

# Alabama Veterinarian

A Bi-Annual Publication for ALVMA Members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA  
Fall 2012 | Volume 23 | Number 2



Dr. Bill Allen, ALVMA President,  
with wife, Sarah



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## 2012 -13 Alabama Veterinary Medical Association President Dr. William Allen

Dr. William M. Allen, of Gardendale, AL, was sworn in as president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) during ceremonies held, May 31, 2012 during the Annual ALVMA Business Meeting.

Dr. Allen received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University in 1973 and in 1974 opened his private practice, Allen Animal Clinic, where he served for 31 years. In 1982 Dr. Allen founded Dogdoc, Inc. and still runs the business today. Since 2005 Dr. Allen has been serving as a relief veterinarian and also a practice computerization consultant.

Dr. Allen is a member of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association and Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association in which he served as president in 1978. He has served in many committees in the ALVMA and Jefferson County VMA and currently serves on the Jefferson County VMA Executive and Member Advisory Committees, as well as Senior Board Member (2009-2010) for the ALVMA.

In 2003 and 2010 Dr. Allen was honored with the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association's Service Award as well as being nominated by the ALVMA to serve on the State Board of Medical Examiners.

In addition to Dr. Allen's involvement with veterinary societies, he has been very active with many community and civic memberships including JayCees, Civitans, Kiwanis International, United Methodist Conference and several committees at Gardendale Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church. He has remained active with Gideons International since 2000 and is currently the Chairman of the Park and Recreation Board for the City of Gardendale, on which he has served since 1998.

Association Staff:  
**Executive Director** Dr. Charles F. Franz  
**Director of PR/Communications** Melissa Williford  
**Director of Meetings & Membership** Roberta Norris  
**Membership Coordinator** Linda Cargile  
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# United We Stand?

## A Letter from the President

I must start by saying thanks to the many friends, past presidents, and our executive director - all who have assisted me as your President these first few months. This is an active year and challenging issues have tried my red-haired personality, but wise counsel from these kind souls kept me in line and acting/speaking as a leader and unifier. I must admit as I write this final draft, that many thoughts have been typed then omitted as second thoughts then third thoughts ruled me. Just as you, I have my strong personal opinions and will share them in private with you - but as for this writing, I act as President of all in our association and will write as such.

In the press, you read daily three days a week of "Stalemates in Congress", "Ten Years of War in the Middle East", "Increased Racial Strife", "Anti-Immigrant Hostility", "Extended Economic Depression", "Failures of State Legislatures to Act" and "Democrats at War With Republicans". It is no wonder that we are witnessing the most stressful, bellicose and angry times of our national psyche.

Our profession is not immune to this increasing venting of anger as incidences of lawsuits and complaints to state boards are at an all-time high. Outside groups have gathered strength, angry at us and negatively presenting the veterinary community as against spay/neuter (s/n) clinics only for economic reasons and giving the impression that veterinarians don't really want to do what is best for puppies and kitties. I feel the truth is that most veterinarians have serious concerns with the last Alabama legislative agenda to allow 501-c-3 non-profit veterinary practice ownership, simply because we are really against the possibility of having medical and surgical quality-of-care decisions being made by non-veterinarian, corporate bean counters for reasons other than for the animal patient's best interest. Witness the mess in human health care with medical treatment and availability decisions now being controlled by the insurance companies' accounting departments first and only secondly by the attending physicians.

Veterinarians are among the most caring and giving members of society. Most do not want any notoriety or acclaim for their generosity to abandoned animals or to poor but caring clients. In addition to the untold amount of free services given out by these veterinarians, your ALVMA and ALVMF have paid out over \$4.5 million through various programs over the last ten years to members' hospitals for assistance to Medicaid recipient's pet care, spay/neuter and emergency service/surgery assistance. The s/n tag sales annually provide \$140,000 (and increasing each year) toward these efforts. The new income tax check-off program, just passed this year through the legislature, will provide even more much needed funding to the effort. The only fault I see is that because we don't want to blow our own horn, we get little public recognition to the wealth of pro bono good we do.

As President of your ALVMA, I have heard from many of you on issues and I can say your thoughts on this non-veterinary practice ownership issue are all over the place. As of the executive board meeting in October, I feel that some common ground to the many opinions may be forming and that some necessary compromise is in the best interest of all concerned. The Legislative and Practice Act Committees are working together as a task force to help legislators develop the best bill possible to allow 501-c-3's to operate s/n clinics and accomplish their stated missions, but at the same time provide the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (ASBVME) effective oversight to properly regulate these entities, protect the consumer and insure that a standard of care is met. It is time for our profession to come together again in the best interest of those animals we serve through an effective, legally enforceable, legislatively and publically acceptable Practice Act.

These divisive issues have developed at a time when all associations themselves are already under fire and in a race to be relevant to their membership, to mean enough to their membership that they will join and be really active. The AVMA Leadership Conference this year headline topic addressed this 'Race for Relevance'.

Consider these facts: American Medical Association (AMA) Membership is down over 5,000 for the last 2 years and dropping. Their membership is only 215,000 of the estimated 1,200,000 physicians in the US, or less than 25%. The numbers are not optimistic for associations of all natures as new graduates are not joining as previous generations did just because that's "what you do". Membership numbers for Civitans, Kiwanis and most other civic clubs are down significantly. "What has it done for me lately" is the new mindset. "What relevance does it have for me in my day-to-day professional life? Why should I join? I'll let you 'joiners' take care of the profession - you'll do it anyway without me. I'll just read about it on Facebook or Tweet me about it."

Do most of us veterinarians know something that the other organizations don't know? The AVMA boasts 82,500 of the 93,000 US veterinarians as members or 88% membership. Have we learned that with our smaller numbers, we can only influence legislation controlling our fate by having a unified front? Have we learned to be relevant and adjust to the times to remain important enough for membership? We are listening and trying to serve and provide an Association that is irresistible to join. This year we have begun holding Regional CE meetings as an added benefit. Next year's suggested topics include providing the new CE hours required for Pharmacy and Law review. What do you want? Let us know.

I feel that the Revolutionary War slogan 'United We Stand, for Divided We Fall', itself based on a biblical line (Mark 3:25, "A house divided against itself cannot stand"), has great relevance for our profession and our association at this time in our history. Please join us in finding solutions to our common problems and differences. Actively participate within your ALVMA. Be part of winning the Race for Relevance. Stand with us, united.

As I said in opening, the first several months since I assumed the Presidency have been busy to say the least. I have been from San Diego to San Destin and from Dallas County to Dallas, Texas to attend ALVMA and AVMA business conferences. I have been to Auburn, Tuskegee and Montgomery on ALVMA related business multiple times. I have gone to Huntsville, Mobile, Birmingham, Montgomery and Dothan on our regional ALVMA meetings. I have to say to those who served as Presidents before me "I don't know how you did it and stayed in practice too". For once, I'm glad to be retired. With your input, I will continue to travel and represent your interest and thoughts. Let me hear from you!



William Mack Burgess and ALVMA members H.B. "Woody" Bartlett and Dwight Wolfe are named as 2012 Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumni.

# 2012 Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumni Named

Tara Lanier, Auburn University

AUBURN, Ala. – The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine has named three of its graduates as 2012 Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumni in honor of their contributions to animal welfare, the profession, and their communities.

H.B. "Woody" Bartlett of Pike Road, Ala., William Mack Burriss of Anderson, S.C., and Dwight F. Wolfe of Auburn are the recipients. A 1964 Auburn graduate, H.B. "Woody" Bartlett is involved with the equine industry on a national level. The Bartlett Ranches, which are located in Alabama, Texas, and Wyoming, account for over 81,000 acres holding five thousand head of cattle and over 500 head of purebred horses.

Bartlett has received numerous honors and prizes as a premier breeder and trainer of American Quarter Horses including the American Quarter Horse Association Legacy Award as a 50-year breeder. He is a member of the Alabama Livestock Hall of Fame and a past president of the Alabama Quarter Horse Association and the Southeastern Livestock Exposition. He serves on the equine sciences advisory committees at Colorado State University and at Texas A&M University.

He has been a major contributor to the Auburn University Southeastern Raptor Center and the Bartlett Lameness Arena at the J.T. Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Following graduation from Auburn in 1943, William Mack Burriss served as an Army veterinarian during World War Two and Korea, returning home to South Carolina to care for the animals of Anderson County.

Following retirement from private practice, he became medical director of the local animal shelter performing surgery for many years in the facility named in his honor. Until 2009 Burriss served as veterinarian for the Anderson County Spay/Neuter Clinic championing the establishment of a low-cost or free spay and neuter clinic to reduce the number of animals that are euthanized due to overpopulation.

In 2006, he was chosen as South Carolina's Distinguished Veterinarian of the Year. Along with his professional accomplishments, Burriss served 36 years on the Anderson County School District Five Board of Trustees, many of those years as chairman. In 2010 the United Way of Anderson County named him their Communitarian.

Dwight F. Wolfe is a food animal professor at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine. In 2011 he received the David E. Bartlett Award for his contributions to theriogenology. In 2010 he received the College of Veterinary Medicine Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence and in 2009 the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association presented him their Distinguished Service Award, the association's highest honor. He was inducted into the Alabama Livestock Hall of Fame in 2006 and named Alabama Veterinarian of the Year in 2004. The D.F. Wolfe Food Animal Barn on the veterinary campus is dedicated in his name.

Wolfe has contributed to the field of theriogenology, as well as to the livestock industry, through funded research, publications, abstracts, textbooks, chapters in books, presentations, and consultations.

He obtained his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Auburn in 1977 and his M.S. in large animal surgery and medicine in 1982. Wolfe became a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists in 1983. He is one of only four diplomates who have served as president of both the American College of Theriogenologists and the Society of Theriogenology.

The distinguished alumni awards were presented May 8 during the college's graduation ceremony held at the Auburn Arena. The awards are named in memory of 1942 veterinary medicine graduate Wilford S. Bailey who held a 50-year continuous faculty appointment at Auburn University, serving in positions ranging from instructor to university president.

# Check out **Bentley** from Birmingham: Winner of the July Coverpet Contest!

We just love those floppy ears.



# wörldpetsday

OCTOBER 4

**Merial & the Alabama VMA**

Team Up For Five Regional CE Meetings.

## What Are You Missing Out On?



& Social Media



Facebook is in the process of changing how posts get seen and who sees them. Have you liked the ALVMA facebook page, but maybe aren't receiving all our posts in your news feed? There are two ways you can make sure you don't miss out on updates.

1. Go to our page. Hold the arrow over the "Liked" button, and click "Show In News Feed". Now there should be a check mark next to it, and you're good to go!
2. You can also add us to your "Interests" list to get more updates. To do this, click the drop down menu with the gear on it to the right of the "Like" button. If you don't already have an "Interests" list, you can easily make right then. This should direct Facebook to show you our posts on the bottom left of your home page.

Social media is growing and we are expanding our efforts with Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest pages! Our posts are designed specifically with veterinarians and animal lovers in mind and will keep you up-to-date with the ALVMA, veterinary trends, recalls in animal food and medicine and animal happenings around the state. Pinterst is a relatively newcomer in the world of social media, and if you haven't tried it yet, it's fun and easy to get started!

If you have any questions regarding the ALVMA social media sites, please feel free to contact [lauren@franzmgt.com](mailto:lauren@franzmgt.com).



# BP Oil Spill UPDATE

A Message from Dr. Charles Franz,  
ALVMA Executive Director

As you may already be aware, BP has agreed to a settlement to resolve economic loss claims related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. This settlement is available to businesses and not-for-profit organizations throughout the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and parts of Florida and Texas.

The settlement does not require you to prove that the oil spill caused direct economic damage to your business. Our accounting firm, Carr, Riggs, and Ingram (CRI) will determine whether your business qualifies based on the criteria provided in the settlement. They are heavily involved in filing for businesses involved in this settlement. We hope you have already considered this with your regular accountant; however, if you have not we want you to be aware of this settlement.

If your business does not qualify, CRI will not charge for the calculation. If your business does qualify, they will calculate the compensation amount and prepare the claim filings. Their fees for this service will range from 10% to 15% of the compensation amount. The deadline for filing a claim is April 22, 2014.

In order to determine whether your business qualifies for the settlement, please contact the nearest CRI office (find locations at <http://ow.ly/ffJB9>) or send to Robert Miller the monthly revenue for the periods of 2007 through 2011. They prefer to get this information in the form of monthly income statements, because they will need those if your business qualifies for the settlement.

If you have any questions regarding the settlement or the information requested, email or call Robert Miller at [rjmiller@cricpa.com](mailto:rjmiller@cricpa.com) or 334.386.5212.

# Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs)



The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) Interstate Module, through which an accredited veterinarian can create on-line certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI), has been greatly enhanced based on feedback from accredited veterinarians.

The new version is faster and more user-friendly and will be available for use on **July 20th 2012**.

Some of the enhanced features include:

- An animal upload capability that allows an Excel spreadsheet or CSV file of animal information to be uploaded with multiple animal identifiers,
- The capability for a user to create a number of CVI templates and certificate statements and save them to an account for future use,
- Storage and access to commonly shipped individual animal or group descriptions for one click data-entry on future documents,
- Rapid addition of lab tests and vaccination information to each individual animal or a group of animals,
- Accredited veterinarians and labs can enter and process Coggins forms for multiple horses at one time,
- A quick-copy auto-fill feature that allows copying of age, breed, sex, test results, and more from one animal to all the following animals with just one click. If sequential identification numbers are being used, it can "add 1" to each subsequent line, and
- Storage of an electronic copy of an issued CVI for future reference.

More information about the Interstate Module in VSPS can be found at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/vet\\_accreditation/accred\\_vets.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/accred_vets.shtml)

## Why Create Certificates Electronically in VSPS?

VSPS is FREE to all users (accredited veterinarians, health technicians, NVSL-approved labs and State animal health officials). There are many benefits when you create an electronic certificate of veterinary inspection:

- It saves time!
- They're much easier to read than paper forms.
- They assist State health officials in tracking livestock movements in and out of their States.
- They're easily searchable to find animal identification and to locate animal certificates.
- You can electronically store all of your documents in one place.
- It's easier to share information with State and other animal health officials.
- It's easier to share documents between practice members.



# ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention — Summary —

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) held its annual general business meeting Thursday, May 31, 2012, at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in conjunction with the second annual Alabama VMA – Georgia VMA Summer Convention, May 30 – June 3, 2012. During the ALVMA business meeting several individuals were honored and Dr. Jan Strother, AVMA Vice-President and past ALVMA President, installed new ALVMA officers.

Newly installed officers included Drs. William M. Allen, Gardendale, President; William G. Bledsoe, Camden, President Elect; John Hammons, Athens, Vice President; T.C. Branch, Birmingham, Board Member at Large; and H. Winston Pirtle, Sr., Montgomery, Treasurer.



# Awards

## Distinguished Service Award | Dr. Fred Hoerr

Dr. Fred Hoerr of Auburn was presented with the Association's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, for his unselfish dedication to the Association and exceptional achievements and contributions to the advancement of the profession during his 31 years of service at the State Diagnostic Laboratory. He became the Director of the laboratory in 1987 and recently retired in March of 2012. As a result of his dedication and expertise in the poultry business Alabama is ranked third in the country in broiler production. In addition, the Auburn Diagnostic Laboratory received accreditation by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians in 2011 while under his leadership. Dr. Hoerr has been the recipient of many awards in recognition of his tremendous accomplishments. The American Association of Avian Pathologists selected Dr. Hoerr for the Philbro Animal Health Excellence in Poultry Research Award in 2010 which recognizes research in poultry disease and health over a period of twenty years or more. In 2011 Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine presented him with its distinguished alumnus award. Dr. Hoerr currently owns and operates Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology, LLC, focusing on poultry histopathology.

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

## Service Award | Dr. Thomas Dawkins

Dr. Thomas Dawkins of Birmingham was awarded with the Service Award in recognition of his dedicated service. He served our country in the United States Marine Corps from 1968-1971 and later attended and graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1978. In addition to being an active member of the ALVMA and AVMA since graduation he has been an active member of the Jefferson County VMA, serving in almost every office and committee within the organization including serving as President twice. From 2002 to 2007 Dr. Dawkins served as commissioner of the Birmingham Racing Commission. In his capacity as commissioner, he served as a veterinary advisor to North American Paramutual Regulatory Association (NAPRA), which involved horses and greyhound racing, husbandry and disease control, and humane shipment and treatment of animals. During this time, he also encouraged both Auburn University and Tuskegee University



Clockwise from Top: Dr. Tony Frazier presents Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Fred Hoerr. Dr. Thomas Dawkins accepts his Service Award. Dr. Libby Todd presents Lay Person of the Year Award to Deputy Dwight Sloan.

to apply for research funds available through the Birmingham Racing Commission for equine projects totaling over \$200,000 over five years.

Dr. Dawkins has been a small animal practitioner since his graduation from veterinary school. He currently owns and operates Center Point Animal Clinic and Total Pet Care Hospital. He is a founding member of the Alabama Thoroughbred Association, serving as their veterinary advisor and vice-president for fifteen years.

## Lay Person of the Year | Deputy Dwight Sloan

Deputy Dwight Sloan of Birmingham was selected Lay Person of the Year for his dedication as an Animal Cruelty Investigator. He believes in the humane treatment of animals and the elimination of animal suffering. He works with the veterinary community to help animal abuse victims and to educate the public about the value of veterinary medicine. Deputy Sloan began working in the patrol division of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in 1986 and became an Animal Cruelty Investigator in 2004. Deputy Sloan has been the recipient of several awards including: the Marion Brodnax Award by the Greater Birmingham Humane Society (2007), the ASPCA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (2007) and the Recognition Award by the Alabama Animal Control Association and the Alabama Humane Federation (2008).

# ALVMA 2013 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 2013 Awards Program will be presented during the 2013 Emerald Coast Veterinary Convention, June 26-30. Deadline for nominations is January 14, 2013.

**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 email to [Melissa@franzmgt.com](mailto:Melissa@franzmgt.com), mail to PO Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109, or fax: 334-270-3399\*\*

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 \_\_\_\_\_

# Awards

## Alabama Veterinary Medical Association

### 2012-2013 AWARDS COMMITTEE

Drs. Kirk Holland (Chair), Tom Williamson, Charles Ashwander, Larry Chasteen and Libby C. Todd

#### Distinguished Service Award

1978	Dr. James E. Greene	1990	Dr. Marcus F. Martin	2002	Dr. M. Paula Thorne
1979	Dr. James L. Chambers	1991	*	2003	Dr. Robert D. Horne
1980	Dr. Charles S. Roberts	1992	Dr. Lawrence W. Cottle, Jr.	2004	Dr. Albert Corte
1981	Dr. M. K. Heath	1993	Dr. Horace C. Morgan	2005	Dr. Warren Williams
1982	Dr. Ray A. Ashwander	1994	Dr. Thomas M. Miller	2006	Dr. Arvie Marshall
1983	Dr. John E. Saidla	1995	Dr. Aaron H. Groth, Jr.	2007	Dr. Wayne Roberts
1984	Dr. Wilford S. Bailey	1996	Dr. J. Thomas Vaughan	2008	Dr. H. Winston Pirtle, Sr.
1985	Dr. B. F. Hoerlein	1997	Dr. Coy H. Poitivint	2009	Dr. Dwight F. Wolfe
1986	Dr. John K. Winkler	1998	Dr. Ted W. Bullard	2010	Dr. William E. DeWitt
1987	Dr. Louis C. Cardinal	1999	Dr. Edward T. Braye	2011	Dr. Fred M. Garrett
1988	Dr. Warren W. Kent, Sr.	2000	Dr. A. David Hayes	2012	Dr. Fred Hoerr
1989	Dr. Robert S. Hudson	2001	Dr. Jan Bartels		

#### Veterinarian of the Year

1978	Dr. M. K. Heath	1990	Dr. Ted W. Bullard	2002	Dr. Jan K. Strother
1979	Dr. Marcus F. Martin	1991	Dr. Wiley D. Hales	2003	Dr. Tom Williamson
1980	Dr. Albert Corte	1992	Dr. Edward T. Braye	2004	Dr. Dwight F. Wolfe
1981	Dr. Warren W. Kent, Sr.	1993	Dr. James G. Floyd, Jr.	2005	Dr. Robert Martin
1982	Dr. Frank E. Mitchell	1994	Dr. Sidney D. Beckett	2006	Dr. Jack Goodman
1983	Dr. Harold A. Kjar	1995	Dr. C. Wayne Roberts	2007	Dr. Lewis McCurdy
1984	Dr. J. Lee Alley	1996	Dr. A. David Hayes	2008	Dr. Jim Benefield
1985	Dr. J. Thomas Vaughan	1997	Dr. Arvie E. Marshall	2009	Dr. Barbara F. Monaghan
1986	*	1998	Dr. William B. Johnston	2010	C. Mark Russell
1987	Dr. Cary M. Phillips	1999	Dr. Robert E. Pitman	2011	*
1988	Dr. H. Winston Pirtle	2000	Dr. William E. DeWitt	2012	*
1989	Dr. Aaron H. Groth, Jr.	2001	Dr. Jimmy Milton		

#### Lay Person of the Year

1978	Mrs. Lele Mae Harvey	1990	Mrs. Fran Young	2002	Mr. Tommy Carter
1979	Mr. Vaughan Hill Robinson	1991	Mrs. Nancy McCurdy	2003	Ms. Beth Franklin
1980	Mrs. Camille Gaston	1992	Mrs. Janis Grant	2004	Ms. Diana Childers
1981	Mrs. Marion S. Moore	1993	Ms. Beth Kellogg	2005	Ms. Janet Duke
1982	Dr. Stanley P. Wilson	1994	Auxiliary to the ALVMA	2006	Ms. Rhonda Steele
1983	Mrs. Mickey Gibson	1995	Mrs. Shirley Bartels	2007	Mr. Dennis McDonough
1984	Mr. and Mrs. Gene Conway	1996	Mrs. Theresa S. Chandler	2008	Ms. Allison Black Cornelius
1985	Mr. Albert McDonald	1997	Mrs. Patty Lott	2009	Dr. John Lasker (M.D.)
1986	*	1998	Ms. Liz Hurley	2010	Ms. Mariela Piola
1987	Mrs. Nanette Pregno	1999	Mrs. Gerry Groth	2011	Officer Dana Johnston
1988	Mrs. Mary Murchinson	2000	Ms. Linda Keller	2012	Deputy Dwight Sloan
1989	Mrs. Gerry Groth	2001	Ms. Lynne Fridley		

## Service Award

1978	Dr. R. E. Robinson		Dr. George F. Seier, Jr.	2002	Dr. Wiley Hales
1979	Dr. Lee M. Russell		Dr. Jan K. Strother		Dr. Samuel J. Eidt
1980	Dr. George S. Killian		Dr. Ralph W. Womer, Jr.		Dr. J. Barry Stewart
	Dr. W. Ross Cryar	1992	Dr. James G. Floyd, Jr.	2003	Dr. William M. Allen
1981	Dr. H. Leighton Allen		Dr. William R. Sternenberg		Dr. Alvin L. Atlas
	Dr. Ted W. Bullard	1993	Dr. Wiley D. Hales		Dr. C. Mark Russell
	Dr. George V. Kenmore		Dr. Jan K. Strother		Dr. Jerome Turner
	Dr. William R. Miller	1994	Dr. John T. Williamson	2004	Dr. Charles F. Franz
1982	Dr. M. Lawrence Crawford	1995	Dr. Robert A. Baker		Dr. Michael E. Newman
	Dr. Thomas M. Miller		Dr. William O. Cowart		Dr. Steven F. Swaim
	Dr. Rufus O. Moore, Jr.		Dr. Jack D. Goodman	2005	Dr. Karen Hill
1983	Dr. Aaron H. Groth, Jr.		Dr. William B. Johnston		Dr. Dawn Monroe
	Dr. George F. Seier, Jr.		Dr. J. Warren Williams		Dr. Tavis White
1984	Dr. Cary M. Phillips	1996	Dr. G. Kent Armstrong	2006	*
	Dr. Theodore S. Williams		Dr. Ted W. Bullard	2007	Dr. Charles Ashwander
1985	*		Dr. R. Neal Cole		Dr. Babette D. Authement
1986	Dr. George H. D'Andrea		Dr. Faith B. Drumheller	2008	Dr. Barbara J. Benhart
	Dr. Robert M. Williams		Dr. Lewis H. McCurdy	2009	Dr. Robert Pitman
1987	Dr. Jan E. Bartels		Dr. Allen F. Riley		Dr. Glen Bledsoe
	Dr. Arthur V. Moore	1997	Dr. Faith B. Drumheller		Dr. Jerome Williams
	Dr. J. Warren Williams		Dr. James G. Floyd, Jr.		Dr. Philip Gleason
	Dr. George L. Wood, Jr.	1998	Dr. Elaine M. Moore	2010	Dr. William M. Allen
1988	*		Dr. Rhonda K. Buxton		Dr. Karen Hill
1989	Dr. Charles R. Becker	1999	Dr. Sheri Ann Fastenrath		Dr. James L. Milton
	Dr. Edward T. Bray		Dr. Marcus F. Martin		Dr. Frank D. Jones
	Dr. Curtis C. Christenberry		Dr. Allen F. Riley		Dr. Antonio J. Ballagas
	Dr. David B. Kuykendall		Dr. Glenn F. Sexton		Dr. Michael E. Newman
1990	Dr. Albert Corte, Jr.		Dr. Charles L. Smith		Dr. T.C. Branch
	Dr. Fred M. Garrett		Dr. M. Paula Thorne		Dr. Allen F. Riley
	Dr. W. Hugh Washington	2000	Dr. Barbara F. Monaghan	2011	Dr. Frances Kendrick
	Dr. Agee M. Wiggins		Dr. C. Mark Russell		Dr. Eric D. Hulsey
1991	Dr. George H. D'Andrea	2001	Dr. Rachel Kim Nelson	2012	Dr. Thomas Dawkins
	Dr. Robert E. Pitman				

## Special Award

1984	Dr. G. John Cottier		Dr. Edward D. Willis	2004	Dr. William B. Johnston
1985	Dr. Marylin E. Crumpton	1993	Sen Howell Heflin		Commissioner Ron Sparks
	Mr. Cecil M. Tipton		Dr. B. T. Robertson	2005	Dr. Glenn Sexton
1987	Sen. John Teague	1994	*		Ms. Tammie Adams
1988	Dr. and Mrs. James W. Goodwin	1995	Dr. Ray A. Ashwander		Ms. Michelle Campbell
	Mrs. John W. Overton	1996	Mr. Gary Bennett		Ms. Guyanne Harris
	Mrs. Joy Goodwin Rudd	1997	Dr. W. Ross Cryar		Ms. Debbie Whitten
1989	Mr. Holland M. Ware	1998	Ms. Etta Agan	2006	Ms. Kaitlyn Terry
1990	Sen. J. Foy Covington, Jr.		Ms. Joanna Burnett	2007	Dr. Jackie Horner
	Rep. Joe Carothers		Dr. Louis C. Cardinal		Dr. Mark Russell
1991	Dr. Frank E. Mitchell	1999	*	2008	Dr. George H. D'Andrea
	Mrs. Marion Moore	2000	*	2009	Dr. T.C. Branch
1992	Dr. Robert V. Adamson	2001	Dr. J. Lee Alley	2010	*
	Dr. Philip H. Davis		Mr. Joe Shelnut	2011	*
	Dr. James G. Floyd, Jr.		Mr. Boyd Whigham	2012	*
	Dr. George C. Hardwick	2002	*		
	Dr. J. Douglas Ward	2003	Dr. Marcus Martin		

\* Award not given



## Partnering to Improve Pet Health

Janice L. Trumpeter, DVM ASVMAE President

The good news is that there have never been so many pets in American homes, providing families endless hours of joy and companionship. Our pets also benefit from the best veterinary doctors and technology ever available. Sadly, though, evidence shows that the health of our nation's pets is declining. Many of them aren't as healthy as they could be – or as they should be.

A number of factors are leading to fewer veterinary visits, and most experts agree that a decrease in veterinary visits can be directly linked to an increase in preventable medical conditions such as dental disease, heartworms, obesity and ear infections.

We, as veterinarians, are best positioned to improve pet health. We do a great job serving our clients and taking care of pets when they are sick, but we haven't maximized our opportunity to prevent these same pets from getting sick in the first place. In an effort to boost overall pet health and increase the public's value of veterinary care, a team of veterinary professionals and leaders from both academia and industry formed Partners for Healthy Pets, an initiative with the ultimate goal of ensuring that pets receive the preventive healthcare they deserve through regular visits to the veterinarian.

This powerful and unique coalition of 20 organizations, which was announced at the American Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Convention in 2011, provides valuable resources for the veterinary practice team to promote and better practice preventive veterinary medicine through a variety of resources. A foundation piece of this effort is a set of healthcare guidelines jointly produced by the AVMA and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The AAHA-AVMA Canine and Feline Preventive Healthcare Guidelines identify all of the components of a comprehensive program of preventive care, serving as a valuable tool for both the veterinary practice team and the pet owner.

Partners for Healthy Pets continues to reach out to veterinary practitioners around the country to broaden awareness and boost veterinarian buy-in and participation. Veterinarians attending any of the major conferences – the AVMA convention, the North American Veterinary Conference, the Western Veterinary Conference, or the AAHA Yearly Conference – are able to attend educational programs to help familiarize themselves with the guidelines and to learn how they are best implemented. We expect even more such programs to be rolled out at state and local meetings around the country. In 2013, Partners for Healthy Pets will launch a campaign geared directly toward pet owners that will help build awareness about preventive care and how important it is to overall pet health.

The ultimate goal of Partners for Healthy Pets is to improve the overall health of our pets by building knowledge and strengthening the relationship between veterinarians and pet owners. For more information about Partners for Healthy Pets, the preventive healthcare guidelines and what you can do to promote preventive veterinary pet healthcare with your clients, be sure to visit the Partners website at [partnersforhealthypets.org](http://partnersforhealthypets.org). Once there, veterinarians can sign up for updates and other information as new resources become available. Registering is as easy as providing your email address.



# Alabama Disaster Animal Sheltering

Hurricane Season officially ends November 30th, and hopefully Hurricane Isaac will be our closest encounter with these unpredictable and potentially deadly events this year! The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association has been actively working to keep our Disaster Animal Sheltering equipment and supplies at the ready for deployment to an event. In 2006, the ALVMA & Foundation applied for and received a funding opportunity with the American Veterinary Medical Association Foundation to place two Disaster Animal Sheltering units in Alabama, called CAMET (Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers). These place unique capabilities in the State of Alabama and meet a strategic need for emergency responders & communities after a disaster strikes. Each trailer provides capabilities to set up & operate a 60-70 animal disaster animal shelter, with everything from portable cages, litter boxes, and cleaning supplies to photo identification & on-site printing.

The CAMET trailers are staged & deployment is managed through our State Agriculture Response Team (SART) under the direction of the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries in Montgomery. They were deployed to North Alabama during the tornado disaster in April 2011 and proved effective in their design and implementation.



# Build the Importance of Preventative Healthcare with Partners for Healthy Pets Power Tools

People have a special relationship with their pets, and most recognize that visiting a veterinarian enhances that relationship. But you see it every day in practice – pet owners who have been bombarded with incorrect and incomplete information and are confused about what’s best for their pets. So much so that they may not follow your clinical advice, and may not bring their pets to critical preventive care appointments at all.

**As a profession, we have a great opportunity help pets and pet owners enjoy a longer and healthier life together.**

Veterinary professionals work hard to provide the best possible care to pets so that they and their owners can enjoy long and healthy lives together. **Partners for Healthy Pets** was founded to help you make the preventive healthcare you provide even more powerful. We’ve developed tools and resources – available at no charge - that can help you build better relationships with owners and help them understand the value of preventive healthcare so that more patients can benefit from what you do best.

## Individual practice involvement is key

The **Partners for Healthy Pets Practice Resources Toolbox** was conceived to provide the profession with a sound mix of information and materials that collectively elevate the level of preventive care offered across the country. Each of the tools and resources provide dynamic ways to reinforce a practice-wide focus on preventive pet healthcare. Used collectively, they can help healthcare teams enhance communications with pet owners about the value of and need for routine care and take preventive pet healthcare to an optimum level within your own individual practice.

**Make the decision to be a voice for vitality...of the veterinary profession, of your practice, and of our nation’s pets!**

It’s easier than you might think

Adopt and widely communicate Preventive Healthcare Guidelines to pet owners through your newsletters, website, and within each preventive care visit.

Focus on communicating the value and benefit of preventive pet healthcare to pet owners at all points of contact, from receptionist to technician to veterinarian.

Use the tools and resources available from Partners for Healthy Pets to help find communication gaps, train staff, and gather new ideas that will compliment current programs and plans.

**Partners for Healthy Pets** is dedicated to ensuring that pets received the preventive healthcare they deserve through regular visits to a veterinarian and is committed to working with you to enhance the health of your patients and your practice. Learn more about Partners for Healthy Pets and explore the Resources Toolbox at [www.partnersforhealthypets.org](http://www.partnersforhealthypets.org).

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and Alabama Department of Agriculture recently showcased the CAMET system during a Be Ready Day for the Lee County Emergency Management Agency in Opelika. The day highlighted preparedness tips & strategies, and showcased emergency response equipment from across the east Alabama region, including police, fire, EMS, public health, and non-governmental organizations. This event was well attended by the public, and our presence was a much-needed reminder that animals and veterinary issues are critical pieces of the emergency response community.

The ALVMA continues to strengthen this program, and has recently inventoried & restocked the CAMET trailers so that they are ready to be deployed at a moments notice. Funds for maintenance & restocking come from the Disaster Response funds in the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association Foundation. Please continue to support the foundation, and specifically the disaster response fund so that additional capabilities can be added and maintained in the future! ALVMA is proud of the partnership forged with the Department of Agriculture & Industries, and appreciates the support of our partners around the state.

# Animal Disease Traceability in Alabama

A news article from your State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier

Many of the veterinarians reading this article played a critical role in eradicating bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and swine brucellosis from our state. On the other side of the coin, there are many veterinarians reading this article who were not even born when we had our last case of bovine tuberculosis back in 1981. So whether you remember the eradication programs or not, whether you were involved in the programs or not, one of the keys to the success of eradicating those diseases from our state was the ability to successfully trace diseased and exposed animals so they could be quarantined, tested, or depopulated. A year after Alabama became brucellosis free, testing regulations changed. We no longer required change of ownership testing, which was the regulation that made testing at stockyards a requirement. As a result of the end of testing, along with individually identifying cattle at change of ownership, we largely lost our ability to trace diseased or exposed animals.

Our lack of officially identifying animals has, over the past decade or so, not deterred us from performing trace-backs on diseased or exposed animals. It has, however, caused those epidemiological tracing measures to encompass many more herds and animals than would be necessary if a traceability system were in place. While we may not have always found what may have been the index herd, we located all herds that could have been involved in a disease event. The only problem is that, without a traceability system, we took more time, used



more man power, and it cost more money than should have otherwise been necessary. The lack of a traceability system has also cost us in our export markets. Some countries, whether motivated by politics or scientific facts, have shied away from importing animals or animal products from the United States because we do not have a disease traceability system.

About a year or so ago, several of us regulatory folks from the Southeast sat down with industry to discuss ADT (animal disease traceability). Coming out of that meeting, while there were several details to iron out, it was decided that we (government and industry) should begin the journey that would lead us to an ADT Program that would keep us competitive in the world market. And while a great deal of the focus was on exports, the U. S. consumer is demanding that we are able to trace diseases and control them. The move toward an ADT program would also be a proactive move to be prepared to comply with the federal government ADT Program, whenever it may come down the road.

On August 14, 2012, a state ADT rule was adopted. The rule is, in my estimation, fairly basic and very practical. The ADT rule covers most all livestock, but it is the regulations for cattle and bison older than 18 months that attract the most attention. So far as horses, swine, goats, sheep, rodeo stock, and feeder cattle, traceability will, for the time being, not be different that the requirements in place today that address interstate travel and the requirement for a certificate of veterinary inspection



# ALVMA AU Freshman Class Visit

The ALVMA was happy to share their experiences with the Freshman Class of veterinary students at Auburn University on August 29, 2012. The presentations occurred during Dr. Charles Hendrix' Introduction to Veterinary Ethics class. The students had many thoughtful questions for the group concerning practice and various other topics within veterinary medicine. They were also very interested to know how each of the presenters became interested in veterinary medicine. Presentations from the ALVMA included licensing, accreditation, servant leadership, veterinarian's oath, the Auburn Creed, wellness, and discussion of the responsibilities that come from being a part of the veterinary profession.

A big thanks to the ALVMA members who participated in this program and to Dr. Hendrix and Dean Calvin Johnson for the invitation and support.

#### Participants:

Dr. Libby Todd, ALVMA Past-president

Dr. Bill Allen, ALVMA President

Dr. Bill Bledsoe, ALVMA President-elect

Dr. Winston Pirtle, ALVMA Treasurer, Past-president and AVMA Alternate-delegate

Dr. Robert Pitman, ALVMA Past-president and ASBVME President

Dr. Jan Strother, ALVMA Past-president and AVMA Past Vice-president

Dr. Charles Franz, ALVMA Executive Director

(health certificate). Sheep and goats already have requirements to be identified for the National Scrapie Program. Basically the requirements to be implemented as part of this rule say cattle 18 months old and older must be identified with official ID devices at change of ownership. Official identification devices include the old silver USDA tags like we used in the Brucellosis Eradication Program or USDA approved electronic RFID tags. Beyond that, there are other forms of identification that will be determined on a case by case basis through negotiations between the Animal Health Official (state Veterinarian) in the state of destination and the Animal Health Official in the state of origin.

The Food Animal Veterinarian can play an important role in guiding producers with the implementation of this rule through appropriate use of official ID and record keeping. Practicing veterinarians will not be required to place all forms of official ID in cattle but can offer this as a part of a complete herd health program.

Initially there will be several months of outreach and education as we here at the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries along with our industry partners will make every attempt to make this transition into animal traceability as seamless and with as little stress as possible. You can rest assured that all of the time, sweat, and energy by many people involved in our traceability working group have been aimed at one thing. That is to keep animal agriculture viable. We will keep you informed as the implementation of our state ADT rule rolls out.



From Left to Right: Drs. Jan Strother, Bill Allen, Libby Todd, Winston Pirtle, Robert Pitman, Bill Bledsoe and Charles Franz.



# VNN Quarterly VMA Newsletter

We are all very proud of our hospitals and seeing a negative review online can cause a real sense of offense and even panic. Here is a case study of a recent situation where the Veterinary News Network helped a member hospital dealing with some negativity online.

This review was posted on Yelp on May 25th of this year:

We used their clinic/pet hotel when leaving to go out of town for a few days. When we came back our dogs neck was full of blood. We took him home and tried to figure out why and realized that the thick rope they used (made us take our leash back and they used theirs) cut his neck!! They would not take responsibility when we called back (after we noticed it right after we got home) We dropped him back off 10min. after we picked him up to let them see his neck. They said they didn't know why his neck was bloody. They took him back to a room and my husband followed them (they didn't know he was by the door) they yelled at our dog and said "bad dog, you are a BAD DOG" (because

my dog was jumping up and down and being loud) My husband opened the door and said "do not call him that, he is 8months old and does not realize what he is doing". He could not believe that the vet of all people called him a bad dog! We actually boarded our dog there when we were out of town and used their clinic when needed, NEVER AGAIN!!

There is nothing in this review that can be automatically flagged as being abusive, vulgar or against Yelp's Terms of Service. So...what is the proper way for this clinic to respond? See below for their very professional and courteous reply:

*I am the Hospital Director at ABC Animal Hospital and can confidently say that we are very proud of the care our boarding guests receive - so I was deeply saddened to see your review of our hospital. I'm sure I would feel shocked as well if I found blood on my pet after picking him up from boarding and my assumption would be the same as yours...that someone did not care for my pet in the manner I expected.*

*I see that your posting came about a month after your pet's boarding visit and your immediate return to have our doctors examine your pet. Has something else happened that I'm not aware of? I talked with the doctor and staff involved and reviewed our official Medical Record. I understand that there was a small sore on your pet's ear tip that caused blood to splatter on his neck when he flapped his ears, and that no cut was found on his neck or elsewhere. Ear lesions are notoriously bad about bleeding, especially when the pet shakes his head.*

*I was relieved to see that there was not a neck wound or signs of injury other than the sore on his ear. If this sore has not healed, we would be very happy to see your pup again to see if we can do something beyond what we originally recommended. Of course, this recheck exam will be at no charge and can be done at either our location or our main hospital at, whichever is more convenient and comfortable for you.*

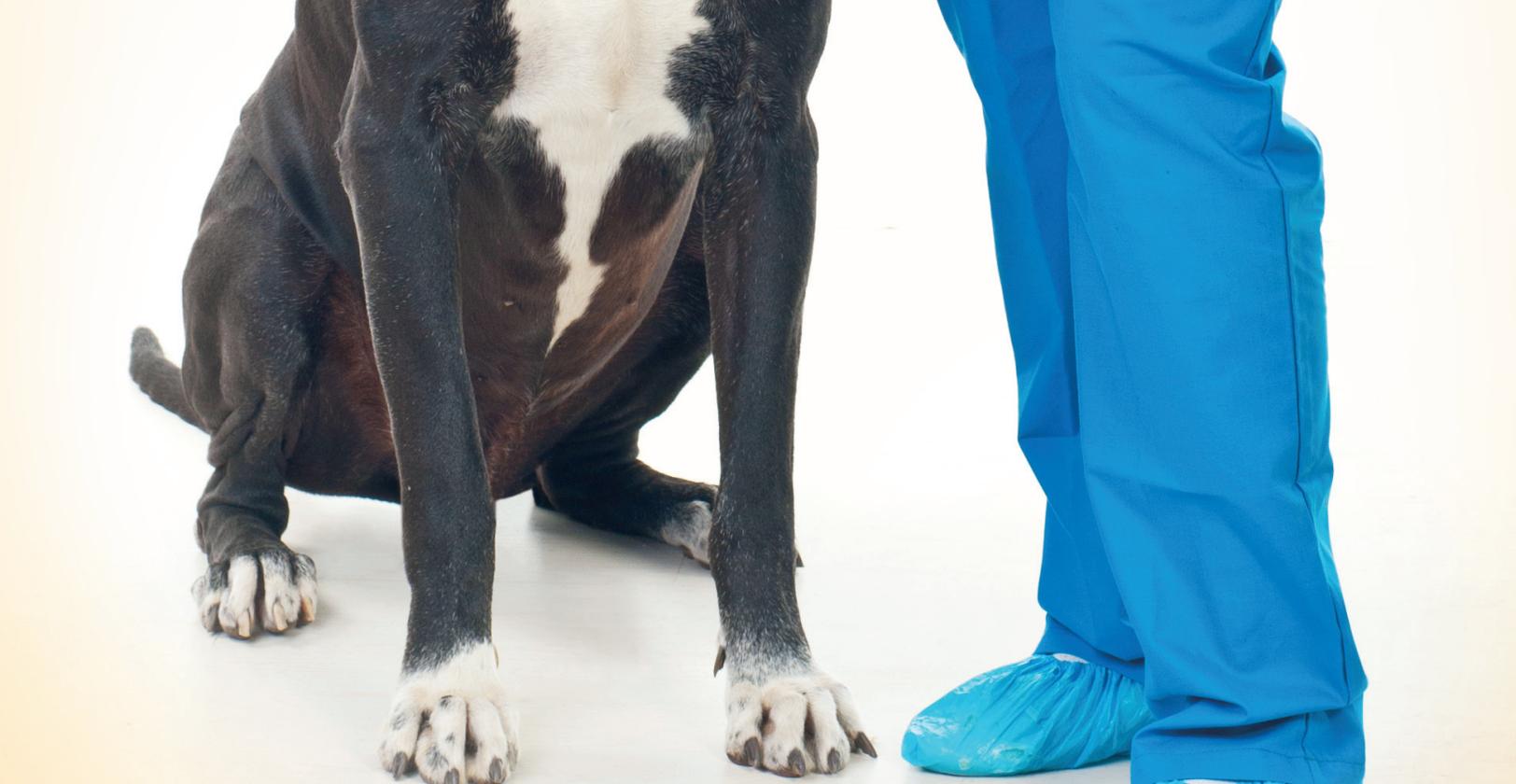
*We are sorry that you feel you had an unpleasant boarding. Please feel free to call me directly at xxx-xxx-xxxx so we can discuss your pet's progress. Also, if I have misunderstood your concerns, I would welcome any further clarification.*

There are several important things to recognize here. First, this clinic was actively listening and engaging when online reviews were found. Second, they did not let a negative review get the better of them. They did their research, responded to the concern and, most importantly, made a bid to take the discussion OFFLINE. Third, their effort was genuine, empathetic and geared towards showing other readers how professionally they handle complaints. Finally, they handled this situation just as if the person had come into their clinic to make the complaint.

Don't let the modern technology make you do something you wouldn't normally do. Handling complaints online is NO different than handling them face to face.

The good news? After the reply, this review was removed and is no longer showing up in search engine results!

Realize that you are not in this fight alone. The Veterinary News Network can provide assistance in dealing with review sites to understanding how best to "listen" in this new world of emerging and social media. We are happy to review your proposed replies or even help craft the reply if necessary. We also have a complete series of articles written by Dr. Humphries about handling complaints and online reputation management. VNN has partnered with your state VMA and we encourage your practice to join us. Learn more at <http://www.MyVNN.com>.



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\*Including plan details such as exclusions, limitations, rates, eligibility, and renewal provisions.

\*\*Applications must be received by December 31, 2012. To be eligible, you must be an AVMA member under age 60 who resides in the U.S. All coverage is subject to approval by New York Life.

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Dear ALVMA Members:

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Best Regards,

*Jerry Borden*

Your Long Term Care Specialist  
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# As Seen — in My — Travels

Clinic Ownership Dilemma is Exhausting Some Veterinarians and Destroying a Major Asset of Their Families.

I sold my veterinary practice in 2005, was successful in some criminal defense cases as an attorney, but soon found out I was addicted to veterinary medicine. I now stay busy at least five days each week practicing as a relief veterinarian (both large and small animal practice) all over our state. At age 70 I still have a passion for the health of my profession and enjoy volunteering to serve in four capacities in organized veterinary medicine. In my travels over this state I have questioned veterinarians far and wide as to their opinion of ownership restrictions on veterinary practices and what effect

it has on the standard of care given patients in clinics owned by non-veterinarians. Practically all of this discussion came about as a result of HB156, a bill that was introduced into our legislature but failed to pass. That bill would have given 501(c)(3) subsidized spay/neuter clinics an exemption to our practice act item that requires practices to be owned by a veterinarian. Most of the ones I talked to did not think the sky will fall if this restriction is removed by legislative action. We have veterinarians working for corporate owners now, and to my knowledge no cases have been brought to our examining board accusing them

of practicing sub-par medicine. It seems to me that while ownership by licensed veterinarians could have some indirect impact on the quality of patient care in his/her/their practices, the employed veterinarian has primary responsibility for that quality and will be the one called before the board for not acting in a way that supports it. Looking into the future, I expect to see more and more of our colleagues working for large corporations and other conglomerates. Management by them is far more efficient and employed veterinarians may experience a more enjoyable lifestyle being free of management

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duties. Having more time for patient care might just create a more healthy patient population. While there is a possibility that the examining board may have to develop special rules for non-veterinary –owned clinics if problems arise, they would not be bogged down with “who owns this clinic” to deal with, which would free them up to deal with the quality of service to the public, their primary responsibility. Has anyone seen the VCAs and Banfields excited about purchasing practices in Alabama lately? Rules limiting ownership to veterinarians will put an instant halt to them offering to purchase or invest in ANY hospital in our great state.

New graduates enter practice today with student debt in excess of \$140,000 on average. If they want to purchase or build a practice I’m guessing they are hard pressed to find financing because of this debt load. If ownership restrictions were removed, maybe their neighbors, family members, or even potential outside investors would lend capital. This could insure veterinary service to some rural communities which have none. Current practice owners just might be able to get fair compensation for their practices. This

“More time for patient care might just create a more healthy patient population.”

is a real concern of lots of practice owners I have talked to.

Our rules in Alabama give the family of a deceased practice owner two years as a grace period to find another licensed veterinarian purchaser. This period of non-veterinarian ownership could be stretched to greater than seven years. In Alabama, no court can hold a hearing upon request to declare a MISSING person deceased until at least five years after the last known contact. If the missing veterinarian were to be declared dead as a result of the hearing, wouldn’t the family have another two years to find a licensed purchaser? And, if ownership by a licensed veterinarian is so important, do we just forget about that clinic’s standard of care by a veterinarian working for the heirs of the decedent or missing person? Surely not! This would not be good gate-guarding by the examining board. I personally know three widows who lost the projected values they expected from the assets of their spouses’ hospitals. One got a small percentage of the practice’s true value. Vandals recognized that the second one was closed, took what they wanted and burned the building. Nothing was salvaged by the family. The third was a practice in a mobile

home. It was turned into a tenant dwelling. We were all advised in veterinary school that our facilities and practices would be a major part of our retirements. Unless we make plans for transitions to new owners easier instead of more difficult, that won’t necessarily be the case. Just like a storm can kill the innocent as well as the able-bodied priest, difficulty in selling a practice will affect those of you who disagree with me on the ownership issue as well as those who agree. One of the companies who brokers veterinary hospitals noted lately that practices grossing less than \$500,000.00 do not sell or are hard to sell for their value. Young veterinarians who may be potential buyers don’t want to be strapped to the baggage of a clinic that will confine their families. They, too, want to grow personally as well as professionally. They will buy a practice that can also feed and support the family of at least one associate. It was also his opinion that lower-grossing clinics will, after ten years, be forced to close due to a shortage of buyers. We should try to alter our new colleagues’ professional environments so they have something left to retire on - practice in groups more, uphold the standard of care for our patients, and stop worrying so much about holding onto our little nest eggs that may be worth less than we thought.

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**M**any of you know there is a special place in my heart for the outdoors and rural America. We have lots of areas in our state where no veterinarian can be reached for up to 100 miles from the client's location. Assuming one of these communities wants veterinary service (and most do) neighbors or outside investors could help establish a practice by infusing their own capital. If they later try to control the medical decisions of the veterinarian, he or she has the perfect reply by answering in a response similar to "our state's examining board sets standards for me and if I don't practice by them, I could lose my license to practice here. Won't be good for you OR me in the long run." A recent graduate may be able to warn the client/co-owner that his student debt forgiveness by the federal government could be withdrawn if he stops practicing in a previously underserved area. It seems to me that both arguments (or either) should suffice.

**W**e all know changes are coming every day. Some are good and some are not. But, if we act soon enough to them, outcomes are usually positive. Any practice could adapt to change by forming a 501(c)(3)

**“Changes are coming everyday.. if we act soon enough to them, outcomes are usually positive.”**

non-profit within the practice and then offer low-cost veterinary care to indigents in their communities. What a wonderful way to improve the lives of clients and patients! When I was a member of ASBVME, I don't recall us calling a veterinarian to task for owning anything, even a veterinary practice. His/her actions in treating patients were the issue. We see very few mom-and-pop pharmacies anymore and some physicians practice at Med Ones and Pri-Meds, etc. Some of our colleagues are employed by Banfield here in Alabama. Somehow we adjusted – as these other professions have. On a personal note, I want to thank my friend, Dr. Ken McMillan for suggesting I read a number one best seller that takes only one hour to read. I read it at 3:00 AM this morning and it helped me in dealing with a lifestyle adjustment I must make. Four days ago I found out that my local problem with prostate cancer has now become metastatic to bone. The little book's title is *Who Moved My Cheese?* It became a best seller on Amazon and is the story of simple mice and little people searching for satisfaction in new adventure when old ways no longer give them personal satisfaction. There could be more pressing issues

for all of us to deal with than who owns a veterinary clinic. From here on, I don't plan to put myself in the path of an aggressive bovine. I will no longer lift a 100 pound dog to an exam table. If this little book helps me the way I think it will, health challenges will not define me, but how I keep my eyes open and look for new ways to be happy and satisfied will do that. Thanks again, Ken, for sharing. You cannot know how your suggested reading would uplift me so much in one day. I suggest this book to any veterinarian who questions how to react to change.

**S**ome of you probably think I should not share my thoughts about clinic ownership since I have sold my practice and may be old enough that any comments I make herein are probably irrelevant. Just my point exactly. I DON'T have a dog in this fight. My opinions are from the heart and meant to be digested by all of you as my true feelings on the matters discussed. As before, I plan to work today in the fourth practice this week and not worry about whether the ownership has changed at all – just do the best for the cases I see. This whole argument about ownership absolutely exhaustipates me. Call 334-399-2059 (my cell) for a definition of that word.

Respectfully submitted,

*H. Winston Pirtle Sr., DVM, JD*



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# Matters of Law

## Key Business Planning Suggestions for Veterinary Practices

By Jeff Roth

Veterinary practices are no different than other smaller businesses in many respects. Doctors often put off business planning issues in favor of dealing with current crises and more immediate matters. If the practice is currently successful and profitable, why make any changes? To help protect the financial future of a veterinarian's family and practice, it is important to have important safeguards in place to minimize risk and help ensure long-term success.

Every veterinarian who owns a practice should determine how he or she wants to organize that practice to protect against personal liability, where appropriate, and ensure the best tax treatment possible. Whether a practice operates as a limited liability company, corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship should be a discussion between the veterinarian and his or her accounting or tax advisor, based upon his or her particular

circumstances. Operating as a corporation or limited liability company will allow a veterinarian to shield his or her personal assets from liability with respect to the claims that might be made against the practice. Although significant judgments against veterinarians for professional malpractice are rare, significant premises liability and employment-related liabilities can arise. Failure to properly structure the business might result in personal liability to a veterinarian under certain circumstances.

Although most practices and small businesses seek tax and entity-selection advice upon beginning their business, most do not revisit such issues, and suffer as a result. In situations where there is more than one doctor in a practice, and ownership is shared, there must be an exit strategy for the owners, whether by retirement, sale, death, or disability. Is it desirable for surviving spouses to have an interest in the business, or better to have a mandatory buyout? Failure to plan for such eventualities makes an otherwise profitable practice susceptible to failure. One of the most common pitfalls in this area is failure to properly fund the obligation to buy a co-owner's portion of the practice, particularly when the exit of one of the owners is unforeseeable.

"Buy-sell" agreements and operating agreements between members of a practice are key to addressing such issues, and thoughtful planning in this area can prevent later disagreements that could result in wasteful litigation. Such agreements should be updated from time to time to reflect the current needs of the practice and stakeholders, and should always consider the most appropriate method for transfer of interest to avoid, not evade, taxes. Failure to do proper tax planning upon the sale of the business upon retirement can send a significant portion of the proceeds of the sale to the government, rather than to the lake house. In addition, it is important to know and understand proper valuation techniques for the value of the practice when the value becomes an issue, either upon

# Save the Date

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association  
2013 Winter Meeting  
January 24-27, 2013  
Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel



Mark your calendars for the LVMA's Annual Winter Meeting! Tracks will include *Companion Animal*, *Food Animal*, *Practice Management*, *Equine*, and *Veterinary Technician*, with the option to earn up to 21 hours of CE! This year's event will feature speakers and topics including Wendy Myers, "Social Media," Denise Tumblin, "Protecting your Pharmacy," a Cardiology Road Show by Dr. Matthew Miller, "Skin Reconstruction" by Dr. Robert Hancock, and an Interactive Cell Projection by Dr. Rick Cowell. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001 Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (225) 928-5862  
email: [office@lvma.org](mailto:office@lvma.org) [www.lvma.org](http://www.lvma.org)

sale of the practice or some other buy-sell event. In addition, in situations where the practice is a Subchapter S corporation, the buy-sell agreement needs to prevent transfers to nonqualified shareholders to prevent termination of that tax election.

It is also wise to consider estate planning and estate and gift tax ramifications with respect to the transfer of ownership of any practice. Proper tax planning in this environment can significantly reduce estate and gift tax liability, but such planning must be in harmony with existing buy-sell agreements and the terms of any operating agreement controlling transfers of ownership in the practice.

Planning in this area must include funding for any payout to doctors, their surviving spouses, or even the practice itself. Besides insuring the physical plant and equipment at a practice, or providing employment practices or general liability coverage, insurance companies can also provide options for funding retirement, the event of disability, death benefits, and replacement revenue to the practice, often with favorable tax treatment.

Proper succession planning is also important to keeping the value in a business upon the exit of one of the existing principals. Transitioning between an existing owner and a new owner over a period of time to allow clients to get acclimated to the new owner will be beneficial in client retention, as well as allow the new owner time to establish credibility with lending sources. It is also important to retain good employees and productive doctors. Since it is generally illegal in this state to have covenants not to compete with veterinarian employees, wage and benefit plans should reflect some sharing in the success of a business to prevent the loss of key employees by providing incentives to stay. Tax-qualified benefit plans and profit sharing plans, when properly structured, can reduce tax liability, and provide funding for such incentives.

Planning for future competition is not something that can be ignored, especially today. Wal-Mart is providing grooming services on premises in Tennessee and Illinois through a third-party service provider. Spay and neuter clinics are springing up throughout the state, and it is very likely, in this writer's opinion, that the ownership of veterinary clinics in the state will eventually no longer be restricted to veterinarians. The effect of this will bring significant investors and large service providers into markets in head-to-head competition with small clinics. Plans for dealing with these types of new competition need to be made to ensure the longevity and profitability of every practice.

Hopefully, the foregoing discussion will stimulate thinking about how you can do better business planning to ensure long-term financial viability of your practice, and help protect your lifelong investment.

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

# Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine  
www.vetmed.auburn.edu



Dr. Dee Jones

## Dr. Dee Jones receives Auburn University Young Alumni Achievement Award

Dee Jones, a 2001 graduate of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, was named a recipient of one of the university's 2012 Young Alumni Achievement Awards. The award, sponsored by the Office of Alumni Affairs, was created in 2011 to recognize extraordinary accomplishments by members of the Auburn family, age 40 and under. Fifteen recipients were recognized for significant achievement in their professional lives and for distinguished community service.

Dr. Jones received his doctorate of veterinary medicine from Auburn and joined an animal clinic in Cullman, Ala. From 2004-2006, he served in the United States Army Veterinary Corps in Ft. Polk, La. as a veterinary medical officer before joining the Alabama Department of Public Health, or ADPH, in 2007. In 2010, he was named Alabama state public health veterinarian and provides professional guidance for the ADPH and Epidemiology Division concerning zoonotic exposures and risks, works closely with the oral rabies vaccination program

and works as a liaison between the ADPH and the Alabama Department of Agriculture. He is currently involved in a study to determine the prevalence of various tick-borne disease agents in Alabama. Awardees were selected for distinguished community service locally, regionally, nationally or globally and for prominence in their business, profession or vocational endeavors.

## College of Veterinary Medicine receives AAALAC accreditation

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine has received full accreditation from AAALAC – the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International – following a recent site visit. Auburn University's College of Agriculture also received accreditation.

Dr. Pat Rynders, director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Health, and college staff were commended by AAALAC for providing and maintaining a quality program of laboratory animal care and use. In a letter to Dr. Rynders, AAALAC officials wrote: "Especially noteworthy were the strong administrative commitment to the program; the generally well written and comprehensive program description; the excellent veterinary medical care provided by the clinical veterinarians; the well maintained and clean facilities; the modernization and upgrades to several animal facilities; the conscientious, motivated and highly qualified staff, managers and program-level veterinarians; and the highly effective occupational health and safety program. . ."

AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. The College of Veterinary Medicine, which also complies with university, state, and federal regulations regarding animal research, has received continuous AAALAC accreditation since 2003.

## The Team Approach Managing the Oncology Patient Together

**Oncology Short Course | Continuing Education for Veterinarians and Technicians**  
**February 16-17, 2013 | Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine**

**14 Hours C.E. for Veterinarians and 3 Hours C.E. for Technicians**

Better surgery, better client communication, imaging, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, clinical trials, and how to build the oncology team are covered in The Team Approach: Managing the Oncology Patient Together Short Course. Eleven hours of C.E. credit are offered for the short course, plus three additional hours for Saturday's early bird lecture for a total of 14 hours continuing education credit.

The Oncology Technician Track, which offers 3 C.E. hours, focuses on how to organize an oncology practice. Following a morning of tech-applicable lectures, Auburn University oncology technicians will lead a roundtable discussion.

The Team Approach takes place in the Overton Educational Wing, the college's newest addition which features tiered lecture rooms and the latest in technology.

To view the short course schedule and to register online, visit [vetmed.auburn.edu/ce/upcoming-events](http://vetmed.auburn.edu/ce/upcoming-events).

### Course Fees

Veterinarians	\$325
Discounted price if registered by Monday, December 10	\$250
Discounted price if registered by Friday, February 1	\$275
Technicians	\$50

For questions concerning course registration, contact Kris Robertson Street at (334) 844-2497 or [kris.street@auburn.edu](mailto:kris.street@auburn.edu).



Veterinary students participate in CPR wet lab with "Airway Jerry Dog" mannequins, donated by Nestle' PURINA.

# Tuskegee University

College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health  
[www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu](http://www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu) and [www.tuskegee.edu](http://www.tuskegee.edu)

## Veterinary Medical Symposium Focuses On Securing the Future of the Profession

The Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine (TUSVM) hosted its 47th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium on March 21-24. Scientific sessions covered a variety of topics focused on the theme, "Securing the Future of Veterinary Medical Education."

This year, the committee planned sessions and educational events with the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium's (NAVMEC) focus, 'Working to Develop a Roadmap for Veterinary Medical Education in the 21st Century: Responsive, Collaborative, and Flexible'."

Keynote speaker for the opening T. S. Williams Lecture was alumna Dr. Christine Jenkins. Jenkins' presentation, entitled "Veterinary Medical Education: It's Everyone's Business," enlightened all on the roles necessary to have intact for the profession to not only be sustained, but thrive.

A special tribute program and ceremony for the unveiling of memorial bricks purchased by the Class of 1962 in memory of their deceased classmates was held on March 22.

Another highlight of this year's symposium was the CPR wet laboratory, a part of the Emergency Critical Care/CPR series. Dr. Adesola Odunayo, from Auburn University, did a personal training session with the licensed veterinary technicians in attendance on the latest CPR guidelines and procedures prior to the wet lab.

During the annual alumni banquet, held to honor reunion classes, Dr. William Watson ('65) gave a special acknowledgement to the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association Endowment campaign honorees for their various donations to the school covering the levels of "Platinum" (\$10,000 and above) and "Gold" (\$5,000 to \$9,999).

## Tuskegee and Auburn Student Chapters of Christian Veterinary Fellowship Participate in Mexico Missions Trip

While some students were gearing up to enjoy their much anticipated and deserved holiday break, five veterinary students from Tuskegee and 14 veterinary students from Auburn student chapters of Christian Veterinary Fellowship (CVF) went on a week-long mission trip with several veterinarians to Mexico. The December trip was coordinated by Christian Veterinary Missions (CVM), which serves as the parent organization of the individual student chapters of CVF. The purpose of the trip was to set up free veterinary clinics in San Luis and El Golfo, Mexico, to assist these communities in the control of pet overpopulation and rabies, leading to better sanitation and less public health risks. The volunteers also distributed over 500 gift bags for the children to spread some holiday cheer.



Tuskegee veterinary student poses with child during missions' trip.

## TUSVM Hosts Annual Horse Fair Draws

TUSVM recognizes that horses, a family friend in some cases and family worker in others, also need preventive care, especially during the spring and summer months to keep them healthy. In an effort to help prevent horse-related spring/summer illnesses, TUSVM hosted its 20th Annual Horse Health Fair on Sat, April 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the School's Large Animal Hospital.

Free services were offered to include physical examinations, fecal parasite examinations, and nutrition counseling. For a minimal fee, clients received several other services including deworming treatment and preventative vaccines. A farrier was also on site.



TUSVM reaches out to offer their services to the community.

## Tuskegee University 127th Annual Spring Commencement Exercises Saluted Largest Veterinary Medicine Graduating Class Ever

The Spring Commencement Exercises, held on May 12, saluted the beginning of professional careers in veterinary medicine for the 69 new graduates of TUSVM, the largest veterinary medicine graduation class to date. Twenty-five of the 69 students graduated with honors. Four graduates received the Master of Science in Veterinary Science degree. Also two graduated from the Integrative Biosciences (IBS) Ph.D. Program, jointly supported by the College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS) and the College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health. The Veterinary Medical Oath Ceremony immediately followed the Commencement Exercises in the Tuskegee University Chapel.



TUSVM graduates are all smiles after the commencement ceremony.



# In Memoriam

**Stuart Pugh Dowling, DVM**, a native of Mobile, AL and life member of the Alabama VMA, passed away on Monday, July 23rd, after a brief illness, at age 85. Dr. Dowling practiced veterinary medicine in Mobile and Birmingham for over forty years and throughout his life was active in numerous civic and mystic organizations. A member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Mobile and St. Francis Episcopal Church on Dauphin Island, he attended the University of Alabama, The Citadel, Springhill College, and received his degree in Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University. Dr. Dowling served in the Merchant Marine during World War II and the US Army during the Korean War, obtaining the rank of Captain and receiving the Bronze Star Medal. He was preceded in death by his father, Dr. Hebert B. Dowling, and mother, Kathleen P. Dowling. Dr. Dowling is survived by his wife, Ann Bender Dowling, son, David B. Dowling, and daughter, Sally D. Johnston. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Kathleen J. Burton, Carter U. Johnston Jr. and Samuel T. Johnston, two great-grandchildren, Griffin W. Burton and Hayden S. Burton, a sister, Margaret D. Hillard, and numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made to Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Francis Episcopal Church, the Animal Rescue Foundation of Mobile (ARF), Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, or the charity of your choice. Condolences may be offered at [www.pinecrestfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinecrestfuneralhome.com).

<http://obits.al.com/obituaries/mobile/obituary.aspx?n=stuart-pugh-dowling&pid=158746867#fbLoggedOut>

Longtime Alabama Veterinary Medical Association Executive Board member **Dr. Quentin O. Meadows**, 57, passed away June 12, 2012 in Mobile, AL. Dr. Meadows was a current member of the Alabama Veterinary Professional Wellness Committee and also a member of the Mobile VMA.

As a military child, Dr. Meadows had seen much of the world by the age of 15. He attended high school in Virginia, excelling as an athlete. Upon

graduation, he attended Tuskegee Institute where he joined the marching band became an accomplished musician. He earned a Bachelor's degree in 1976, a Master's in 1979, and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 1985, all from Tuskegee.

Dr. Meadows eventually settled in Mobile where he established Eight Mile Animal Clinic, operating it for many years. He was a certified counselor in drug and alcohol addiction, and as such volunteered his time as a sponsor and mentor with the Salvation Army. He will always be remembered as a driven individual who was successful in all of his life's pursuits.

Dr. Meadows was preceded in death by his wife of 20 years, Iris V. Dixon Meadows. He is survived by his children, Aaron Patrick Meadows and Kelsey Q. Meadows; parents, Patricia Holloway and Frank Meadows (Neta); brother, Timothy Meadows (Traci); sister, Sherry Lynn Booker (Randy); best friend, Robin Rocket; nieces nephews, many other relatives and friends, including Carla Givens.

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Alabama VMA life member, **Dr. James M. Shuler** (AUB '45), 89, died Apr. 12, 2012. Prior to his retirement from the Indiana State Board of Health in 1989, Dr. Shuler had an illustrious career in the U.S. Air Force achieving the rank of full Colonel and serving as head of the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps in Europe. After 28 years of distinguished service in the Air Force, where he received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Services Commendation Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal, Dr. Shuler worked as state veterinary epidemiologist with the Indiana State Board of Health. There he received the highest award given to a civilian in the state of Indiana, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, given to him by then Gov Orr in June 1984. Even so, he and his wife, BJ, rarely missed traveling to an Auburn football game. Earlier in his career Dr. Shuler also was in veterinary practice in Augusta, GA for six years where he built a state-of-the-art animal hospital prior to being drafted into the military.

In 1998, Dr. Shuler was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.



His passion for life was contagious and he served as a mentor to many young veterinarians under his command in the Air Force. He was also passionate about his country and his beloved Auburn University and its football team. Dr. Shuler led a very full and productive life and enjoyed wonderful times with friends and family at his home on Lake Martin that he and BJ built as their dream home.

He is survived by his wife, BJ Shuler of Dadeville, daughter Lynne (Billy) Seighler of Apopka, FL, and son James M. (Lisa) Shuler, Jr. of Kissimmee, FL, four grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to "AU Foundation" for Small Animal Hospital, 317 S. College Ave, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849 or to "AU Foundation" for Pet Assisted Therapy Program, School of Nursing, Attn: Stephanie Wood, 107 Miller Hall, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849.

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**Joe Lambert Sledge, DVM**, age 90, past president and life member of the Alabama VMA, died Aug. 3, 2012, at his home in Greensboro, Alabama, surrounded by family, including his beloved caregiver, Susan Breland.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Mailande Cheney Sledge. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Lidamae Lambert Sledge and Edward Wadsworth Sledge; and sister, Mary Wadsworth Sledge Payne.

Dr. Sledge is survived by six children, Mailande Sledge Easley of Starkville, Mississippi; Anne Sledge Bailey (Whitelaw) of Newbern; Mary Sledge Spencer (David) of Pascagoula, Mississippi; Joe Lambert Sledge Jr. (Cecile) of Greensboro; Sara Virginia Sledge Dean (Jeffrey) of Fleming Island, Florida; and William Cheney Sledge (Sharon) of Greensboro. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, Joel Edward Easley (Kimberly), Laura Alexandra Easley, Rebecca Cheney Easley Li (Chris), John Wilkinson DeWitt (Lisa), Robert Daniel DeWitt (Leigh), Dr. David Lamar Spencer Jr. (Amy), Dr. James Christopher Spencer (Anke), Edward Wadsworth Spencer, Matthew Edward Sledge, Mary Kathryn Dean, April Dean

Resnick (Adam), Jeffrey Alan Dean, Amanda Sledge Seale (Benton), William Cheney Sledge Jr. (Ashlyn), and Morgan Avery Griffith; 11 great-grandchildren; and his niece and nephew, Lida Payne Rudder and Dr. James Hobson Payne.

Joe was born on September 9, 1921, in Greensboro, where he spent his childhood years. He graduated from Greensboro High School in 1939. Joe and Mailande were married on October 10, 1943. Shortly thereafter, he graduated in veterinary medicine from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University). In 1944 the couple moved to Greensboro, and Dr. Sledge set up a successful veterinary practice. He retired on December 31, 2003. Dr. Sledge was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Southern Veterinary Medical Association, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, and West Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, where he held various offices. He was also active in civic organizations, including Rotary Club, PTA, and Girl Scouts.

Dr. Sledge was a member of First United Methodist Church in Greensboro, where he faithfully served his church as a Sunday school teacher, member of the United Methodist Men, and member of the administrative board.

His hobbies included traveling, attending plays at Alabama Shakespeare Festival, playing bridge with friends, hunting, and making and keeping friends for decades.

Dr. Joe was known through the years in his profession and in his community for his wisdom, integrity, loyalty, fairness, honesty, and promptness. He was a man of determination and persistence in completing any job he had accepted.

The family requests that donations be made to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 555, Greensboro, AL 36744.

Published in Tuscaloosa News on August 5, 2012

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tuscaloosa/obituary.aspx?pid=158981628#fbLoggedOut>



# REGISTRATION

## 22nd ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 1-3, 2013

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 20 hours of quality CE, Friday lunch & dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch & dinner, Sunday breakfast & lunch and all breaks. Conference Registration also includes admittance for one (1) to the Saturday evening steak dinner.

	Pre-Registration	Late/On-Site (After Jan. 7)	
<b>Member of _____ Veterinary Medical Association</b> (Must be a member of one of the 50 state VMA's for member discount)	\$250.00	\$325.00	\$ _____
<b>Non-Member</b>	\$350.00	\$425.00	\$ _____
<b>Veterinary Technician</b>	\$200.00	\$275.00	\$ _____
<b>Veterinary Students</b> (Student responsible for payment of meals and hotel room)	\$ N/C	\$65.00	\$ _____
<b>Meals and Breaks</b> (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 1   | <input type="radio"/> | Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> | Lunch | <input type="radio"/> | Dinner |
| Saturday, February 2 | <input type="radio"/> | Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> | Lunch | <input type="radio"/> | Dinner |
| Sunday, February 3   | <input type="radio"/> | Breakfast | <input type="radio"/> | Lunch |                       |        |

### ACCOMODATIONS

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	\$ _____

**GRAND TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks or money orders payable to: ALABAMA VMA

MAIL TO: Alabama VMA, Attn: F.A., P.O. Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109 - or if paying by credit card, Fax (334) 270-3399 or register online at [www.alvma.com](http://www.alvma.com)

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



# TENTATIVE AGENDA

## 22nd ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 1-3, 2013

### Friday, February 1, 2013

- Noon** Lunch – Sponsor TBD
- 1:00 PM** Pharmacy Review  
Drs. Sue Duran and Starr Miller
- 2:50 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 3:00 PM** Equine parasite control: current strategy  
Dr. Debra Taylor
- 4:00 PM** What about that fat foundered horse in the cattle herd?  
Dr. Debra Taylor
- 4:50 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 5:00 PM** Industry Technical Seminar Sponsor TBD
- 6:00 PM** Happy Hour (visit with exhibitors)
- 6:30 PM** Dinner – Sponsor TBD

### Saturday, February 2, 2013

- 7:00 AM** Breakfast – Sponsor TBD
- 8:00 AM** Industry Technical Seminar Sponsor TBD
- 9:00 AM** USDA and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
- 9:50 AM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 10:00 AM** Topic TBA
- 10:30 AM** Practice based techniques for the identification of parasitic burdens in small ruminants  
Dr. David Pugh
- Noon** Lunch – Sponsor TBD
- 1:00 PM** Industry Technical Seminar Sponsor TBD
- 2:00 PM** Management, nutritional and holistic approaches to the control of parasites in small ruminants  
Dr. David Pugh
- 3:30 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 3:40 PM** Using QA programs in a food animal practice  
Dr. Frank Owsley
- 4:30 PM** Industry Technical Seminar Sponsor TBD
- 5:20 PM** Break (visit with exhibitors)

- 5:30 PM** Updates from the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

- 6:15 PM** Dinner – steak with all the fixins! Sponsor TBD

- 7:30 PM** Happy Hour, Practice Tips and Downie Awards. Sponsored by

### Sunday, February 3, 2013

- 6:45 AM** Devotional
- 7:00 AM** Breakfast – Sponsor TBD
- 8:00 AM** Industry Technical Seminar Sponsor TBD
- 9:00 AM** USDA and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
- 9:50 AM** Break (visit with exhibitors)
- 10:00 AM** Trichomoniasis prevention and control  
Dr. Misty Edmondson
- 11:00 AM** Animal welfare concerns associated with bull breeding soundness evaluations  
Dr. Andrew Lovelady
- Noon** Lunch
- Meeting adjourned**



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#### **For more information:**

Call Len Jones, DVM  
Toll Free 877.711.TPSG (8774)  
Email: [Len@tpsgsales.com](mailto:Len@tpsgsales.com)

# Classifieds

**SOLD! Columbus, GA** - Simmons & Associates' Listing #GA14C. Congratulations to Dr. Keith Myers, the seller, and Dr. Tannaz Amalsadvala, the buyer, on the transition of Buena Vista Road Animal Hospital! Dr. Myers is enjoying retirement with his wife, Jan.

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**45 minutes from Knoxville** is a quaint town where you can wander lakeside walkways or stroll the hills of East Tennessee! Open 5.5 days/week w/ 1.5 drs, and no emergencies. Average transaction charge is \$118. Buyer compensation approx \$201K! Prx & RE \$1,055K. (Listing #TN6B) Simmons & Associates: southeast@simmonsinc.com \* 800-333-1984 \* www.simmonsinc.com

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**North Gainesville** Virtual tour video available! AAHA, solo, SA. Computerized, paperless, state-of-art digital equipment. Gross \$769K. 2400SF facility, 2 acres, & stable/barn \$893K. (FL21A) Simmons & Associates: southeast@simmonsinc.com \* 800-333-1984 \* www.simmonsinc.com

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**Practice owners...we have buyers and need sellers!** The current practice sales market is dynamic with buyers. Commercial financing funds are readily available and buyer terms are attractive. Many of our practices sell within a few months and with no open market exposure (just a telephone call). Contact Dr. Doyle Watson at Simmons & Associates today, for a complimentary, non obligatory consultation. The dialogue will be informative and time well spent. www.simmonsinc.com \* 800-333-1984 \* doyle@saase.com

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**PRICE REDUCED, MUST SELL!** Pelham Animal Clinic is a well established, small animal, solo doctor practice, averaging \$102 per transaction charge, only open 5 days per week. 3000SF+ facility was recently remodeled. Excellent location, vacant/unimproved lot next door recently sold for \$450K. Practice & Real Estate now being offered at \$625K! Contact Dr. Len Jones with TPSG for further information today. 334.703.5837

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**New Listing! North of Birmingham.** Solo doctor, small animal, 4,200+SF facility, practice grossing approximately \$650K. Virtual tour available. Contact Dr. Len Jones with TPSG for further information today. 334.703.5837

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# Relief Veterinarians

Dr. Sarah (Beth) Barnett, AUB '04  
2578 Bridlewood Drive  
Helena, AL 35080  
Phone: 205-937-0095  
Email: ses\_dvm@yahoo.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Birmingham Area  
(Jefferson and Shelby counties)

Dr. Lauri Bates, AUB '96  
8207 Lochwood Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
Phone: 334/590-8525  
Email: drlauribates@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  
Region of Relief: Central Alabama

Dr. Nikki N. Brown, UGA '07  
P.O. Box 2994  
Phenix City, AL 36868  
Phone: 706/577-4365  
Email: drnikkibrown@gmail.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA  
Kind of Practice: Mixed  
Region of Relief: East Alabama, would  
prefer within 50 miles of Auburn or  
Phenix City

Dr. Kelly Carson, AUB '08  
2240 County Road 20  
Waverly, AL 36879  
Phone: 334-332-1980  
Email: carsonkr@gmail.com  
State(s) where licensed: AL, GA, TN  
Kind of practice: SA  
Region of relief: Central AL, Western  
GA - Will travel

Dr. Christie Kimbrell, MIS 99  
2364 Altadena Crest Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Phone: 205/240-1215  
Email: cwallace@jeffstateonline.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Shelby/Jefferson  
Counties

Dr. Katherine L. McGahee, MIS '06  
645 NE Fields Road  
Lacey's Spring, AL 35754  
Phone: 256/883-4947  
Cell Phone: 256/604-800  
Email: Mcsquize@aol.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: SA, Mixed  
Region of Relief: North Alabama Area  
- Birmingham North. Additional charge  
for long distance travel

Dr. Colleen M. Meeks, AUB 89  
836 Bethel Circle  
Cragford, AL 36255  
Cell Phone: 256-276-0488- call 24/7  
State(s) where Licensed: AL, GA  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: Central/East Alabama,  
West Georgia, Will Travel

Dr. H. Winston Pirtle, Sr., AUB '67  
8560 U.S. Hwy 331  
Montgomery, AL 36105  
Cell Phone: 334/399-2059 on call 24/7  
Email: pirtledvmjd@aol.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL  
Kind of Practice: Mixed  
Region of Relief: State of Alabama -  
prefer within 100 miles of Montgomery  
Appropriate Information: Will bring  
vehicle stocked and equipped for  
equine and cattle calls.

Dr. Donald C. Wood, AUB '68  
2106 Kirkland Drive  
Auburn, AL 36832  
Phone: 334/826-3692 (AL)  
239/389-4877 (FL)  
Email: dcwoodau@aol.com  
State(s) where Licensed: AL & FL  
Kind of Practice: SA  
Region of Relief: AL

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(205) 527-3089



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Convention/Program	Bill Bledsoe	334/682-4243
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# ALVMF 2012-13

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# Let Us In-Please

Foundation Update by President  
 Barbara Monaghan

Our foundation is changing to meet your needs. This past summer we increased the size of our board and added board members under the age of 30 and recent graduates. We welcome Drs. Lawrence Garcia, Anna Tipton, Britni Bentley, and Cindy Pearson, LVT. We are also happy to add another young member who might be a day over 30- Dr. Nora Grant. Nora has experience as the owner of a feline only practice and is now employed by Bayer, giving her unique perspective on our issues. We are so fortunate to have these new members who are willing to donate their time to our foundation. Thanks again to all of you who currently serve and those starting your service with us.

We will soon embark on our fact finding tour. A representative of our board will come to you asking for a moment of your time. Please grant us this moment with you. We want to talk to you face to face to ask you what needs have that might be better met by the foundation and the association. We also want to know if there are any organizations or projects in your area that you know of that might benefit from our foundation. We do this to serve you and to meet your needs and the needs of your clients and patients. This will not be a visit to ask for a donation of money, only time, however we would love your support any way you can give it to us! See you soon.

## Alabama Veterinarian

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