

Alabama Veterinarian

A Bi-Annual Publication for ALVMA Members, Veterinary Students and Friends of the ALVMA
Fall 2013 | Volume 24 | Number 2



**Emerald Coast
Veterinary
Conference Recap**
Page 8

**ALVMA Stories
from the Heart**
Page 20

**ALVMA Student
Outreach**
Page 28

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Join us for a Special Two-hour Legal CE Session at the Food Animal Conference in Columbiana



VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY: MANAGING THE RISK

Presented by Linda Ellis, DVM
 AVMA PLIT Trust Representative

**ALVMA Food Animal Conference
 February 9, 2013 | 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

Professional Liability is another area of Risk Management for all veterinary practices. This session (two hours) will focus on issues related to veterinary malpractice. Topics to be discussed include standard of care, owner consent, medical record keeping, ethical issues, and disclosing medical errors. We will discuss the areas of communication since the majority of complaints involve some type of communication breakdown. Has anyone in your practice ever made a mistake that led to the injury or death of an animal? Disclosing medical errors will be highlighted. All practices have experienced an unfortunate situation such as an anesthetic death or escaped animal. What should you do and what do you say to the owner? How to manage a complaint will be covered. The most common causes of malpractice claims will be reviewed using actual claim examples. More info on p. 16 or register online at www.alvma.org.

**SAVE THE DATE
 ECVC Conference
 June 18-22, 2014
 Sandestin Golf
 and Beach Resort**



In Every Issue

Letter from the Executive Director 4
 Partners for Healthy Pets 5
 Letter from the President 6
 From Your State Veterinarian 22
 Matters of Law 23
 Welcome New Members 29
 University Update: Auburn & Tuskegee 30
 In Memoriam 36

Special Features

Meet Your President 7
 ALVMA Annual Conference Recap 8
 Recognizing and Responding to Mental Health Problems in the Workplace 18
 Because Someone Cares 20
 Our Oath in Action Day 26
 ALVMA Student Outreach 28
 New Graduate Member Profile Jeremy Deaton 32
 New Graduate Member Profile Harmony Glenn 34

Need to know

ALVMA Delegate Report 11
 ALVMA Committee Reports 12
 ALVMF Report 15
 ALVMA Food Animal Conference Information 16
 ALVMA Spreading the Word 24
 Classifieds 36
 Relief Veterinarians 37
 Board, Constituents, Committee Information 38

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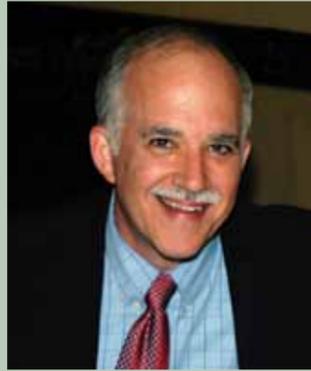
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2013 -14
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
Executive Director Dr. Charles Franz



From the Executive Director

Your Alabama Veterinary Medical Association appreciates your membership and support. Without members like you faithfully supporting the association with your dues or attendance at our conferences, we would never be able to provide the services for you and the efforts performed daily for our great profession. As our profession comes under attack from many angles, we will be successful only when we work together as colleagues and keep our eyes on the big picture.

The ALVMA has seen growth this year in support of the programs we have initiated or continued. You will see more on this in this issue of the Alabama Veterinarian. Dr. Bradley Fields has joined the Franz Management team and serves as Assistant Executive Director. Dr. Fields has initiated and expanded several new programs related to recent graduates and veterinary student efforts with our veterinary colleges. His enthusiasm has brought additional excitement to these areas. Our communications and public relations efforts have increased with an active committee and the hiring early this year of Linda Tynan. Many of you have sent us links to articles that have appeared in your local media as a result of these efforts.

Did you attend the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference in June? If you did not, you missed a great meeting in a wonderful venue. Top rated world-class speakers and camaraderie with colleagues are the norm for this meeting branded as the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference this past year. The ECVC is 50/50 owned by the ALVMA and the Georgia VMA. All revenues from this meeting are split equally between the two VMAs and from a financial and veterinarian satisfaction point of view, this meeting is a home run. The foresight of your executive board in partnering on this meeting is one of their most significant decisions in years. The board has been able to keep your annual dues low as a result of this financial success. Our surveys from the summer meeting have never been more positive than with the ECVC. This is a great place to obtain all of your required CE while working in some great R & R. If you have not attended, we would encourage you to give us a try. The meeting this year boasts 648 registered attendees, including 142 from Alabama and 195 from Georgia, with 25 additional states represented.

Your Executive Board met in June and October with full agendas of items for consideration. There were seven nominations to fill the expiring term of Dr. William Welch on the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. Three nominees (Drs. Mickey Golden, Doug Halbrooks and John Kelliher) were selected and communicated to the Governor, who has not yet made this appointment. The executive board thanks all those who inquired about the position and especially the seven who agreed to serve if appointed.

Your executive board and the staff appreciate your continuing support. Please call any of your officers, board representatives, Dr. Fields or me if we may be of assistance in any way.

Charles Franz

Charles Franz, DVM
Executive Director, Alabama VMA



Partnering to
Improve Pet
Health

Partners for Healthy Pets Update

Consumer Campaign Launches to Profession!

Attendees at the AVMA Convention in July were treated to early exposure to the Partners for Healthy Pets' greatly anticipated consumer campaign, which will launch in September. The tightly focused campaign will promote a straight forward call to action: call your veterinarian and make an appointment for a yearly checkup today!

Research by the Partners for Healthy Pets and others indicates that women ages 32-49, generally urban or suburban, with an annual household income over \$75,000 are the pet owners most likely to respond to the message. These women view the pet not just as an extension of her family, but part of the family core, and she feels responsibility for the health and happiness of the entire family. The target further focuses on the 60% of pet owners that already have a relationship with a veterinarian, but who have not visited within the past 18 months.

The Campaign's Primary Message

The profession, consultants, industry marketing experts, and the veterinary media have all responded very positively to the creative advertisements revealed at the Convention. The ads feature a very lovable pet (there are both dog and cat versions) wearing a tag reading "Special Care Instructions: Feed daily, Yearly checkups, Love forever." Below the photo of the pet is the simple line: "A yearly visit to your family vet is as essential as food and love. Make an appointment for an annual checkup today."

The campaign's visual elements were thoroughly tested in both focus groups and in online surveys of the target audience, and the ads scored very high in areas such as the ability to attract immediate attention as well as the call to action message

Ads will begin appearing online in September and in print in October; a public relations campaign will also begin in September. Television PSAs are expected to be added to the integrated campaign in 2014. Online media placements have been selected based on research showing where the target audience is most likely to go. Digital media selected include CNN, Yahoo, Everyday Health, PetMd, and SheKnows. Print ad placements were selected based on both their reach to the target audience as well as the opportunities to be in issues that contain pet related content. For example, a full page ad will appear in an early December issue of People, which will be the very highly read "Sexiest Men Alive" issue and will also feature a photo spread on "Sexiest Men and their Cats." Other ads will appear in O Magazine, Everyday with Rachel Ray, Prevention, and Family Fun.

Practice Enrollment Program

Concurrent with the launch of the consumer campaign to the profession the Partners for Healthy Pets introduced its Practice Enrollment Program. Participating practices are provided with materials encouraging them to "start the conversation" about the importance of preventive healthcare for all pets. The goal for each practice is to have the entire team aligned around the effort to ensure that every pet that visits receives the preventive



healthcare recommended by the profession. Enrolled practices will also receive consumer campaign materials and editorial content that can be used in their practices, on their websites, and in their newsletters to help support the effort to achieve a checkup for every pet every year.

Sales representatives of member companies are distributing enrollment materials. Practices can also self-enroll at www.partnersforhealthypets.org. In the first month of the program, over 1,000 practices have already enrolled.

Success Stories

Veterinarians have long indicated that they often learn best through the experiences of their colleagues. To that end, the Partners for Healthy Pets has launched a series of articles called "Success Stories." These articles feature practices that have used one or more of the tools available on the Partners website and have seen substantial practice benefits as a result. Articles about use of the Opportunity tool, the Implementing the Guidelines tool, and the Preventive Healthcare Program (monthly payment plans) tool have been widely distributed and can also be found at www.partnersforhealthypets.org.

**Better pet health begins
with a conversation.**





2013 -14
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
President Dr. Bill Bledsoe



A Letter from the President

Greetings from Camden, Alabama I hope this letter finds each of you doing well. Things have changed at my house since being installed as president of the ALVMA. I married Susan on August 3, and we suffered through part of a home remodel... happily there is more to come.

I attended the AVMA convention in Chicago which was a first for me. I was amazed at the site and the scope of the meeting - very good.

We engaged an accounting firm to audit our books for the 2012 fiscal year and that report was presented at the October executive board meeting. I am happy to report that all facets of your association's financials were in order.

I am informed that our legislative task force is working hard and we hope to have a draft bill for review later this fall. I hope everyone is rested up as every veterinarian will need to be ready to go to work with the start of the next legislative session.

I want to thank everyone in the veterinary community for a much more positive climate over the summer. We must work together to foster good relations among veterinarians and for the advancement of our profession.

Finally, I want to thank Dr. Bill DeWitt for his many years of faithful service as our AVMA delegate. Dr. DeWitt resigned in early September and I have appointed Dr. Jan Strother to fill the position until we have elections.

Job well done Dr. DeWitt!

As Dean Vaughn would say,

Your humble and obedient servant,

Bill Bledsoe

Bill Bledsoe, DVM
President, ALVMA

MEET YOUR President

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

A conversation with Dr. Dewey Moore as he was on our farm treating our cattle.

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

Mixed animal medicine - because this is what my community needs and I enjoy the challenges of a wide array of patients.

Who is your role model/mentor?

Many people throughout my life have been examples worthy of emulation.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The satisfaction of helping people and the assurance I'll never be bored - always something new to learn.

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

I was encouraged to join by my fellow veterinarians practicing in my area.

What is the hardest part of your job?

People.

What advice can you offer someone coming into this profession?

Take care of your patients and clients like you would like to be taken care of.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still practicing.

Where did you study?

Auburn University

Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

This is our professional organization that works for our profession on all fronts - help yourself and your fellow veterinarians by joining and taking an active role.

How has being a member of the ALVMA helped you professionally?

Being challenged by the example set by other members of the Association - seeing what you can be.

What is the last movie you watched?

Emperor

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

With family or in the workshop or in the vegetable garden or at church or at the farm or...

What was the last song you sang?

Whatever the invitation hymn was at church.

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

I would drive the entire continental USA - lots of history to be experienced.



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

Depends on where the island is located.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

My children - raising three children to become responsible adults!

What is your favorite quote?

Unto everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

What is your simplest pleasure?

Skoal and seeing smiles on the faces of my family.

What makes you laugh out loud?

Stories shared between veterinarians - if we could write we would all be rich.

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

Young graduates would have less debt.



ALVMA 2013 Annual Conference Recap



The ECVC Conference was a great success this year with the highest attendance to date. The conference had a record number of attendees from 27 states and offered excellent CE courses along with fun activities for everyone. Attendees enjoyed CE in the mornings and had the afternoons free to play.

The ALVMA held its annual general business meeting Wednesday, June 26. The conference festivities kicked off Wednesday evening with an opening reception in the exhibit hall where attendees enjoyed an open bar and light hors d'oeuvres. Booth space at the ECVC Conference has become valuable real estate with the exhibit hall selling out early again this year. Seventy-two exhibitors packed out the event with the most current products and services offered to veterinarians.

Thursday morning ECVC keynote speaker Jacqueline Epping from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention presented *Paws to Consider: how dog walking can increase physical activity and improve health*. She discussed the role of dog walking from a public health perspective. The rationale and evidence for dog walking as an effective strategy to increase physical activity and health was provided, and community-based dog walking programs at local and state levels were also discussed. Conference CE



programs offered attendees the opportunity to earn up to 20 hours of CE credit with 110 hours to choose from. Small animal topics included: dermatology, GI medicine, infectious disease, misdiagnosed diseases, neurology, oncology, pediatrics, radiology, practice management and surgery. Additionally, the poultry schedule included 10 hours of CE over two days.

CE sessions for technicians, practice managers and staff were also offered. A new mentorship luncheon was offered for recent graduate veterinarians, and the event was complete with fun-filled activities for the family including a bike ride, spouses meet and greet breakfast, golf, beach volleyball, and the ECVC walk and 5K run.

The ALVMA held its Annual Awards Luncheon on Thursday and new officers were sworn in by Dr. Jan Strother, AVMA Vice-President and past ALVMA President as follows; President Bill Bledsoe, DVM of Camden; President Elect John Hammons, DVM of Athens; Vice President T. C. Branch, DVM of Birmingham; Treasurer Winston Pirtle, DVM of Montgomery and Board Member at Large Harold Pate, DVM of Lowndesboro. Bill Allen, DVM of Gardendale will serve as immediate past president. During the Annual Awards Luncheon, the ALVMA recognized three outstanding members for their contributions with awards: Distinguished



Service Award, Dr. Jack Goodman; Veterinarian of the Year Award, Dr. Timothy Boosinger; and ALVMA Special Award, Dr. Charles Hendrix.

Thursday evening the Mingle at the Marina was a gathering of family, friends and colleagues for a fun time for everyone. The kids fun started early with sand city building, relay races, water balloon toss games and hula hoops followed by dinner. Adults enjoyed beer, wine and cocktails, and then a dinner buffet including a roast beef carving station, pasta station with delicious seafood, a variety of fresh vegetables, scrumptious salads and, of course, a mouth-watering array of desserts. Live music continued after dinner with a beautiful sunset and dancing for all.



Friday evening the colleges of veterinary medicine for Auburn, Florida, Tuskegee and Mississippi State hosted alumni receptions. This was a fun time for classmates to catch up and renew friendships, and to meet new friends as well. Georgia alumni met on Saturday.

New this year, recent graduate veterinarians had the opportunity to attend the Compass Mentoring Program Luncheon on Saturday. This program helps recent graduate veterinarians navigate their new careers by connecting them with a mentor and providing networking opportunities with seasoned colleagues and other recent graduates.

Sunday started with a Fellowship Breakfast for attendees, family and guests, and then CE sessions continued until noon. All attendees enjoyed a bit of sun, fun and fellowship at the ECVC Conference while learning valuable information they can use in their practices. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!





Veterinarian of the Year

This award is presented to a member distinguished by unselfish dedication to the Association for the advancement of the profession.

Dr. Timothy R. Boosinger is Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Auburn University. Serving in that role since 2011, he has served as Auburn University's chief academic officer by directing the University through the process of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation and leading the development of an ambitious strategic plan that emphasizes student success, faculty excellence, research advancement, and public engagement.

Dr. Boosinger was the sixth dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and has spent his entire 30-year academic career at Auburn. In his 16-year tenure as dean, the College's budget grew by 80%, research expenditures increased by 400%, and physical facilities were expanded through \$125 million in capital improvements to include the John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital, the Overton-Goodwin Educational Wing, and the Wilford and Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital. In the most recent development campaign under his leadership, the college raised \$39 million in gifts, pledges, and endowments and added six new professorships and chairs. The college's programs are accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.

Dr. Boosinger is a graduate of Purdue University, earning the DVM (1976) and PhD (1983) degrees. He was recognized as the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine's Distinguished Alumnus in 2004.



Special Award

This award is given to individuals for exceptional and outstanding service to the veterinary medical profession.

Dr. Charles M. Hendrix, professor of parasitology, received his DVM degree in 1974 from the University of Georgia. He then served as a Captain in the United States Army Veterinary Corps at the Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Gordon, Georgia. From 1976 through 1981, he was a Veterinary Medical Associate at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, where he earned both his MS and PhD degrees. Dr. Hendrix came to Auburn University in 1981. Since that time he has received the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award twice and the Auburn University Student Government Teacher of the Year Award twice (once for the College of Veterinary Medicine and once for the Graduate School). He was selected by the Mortar Board Honorary as one of six outstanding educators on Auburn University's campus. Dr. Hendrix has authored veterinary parasitology textbooks on diagnostics and laboratory procedures, and has contributed to a list of textbooks during his career.

During the 2002-03 academic year, Dr. Hendrix served as an American Association for the Advancement of Science/American Veterinary Medical Association Congressional Fellow in Washington, DC. In 2006, Dr. Hendrix served as the vice president of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

In addition to the numerous committees Dr. Hendrix has served on, he has always been heavily involved in student activities and advisory projects. In showing his commitment to organized veterinary medicine, Dr. Hendrix has coordinated a presentation by the ALVMA given annually to the freshman class at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine. This presentation exposes students to the importance of organized veterinary medicine during the first weeks of their professional education.



Distinguished Service Award

This award is the Association's highest award, in recognition for time and energies given to the Association beyond all reasonable expectations and in recognition of exceptional achievements and contributions to the advancement of the profession.

Dr. Jack Goodman, a native of North Alabama, grew up on a farm in Lauderdale County and graduated from Lexington High School in 1949. He entered Alabama Polytechnic Institute in the fall of 1949 with a focus in Agricultural Education. When the Korean War broke out, he joined the United States Air Force. After his discharge, he returned to Auburn University and earned his DVM degree in 1961. Dr. Goodman then opened a general practice treating large and small animals in Athens where he practiced until 1981.

In 1983, he accepted an appointment in the Large Animal Clinic at AUCVM, entered graduate school and obtained his MS degree in 1985. He has served on numerous boards including the executive board of the ALVMA, in the position of President, and the boards of the Alabama Academy of Veterinary Practice, Alabama Stock Dog Association, Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation and Advisory Board for Animal Hospital Technicians in Boaz. Dr. Goodman has served the ALVMA as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee since 1985 with Practice Act Responsibilities being added in 2003. Dr. Goodman served as the Limestone County Rabies Officer for 40 years. In 2006, the ALVMA honored Dr. Goodman with the Veterinarian of the Year award.

Dr. Goodman served on the Chamber of Commerce, United States Jaycees, Civitan Club, Athens Humane Society, United States Pony Club, Athens PTA, Hunter-Jumper Association of Alabama and the Sportsman's Club. His dedication to his community, his profession and the Association are evident and make him most deserving of this award.

AVMA Delegate Report

As always there are many interesting and challenging topics that are being looked at and evaluated by your House of Delegate at AVMA.

The American Veterinary Medical Association held its House of Delegates meeting in Chicago on July 18th and 19th of 2013. Dr. Bill DeWitt (Delegate) and Dr. Winston Pirtle (Alternate Delegate) represented the ALVMA well.

Several resolutions were brought forward for discussion and voting by the HOD that were straight forward with minimal discussion. These included recommendations for defining remote consulting, outlying controls when relocating pets for adoption, advocating that veterinarians receive notification when their client's food animals had illegal drug residues, adding delegates from the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, and referring back to the Executive Board the proposal to add delegates from the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture to determine if they accurately represent all veterinary acupuncturists. The HOD also changed the AVMA by-laws to allow a different method of appointing members to the AVMA'S Council on Education (COE), now having the AVMA and American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) share the responsibility and financial cost for appointing members to the COE. This effort will help to eliminate any perceived or real conflict of interest.

Without a doubt, most discussion at the HOD centered around the proposed changes in governance of the AVMA put forward in the report by the AVMA Task Force on Governance and Member Participation. This Task Force was charged by the HOD in 2011 to develop a proposed new governance structure for the AVMA. Consequently a 75- page report was released on June 7, 2013 with over one year in the making. It outlined a new proposal for governance structure for AVMA including

a Board of Directors, Advisory Councils, a Volunteer Resources Committee, and a Veterinary Issues Forum. The new proposed governance structure conspicuously eliminates the HOD. The Task Force reasoning for this was explained to create a modern, nimble organization. Concerns were raised that the HOD did not have any voice in the process of producing this proposed governance structure and the Task Force was not listening to the concerns of the HOD. Obvious HOD concerns were that individual states, members, and Allied Groups would not have representation or be part of discussions on future resolutions. Without this input how would the AVMA know it's grass roots members concerns?

In the conclusion of the HOD meeting, a new resolution was put forth that passed with a 72.5% vote to have any future governance model proposal include the HOD. The AVMA Executive Board, and the HOD will consider the Task Force's GET Committee's new recommendation when it votes in January 2014 on a final version of the proposed governance model.

There still are many, perhaps more urgent concerns being discussed regarding the economic viability of the veterinary profession, accreditation of foreign schools by the COE, not for profit organizations that create unfair business competition for the veterinary profession along with ongoing concerns regarding the formation of new colleges of veterinary medicine in the face of recent reports of a saturation of clinical practice veterinarians in the US.

Several resolutions to be presented in the January 2014 HOD meeting should be coming fourth. I expect to be able to give you updated reports as the proposals come forward. I will seek your input and opinions on all of the above as well as other new resolutions.

In closing, I am honored and appreciative of the opportunity to serve as the Alabama VMA Delegate to the HOD. Filling the interim, uncompleted term of Dr. Bill DeWitt is a great responsibility and I humbly accept this appointment. Dr. DeWitt is an icon and has been a much respected member of the HOD for many years. He represented Alabama veterinarians with honor and integrity. Dr. DeWitt was well respected in the HOD, and his advice and opinion sought out on matters involving state and national concerns. I look forward to representing the ALVMA as your Delegate along with my colleague Dr. Winston Pirtle (Alternate Delegate). It is my goal to represent each and every veterinarian in Alabama to the best of my ability and to always make you proud of the work we do.

Sincerely,

Jan K. Strother DVM

AVMA HOD Delegate, ALVMA

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PRACTICE BROKERAGE AND FINANCING | BUSINESS EDUCATION | ADVICE AND CONSULTATION

ALVMA Committee Reports

Committees at work for the membership

Awards Committee

Chair: Dr. William M. Allen

Dates of meetings: Anticipated by late January 2014

2013/2014 Goals/objectives: To solicit candidates for and then select recipients for awards from ALVMA

Topics of discussion: Candidates names/ qualifications

Action items: Remind local associations of need for names for award candidates in early January of 2014

Overview: Awards committee membership and awards to be presented each year are defined in the Bylaws of the association. Solicitation of nominees from our local associations will begin in late 2013 for presentation to the Award Committee in late January of 2014. Local association representatives will be given award nomination forms at executive board meeting in October and then reminded in November and December. The local representatives will then make their local association aware of the forms and needed nominations in a timely manner so as to have completed forms presented back to the Awards Committee in mid-January of 2014.

Constitution, Bylaws, and Practice Act Committee

Chair: Dr. Jack Goodman

Overview: The Constitution, Bylaws, and Practice Act Committee currently consist of Drs. Charles Ashwander, Mark Russell, Chris Rehm, George Wood, and Jack Goodman, Chairman.

2013/2014 Goals/Objectives: Our committee's responsibility is to keep the Constitution and Bylaws current and compatible with the activities of the ALVMA. There are constant changes occurring and it is our job to recommend changes to the executive board to maintain compatibility. A list of changes was recommend to the executive board at the fall meeting.

Main topics of discussion: Grievance Committees. They are no longer functional

because the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners does most of that work now so we recommended those sections should be removed from the Bylaws. A Task Force Committee is currently working on some Practice Act changes.

Legislative Committee/Special Task Force

Chair: Dr. Ken McMillan

2013/2014 Goals/objectives: Address ongoing legislative issues affecting the veterinary practice

Topics of discussion: Spay/Neuter Bill, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Action items: Recommendations were presented to the ALVMA executive Board at the October meeting

Overview: At the Destin meeting Dr. Bledsoe appointed a task force to develop a framework for a spay/neuter bill to be introduced in 2014 that will have a broad base of support within the profession. Dr. McMillan serves as the chair of the task force along with Drs. Jack Goodman, Bill Sternenberg, Dan Kuykendall and Joni Sonmor. The task force has had several discussions on the topic and is hard at work on developing language for the s/n bill.

Additionally, the legislative committee along with Dr. Jerome Williams have been charged with looking into modifying the prescription drug monitoring program to make it more relevant to the public, the veterinary profession and easier for practitioners to comply with.

Note: Technically neither of these tasks are by the legislative committee.

Membership/Member Services Committee

Chair: Dr. Sheila Gilbert

2013/2014 Goals/objectives: Incentives for member recruitment, New member incentives, Re-evaluation of member services

Overview: The goals of the Membership Committee are to retain and recruit members. Some of the long term goals for the membership

committee are to come up with creative ways to give incentives to current members for new member recruitment, as well as new member incentives. We will be looking at updating the current membership brochure and providing them to the local associations to hand out at meetings. Potentially printing extra copies of the spring Alabama Veterinarian, and mailing a copy to each veterinarian in the state, including non-members. This issue will include the conference information for the Emerald Coast Veterinary conference, also it will make non-members aware of the magazine, and we'd be sure to include a membership application in that issue.

Public Health / Rabies Committee

Chair: Dr. Jim Wright

Dates of meetings: December 11, 2012; January 8, 2013; June 28, 2013

2013/2014 Goals/objectives:

1. Bite Prevention Week: distribute brochures and posters on bite prevention; distribute talking points for public education; a goal is to broaden the distribution of the brochures and/or posters to include shelters.
2. World Rabies Day: distribute educational materials in the same manner as for bite prevention week.
3. Identify two additional times of the year for distribution of public health related material: possibilities include prevention of tick-borne diseases, prevention of mosquito-borne diseases, and influenza.

Main topics of discussion: Primarily discussed the best approach timing for distribution of the educational materials. The Committee also briefly discussed some issues concerning rabies.

Action items: The Committee requested a budget of \$1800 this year to continue our educational efforts related to bite prevention and rabies and possibly expand them into some other public health emphasis areas.

Overview: This year the Public Health Committee was given a budget of \$1200.00 for educational materials (brochures and posters)

to support Bite Prevention Week (May 19-25) and World Rabies Day (September 28). For both events brochures were purchased from the AVMA and distributed to the Constituent Associations for distribution to their members. "Talking Points" for public education for both bite and rabies prevention were developed and they were emailed to each Constituent Association along with pdf files of posters that could be displayed in the practices. The CDC website was the primary resource for the bite prevention talking points and the rabies prevention talking points was drawn primarily from information provided by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control. Facts about Alabama were included in the educational materials to illustrate the scope of these issues within the state. The talking points also were distributed to shelters and media veterinarians.

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Dr. Jeremiah Alexander

2013/2014 Goals/objectives: To educate the public about veterinary care while positively promoting the veterinary profession

Action items: Develop an annual calendar; distribute monthly press releases to media statewide, support ALVMA public health committee initiatives, seek out stories of members doing community service work

Overview: Press releases have been distributed this year in support of National Poison Prevention Week (March 17-23), The 2013 Proclamation of "The Year of the Veterinarian", National Dog Bite Prevention Week (May 19-25), National Hurricane Preparedness Week (May 26-June 1), ALVMA Officers and Member Awards presented at the annual conference in Sandestin, World Rabies Day, Our Oath in Action Day events, and Pet Diabetes Month. An additional press releasewill be sent out on pet safety during the holidays. Some members of the PR committee attended an intensive training session offered at the 2013 ECVC conference on public relations strategies held by Dr. Jim Humphries. The PR Committee is working with the ALVMA mediavets listserv and maintaining a database of media contacts statewide. A pet event calendar has been drafted for the ALVMA which is in conjunction with the AVMA pet awareness calendar and a public relations page has been added to the ALVMA website. Public relations efforts have also been exercised through social media and the ALVMA website. Stories demonstrating community involvement and volunteer work are now being featured in the Alabama Veterinarian. Member profiles will also be included in the magazine.

Small Animal Affairs Committee

Chair: Dr. Mary Battistella

2013/2014 Goals/objectives: Put together a committee that represents different areas of the state and who are active in their constituent association, so that we can keep a pulse on the small animal practice and concerns within the state. Would like to be able to be proactive should a concern make itself known.

Nominating Committee

Chair: Dr. Tom Williamson

2013/2014 Goals/Objectives: To get input from vets across the state as to dedicated members of our association that would be eager to be officers and lead us to be the best we can be.

Veterinary Emergency Management Committee

Chairs: Drs. Libby Todd, Brad Fields

Overview: The committee has been anxiously monitoring the gulf weather forecasts over the past few months in anticipation of hurricane activity. So far, it has been a quiet season. The CAMET trailers are standing by, ready to deploy to an affected area in need of pet sheltering assistance. Dr. Fields displayed one of our CAMET trailers at a Ready Alabama Day, sponsored by the State of Alabama, in Lee County in early September. Hundreds of citizens stopped by and discussed pet sheltering, preparedness efforts, and the importance of veterinarians when getting families prepared for emergency situations.

Finance Committee

Chair: Dr. John Hammons

Goals/Objectives: The goals of the financial committee are to anticipate the future income and expenses in order to provide a solid economic platform enabling the association to address the needs of the membership of the ALVMA. The ALVMA provides the associations's member with high quality, informative continuing education by supporting the Food Animal Conference at Columbiana on February 7-9, 2014. The ALVMA will continue the partnership in Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference on June 17-22, 2014 which combines education and vacation opportunities. The ALVMA will continue to support regional meetings like the meetings held last year on April 13, 27 and May 11 held in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Mobile.

The ALVMA supports the Professional Wellness Program, Veterinary Emergency Management, Veterinary Student Relations

Program, Public Health Committee and a Public Relations Committee. The ALVMA does maintain a lobbying presence in Montgomery.

Recently, the ALVMA partnered with the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine to provide an on-line pharmacy review continuing education course.

In an effort to keep all Alabama licensed veterinarians informed, the ALVMA will be sending the Alabama Veterinarian journal this spring to all licensed veterinarians.

The ALVMA has the second lowest association dues in the Southeast. This is partially due to the successful partnership with the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference.

The expenses of the organization have risen due to normal expected business costs but there have been additional unexpected costs in accounting and other legal fees. An independent accounting firm was employed to perform an indepth audit to verify the accuracy and completeness of the ALVMA financial statements. A written report was presented at the October board meeting by a representative from the firm and the results of the audit which indicated all aspects of the financials and accounting procedures were in order and that there were no significant findings otherwise. He reviewed the process they used in conducting the work for the ALVMA. The firm did not find any material weaknesses in any aspect of their review. All areas of reporting were deemed as appropriate and there were no significant audit adjustments recommended.

The finance committee also recommended a budget for FY 2014 which was approved at the October meeting.

It's the opinion of the financial committee that the ALVMA has been good economic stewards of the dues and funds received.

Look for reports from the following committees in the next issue of Alabama Veterinarian.

COMMITTEE	CHAIR
Animal Welfare	Steven Parsons
Human Animal Bond Convention/Program	Barbara Monaghan
Economics	John Hammons
Large Animal Affairs	Tavis White
CVM - Liaison	Soren Rodning
P.A.C.	Mark Russell
Program	Bill Sternenberg
State Diagnostic Lab	T. C. Branch
Veterinary Student Relations	Barry Stewart
Vet Tech Advisory	Dan Kuykendall
Veterinary Wellness	Jan Strother
	Sandra Morales Foster

ALVMA 2014 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 2014 Awards Program will be presented during the 2014 Emerald Coast Veterinary Convention, June 18-22. Deadline for nominations is **January 13, 2014**.

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 roberta@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 _____

Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation License Plate Program Report

Spay/Neuter License Plate Program

The ALVMA and the ALVMA Foundation introduced the spay/neuter license plate in 2007, in an effort to develop a program to help low-income families with costs involved with spaying and neutering their pets. After



an advertising campaign and enough tag pre-sales, the ALVMF initiated the Spay/Neuter License Plate Program in 2009. Through the program, proceeds from statewide tag sales offset the cost of spay/neuter surgeries performed at participating hospitals throughout the state of Alabama. From 2009 - October 31, 2013, 15,400 tags have been sold or renewed; 9,924 surgeries have been performed; and \$521,340 has been paid to ALVMA veterinarians in the state. Currently, there are 59 veterinary hospitals participating in this program. A co-pay of \$10 per cat or \$20 per dog must be paid by the Medicaid recipient, but the remaining balance is paid to veterinarians through a grant supported by the license plate sales. There is a limit of two animals per household per year. Clinics must apply for permit numbers prior to surgeries, and will receive reimbursement from the Foundation by check the last week of each month.

How to participate

Enroll in the program

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

Encourage tag sales

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

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

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation How Can You Help?

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation was formed on December 16, 2003 to assist veterinary students and technicians by providing scholarships and endowments, to develop animal welfare programs and support programs that contribute to the wellbeing of animals and enhance the human-animal bond, and to provide peer assistance for colleagues in crisis. The Foundation has been actively seeking contributors to meet the needs of the requests under which it was established.

There are several ways you can take advantage of tax incentives while assisting with the Foundation's efforts.

GIFTS OF CASH AND MARKETABLE SECURITIES: Obviously the Foundation is glad to accept cash and checks. But, did you know you can make gifts to the Foundation of appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual fund shares without incurring any capital gains taxes on such a gift, and the amount of the income tax charitable deduction is equal to the appreciated value of those assets.

GIFT OF REMAINDER INTEREST IN HOME OR FARM: In appropriate circumstances, single or married couples may see the advantages of not burdening their children with the worries of selling a home after their deaths or possibly creating family conflict or disharmony. The gift of the family home to the Foundation while retaining the right to live there for life is a perfect solution to this family dilemma. The couple (or individual) obtains an immediate income tax charitable deduction; continues to live in their residence as they always have; and removes this valuable asset from their estate upon death. Of course, if the Foundation is so inclined (which it probably would be), any of the children can purchase the family home from the Foundation possibly utilizing other inherited monies.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST: In appropriate circumstances, the use of a charitable remainder trust and gifts of appreciated publicly-

traded stock or land has numerous benefits with few disadvantages. The deferral of a capital gains tax upon the sale of the stock or land by the charitable remainder trust, a current income tax charitable deduction by the donor upon his or her gift of appreciated publicly-traded stock or land to the charitable remainder trust, and the retention of an income stream for life by the donor (and by his/her spouse if so desired) are all excellent benefits obtained upon the use of charitable remainder trust. Upon the death of the donor, the assets in the charitable remainder trust would pass to the Foundation estate tax free!

GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE: One of the more simple ways to benefit the Foundation is to designate it as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Upon the insured's death, the death proceeds are paid to the Foundation and qualify for an estate tax charitable deduction.

BEQUEST UNDER A WILL: The Foundation is glad to accept bequests under a will (or revocable living trust). They are very common and take affect after an individual passes away. These bequests may be changed at any time prior to death as long as the donor is mentally competent to make the change. Bequests or devises to the Foundation may designate a specific asset, a fixed sum, or a portion of the donor's estate, and are fully deductible for estate tax purposes.

Many of the above charitable planning techniques are simple and basic and will assist the Foundation in accomplishing its mission-all while saving the donor taxes. Please consider the Foundation not only in your year end charitable giving, but also during this upcoming year. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

The preceding information was provided courtesy of Louis B. Feld, esq. and James J. Coomes, Esq., of Feld, Hyde, Wertheimer, Bryant and Stone, P.C., 2000 SouthBridge Parkway, Suite 500-Birmingham, Alabama 35209. (205)-802-7575



REGISTRATION

23rd ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 7-9, 2014

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

	No lunch	With lunch	\$ _____
Special two-hour legal session Sunday 10 am - 12 noon			
Member _____ Veterinary Medical Association	\$50.00	\$65.00	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$90.00	\$105.00	\$ _____

MEALS

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

- Friday, February 7 Breakfast Lunch Dinner
 Saturday, February 8 Breakfast Lunch Dinner
 Sunday, February 9 Breakfast Lunch

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 _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

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

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

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

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 \$ _____



AGENDA

23rd ANNUAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

February 7-9, 2014

Friday, February 7, 2014

Noon Lunch

1:00 PM *Pros and cons of sex sorted semen*
Dr. Andrew Lovelady

2:00 PM *Emerging diseases of cattle*
Dr. B. J. Newcomer

2:50 PM Break (visit with exhibitors)

3:00 PM *Management of common small ruminant emergencies*
Dr. B. J. Newcomer

4:00 PM *Management tools for enhancing beef cow-calf nutrition in Alabama*
Dr. Kim Mullenix
Beef Production Specialist
Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences

4:50 PM Break (visit with exhibitors)

5:00 PM *Southeastern forage management*
Dr. Jennifer Johnson
Forage Extension Specialist
Auburn University Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science

6:00 PM Happy Hour (visit with exhibitors)

6:30 PM Dinner

Saturday, February 8, 2014

7:00 AM Breakfast (Sponsored by Novartis)

8:00 AM Update from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

9:00 AM *Vaccinating the early weaned beef calf*
Dr. Paul Walz

9:45 AM Break (visit with exhibitors)

10:00 AM *Risk and rewards of IBR prevention: Improving reproductive efficiency through logical and effective IBR prevention*
Industry Technical Seminar Sponsored by Novartis
Dr. John Davidson

11:00 AM *Economic considerations for beef cattle industry after record corn years*
Mr. Max Runge

Noon Lunch (Sponsored by Merial)

1:00 PM *New technologies for parasite and BRD management*
Industry Technical Seminar Sponsored by Merial
Dr. Andy Bennett

2:00 PM *Balancing safety and efficacy of vaccinations for viral reproductive pathogens*
Dr. Paul Walz

3:00 PM Break (visit with exhibitors)

3:30 PM *Quality assurance update*
Dr. Frank Owsley

4:00 PM *Water quality and livestock*
Dr. Frank Owsley

5:00 PM Updates from the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association..

6:30 PM Dinner - steak with all the fixins!

7:30 PM Happy Hour, Practice Tips and Downie Awards.

Sunday, February 9, 2014

6:45 AM Devotional

7:00 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM Update from the United States Department of Agriculture

9:30 AM Break (visit with exhibitors and check out of rooms))

10:00 AM *Veterinary professional liability: managing the risk*
Dr. Linda Ellis; AVMA PLIT Trust Representative

Noon Lunch

Meeting adjourned

ALVMA General Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2013 at 5:30 PM



Because Someone Cares

By Linda Tynan

One person CAN make a difference

In today's world, we often see things that bother us in the news, on the streets and in rural areas; conditions that make us feel sad and distraught. We wonder how we can make it better; it often seems the problem before us is

“Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.”

— Margaret Mead (1902-1978)

so overwhelming it is out of control; we feel we cannot make a difference in the outcome. One woman, Kim Swaim, begs to differ, and her passion is contagious. Dr. Will Snow caught the spirit to change the desperate situation of the animals in Jamaica from Swaim, a respiratory therapist from Florida.

Swaim visited the island of Jamaica on vacation in 2001 and was bothered by the poor conditions of the numerous dogs wandering the streets. There is a great deal of poverty in this small country, and the animals are affected by this environment combined with the lack of animal welfare education. Starving animals have litters of offspring that cannot be fed, and illness and injuries go untreated. Swaim saw a need for an organization to help these animals and went to work raising funds and recruiting volunteers. She believes that by improving the conditions for the animals, it will, in turn, improve the lives of the people. In 2002, Swaim formed the International Spay/Neuter Network which works with the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries — Veterinary Services Division and

the Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association, along with numerous volunteers, to host community spay/neuter clinics throughout the year in Jamaica.

Dr. Snow had visited the Bahamas and fell in love with the climate, cultures, people and environment of the area. He was researching the availability of work opportunities in the Caribbean and contacted the secretary of the Jamaican VMA, Dr. Paul Cadogan. Dr. Cadogan did not know of any job openings, but he recommended Snow get involved with ISNN because it might be a way to network with people in the islands. Once Snow got involved, he caught the passion for the work the organization is doing. Snow has now been involved with the group for almost two years; he has participated in six clinics and now serves on their board of directors. “When I am working in the free clinics we hold in Jamaica, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude. The feelings I get from being blessed with the opportunity to be of service are absolutely wonderful,” says Snow.



No one involved in the program gets paid for any of the work. In fact, all the volunteers actually pay a fee to participate and they pay their own airfare. The fee helps to cover some of the travel and food costs. Volunteers send out requests for supplies, which they bring with them. This provides many of the necessary supplies such as sutures, drapes, medications, etc. The ISNN purchases additional supplies with grant money from organizations such as the Pegasus Foundation. The program is heavily dependent upon the fees volunteers pay for the opportunity to participate. No one in the ISNN organization draws a salary, so all donations go towards paying for the materials needed to run the clinics. For most of the clinics, Couples Resorts and Sandals Resorts donate free room and board for all the volunteers. These clinics would not be possible without their generous support.

The clinics last three days and are performed in concrete block buildings or tents with no air-conditioning - only windows. Volunteers



Jamaican dogs waiting in the kennel for their spay/neuter surgeries.

“I am truly blessed that God has gifted me with special talents and then shown me a way to give back to the world.”

—Dr. Will Snow

provide very high-quality surgeries and help to train the local veterinary community. There is absolutely no cost for the surgeries, and they are meant to serve only the very poor and needy population of Jamaica as well as any unowned street animals that can be rounded up. Volunteers also perform trap-neuter-return operations to help control feral cat colonies. The Jamaican Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is involved in most of these clinics by providing volunteers and animal transport which is very helpful when most low income pet owners do not own cars and cannot get their pets to the clinic. Clinics provide hands-on training for local veterinarians in high volume spay/neuter surgical techniques and vet technician training in all areas. Packets containing instructional DVD's, articles of interest as well as emergency response and anesthetic drug charts are distributed. Veterinarians discuss and problem solve concerns such as the anesthesia and analgesic drug shortages, efficiency, utilizing their technicians and drug protocols (safety, cost, availability etc).



Dr. Snow (right) works with another volunteer from Miami at one of the makeshift clinics.

Humane Education is a large part of the work the ISNN is doing. The ISNN works to educate children and pet owners during the clinic while their pets are being treated. The older children have the opportunity to learn more about pet overpopulation and the physical needs of animals, while younger children participate in games, arts and crafts, all with the aim of inspiring compassion for all animals. Many children are given a tour of the clinic. In 2010, with a grant from the Park Foundation, 1000 “Caring For” books were purchased to provide information on the proper care of dogs, cats, and horses. These books are distributed by ISNN at the clinics, through local veterinarians, to libraries and to children at summer camp.

“The work is very hard and the conditions are often very difficult, but the opportunity to work with and for some great people is something I will always treasure,” says Snow.

In addition to the work Snow does in Jamaica, he is a sole practitioner in the Mobile area where he offers 50 percent off for sterilization surgeries for any pet adopted from or currently staying in a local rescue shelter. He also provides 50 percent off spays and neuters for feral cats by working with Azalea City Cat Coalition trap-neuter-return program and participates in the ALVMF license plate discount spay/neuter program. Dr. Snow's work is a wonderful example of how one caring person can make a difference. To learn more about the ISNN visit <http://www.spay-neuterjamaica.org/>

The Runway Is Clear: Prepare for Take-off

A news article from your
State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier

I know very little about sky-diving. In fact, I suppose that statistically I know nothing about jumping out of an airplane with a parachute. However, I suspect that two very important details before one jumps are to make sure the chute is packed properly and to know where the rip-cord is. I say all of that to point out the government generally only operates that way when it actually involves jumping out of a plane. Otherwise, when new regulatory programs roll out, they figuratively try to know the general area where the rip-cord is located and hope the chute is packed properly. Then adjustments are made after the program is pushed out of the plane. I do not mean to sound cynical. In fact it has often worked well to throw something out there and iron out the wrinkles as we go. One example is Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points, a regulatory program that radically changed meat inspection. It has evolved over the past nearly two decades and continues to make our meat supply safer. Having said probably too much about HACCP and jumping out of planes, I really want to update you on the new Animal Disease Traceability Program.

The State of Alabama got ahead of the curve when industry leaders approached me asking that we move toward developing a disease traceability program that would parallel the program the federal government was developing. The result was a rule (having the same weight as a law) that required breeding



age cattle, rodeo stock, and all dairy animals to be identified at change of ownership. The rule was adopted in the summer of 2012 and implementation began January 1, 2013. We began last year and have continued an education and outreach program to inform cattle producers and all of those affected in the marketing chain about the detail of our Animal Disease Traceability Program. In fact, we state and federal agriculture employees involved in stockyards had already begun placing the silver metal ear tags in consigned breeding cows and bulls for several months prior to that to just get the ball rolling.

In March of this year, the federal government rolled out its disease traceability program that reasonably looked like ours, with a few added requirements. The added requirements are nothing new; however, they do require that animals crossing state lines be accompanied by an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. That would be a Health Certificate for those of us who can remember the rotary phone. To help accommodate the requirement

for CVI's my staff and I are working with a few other states to develop an electronic CVI that can be emailed to my office where my staff will keep an e-copy and forward an e-copy to the state of destination.

There have been a handful of companies over the past few years that have offered e-CVI's for a fee and APHIS/VS offers one through VSPS. The e-CVI we will offer will be pretty much the same as these and paper certificates you can purchase, only they will be electronic and at no charge. That does not mean that if you do not have a computer or do not wish to use the electronic certificates you will have to change anything you do. The old paper certificates will continue to be accepted.

The e-CVI's will be in an Adobe format that can be saved to your computer and available in the very near future. The e-CVI will have a large animal and a small animal option and will require accreditation as always. The e-CVI will accommodate electronic forms of identification such as RFID tags in cattle. We still have a few wrinkles to iron out before making the e-CVI available to the practitioner, but will notify you soon as to how you may access this option. As I said earlier, we know the general area where the rip cord is located and believe the parachute is packed properly. Now it is just a matter of getting the chute open and having as soft a landing as possible.

Stay tuned.

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

Firearms in employee vehicles in the employer's parking lot

Due to a number of high-profile mass shootings in recent years, there has been an increased push for new laws and regulations governing the purchase, sale, and ownership of firearms. On one end, you have people wanting greater restrictions because they believe increased regulation is needed to prevent future incidents. On the other end of the spectrum, you have gun owners and activists pushing for legislation to protect and even expand existing gun rights, largely in response to what they perceive as a political movement that is threatening their right to bear arms. Seemingly as a result of the attention these issues have been getting in the media, lawmakers in several states have taken action to pass new laws related to firearms. In some states, those laws tend to tighten restrictions more than loosen them, and in other states the opposite is true.

Out of this new wave of legislation, there is at least one issue that is of particular importance to employers – the right of employees to bring firearms onto the employer's property. In 2002, an Oklahoma employer came under public scrutiny when it terminated several employees for storing firearms in their vehicles on the employer's property. The Oklahoma legislature responded by passing a law that prevented Oklahoma employers from establishing any policy or rule that has the effect of prohibiting its employees from transporting and storing firearms in a locked vehicle in the employer's parking lot. After the Oklahoma law passed, similar laws were enacted in Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin. Some of these laws are stricter on employers than others. Most recently, Alabama passed ACT 2013-283, which went into effect August 1, 2013.

ACT 2013-283 expressly permits employers to establish policies prohibiting employees from carrying firearms while on company property or performing company business. However, the employer cannot establish a policy that would prohibit an employee from storing or transporting a lawfully-possessed firearm or ammunition in the employee's privately-owned vehicle in an employer parking area if:

- (1) The employee has a concealed weapon permit; or
- (2) The firearm is one that is legal for use in Alabama for hunting and is not a pistol.

In order to travel under option (2), a number of additional requirements must be met, including, among other things, the employee must have a valid hunting license, the firearm must be unloaded, and the employee must have no prior history of threatening or carrying out workplace violence. Under either option (1) or option (2), the firearm must be in a locked vehicle or in a vehicle occupied by the employee, and it must be kept from ordinary observation (for example, if it is in plain view on the seat or the dashboard, there would be no protection for the employee under ACT 2013-283).

Under ACT 2013-283, if an employer believes that an employee presents a risk of harm to himself/herself or others, the employer can ask if the employee has a firearm in his or her vehicle. If the employee does have a firearm in his or her vehicle, the employer can ask the employee questions to confirm that the employee is in compliance with the conditions imposed by ACT 2013-283 for storing a firearm in a vehicle on company property. If the employee is not in compliance, the employer can take adverse employment action against the employee, in the discretion of the employer.

However, if the employee is in compliance, regardless of how the employer learned about the firearm being in the employee's vehicle, the employer cannot take adverse employment action against the employee based on the possession of the firearm alone. If an employer takes adverse employment action against an employee in violation of ACT 2013-283, the employee can recover compensation for lost wages and benefits, if applicable.

In an attempt to protect employers from liability associated with employees bringing firearms to work in their vehicles, ACT 2013-283 makes employers immune from liability arising from any claim brought by a person seeking damages that allegedly arose as a result of a firearm brought onto the employer's property by an employee. ACT 2013-283 further states that the presence of a firearm or ammunition on an employer's property under the authority of the act does not, by itself, constitute the failure by the employer to provide a safe workplace. Presumably, that provision is aimed at avoiding any employer being found to be in violation of the obligation to provide a safe workplace under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act.

It should be noted that none of the terms under ACT 2013-283 prohibiting or limiting the right to carry firearms apply to law enforcement personnel. In addition, ACT 2013-283 does not permit an employee to transport or store a firearm in a vehicle where doing so is otherwise prohibited by federal law (for example, federal law prohibits or restricts the right to carry firearms in school zones, under certain circumstances, and on most property owned by the federal government).

Get your spay/neuter tag today!



Support the efforts of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation. Portions of your tag fee are tax deductible and provide funding to aid Medicaid recipients with the cost of spay/neuter surgeries provided by ALVMA veterinarians participating in the program. You may also check off the box on your income tax return and support this program.



ALVMA Spreading the Word

ALVMA Promotes Public Awareness Through Traditional and Social Media, and Special Events

The ALVMA is raising awareness about pet health care and veterinary medicine through statewide press releases and social media. Press releases were sent out promoting National Dog Bite Prevention Week, National Hurricane Preparedness Week, ALVMA officer installations and member awards presented at the annual conference in Sandestin, World Rabies Day, Our Oath in Action Day events held at Auburn University and Tuskegee School of Veterinary Medicine, and Pet Diabetes Month. The ALVMA also participated in the Ready Alabama Day event and Disaster Preparedness Day events held in Lee County and Tuskegee School of Veterinary Medicine. The ALVMA is working with the mediavets listserv to provide talking points on veterinary topics in the news.

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association gives Athens vet prestigious award (updated)



ALVMA 2014 Pet Event Promotional Calendar

Public Awareness initiatives on these topics will be promoted during the 2014 calendar year in conjunction with the AVMA's pet event calendar. Additional topics may be added as appropriate.

January

Walk Your Pet Month

February

National Pet Dental Health Month

March

Poison Prevention Awareness Month

April

National Heartworm Awareness Month

World Veterinary Day - Last Saturday in April

May

National Dog Bite Prevention Week

National Hurricane Preparedness Week

June

Pet Safety in the Summer Heat

July

ALVMA Awards Recognition

August

National Immunization Awareness Month

September

National Disaster Preparedness Month

World Rabies Day - September 28

October

National Pet Obesity Awareness Day

National Veterinary Technician Week

Get Ready Day

Our Oath in Action Day

November

Pet Diabetes Month

National Pet Diabetes Month

December

Pet Safety Through the Holidays



ALVMA Offers Members Free CE through Webinars

This year the ALVMA began offering free webinars to members as an additional member benefit. Some webinars were also broadcast to students and are available to view on the ALVMA website. It is our plan to continue these webinars and we are always interested in hearing from you. Please drop us a line and let us know what type of CE programs would be most helpful to you, whether it is new practice techniques or business management. If you are not receiving notification regarding these webinars, please make sure we have your current email address by checking the ALVMA website or calling the ALVMA office at 334.396.0086.



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Dr. Brad Fields (far right) talks to a group of students at Disaster Preparedness Day in Tuskegee, Alabama about the importance of clients having a plan for pets should a disaster hit and the role of the veterinarians in disaster preparedness and response. The ALVMA displayed one of the Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers (CAMET) in support of this event.

Disaster Preparedness Day Event in Tuskegee

On February 16, the ALVMA participated in the first annual Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine "Disaster Preparedness Day". This was a multi-day event that focused students' efforts on preparedness procedures in the state and nation, with visits and lectures from AVMA's Veterinary Medical Assistance Team, USDA personnel, the State Department of Agriculture and other associated agencies.

The student participation was overwhelming, and the AVMA Student Chapter did a fantastic job of organizing the entire event. The ALVMA displayed the CAMET pet sheltering trailer and Drs. Jan Strother and Brad Fields delivered lectures on companion animal preparedness and the importance of having contingency plans for every situation.

The TUSVM plans to make this an annual event and the ALVMA was proud to participate and share in the education process!



Bethany Scott (left), Class of 2014, and ALVMA student board representative Angel Laws, Class of 2015 with Dr. Brad Fields.

Ready Alabama Day 2013 in Lee County

September was designated National Preparedness Month by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. As part of its efforts, the State of Alabama held its ninth annual Ready Alabama Day on September 11, in Lee County. Ready Alabama Day provides a unique opportunity for professional and volunteer responders to interact with citizens by exhibiting response equipment, hosting



Dr. Brad Fields with a group of 1st graders who participated in Ready Alabama Day 2013 in Lee County, Alabama. The ALVMA displayed one of the CAMETs and talked about the importance of veterinarians in disaster preparedness and how to make plans for pets should a disaster strike.

interactive demonstrations and stressing the importance of citizen preparedness. The goal of Ready Alabama Day is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for any type of disaster or emergency as well as demonstrating our state's response capabilities.

The ALVMA, in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, has participated in this event for the past five years, bringing awareness to citizens of Alabama about the importance of veterinarians and disaster preparedness in animals. The main focus of the event is to enhance public awareness about Alabama's preparedness and response initiatives, with a specific focus on 1st - 4th grade students so they will take the information back to their family unit and share.

The ALVMA displayed one of the CAMETs at this event, talked about disaster preparedness kits for pets, the importance of having a microchip installed, and what happens when animals are involved in an emergency or disaster situation.

The ALVMA maintains two of these CAMET resources in Alabama, purchased in 2007 with funds from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation and the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation. Each CAMET can be deployed to an affected area and can provide the necessary resources to shelter up to 80 pets inside an existing structure. They were last deployed during the devastating tornado outbreak of April 2011 to facilitate disaster animal sheltering in North Alabama.

Our Oath in Action



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

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association is one of six veterinary associations in the country selected by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation to participate in the initial launch of a nationwide campaign called "Our Oath in Action."

Members of the veterinary profession are committed to the well-being of animals. Every day, in their clinics and in their classrooms, they embody their veterinary oath, using their scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society and the advancement of medical knowledge. The AVMF, the charitable arm of the AVMA, created Our Oath in Action Day to put that pledge into practice. The AVMF funded and coordinated this effort with the Auburn

University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Tuskegee School of Veterinary Medicine with support and oversight from ALVMA. This fall, veterinarians gathered at six sites throughout the country to bring their skills and knowledge to bear on service projects that engaged and educated pet owners and animal lovers on a range of topics related to animal healthcare. Pets need to have a disaster plan like other members of the family. They need to have a supply kit, a plan for a safe haven and an evacuation plan should an emergency arise. There were lots of great giveaways, including information about keeping pets healthy year-round and the opportunity to join the AVMF in its mission to help veterinarians help animals.

AVMF Extends a Special Invitation to SAVMA, NAVTA, ASVMAE and VMAT Members

As members of the veterinary profession, we take an oath dedicating ourselves to providing excellent care and services to animals and in using our skills for the benefit of society. The American Veterinary Medical Foundation invites you to give back to your community by joining an "Our Oath in Action" event. Your organization is encouraged to submit a project plan to the AVMF. Six projects will be selected and those groups will coordinate and host a volunteer event in their community in October 2014. Representatives of the six selected projects will receive a trip to the AVMA convention in 2014 where they will get assistance in planning their event.

Sample project ideas include but are not limited to:

- Disaster preparedness
- Disaster cleanup
- Veterinary medical services day (checkups, flea and tick control, etc.)
- A public education day (training, behavior, nutrition, medical)

2) Community educational event

- Pet health fair
- Microchip clinic
- Disaster planning for families and the community

3) Community need

- Addressing unmet needs
- Disaster relief fund-raising

Submit your proposal before December 31, 2013 to: Chief Brand, Program Manager, brand@avmf.org or call 800-285-6857 for more information.



Auburn University OOIAD Event at the Ag Roundup

Knock on wood; the Gulf Coast has remained very calm so far this hurricane season! The ALVMA, however, has been a whirlwind of activities, and is spinning up some important programs and initiatives that are sure to stir up the trade winds!

A few years ago, the ALVMA, ALVMF, and AVMF partnered up on a disaster preparedness project that placed two Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers in Alabama. These mobile assets are capable of being deployed into an affected area and provide the necessary supplies and equipment to establish a companion animal shelter within an existing structure. Each of the CAMETs can provide shelter for nearly 80 animals, offering immediate capabilities that have never been possible in Alabama before.

As a next step in disaster preparedness ALVMA is excited to announce that they have again partnered with the AVMF, and both Auburn & Tuskegee University Veterinary Colleges in a new pilot project! The AVMF's Our Oath In Action program selected Alabama, along with a few other states, to develop and execute two events, one with each veterinary school, that showcases and highlights the importance of veterinarians, the human-animal bond, and the importance of animals in our communities.

During the AVMA Convention in Chicago this past July, selected members from Auburn and Tuskegee veterinary schools participated in the kickoff and planning meetings with AVMF along with AVMF liaison Drs. Jan Strother, and Brad Fields. Both projects were centered on the theme of disaster preparedness, and incorporated existing AVMF/ALVMF funded assets and programs into the Our Oath in Action Day event.

Auburn University's project, held on October 12th, was led by Dr. Julie Gard and was designed around a game day tailgate event at Ag Heritage Park. It was a great success, with approximately 5,000 people visiting the tailgate site and learning about preparedness efforts for the entire family. An AU Vapor-Wake detection dog team provided a live demonstration, and a large number of students were there to participate, including Auburn and Tuskegee Veterinary Students, as well as AU undergraduates. Dr. Calvin Johnson stopped by for a couple hours to participate in the event and share his enthusiasm for the efforts.



TUSVM Combines OOIAD Event with Small Animal Health Fair

Tuskegee University's project was led by Dr. Pamela Guy, and held on November 9th. It was designed around a Small Animal Health Fair at the vet school. Over 450 community residents participated in the event which provided complimentary physical examinations, fecal examinations, heartworm testing, and



affordable preventive medicine care. Of those that attended the event, over 300 participants signed up to receive additional information from the AVMF about disaster preparedness for their families.

The ALVMA and AVMF expresses deep gratitude for all of the volunteers and participants who made these two events and the Alabama pilot project an enormous success.



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ALVMA Student Outreach

Planning for the Future

Talk to any current veterinary student or recent veterinary graduate, and you will get a similar story: they are concerned about the future of veterinary medicine! Whether it is the economic environment, the rising costs of quality education, struggling starting salaries, perils of landing that first job, or marketplace changes, all have made their mark on the profession and will continue to do so in our foreseeable future.

Talk to anyone in a leadership position within a veterinary medical organization and you will get similar results. Engagement of students and new graduates is challenging because of these distracting and very real concerns. So how do these obstacles get transcended? By implementing programs that help to address these challenges and provide guidance and direction to this vital population of veterinarians and students.

The ALVMA has multiple opportunities focused on this population, to include:

- Financial Advisor Program for Auburn and Tuskegee veterinary school students
- Compass Mentoring Program for new graduates
- Student representation on the ALVMA Executive Board
- Senior student rounds
- ALVMA Assistant Executive Director focused on student and recent graduate relations
- Free and reduced membership and continuing education rates for new and recent graduates
- Social Media interactions through Facebook and Twitter

It is our hope that these programs will serve the needs of young veterinarians by helping them face the challenges in today's business climate.

Financial Advisor Program for Auburn & Tuskegee veterinary school students

For two semesters, the ALVMA, partnering with the Kentucky VMA, has provided a financial advisor for students at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine and Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. Students can meet with a certified financial planner to discuss any financial issues they have. This program has been gaining traction each quarter, with an average of 15 appointments each month to date. Students simply email their request for an appointment or questions, and the advisor schedules an appointment with them or returns their email with answers. Students who want to participate in this program should contact the office of the associate dean of academic affairs at Auburn University.



Compass Mentoring Program for New Graduates

With a kickoff event at the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference, the Compass Mentoring Program is off and running! The program is designed to help recent graduate veterinarians navigate their new careers by connecting them with a mentor and providing networking opportunities with seasoned colleagues and other recent graduates. We currently have over 15 veterinarians enrolled as mentors, and four recent graduates matched up with mentors. An awareness campaign of this program has been initiated with recent graduates through the veterinary colleges and ALVMA recent graduate membership lists, and there is a growing interest among our target audience about the benefits of having a mentor. Dr. Libby Todd is heading this program in conjunction with the American Veterinary Medical Association. AVMA Assistant Director for Recent Graduate Initiatives Dr. Carrie Javorka was able to join us for the event. If you are interested in being a mentor to a recent graduate, or are a recent graduate and looking for more information on the program, simply send an email to Roberta@franzmgt.com and we will get you the information. Alabama is one of three pilot states participating in the Compass Mentoring Program, which will hopefully be expanded to other states in the upcoming years.

Student Representation on the ALVMA Executive Board

A significant linkage between student veterinary medical associations and the ALVMA is the representation of our college student leadership on our executive board. A targeted effort has been initiated to engage our veterinary school student leadership and facilitate participation and interaction with the ALVMA Executive Board. This provides key input and information from a student's perspective to our association. This also allows a conduit for sending information and experiences back to our veterinary students about programs, issues, challenges, and opportunities related to our profession. The ALVMA welcomes Cary Clark, AUCVM SCAVMA president, and Angel Laws, TUSVM SCAVMA president, to our executive board, and we are looking forward to their participation in our state association. ALVMA feels that the more our colleges and students are engaged, the better we can adapt to meet the needs of our newest generation of veterinary professionals, which is key to continued success.

Senior Student Rounds

The ALVMA, in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Agriculture, has an ongoing relationship with the AUCVM senior students to develop awareness and understanding of the importance of regulatory and organized veterinary medicine. The students who are on food animal rotations meet with officials from the state veterinarian's office, along with

Dr. Fields, ALVMA's assistant executive director, to discuss current topics and issues surrounding regulatory and organized veterinary medicine. This program has been in place since 2008.

"These rotations occur every four to six weeks," says Dr. Tony Frazier, Alabama state veterinarian, "and they provide a crucial opportunity for our future graduates to understand what happens in regulatory medicine and how it impacts their daily lives." During these food animal rotation discussions, a wide variety of topics are reviewed, including health certificates, regulatory disease control programs, USDA accreditation, disaster response, import and export requirements and many other items relevant to current events.

Students are also engaged in discussions of the importance of organized veterinary medicine, to include local, state, and national VMAs as well as allied national specialty and board certification groups. "A key goal of these discussions are to provide a keen awareness of the critical role organized veterinary medicine can play in everyone's daily lives," says Dr. Brad Fields, who focuses on student engagement and affairs for the ALVMA. "Real-world examples of legislative activities, such as the Veterinary Mobility Act, Federal Student Loan Repayment Programs, and veterinary compounding regulations all serve to bring reality to an often boring and bureaucratic discussion of organized veterinary medicine," Fields remarked.

The ALVMA and Alabama Department of Agriculture are pleased to have the opportunity to interact with our future veterinary colleagues and wish to thank the faculty in the AUCVM's Large Animal Hospital - specifically Drs. Wolfe, Maxwell, Carson, Rodning and Gard for their continued support and contributions!



Veterinary Leadership Day at Auburn University with Class of 2017

Leaders representing organized veterinary medicine and regulatory medicine spent an hour with the freshman veterinary students at AUCVM on the afternoon of Sept. 4, 2013. Present for this event were Drs. Jan Strother, Bill Bledsoe, Libby Todd, Tony Frazier, Winston Pirtle, Charles Franz, T.C. Branch and Brad Fields. Each veterinarian present welcomed the new student colleagues into the profession, discussed their philosophy on leadership development, the importance of leadership positions and being involved in organized veterinary medicine.

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

ALVMA to Sponsor Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Awareness Course at Auburn

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's student chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners is hosting a TLAER™ Awareness course January 11-12, 2013. The course will be hosted with assistance from the AUCVM student chapters of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners along with the student chapter of AAEP from TUSVM.

The TLAER™ Awareness Course description states, "The goal is ultimately to increase the percentage of successful rescue efforts through education, and decrease both the number and intensity of large animal related emergency and disaster incidents through education, improved preparedness, and outright prevention," www.tlaer.org. This goal is fulfilled by inviting a maximum of 150 participants from all groups involved in large animal emergencies. This program will include veterinary students and veterinarians, fire fighters, and other first responders with continuing education credit provided where applicable.

The course at AUCVM will be taught by Rebecca Gimenez, Ph.D. She is a past member and Logistics Officer for Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT-2), and currently serves as a Major in the US Army Reserves. Dr. Gimenez is a coauthor on a textbook entitled "Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue" and an international speaker on the subject.

The itinerary will consist of a two day program in which approximately seven hours daily will be spent in lecture and one hour daily will be spent in a small group demonstration. There will also be an hour to register each morning as well as a lunch hour for course members to mingle with exhibitors. The ALVMA will be represented in the exhibit hall and will receive sponsor recognition for supporting this event.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome those who have joined the Association since June 2013

Drs:

- Joy A. Baird (Memphis, TN - AUB05)
- Carrie Elizabeth Beers (Saraland - AUB05)
- Patricia D. Creamer (Mobile - MSU13)
- Dana Dodson (Toney - AUB08)
- Twila Floyd (Auburn - LSU91)
- Bruce Hutchinson (Rainbow City - AUB72)
- Starla Gibson Riggs (Opelika - AUB13)
- Robert M. Lofton (Auburn - AUB72)
- Noel McKnight (Greensboro, NC - AUB13)
- Keli Ila McNamara (Tuscumbia - AUB12)
- Benjamin W. Newcomer (Auburn - FL02)
- Debbie Marie Walker (Florala - AUB04)

Auburn University

College of Veterinary Medicine
www.vetmed.auburn.edu



Dr. Dan Givens

Givens Named Associate Dean at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine

Dan Givens, professor in the Department of Pathobiology at Auburn University, has been named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The appointment was effective Monday, Aug. 19, the first day of fall semester.

Dr. Givens, who for the past 10 months has been interim associate dean, "has brought exceptional expertise in teaching, administration and mentorship to this crucial position in the College," said Dean Calvin Johnson.

"Dr. Givens has experienced nearly every level of the College's academic mission as a veterinary student, clinical resident, clinician, scientist, classroom lecturer, board exam reviewer, problem solving moderator, rotation coordinator, course coordinator, honor court advisor, interim department head and interim associate dean.

"In each of these roles, Dr. Givens has established the highest possible standards in teaching, advising, outreach and research, and I am certain that he will direct the college's academic affairs at a level of national and international distinction," Dr. Johnson added.

In this leadership position, Dr. Givens will interact with veterinary students from admission to graduation.

"Serving students, staff, and faculty as we collectively pursue excellence in veterinary medical education is a tremendous privilege and responsibility. As classes start, I am excited about the upcoming opportunities to impact the education of developing veterinarians who will touch the lives of people and animals." Dr. Givens said.

Dr. Givens is an alumnus of Auburn University, earning a DVM from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1994 and a PhD in 2000. He completed undergraduate studies at Western Kentucky University. After practicing two years in Kentucky, he returned to Auburn to study viral diseases of cattle and to pursue residency training in theriogenology. He holds dual board certification from the American College of Theriogenologists and the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

He held the distinguished rank of Alumni Professor from 2008-2012. He has received four of the veterinary college's teaching awards including the Carl Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, in 2010 and 2004; the SGA Outstanding Teacher Award in 2007; the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2009 and 2001; and the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association Teacher of the Year in 2013.



U.S. Senate Passes Session-Sponsored Resolution Recognizing Southeastern Raptor Center

U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, co-sponsored a bill passed by the US Senate celebrating American Eagle Day and recognizing the Southeastern Raptor Center in Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

The bill, Senate Resolution 174, was passed by the Senate as a bipartisan measure to designate June 20, 2013 as "American Eagle Day" in celebration of the recovery of the American Bald Eagle.

"The bald eagle is an American treasure and inspiring symbol of our national sovereignty and precious freedoms as American citizens," Sessions stated. "I am particularly proud that, once again, the Senate has recognized the outstanding work of the Auburn University Southeastern Raptor Center," Sessions said. "Since the 1970s, Auburn has been leading the way on raptor rehabilitation, education and research, and just last month, the Southeastern Raptor Center released its first locally found bald eagle.

The Southeastern Raptor Center was established in the mid-1970s when the US Fish and Wildlife Service brought six injured birds to the College of Veterinary Medicine and asked that the school become a rehabilitation hub for the Southeast. The center is the oldest and only medical and surgical wildlife rehabilitation facility in the Southeast dedicated solely to raptors. The mission of the center is to rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned raptors, to educate the public about their role and importance and to research raptor-related issues. Annually the center treats as many as 275 birds of prey from across the Southeast and has treated and released thousands of birds back into the wild. The center provides about 300 educational programs annually aimed at raising awareness and education to thousands of schools, civic groups and churches in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Southeastern Raptor Center's most iconic presence is at Auburn University home football games, where an eagle is released to circle Jordan-Hare Stadium before landing on Pat Dye Field.

Tuskegee University Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Veterinary Teaching Hospital

A vision that began several years ago has now moved closer to fruition with the groundbreaking ceremony on Mar. 20 for the new veterinary medical teaching hospital at the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. University administration, faculty, staff, student leaders, veterinary alumni returning for the annual veterinary medical symposium, distinguished guests, family and friends of the college gathered to witness this monumental, historical event for the school of veterinary medicine.

"It was an honor to have the groundbreaking during the annual veterinary symposium which allowed us to share this special day with so many that have been supporters of TUSVM for many years," said Tsegaye Habtemariam, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health.

"Thanks to so many dedicated individuals, who are committed to the continued growth of the university, a new day has dawned for the veterinary medical program here at Tuskegee and we are excited," said Habtemariam. "For the first time in almost four decades, the veterinary medical teaching hospital is being upgraded to a modern facility that will now help us reach our goal of establishing a preeminent place of interdisciplinary teaching/learning as well as high level clinical services with a focus on translational research and discovery attuned to exploit the latest in molecular biology, computational modeling, food safety, zoonoses, and public health."

Rabren General Contractors, Inc., based in Auburn, Ala., provided renderings of the new facility and paraphernalia for the groundbreaking ceremonial event. Construction of the \$41.5 million facility began this summer. The new teaching hospital will be approximately 120,000 square feet and house high level clinical services for small and large animal medicine as well as accommodate diagnostic services in the areas of pathology, microbiology, parasitology, virology, and immunology.

Construction of the new veterinary teaching hospital will be done in phases with completion expected during 2015.

Tuskegee University

College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
www.onemedicine.tuskegee.edu and www.tuskegee.edu



Groundbreaking ceremony participants listed from (L to R): William (Bill) Allen, president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association; E. Bowden "Skip" Wyatt, principal of Foil Wyatt Architects & Planners, PLLC. (Jackson, Miss.); Major L. Holland, from Architect & Associates (Tuskegee, Ala.); Pamalar Hale, TUSVM alumnae/co-chair of the dean's advisory board; Harold Davis, TUSVM alumnus/chair of the dean's advisory board; Harold "Kippy" Tate, vice president for capital projects and facilities management at Tuskegee University; Gilbert L. Rochon, president of Tuskegee University; Luther S. Williams, executive vice president/provost of Tuskegee University; Matthew D. Rabren, vice president of Rabren General Contractors, Inc. (Auburn, Ala.); Matthew Jenkins, TUSVM alumnus/CEO of SDD Enterprises, Saul T. Wilson, TUSVM alumnus/director of the international center for tropical animal health, Ruby Perry, TUSVM alumnae/ associate dean for academic affairs; and Tsegaye Habtemariam, dean.

New Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital Building Design



New Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital

Groundbreaking Ceremony Highlights



President Gilbert Rochon Dean T. Habtemariam SCAVMA President R. Malbrue Matthew R. Rabren

There are several "Naming Categories" available to anyone wanting to help support the New Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at Tuskegee University. For more information on giving options, contact: Dr. Cheryl Davis, (334) 724-4178, or davis@mytu.tuskegee.edu.

New Graduate Member Profile

Name: Jeremy Deaton, DVM

Residence: Auburn, AL

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

When I was eight years old, I wanted to become a veterinarian, a mortician, and a pastor and I've always pursued those three things.

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

Mixed animal practice because you never know what will walk, run or crawl through the doors.

Where did you study?

Auburn.

Who is your role model/mentor?

Dr. Dougie Macintire was my inspiration and role model.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The diversity of the medicine that I practice.

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

Through my education at Auburn.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Being on call seven days a week.



What advice can you offer someone entering veterinary school?

Buckle up and hold on tight, those years will be the happiest times of your life.

What was the last song you sang?

George Jones' "He Stopped Loving Her Today".

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

Being on my own at a new clinic straight out of vet school.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still working in my hometown running the clinic, being the county coroner and trying to balance time with Hannah and Dakota.

Why would you recommend that someone join the ALVMA?

The ALVMA keeps me updated on current events and issues arising in veterinary medicine across Alabama, the US and the world.

How has being involved with the ALVMA helped you professionally?

It has provided me with resources I need as a new practitioner.

What is the last movie you watched?

The Blind Side.

What was the most memorable part of your college experience?

My friends.

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

El Golfo de Santa Clara Mexico because it is the most beautiful place in the world and I'd love to go and live there when I retire one day.

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

My bible, my family, some water and I think I'd be set for life.

What is your simplest pleasure?

Quiet time drinking coffee and reading my newspaper.



What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Accomplishing all three of my career goals; a licensed veterinarian, a licensed mortician, and a licensed youth minister.

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

God, and what were you thinking when you made my wife?

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

The adoption of the One Health strategy.



What five adjectives best describe you?

Crazy, insane, energetic, compassionate, family man.

What makes you laugh out loud?

Most of what comes out of my mouth.

What book are you reading?

None currently, I don't have time!

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

I would have pursued an MPH along with my DVM.

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

I washed my Godson's clothes so he didn't have to.

I still want to learn...

how to perform dorsal laminectomies in practice.



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- Solutions for your home**
 - Personal Auto • Homeowners • Renters • Excess Liability

New Graduate Member Profile

Name: Harmony Glenn, DVM

Residence: Haleyville, AL

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

I had always wanted to become a veterinarian. From a very early age on, I had a love and compassion for animals, which at times even my family could not understand! When I decided to go back to college after working as a registered nurse for nine years, I knew it was time to get off of my "do nothing" and do something. I had a love for medicine, and I still had a desire to care for animals. I wanted to be able to continue to help people by providing quality care to their pets.

What advice can you offer someone entering veterinary school?

Pay attention to a budget. If you are like most veterinary students you are participating in student loans to fund your education. If you make a conscious effort to execute a budget in your daily life then a debt load will be easier to handle when your first payment is due.

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

I currently work in a predominately small animal practice, with a large animal base of approximately 15%. The practice is located in a



rural setting in Northwest Ala. I personally choose to come back because I was raised here. Most of all, I remember watching the vet when I was a kid do everything on all species he had brought to him. That was another attraction that drew me back. I wanted to be able to provide the best care possible in my rural hometown setting.

Where did you study?

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Who is your role model/mentor?

My current mentor is Dr. Ben Cashion. He is the practice owner, and has devoted his career to building the business. It was very important to me to choose a place of employment where I felt like questions were encouraged, and that someone had my back if I needed them. Dr. Cashion never had an associate, and he had not worked with a new graduate so the relationship was new to him as well. He has been very open to my questions as well as teaching me so many surgical techniques that I never had the confidence to try before. I have truly been blessed

to have been welcomed into his family the way I have, as well as getting to learn from his years of experience.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The variety. Never knowing what is going to come through the door.

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

During school I served as one of my class student representatives for our SCAVMA chapter. I realized how important it was to be a part of a collective voice. Upon graduation it was an easy decision to join the ALVMA; I had already seen what an organized group could accomplish.

What five adjectives best describe you?

Tenacious, blunt, caring, devoted, concerned.

What is the hardest part of your job?

The unknown. When you have that patient that your gut is telling you to dig deeper, but you are not sure why. You don't know exactly what the problem is, but you know there is one. During those times, I have to step back, take a deep breath and reassure myself that this is what I went to school to achieve. The ability to rationalize and reason through the symptoms. Even though I don't know the underlying condition at the time, I still have the education and medical knowledge to research and choose the right diagnostic and treatment path for my patient. In a way the unknown, to me, is the beauty of veterinary medicine even though it is the most challenging.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still working in a rural practice, but as a partner, or the sole owner.

Why would you recommend that someone join the ALVMA?

As I said before, being a member of a collective voice benefits not only you but your profession. Our profession is changing every day, and there are people and fanatical groups that would like to see our profession cease to exist. We should want our voices heard, and by being a member of the ALVMA you can take part in the process to determine that the right voice is heard.

How has being involved with the ALVMA helped you professionally?

I have benefited from CEU opportunities that I would otherwise not have known about. It has also helped to introduce me to colleagues that I otherwise would have not had the opportunity to meet.

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

The trend toward pursuing specialty degrees. There are so many options with a DVM degree. Private practice is not for everyone and students now have the opportunity to accomplish whatever goals they have post vet school.

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

Alaska, I have heard that it is a beautiful state. Maybe someday...

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

I would reevaluate the veterinary shortage and establish firmly whether it stands true.



What is your favorite quote?

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." - Bernard M. Baruch

What was the most memorable part of your college experience?

The friendships that I made. You form a bond with people in vet school that is unlike any in your undergraduate career. You really do become family.

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

Understanding that you are not going to get it right every time on the first try. Sometimes you have those cases that perplex you, and keep you guessing, but in the end you learn the most from them.

What is the last movie you watched?

The Conjuring.

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

A toothbrush, toothpaste and at least one set of clothes to wear.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Convincing myself to go back to school and then acquiring my veterinary degree.

What is your simplest pleasure?

I must admit, eating and sleeping... (Sorry that is two, but it is so hard to pick just one)

What makes you laugh out loud?

Witty sarcasm.

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

Amelia Earhart, and I would ask her how it felt to make it as a pilot against all the odds? I would also ask if she would risk it all and do it again?

What book are you reading?

"Killing Jesus" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard.

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

Last week I had a family member who had a horse that was down and I went and helped with him. I feel very blessed to be able to do what I do. I never want to see myself as being above anyone in need. We all have hard times, and being a good neighbor is high on my list of things for which I hold myself accountable.

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

Spending time with my family and pets.

I still want to learn how to...

There is not enough paper, but to name a few, learn how to do a FHO, apply an external fixation device, create conjunctival flaps, manage a practice, be a better communicator, and the list goes on and on, ha, ha.

Be a Part of History!

The Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study needs your help today

Morris Animal Foundation's Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is a groundbreaking effort to learn how to prevent cancer and other diseases. It is the largest and longest observational study ever undertaken to improve the health of dogs. The study will enroll up to 3,000 Golden Retrievers and will last 10 to 14 years.

As part of our recruitment efforts, we are currently in the enrollment phase with a goal of 3,000 Golden Retrievers. Golden Retrievers were chosen for this study because they are the most popular breed in the US and also the most susceptible to cancer.

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To join the study, golden retrievers must be healthy, younger than 2 years of age and have a three-generation pedigree. Pet owners must agree to regular visits with their veterinarian and to complete annual questionnaires about their dog's lifestyle, diet, reproductive history, environment, exercise, behavior and other health concerns as the dog ages.

For more information on getting your practice involved in this groundbreaking study, visit www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org/Golden.

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In Memoriam

Dr. Woodie Ross Cryar

June 29, 1924 - Nov. 11, 2013

Dr. Cryar, formerly of Birmingham, Ala., died on Monday, Nov. 11, 2013, in Atmore, Ala. He was born in Albertville, Ala. on June 29, 1924. Dr. Cryar was a graduate of Albertville High School and Sneed State Junior College. He graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute School of Veterinary Medicine in 1950, following service in the United States Army during World War II with the rank of Sergeant.

Dr. Cryar practiced Veterinary Medicine in Birmingham, Ala. from 1950 until his retirement in 1995. He served as president of both the Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association and the Alabama State Veterinary Medical Association. He was a life member of both organizations. He was a member and officer of the Birmingham Optimist Club. He was a past member of the Woodlawn and Trinity Presbyterian Churches in Birmingham, where he served as Deacon, and was presently a member of the First United Methodist Church in Atmore, Ala.

Dr. Cryar was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Frances Bertram Cryar, his parents and two brothers. He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Emily and P. D. Pollard, and Malia and Gerald Shelton; grandchildren, David Ross Lee, Joseph Duncan Pollard and Anna Frances Lee; one sister, Peggy Cornelius; and four nieces and two nephews.

A memorial service of Dr. Cryar's life was held on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013, at the First United Methodist Church, officiated by The Reverend Debora Bishop. The family visited with friends and relatives immediately following the memorial service. A graveside service was held on Friday, Nov. 15, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. at the Steele Community Cemetery in Steele, Ala.

Dr. Warren W. Kent Jr.

Dr. Kent, age 71, of Clarksville, Georgia, died August 16th, 2013. He attended Nacoochee United Methodist Church in Sautee-Nacoochee, Georgia. Survivors: wife of 56 years, Lynne Puryear Kent, father; Warren Wright Kent Sr., brother;

James Roy Kent, daughters and sons-in-law; Julia Kent, Melinda K. Parsons and Earl B. Parsons III, Nancy K. Squires and James W. Squires, grandchildren; Allison Couvillion, Brian Wilson, Kaitlyn Parsons, Earl Parsons IV, Rebecca Squires, Alex Squires, Kent Squires, Christopher Squires and one great grandchild; Mac Couvillion. Memorial Services were held Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at Nacoochee United Methodist Church (www.nacoocheeumc.org) in Sautee-Nacoochee, Georgia and were officiated by Rev. Lyndon Eubanks and Pastor Chris Shurtz. A reception was held at the church following the service where family met with friends.

Warren graduated from Auburn University in 1965 as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Upon graduation, he joined the Air Force to defend freedom and fight for his country. He was in charge of all sentry dogs in the I and II Corp in Vietnam, stationed at DaNang AFB. He was in charge of all NATO sentry dogs for Europe, stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany. After honorably serving his country, he moved to Birmingham, Ala. where he became owner and director of Kent's Animal Clinic from 1972-1981. During this time, he also became a real estate investor. In 1981, he moved to Helen, Georgia. He was Chief Judge Municipal Court of Helen, Georgia where he served for 14 years. In 1991, he became a Certified Financial Planner and Registered Investment Advisor. He was leader and active participant in many different civic and professional organizations; such as Rotary Club (Director, President), American Veterinary Medical Association, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and Financial Planner Associations. His beautiful life and legacy left behind for the young following in his footsteps...so much to aspire to. A Christian man who lived a life filled with passion, love, laughter...no regrets; a life lived to the fullest. Surrounded by so much love to the very end.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center and UAB Medical Comprehensive Cancer Center. The family request memorial donations to the Wounded Warrior Project 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300 Jacksonville, FL 32256 877-832-6997 www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Relief Veterinarians

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Region of Relief: Central/East Alabama, West Georgia

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Region of Relief: East Alabama, would prefer within 50 miles of Auburn or Phenix City

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Region of Relief: Shelby/Jefferson Counties

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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. Shelley Williams Parsons, AUB '02
2906 Fairway Drive
Birmingham, AL 35213
Phone: 256-609-7002
Email: shelleywparsons@yahoo.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: Small Animal
Region of Relief: Birmingham Area

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. Ashley Warren AUB '09
20 Castaway Island Road
Eclectic, AL 36024
Phone: 334/301-0371
Email: awarrendvm09@yahoo.com
State(s) where Licensed: AL
Kind of Practice: Small Animal
Region of Relief: Central Alabama
Appropriate Information: Will travel

Dr. Mim Whatley AUB '07
9729 Silver Bell Court
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Phone: 334-277-3861
Cell Phone: 205-541-8726
Email: mimwhatley@hotmail.com
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