

Alabama Veterinarian

A Biannual Publication for ALVMA Members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA
Fall 2014 | Volume 25 | Number 2



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**SAVE THE
DATE**

ECVC Conference

June 3-7, 2015

**Sandestin Golf and
Beach Resort**



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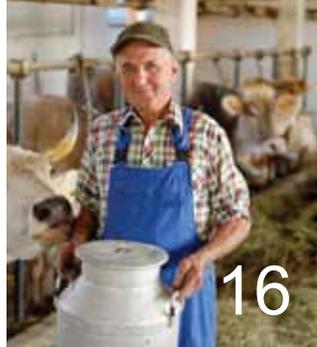
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- Assistant Executive Director** Dr. Brad Fields
- Director of PR & Communications** Linda Tynan
- Director of Meetings & Membership** Roberta Norris
- Membership Coordinator & Accounting** Linda Cargile

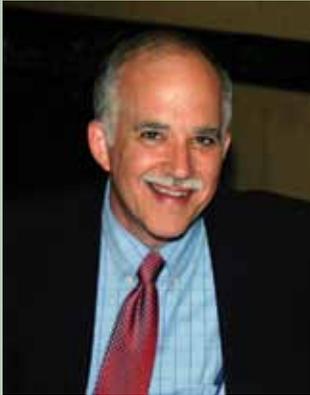
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2014 – 15
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
Executive Director Dr. Charles Franz



From the executive director

The year-end always seems to be a good time to reflect on the past year and look with anticipation to the coming year. I attended a large veterinary conference in early December and had the opportunity to visit with many colleagues, younger and older, from all over the country. While reflecting on many of these conversations on the long flight home, I could not help but feel good about the future of our profession. Do we have significant challenges ahead? We do. Will some of these change the way our profession practices? It will. Are the newly graduated veterinarians up to the task? Absolutely! I saw excitement on their faces and heard the enthusiasm in their words.

We all remember how excited we were to graduate from veterinary school. For me that was 33 years ago. While my career has taken me on several different paths, the veterinary education I received has always opened doors for new possibilities. I am thankful for each of those paths that veterinary medicine has afforded me the opportunity to follow. I am thankful for this great profession and the people who have been and still are a part of it. As I read through this edition of the *Alabama Veterinarian*, I am reminded of just how much I appreciate this profession, and the ALVMA members who play such a vital role in our communities protecting people, pets and livestock.

Food – What condition would our food supply be in if not for the veterinarians throughout history who have dedicated their lives to agriculture and caring for farm and production animals? Where would we be now without veterinarians involved in biosecurity and food safety? How will we feed the growing worldwide population without dedicated veterinarians working in these areas? Thanks to Dr. Tony Frazier for an excellent article in this issue and the work that he and his colleagues at the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries do on a daily basis.

Disease surveillance and control – Dr. Dee Jones and his team at the Alabama Department of Public Health keep a watchful eye in controlling and preventing rabies and other zoonotic diseases. Thank you!

Awards and leaders – We are blessed in this state to have many leaders within our profession. Read the column and interview from Dr. Hammons, your ALVMA president, and note the ALVMA awards given at the ECVC summer convention. These are all people who are giving of their time and talents for the good of the profession and the clients and animals they all serve.

New members and future leaders - I am thankful for the future leaders of this profession. You can see their names listed under the "new members" on page 13. Most of them have graduated in the past three years. Please take a few minutes to read the interviews with two of these future leaders of our profession on pages 30-33.

Yes, I am thankful for this profession that I wanted to be a part of since the age of 13. And, I feel the future is bright. The future leaders of the veterinary profession are ready to tackle the challenges. While they may approach this task in a different way than their parent's generation, I do believe that they will succeed. The profession will not only survive but will thrive under their leadership.

Charles Franz, DVM

ALVMA Executive Director



2014 – 15
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
President Dr. John R. Hammons



A letter from the president

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. This privilege allows me to repay the opportunities that I have received during my practice career.

The Alabama VMA officers and Executive Board members are working hard to enhance the veterinary medical profession in our state and to positively impact our professional image. The veterinary profession is a truly small profession, so it is vitally important to work together to keep it strong. Our profession has some difficult challenges that must be confronted in the near future and we must remember that we are all colleagues striving to improve the profession.

The summer meeting was an outstanding event for CE and family fun. All of our members should enjoy this experience. The Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference has become regionally renowned.

I intend to continue the legislative task force appointed by Dr. Bill Bledsoe last year so that we can solidify our profession and to promote the Veterinarian's Oath. I request that all of my colleagues join in these endeavors.

Since taking office, I have attended the AVMA convention in Denver. It provided an opportunity to view the latest trends in our profession. I observed the House of Delegates meetings and other forums that discussed the future of our profession.

In August, I had the opportunity to join leaders of organized veterinary medicine to address the first year class at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine. These young people are eager to join our ranks, so we must guide them so that our profession will remain respected and admired.

Please contact the Executive Board and representatives with your opinions to assist in our decisions.

Respectfully,

John R. Hammons, DVM

ALVMA President

MEET YOUR President

Dr. John Hammons
Athens, AL

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

My second childhood pet was a puppy that contracted distemper and survived with treatment by a veterinarian. Even with a poor prognosis and eventual survival, I was awestruck by the knowledge of veterinarians. At that point in my life, I knew I wanted to achieve that goal.

What type of veterinary medicine do you practice and why did you choose it?

The first 10 years of my career was a mixed animal practice that eventually evolved into companion animal practice in 1987. The reduction of livestock numbers in the area was a factor in the transition.

Where did you study?

I did undergraduate and veterinary medical college at Auburn (Class of 1977).

Who is your role model/mentor?

There are many veterinarians, some older and some younger than myself, that I try to emulate.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Understanding the bond between clients and their pets. Admiring the love and devotion of clients to their pets and the reciprocation.



How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

When I returned to Limestone County in 1981, I was invited to join the North Alabama Veterinary Association. It was through the NAVMA that I learned about the ALVMA.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Balancing my personal life to professional duties and obligations.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I want to still be practicing this profession and evolving to meet the needs of current and future clients/patients.

Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

Every veterinarian needs to be part of an organization that supports the profession and builds relationships with colleagues.

How has being a member of ALVMA helped you professionally?

To be able to network with colleagues who practice professionally and are constantly improving themselves. The ALVMA's continuing education programs provide this opportunity.

What advice can you offer someone coming into this profession?

Adhere to the Veterinarian's Oath, be a member of a civic organization and treat all of your clients and patients with respect.

What is the most memorable experience of your career?

There are so many to recollect, but I would include: three canine c-sections on a Christmas Eve; a midnight meal with a farmer on a snowy night after two bovine dystocias; and the loss of a patient during surgery that was impaled

with a crochet needle through a lung and the liver.

What is the last movie you watched?

The Bucket List – so you know I do not watch many movies.

When I'm not working, you'll find me ...

Usually doing maintenance at my animal hospital, outdoor maintenance at my home or, on a rare occasion, I may be in the field looking for Native American artifacts.

What was the last song you sang?

A hymn at a funeral.

Where would you go if you could go anywhere? Why?

Tour the back roads of America, visiting historical sites, to observe and understand regional and national pride.

If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want to have?

Besides sufficient nutrition, my wife, Peggy, and our pet, Howard.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am most proud of our new hospital facility.

What is your favorite quote?

I have two: "Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the government take care of them had better take a closer look at the American Indian" — Henry Ford; and "Adversity builds character and provides opportunity" — JRH.

What is your simplest pleasure?

Eating fresh home-grown tomatoes.

Professionally, if you could change something, what would it be?

I would require all clinical DVMs in the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine to spend some time in private practice every five years. This would give them different challenges and promote a better understanding of client communication and the evolution of curriculum to every day practice.

What makes you laugh out loud?

Watching all young mammals exploring their environment and playing with littermates.

If you could meet anyone (dead or living) who would it be and what would you ask them?

President Thomas Jefferson – and I would ask him how did he obtain such a varied and vast scientific knowledge and still accomplish the other achievements in his life.

What book are you reading?

"Stand for Something – The Battle for America's Soul" by John Kasich.

What do you think has been the most significant change/ advancement in veterinary medicine?

The availability and utilization of the clinical pathology equipment.

What five adjectives best describes you?

Persistent; observant; respectful; intense; and quiet.

I still want to learn how to...

Perform more specialized surgeries and become more knowledgeable of my computer system.

Not your typical REPTILE

Hawksbill Sea Turtles help maintain the health of coral reefs. An endangered species, they are threatened by the loss of habitat, excessive egg collection, pollution, and the illegal wildlife trade, as their beautiful shells are highly sought after.

Not your
typical
education.

AAHA's veterinary education stands out. Join us at AAHA Tampa 2015 to see why.

‘Practice makes perfect’

2014 another big year!

by Roberta Norris

“Practice makes perfect: tips and secrets from 32 years in the trenches. How to avoid boredom, burnout and bad habits while practicing the world’s most fascinating profession” – with that keynote address by renowned comedian and veterinarian Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, the 2014 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference was off to a rousing and fun filled start on Thursday, June 19 2014. Dr. Fitzgerald also provided the entertainment for the annual Mingle at the Marina dinner event and on Friday gave five hours of CE on toxicology, sponsored by **Ceva**.

Prior to all of the fun getting started, the ALVMA held its annual general business meeting on Wednesday, June 18. That led into a joint ALVMA/GVMA “meet and greet” for the AVMA president elect candidate, Dr. Larry Dee. Eventual elected President Elect Dr. Joseph Kinnarney was unable to attend.

Wednesday evening saw the attendees and

their families gather in the exhibit hall for the opening kick-off with food, beverages and games for the kids. This year there were 75 exhibitors, 23 of those were new to ECVC. Table top exhibits were set up on the second level to give those with a booth in the exhibit hall a second chance to speak with attendees.

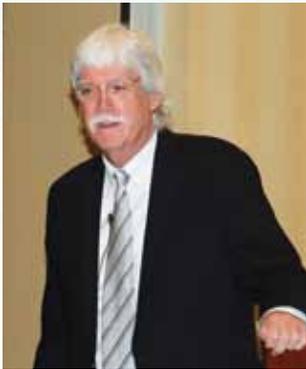
Numbers grew again this year with a total of 594 veterinarians attending from 28 different states. Forty-four licensed veterinary technicians from 10 states attended as well. Add in the exhibitors, pharmacists and office managers and there were a total of 834 attendees. All enjoyed the excellent CE as well as a chance to enjoy the Sandestin resort area.

The backyard poultry CE program was a new and popular addition this year, along with backyard small ruminants, both sponsored by **Ceva**. Additional topics included dentistry, theriogenology, soft tissue surgery, endocrinology, feline illnesses, animal

behavior, ophthalmology, pain management, cardiology, practice management, legal (sponsored by **AVMA PLIT**) and pharmacy topics. The USDA also presented four different modules. The poultry sessions gave attendees 10 hours of CE. **Merial** again sponsored the 10 hours of CE for the veterinary technicians.

On Thursday afternoon the ALVMA held its annual awards luncheon and swearing in of new officers. Also during the lunch the ALVMA awarded six outstanding members for their contributions to the association.

Mingle at the Marina was actually Mingle on the Beach this year as the blue marlin fishing tournament relocated us to the beach. The kids started early building sand castles and playing games for prizes. Everyone took off their shoes and enjoyed the delicious buffet offerings of seafood, pasta and turkey. Wine and cocktails were served, and several dessert choices were offered while a DJ played in the background.



After dinner Dr. Fitzgerald entertained with jokes and stories and got several of the kids involved with telling jokes of their own. Dr. Fitzgerald awarded a few prizes to the ones with the best jokes. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great evening.

This year events for attendees and their families to participate in included a bike ride, tennis, a meet and greet for "significant others", a golf tournament, beach volleyball, a family walk/run and a fellowship breakfast on Sunday.

College of Veterinary Medicine socials were held on Saturday evening by Georgia, Auburn, Tuskegee and Mississippi State universities for a chance to reunite with classmates and friends from veterinary school.

The conference had its own "app for that" this year. Features of the app included proceedings of each session, speaker bios, the conference schedule and exhibitor information with a map of the exhibit hall. Attendees could link to other attendees through the app, rate different sessions and take notes. The app will be bigger and better for 2015 so we hope members will download it to their smartphones or tablets before you head to Sandestin.

The dates for the 2015 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference will be June 3-7. The schedule is ready and registration will open soon after the new year begins. Make your plans to attend now to get in on the fun and world class CE.



Business meeting and awards

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association held its annual general business meeting June 18 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in conjunction with the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference held June 18-22. During the ALVMA Annual Awards Luncheon on June 19 several individuals were honored and Dr. Michael Newman, AVMA Executive Board Representative and past ALVMA President, installed new ALVMA officers.

New officers were sworn in on Thursday, June 19, 2014 as follows; President John Hammons, DVM of Athens; President Elect T. C. Branch, DVM of Birmingham; Vice President Harold Pate, DVM of Lowndesboro; Treasurer Winston Pirtle, DVM of Montgomery and Board Member at Large Charles Ashwander DVM of Decatur. William Bledsoe, DVM of Camden will serve as immediate past president.

2014 Veterinarian of the Year



2014 ALVMA Veterinarian of the Year Dr. Allen Riley, left, accepts his award from Dr. William Allen, former ALVMA president.

Veterinarian of the Year: Presented to a member distinguished by unselfish dedication to the Association for the advancement of the profession.

Graduating in 1985, Dr. Allen Riley of Trussville, Ala., received his DVM with honors from Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine. He worked at Alford Avenue Veterinary Hospital from 1985-1989. After a brief stint working for Martin Animal Hospital, he accepted a position with Dr. Rik Becker and Dr. Bill Allen at Becker Animal Hospital, working there from 1990-2011. He is a past president of the Jefferson County VMA and has also received several service awards from the ALVMA. For the past 20 years, Riley has been Program Chairman of the JCVMA Annual Conference, now named The Southern Veterinary Conference. Riley's passion lies in helping veterinarians and technicians receive excellent Continuing Education from the leading experts in Veterinary Medicine. His involvement with the Jefferson County VMA has grown from three speakers and less than 100 attendees to more than 40 speakers and 1,000 attendees.

2014 Layman of the Year

Layman of the Year: This honor awarded to a non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession and the Association.

Lorraine Alexander of Valley Grande, Ala. is a rescue coordinator for Wannabe Rescued, a local pet rescue group, which operates to rescue animals that would otherwise be at risk for euthanasia in the local animal shelter. She has worked tirelessly to improve animal welfare and animal treatment within the Selma Animal Shelter by visiting the shelter daily and photographing and networking animals via social media.

Through her efforts (and the efforts of those helping with Wannabe Rescued) hundreds of animals destined for euthanasia have found homes locally and as far away as New York state. She works daily to coordinate treatments, spay/neuters, and inoculations with local veterinarians, then to coordinate pet adoption and pet transport - for all this she receives no pay. The stress from this work can be great at many times but she bears this with little to no complaint. Alexander lives with her husband Scott and several dogs.



2014 ALVMA Layman of the Year Lorraine Alexander, accepts her award from Dr. George Wood, former ALVMA president.

2014 Service Awards

Service Award: Awarded to members who have contributed generously of their time and energies to the Association for the advancement of the profession.



Dr. Julie Gard of Auburn, Ala. has demonstrated her tireless effort and dedicated service to the ALVMA. Two separate “Our Oath in Action” events were coordinated and successfully executed with her guidance. Gard collaborated with Auburn and Tuskegee University students, faculty, and staff to plan and facilitate budget development, resource needs, and ultimately success.

Gard is a role model to all who know her, and the ALVMA has greatly benefited from her involvement in the “Our Oath in Action” projects. The Auburn University event was a coordinated tailgate. It was visited by nearly 5,000 individuals in the Auburn community and raised awareness of Disaster Preparedness and the importance of veterinarians in the planning process. She coordinated Auburn and Tuskegee veterinary student support, for both events. The Tuskegee University event was a Companion Animal Health Fair, which provided complimentary physical examinations and education to the community. Gard facilitated getting AVMF supplies and pet sheltering equipment to this event; and participated in the event alongside her Tuskegee veterinary medical counterparts. Her involvement and dedication have made a lasting impact on the preparedness of Alabama and the people who participated in the “Our Oath in Action” project.



Dr. Jennifer Dexter of Birmingham, Ala. graduated in 2000 receiving her DVM from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. She worked for one year at Cahaba Mountain Brook Animal Clinic and then in 2001 became an associate veterinarian at Hoke Animal Clinic and Green Springs Animal Clinic. Dexter served as treasurer for the Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association for the past four years. During her tenure as treasurer, her diligence has transformed the association’s financial records into excellent shape.



Dr. Kenneth McMillan of Cropwell, Ala. has been an active member of the ALVMA since graduation from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1981. He is currently serving as chairperson for the ALVMA Legislative Committee which deliberates and recommends action to the ALVMA Executive Board on many legislative and regulatory issues, both state-wide and nationally. Additionally, McMillan has chaired a task force this year, created by ALVMA President Dr. William Bledsoe to address issues related to tax-exempt entities in veterinary medicine and possible changes to the Alabama Veterinary Practice Act. His countless hours of dedicated service to the ALVMA and the veterinary profession are to be commended and were instrumental in his selection for this 2014 Service Award.



Dr. Clayton Hilton of Birmingham, Ala. received his BS in Wildlife Biology in 1984, his MS in Wildlife Ecology in 1986, his DVM from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997, and an internship in large animal medicine and surgery from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1998. Hilton has worked in a variety of clinical settings including a private zoological facility, Montgomery Zoo, Abilene Zoo, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Emergency Clinic of Abilene, Texas and as the Vice President of Animal Care, Education and Conservation at the Birmingham Zoo, Inc. Hilton has now relocated to Texas A&M University-Kingsville as Associate Professor and Director of the Veterinary Technology Program.

Hilton was instrumental in starting the Birmingham Zoo’s all male elephant herd. This all male herd is the first and only one in existence. Hilton, in his role as Vice President of Animal Care, Education and Conservation has had a major part in the recent improvements at the Birmingham Zoo. Animal exhibits are in more natural settings. Through Hilton’s efforts, visitors have a much better experience when they visit the Birmingham Zoo.

ALVMA 2015 Awards Nomination Form

The Alabama VMA (ALVMA) conducts an awards program to honor individuals whose service has contributed significantly to the veterinary profession in Alabama. The 2015 Awards Program will be presented during the 2015 Emerald Coast Veterinary Convention, June 3-7. Deadline for nominations is **January 13, 2015**.

SERVICE AWARD: To be awarded to members who have contributed generously of their time and energies to the Association for the advancement of the profession. Candidates shall be recommended by a member of the Association and receive the unanimous approval of the Awards Committee. Not more than two recipients shall come from a constituent association and a plaque shall be the award. The immediate past president is not eligible for this award.

VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD: One shall be awarded each year to a member distinguished by unselfish dedication to the Association for the advancement of the profession. Candidates shall be nominated by a constituent association and receive unanimous approval of the Awards Committee. A plaque shall be the award. The immediate past president is not eligible for this award.

LAYMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD: To be awarded to a non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession and the Association. Candidates shall be nominated by a member in good standing of the Association and receive unanimous approval of the Awards Committee and the Executive Board. A plaque shall be the award.

SPECIAL AWARDS: From time to time, other awards may be given to individuals for exceptional and outstanding service to the veterinary medical profession. The awards may be proposed to the Executive Board by any member of the Association in writing, documenting the achievements of the individual. The award will then be conferred by the unanimous approval of the Executive Board. The award shall be a plaque. The immediate past president is not eligible for this award.

ALVMA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: The highest award of the Association shall be given only to members dedicated to the profession who have given of their time and energies beyond all reasonable expectation and have made exceptional achievements and contributions to the advancement of the profession. The candidates shall be nominated by a constituent association, endorsed by two additional constituent associations and have the unanimous approval of the Awards Committee. The award shall then be conferred by unanimous approval of the Executive Board. A plaque shall be the award and not more than one award shall be given each year. The immediate past president is not eligible for this award.

****To submit nominations fill out the online form on the ALVMA website, email Charles Franz at charles@franzmgt.com, mail this form to ALVMA, PO Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109, or fax to 334-270-3399. Please remember to include supporting documents.**

Please fill out form below and attach a statement about each nominee including their qualifications, professional activities and any other information that would be helpful to the Awards Committee.

Date _____ Nominated by _____

From the _____ VMA, a Constituent Association

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Service Award Nominee _____

Veterinarian of the Year Nominee _____

Layman of the Year Nominee _____

Special Award Nominee _____

Distinguished Service Award Nominee _____

Welcome new members

Please welcome those who have joined the Association since October 2014

Dr. Meredith Bronner Adams	Montgomery, AL - AUB11
Dr. Twainna L. Basse	Pensacola, FL - AUB14
Dr. Abby Crow	Lillain, AL - AUB13
Dr. Layla Cusimamo	Birmingham, AL - AUB14
Dr. Belinda K. Eckhoff	Birmingham, AL - Tus08
Dr. Branislav Erak	Mobile, AL - AUB14
Dr. Alicen H. Grant	Autaugaville - MIS08
Dr. Geoffrey Harriman	Decatur, AL - AUB09
Dr. Howard A. King	Tuskegee, AL TUS76
Dr. Shellaine Lentz Kiser	Fort Rucker, AL - AUB14
Dr. Rachel Garbarino Knight	Hampton Cove, AL - AUB14
Dr. Johanna Young Lamb	Montgomery, AL - AUB14
Dr. William Kevin Marecle	Florence, AL - MIS14
Dr. Lauren Marks	Leesburg, AL - MIS14
Dr. Susan McKnight	Fairhope, AL - AUB14
Dr. Paul Jason Rubinstein	Prattville, AL - AUB14
Dr. Megan Sprinkle	Harvest, AL - AUB14
Dr. David Wesley Stephens	Gadsden, AL - AUB14
Dr. James R. Thorsen	Fortson, GA - AUB87
Dr. Anna Harris Tipton	Birmingham, AL - MSU09
Dr. Taylor Jordan Towns	Anniston, AL - AUB12
Dr. Bradley Ryan Venable	Fort Walton Beach, FL - AUB14
Dr. Lydia Marie Wade	Mountain Brook, AL - AUB14



In memoriam

Dr. Glen E. Malone, age 61, of Montgomery, Ala. passed away on Oct. 31, 2014. He was born on April 30, 1953. Dr. Malone is survived by his wife, Sandra Malone; three sons, Glen E. Malone II, Garrett E. Malone, and Geoffrey E. Malone; and six siblings, Janice Malone Dukes, Gilder E. Malone, Linda Malone, Mary Williams, Barbara Malone Palmer and Joel Malone Jr. A celebration of his life was held on Nov. 8, 2014 at 12 pm at Antioch Baptist Church in Pike Road, Ala. Malone was a member of the ALVMA and served the association on the Public Health Committee for a number of years.

Mrs. Kathleen Lenora Kendrick Standifer, age 89, of Mountain Brook, Ala. passed away Sept. 29, 2014. She was born on Nov. 20, 1924. Mrs. Standifer was a founding member and president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association Auxiliary for many years. She served as treasurer of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation and was a pillar of the foundation since its inception. She received the Alabama Hall of Fame Hero Award, presented by both the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation. She will be missed by all in this profession.



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REGISTRATION

24th ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 13-15, 2015

Name _____

Nickname (Please print name, as it should appear on nametag) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

(No spouse activities have been planned. If your spouse/guest would like to have a nametag printed, please print his/her name below)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

* Main conference registration fee includes 21.5 hours of quality CE, including two hours of pharmacy CE - all approved by the ASBVME. If you are not from the state of Alabama, please check with your state board for their policy on CE credit. Registration also includes meals for one person for Friday lunch and dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner (a steak dinner with all the fixin's), Sunday breakfast and lunch, and all breaks during the conference. Additional meal vouchers are available for purchase below.

	Pre-Registration	Late/On-Site (After Jan. 13)	
Member of _____ Veterinary Medical Association (Must be a member of one of the 50 state VMA's for member discount)	\$250.00	\$325.00	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$350.00	\$425.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Technician	\$200.00	\$275.00	\$ _____
Veterinary Students (Student responsible for payment of meals and hotel room)	\$ N/C	\$65.00	\$ _____
Meals and Breaks (for Veterinary Student, Spouse or Guest - includes Saturday Dinner)	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$ _____

MEALS

I will attend the following meal functions, PLEASE ONLY CHECK THE MEALS THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING:

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------|
| Friday, February 13 | <input type="radio"/> | Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> | Lunch | <input type="radio"/> | Dinner |
| Saturday, February 14 | <input type="radio"/> | Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> | Lunch | <input type="radio"/> | Dinner |
| Sunday, February 15 | <input type="radio"/> | Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> | Lunch | | |

ACCOMMODATIONS

Occupancy in the 4-H Center motel is two per room. If you have a preference of roommate, please indicate that person below. If preference is **NOT** listed, rooms will be assigned as registrations are received (on first come, first serve basis).

Roommate Preference (if any) _____
(All rooms are non-smoking)

**You may request a room to your self, but please note that you will be charged the \$96.00.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Enclosed is a check payable to the ALABAMA VMA
- MasterCard
- Visa

Card # _____

Expires ____/____ 3 Digit Code on Back of Card _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

____ Roommate 4-H Center Friday
 Double occupancy (registrant) \$48.00 \$ _____
 Registrant & Spouse Occupancy \$96.00 \$ _____
 Single occupancy (registrant) \$96.00 \$ _____

____ Roommate 4-H Center Saturday
 Double occupancy (registrant) \$48.00 \$ _____
 Registrant & Spouse Occupancy \$96.00 \$ _____
 Single occupancy (registrant) \$96.00 \$ _____

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 For further information contact Roberta Norris by calling (334) 395-0086 or via e-mail at roberta@franzmgt.com



AGENDA

24th ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 13-15, 2015

Friday, February 13, 2015

- Noon** Lunch
- 1:00 PM** Update from the United States Department of Agriculture
- 2:00 PM** Health management of captive whitetail deer
Dr. Thomas Passler
- 2:50 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 3:00 PM** Neurologic diseases of food and fiber animals
Dr. Thomas Passler
- 4:00 PM** Projected 2015 Cow-Calf Profitability
Chris Prevatt, Regional Specialized Agent, Livestock and Forage Economist
- 4:50 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 5:00 PM** No bug is the same
Dr. Dan Scruggs
- 6:00 PM** Happy Hour (visit with exhibitors)
- 6:30 PM** Dinner

Saturday, February 14, 2015

- 7:00 AM** Breakfast
- 8:00 AM** Update from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
- 9:30 AM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 9:45 AM** Ovulation Synchronization and Timed Artificial Insemination in Beef Heifers
Dr. Roberto Palomares
- 11:00 AM** A review of current pinkeye literature
Dr. Jenna Bayne
- Noon** Lunch
- 1:00 PM** A Problem-Solving Approach to Addressing Diseases of Cattle
Industry Technical Seminar Sponsored by Newport Laboratories
Dr. Randy Shirbroun
- 2:00 PM** Pot Belly pigs for the Practitioner – What do I do now?
Dr. Jenna Bayne



- 3:00 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 3:30 PM** Neospora caninum: Don't count it out!
Dr. Carla Huston
- 4:30 PM** Updates from the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.
- 6:30 PM** Dinner – steak with all the fixins!
- 7:30 PM** Happy Hour, Practice Tips and Downie Awards.

Sunday, February 15, 2015

- 6:45 AM** Devotional
- 7:00 AM** Breakfast
- 8:00 AM** Biometric data technologies and estrus detection in cattle
Dr. Jenna Bayne
- 8:30 AM** Beef Cattle Epi-in-Motion
Dr. Carla Huston
- 9:30 AM** Break (visit with exhibitors and check out of rooms)
- 10:00 AM** What to know about the VCPR and new drug laws
Dr. Carla Huston
- 11:00 AM** Antimicrobial usage in livestock: what is available and how will that change with the new drug laws
Dr. Ricardo Stockler

Noon Lunch

Meeting adjourned

ALVMA General Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 4:00 PM

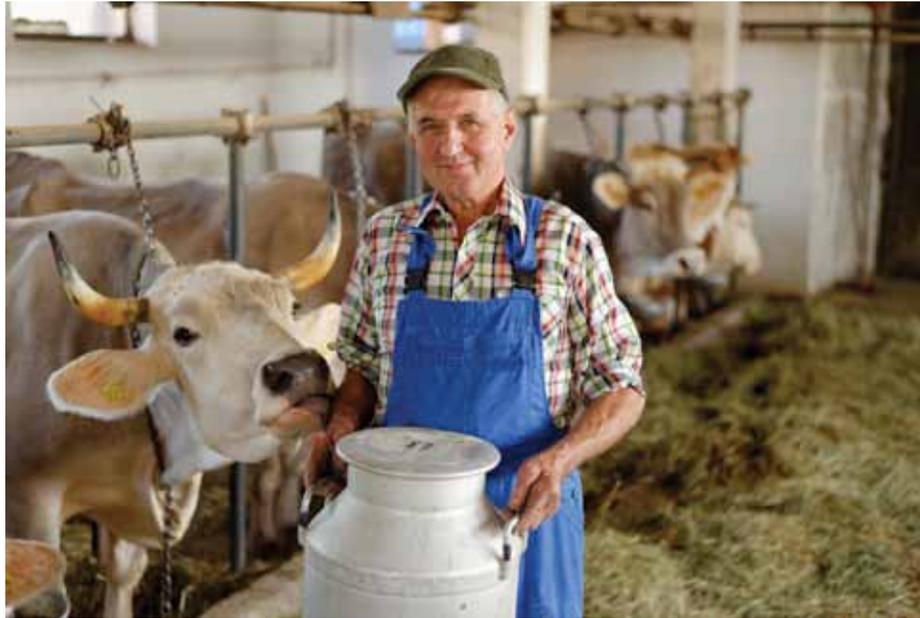
The veterinary community's role in sustainable agriculture

A news article from your
state veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier

I am old enough at 54 to think of more than a few terms or phrases that were never uttered when I was growing up, or even in most of my adult life for some. You have terms like, "on-line", "website", and "google" that came in with the creation of the internet. In fact internet is one of those words that I do not believe I had ever heard before the 1990's. When I was a kid, if someone had asked if we had a cell phone, my answer

would have been, "No. We have a rotary phone." I do not recall the first time I ever heard of a microwave oven, but I think I was probably a young adult. If you have any age on you, you know what I am talking about. The world is changing at such a pace that someday my grandkids will not hear terms like "chalk board", "black and white TV", or "rotary phone". There is another term that has, in the past few years, become fairly common in the circles that I travel. That term is "sustainable agriculture." The term sustainable agriculture is the practice of practicing plant and animal agriculture that focuses on efficient use of non-renewable resources, the use of renewable resources, and sustaining the economic viability of farming for the long term.

As veterinarians we are not merely passive spectators. It is important that we take an active role in not only in the area of food animal medicine, but also in the role of educators to the consumer who hears all kinds of incorrect information. Even if the last time you saw a cow was the day you graduated from veterinary school. As a veterinarian, your clients look to you for correct information about food safety and animal agriculture.



I believe there are a number of extremely important issues at play in the world that will significantly affect the future of humanity. In my opinion, the ability to produce food is fundamental to the quality of life as we go down the road to the future. I go to a lot of meetings that look at what we can expect as we approach certain milestone, such as the year 2050. A common prediction that is commonly accepted is that the population may reach near 9 billion people by 2050. That is about a 25 percent increase over the world population today. I do not have a concept of what 9 billion people is. I know that the capacity of Jordan-Hare Stadium at Auburn is between roughly 87,500. That would mean you could fill about 103 thousand Jordan Hare stadiums with 9 billion people. So I still don't have a good grasp on how many 9 billion is. I do know that the world population today is around 7.1 billion and people go to bed hungry every night. I have never gone to bed hungry... I mean I have never known hunger. It is important to me that we make sure the as few people as possible go to bed hungry. That will be a challenge as time goes on.

I have always loved working with farmers. To me they are the rock stars of society. They tend to be the most taken for granted sector

of society that exists. I keep in my desk a copy of a Washington Post editorial that came out in February of 2013. The editorial was inspired by the Dodge Truck advertisement that featured Paul Harvey reading his essay, On the Eighth Day God Made the Farmer. The advertisement first aired on the Super Bowl that year. The person who wrote the editorial referenced Iowa Senator, Charles Grassley who told reporters he "hopes the people of America will

wake up and appreciate the family farmers of America." The writer then goes on to advise his readers that farming no longer resembles the family enterprises that are part of the shrewd marketing campaign. He indicates that agriculture is mostly dominated by large corporations. I understand that editorials are only the opinion of the writer, but I would like for it to be a little less like a fairy tale. One of the most amazing statements in the editorial is, "Farmers are wealthy and the U. S. food supply is not remotely at risk ..."

I often wonder how someone could get the idea that "the U. S. food supply is not remotely at risk." I do believe that with the loss of around 5-7 million baby pigs to the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus and cattle herd numbers being the lowest since the 1950s as a result of ongoing droughts in various parts of the country, our food supply balances on a delicate set of factors that could as easily go negative as positive. I suppose that if every time a person goes to the grocery store and the shelves are full, it could give the impression that the food supply is abundant. I suppose that when we go to restaurants or fast food places and we can order whatever we want, it could lead one to

think that there is an endless supply out there and it will always be that way.

As I think about sustainable agriculture as we move into the future, I believe it is critically important that we use every tool in our kit to produce as much food as efficiently as possible. There are areas in animal agriculture production that I am not involved such as genetics and nutrition. We are directly involved in animal health. I believe that if we are to be able to feed a growing population we will need to be more aware of animal health issues that ever before. I am not just talking about the diseases we regulate like brucellosis, tuberculosis, and trichomoniasis. I am referring to anything that robs production from our farmers. I am talking about parasites that quietly rob animals of nutrients that could be

used to produce muscle. I am talking about diseases like shipping fever that causes weight loss and poor production. I am talking about diseases that cause reproductive failures such as Lepto. I am referring to addressing diseases like blackleg that a vaccine can prevent the loss of an animal.

As I mentioned earlier, those who do such things are predicting that the population of the world will grow by just over one-fourth in the next 35 years. It is not likely that we will see parking lots and subdivisions turned back into farm land. I have heard that a good bit of the rain forest in South America are being turned into farm land, which is probably not a good thing. The point that I want to make is that we need to significantly increase productivity over the next decades. There are other issues that

will need to be addressed such as being able to get the food from places where there are surpluses to places where there are deficits. There are political issues that will need to be worked through. And educating people in third world countries about production agriculture is an absolute must. Having said all that, if we cannot sustain production agriculture, that prediction of 9 billion people will probably not happen. When 9 billion people show up at the dinner table, we will either feed them or world hunger will become public enemy number one. There is a proverb I heard recently that is very true. A country with plenty of food has many problems; a country without enough food has only one.

Relief veterinarians

Dr. Lauri Bates, AUB '96

8207 Lochwood Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117
Phone: 334.590.8525
Email: drlairbates@yahoo.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL & GA
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Central/East Alabama, West Georgia

Dr. Mary Battistella, AUB '83

39 Alabama Drive
Alexander City, AL 35010-3050
Phone: 256.825.6202
Cell: 256.496.3013
Fax: 256.825.6202
Email: marybdvm@mindspring.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: SA
Specialty Training: Acupuncture, Chiropractics and Nutrition

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. Lisa Durso

3783 Pine Lane SE
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Phone: 610.999.6106
Email: lisa.durso@gmail.com
State(s) where licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: Small animal general practice, emergency, feline only
Work Region: Tuscaloosa, Birmingham

Dr. Jennifer English, AUB '93

3105 Old Farm Road
Montgomery, AL 36111
Phone: 334.221.7888
Cell Phone: 334.221.7888
Email: barbieaudvm1993@gmail.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Central Alabama, can sometimes work in the Birmingham area

Dr. Christy Hooper, STG '09

904 2nd Avenue East
Oneonta, AL 35121
Phone: 678.896.2551
Email: Kibble2000@aol.com
State(s) where Licensed: GA, AL
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Birmingham to Northeast AL to Northwest GA

Dr. Christie Kimbrell, MIS '99

2364 Altadena Crest Drive
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Phone: 205.240.1215
Email: cwallace@jeffstateonline.com
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Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Shelby/Jefferson counties

Dr. Noel McKnight, AUB '13

853 Marion Lane
Birmingham, AL 35235
Phone: 205.836.6434
Cell phone: 205.240.0062
Email: cnm0010@tigermail.auburn.edu
State(s) where Licensed: AL, NC
Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Birmingham and surrounding areas, will commute up to 1 hour
Additional information: Completed small animal medicine, surgery and emergency medicine internship

Dr. Shelley Williams Parsons, AUB '02

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Birmingham, AL 35213
Phone: 256.609.7002
Email: shelleywparsons@yahoo.com
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Kind of Practice: SA
Region of Relief: Birmingham Area

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

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Cell Phone: 334.399.2059 on call 24/7
FAX: 334.284.5173
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
Additional Information: Will bring vehicle stocked and equipped for equine and cattle calls

Dr. Jordan Towns, AUB '12

1016 Narrows Point Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone: 205.706.2541
Email: townstj@auburn.edu
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: Small Animal, Emergency
Region of Relief: Jefferson and Shelby counties
Additional Information: Will consider travel up to 1 hours drive

Dr. Ashley Warren, AUB '09

20 Castaway Island Road
Eclectic, AL 36024
Phone: 334.301.0371
Email: awarrendvm09@yahoo.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: Small Animal
Region of Relief: Central Alabama
Additional Information: Will travel



BREAKING the chain

By Linda Tynan

Animal abuse is a horrific part of an ugly cycle. It often stems from domestic violence in the home, as part of a chain of events where one cruel act causes another, then another. The repercussions are linked to those connected to the abuser and the victim; in some cases this includes family pets.

Over a year ago, Alabama citizens were rocked by news of the raid and arrest of the second-largest dog-fighting ring in the United States - right in our own back yard. Recently, U.S. District Judge Keith Watkins handed down the toughest sentence yet in the case - eight years to Donnie Anderson, 50, of Auburn, Ala. The ring spanned over four states; Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas. It is estimated that over 600 dogs were killed as the result of these fights. An additional 451 dogs were rescued, approximately half of which have now been adopted. Dogs of all ages were found living in horrible conditions, chained to cinder blocks and tires, surviving through extreme heat and bitter cold without adequate food and water. The lucky ones were adopted, but many others had to be euthanized due to failing health conditions.

As we hear the unfathomable, we ask ourselves what kind of mind does this. How could anyone treat an animal with such cruelty? The shocking truth is that animal cruelty does not only exist in dog fighting rings where thousands of dollars may be at stake, but it exists in many other forms behind the walls of private residences.

It is well known that there is a definite link between animal cruelty and violent crime. Less than two years ago, we remember watching the Dale County hostage situation unfold while Jimmy Lee Dykes held a five-year-old student hostage in a bunker after shooting and killing 66-year-old bus driver Charles Poland. Dykes

fit the profile of many violent criminals. His past includes a case of animal cruelty for beating his neighbor's dog to death with an iron pipe when it walked onto his property.

Many times, animal abuse is the first step towards violent behavior and it often leads to domestic violence - even murder. Numerous serial killers have admitted to torturing animals in their youth. Officials almost always look for criminals with a background in animal cruelty when looking for perpetrators of violent crimes. It is one of the single greatest predictors of violent behavior in people.

The majority of victims surveyed at abuse shelters admit that their abuser had threatened to harm the family pet or farm animals. Often the abuser will threaten to do harm if they leave or tell anyone about the abuse. Pets may be the pawn in violent home situations - the abusers know if they hurt the pet, they hurt the person emotionally and psychologically. Pets are often abused as a demonstration of the abuser's power and control over the victim. Many victims stay in abusive situations in fear of what might happen to their pets. Sadly, this often means both the person and the pet continue to suffer. If left behind, statistics indicate that the pet will almost certainly be abused, if not killed, in retaliation. Some victims have actually returned home from shelters to protect their pets from abuse after receiving threatening calls, texts or emails from their abusers.

Domestic violence groups have brought to light the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence from the documentation of victims in their shelters, primarily related to women and children. Pet-abuse.com refers to a study that states in 88 percent of families where various forms of child abuse had taken place, animal abuse had also occurred. Two-thirds of the abuse was by the father figure, but surprisingly



“A veterinarian is obligated to report to the proper authorities any grossly inhumane treatment to animals of which he or she has direct knowledge.”

Alabama Veterinary Practice Act

one-third of the abusers were children. It is suggested that this is a manifestation of their own victimization; they may be repeating what they have learned from their parents. Their anger is directed at something weaker than they are, and research indicates that children from homes with domestic violence are much more likely to abuse animals.

People are now becoming more mindful of the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence. Legislation to allow abuse victims to bring their pets with them to shelters is now being discussed in some states and is already in place in others. New York, Maine and Vermont now include pets in restraining orders and some cities allow pets to be boarded at the local animal control free of charge for a set period of time until further arrangements can be made. When police are called to a location about a domestic violence case, they also recover the pets in the home and deliver them to animal control for boarding.

A new trend of shelter provisions for pets of domestic violence is also popping up across the country. While the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse is not new, people are finally realizing that in order to help the human victims, they must also

offer help to their pets. This may, in turn, prevent victims from further abuse. Knowing there is a safe place for their pets may also encourage them to make the move to get out of an abusive situation. Organizations like Red Rover offer financial assistance through grants for victims and their pets. They have set up an online directory of pet support programs at safeplaceforpets.org for victims of domestic violence.



It is our nature to want to help people and pets, but sometimes it may seem borderline as to whether or not we should get involved. It is important to remember that when you notice signs of animal abuse, your action could save the life of the animal and even the life of the pet owner. Odd behavior, unusual wounds or neglect in general may be telling the story of abuse in the home. Multiple head wounds, untreated injuries, untreated medical conditions or malnourishment indicate abuse. It is the responsibility of any citizen to report animal abuse, but as veterinarians, it is a professional duty. You are in a unique position to see more pets through your practices and are educated on the tell-tale signs of abuse others may not recognize. If you have the least bit of suspicion, take an extra moment, ask another question, take the extra step that might make a difference in the life of an animal - or a human!

Relevant statistics on domestic violence and animal abuse:

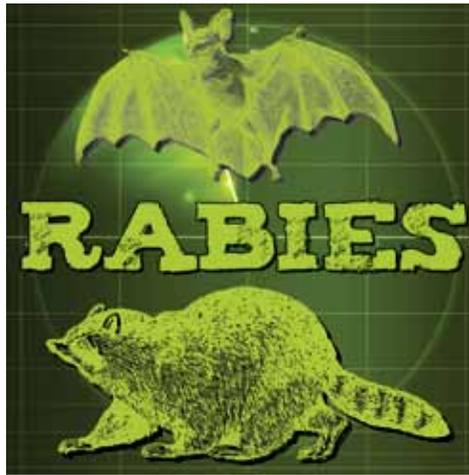
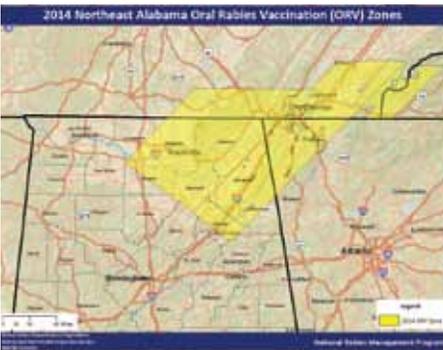
- 52 percent of victims in shelters leave their pets with their batterers (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence)
- Up to 65 percent of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave (Carlisle-Frank, Frank and Nielsen, 2004)
- In a study of families with a history of animal neglect, 83 percent were identified by experts as having children at risk of abuse or neglect (Washington Humane Society)
- Over 30 percent of women killed are murdered by their boyfriends or husbands
- 71 percent of pet-owning women entering women's shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims; 32 percent reported their children had hurt or killed animals (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

Keeping rabies on your radar

by Dr. Dee Jones

This year continues to be an active year for the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA WS) for rabies surveillance, control, and prevention. A recent outbreak of rabies in Jackson County has resulted in increased surveillance, testing, and vaccination in order to contain the spread of rabies in raccoons and other animals. Since May, there have been several raccoons that have tested positive in a non-endemic area of Jackson County. The main concern is raccoons, which are the primary reservoir for rabies, infecting other wildlife and domestic animals with the virus. One fox and a dog have also tested positive with the raccoon strain of the rabies virus.

The outbreak was identified when ADPH confirmed that a dog had tested positive with the raccoon strain of rabies. Within a month, a fox and a raccoon in close proximity to the first case also tested positive for the raccoon



strain of rabies. In an effort to identify the westward extent of the outbreak, the USDA WS is currently increasing surveillance and testing of the raccoon population where the positives have been found. The surveillance is taking place in a large portion of Northeast Alabama, including areas near the city of Huntsville.

The presence of rabid raccoons in Jackson County has important public health implications, as well as effects on the wildlife ecology. The transmission of rabies from wildlife to domestic species increases the public health risk by placing humans closer to direct contact with a rabid animal. Most people, excluding hunting enthusiasts, would be unlikely to be exposed to a rabid raccoon, coyote, or fox. Pets, on the other hand, would be much more likely to come into contact with a rabid wildlife species. Particularly in rural areas, pets are often unvaccinated and free-roaming, thus increasing the chance and danger of potential altercations with rabid wildlife. The combination of these risk factors, in addition to Alabama's very low vaccination rates for dogs and cats, creates a very troubling scenario.

The positive animals are ecologically significant because they show the spread of raccoon rabies into non-endemic areas of North Alabama. For over a decade, the USDA WS has controlled the western movement of rabies in Alabama by using an oral rabies vaccine in the raccoon population. The use of an oral rabies vaccine in Alabama is part of a national rabies control program that is active in 16 states. On average, the program has dropped nearly 200,000 baits annually in strategic areas just to the west of the raccoon rabies endemic area.

Although the efforts have been successful in preventing the widespread westward movement of raccoon rabies, there have been, and most likely will be future, isolated incidences in which positive animals are found

in non-endemic areas. Similar outbreaks have occurred in the Prattville area, as well as in the Columbiana area over the past four years. Both outbreaks were identified when a species other than a raccoon became positive with raccoon rabies. The area of concern around Columbiana has increased and now includes some of St. Clair County and Chilton counties because of multiple raccoon positives being identified since 2012.

Illegal movement of wildlife is also a potential cause for the spread of rabies. Two years ago, three baby raccoons were illegally transported to Jasper, AL from an endemic area. Unfortunately, one of the raccoons was incubating rabies. Upon developing clinical signs, it was responsible for exposing several humans, all of which had to undergo rabies post-exposure treatment. The wildlife impact was minimized, but it could have been much worse if the raccoons had been released while incubating the rabies virus.

Rabies in Alabama wildlife continues to be a significant potential threat to public health by increasing human exposure through their pets. Since rabies is 100 percent preventable by vaccination, veterinarians are critical in reducing the risk and spread of rabies. Rabies outbreaks in non-endemic areas serve as a reminder that rabies in domestic animals can occur regardless of your practice location.

Key points to remember:

All potential rabies exposures are reportable by law to the health department.

All rabies testing is performed at the ADPH Bureau of Clinical Laboratories using Direct Florescent Antibody Test.

Small animal specimens are picked up nightly at the local county health department and transported to the an ADPH Bureau of Clinical Laboratories. Specimens weighing 15 lbs. or less and measuring 22 in. or less can be submitted as a whole carcass.

Large animal (livestock and horses) specimens MUST be first sent to an Alabama Agriculture and Industries Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (Auburn, Hanceville, Elba, or Boaz).

Contact the local county health department for questions about packaging or submitting specimens.

Use good packaging technique capable of at least 24 hour chilling.

For more information about Rabies in Alabama, please visit www.adph.org or contact ADPH Epidemiology at 1-800- 338-8374.

The Alabama Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

by Nancy Bishop, RPh

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration National Drug Threat Assessment Summary 2013, "Prescription drug abuse continues to be the nation's fastest growing drug problem."¹ It is estimated that 6.5 million Americans are nonmedical users of prescription drugs. Of these, 4.5 million are nonmedical users of pain relievers such as hydrocodone and oxycodone. In the 12-17 age group, 2.2 percent take prescription drugs for nonmedical use and 1.7 percent use pain relievers non-medically. It is also estimated that 22.7 million Americans need treatment for illicit drug or alcohol addiction. This is 8.6 percent of our population.²

In Alabama, more opioid pain relievers are prescribed per capita than any other state in the nation. The national average is 82.5 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons while Alabamians are prescribed 142.9 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons. Alabama ranks fourth in high dose opioid pain relievers and second in benzodiazepine prescriptions.³

In an effort to fight the prescription drug diversion, abuse, and misuse problem in Alabama, Act 2004-443 was passed in the 2004 legislative session and charged the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to create and maintain a controlled substance database. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) began mandatory reporting to the database in 2006. All dispensers (including physicians, pharmacies, veterinarians, dentists, podiatrists, and optometrists) are required to report dispensed controlled substances to the database. There are exemptions such as controlled substances administered to an inpatient or administered during the course of treatment on the premises of a healthcare facility and methadone clinics (per federal law). To date, Alabama's controlled substances database contains over 100 million prescription records.

There are several mechanisms by which one can report. The three most commonly used are: (1) dispensing software interface; (2) an online account with Health Information Design, the database vendor; (3) universal claim form if no internet connection is available. Detailed information and instructions for reporting can be found on the PDMP website, www.adph.org/pdmp, under Dispenser Packets.

A controlled substance is defined in this law as "Any drug or medication defined as a controlled substance within the meaning of subdivision (4) of Section 20-2-2." A listing can be found on the Alabama Pharmacy Division website, www.adph.org/pharmacyunit. On August 18, 2014, tramadol was placed into schedule IV by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Therefore, it must be reported to the controlled substance database. Also, hydrocodone combination products will become schedule II (from schedule III) on October 8, 2014.

Any Alabama licensed practitioner (physician, veterinarian, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist), physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, and certified nurse midwife holding a controlled substance certificate or Alabama licensed pharmacist may obtain approval to access the controlled substance database. Registration is completely online, though keeping a



copy of the registration form is recommended. Registration instructions can be found on the PDMP website under PDMP Registration.

Per law, a practitioner can access the database for information concerning a current patient and individuals seeking treatment. The controlled substance database also allows a practitioner to monitor the prescriptions being dispensed under his or her DEA number.

The PDMP Help Desk (1-800-225-6998 option 8 then follow the prompts for Alabama) is available to answer questions and provide assistance for accessing the database and reporting controlled substances. Also, the PDMP staff can be reached at 1-877-703-9869 or PDMP@adph.state.al.us.

1. U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration National Drug Threat Assessment Summary 2013. November 2013. DEA-NWV-DIR-017-13.
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: The NSDUH Report: Substance Use and Mental Health Estimates from the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health; Overview of Findings. September 4, 2014
3. Vital Signs: Variation Among States in Prescribing of Opioid Pain Relievers and Benzodiazepines- United States , 2012 (CDC MMWR Weekly Report Vol. 63)

NOTE: As part of a public rule-making hearing, your ALVMA successfully solicited the PDMP officials to change the reporting requirement for veterinarians from weekly to monthly.

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ALVMA spreading the word

ALVMA launches new website

The ALVMA is pleased to announce the launch of the newly redesigned ALVMA member website. The new site offers many features not available on the previous site, and has been redesigned to be more user-friendly and easier to navigate. The site contains information about the association's history, member benefits, educational events, communications tools, resources for veterinarians and a section for the public. Members can login, track their transactions, submit forms, find relief veterinarians, make connections with other members and take advantage of other valuable member benefits. Pet wellness information for the public is regularly updated and the Find A Vet search is available for clients looking for an ALVMA member veterinarian in their area. If your email address is not current, please be sure to log in and update your information so that you will receive the ALVMA eNewsletters. We continue to add helpful information to the site to keep members and the public updated on current veterinary news.

Spay/Neuter Program forms online

If you would like to participate in the ALVMF Spay/Neuter License Plate Program, the application and instructions are available under Veterinary Resources. If you are already participating, you can find the necessary form to request permits online. Once you login, you will have access to the members only section of the site where program documents are available. We appreciate all of you who support this program and invite all interested ALVMA members to submit the application and join us in this effort to reduce the number of unwanted pets in Alabama.

Login to pay your member dues

Membership dues will expire January 1, 2015. Recently we mailed out member dues notices to remind you to submit your dues payment in order to continue receiving your ALVMA member benefits. You may mail your dues in using the form sent by regular mail, or choose to pay your dues online through the new website. To pay dues online, you must first **login** on the home page, go to **manage profile** and click the **invoice icon**. Your username and temporary password for the new site were emailed to you in the recent ALVMA eNewsletters. Your membership dues invoice will appear and there is a credit card icon which you can click to proceed with your dues payment. After your payment is processed, you will also have the opportunity to donate to the ALVMF and the ALVMA Political Action Committee. Please call the ALVMA office at 334.395.0086 if you need assistance.





Major Fields (left) and Major General Kelly at the East Bay Stand Down mission in Pleasanton, Calif. in September, 2014.

Alabama veterinarian participates in disabled and homeless veteran's health event

Serving those who have served our nation was the primary goal of the East Bay Stand Down Mission in Pleasanton, Calif. Nationally, it is estimated that there are over 250,000 needy and homeless veterans on the streets on any given night, and since 1988, Stand Down missions have taken place in over 200 cities nationwide. Over 100,000 veterans and their families have benefited from Stand Downs. These events have proven to be very effective in breaking the cycle of homelessness among veterans and their families.

Since the first East Bay Stand Down in 1999, the goal has been to provide a respite from the streets so that needy and homeless veterans can examine avenues of assistance. Stand Downs helps to place the participants into residential programs, offer employment, and to provide follow-up programs of various types.

This year, for the first time, veterans could register their pets to attend the event, and the US Army Veterinary Corps coordinated veterinary services. ALVMA's Assistant Executive Director Major Brad Fields participated in the event. "We had 30 pets at this event," Fields stated. "We worked with local volunteers and veterinary hospitals to provide

basic veterinary care, exams, vaccines and routine sterilization and dental care." Of those 30 pets, six required dental care and seven sterilization procedures were completed. Rabies, Distemper/Parvo, bordatella vaccines and external parasite eradication were also performed during the event. Volunteers then groomed and bathed the pets before they were reunited with the veterans.

A community is often judged by how well it takes care of its own. Serving those who have served our nation is the primary goal of the East Bay Stand Downs.



Alabama to shelter companion animals.

The ALVMA and AVMA expresses deep gratitude for all of the volunteers and participants who made these two events and the Alabama Our Oath in Action an enormous success for the second year!

Our Oath In Action 2014

The ALVMA is excited to announce that for the second year we have partnered with the American Veterinary Medical Foundation's Our Oath In Action (OOIA) program that showcases and highlights the importance of veterinarians, the human-animal bond, and the importance of animals within our communities.

After last year's resounding success, we repeated the game day tailgate event at Ag Heritage Park at Auburn University. The Auburn project, held on September 27, was led by Dr. Julie Gard. Once again, it was a great success, with approximately 3,500 people visiting the tailgate site and learning about disaster preparedness efforts for the entire family. The AU detection dog teams provided a live demonstration and a large number of students participated including Auburn and Tuskegee veterinary students.

As a history note, the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation, and American Veterinary Medical Foundation partnered up on a disaster preparedness project that placed two Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers (CAMET) in Alabama. These mobile assets are capable of being deployed into an affected area and provide the necessary supplies and equipment to establish a companion animal shelter within an existing structure.



Each of the CAMETs can shelter nearly 80 animals, providing immediate capabilities that have never been possible before in Alabama. The trailers were utilized during the 2011 tornados in North



Veterinary Leadership Day at Auburn University with class of 2018

Leaders representing organized veterinary medicine and regulatory medicine spent an hour with the freshman veterinary students at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine on the afternoon of September 20, 2014. Present for this event were Drs. Jan Strother, John Hammons, Libby Coleman-Todd, Tony Frazier, Charles Franz, T.C. Branch, Dan Kuykendall, and Brad Fields. Each veterinarian present discussed their philosophy on leadership and development, the importance of being involved in organized veterinary medicine and leadership positions, and welcomed their new student colleagues into the profession.

This Leadership Day is hosted and coordinated by Dr. Charlie Hendrix and the dean's office at AUCVM. It has been in place for a few years, and continues to be a great event and well attended. This event serves as another method the ALVMA is utilizing to stay in touch and engaged with our student population, and mold our programs to better meet their needs.

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MATTERS OF LAW

“Matters of Law” is provided courtesy of Fees & Burgess, P.C., of Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Jeffrey 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.

Is my relief veterinarian an employee or an independent contractor?

The foregoing question is probably not something that keeps most practice owners awake at night. Maybe it should be.

Not properly handling a relief veterinarian relationship can lead to a finding by state and/or federal agencies that a relief veterinarian is an employee of the practice, and lead to the practice being liable for past income, FICA, unemployment insurance, and other taxes not withheld for other practice employees. In a worst-case scenario, such a relief veterinarian could be entitled to all the benefits of an employee, not only related to employment taxes, but also related to benefits and payments made by the practice to other employees, including paid time off, 401(k) contributions, and the like.

The federal government has made no secret of the fact that it is hiring auditors and investigators to target employee misclassification for the benefit of employees, and to drive tax revenue. In this environment, investigators and auditors are being very aggressive with respect to their classification of workers as employees, not independent contractors.

Whether a relief veterinarian is an employee or independent contractor is a question of fact and hinges on many factors. Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 87-41 and related guidance (available at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/x-26-07.pdf>) contains 20 factors that are considered when determining whether an independent contractor relationship, or employee/employer relationship exists. Because the 20 factors listed by the IRS contain a lot of subjectivity, it behooves a practice owner to characterize its relationship with relief veterinarians in the most favorable light possible to defend any claim that such relief veterinarians are employees.

Although all the 20 factors are considered in determining the relationship, primary among

them is control of the activities of the person in question. While it is true that a veterinarian in performing veterinary services uses his or her independent judgment in treating patients, every aspect of the relationship will be reviewed to determine the nature of the relationship, and the totality of the circumstances will be considered. In such a subjective environment, even if the practice believes that its relief veterinarians are independent contractors, the failure to have strong arguments to support that characterization could still lead to significant legal fees to prove the point if not addressed in advance. To help ensure that relief veterinarians are considered independent contractors, practices should follow the following guidelines:

1. Have a written agreement reciting important attributes of the engagement demonstrating an independent contractor relationship, including those listed below.
2. Deal with a relief veterinarian who sells his or her services through a separate legal entity such as a limited liability company or

corporation, and who legitimately deducts expenses related to the performance of services from its own income.

3. Spell out the nonexclusive nature of provision of the services.
4. Document business terms as you would with any other vendor, including the scope of services, fees, invoicing requirements, and payment terms. The less control exercised by the practice over the scope of services, the better.
5. Pay on a daily or other lump sum basis, not by the hour or task, and to the entity providing relief veterinarian services, not personally to the veterinarian.
6. Be sure to issue an IRS Form 1099 to the relief veterinarian for the services.
7. Do NOT use relief veterinarians as a substitute for an additional doctor, but only occasionally during vacations, medical leaves of absence, and the like.

The facts and circumstances of each engagement will dictate whether or not a relief veterinarian is an employee or an independent contractor. However, practices armed with an appropriate, written independent contractor agreement formalizing the relationship and properly characterizing the relationship as an independent contractor relationship are far more likely to succeed in defending against any audit or investigation by governmental authorities claiming otherwise.

Don’t wait until it’s too late. The cost of your lawyer drafting such an agreement for you could save you significant dollars in back taxes, benefits, and penalties, not to mention the lost time, heartburn, and headaches related to dealing with potentially being out of compliance.

The federal government has made no secret of the fact that it is hiring auditors and investigators to target employee misclassification for the benefit of employees, and to drive tax revenue.

Report from the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation



It is with great pleasure that I have this opportunity to announce the new Executive Board of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation (ALVMF). You may have already talked to Becki Vance as she continues to serve as secretary and is dedicated to enhance awareness and financial support of the ALVMF by personally meeting veterinarians at their hospitals/clinics. Dr. Jason Vargas was elected as treasurer and hopes to keep busy by processing contributions to the Foundation. Dr. Jerome Williams was elected vice president and brings his many years of related experience, insight and future visions for this group. Dr. Barbara Monaghan is immediate past president and provides a wealth of previous experience to contribute to the development of ALVMF's future, and I have "big shoes" to fill as the current president.

The ALVMF mission was established to promote animal welfare, assist veterinary students at both Tuskegee University and Auburn University through the endowment of scholarships. General veterinary education is another area of veterinary support. Veterinary crisis assistance, another ALVMF mission has been activated at several storm sites including Katrina and tornadoes in the Tuscaloosa area. This contribution becomes an important function for pet support and health concerns to enable restoration of a family relationship as well as assisting in the care of animal victims.

The applications of ALVMF resources are significantly important in our state, but require input of veterinarians to promote the continuation of financial support either independently or through our spay/neuter license plate program, or both.

The current ALVMF expects to develop the membership through a strategic plan to invite specific individuals for more complete state geography representation within the limits of our constitution and bylaws. If you are asked to join the group please make yourself available. Please consider purchasing a "spay-neuter" license plate in support of the Foundation. Additional contributions are greatly appreciated, please mail funds to ALVMF, P.O. Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109 or donate online at www.alvma.com.

The Foundation has considered a number of functions for this upcoming year with particular reference to the integration of events associated with the Southern Veterinary Conference in Birmingham with inclusion of awards for "Paws for a Cause." The Foundation will plan on a small exhibit with information regarding our group. We all look forward to making 2015 an outstanding year and trust all will have a successful and profitable year. We appreciate any contact and ideas related to the Foundation's functions.

With my best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mac Donald".

J. MacDonald, DVM

President, Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation

ALVMF License Plate Program



How to participate

Enroll in the program

To participate, all veterinarians in the hospital must be members of the ALVMA or have applied for membership. The hospital must be located in Alabama. Once enrolled, surgeries are pre-approved at the ALVMF office by email, fax or phone. Reports from the hospital consisting of surgical forms, copies of Medicaid cards, photo ID, Program Report Forms and reimbursement amounts must be submitted to the ALVMF office on a monthly basis and then payment is disbursed to your clinic.

Encourage tag sales

Our only sources of funding for this program come from the sale of these license plates and the newly implemented donation check-off on the Alabama income tax return. Flyers to distribute at your clinic promoting the license plate program, are available for free and will be sent upon your request.

The ALVMF invites you to join us in this program designed to help the less fortunate and their pets! You will open the door to new client potential while supporting a worthy program. By spaying and neutering these pets, we will help reduce the needless deaths of dogs and cats across our state due to overpopulation. Visit www.alvma.com for enrollment information and forms or call 334-395-0086.

CLASSIFIEDS

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DVM CONSULTANTS® facilitates practice ownership transitions in AL, MS, LA, AR & Metro Memphis. If you are an Owner seeking to sell a practice, or an Associate seeking to acquire one, contact us. We can help.

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AVMA Delegate Report

The 2014 AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) Regular Summer Session was held July 24 - 26, during the Annual Conference in Denver. The ALVMA was well represented by Dr. Jan Strother, the HOD action is noted below.

Dear ALVMA Members,

As always, at the AVMA there are many interesting discussions about legislative initiatives, advocacy for the veterinary profession and concerns about the continued weak economy around the country.

Let me encourage each ALVMA members to contact Dr. Winston Pirtle at (pirtledvmjd@aol.com) or me (drjanvet@aol.com) about any concerns or topics you would like to have more information about from the AVMA.

Please consider applying for a volunteer AVMA leadership position for a committee, council or task force. Let your voice be heard on many important topics for our veterinary profession.

Respectfully,

Jan K. Strother DVM

AVMA HOD Delegate, ALVMA

AVMA requests funding for key programs that promote public, animal health.

The AVMA has joined other stakeholders in supporting funding for several important initiatives for veterinary medicine.

On October 24, AVMA joined a coalition of stakeholders (see letter) with an interest in biodefense and public health preparedness in supporting robust and sustained funding of public health emergency and biosecurity programs that are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. These programs include.

- the Hospital Preparedness Program, which ensures that hospitals are ready to effectively respond in emergencies.
- the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant program, which supports state and local public health preparedness capabilities.
- the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise, which funds the development and manufacturing of essential medical products such as vaccines and therapeutics: and
- the Strategic National Stockpile, which maintains caches of medical products for use in emergencies

Programs such as these are essential to ensuring that our nation is prepared against threats. The AVMA partnered with public health preparedness colleagues on this effort to better highlight the interrelationship between animal health and human health.

On Oct 27, the AVMA signed a letter urging the Office of Management

and Budget to provide the necessary resources to implement the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) recommendations to combat antibiotic resistance. This funding initiative was led by the Stakeholder Forum on Antibiotic Resistance (S-FAR), an informal coalition of organizations concerned about the antibiotic resistance issue. The letter was also signed by others with a deep interest in this issue, including those representing healthcare providers, patients, scientists, industry and public health.

The AVMA's members are committed to our role in ensuring judicious use of antibiotics, and the AVMA has been very engaged with federal agencies and the other stakeholders on this issue. The association is also currently reviewing the PCAST report, Combating Antibiotic Resistance, which was released Sept. 18, along with a National Strategy on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. The Obama administration has made it clear that it is very important to address this growing public and animal health challenge.

Veterinarians Push House Members to Pass Marketplace Fairness Act.

Because lawmakers have been at home more than they've been in Washington over the past few months, many veterinarians have met with lawmakers in their districts to explain the importance of the Marketplace Fairness Act. Joined by other small-business owners all across the country, veterinarians have urged the House of Representatives to pass this crucial bill before they adjourn in December.

Veterinarians who run neighborhood clinics operate at a competitive disadvantage to Internet retailers because they must collect state and local taxes on any prescription, product or equipment they sell. Their online competitors are not obligated to collect these taxes since they typically operate out of state, which means many internet retailers gain an unfair competitive edge over local veterinary clinics by being able to sell products at lower prices.

The Marketplace Fairness Act, which the AVMA supports, would require states to collect sales taxes from online purchases made anywhere throughout the country. The Senate passed its version of the online sales bill (S.743) in May 2013 by a 69-27 margin, but the measure has stalled in the House despite calls by more than 300 organizations to take up this important legislation. Because of a 1992 Supreme Court decision, state governments currently can only tax retailers that have a physical location within their borders. State legislatures cannot compel out-of-state retailers to collect state taxes.

Every state needs revenue to pay for infrastructure and support public services (including veterinary colleges). Each year, state lose billions of dollars when consumers do not remit the state and local taxes that are owed on purchases they have bought online. When tax revenue goes uncollected by Internet retailers, it hurts local veterinary practices and other small businesses and the local and state economies.

The AVMA will continue to press our nation's elected officials to send the Marketplace Fairness Act to President Obama before the 113th Congress adjourns next month. Congress has considered similar legislation for more than a decade and has held more than 30 hearings on the issue. The time to act is NOW!

Guidance Issued to Help States Handle Ebola Exposure in Pets.

The AVMA has just posted online two new documents that provide guidance for health officials handling the pets of people exposed to the Ebola virus.

This guidance has been in development since early October, when a dog

in Spain was euthanized after its owner became sick from the Ebola virus. A similar case emerged shortly after that in Dallas, where a nurse with a dog tested positive for Ebola. Unlike in Spain, the dog (Bentley) in Dallas was placed in quarantine for 21 days and released after showing no signs and twice testing negative for the virus.

The AVMA convened several working groups with the USDA, CDC, and other agencies and experts to develop guidance for public health officials on how to assess, handle, and monitor companion animals that may have been exposed to the virus. It's been a long process, due to the novel and complex nature of these guidelines, as well as the lack of scientific data on Ebola and companion animals currently available, but we're pleased to provide the following new guidance documents available to AVMA members.

- Interim Guidance for Public Health Officials on Pets of Ebola Virus Disease Contacts provides guidance for the management of pets,

specifically dogs and cats, owned by Ebola virus contacts.

- Interim Guidance for Dog and Cat Quarantine After Exposure to a Human with Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease describes the process for conducting a risk assessment for exposure of dogs and cats that had contact with a human with laboratory-confirmed evidence of Ebola, and it describes how to implement quarantine of dogs or cats if deemed appropriate by state and federal human and animal health officials.

In addition to these documents, the AVMA has a number of resources available on its website at www.avma.org/Ebola. There you can find Ebola virus resources for veterinarians, including a checklist on how to proceed if confronted with a client or patient with possible Ebola exposure, and a pet owner's guide to Ebola exposure that can be used as a client resource. The site also contains Ebola-related information becomes available, so check back for latest information.

Committee Reports

Committees at work for the membership

Public Health Committee Report:

The Public Health Committee has provided materials to the membership on pet poisoning, dog bite prevention, and rabies. Additional information also was provided on Ebola virus at the beginning of that outbreak. Material also has been developed for awareness of tick-borne diseases that will be distributed next year and there is a plan to distribute some information on the Chikungunya virus since it is an emerging disease problem.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:

Alabama VMA Participated in the state's third Our Oath in Action day in conjunction with Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine and with support of Tuskegee University's School of Veterinary Medicine students. A preparedness tailgate at Ag Heritage Park was held on Saturday, Sept. 27 that was attended by over 3500 individuals. This year again focused on preparedness for the whole family, and had a special visit and demonstration by the AU Detection Dog Program. The committee facilitated planning for the Tuskegee University's Community Health Fair held at the veterinary school on Saturday, Oct. 11, and plans are in motion to set up the CAMET trailer at their second event in April 2015 to promote companion animal preparedness.

We're Members of the Veterinary Profession Making a Difference in Your Community

Join us on Saturday, September 27 as we put Our Oath in Action for the animals of Alabama!

Pets are part of the family, so make sure you include them in your disaster plan!

Join at Auburn University's 2013 Fall Roundup and Taste of Alabama Agriculture as part of Homecoming Saturday, September 27 at Ag Heritage Park to learn more about how to protect our pets when the unthinkable happens. Stop by to check out the Animal Emergency Preparedness Table and meet a representative from a working dog and the trainer and a working dog in action. There will be lots of great giveaways, including information about keeping pets healthy year-round and the opportunity to join the AVMA in the rescue of high-visibility dogs.

Our Oath in Action is a national program of the American Veterinary Medical Association. For more information on this and other programs that promote and improve the well-being and medical care of animals please visit AVMA.org

Event Details:
 Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014
 Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM
 Location: Ag Heritage Park

Admission Information:
 Free admission, including parking and refreshments.

Logos: AVMA, Auburn University, Tuskegee University

The CAMET Trailers tags and registration have been renewed for 2015. Supplies in the trailers have been inventoried and resorted in preparation for potential deployment.

We will be participating in the annual "Alabama Be Ready Day", which is currently being planned by the Governor's office for early spring 2015.



Student Relations Committee Report:

The Student Relations Committee has participated in three Senior Student Rounds this fall, all have been well attended. The focus continues to be on adapting to meet the needs of Alabama's two veterinary schools and incorporating programs and projects that actively engage both students and new graduates. The Financial Advisor Program is actively available and supporting AUCVM and TUSVM students. TUSVM has incorporated the financial advisor into course curriculum, further enhancing the outreach program at no cost to the association.

The TUSVM held their White Coat Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 3. Drs. Hammons and Fields attended this event. There were eight Alabama students that were coated by Dr. Hammons this year.

Annual SCAVMA funds for each university have been issued and are awaiting personal delivery by Dr. Fields at Auburn and Tuskegee in conjunction with a meeting of their SCAVMA executive boards.

There continues to be growing interest in the COMPASS new graduate mentoring program when meeting with senior students. This area will be getting additional attention to see how to fully implement the established program and make it more robust and available to new and recent graduates.

Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine
www.vetmed.auburn.edu

College of Veterinary Medicine professor receives recognition

The business of agriculture has a far-reaching and storied heritage in the United States. For one professor at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, his devotion to the industry is receiving national attention.

Dr. Chance Armstrong, a resident of Theriogenology at the college, is a life-long practitioner of agriculture and, most recently, a recognized honoree of the Vance Publishing "40 Under 40" award. The "40 Under 40" is an annual event which recognizes 40 individuals under the age of 40 for hard work and dedication to the business of agriculture.



Dr. Chance Armstrong

Dr. Armstrong was one of the 40 selected this year out of almost 200 applicants. For his nominator, no one was more deserving. "Chance is a true hero for agriculture," said Bruce Bush, owner of Bush Farms in Eufaula, AL, who nominated Dr. Armstrong for this year's award. "He has shown the kind of dedication, hard work and desire that will be required to meet the growing food demand for future generations."

Dr. Armstrong is a consulting veterinarian for Bush, as well as the Next Step Cattle Company which they are both members of, and the two have worked together for more than 10 years. Bush said that he first heard about the "40 Under 40" award while reading The Drovers Cattle Network emails, and immediately thought of Dr. Armstrong.

Dr. Armstrong's accomplishments in the field are impressive. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine in 2010. While at the college, he received the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Amstutz Scholarship, as well as a Pfizer Scholarship from Pfizer Animal Health. During his senior year, Dr. Armstrong was a

member of the Palpation Team, which won the national championship that year.

Since graduating, Dr. Armstrong has done extensive work in the field of veterinary medicine. In addition to the work he does with Bush, which includes improving Bush Farms' artificial insemination and embryo transplant programs, health protocols, vaccinations, palpations, and bull soundness exams. Dr. Armstrong has also worked with the Navajo Nation in their sheep and goat herds in coordination with Dr. Perry Mobley. Dr. Mobley is a childhood inspiration and present day mentor for Dr. Armstrong, who said that Dr. Mobley's efforts while working as a veterinarian in the Armstrong family's cow-calf operation in Southeast Alabama was an inspiration to him. Dr. Armstrong also gives of his time to coach the Palpation Team, which won another national championship last year.

For Dr. Armstrong, the honor is one for which he is grateful, but very humble. "I don't think of myself in the same category as the other people who were selected," says Dr. Armstrong. "I'm just an old cowboy vet."

Lauren Scruggs loves cows and her passion is getting noticed

The American Association of Bovine Practitioners, which is composed of veterinarians interested in bovine medicine, recently awarded Lauren Scruggs the Amstutz Scholarship, along with nine other students from across the nation, including one winner from Canada.

Scruggs and the other awardees were presented their scholarships at the 47th Annual Conference of the AABP held in Albuquerque, N.M. Scruggs is the first Auburn University CVM student who has received the Amstutz Scholarship since 2008.

The award is named for the late Dr. Harold Amstutz, who was an authority on bovine diseases, as well as the AABP's first executive-vice president. The Amstutz Scholarship is the

highest monetary scholarship that the AABP grants to students, with this year's recipients each receiving \$7,000.

Scruggs, who grew up surrounded by animals at her home in rural Mississippi before moving to Auburn, developed a love of animals early on, and came by it honestly. Her father, Daniel Scruggs, is a veterinarian, AU CVM Class of '84, while her mother, Leslie Scruggs, trained Border Collies. After enrolling at the College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall of 2012, Scruggs immediately became involved in the local chapter of the AABP, eventually becoming the student vice president in the spring of this year.

Scruggs is particularly interested in the production animal industry, in which she wishes to seek a career after graduation. According to Scruggs, she is comfortable and eager to take on leadership roles and seeks them out because she wants to directly influence the decisions made in matters that are personal to her. "I want to have someone I can trust in the position. I want those leadership roles," Scruggs said.

Dr. Julie Gard, an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences, is the faculty representative for the local chapter of the AABP. Dr. Gard explained that while many of the college's students have done quite well in receiving scholarships over the years, the Amstutz is a special honor.

"Lauren has tremendous character as a veterinary student but also as person. The receipt of this scholarship is a significant honor for Lauren and highlights the excellent Food Animal Program that exists at the CVM," Dr. Gard said. "Lauren is everything a veterinary student should be and more; hard working, very intelligent, great social skills, compassionate, enthusiastic, and a natural leader."



Amstutz Scholarship winner Lauren Scruggs



Tuskegee alumna and former faculty member Dr. Edward Braye, second from right, and his wife, Thomasine, far right, received a special TUSVM award.

Tuskegee symposium focuses on education, practice, research; present Pioneer awards

Veterinary professionals, scientists, students and other health-related professionals gathered at Tuskegee University for the annual veterinary medical symposium.

Scientific sessions covered a variety of topics focused on the theme, "Bridging the Gap: Veterinary Medical Education, Practice and Research." This year's theme emphasized the significance of the veterinary profession as a catalyst to confront the immense scientific and technological challenges of the 21st century. The culminating awards event was held on Friday, March 21, in which the following reunion classes were honored: Classes of 1954, 1959, 1964 (Golden Class – 50 years), 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989 (Silver Class – 25 years), 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

A special treat was the presentation of TUSVM Pioneer awards to Dr. Eugene Adams, Dr. Edward T. Braye and Dr. Ellis Hall.

Dr. Ebony Gilbreath, TUSVM alumna and now faculty member, spear-headed the special recognition honoring the Brayes on the patio grounds of Williams-Bowie Hall on March 19. The doctor and his wife, Thomasine, were instrumental in helping to beautify the area for students and faculty. Dr. Braye is a member of the class of 1952 and a retired faculty member of TUSVM.

Class of 2014 noted for largest internships residencies in TUSVM history

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 for receiving the highest number of internships/residencies in the history of the veterinary school at Tuskegee. In an effort to assist each one in being successful, ready and prepared with confidence when they start their first day of their internship/residency, TUSVM provided support to each of student with a review

course/workshop on May 3.

"This was an additional initiative to support our students and the first of its kind, said Ruby Perry, interim dean for the CVMNAH. "I am very appreciative of the faculty who volunteered to participate in this academic initiative and we plan to keep it as an annual academic program."

The 129th Spring Commencement exercises, held at the university's Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Center for Aerospace Science and Health Education, bid farewell and saluted the beginning of professional careers in veterinary medicine for 69 new graduates representing the TUSVM Class of 2014. Thirty-six of the 69 students graduated with honors. They included: 14 Summa Cum Laude – Tiffany S. Collins, Dani I. Del Castillo, Wesley A. Dyer, Christopher A. Griffith, Aja B. Harvey, Nicole L. Lukovsky, Janae R. Mattaur, Kerry Maxaner, Davriel A. Morrow, Karen Park, Lauren M. Ray, Ednellys Rivera-Gonzalez, Aida I. Vientos-Plotts, and Khalila Y. Williams; 13 Magna Cum Laude – Amy B. Alexander, Jeanette Bimonte, Maura C. Cicci, Adriana Colon-Rodriguez, Jose' D Cruz Ortero, Katherine Driver, Megan E. Harris, Shannon A. Metcalf, Brittani J. Nickens, Rachel S. Park, Alexandra M. Rosado-Quintero, Simone R. Tomlinson, and Kindra S. Washington; and nine Cum Laude – Willie

A. Bidot, Sequoia Brinton, Blake C. Fields, Amelia J. Harris, Dianne M. Hernandez, Erinn Mackey, Raphael A. Malbure, Sherrelle M. Milligan and Bethany D. Scott.

TUSVM students participate in fundraiser to save elephants

Students Amanda Edwards and Danielle "Nell" Medoro, as second-year veterinary students, travelled to Chiang Mai, Thailand, for a four-week internship.

While there, they worked with the veterinary staff at the Elephant Nature Park caring for a herd of 32 rescued elephants. Edwards and Medoro were given the opportunity to participate in treatments, administering medications, feeding and bathing the elephants.

"It was an amazing experience. Many of the elephants had been abused and mistreated, but they were so gentle with us during all the treatments," said Medoro. "We are very thankful to TUSVM for giving us the opportunity as veterinary students to have this experience."

When the students returned home, they wanted to continue to give back to the sanctuary and began a fundraising event to raise money for veterinary supplies. To date, they have raised more than \$2,000.



TUSVM students Amanda Edwards, left, and Danielle Medoro, second from left, during their four-week internship at the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

New Graduate Member Profile

**Dr. Hanna Lamb
Montgomery, AL**

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

I don't even remember a time before I wanted to be a veterinarian. As an only child, my lifelong "sister" was an American Eskimo dog named Nikki who was only a few months older than me. We did everything together up until my sophomore year of high school when she lost her battle with cancer.

What type of veterinary medicine do you practice and why did you choose it?

I split my time between small animal general practice and emergency/critical care. I have been in a small animal setting since I was 15 years old when I started to volunteer at my first animal hospital. I love everything about general practice and emergency medicine!

Where did you study?

Auburn University for undergraduate school and veterinary school. War eagle!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

My favorite thing about my job is the many challenges presented by emergency medicine... you never



know what will come through the door next!

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

I learned about ALVMA through vet school and Dr. Brad Fields.

What is the hardest part of your job?

The hardest part of my job is also the best part... the challenges brought about by emergency medicine don't always allow a lot of time to prepare for the variety of cases. Going to work occasionally can be compared to drinking out of a fire hose!

What advice can you offer someone entering veterinary school?

There are times in vet school when you feel like you are drowning... do your best to make time for hobbies that don't involve vet school. For me, those hobbies include exercise, Auburn football games, and hanging out with friends. These activities will help keep you sane whether you are coming off a long day at school or work.

Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

The networking through the ALVMA is great. It is nice to have a support system like the ALVMA especially as a new graduate.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years I see myself as an experienced practitioner in both general and emergency medicine. I would also like to buy into/take over an existing small animal practice in the next few years.

How has being involved with the ALVMA helped you professionally?

I have met numerous veterinarians residing all over Alabama and made many connections with professionals that I can call and discuss cases or ask questions. Being that I work in a large referral/emergency clinic in Central Alabama, we work with a lot of referring veterinarians that are involved in the ALVMA.

Who is your role model/mentor?

I have had a couple of great role models in my life, especially those who influenced me early in my veterinary career. Drs. Sally Beaumont and Clint Sturdivant really helped me get to where I am today.

What is the last movie you watched?

The last movie I watched was Maleficent... I must admit, my husband and I are Disney fanatics!

What do you feel is your biggest challenge just starting out?

A lot of clients have a difficult time viewing me as a doctor. It doesn't help that I have always looked young, but especially as

a new graduate, I have to exude confidence (which is sometimes difficult) to let them know I do actually know what I'm doing.

What was the most memorable part of your college experience?

Going to the National Championship game last year in Pasadena was something I've never experienced before. Although we did not get the "W," we had a fantastic time and would definitely do it again.

If you could meet anyone (dead or living) who would it be and what would you ask them?

I would love to meet Elvis Presley and ask him what it was like to change the face of music so long ago. Being from Memphis, I have always had a love for everything Elvis.

Where would you go if you could go anywhere? Why?

Somewhere tropical... Fiji or Bora Bora sound good to me. I love to read and lay on a beach... I could do it all day.

If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want to have?

A good book, a blanket, and a fishing pole!

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Getting into vet school at Auburn as an out of state resident is one thing I am most proud of. I was selected to fill one of ten spots out of over 900 applicants that year. That is still such a great moment for me.

What is your favorite quote?

Some of my best friends never say a word to me." - Anonymous

What is your simplest pleasure?

Lying on the couch with my two dogs while reading a good book or watching Law and Order SVU.

What makes you laugh out loud?

Disney movies make me feel good and give me a good laugh when I need it.

What was the last song you sang?

"Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift has recently become an anthem of mine.

Professionally, if you could change something, what would it be?

I would like to change the perception that the public views veterinarians as "money hungry." I don't think everyone understands what it takes to run a vet clinic, especially one that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What book are you reading?

I am currently on the fourth Game of Thrones book... A Feast

for Crows. When I'm not reading this series, I am usually reading Stephen King or James Patterson.

When I'm not working, you'll find me...

Either at an Auburn football game or trying to plan a trip to Disney World!

What do you think has been the most significant change/ advancement in veterinary medicine in the last five years?

The veterinary mobility act allows the care of animals to improve on many levels including relieving pain and suffering outside the walls of the clinic. I am excited to see how it changes the face of veterinary medicine over the coming years!

What five adjectives best describe you?

Dedicated, optimistic, compassionate, thorough, and creative

When was the last time you did something for someone else and what was it?

I technically didn't do it, but my dog (who was just hanging out at the clinic) donated 500 mls of whole blood to save another dog's life this week at the clinic. He earned an extra special can of dog food for his heroic act.

I still want to learn how to...

Do an echocardiogram. I think learning about the heart is awesome!



New Graduate Member Profile

Dr. Bradley Venable
Fort Walton, FL

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

Lifelong exposure to animals in various settings along with a family with a strong human medical background led me to fall in love with veterinary medicine at a young age. The profession has provided me many diverse memories from a litter of kittens being born in my bed at age 10 to being “attacked” by a zebra at age 20. My mother has plenty of funny stories to share, believe me.

What type of veterinary medicine do you practice and why did you choose it?

Currently I work at a small animal private practice. My experience isn't limited to small animal practice, but it is heavily concentrated there. I felt most comfortable out of school going into what I was most well versed in.

Who is your role model/mentor?

Our profession is filled with such a large number of amazing individuals, it is hard to pick just one. Mickey Golden has to be mentioned. His success as an owner and manager while practicing quality medicine and exhibiting moral character is tough



to beat. Another person I look up to is Brad Fields. He is an amazing veterinarian solely based on his diversity within the field. He has been a tremendous asset to my career because his endeavors make me think outside of the box in the realm of the profession.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Managing the staff's emotions has to be the most difficult thing to deal with as a new graduate. You are the new guy on the totem pole and you have to patiently integrate yourself into the flow of things, all while trying to practice your brand of medicine. It is a very difficult feat and they just can't teach that kind of thing in school.

What do you feel is your biggest challenge just starting out?

Again, managing your staff's emotions is very difficult because you are no longer the staff, you are the doctor. Battling with your level of confidence definitely plays a role in that.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I get the most out of my job when I feel like I am making a difference in someone's life. When people bring in their sick or dying animals

and I am able to help them in any capacity, I am fulfilled.

Where did you study?

The good ole' Cow College. Proud Auburn Alum and fan. War Eagle!

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

Serving as SCAVMA president at Auburn during my time in veterinary school helped me realize the importance of organized medicine at all levels in our profession. I worked closely with some of the leaders in ALVMA during that time and have continued to try and stay active so that my voice is heard.

What advice can you offer someone entering veterinary school?

Do your research! There are so many challenges facing the profession right now: increasing number of accredited institutions, increasing class sizes, increasing debt and decreasing starting salary. There is a lot of doom and gloom information out there and they should be familiar with it. If they really want to pursue a LIFE in veterinary medicine, it will not matter.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

That is the toughest question of all. I hope to be a practice owner in some capacity, settling down to start a family, and as active in organized medicine as possible. I want my life to be more than my job though.

Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

Organized medicine is more important now than ever. As with any career, the veterinary profession is constantly evolving and I think the next 10-20 years might be the most important

ever for us. Being a member and actively involved in local and national associations allows you the opportunity to have your voice heard so that it isn't just the same old worn-out opinions making decisions.

When I'm not working, you'll find me ...

Either in my kayak enjoying the water with some Bob Marley in the background or running with my dog Tanner.

How has being involved with the ALVMA helped you professionally?

Connections! You meet so many people when you are active in groups like ALVMA and AVMA.

What was the last song you sang?

"Take Me To Church" by Hozier.

If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want to have?

An iPod, a margarita maker and a snorkel.

Where would you go if you could go anywhere? Why?

Australia is next on my list because of the exotic wildlife. I have been fortunate enough to travel to Kenya and South Africa for similar reasons.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Graduating veterinary school. I have accomplished a lot, but making a lifelong dream come true can't be beat.

What is your favorite quote?

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou



What is the last movie you watched?

"The Hunger Games – Mockingjay Part 1." The books are much better, but the movie holds its own.

What makes you laugh out loud?

I love watching "Tosh.0". It is terribly inappropriate and I love it.

What was the most memorable part of your college experience?

My four years in Auburn, while stressful, were four of the best years of my life. I have a very strong passion for the loveliest village on the plains that stretches far beyond football. However, my most memorable moment has to be the last few weeks of the regular season last year. I went to the UGA game (Miracle in Jordan Hare), Bama game (Kick Bama Kick), and the SEC Championship game. I actually took my boards two days after the SEC Championship. It was totally worth it.

If you could meet anyone (dead or living) who would it be and what would you ask them?

Vince Lombardi. I would pick his brain about football and use it to become the next big thing in Auburn.

What book are you reading?

"Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn

What five adjectives best describe you?

Fun, sassy, energetic, impatient, and likeable

What do you think has been the most significant change/ advancement in veterinary medicine in the last five years?

The fast shift from veterinary position shortages to a flooded market. How we respond to increasing class sizes, more accredited institutions, and the disparity in income to debt ratio will shape our profession for years to come.

Professionally, if you could change something, what would it be?

I would like to see a pharmacology residency created along with a requirement that a boarded veterinary pharmacologist be on staff in order to dispense to veterinary patients. If that isn't possible, required CE in veterinary medicine for practicing pharmacists and required coursework in veterinary medicine for pharmacy students.

When was the last time you did something for someone else and what was it?

I bought my staff Starbucks last week because it was cold and we weren't real busy.

I still want to learn how to...

I want to learn how to do a lot of things like play the guitar, speak a different language, sail a boat, among other things. As far as vet med goes, I just want to learn to keep my head above the water.

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