3. water balloon toss
4. water balloon throw

Dinner 6:30-7:30

Adult entertainment:

7:30-10:00 – Bar with complementary drink ticket with registration

Dancing, Socializing, Adult fun for all registrants. Cost is \$40 per adult and \$12 per child.

Bike Ride

Sponsored by Novartis

This always popular event lets you, your colleagues, family and friends enjoy a group ride around the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort. This event is free with your registration. Sign up on the registration form and meet us at the Market Shops Bike Outlet at 2 pm on Thursday, May 31.



Friday, June 1

ALVMA/GVMA Auxiliary Breakfast

The auxiliaries from the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association will have their annual meeting and breakfast with a special program. All spouses and significant others are invited to attend on Friday at 9 am at the Marlin Grill. Cost \$35 per person.

Golf

Sponsored by Webster Veterinary

Join your colleagues and save on greens fees on Friday afternoon while you play 18 holes on Raven Golf Course, one of the Southeast's finest. Match play begins at 1:30 pm.

Be sure to thank the sponsors at each hole. Thanks to the generosity of our exhibitors golfers will save more than \$100 off of last year's price. Cost \$30

Beach Volleyball

Sponsored by IDEXX

Leave the stress of class behind and head to the beach at 2 pm for friendly volleyball in the sand.

Saturday, June 2

ALVMA/GVMA Walk and 5K Run

Join us Saturday morning at the Baytowne Marina for an annual favorite. The Fun Run for children ages 1-12 begins at 7 AM, and the adult walk and 5K run begin at 6:30 AM. \$5 for adults, free for children.

Sunday, June 3

Fellowship Breakfast

Come and join us at our Sunday morning fellowship breakfast. It will be held from 7 AM to 8 AM in the Jasmine room. Tickets are required and the cost is \$20 per person.

Thank you to
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Summer Convention Schedule

Wednesday May 30, 2012 – 5:00 – 6:30 PM OPENING KICKOFF IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

THURSDAY MAY 31, 2012

6:30 – 7:00 AM – COFFEE IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

7:00 – 7:50 am – Opening Session-AZALEA BALLROOM (1 hr.) Gregory Bossart, VMD, PhD – Georgia Aquarium

MAGNOLIA D	MAGNOLIA E	MAGNOLIA F	AZALEA
Musculoskeletal Robert Gillette DVM, MSE	Cardiology Andrew Beardow, VM&S, MRCVS, DACVIM Sponsored by: 	Parasitology Mike Dryden, DVM Sponsored by: 	
7:50 – 8:25 am (1 hr) Basics of Locomotion and Gait Analysis	7:50 – 8:40 am (1 hr) Understanding heart disease and treatment – principals and practice	7:50 – 8:55 am (1 hr) Flea Control: Real Homes, Real Problems with Real Answers	
8:25 – 9:25 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	8:40 – 9:40 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	8:55 – 9:55 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	Breaks sponsored by: 
9:25 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) Diagnostic Palpation and Applied Anatomy	9:40 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) Managing heart disease; as easy as ABCD	9:55 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) Canine Heartworm Update. What we forgot, what we thought we knew and what we need to know:	
11:20 – 11:40 am – BREAK	11:20 – 11:40 am – BREAK	11:20 – 11:40 am – BREAK	
11:40 am – 12:30 pm (1 hr) Practice Tips for the Canine Athlete and Working Dog.	11:40 am – 12:30 pm (1 hr) Interactive cardiac case discussion	11:40 am – 1:30 pm (2 hr) USDA Accreditation – Joanna Davis, DVM, USDA	

Family Bike Ride Sponsored by - ALVMA Business Meeting/lunch/awards 12:30 AVBP – Dr. Tim Lassett – Board Certification

Mingle at the Marina– 4:00–6:00, Kids games & beach fun, 5:30 kids dinner is served, 7:00–10:00 adult dinner/Band/drinks/dancing

FRIDAY JUNE 1, 2012

6:30 – 7:00 AM – COFFEE IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

MAGNOLIA D	MAGNOLIA E	MAGNOLIA F	AZALEA
Gerontology Plus: Exploring Successful Aging David Waters, DVM, PhD, DACVS	Urology Scott A. Brown, VMD, PhD, DACVIM Sponsored by: 	Surgery Thomas Noone, DVM, DACVS	POULTRY Moderator: Dr. Karen Burns Grogan
7:00 – 8:25 am (2 hrs) Concepts in biogerontology "More is better" obstacle to better health	7:00 – 8:40 am (2 hrs) Confusing cases UA and bloodwork interpretation Proteinuria – What's all the fuss about?	7:00 – 8:55 am (2 hrs) Wound Management – What's new? Oncologic and Reconstructive surgery in small animals	8-8:30 - Field Experiences with ILT – a rookies perspective – Dr. Mark Burleson 8:30 – 9:00 – ILT – New lessons from an old disease – Dr. Phil Stayer 9:00 – 9:45 Roundtable Discussion on ILT Control and other disease surveillance
8:25 – 9:25 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	8:40 – 9:40 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	8:55 – 9:55 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	9:45 – 10:15 BREAK
9:25 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) The relationship between spaying & longevity Probes the cancer-aging connection	9:40 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) Diagnosis & treatment of systemic hypertension Acute kidney injury prevention, diagnosis and management	9:55 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) ENT, ie Ears, Nares and Throat Perineal and Urogenital surgery	10:15 – 10:45 Novel research on the immune responses Dr. Frits Van Ginkel 10:45-11:00 The decay of passively transferred antibodies Dr. Blayne Mozisek
11:20 – 11:40 am BREAK	11:20 – 11:40 am BREAK	11:20 – 11:40 am BREAK	11:00 -11:30 The effects of light intensity on hatchery vaccine uptake – Dr. John McCarty
11:40am – 12:30pm (1 hr) Highlights the importance of self renewal in personal/professional development	11:40 am – 12:30pm (1 hr) Staged management of chronic kidney disease	11:40am – 12:30pm (1 hr) The acute abdomen – to cut or not to cut	11:30-12:00 MS in Georgia 2009-2011 Dr. Louise Dufour Zavala 12:00 – 1:00 Regional AI Roundtable – AL/GA AI response plans

Auxiliary Breakfast

Golf Outing – Webster Cup Competition

Auburn Reunion

SATURDAY JUNE 2, 2012

6:30 – 7:00 AM – COFFEE IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

MAGNOLIA D	MAGNOLIA E	MAGNOLIA F	BAYSIDE	MARLIN GRILL – 2ND FLOOR
EXOTICS Darryl Heard, BSc, DVMS, PhD	Surgery Thomas Noone, DVM, DACVS	Practice Management Gerald M. Snyder, VMD	POULTRY Moderator: Dr. John Glisson	VET TECHS Sponsored by: 
7:00 – 8:25 am (2 hrs) Introduction to Rabbits: Husbandry, Nutrition and Preventative Care Analgesia and Anesthesia of Rabbits	7:00 – 8:40 am (2 hrs) The lameness exam Management of OA, and it is not just surgery	7:00 – 8:55 am (2 hrs) What's really going on?	8:00 – 8:30 Alternative Feed Ingredients-what you need to know Dr. Marc DeBeer 8:30 – 9:00 Current issues in gut health Dr. Steve Collett	7:00 – 8:40 am (2 hrs) Vaccine Boot Camp-Dr. Stephen Jaffe Immunology Review: Antibody Anybody? Vaccine Basics:
8:25 – 9:25 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	8:40 – 9:40 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	8:55 – 9:55 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL	9:00 – 9:15 Development of gastrointestinal health Dr. Anne Hurley-Bacon 9:15 – 9:45 Statistical powers and field trial design Dr. Roy Berghaus 9:45 – 10:00 A survey of current Salmonella testing methods Dr. Charles Hofacre and Dr. Karen Burns Grogan	8:40 – 9:40 am – BREAK AND EXHIBIT HALL
9:25 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) The Rabbit Head: I & II	9:40 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) Juvenile Orthopedics What's new in fracture repair	9:55 – 11:20 am (2 hrs) Steps to countering the economics & HR	10:00 – 10:30 BREAK	9:40 – 11:40 am (2 hrs) Infectious Disease Review Canine Infectious Diseases Feline Infectious Diseases
11:20 – 11:40 am BREAK	11:20 – 11:40 am BREAK	11:20 – 11:40 am BREAK	10:30 – 11:00 USDA Update Dr. Christopher Young and Dr. Adis Dijab	11:40 – 11:50 am BREAK
11:40am – 12:30pm (1 hr) Common Medical and Surgical Problems of the Rabbit Thorax and Abdomen	11:40 am – 12:30pm (1 hr) Intervertebral disk disease – are they all surgical?	11:40am – 12:30pm (1 hr) Innovative/profitable changes	11:00 – 11:30 Vaccination strategies Dr. Holly Sellers 11:30 – 12:00 Current case report discussion and issues Dr. Jim Davis and Dr. Fred Hoerr	11:50 am – 12:40pm (1 hr) Feline Leukemia: What's New?
Exhibit Hall closed	12:30 – 2:30 (2 hours) Compounding, legalities, and new drugs Sponsored by: 			

Family walk/run event

Georgia Reunion

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2012

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST - 6:00AM 6:30 – 7:00 AM – COFFEE IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

MAGNOLIA D	MAGNOLIA E	MAGNOLIA F	BAYSIDE/CAMELLIA	MARLIN GRILL – 2ND FLOOR
Critical Care Amie Koenig, DVM, DACVIM, DACVECC	LEAP Jim Wilson Sponsored by: 	Practice Management Gerald M. Snyder, VMD		VET TECHS Sponsored by: 
7:00 – 8:40 am (2 hrs) ABCs of Acid Base and Blood Gas Evaluation	7:00 – 8:40 am (2 hrs) Moral, ethical & legal decision making	7:00 – 8:40 am (2 hrs) Innovative/profitable changes		7:00 – 8:40 am (2 hrs) Ticks and Tick Borne Diseases Tick Control and CERTIFECT- Dr. James Freeman
8:40 – 9:00 Break	8:40 – 9:00 Break	8:40 – 9:00 Break		8:40 – 9:00 Break
9:00 – 10:40 am (2 hrs) Shock Fluid Therapy: So Many Choices, So Little Time	9:00 – 10:40 am (2 hrs) Credit Management vs. Pet Health Insurance – a no brainer or not? Guidelines for ethically appropriate relations with veterinary colleagues	9:00 – 10:40 am (2 hrs) Innovative/profitable changes		9:00 – 10:40 am (2 hrs) How a LVT "should" lead in the vet hospital – Dr. Hal Little
10:40 – 10:50 am BREAK	10:40 – 10:50 am BREAK	10:40 – 10:50 am BREAK		10:40 – 10:50 am BREAK
10:50am – 11:40pm (1 hr) Surviving Sepsis: Does Anything Make a Difference?	10:50 am – 11:40pm (1 hr) A workshop to understand the "owner consent" doctrine and how to achieve it	10:50am – 11:40pm (1 hr) Interactive problem solving		10:50 am – 11:40pm (1 hr) Continued

ALVMA/GVMA 2012 Summer Convention

May 30 – June 3, 2012

Deadlines: Early bird – 4/30; Pre-registration – 5/20

Online registration is available today at ALVMA.com or GVMA.net

Call 800-853-1625 for more information.

Attendee (Only ONE registrant per form (includes spouse/guest). Make copies as needed.)

Name: _____
 First Name for Badge: _____
 Company/Practice _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 **Email: _____

****Important Note** – If you would like a registration confirmation please provide us with an email address.

Proceedings

Proceedings are available on CD for your computer OR in printed booklets. Both proceedings contain notes from all conference tracks, and those who select a CD will also be provided with a web link to view the proceedings prior to the meeting and after. Availability of proceedings is not guaranteed after May 20.

Select ONE (only one version available per attendee):

- Proceedings on CD-ROM (FREE) Printed Proceedings (\$40)

Continuing Education

Please select the continuing education tracks you plan to attend on each day.

Thursday, May 31

- I plan to attend the morning keynote session – Ocean Health - why flipper needs a wellness exam
 Musculoskeletal Cardiology Parasitology USDA CE

Friday, June 1

- Gerontology Urology Surgery Poultry

Saturday, June 2

- Exotics Surgery Practice Mgmt Poultry Vet Tech Pharmacy

Sunday, June 3

- Critical Care LEAP CE Practice Management Vet Tech
 I have dietary restrictions or other special needs. Please contact me.

Registration

Veterinary Pricing	Member ¹ /Non-member		
	Early Bird (4/30)	Pre-Registration (5/20)	On-Site ²
<input type="checkbox"/> Full	\$425/\$575	\$475/\$625	\$525/\$675
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Day	\$275/\$350	\$325/\$400	\$375/\$450
Circle the two days you will attend: Thurs.–Fri. Fri.–Sat. Sat.–Sun.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Vet Tech/Staff	\$245	\$295	\$345
<input type="checkbox"/> Recent Grad ³	\$215	\$215	\$215
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest ⁴	\$60	\$60	\$60

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Activities/Events *The ALVMA/GVMA cannot guarantee space for any activities after May 20.*

	Cost	Number	Total		Cost	Number	Total
Welcome Reception (Wed. 5–6:30 pm)	Free	[]	\$_____	Auxiliary Breakfast (Fri.)	\$35	[]	\$_____
Mingle at the Marina (Thurs.)	\$40 adult \$12 child		\$_____	Golf Outing (Fri.)	\$30	[]	\$_____
Family Bike Ride (Thurs.)	Free	[]	\$_____	Walk/Run (Sat.)	\$5 adult \$0 child	[]	\$_____
ALVMA Business Meeting (Thurs.)	\$35	[]	\$_____	Fellowship Breakfast (Sun.)	\$20	[]	\$_____

Payment

Registration Subtotal \$ _____ Proceedings Subtotal \$ _____ Total Amount Due\$ _____

- MasterCard VISA AMEX Discover Check payable to ALVMA/GVMA

Name: _____ Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Member/Non-member Info

- Member pricing includes ALVMA/GVMA members and members of any other state VMA.
- Proceedings are not guaranteed for on-site registrants.
- Recent graduates are DVMS who graduated from veterinary college in 2010 or 2011
- Spouse/guest passes are only required for guests who would like access to the exhibit hall, including the daily breakfast. No one will be allowed admission to the exhibit hall without a badge. Children under 16 are not permitted in the exhibit hall 5/31 – 6/2.

Cancellation Policy: 80% refund if received by May 20, 2012. No refunds after this date.

Registration Info

Registration includes: one convention proceedings on CD, admission to the exhibit hall and all CE sessions on the selected day of attendance, breakfast and beverage breaks each registered day, and free special events that occur during your attendance.

Name Badge and Tickets – A name badge is required for entrance into the CE sessions and the exhibit hall – where exhibits, meals and breaks take place. Lost Badge – a \$10 fee will be assessed for creation of a replacement badge. Name badges will not be issued for children under 16, and they will not be permitted in the exhibit hall 5/31 – 6/2.

Registration Bag Pick-Up – Registrants will receive a registration bag containing a conference badge, proceedings on CD unless otherwise requested, and other information. Bags are available at the registration desk during convention hours.

As Seen in my Travels

Some Veterinarians and Clinics May Have Bad Breath

By Dr. H. Winston Pirtle, Sr, DVM, JD

On a hot summer night thirty years ago I came home to find a note wedged into my back door from Dr. Frank Mathews, a local dentist whose friendship I had always cherished. I was in my 30's and Dr. Frank, in his 70's, was the owner of a small pet herd of cattle that I served near my veterinary clinic in Montgomery County. Dr. Frank's note proceeded to rake me over the coals about some actions I had taken in my personal life that he felt were completely repulsive. I immediately called him to bless him out good!! His answer was, "Well, your mama was your best friend and you let her tell you that your breath was bad before you got on the school bus every morning. Take it or leave it." End of conversation. Ten years later I realized the old man was right. After the night on which I read his note we shared "stuff" weekly. His death was a special blow to me, but during the rest of his life I knew he was a truthful, loyal friend and the best one I had, family excluded.

I would like to address the rest of this rambling to two groups - veterinarians who are working as employees in any clinic in Alabama (including the spay/neuter clinics) and the management and board members of those clinics. My writing has only one purpose, to provoke self-evaluation and correction of conduct that may contribute to actions that may be less than the standard of care for veterinarians all across our state. I love each veterinarian I know as I would a sibling and only want the best things in life for them for that reason.



To all employed veterinarians in Alabama: Determine to be a professional yourself. No employer has the right to demand any type of work or amount of work that could cause you to give any patient less than what you consider to be adequate care. If this should occur you have both the right and obligation to be an advocate for each patient you see. Webster's definition of a professional describes "a person who makes some activity NOT usually followed for gain,

such as a sport, the source of his livelihood." The good work is a professional's first thought. Monetary gain will follow the good work, and when the day is done it always does. My mentor is still Dr. Tom Vaughan, Dean Emeritus at Auburn University. I attended a veterinary conference and heard a most eloquent

presentation on the definition of professionalism from him. Just wish I had heard it earlier in my career. In 1976 Dr. Vaughan gave veterinary students a simple and short list of rules to go by to insure a successful veterinary career. Below are two of his six pearls of wisdom verbatim:

“For a good night's rest, never do anything that will prevent you from looking your fellow man in the eye, and giving an honest answer; nor avoid confrontation.”

“For a good night's rest, never do anything that will prevent you from looking your fellowman in the eye, and giving an honest answer; nor avoid confrontation.”

“For an exercise to build character, learn to say 'No'”.

Dr. Vaughan's entire writing hangs framed in my home in a place I have to pass. He stated in a letter to my mother, who procured a copy for me, that he had “written it for advice to himself as well as others.” I, too, am no “perfect practitioner” and his framed list of pearls helps me when I've had a difficult case to work through or wonder if I did my best in communicating with a difficult client. Again, I love all of you. I never want to see you in a hearing before the ASBVME. I've been on that board and it “ain't no fun” for any one present.

To all who employ veterinarians or hire their services by contract: Please realize that a veterinarian who practices by contract or an employment agreement in your practice is a professional and respect them as such. They should have the freedom to call all shots that determine their individual standards of care. If you pressure them to take actions that do not support their standard, your pressures will affect their performance for their patients. I had this done to me once and the mental strain was unbearable. And don't forget, when they are gone, you can simply find another veterinarian. A negative result for them at ASBVME could restrict or even end their careers, while you may be able to continue unscathed.

From one who still has on occasion had bad breath,

H. Winston Pirtle, Sr, DVM, JD



Paws for a Cause

8th Annual Alabama Hall of Fame



On November 6th, four outstanding dogs were inducted into the 8th Annual Alabama Hall of Fame and Dr. Lewis McCurdy's memory was honored at the 2011 Paws for a Cause event held at the Rail Road Park in Birmingham. The weather was beautiful and there was great food and family fun for all that attended. Karen Church, news anchor for Birmingham's WBRC Fox 6, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. In addition to the awards presentations music was provided by two local bands, Juice and India Ramey, there was a military dog presentation and pony petting.

The Alabama Hall of Fame is a wonderful event that celebrates the human-animal bond and rewards the loyalty and dedication of animals each year. Johnny, Cody, Daisy and Blek are four dogs with amazing stories that truly exemplify this bond.



Johnny was recognized for saving "Pa" Dain's life twice by alerting Joanie Dain in the middle of the night that something was wrong. The first time "Pa" had fallen and the second time his blood sugar had dropped below the life sustaining level. In addition to all Johnny did for "Pa" he is a very gentle and loving family pet. He doesn't like any of the family pets to fight and will put himself between them when a fight seems imminent. Johnny and the Dain family were unable to attend, however Dr. Jack Goodman shared their story and accepted the award on their behalf.

Cody was selected as an inductee for her devotion to her owner, Susette, and for her natural



ability to detect when Susette was going to have a seizure. Sadly, Cody suffered from renal disease the last two years of her life and recently died. During the seventeen years that Cody was part of the family she was a loving and devoted friend. When Susette originally went to the shelter to adopt Cody she went looking for a male puppy and was actually looking at another dog, but Cody would not stop reaching out for Susette and she could not resist the dog that chose her. Cody's veterinarian, Dr. Dawn Monroe, proudly presented Susette with Cody's certificate and medal. Dr. Monroe shared, "Susette has now been seizure free for one year. Maybe Cody knew her job on earth was done and Susette will see her again at the rainbow bridge."



Although she lost her front left leg due to cancer in 2009, Daisy has continued her dedicated service as a therapy dog. Her determination has helped her to adjust and she continues to bring joy to the students at the Alabama School for the Deaf every Thursday. "If you ever want to make Daisy mad, leave the house with out her on a Thursday," Daisy's owner, Ellen Davis, said when she and Daisy accepted the award.

Daisy's ten year therapy dog career began before she wasn't even a year old and her experience includes a dog safety awareness program at Washington Elementary School in Birmingham, social visits at the Exceptional Foundation in Homewood, and a social skills training program with youth at Hillcrest Behavioral Hospital. Ellen did not want to make Daisy continue to do her weekly visits to the School for the Deaf after her amputation if she was uncomfortable, but she quickly discovered that Daisy loved being with those children and definitely wanted to continue her visits. Her determination helped her push through and make adjustments to the challenges of having three legs. Daisy's story is a great example of love and perseverance.



Blek is being honored for his dedicated service as a Military Working Dog (MWD) and for being a loyal companion to his owner and handler, Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Olson. During his career as a MWD, Blek served tours in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Afghanistan with over fifty confirmed explosive finds. In September of 2010 SSgt Olson and Blek were both injured by an explosion while on a mission in Afghanistan. Blek's injuries left him deaf and required that he be retired from service in April of 2011. Blek and SSgt Olson had to be separated while they each were treated and Blek

suffered from separation anxiety during this time, but fortunately SSgt Olson was able to adopt him after they both returned home.



The evening ended with a special presentation honoring the memory of Dr. Lewis McCurdy. Dr. McCurdy was a tremendous asset and dedicated member of the Alabama VMA for many years. During his time in the association he served as chair of numerous committees and various officer positions including president (2004). He was also the founding president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation and was serving as president at the time of his death. Dr. Blaine O'Reilly shared special stories about Dr. McCurdy as a mentor, friend and colleague, followed by a special plaque presentation by Dr. Monaghan to Mrs. Nancy McCurdy.

A special thanks to every one that made this event possible:

Table Sponsors:

Countryside Veterinary Clinic – Drs. Shannon Johnson and Tavis White; Dr. Winston Pirtle, Sr.; Standifer Animal Clinic – Dr. Wayne Standifer; Mrs. Kathleen Standifer; Kelley Animal Hospital – Drs. Barbara Monaghan and Mark Pelham; Liberty Animal Hospital – Drs. Barbara Monaghan; Cindy Williams and Craig Martin; Connolly Animal Clinic – Dr. W.J. Connolly III, Veterinary Surgery of Birmingham – Dr. Jimmy Milton; Veterinary Surgical Center – Dr. Tony Ballagas; Red Mountain Animal Clinic – Dr. Jerome Williams; Logan Martin Veterinary Clinic; McCurdy Animal Clinic – Dr. Blaine O'Reilly

Special Thanks:

Artist – Tom Findlay; David Frost; Freek on a Leesh; WBRC Fox 6 and Karen Church, Spirit of Hope Ranch; George Sarris and The Fish Market; India and Shaun Ramey; Juice and Jeff Shapiro; Merial, makers of Frontline and Heartgard; Volunteers from St. Francis Xavier Comfirmandi

2012 ALVMA ANIMAL HALL OF FAME!

Call for Nominations

Do you know an animal worthy of nomination into the 2012 Alabama VMA Animal Hall of Fame (AAHoF)? If so, please contact Dr. Barbara Monaghan as soon as possible so that we may get this special animal into the nomination process! The cut off date for nominations is July 1, 2012.

Induction into the AAHoF is for companion or working animals from within the state of Alabama that have demonstrated extraordinary loyalty, courage, service, or intuitive abilities in its relations with humans. Successful nominees will have demonstrated exceptional ability when compared to similar animals in similar conditions. Documentation attesting to those abilities is necessary. This can include but is not limited to written testimony, media coverage of any type, eyewitness accounts, or documentation from a sponsoring organization. Reasons for nomination can vary from single events demonstrating extreme courage or for lifetime achievement. No animal will be inducted into the AAHoF without adequate corroborating documentation. Nominations may be made by a veterinarian, a client through a veterinarian, the humane society, SPCA or another animal care agency in Alabama, or by a constituent veterinary association. Animals may be living or dead but must have permission from the owner, trainer, or representative to be nominated. Nominations must include at least one photograph (preferably 8x10), two or more letters supporting the nomination, the nomination form and the appropriate documentation. Each nominee will be placed in a pool for three consecutive years after its nomination. Letters of nomination should include the nominating veterinarian's and owner's (or steward's) names, addresses, and phone numbers in addition to the reason(s) for nomination. The nominee will be voted on each year until it is either voted into the hall or is dropped from consideration after three years. If an animal does not receive enough votes for induction in the three year period, it may not be resubmitted for nomination. All submitted material becomes the property of the ALVMA and will not be returned.

All nominations must be sent in with the nomination form. For a printable version of this form please visit the ALVMA web site at www.alvma.com. Please submit your nomination in letter form, preferably typed, with the appropriate information to the address below. The person or organization nominating the animal may submit the nominee's name, reason(s) for the nomination, and person to contact. The committee will complete the nomination process by contacting the person(s) involved with the nominee.

Completed nominations should be sent to:

Dr. Barbara Monaghan
Kelley Animal Hospital
992 Huffman Road
Birmingham, AL 35215

The Alabama Animal Hall of Fame is a committee of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation and is charged with the mission to recognize Alabama's most exceptional domestic, companion, or assistance animals. Inductees will have displayed outstanding loyalty, courage, service, or intuitive abilities in its relations with humans.

THE FUTURE OF OUR ALABAMA VETERINARY MEDICAL FOUNDATION- IS THERE ONE??

Barbara Monaghan, DVM, President ALVMF

Contact me at drbfmonaghan@aol.com

Last November our foundation hosted our first Paws for a Cause event featuring the Animal Hall of Fame awards in Birmingham. The event was a great success. Over 300 tickets were sold for the event. The weather was gorgeous and we had the honor of celebrating the life and spirit of Dr. Lewis McCurdy as well as the contributions our animal heroes have made in the lives of their people. The reviews of the event were extremely positive. The design of the event was to bring awareness of our foundation to the general public and to celebrate the human-animal bond. It accomplished all of those goals.

I learned two things as your foundation President and event organizer: 1) there is tremendous enthusiasm among the general public to support programs that help fund medical care for sick and injured animals who might not otherwise receive that attention due to lack of access and finances, 2) there is not enthusiasm among the veterinarians in Alabama to fund our programs or to recommend to their clients that they consider a contribution to our foundation when considering a donation to a non-profit that benefits pets.

My second comment is based on several statistics: the number of donations we receive from our members, the number of donations from the general public that indicate their veterinarians suggested our foundation as worthy recipient of their money, the lack of attendance by veterinarians at foundation events, and most importantly one on one interviews with veterinarians in our state regarding their feelings about our foundation and its mission.

I am aware of many hurdles I have as ALVMF president. The foundation has failed to connect with you. This is not for lack of trying, but the fact remains that many do not know we exist or if you do know we exist, what we are doing. We have not been effective in internal PR. Another question I have is whether or not our mission (funding animal care for stray animals or those with

financially strained owners, scholarships and the spay-neuter program funded by the sale of car tags) resonates with what you, the Alabama veterinarian, think we need to be doing. If you do not think that we should undertake these programs then you will not recommend us to your clients. So I must ask you if we are performing the mission that you think is appropriate for our foundation? Are there other functions that our foundation should be performing?

The ALVMF board of directors is trying to determine whether or not to continue the celebration of the human-animal bond by continuing to host the ANIMAL HALL OF FAME AWARDS. The board is enthusiastic about the event but has to be realistic when it comes to the fact that there is honestly a lack luster response from our membership. Changing the style of the event was an attempt to gauge our membership to see if a more casual setting was more appealing. If our membership really is not interested in continuing this event then the board must refocus its energy in other directions.

The ALVMF board will not abandon this event without input from our membership. I would be thrilled if the few of you that have read to this point in this article would give me your feedback and thoughts on the foundation with a comment to me via e-mail. In the past solicitations to comment via email have not been successful, so we will be coming to you! Our foundation will ask you IN PERSON for a moment of your time, please consider that gift of your time and honest feedback. We are on a PR and information gathering mission. We think the best way to do that is with a friendly face and in person communication. WE WILL NOT BE COMING TO YOU FOR A DONATION---ONLY CONVERSATION! We will be sending more information soon and in the meantime surprise me and send me an e-mail, if just to prove you read my article! Thank you very much!

PS- I am still going to collect Animal Hall of Fame nominations- see the call for nominations ad in this issue (see page 15).

ALVMF SYMPATHY CARDS

A simple card letting them know you care can mean so much to some one that has lost a pet! Call the ALVMF office today at 334-395-0086 and order your pet sympathy cards!

Each pack of sympathy cards is \$100 and includes 10 sympathy cards. Each purchase supports your Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation!!





Need to Know

ALVMA BUSINESS MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The ALVMA general business meeting, officer installation and awards presentation will be held Thursday, May 31, 2012 in conjunction with the ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention. The meeting will be held in the Camellia I/II from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. Lunch is available for \$35. Lunch tickets can be ordered with your conference registration. Make sure to register today!

REGIONAL MEETINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

Merial and the Alabama VMA Team Up For Five Regional CE Meetings

Merial and the Alabama VMA have joined forces to bring you top-notch continuing education. The five events are FREE to Alabama VMA members and include dinner and two hours of great CE on vaccination protocol! However, you still must register in advance in order to attend. The first meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on September 11, 2012 in Montgomery. Other Regional Meeting locations for the fall include: Huntsville, Dothan, Mobile and Birmingham. More information to come on dates, locations and registration.

Technical Update Vaccination Protocols; Solutions for the Practitioner

Members of the veterinary community continue to debate the optimal vaccination interval as well as appropriate antigen selection for their patients. While veterinary professionals persist in this quest, animal owners continue to be caught in the crossfire. Unable to decipher the complexity of the problem, pet owners are asking to deviate from sound preventative measures in increasing numbers. Such emotional decisions put at risk not only their own pets, but also those in the population at large. The aim of this program is to assist practitioners in providing appropriate counsel regarding the benefits of vaccination, associated risks, and how best to address the needs of individual patients. In order to accomplish these objectives, veterinarians should consider instituting regular wellness examinations, risk assessment, and modified vaccination strategy (where appropriate).

ALVMA CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING POLICY

ALVMA Members – No charge

Non-Members - 0-50 words \$25; 51-100 words \$40; 101-150 words \$60; 151-200 words \$80

Ads will run for one issue and must be renewed in writing, by fax or email.

The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or modify material as deemed necessary to accommodate the publication format. Authors will be notified if the submission is deemed inappropriate. Material submitted will not be returned.

If you wish to place a classified ad, you may email to Melissa@franzmgt.com, fax to 334-270-3399 or mail it to ALVMA, PO Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109.

The ALVMA does not endorse any of the classified ads.

CLASSIFIED

New Listing, Owner must sell! Great location in Birmingham area. 3000SF facility, nicely equipped. Prx & RE \$700K AL175
Call Dr. Len Jones today for more info 877.711.TPSG

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On-Line Reputation Management

James P. Humphries, DVM, CVJ, Veterinary News Network

Just type in your name or your hospital's name into Google and all sorts of stuff shows up. Some good, some bad and maybe some really awful! In this world of universal, instant and fairly anonymous communications using the Internet and especially social media, both good and bad things can happen.

Unfortunately, some people will, fairly or not, use this medium to complain about your service or facility to the same huge audience. On your business site or social media pages you have good control, and this is fairly easy to contain. But on other large commercial ratings sites such as Yelp, City Search or Yahoo Local it appears you have little control and are at the mercy of some unreasonable people.

Listening:

You should be "listening" to the net every several days. Set up Google Alerts using your name and hospital name as key words and get daily emails sent to you by Google's service. Other services include sites like SocialMention.com, SproutSocial.com and even Technorati.com.

Respond Quickly:

Then, once you discover a problem, it's simply a matter of researching the case and using some good, old-fashioned client service to resolve the problem and make them happy.

Most veterinary hospitals do not receive many aggressive complaints so it usually doesn't take much of your time to correct. However, when choosing rants to respond to, look for ones that are less than a few days old, on prominent sites and are about problems that you can solve. When this type of thing appears on your Facebook page, immediately post your Facebook rules, then delete and block them. Do not hesitate, state your policy and then delete. (Ask your State VMA for a sample Facebook posting policy that you could easily adapt that to your practice's FB page).

“When defending your hospital online, do so as the hospital and in a proud honest way.”

When defending your hospital online, do so as the hospital and in a proud honest way. Talk about your professionalism, your service and the pride you have in what you offer. Do not get into the details of a case. Keep online responses polite and direct then ask the client if you can contact them directly by e-mail or phone to discuss the specific details of their complaint.

This is known as "taking the issue off-line" and many times get a resolution that will benefit all of you. Once resolved I'd even ask them directly to remove the damaging remarks. Following up with them in a few days or weeks can really show you are sincere about the resolution.

Reputation Management:

This is a new and fast growing industry. Because consumers are so free to voice opinions, many of which are unjust and malicious, companies such as Reputation.com and others, all have for fee services that will help you deal with this growing problem. But in Part 2, I'll show how you can use a step by step process for removing negative reviews, or pushing them down in the search engine results. In this new world of emerging and social media, VNN has partnered with your state VMA to help monitor what's happening in the media with respect to veterinary medicine and we encourage your practice to join us. Learn more at <http://www.MyVNN.com>.

Dr. Humphries is an Adjunct Professor of Media and Communications at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University. He is the founder of the American Society of Veterinary Journalists (www.ASVJ.org) and the Veterinary News Network (www.MyVNN.com). He is an award winning television producer, an experienced professional media spokesperson and speaker.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee of the Alabama VMA has announced its recommendations for candidates for the 2012-2013 Executive Board. Voting will be done strictly through mailed ballots. Please make sure these ballots are returned to the Association office by May 15th. If you did not receive your ballot please contact the Association office. Dr. William M. Allen automatically advances to President and the recommendations include:

President-Elect - Dr. William G. Bledsoe - Camden, AL

Dr. Bledsoe received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1981. Immediately following graduation he opened Camden Veterinary Clinic in June of 1981. Dr. Bledsoe attributes a lot of the work and long hours of opening a new practice to his late wife Sally, who passed away in 2007. "She was as much a part of the clinic as I am and deserves much of the credit for its success," Dr. Bledsoe told the *Alabama Veterinarian*.

Dr. Bledsoe was born and raised in Autaugaville, Alabama and has three children. His oldest daughter, Blair (Bennett), lives in Montgomery with husband, Chad, and daughters, Leighton Grace and Maggie. His middle child, Jill, works in Atlanta for Ernst & Young. His son, Bo, graduated from Auburn and is completing his second year of law school at Alabama.

Dr. Bledsoe has been the board representative for the West Alabama VMA for nearly 20 years. In his spare time he enjoys gardening, outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing, and as often as possible he likes tailgating at Auburn football games. He believes in giving back to the community and volunteers in civic projects as often as possible.

He is a member of the Camden Baptist Church where he is a Deacon and teaches Sunday school for 5th & 6th grade boys.

Dr. Bledsoe says he is honored to be nominated and is looking forward to the opportunity of serving as President-Elect of the Alabama VMA.

Vice-President – Dr. John R. Hammons – Athens, AL

Dr. John Hammons received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977. His first four years of practice (1977-1981) were spent working with a mixed practice, lots of dairy farms, in Jefferson City, Tennessee. In 1981 he purchased an existing practice back in his hometown of Athens and opened Town and Country Animal Hospital.

Dr. Hammons is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, and an Associate Member of AAHA. Since 1982 he has served numerous times in different capacities as an officer of the North Alabama Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Hammons has been a Rotarian since 1986. He has served as an officer for seven years in the Rebel States Archaeological Society which involves him in his personal hobby of amateur archaeology and collecting Native American artifacts. He sometimes enjoys gardening and sometimes it is just another job.

He and Peggy (AU '76, HEQ) were married in 1973 and survived vet school together. Peggy became a part of the practice in 1981, starting with anything from assisting with large animal practice up to now with more of a management position. We do not have children, but over the years we have had our variety of four legged and feathered children and none more loved than our current rescued mixed breed named Howard.

Treasurer – Dr. H. Winston Pirtle, Sr. – Montgomery, AL

Dr. Pirtle received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University in 1967, the same year he activated his membership in the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association. In 1999 he was admitted into the Alabama State Bar after obtaining a law degree from Jones School of Law in Montgomery.

Following his graduation from the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Pirtle spent thirty-seven years owning various farm operations including a dairy farm, a cow/beef cattle farm; and a hay production farm as well as owning and operating Snowdown Veterinary Hospital, a general practice hospital south of Montgomery. In June of 2005 Dr. Pirtle sold the hospital and now serves as a relief veterinarian throughout Alabama.

Dr. Pirtle was the recipient of the 2008 Alabama VMA Distinguished Service Award. He served two terms as president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, the first in 1985 and the second in 2004. In 1988 he was honored as the Veterinarian of the Year by the Association during its annual meeting. Dr. Pirtle has also been a member of the Alabama Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and he served as president of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards from 1995-1997. In the fall of 2010 Dr. Pirtle was appointed as Alternate Delegate to the AVMA for the balance of Dr. Jan Strother's term after she was elected AVMA Vice President and he was re-elected in 2011.

Since obtaining his law degree, Dr. Pirtle has been appointed and handled three cases submitted to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals; represented clients on criminal defense and domestic relations; has presented lectures at the Auburn University Annual Conference on effective techniques in the collection of fees for veterinary services; assisted lead attorneys representing veterinarians in various legal matters; and, has led an ethics course at Auburn for senior veterinary students focusing on negligence law, professional malpractice, standard of care, licensing board procedures and Alabama law as it relates to animals.

In his spare time, Dr. Pirtle can be found enjoying anything that involves being outdoors. He continues

to operate "Pirtle's Puddle", a fishing lake open to the public since 2003. He also leases his farm for beef cattle purposes and part of the farm to a model aircraft club that flies remote-controlled model aircraft. Dr. Pirtle is a member of the Snowdown United Methodist Church.

**Member at Large - Dr. T.C. Branch—
Birmingham, AL**

Dr. Branch received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1981. Upon graduation he returned to his hometown of Birmingham and joined The Red Mountain Animal Clinic and the Emergency Animal Clinic. In 1984

he opened Oporto Animal Clinic and continues to be a member of the Emergency and Specialty Animal Center.

In 1981 Dr. Branch married, and they have one son, Thomas. They enjoy travel, music, and gardening.

He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and is an Accredited Hospital Member of AAHA. Dr Branch is also a member of the Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association where he currently serves as the corresponding secretary and the board representative to the ALVMA.

Dr Branch received a special award from the ALVMA in 2009 for his efforts in promoting the "spay neuter tag" and received a service award in 2010. He currently is on the board of Hand In Paw; an animal assisted therapy organization located in Birmingham, is involved in mentoring programs in the Jefferson County and Birmingham City school systems, and a host of volunteer organizations.

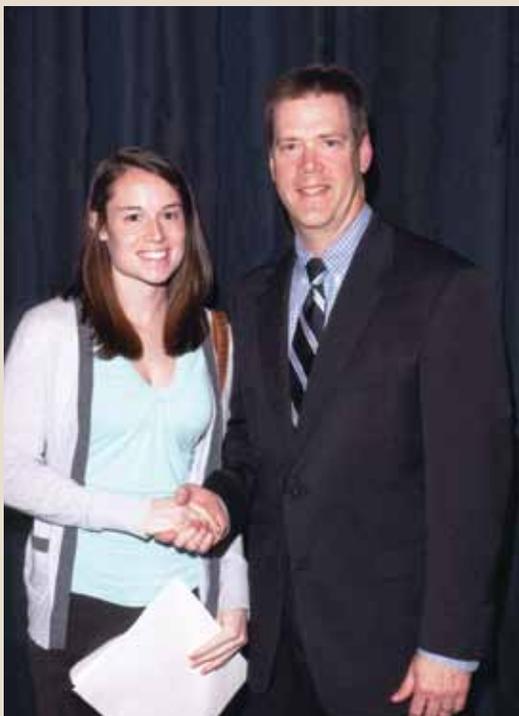
The installation of officers will take place on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 12:30 during the annual business meeting held at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin, Florida, in conjunction with the ALVMA/GVMA convention.

HEATH/GROTH SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The 2012 Auburn University Awards night was held Thursday, February 16th at 6:30 pm in the Overton Auditorium at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Jeremy Deaton, a third year student from Centre, AL was the recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. A.H. Groth, Jr. Scholarship. Rachel Ryan, a second year student from Mammoth Cave, KY was the recipient of the Dr. M. K. Heath Memorial Scholarship. Both annual scholarships were established by the ALVMA to honor Drs. Heath and Groth, Jr.

According to Auburn University, there were 135 veterinary students that applied to the College for financial assistance in 2011-2012. This is in addition to applications for loans that are handled on main campus. The average debt of these students was approximately \$56,500. Student debt continues to rise and is a significant concern to officials at Auburn. Members of the Class of 2011 which graduated last May had an average debt of \$96,300.

According to Dr. Donna W. Angarano, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Auburn, the College of Veterinary Medicine was able to award almost \$370,000 in awards and scholarships to 145 students this academic year as the result of support from individuals and organizations like the Alabama VMA and Foundation.



Dr. Kirk Holland, president of the ALVMA, poses with Rachel Ryan (left) and Jeremy Deaton (right).

In Memoriam

Dr. Mark E. Holmes - February 5, 1959 - December 27, 2011

HOLMES, DR. MARK E. Age 52, of Odenville, Al passed away Tuesday, December 27, 2011. He was preceded in death by his parents N. Troy and Glenn McDonald Holmes. He is survived by brothers Norman (Leigh Ann), Ricky (Hollie) Holmes, sisters Jan (Tom) Holley, Karen Holmes, Sandy (George) Lancaster, Terry (Danny) Gillison, Fiancée Stephanie Paige Hayes and a host of nieces and nephews. Mark was a graduate of the Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine. He owned and operated Moody Animal Clinic. Funeral service will be Thursday December 29, 2011 at Ridout's Trussville Chapel at 12:30. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11:30 A.M. until service time. Interment will follow in Lee's Chapel Cemetery.

<http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Mark-Holmes&lc=4396&pid=155233951&mid=4935267&Affiliate=birmingham&PersonID=155227373&FHID=8341>

Robert A. Kirby

Dr. Kirby (AUB '46), 87, Eufaula, Ala., died Jan. 10, 2012. From 1980 until retirement in 1997, he practiced small animal medicine in Eufaula. Earlier in his career, Dr. Kirby practiced mixed animal medicine in Alabama at Birmingham and Moody. He also raised cattle. Dr. Kirby served as a meat inspector with the rank of captain in the Army Veterinary Corps from 1953-1954. He is survived by his wife, Marion; a son; and three stepchildren.

2012 DOWNIE AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Tony Frazier, the winner of the 2012 Downie Award at this year's Food Animal Conference, held February 24-26 in Columbiana. With Dr. Frazier (left) is Dr. Arvie Marshall who crafted the award. Make plans to attend this great conference next year, February 1-3, 2013 in Columbiana, AL.

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Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome those who have joined the Association since February 2012

Drs:

Brett H. Brooks (Enterprise – AUB09)

Charlie A. Coe (Dothan – AUB09)

Christie Ann Hooper (Oneonta – StGeorge09)

Kristian Jones (Spottsville, KY – AUB11)

Prentiss KaShaun Madden (Las Vegas, NV – TUS11)

Wesley Douglas Pattison (Opp- AUB93)

Phillip Michael Smith (Tuscaloosa – AUB85)

Lisa L. Stacey (Evergreen – AUB06)

Tammy Jo Stumpff (Bessemer – AUB95)

Elizabeth Inez Taylor (Atmore – AUB10)

Profitability:

The Key to Improved Cash Flow and Higher Practice Value

Karen E. Felsted, CPA, MS, DVM, CVPM, Felsted Veterinary Consultants, Inc.

The Brakke Management and Behavior Study empirically demonstrated the importance to practice owners of understanding the finances of their practices and how few owners really do. Bottom line: The majority of practice owners don't understand financial terms and those that do, make more money. Only half of the group understood "pre-tax profits" and "cash flow." Only 10-20% of the respondents could choose the correct definition of the other terms in a multiple choice format. And it makes a big difference in earnings—Male owners who answered three or more questions right had personal incomes of 7% greater than those who didn't—female owners who answered three or more questions right had incomes that were 19% higher than those who didn't.

In addition to the obvious impact on current cash flow, profitability also is a critical determinant of practice value. Historically, practice owners have assumed (and with good reason) that when they decided to sell their practices there would be buyers ready to purchase them and willing to pay a good price. In other words, they have assumed there was value in these businesses that could be transferred to someone else. Of course, there have always been a few practices for which this assumption didn't hold true. A buyer couldn't be found or what buyers wanted to pay wasn't remotely what the seller thought the practice was worth. Typically these practices have been easy to identify and had several traits in common. They tended to be smaller practices with owners who had not focused much on the business



side of things. Often the facility and equipment were old and the doctors hadn't kept up with the changes in medicine as much as perhaps they should have. These practices had little profit in them and, because the bulk of practice value is determined by profitability, the practices had little value. Fortunately there weren't too many of these practices.

However, in the last few years, the number of practices with no or little value has been increasing—to the point where the Veterinary Valuation Resource Council of VetPartners (formerly the Association of Veterinary Practice Management Consultants and Advisors) coined the term "No-LoSM practice" to describe these practices. More and more practices, when appraised, did not have the value that would normally have been expected. And, in almost all cases, the owners of these practices were totally unaware of the problem. Some of these practices had traits in common with the practices that have historically had little or no value. They were small practices with a low level of profitability and couldn't keep up with changing client demands regarding service, quality of medicine, advanced technology and improved facilities. The other practices with no or little value, however, were a

surprising group. On the surface, these practices would appear to be doing very well. They are located in very attractive facilities, practice good medicine, have all the latest equipment and a large support staff, offer comparatively high compensation and benefits to their employees and, in the owners' eyes, cash flow is strong. However, practice value is largely based on profits and the very factors that make these practices look attractive on the surface are those that are reducing profitability.

Understanding the profitability of a practice is one of the most important concepts necessary to manage a veterinary hospital well. Profitability is the one single number which tells you how you are doing financially. Calculating the true operating profits of a practice is not a simple task. None of the standard financial or management reports a practice usually gets show this figure. Neither the taxable income from the tax return nor the net income from the profit and loss statement represents true profitability. This doesn't mean those reports are improperly prepared; it simply means the reports required by the IRS or accounting standards for small businesses weren't designed to determine profitability. No one report will give a practice all of the financial information it needs to make intelligent operating decisions; unfortunately, the report that seems to be prepared least often is the one that calculates true practice profitability. Because practice owners and managers aren't used to getting this kind of information, they generally don't know what the true profitability of their practice is. The first time many owners realize their true profitability is when their appraiser talks to them about it.

Operating profit is the difference between the operating revenues and expenses of a practice. Operating revenue and expenses include only items normally and necessarily seen in the day to day operations of the practice such as fees for professional services and drugs and medical supplies expense. These items should be stated at fair market value rates. For ease of comparison with other practices, the profit margin is generally stated as a percentage—this is calculated as practice profits divided by gross revenue. Some of the items that must be calculated differently to determine operating profit versus taxable income or net income include: practice owner payments, facility and equipment rent if these items are owned by the practice owner and leased to the practice, services provided by family members to the practice, depreciation, interest on debt and perks.



Owner compensation is one of the most significant adjustments and almost always has to be calculated differently in determining operating profits than would be done for the tax return or other reports. Owners often arbitrarily determine an amount they will be paid through their payroll system; this amount often has no correlation to the actual medical, surgical and management work the owner does in the practice and therefore the tax return or income statement looks as if the practice is more or less profitable than it really is. IRS regulations also dictate how some aspects of owner payments must be handled and these regulations vary by entity type. For example, owner compensation must be reported differently for a C corporation than for a partnership. A practice may appear to be more or less profitable than it really is simply because of these regulations.

So how do you calculate operating profit? Net income per the financial statements or tax return is the starting point. Various adjustments are made from there.

- Add back: depreciation, amortization and interest on debt
- Deduct the estimated average amount spent on equipment per year—purchasing equipment is a true operating expense of the practice but depreciation as determined by tax law is not the best estimate
- Determine how much the owner was paid during the year and what it was comprised of (salary, rent, etc)
- Adjust owner compensation to represent a fair compensation for medical/surgical work—20% of personal production is a good average in a small animal practice
- Adjust owner compensation for management work—management expense generally averages 3-4% of gross revenues—if you have a practice or office manager, the owner should get less than 3% of revenues as management compensation
- Adjust rent expense to fair market value if paid to owner at a rate greater or less than fair market value
- Adjust equipment lease expense to fair market value if paid to owner at a rate greater or less than fair market value
- Determine the \$ amount of personal perks paid by the practice and remove this expense—perks would be items not necessary to the operation of the practice but paid by the practice generally to gain a tax advantage (examples include excess meals and entertainment, excess auto costs, swimming pool payments, personal furniture, trips to Tahiti, etc)

- Deduct the cost associated with free services provided to the practice—family members may provide bookkeeping or other services to the practice at no charge—if the practice had to hire someone to do this work, there would be a cost involved and this should be included as an expense
- Remove any true non-recurring income or expenses such as one-time insurance proceeds or expenses related to a natural disaster
- Recalculate net income
- Divide the new net income by gross revenue

The resulting percentage is the true operating profit of the practice—how does it compare to other investments you have? And to other practices? 18% or above would be considered superior, 13-15.99% good and less than 8% fair.

The above may sound a little daunting but there are resources available to help you. See the NCVEI/VetPartners Profitability Estimator at the NCVEI website (www.ncvei.org.)

If your profits aren't what you want them to be, what can you do about it? A lack of profitability either comes from revenues that are too low, expenses that are too high, or a combination of the two. Expense management is often the easiest to understand so it will be discussed first.

What practices don't do when making the decisions to invest in equipment, staff or facilities is to make sure that the costs will lead to increased levels of revenue and thus profits.

For example, how much space and what kind of building is really necessary to practice veterinary medicine? Operating out of the Taj Mahal can be very psychically rewarding but may not be good financially. For example, if a practice moves into a beautiful, new facility and the rent doubles, will there be a sufficient increase in revenue (and more importantly profits) to cover this rent increase?

The same goes for the addition of staff. A doctor's work life may be much easier and personally rewarding

with 3 techs trailing behind him or her during the day, but does this doctor actually produce more revenue with this additional support staff? If not, the cost of the staff is eating into the profitability of the practice. Other staff problems seen in practices include the hiring of low-level, minimum wage staff that can't do the job properly, too many part-time employees and a lack of training and supervision. All of these lead to inefficiencies in getting the job done.

Declining revenue or a lack in growth of revenue is the other factor contributing to a lack of profitability. This has been a big issue for many practices during the last couple of recession years. While increasing revenue is more difficult now than it used to be, it can still be done.

For example, are fees appropriate? Now is not the time for the 10%+ fee increases of several years ago, but fees still need to keep up with inflation. Most expenses in a practice rise annually because the providers of those goods and services raise their prices—this is true of staff costs, drugs and medical supplies and the various other goods and services used by a typical practice. If the practice isn't raising its fees at least 3% per year, profitability will suffer even if nothing else changes in the practice.

Lack of attention to discounts and missed charges can also lead to declining revenue. Even a small amount of products or services given away by well-meaning doctors or other team members can significantly decrease revenue and profitability. Missed charges, those not deliberately given away, can also dramatically reduce the profit margin. Capturing charges is generally about having good systems in place and is essential to efficient operations. It is a rare practice who doesn't experience these problems on a fairly regular basis.

Understanding not only the profitability of the practice but the kinds of factors that lead to this state is critical. Until the practice has an idea of the root causes of the problem, it is difficult to determine what the correct solution is. Working with a financial advisor or practice consultant may help in not only gaining a greater understanding of the issues impacting profitability but in identifying and implementing solutions.

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Email: marybdvm@mindspring.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: SA
Specialty Training: Acupuncture,
Chiropractics and Nutrition
Region of Relief: Central Alabama

Dr. Nikki N. Brown, UGA '07

P.O. Box 2994
Phenix City, AL 36868
Phone: 706/577-4365
Email: drnikkibrown@gmail.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA
Kind of Practice: Mixed
Region of Relief: East Alabama,
would prefer within 50 miles of Auburn
or Phenix City

Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell, AUB '08

2775 Lee Road 61
Auburn, AL 36832
Phone: 334-703-1554
Email: ecaldwellvm@gmail.com
State(s) where licensed: AL, GA
Kind of Practice: Small Animal and
Equine
Region of Relief: 150 mile radius of
Auburn, Alabama

Dr. Kelly Carson, AUB '08

2240 County Road 20
Waverly, AL 36879
Phone: 334-332-1980
Email: carsonkr@gmail.com
State(s) where licensed: AL, GA, TN
Kind of practice: SA
Region of relief: Central AL, Western
GA - Will travel

Dr. Christie Kimbrell, MIS '99

2364 Altadena Crest Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone: 205/240-1215
Email: cwallace@jeffstateonline.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Shelby/Jefferson
Counties

Dr. Katherine L. McGahee, MIS '06

645 NE Fields Road
Lacey's Spring, AL 35754
Phone: 256/883-4947
Cell: 256/604-800
Email: Mcsquize@aol.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: SA, Mixed
Region of Relief: North Alabama
Area - Birmingham North. Additional
charge for long distance travel

Dr. Colleen M. Meeks, AUB '89

836 Bethel Circle
Cragford, AL 36255
Cell: 256-276-0488- call 24/7
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Central/East
Alabama, West Georgia, Will Travel

Dr. H. Winston Pirtle, Sr., AUB '67

8560 U.S. Hwy 331
Montgomery, AL 36105
Cell: 334/399-2059 on call 24/7
Email: pirtledvmjd@aol.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: Mixed
Region of Relief: State of Alabama -
prefer within 100 miles of Montgomery
Appropriate Information: Will bring
vehicle stocked and equipped for
equine and cattle calls.

Dr. Donald C. Wood, AUB '68

2106 Kirkland Drive
Auburn, AL 36832
Phone: 334/826-3692 (AL)
239/389-4877 (FL)
Email: dcwoodau@aol.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL & FL
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: AL



Legislative Update

Dr. Charles Franz
Executive Director

Your Alabama Legislature is hard at work in Montgomery passing new legislation and trying to modify some of what they passed last year. Several bills have been introduced to try to un-do some of the immigration law that passed in the 2011 session. Some of these fixes are related to court challenges by the Federal Government and some to outcries from the people of Alabama. Whether by court decision or new legislation, it is apparent that the law will have some changes.

Our world of veterinary medicine is not immune to legislative controversy this year. HB156 (Rep. Patricia Todd of Birmingham) was introduced by Alabama Spay Neuter Clinic of Birmingham. This bill is in response to a cease and desist order issued by the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (ASBVME) on June 7, 2011. The Alabama Practice Act states in Sec: 34-29-87(b) *"It shall be unlawful for any licensed veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine as an employee of any person or other entity not engaged primarily in the practice of veterinary medicine or for any person that is the owner or owners of an active veterinary practice to be other than a veterinarian or veterinarians duly licensed in the State of Alabama."* The Alabama Practice Act has had this language for many years. Our research indicates that twenty-nine other states have similar provisions in their code. This language was challenged by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the 90's in a case against the Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (OSBVME). The OSBVME lost their case and was issued an FTC cease and desist order to end enforcement of that provision. As a result of this case and the possible

repercussions of actions taken by an association, the ALVMA has elected to not have a position on HB156. Rep. Todd mentioned possible FTC action in her comments on the floor of the Alabama House of Representatives when the bill was debated and passed. The bill awaits action at publication time in the Senate Health Committee.

If you have strong feelings, either way, on this bill, we encourage you to call your senator and express your opinion. I have heard from many of you in the past few weeks with strong opinions on HB156... some of you are opposed and some in favor. It is obvious that our membership is split on their feelings on this bill. That lack of consensus among the membership, combined with the negative public relations and existing FTC decisions all contributed to your Executive Board deciding to not have a position. This decision was reached after much thoughtful deliberation and consulting opinions from legal and public relations experts. The ALVMA Practice Act and Legislative Committees are currently reviewing this issue and will likely have recommendations for some changes.

Additional bills and their status as of publication date are listed below. Copies of these bills have been sent to you electronically along with additional information. If you are not receiving these important updates, please insure that we have your correct email address and that we are listed as a "trusted sender" in your spam program. As always, please contact your board representative, an officer, or me with any questions or comments.

SB175 - (Sen. Ward) is a cockfighting bill that is very similar to bills from previous years. It has been amended and has passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

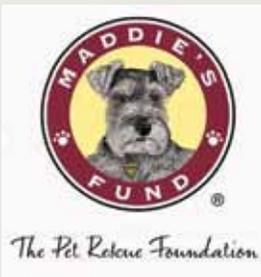
HB231 - (Rep. Fincher) is dangerous dog legislation specific to Mobile County. The Mobile VMA has reported that they see no issues or problems with this bill.

SB86 - (Sen. Ward) provides for a Spay/neuter income tax check-off to support the efforts of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation to assist Medicaid recipients with neutering their pets at ALVMA member hospitals. The bill passed the Senate and passed the House committee. We await action in the full House. The ALVMA supports.

HB439 - (Rep. J. Williams) requires a person with direct knowledge of animal cruelty or torture to report same. The bill defines "cruelty" and "torture" and provides for immunity from civil and criminal liability for good faith reporting. The ALVMA noted many problems with this bill in its original form and a substitute bill is being introduced that has changes recommended by the ALVMA, Alfa, and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

HB421 - (Rep. Ford) provides for a new crime (Class A Misdemeanor) for bestiality.

SB374 - (Sen. Ward) requires the adding of a bittering agent to antifreeze. This bill is identical to the one from 2010 that did not pass. The ALVMA supports.



MADDIE'S FUND TEN YEAR SUMMARY

The extremely successful ten year relationship between the Alabama VMA and Maddie's Fund ended in December of 2011. Maddie's Fund, the Pet Rescue Foundation, was founded in 1999 and dedicated to the goal of creating a no-kill nation where all healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats are guaranteed a loving home.

This is a family foundation, founded by PeopleSoft and Workday Founder, Dave Duffield, and his wife, Cheryl, in loving memory of their Miniature Schnauzer, Maddie, who passed away in 1997.



The Alabama VMA began its partnership with Maddie's Fund in July 2001 with the two year program, "Maddie's Big Fix". At the end of this program, July 31, 2003, there were a total of 36,046 spay and neuter surgeries performed. As a result of this program Maddie's found that shelters reported a 9% drop in euthanasia, or over 5,449 fewer deaths over two years, as well as a 2.5% decrease in intake. Following the end of "Maddie's Big Fix," Maddie's provided grants in Baldwin, Tuscaloosa and Mobile counties.

The state of Alabama has definitely benefited from these generous grants from Maddie's Fund. Approximately 60,000 canine and feline spays and neuters were performed and \$4,130,000 was paid to Alabama VMA participating member veterinarians as a result of their programs.

2012 ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention

May 30 – June 3, 2012

Do not miss out on the 2012 ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention in the beautiful Village of Baytowne at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort!

Early bird registration – deadline April 30th:

- Members - \$425
- Non-members - \$575
- Member 2 day - \$275
- Non-member 2 day - \$350
- Staff/Veterinary Tech - \$245

Pre-registration – deadline May 18th

- Members - \$475
- Non-members - \$625
- Member 2 day - \$325
- Non-member 2 day - \$400
- Staff/ Veterinary Tech - \$295



2012 AVMA VETERINARY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

By Dr. Jeremiah G. Alexander, Auburn University Class of 2009

The AVMA Annual Veterinary Leadership Conference was held in Chicago, Illinois, January 5th-8th. I was honored to represent the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association as an emerging leader. This leadership conference provided an opportunity to network with and exchange ideas and concerns with emerging leaders from various states. This conference also allowed me to network with AVMA officers, members of the executive board, house advisory members, House of Delegates, committee leaders, and the AVMA staff.

The emerging leader workshops led by Dr. Rick DeBowes, co-founder of the Veterinary Leadership Experience, covered a range of topics that applied to being an emerging leader and veterinary practitioner and what the future holds. The main area of focus was that basic communication and paying attention to detail will prevent and solve many problems. The other area of focus was that the veterinary industry is a rapidly changing profession and that we must be flexible to these changes to be successful in the future.

This conference was very beneficial and I would encourage any recent graduate to attend in order to better prepare themselves for a promising career.

ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention Golf Tournament

Thanks to the generous contributions from our hole sponsors golf will only be \$30 this year so spaces will definitely be going quickly! Make sure to register quickly to reserve your spot!

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