

# ALABAMA VETERINARIAN

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

## ALVMA NEWS

Volume 22, Number 1 • Spring 2011

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**2011 ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention Activities,  
Schedule and Registration**

**Nominating Committee Report**

**In Memoriam – Dr. Lewis McCurdy**



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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It is so hard to believe that 2010 has come to a close and that we are already well into another new year. As a sort of "New Year's" resolution, I like to spend some time thinking about various aspects of my life, both personal and professional, and wondering about areas for improvement. I would guess that we all go through a similar process. I value that reflective time because I can remember countless blessings, both big and small, and I can think of changes that I want to make in my own life that can lead to growth. The word "growth" can be defined as "progressive development." Think about that word for a second--GROWTH.

Veterinarians have a good understanding of the concept of the word "growth." As individuals, we have to be flexible and open to new ideas, concepts, and methods for accomplishing a multitude of tasks--"progressive development." As mentors to veterinary students, we have the opportunity to see these new ideas in practice. I feel confident that each one of us has had at least one mentor who helped to guide our growth and development. Those mentoring relationships are so valuable because everyone involved will gain new insights.

This spring, outstanding students from both Auburn University and Tuskegee University will graduate with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine and be able to join us as colleagues in this most noble profession. As your ALVMA President, I have been invited to administer the Veterinarian's Oath to the students at Auburn University at their graduation. I was quite humbled by this invitation. I remember, with remarkable clarity, the thoughts and feelings that I had when I took that oath and made it my own, vowing to live by its principles every single day. I have an opportunity to welcome these students into our profession, an opportunity to relive one of the greatest moments of my life, and an opportunity for growth.

As spring graduations pass, and we move into summer, I want to extend a personal invitation to each one of you to join me and many of your friends at the ALVMA Annual Convention which is being held June 1-5 at the beautiful Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. After many months of detailed planning, your state association, in conjunction with the Georgia VMA, has an outstanding meeting to share with you. We want you to come for the amazing educational opportunities, come to learn more about the work that your association does for you, and come to enjoy a wonderful vacation with your family. Set this time aside to catch up with your classmates, your professors, and your mentors. Come to the meeting to be a mentor to another veterinarian and come to make new friends. Come to find your own opportunities for GROWTH. I look forward to spending some time with each of you. I am honored to be your representative.

Respectfully,  
Libby Todd, DVM  
ALVMA President



by Dr. Tony Frazier

Unless you have been in a cave for the last few years, you know that the state budget is in poor health. I realize that the economy has been struggling and everybody's budget is suffering. I realize that veterinary practitioners are feeling the pinch. I am no economist, but I understand that when people lose jobs and don't spend money more people lose jobs and on and on. When people aren't buying things, the state is not collecting sales taxes and state budgets get scrutinized very closely. The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries is working off a budget that is about 3 million dollars short of what it was just a few years ago.

Be assured of one thing, though, I have never lost sight of where my salary comes from. And I do my best to give the tax payers their money's worth in the areas of my jurisdiction. The State budget is required by law to be balanced each year. For the last couple of years or so, federal stimulus money has helped us keep our noses just above the water. Unfortunately, when you live by the stimulus money, when it is no longer there, it hurts. Three areas under the State Veterinarians office are currently being scrutinized. They are the State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, the Diagnostic Laboratory System, and disease surveillance.

Alabama has had a State Meat Inspection Program since 1968. The federal government at the time told states that if they wished to have a program staffed with state inspectors that reported to states and followed Federal regulations, the Feds would pay half the program's expenses. Over the years, the Alabama Meat and Poultry Inspection Program has been a good source of disease surveillance for us as well as providing smaller "mom and pop" plants with guidance and regulatory over-sight. Until recently, when funding was no longer available we tested for diseases like brucellosis and pseudorabies at state slaughter facilities. Although we are no longer doing blood testing, our inspectors and veterinarians have access to see pathology in harvested animals.

## "Hey, Buddy!

Can you lend me a dime?" Well how about 2 million dollars?

After all, the foot and mouth disease that devastated Great Britain a few years ago was first noticed by a meat inspector who noticed foot lesions on slaughter hogs. Presently the meat inspection program is being looked at closely as an expense that could be given back to the Fed's. That would indeed save money, but, in my opinion, at a considerable cost.

The next area that will be affected is the laboratory system. We are for sure going to have to increase rates slightly. We have always tried to keep fees low because we feel that laboratory submissions are a very important aspect of disease surveillance. In fact, most of you probably remember that for food animal laboratory work, there was no charge. Recently we have had to add some charges. As we have looked at other states and their laboratory charges, we will still be very competitive. We would rather not have to increase fees, but as you know we are paying more for everything and we must adjust to be able to provide the services.

Finally, the area of disease surveillance is becoming more difficult because we are doing more, and covering more territory with less people. We have, for a while, had a hiring freeze as well as a salary freeze. When people in the field retire, we are very fortunate if we are able to replace them. There are several people we haven't replaced due to financial constraints. With that being said, I am appealing to the local practitioners to be our eyes and ears more than ever. If you see high morbidities, high mortalities, septicemias, neurological problems, abortion storms, or anything else out of the ordinary, please let us know. We will do our very best to have our laboratories and field personnel get answers.



I don't have a crystal ball, so I can't predict how long we will continue to deal with financial difficulties. I know I am not telling you anything you are not aware of in your own practices. When hard times come along, you batten down the hatches and hold on. I just wanted to update you on some ways it is affecting us. Maybe economic times will be better soon.

## Social Media is a **Must** in Today's Veterinary Practice

Not a single day goes by that you don't see some reference to social media in your life. Whether you are an avid Facebook participant or if you simply hear your local news anchor state their Twitter account, social media has completely changed how we gather information and make decisions about goods and services.

Despite the prevalence of social media, nearly 9 out of 10 businesses consider their social media efforts to be ineffective. Most have no idea how to use this new tool to listen and respond to customer concerns. Ask any veterinarian if he or she is "tweeting", "digging" or "Stumblin" and you might get a blank look in response.

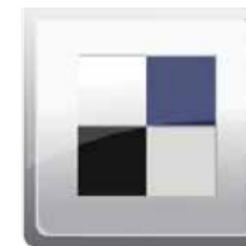
But, the reality of today's business climate is that the "eyeballs" have moved from more traditional forms of marketing to web-based social networks, blogs and even video. No longer do clients have blind faith in typical advertising. Potential clients are sizing up your practice based on your website and your interaction with their friends through social media. If you aren't available through the Internet, you are missing a tremendous opportunity to showcase your practice and your expertise.

Forget about the thousands of sites with the weird names...they are just tools for your toolbox. The true measure of your success will be how you engage and connect with clients and potential clients...something you probably already do well in the exam room. Now, you need to take that same skill into cyberspace. Your goal is to develop connections and attract attention, convert those connections into relationships and then transform these online relationships into "off-line" or real consumers walking through your front door.

The best book ever produced on social media was written more than 60 years ago...Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People". Because social media is social and friendly, this is an essential guide. The bottom line is people do business with those who they know, like and trust. Social media helps you develop those traits to an audience that is ever increasing. Further, unlike traditional advertising, social media marketing allows you to develop relationships, and trust – essentials for "doing business".

If you haven't already, you NEED to take the plunge into social media. Create a Facebook profile and then a Facebook Page for your business. Consider a Twitter account to help listen to what's being said about you online. If you have these things and you aren't sure of their success, let us help you.

We believe the Veterinary News Network is an excellent resource for veterinarians to learn to engage clients in social media, as well as a trusted resource for a mountain of content that will save you valuable time. VNN has more than 25 years of experience with traditional media and helping veterinarians market their practice through publicity and local news outlets. The Alabama VMA has partnered with VNN for help at the state level and we encourage you to join for your own practice. Just visit [www.MyVNN.com](http://www.MyVNN.com) to learn more.



Veterinary News Network  
[www.MyVNN.com](http://www.MyVNN.com)



# Matters of Law: Employment Compliance Checklist

by Jeff Roth

Every successful veterinary medical practice strives to achieve and maintain a high level of service to its clients, as well as provide the best, most efficient, care for its patients. Providing excellent service and patient care is primary to maintaining a financially viable practice. However, each practice is also a business, and other aspects of running a business also factor into the financial success of any practice.

This article will focus on suggestions for identifying and addressing employment law compliance issues and also identifying potential areas of improvement, that might help improve the bottom line of an otherwise successful practice.

Although veterinary medical practices are unique types of businesses, they are not unlike other service businesses when it comes to dealing with issues important to the practice including, employee orientation and training, employee turnover, hiring and maintaining competent and motivated employees, and creating a productive working environment free from the distractions of harassment and discrimination. However, unlike potentially larger businesses, most veterinary practices do not have the luxury of a dedicated human resource professional to address employment matters, and that task usually falls to the practice manager (whether in title, or in fact), the managing doctor, or the owner/doctor.

## Potential Benefits of Review of Employment Practices

Regardless of who is responsible for human resource and employment issues at a practice, each practice should review its employment practices at least yearly. Reviewing employment practices can help the practice to:

- Ensure legal compliance
- Identify opportunities for improvement and areas of potential risk
- Help improve efficiency and productivity for both employees and customers
- Find cost reduction opportunities
- Improve employee communications and morale
- Provide a reality check in order to identify and correct shortfalls between what is intended, and what is actually delivered

## Most Likely General Problem Areas

Most serious employment law problems originate in one of three or four stages of the employment relationship.

### Hiring

Does the practice have a list of interview questions that are relevant to the jobs being offered, and limited to allowable inquiries relating to employee experience and qualifications, without inquiries that are either forbidden or irrelevant? Is the employment application limited to relevant information? Does it end with a statement where the employee indicates that the application is current and correct, and that if it is not, the employee may be subject to later discipline, including possible termination, due to any inaccuracies? Does the applicant give consent to check references, verify listed employment, do a criminal background check, and perform a pre-employment drug screen, if required?

### Employee evaluation

Does the practice do regular employee performance reviews and set expectations with respect to level and quantity of work performed? Are such performance reviews actually substantive with discussions of strengths and weaknesses, with goal setting and measurements, or just a routine waste of time with little useable feedback? Are issues that relate to the employee's performance documented and collected during the performance period for discussion at the performance review? If there is a policy regarding performance reviews, is it adhered to in a timely fashion, with all employees?



### Employee Discipline and/or Termination

Are job duties and requirements, as well as appropriate on the job behavior, discussed or set out in policies or procedures? If there are published policies regarding behavior or discipline, does the practice follow them, and have these policies been distributed to employees so that they are aware of any requirements? Do employees know what is expected of them, so if they do not perform, documentation can be generated showing deviation from requirements or expectations? Is discipline promptly and uniformly enforced? Are the penalties for similar infractions relatively consistent? Has the employee been given due process and an opportunity to correct bad behavior? Has the employee been allowed to give his or her input regarding defense to any disciplinary action? Do employees know the handful of infractions that could cause their employment to be immediately terminated?

Every practice should do a yearly review of these areas, and related forms, documentation, and recordkeeping, especially where the practice has had historical problems in these areas.

## Additional Likely Specific Problem Areas

### Proper timekeeping

— Failure to keep track of employee attendance adversely impacts an employer's ability to discipline employees who are constantly late, or are, for whatever reason, not present for scheduled work. In addition, not properly documenting when an employee begins and ends a work day could have serious ramifications with respect to claims relating to payment of minimum wage and overtime, as well as for hours worked. All hours worked must be recorded, and overtime pay for work in excess of 40 hours per work week must be paid, if worked, regardless of what a time sheet or timecard says. Timesheets that show hourly workers working exactly 40 hours per week every week are suspect in any Department of Labor audit, since employees often leave early or come in late. Also, timesheets regularly changed by management are equally suspect. Counting absences against an employee due to worker's compensation issues, an actual or perceived disability, or pregnancy, could generate additional employment claims.

### Inadequate or improper recordkeeping

— Personnel files should include documentation regarding employee performance, including disciplinary warnings and performance evaluations. Such records should be accurate and detailed and not be vague or inconsistent. Failure to document employee issues and warn employees about poor performance is a prime reason why terminated employees often still receive unemployment compensation. Failure to complete or properly complete I-9 forms documenting an employee's identification and right to work can lead to serious penalties and fines. Not keeping separate medical files from general personnel files can also violate federal law, or cause complaints regarding privacy issues.

### Misclassification of exempt and non-exempt jobs

— Doctors may be paid a salary, and are exempt from the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Larger veterinary practices with a dedicated veterinary practice manager might also characterize such a manager receiving an adequate salary as exempt from overtime requirements, if that person qualifies under one of the "white collar" exemptions under the FLSA. However, veterinary technicians are considered under the law to be nonexempt for the requirements of the FLSA, and must be paid overtime for hours worked in excess of 40 hours in one work week. Payment of a salary to such an employee that does not comply with these overtime requirements is not in compliance with the FLSA.

In sum, a little bit of time spent looking over these matters on a yearly basis can help a practice avoid employment law claims, or at least be better prepared to defend against a claim with no merit. In addition, for those who are interested in developing a better "in-house" competency with respect to human resources management, I would suggest becoming a member of the Society for Human Resource Management, <http://www.shrm.org>. At a cost of \$180 per year, it can give a practice access to a wealth of information and many tools for managing employees. Regardless of how a practice manages its employees, it must have some basic competency in human resources management to understand and avoid employment related legal risks.

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



## Tuskegee University Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital Receives AAHA Accreditation

The Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine (TUSVM) Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital has again received accreditation following a comprehensive evaluation by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The evaluation includes a quality assessment review of the hospital's facility, medical equipment, practice methods and pet health care management.

Only 15 percent of all small animal veterinary practices in the U.S. have achieved accreditation by the American Animal Hospital Association. In order to maintain accredited status, Tuskegee University must continue to be evaluated regularly by the association's consultants.

"The TUSVM Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital's (VMTH) faculty, staff, interns, and students, under the leadership of Dr. Howard King who serves as the VMTH director, are to be commended for putting forth a great deal of diligent effort to ensure that all necessary guidelines were followed and that the small animal hospital was properly equipped and managed," said Dr. Tsegaye Habtemariam, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health.

"Tuskegee University belongs to a select group of practices that are committed to meeting the standard of veterinary excellence," says Gregg Takashima, DVM, AAHA president. "AAHA hospitals pass a stringent evaluation of over 900 standards covering patient care, client service and medical protocols. By attaining accreditation, Tuskegee University is demonstrating its dedication to offering the best care to its patients and clients."

An accreditation plaque to promote the Tuskegee University's VMTH continued status as an AAHA-accredited practice member was sent to the School in mid November. Michael T. Cavanaugh, DVM, DABVP, AAHA Executive Director, encourages the placement of the plaque and AAHA's logo throughout the hospital to illustrate the TUSVM's team commitment to its clients and their pets and dedication to AAHA's high standards of excellence.

Established in 1933, the American Animal Hospital Association is the only organization that accredits veterinary practices throughout the U.S. and Canada for dedication to high standards of veterinary care. Approximately 3,200 AAHA accredited practices pass regular reviews of AAHA's stringent accreditation standards that cover patient care, client service and medical protocols. For pet care information or referral to an AAHA-accredited practice, visit [www.healthypet.com](http://www.healthypet.com).

The Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital has been an accredited practice member of the association since 1992. It offers full service in small animal and large animal medicine and surgery and ambulatory care. Established in 1945, the TUSVM is also accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).



TUSVM Students in Surgery

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



## Tuskegee Alumni Designates Charitable Remainder Trust to TUSVM

The Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine (TUSVM) recently was designated as a beneficiary in a \$1.6 million planned gift from Tuskegee alumni Dr. Matthew and Roberta Jenkins. The funds are made available through a remainder unitrust, and the University will receive 50 percent of the net assets at the time of distribution. The couple formed the Matthew and Roberta Jenkins Family Foundation in 1984. It has been responsible for providing a number of scholarships across the country to students, colleges and institutions.

Dr. Tsegaye Habtemariam, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health at Tuskegee, said students will indeed benefit from the gift. "We are very appreciative of the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Jenkins. It truly makes a difference in the lives of our future veterinary medical graduates when our alumni and their families, such as Dr. and Mrs. Jenkins, choose to give back," he said. "As with the other institutions they have supported, their dedication to Tuskegee University will be remembered and honored for years to come."

Matthew Jenkins, a former member of the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees, received the doctorate in veterinary medicine from Tuskegee in 1957. He has served on several university boards and is currently a member of the California State University Foundation Board. He has received many professional, civic and academic accolades. He is currently the president and CEO of SDD Enterprises, a real estate and property management company that he created with his wife, Roberta.

Roberta Jenkins, who received an institutional management degree from Tuskegee, is involved with countless boards, and professional and cultural organizations. A supporter of education, she serves on the boards at Mind Research Institute, Long Beach State University Board of Governors at California State University, and the Board of Visitors for the School of Education at Claremont University. She has received various awards from several organizations over the years. She and her husband, Matthew, are founding members of the Orange County Music Center.

The Jenkins currently reside in Long Beach, Calif. They are the parents of three children and have six grandchildren.



### Six TUSVM Students and Faculty Visit India

Six TUSVM students did a summer internship/study tour in India with funds provided by a USDA grant in which Dr. P. Gopal Reddy was the Project Director. The students included: Alexandria Murphy, Stephanie Cruz, Jaime Aaron, Betsy Powell, Makeba Clarke, and Erin Rockhill. They were at SRI Venkateswara Veterinary University in India from July 24-August 15, 2010. Dr. Reddy, a professor in the Department of Pathobiology, accompanied the students. The trip to India is a part of a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions.

For more information contact: Anissa L. Riley  
Assistant Director • Office of External Affairs • 334-724-4509



## School of Veterinary Medicine Selected for "On The Job" TV Program



TUSVM was selected as a site for the taping of "On The Job" with show host Bobby Jon Drinkard, produced by AIDT (Alabama Industrial Development Training), on Monday, November 15, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Other members of the AIDT staff in attendance at the show's taping included: Sonya Telfair- producer/camera operator, Clyde Hancock- camera operator, and Representative Pebblin Warren, District No. 82 for Macon, Bullock, and Lee Counties in the Alabama House of Representatives. Rep. Warren is the Community Resource Specialist at AIDT. "On The Job" is an informative and weekly television show that showcases unique and often overlooked educational opportunities in Alabama. The show airs on Alabama Public Television on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. (CST) and on Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. (CST) on NBC affiliate WSFA-TV Digital Station 12.2. The show reaches over 5 million viewers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

The taping of the TV segment here at Tuskegee featured the School of Veterinary Medicine, with specific focus on the Department of Pathobiology. The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) was also featured in the taping of the first scene. This was not only great news for TUSVM, but also great news for the entire university. The producers of "On The Job" have never taped at Tuskegee University. So, this was not just an opportunity to showcase the veterinary program, especially the Pathobiology Department, but hopefully open the doors for other departments within the University to be showcased in possible future programs.

This endeavor would not be possible without the efforts of the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Pathobiology, and the faculty and students in the VMTH. The participants in the November 15th taping included the following: Dr. Fredrick E. Tippett, Head Department of Pathobiology (Scene 1 featured and present throughout other scenes); Dr. Roslyn H. Casimir, Veterinary Anatomic Pathologist (Scene 2 and 4); Dr. Hamid A. Mohammed, Clinical Laboratory Scientist Supervisor, Clinical Pathology – Diagnostic Laboratory (Scene 3); Monira Awad, Clinical Laboratory Scientist/Medical Technologist, Clinical Pathology – Diagnostic Laboratory (Scene 3); Patricia Adams, ASCP, Histotechnologist/Supervisor, Histopathology Laboratory – Diagnostic Services \*(ASCP – American Society of Clinical Pathology certification) (Scene 2); Dr. Shayla J. Belton, Intern (Anatomic Pathology) – just graduated Spring 2010 (Scene 2); Kyla Beguesse, Senior TUSVM Student – interested in career in Pathology (in scenes as needed); Elma Williams, Assistant Histopathology Technician (Scene 2); Dr. Madan M. Vig, Professor of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery – Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (Scene 1); Kristen Ostrosky (Class of 2011) – Veterinary Student Assistant in Small Animal (Scene 1); Dr. Sammy Gorham, Veterinary Anatomic Pathologist (Scene 4); five TUSVM Students (Class of 2011 – Seniors) in Clinical Pathology Group who viewed slides from Scene 3 (Breton Anderson, Trevi Yu, Candace Murry, Karen Poteete, and Debbie Charles (Scene 4) – with Dr. Gorham overseeing group; and five TUSVM Students (Class of 2011 – Seniors) in Anatomic Pathology Group who viewed slides from Scene 2 (Sircy Moore, Julie DeLong, Kyla Beguesse, Megan Simon, and Lauren Rowe) (Scene 4) – with Dr. Casimir overseeing group.

The Office of External Affairs coordinated the visitation and interviews for the taping of "On The Job" which has been slated to air in March 2011. Information submitted by Anissa L. Riley, Assistant Director Office of External Affairs. Phone: 334-724-4509 • Fax: 334-727-8177 • [riley@tuskegee.edu](mailto:riley@tuskegee.edu)

## ALVMA Business Meeting Announcement

The ALVMA general business meeting, officer installation and awards presentation will be held Thursday, June 2, 2011 in conjunction with the ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention. The meeting will be held in the Camellia I/II from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. Lunch is available for \$35. Lunch tickets can be ordered with your conference registration. Make sure to register today!



Leaving the shovels to officials, Ivy Jane, a one-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever, helped turn the dirt on Dec. 9 when Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine broke ground on a new educational wing and small animal teaching hospital. Ivy Jane is owned by Drs. Benjamin and Sara Louise Newcomer, both clinical instructors at the college.

# Auburn University News

## Auburn Breaks Ground for New Teaching Hospital and Educational Wing

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine broke ground on a new Small Animal Teaching Hospital and educational wing in December. The ceremony took place on the lawn adjacent to Overton Auditorium-Goodwin Student Center on the site of the classroom building expansion. "We've added on as much as we can," said William Brawner, a clinical sciences professor at the college and chair of the Small Animal Teaching Hospital building committee. "We're growing, the demand for veterinary research is growing and we have both physically and programmatically outgrown the current hospital."

Phase one, with completion planned for spring of 2012, will include 34,000 square feet for educational use and provide three new classrooms. The veterinary college plans to increase its class size to 120 students from the current 95. Phase two, construction of the new Small Animal Teaching Hospital, has a targeted completion date of 2014. The new hospital will feature approximately 200,000 square feet of clinical, examination and client-use space and will include services such as community practice, critical care, oncology, neurology, imaging and orthopedics. "Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine has a 118-year history of outstanding service to the advancement of animal and human health," said Dean Timothy Boosinger. "This project will enable us to continue as leaders in veterinary education for many years to come."

The estimated cost for Auburn's New Small Animal Teaching Hospital and Educational Wing is approximately \$74 million. The firm Foil Wyatt Architects and Jova/Daniels/Busby was selected for the design. Sources of funding include tuition revenue and individual and corporate donors. Get a sneak peek at the construction progress on the new educational wing at Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine by attending Open House on Saturday, April 16. This student-organized event demonstrates the rewarding aspects of a veterinary career offering insights, as well as a "day in the life" of a veterinary student.

Attendees can talk with counselors about selecting courses for a future in veterinary medicine, take tours of the college, and get acquainted with first- and second-year veterinary students. The free event features fun and educational activities for all ages. For information, visit [vetmed.auburn.edu](http://vetmed.auburn.edu) or call (334) 844-2685.

**Open House - Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine**  
Saturday, April 16 • 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. • (334) 844-2685 • [vetmed.auburn.edu](http://vetmed.auburn.edu)





## 2011 ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention Activities

- Wednesday, June 1** Opening Reception 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, June 2**  
**Bike Ride - Sponsored by Novartis**  
 This always popular event lets you, your colleagues, family and friends enjoy a group ride around the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort. This event is free with your registration. Sign up on the registration form and meet us at the Market Shops Bike Outlet at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 2.
- Family Beach Bash  
 This party has it all – family, food, fun, live music, surf, sand, and sunset. Join us at the beach for an evening of fun that will bring out the child in everyone. Be sure to mark this night on your registration form because you won't want to miss it!
- Friday, June 3**  
**ALVMA/GVMA Auxiliary Breakfast**  
 The auxiliaries from the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association will have their annual meeting and breakfast with a special program. All spouses and significant others are invited to attend on Friday at 9 a.m. at the Marlin Grill. Cost is \$35.00 per person.
- Golf - Sponsored by Webster Veterinary Supply**  
 Join your colleagues and save on greens fees on Friday afternoon while you play 18 holes on Raven Golf Course, one of the Southeast's finest. Match play begins at 1:45 p.m. and box lunch is included. Cost is \$135.00.
- Beach Volleyball - Sponsored by IDEXX**  
 Leave the stress of class behind and head to the beach at 2 p.m. for friendly volleyball in the sand.
- Saturday, June 4**  
**ALVMA/GVMA Walk and 5K Run**  
 Join us Saturday morning at the Baytowne Marina for an annual favorite. The Fun Run for children ages 1-12 begins at 7 a.m., and the adult walk and 5K run begin at 6:30 a.m. Both events are free.

June 1-5, 2011

Do not miss out on the 2011 ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention in the beautiful Village of Baytowne at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort!

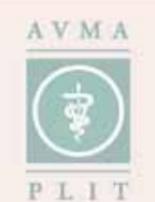
<b>Early bird registration – deadline April 30<sup>th</sup>:</b>		
Members - \$425	Non-members - \$575	Staff/Veterinary Tech - \$245
Member 2 day - \$275	Non-member 2 day - \$325	
<b>Pre-registration – deadline May 18<sup>th</sup></b>		
Members - \$475	Non-members - \$625	Staff/ Veterinary Tech - \$295
Member 2 day - \$325	Non-member 2 day - \$400	



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## Heath/Groth Scholarships Awarded

The 2011 Auburn University Awards night was held Thursday, February 17th at 6:30 pm in the Overton Auditorium at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Drew Humphries, a third year student from Pelham, AL was the recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. A.H. Groth, Jr. Scholarship. Devin Perry, a first year student from Fayetteville, NC, was the recipient of the Dr. M. K. Heath Memorial Scholarship. Both annual scholarships were established by the ALVMA to honor Drs. Heath and Groth, Jr.

According to Auburn University, there were 150 veterinary students that applied to the College for financial assistance in 2010-2011. This is in addition to applications for loans that are handled on main campus. The average debt of these students was approximately \$56,500. Student debt continues to rise and is a significant concern to officials at Auburn. Members of the Class of 2010 which graduated last May had an average debt of \$97,000. According to Dr. Donna W. Angarano, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Auburn, the College of Veterinary Medicine was able to award almost \$350,000 in awards and scholarships to 125 students this academic year as the result of support from individuals and organizations like the Alabama VMA and Foundation.

*Dr. Libby Todd, president of the ALVMA, poses with Devin Perry (left) and Drew Humphries (right).*

# 2011 White Coat Ceremony

The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association held its tenth annual White Coat Ceremony, February 21, 2011, at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National. This annual event honors the junior veterinary classes of Tuskegee and Auburn Universities by presenting each student with an embroidered white coat displaying their name, state emblem and the school they attended. 158 students were honored at this year's ceremony.



Auburn Students

Dr. Libby C. Todd, president of the ALVMA, presided over the evening festivities, welcoming the students and giving them a word of encouragement regarding the profession they are about to enter. Dr. William K. Holland, president-elect of the ALVMA, offered the invocation. The class presidents for Auburn, David Priest, and Tuskegee, Youry Duprè, announced each of their classmates. Dr. Mike Crowley, president of the Kentucky VMA and Dr. Mark Moore, president of the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians, both were in attendance to give an encouraging word as well as present coats to students from Kentucky and South Carolina. Students from Alabama were presented their coats by Dr. Libby C. Todd.



Tuskegee Students

A thank you is extended to Pfizer Animal Health who underwrote the cost of the ceremony. Without their continued support this event would not be possible. Their continued support of the Alabama VMA is greatly appreciated!

## 2011 Downie Award

Congratulations to Dr. Dave Sjeklocha, the winner of the 2011 Downie Award at this year's Food Animal conference, held Feb 4-6, 2011 in Columbiana. With Dr. Sjeklocha is Dr. Tony Frazier who was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. The award was crafted by Dr. Arvle Marshall. Congratulations to the 1st runner up, Dr. Doug Halbrooks and the 2nd runner up, Dr. Andrew Lovelady.



## IN MEMORIAM

### Mary Geraldine (Gerry) Deloney Groth

A resident of Auburn for more than 50 years, Mrs. Aaron Groth, 82, passed away on March 12, 2011. Mrs. Groth was born in Louisville, Alabama, on July 28, 1928 and was the daughter of Mamilu Vinson and Gerald Clinton Deloney. She graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. in Home Economics in December 1949. While in school she was a sister of Phi Mu Social Sorority. She was a long time member of Auburn United Methodist Church and was active with Green Gardeners and P.E.O. Chapter X. She was very close to the members of her sewing club that she enjoyed very much. Geraldine Deloney married Aaron Holland Groth Jr. on December 18, 1949, in Ozark Alabama. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald C. Deloney of Ozark, Alabama, preceded Mrs. Groth in death. She is survived by her husband and three children, Aaron Holland Groth III of Auburn, Catherine Ellen Groth of Pensacola, FL and Steven Gerald Groth of Bethesda, MD. Mrs. Groth was the proud grandmother of five grandchildren, Shannon, Steven Aaron, Kirsten, Kaitlin and Joseph and 4 great-grandchildren.

### Dr. J. Erskine Jordan

Dr. J. Erskine Jordan, a life member of the ALVMA passed away at his home in Gordo, AL on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. He was 87. He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepmother, Mrs. Mabel Jordan; and his brothers, Glen Jordan and John Jordan. Survivors include his wife of over 30 years, Barbara Bridges Jordan of Gordo, Ala.; his brother, Dr. William D. Jordan and wife, Carolyn of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; his sisters-in-law, Pat Jordan of Meridian, Miss., Betty Jordan Coan of Decatur, Ala., and Patsy Langner of Gordo, Ala.; his brother-in-law, Joe Bridges of Gordo, Ala.; and his nieces and nephews, William Jordan (Carlotta), Lucy Jordan Alther (Jack), Rebecca Jordan Pow (Bill), Sandy Jordan (Forrest Ann), JoAnne Jordan Weems (James), Susan Jordan McWilliams (Jeff), Bebe Jordan Brown (Jeffery), Lee Ann Jordan, Jimmy Jordan (Amy), Patrick Langner, Cory Langner (Tarrie), and Joanna Bridges; and other relatives. Dr. Jordan was born February 10, 1924, in Gordo, Alabama to the late Dr. John Bryant Jordan and Leona Sanders Jordan. He was a graduate of Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine (Class of 1946) and practiced for 55 years. He was also a founding director of First National Bank of Central Alabama, a member of Aliceville First Baptist Church, a veteran of the U.S. Army, and a life long resident of Pickens County. Floral contributions will be appreciated by the family, or donations may be made to Hospice of West Alabama, 3851 Loop Road, Tuscaloosa, AL35404. Published in Tuscaloosa News on March 11, 2011.

### Dr. Lewis H. McCurdy

Dr. Lewis H. McCurdy, of Huntsville, passed away, Monday, February 28, due to severe head and neck injuries he received after falling off of a horse Saturday, February 26, in Georgia during a fox hunt. Dr. McCurdy has been a tremendous asset and dedicated member of the Alabama VMA for many years. During his time in the association he has served as chair of numerous committees and various officer positions including president (2004). He was the founding president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation and was currently serving as president of the foundation at the time of his death. Through his work for the foundation he helped to start the low-cost spay/neuter license plate program in order to help families on Medicaid spay and neuter their pets. This program still remains a tremendous success and has helped spay and neuter over 2,600 pets since its inception in 2009. In recognition of Dr. McCurdy's commitment and hard work for the association he was awarded with a Service Award in 1996 and as the ALVMA's Veterinarian of the Year in 2007.

In addition to his dedication to the ALVMA Dr. McCurdy served on the board of the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners since 2010, on the board of directors for the Animal Emergency Clinic of North Alabama, and on the board of the Greater Huntsville Humane Society. Dr. McCurdy is survived by his wife, Nancy, two children, Elizabeth Koisch of Lakewood, WA and Dr. Lewis McCurdy III of Charlotte, NC, and five grandchildren. Nancy and the children have asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made in Dr. McCurdy's memory to the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation (PO Box 3514, Montgomery AL 36109) or Church of the Nativity, Episcopal (208 Eustis Avenue, Huntsville, AL, 35801) Please continue to keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We have all lost a truly great friend and colleague. He will be missed by so many but will live on in our memories as the kind and compassionate person that he always was.



# Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee of the Alabama VMA has announced its recommendations for candidates for the 2011-2012 Executive Board. Due to the revised Bylaws the election will be done strictly through mailed ballots. Please make sure these ballots are returned to the Association office by May 6th. If you have not received your ballot by April 15<sup>th</sup>, please contact the Association office. Dr. William K. Holland automatically advances to President and the recommendations include:

## President-Elect - Dr. William M. Allen – Gardendale, AL

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

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

In 2003 and 2010 Dr. Allen was honored with the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association's Service Award as well as being nominated by the ALVMA to serve on the State Board of Medical Examiners. In addition to Dr. Allen's involvement with veterinary societies, he has been very active with many community and civic memberships including JayCeas, Civitans, Kiwanis International, United Methodist Conference and several committees at Gardendale Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church. He has remained active with Gideons International since 2000 and has also been a Park and Recreation Board Member for the City of Gardendale since 1998.

## Vice-President – Dr. William G. Bledsoe- Camden, AL

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

Dr. Bledsoe was born and raised in Autaugaville, Alabama and has three children. His oldest daughter, Blair (Bennett), lives in Montgomery with husband, Chad, and daughter, Leighton Grace, who was born in October 2009. His middle child, Jill, graduated from Auburn and will graduate in May from Alabama with an MBA. His son, Bo, graduated from Auburn and is completing his first year of law school at Alabama.

Dr. Bledsoe has been the board representative for the West Alabama VMA for nearly 20 years. In his spare time he enjoys gardening, outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing, and as often as possible he likes tailgating at Auburn football games. He believes in giving back to the community and volunteers in civic projects as often as possible. He is a member of the Camden Baptist Church where he is a Deacon and teaches Sunday school for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Dr. Bledsoe says he is honored to be nominated and is looking forward to the opportunity of serving as an officer of the Alabama VMA.

## AVMA Delegate – Dr. William E. DeWitt – Birmingham, AL

Dr. DeWitt, a 1968 graduate of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, has owned Forestdale Veterinary Clinic in Birmingham since 1970. Most of Dr. DeWitt's professional time has been devoted to clinical practice and volunteer leadership of local, state and national veterinary associations. He has served in a variety of leadership positions in the Jefferson County VMA, including serving as President from 1989-1990.



As a member of the ALVMA, Dr. DeWitt has served on numerous committees and has been on the ALVMA's Executive Board since 1988. He was elected President of the ALVMA from 1995-1996 and also served as the President of the Alabama Academy of Veterinary Practice from 1991-1992 and has served in this position again since 2009. Dr. DeWitt and his wife, Judy, are proud parents and grandparents. They have raised five children, one of whom is also a veterinarian.

(Con't) Dr. DeWitt was elected as Alternate Delegate to the AVMA from 1996-2002, and in 2002 was elected as the AVMA Delegate and has continued in this position since then, representing the memberships of the ALVMA in the AVMA HOD. He has also served as the District III Campaign Chairman of the AVMA since 2002. Dr. DeWitt's honors include Alabama Veterinarian of the Year in 1999 and the ALVMA's Distinguished Service Award in 2010. Dr. DeWitt and his wife, Judy, are proud parents and grandparents. They have raised five children, one of whom is also a veterinarian.

## Treasurer & AVMA Alternate Delegate– Dr. H. Winston Pirtle, Sr. – Montgomery, AL

Dr. Pirtle received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University in 1967, the same year he activated his membership in the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association. In 1999 he was admitted into the Alabama State Bar after obtaining a law degree from Jones School of Law in Montgomery. Following his graduation from the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Pirtle spent thirty-seven years owning various farm operations including a dairy farm, a cow/beef cattle farm; and a hay production farm as well as owning and operating Snowdown Veterinary Hospital, a general practice hospital south of Montgomery. In June of 2005 Dr. Pirtle sold the hospital and now serves as a relief veterinarian throughout Alabama.

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

Since obtaining his law degree, Dr. Pirtle has been appointed and handled three cases submitted to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals; represented clients on criminal defense and domestic relations; has presented lectures at the Auburn University Annual Conference on effective techniques in the collection of fees for veterinary services; assisted lead attorneys representing veterinarians in various legal matters; and, has led an ethics course at Auburn for senior veterinary students focusing on negligence law, professional malpractice, standard of care, licensing board procedures and Alabama law as it relates to animals. In his spare time, Dr. Pirtle can be found enjoying anything that involves being outdoors. He continues to operate "Pirtle's Puddle", a fishing lake open to the public since 2003. He also leases his farm for beef cattle purposes and part of the farm to a model aircraft club that flies remote-controlled model aircraft. Dr. Pirtle is a member of the Snowdown United Methodist Church.

## Member at Large - Dr. John R. Hammons – Athens, AL

Dr. John Hammons received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977. His first four years of practice (1977-1981) were spent working with a mixed practice, lots of dairy farms, in Jefferson City, Tennessee. In 1981 he purchased an existing practice back in his hometown of Athens and opened Town and Country Animal Hospital. Dr. Hammons is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, and an Associate Member of AAHA. Since 1982 he has served numerous times in different capacities as an officer of the North Alabama Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Hammons has been a Rotarian since 1986. He has served as an officer for seven years in the Rebel States Archaeological Society which involves him in his personal hobby of amateur archaeology and collecting Native American artifacts. He sometimes enjoys gardening and sometimes it is just another job. He and Peggy (AU '76, HEQ) were married in 1973 and survived vet school together. Peggy became a part of the practice in 1981, starting with anything from assisting with large animal practice up to now with more of a management position. We do not have children, but over the years we have had our variety of four legged and feathered children and none more loved than our current rescued mixed breed named Howard.

The installation of officers will take place on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 12:30 during the annual business meeting held at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin, Florida, in conjunction with the ALVMA/GVMA convention.



# ALVMF News

The spay/neuter car tag program continues to be a great success. As of January 1, 2011 a total of 5,636 tags have been bought or renewed and 2,687 surgeries have been performed since the beginning of the program. For 2010 alone there were a total of 2,808 tags sold/renewed.

The Alabama VMF would like to thank the Maddie's Fund for their generosity in providing a grant to help with the postcard campaign encouraging the purchase of the spay/neuter car tags!

Please continue to submit nominations for animal inductees as well as for Bowie-Heath recipients for the annual Hall of Fame. The deadline has been extended until July 1st. The event will be in the fall this year and is going to be an event you won't want to miss! Keep an eye out for more details!

Keep an eye out...



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1. Made in the shade  
an expression from about the 1950s meaning being in an excellent or ideal situation. Be cool and "made in the shade" on the Emerald Coast. Watch for paw print visors available from the Alabama Auxiliary.



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Dr. Lewis McCurdy  
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Dr. Jan Strother Newman  
Dr. Michael Newman  
Ms. Kathleen Standifer  
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Dr. Jerome Williams

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Dr. Harold Threadgill  
Dr. Patrick Trotter  
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Dr. John Williamson  
Dr. Ralph W. Womer Jr.  
Dr. George Wood  
Dr. Marsha A. Zahumensky

Gifts Given January 1, 2010  
through December 31, 2010



## REGISTRATION FORM

### ALVMA/GVMA 2011 Combined Summer Convention

June 1-5, 2011

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

Online registration is available today at [ALVMA.com](http://ALVMA.com) or [GVMA.net](http://GVMA.net)  
Call 800-853-1625 for more information.

#### Attendee

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name for Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### Proceedings

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

Select ONE (only one version available per attendee):

Proceedings on CD-ROM (FREE)

Printed Proceedings (\$40)

#### CE

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

Thursday, June 2

I plan to attend the morning general session

Laser Therapy  Heartworm Link  Practice Management

Friday, June 3

Behavior  Surgery  Legal CE  Podiatry

Saturday, June 4

Dermatology  Cardiology  Pain Management  Podiatry  Vet Tech

Sunday, June 5

Ophthalmology  Dentistry  Urban Health / Pulmonology  Vet Tech

I have dietary restrictions or other special needs. Please contact me.

#### Registration

Veterinary Pricing Member/Non-member

Early Bird (4/30)

Pre-Registration (5/20)

On-Site<sup>2</sup>

Full \$425/\$575

\$475/\$625

\$525/\$675

2 Day \$275/\$335

\$325/\$400

\$375/\$425

Circle the two days you will attend: Mon.-Tue. Tues.-Wed. Wed.-Thurs.

Vet Tech/Staff \$245

\$295

\$350

Recent Grad<sup>1</sup> \$215

\$215

\$215

Spouse/Guest<sup>1</sup> \$60

\$60

\$60

Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Member pricing includes ALVMA/GVMA members and members of any other state VMA.
  2. Proceedings are not guaranteed for on-site registrants.
  3. Recent graduates are DVMs who graduated from veterinary college in 2009 or 2010.
  4. Spouse/guest passes are only required for guests who would like access to the exhibit hall, including the daily breakfast.
- Cancellation Policy:** 80% refund if received by May 20, 2011. No refunds after this date.

#### Activities/Events

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

Cost	Number	Total	Cost	Number	Total
Welcome Reception (Wed. 5-6:30 pm)	Free	1	Auxiliary Breakfast (Fri.)	1	\$35
Family Beach Bash (Thurs.)	\$30 adult	1	Golf Outing (Fri.)	1	\$135
Family Bike Ride (Thurs.)	\$12 child	1	Walk/Run (Sat.)	1	\$5 adult / \$0 child
ALVMA Business Meeting (Thurs.)	Free	1	Fellowship Breakfast (Sun.)	1	\$20

#### Payment

Registration Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Proceedings Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard  VISA  AMEX  Discover  Check payable to ALVMA/GVMA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Info

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

**Name Badge and Tickets** - A name badge is required for entrance into the CE sessions and the exhibit hall - where exhibits, meals and breaks take place. Lost Badge - a \$10 fee will be assessed for creation of a replacement badge.

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

## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome those who have joined the Association since November, 2010

#### Drs:

Tara Graveman Bonds (Cullman - AUB03)  
Bobby G. Brown (Auburn - AUB68)  
Courtney Caddell Grijalva (Mobile - TUS05)  
Amanda Kaczmarek (Hartselle - AUB07)  
Ellen B. Newsom (Mobile - Edinburgh10)  
Bill R. Rippey (Ozark - AUB95)  
Seth Taylor (Ashland - AUB06)  
Melissa Anne Tollett (Philadelphia, PA - AUB10)

Day at the golf course \$60.00  
Dinner and a Movie \$100.00  
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**ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention 2011 CE Program - Sandestin**

**Wednesday, June 1, 2011** – 5:00 – 6:30 Opening Kickoff in the Exhibit Hall

**Thursday, June 2, 2011**

6:30 - 7:00 Coffee in Exhibit Hall

7:00 - 7:50 Opening Session (1 Hr.) Will Harris, III – Sustainable & Humane Livestock Production in the Coastal Plains of the Gulf of Mexico

Magnolia D Laser Therapy Dr. John Godbold Sponsored by Companion Therapy Laser by LifeCure	Magnolia E Small Animal Heartworm University Dr. Clarke Atkins Sponsored by Merial & American Heartworm Society	Magnolia F Practice Management Lisa Bell
7:50 - 8:40 (1 Hr.) Light Years Ahead - Class IV Laser Therapy	7:50 - 8:40 (1 Hr.) What's New & Important in the Diagnosis of Heartworm Disease – Why Microfilariae Matter	7:50 - 8:40 (1 Hr.) Social Media

8:40 - 9:40 Exhibit Hall & Break

9:40 - 11:20 (2 Hrs.) Light Years Ahead - Class IV Laser Therapy	9:40 - 11:20 (2 Hrs.) Controversies, Conundrums & Breakthroughs in the Treatment/ Prevention of Heartworm Infection	9:40 - 11:20 (2 Hrs.) Performance Management Talent Acquisition
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11:20 - 11:40 Break

11:40 - 12:30 (1 Hr.) Light Years Ahead - Class IV Laser Therapy	11:40 - 12:30 (1 Hr.) Heartworm Disease in Cats	11:40 - 12:30 (1 Hr.) High Performance Team Culture
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**Friday, June 3, 2011**

SMALL ANIMAL		LEAP	POULTRY
Magnolia D Behavior - Dr. Wayne Hunthausen	Magnolia E Surgery - Dr. Brian Beale	Magnolia F Charlotte Lacroix	Camellia I Moderator: Dr. John Glisson

6:30 - 7:00 Coffee in Exhibit Hall

7:00 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) Puppy and Adolescent Canine Behavior Problems	7:00 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) Practical Treatment of Cranial Cruciate Ligament Injury How to Find and Treat That Elusive Meniscus	7:00 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) Will Your Electronic Medical Records Protect You? Informed Consents - Boring Until You Get Sued? 8:40 - 10:00 Exhibit Hall & Break	8:00 - 8:30 – Experiences With Recombinant Newcastle Vaccine – Dr. Kristi Moore Dorsey 8:30 - 9:00 – Industry Experiences With Antibiotic-Free Programs and Clostridium Control – Dr. Tim Cummings
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10:00 - 11:40 (2 Hrs.) Aggression Problems Between Family Dogs Canine Fear-Related Aggression	10:00 - 11:40 (2 Hrs.) Tricks to Successful Surgical Repair of MPL Elbow Dysplasia - Much More Common Than You Think	10:00 - 11:40 (2 Hrs.) Importance of Employment Agreements and Options in Succession Planning Legal Issues Pertaining to the Use of Drugs in Veterinary Practice	9:00 - 9:30 – Pathology of Calcium & Vitamin D Toxicities in Chickens - Dr. Fred Hoerr 9:30 - 9:50 – Review – Campylobacter in Field Broilers - Dr. Peter O'Kane 9:50 - 10:10 – Methods for Detection of CIAV Infection in Broiler Breeder Pullets - Dr. Rodrigo Espinosa 10:10 - 10:30 Break 10:30 - 11:00 – Calcium Defluorinated Phosphorous Toxicosis in Broiler Breeders - Dr. Sam Christensen
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11:40 - 11:50 Exhibit Hall & Break

11:50 - 12:40 (1 Hr.) Common Sense Approaches to Feline House Soiling Problems	11:50 - 12:40 (1 Hr.) Simple Ways to Fix Comminuted Fractures	11:50 - 12:40 (1 Hr.) Legal Issues Pertaining to the Use of Drugs in Veterinary Practice	11:00 - 11:30 – The Other Poultry Industry - Dr. Kelli Jones 11:30 - 12:00 – NPIP Update - Dr. Steve Roney
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**ALVMA/GVMA Summer Convention 2011 CE Program - Sandestin**

**Saturday, June 4, 2011**

SMALL ANIMAL - Magnolia D	SMALL ANIMAL - Magnolia F	SMALL ANIMAL - Magnolia E	POULTRY - Camellia I	VET TECH, VE
Dermatology - Dr. Jon Plant	Cardiology - Dr. Henry Green	Pain Management - Dr. Lesley Smith	Moderator: Dr. John Glisson	Ann Worthinger, BIS, LVT, VTS (ECC, SAIM)

6:30 - 7:00 Exhibit Hall

7:00 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) A Practical Approach to Otitis	7:30 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) Physical Examination, Diagnosis and Treatment of Common Congenital Heart Diseases NT-pro BNP Test: What it is and Should I Use This Test?	7:30 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) Physiology of Pain & Pain Assessment in Small Animals	8:00 - 8:40 - ILTV Vaccine Research - Dr. Maricarmen Garcia 8:40 - 9:00 – Evaluating the Presence ILTV CEO Vaccine – Growout to Processing - Dr. Denise Brinson	7:00 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) Counseling Clients in Crisis Diabetes Mellitus
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8:40 - 9:40 Exhibit Hall & Break

9:40 - 11:20 (2 Hrs.) A Practical Approach to Atopic Dermatitis	9:40 - 11:20 (2 Hrs.) Diagnosis and Treatment of Congestive Heart Failure Rhythms of the Heart	9:40 - 11:20 (2 Hrs.) New and Old Approaches to Treating Peri-Operative Pain	9:00 - 10:00 – Interesting and Mystery Cases - Drs. Susan Williams & Fred Hoerr 10:00 - 10:30 – Break	9:40 - 11:20 (2 Hrs.) Diabetes Mellitus Diarrhea
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11:20 - 11:40 Exhibit Hall & Break

11:40 - 12:30 (1 Hr.) An Update on Demodicosis	11:40 - 12:30 (1 Hr.) These are My Cardiac Cases - What Should I Do?	11:40 - 12:30 (1 Hr.) Myths and Misconceptions in Anesthesia	10:30 - 11:15 – Vaccination to Control Coccidiosis – Dr. Greg Mathis 11:15 - 12:00 – Live MG Vaccination of Broiler Breeders in Georgia – Dr. Naala Ferguson-Noel
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**Sunday, June 5, 2011**

Magnolia A Ophthalmology - Beth Gibbins	Magnolia B Dentistry - Brett Beckman	Magnolia C Urban Poultry - Pulmonology	VET TECH Ann Worthinger, BIS, LVT, VTS (ECC)
7:00 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) The Ophthalmic Exam – So Much to See! Lens and Retina – a Deeper Look into the Eye!	7:00 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) Managing Stage I-IV Periodontal Disease	7:40 - 8:40 (1 Hr.) Clinical Physiology: Understanding What Your Patient is Saying - Dr. Brendan McKiernan	7:00 - 8:40 (2 Hrs.) Fluid Therapy CRI Infusions Nutritional Support

8:40 - 9:00 Break

9:00 - 10:40 (2 Hrs.) Corneal Ulcers and Uveitis Ocular Pharmacology: What to Stock, What to Script and What to Scrap	9:00 - 10:40 (2 Hrs.) A Case-Oriented Approach to Veterinary Dental Radiographic Interpretation	9:00 - 10:40 (2 Hrs.) Sneezing & Snorling – Nasal/Nasopharyngeal Diseases Chronic Coughing in the Dog and Cat	9:00 - 10:40 (2 Hrs.) Pancreatitis Refeeding Syndrome
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10:50 - 11:40 (1 Hr.)  
Respiratory Case Discussions

10:50 - 11:40 (1 Hr.) Cats are From Venus and Dogs are From Mars	10:50 - 11:40 (1 Hr.) Regional Analgesia and Pain Management for Oral Surgery Dogs and Cats	10:40 - 10:50 Break	
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to all of the ALVMA Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributors! Your contribution assists the committee in helping those members of the Alabama Legislature who have proven to be friends of Veterinary Medicine and have a keen interest in our profession.

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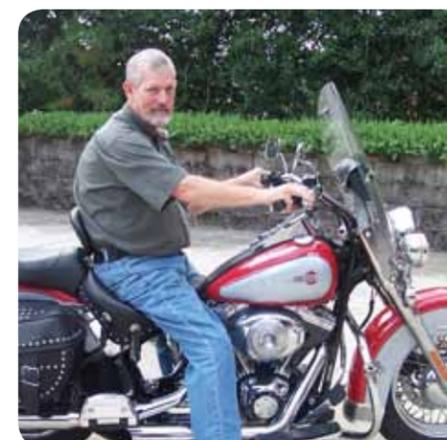
Dr. Winston Pirtle sold his practice in Montgomery in 2005. He now does large and small animal relief practice through out Alabama. From time to time, with permission of veterinarians and clients, he will share unusual occurrences, hobbies, or animal cases he has seen.



### Dr. Creel's Hog Barn By: Dr. Winston Pirtle

On occasion I work in relief of my friend, Dr. Mike Creel at Red Barn Animal Hospital near Boaz. Mike says that since there are very few swine left in Marshall County he decided to help repopulate the species. First, he built a hog friendly barn.

His repopulation includes 3 Honda Goldwings, 1 Harley Davidson, 6 Kawasaki's, 2 Yamaha's, 1 Suzuki, 1 BMW, 2 Honda dirt bikes and 1 Honda 1300. Fourteen are touring hogs. All are bathed, shine like new and have their cords hooked to outlets for instant energy.



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# AVMA Alternate Delegate's Report

by Dr. Winston Pirtle, AVMA Alternate Delegate

Since being appointed as your alternate delegate by Dr. Todd last fall, I have attended only one meeting of the House of Delegates (HOD), in early January 2011 in Chicago, but look forward to representing you at the convention in St. Louis, July 16-19, this year. I've tried to familiarize myself with all governance of the AVMA and the several ways different issues can be tackled. It is only after studying those procedures after a couple of days does one realize the importance of grass roots ideas and the variety of presentation methods that can be utilized in order to have them considered at the national level. Delegate, Dr. DeWitt, and I urge you not to be timid, but contact us with your concerns. They WILL be addressed appropriately. Also, please let us know cell phone contacts for you if you plan to attend the July meeting in St. Louis. We answer to you, the Executive Board and the Executive Committee of ALVMA, and might need your advice and counsel on a position to take on your behalf. Who knows, we may even organize a dinner meal together! Some time this spring, look at the CE opportunities in St. Louis. They will be, as always, excellent!

Each policy at AVMA is reviewed every five years on a staggered basis, so ample time for review is not a problem. This last year was the year for review of the Veterinarian's Oath, to which we all subscribe and is generally adopted by veterinarians for the first time at their graduation exercise at the various veterinary colleges. AVMA Bylaws state that the HOD, with its broad based representation of delegates, alternate delegates, as well as varied stake holder organizations, shall establish policies for the AVMA. In its absence, the Executive Board may set policy, which it did by making changes to the oath late last year. Animal welfare is introduced for the first time and will remain pending review in five years. Some groups favored the changes, but some did not. Read the new oath below carefully. To subscribe to it as changed could affect the way you practice on a daily basis.

This is the new oath:

Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge. I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.

Three resolutions were presented to the HOD for consideration in January:

1. A resolution calling for a gradual increase in dues was presented and passed. AVMA dues will remain level for 2012, but will increase by \$10.00 in each of the years 2013, 2014 and 2015. The feeling was that the gradual increase in those years will not unduly burden members, but allow AVMA to continue its programs on behalf of the membership.
2. A resolution was presented supporting open balloting in the HOD, with all votes on all issues being posted on the AVMA web site. This resolution did not pass. However, each organization will retain the right to request its representative's vote on each resolution or ballot for election.
3. The third resolution was a no brainer. The HOD passed a resolution recognizing World Veterinary Year since 2011 is the 250th anniversary of the veterinary profession. AVMA represents the United States on the Executive Committee of Vet 2011, the organization headquartered in France coordinating World Veterinary Year all around the globe. So far over 150 countries are participating in this world-wide celebration.

Hope to see you at our state convention at Sandestin in June. You won't beat the CE, the venues we and the Georgia VMA have nailed down, the beaches and the bay, but most of all the interactions of all of us for the betterment of all of us. I'm sure to some of you, the chance to be in the company of Dr. DeWitt and I, your servant politicians, will be the highlight of your trip. See you at the beach!

Respectfully submitted,  
H. Winston Pirtle, Sr., DVM, JD  
AVMA Alternate Delegate

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