

Newsletter

NEXT MEETING **Tuesday, October 9, 2007**

***PLEASE INVITE OTHERS TO ATTEND THIS MEETING
& JOIN THE DCVMA!***

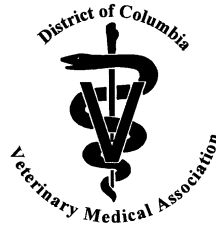
Where: AVMA Governmental Relations Division Office
1910 Sunderland Place NW
Washington, DC 20036

When: Tuesday October 9, 2007
6:30 Social hour and dinner
7:00 Business meeting

Speaker: **Earl Strimple, DVM**
Animal-related Activities of PAL [People. Animals. Love]

Directions: Take the red line Metro to Dupont Circle and exit from the Dupont Circle South metro exit. Sunderland Place is a half block south on the right.

<i>President</i>	Dr. Sebastian Heath
<i>Vice President</i>	Dr. Patty Bennett
<i>Executive Director</i>	Dr. Shearon Smith
<i>Secretary / Treasurer</i>	Dr. Tracy DuVernoy
<i>President Elect</i>	Dr. Sebastian Heath
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Dr. Bonnie Buntain
<i>AVMA Delegate</i>	Dr. Sal Cirone
<i>AVMA Alternate Delegate</i>	Dr. Earl Strimple
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Dr. Katherine Feldman



Delegate Report – Dr. Sal Cirone

AVMA House of Delegates Meeting, AVMA Annual Convention Session, July 13–14, 2007

1. The informal assembly meeting was held the day prior to the convention, July 12. Both the DCVMA Delegate, **Dr. Sal Cirone**, and the Alternate Delegate, **Dr. Earl Strimple**, attended. There was an agenda prepared by the House Advisory Committee (HAC) Chair to informally discuss the agenda to be followed during the formal session, followed by questions and answers and topics suggested for the informal session of the Reference Committee meetings. During the informal discussion, the DCVMA Delegate invited the assembly members to the DCVMA sponsored African American Accent Tour hosted by **Dr. Alfred Montgomery**. The informal assembly concluded with presentations by the candidates for the various AVMA open Council positions.
2. Following the informal assembly, the District II Caucus was held. The Delegate and Alternate Delegate attended. The Resolutions were discussed. DCVMA Delegate noted that the DCVMA gave the Delegate direction to vote for all 3 proposed resolutions without the option to change based on District II discussions or HOD discussion.
3. The House of Delegates meeting opened on July 13th as noted in the AVMA Order of Business in the Agenda. The President-Elect Gregory S. Hammer presided. Following the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the DCVMA Delegate, **Dr. Sal Cirone**, was called to the podium to welcome the House of Delegates (HOD) to Washington, DC.
4. The Following Resolutions were presented:
 - a. Resolution 1: Position Statement on Force Feeding of Ducks and Geese; Resolved that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) opposes the practice of artificially force feeding ducks and geese to produce foie gras because of the adverse effects on the birds' health and welfare associated with this practice. DC voted yes as directed by DCVMA. The Executive Board recommended disapproval, the HAC recommended disapproval, Reference Committee #2 recommended disapproval, the HOD voted to disapprove.
 - b. Resolution 2: Use of Microchip Registration Databases; Resolved that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMS) endorses the use of microchip registration databases strictly for reuniting animals and owners and opposes their use as a source for marketing or referrals of other products and services. Reference committee #6

recommended a change to add the words “companion animals” after “of” and before “microchip”. The EB recommended approval, the HAC recommended approval, the Reference Committee #6 recommended approval, the HOD voted to approve. DCVMA voted yes as directed by the DCVMA.

c. Resolution 3: Use of Microchip Registration Databases; was withdrawn by AVMA EB.

d. Resolution 4: The Production of Foie Gras as an Acceptable Practice. Resolved that the American Veterinary Medical Association approve the production of foie gras, in accordance with AVMA welfare committee guidance, is an acceptable agricultural practice. This was brought on as a HOD floor action. The HAC meet and recommended disapproval (based on incorrect wording of the resolution). The HOD voted to disapprove. DCVMA voted no to be consistent with previous DCVMA direction on how to vote on Resolution 1.

5. DCVMA Delegate **Dr. Sal Cirone**, as HAC member representing Federal and State Salaried Veterinarians, chaired Reference Committee #3, Committee on Education and Research. As HAC chair of Reference Committee #3, he presented the Reference Committee report to the HOD.

6. The results of the voting – of interest to DCVMA- were:

Dr. Mark Helfat (District II) - elected to the HAC representing Private Practice, Mixed.

Dr. Tracy DuVernoy, (District II) – elected to Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine, to fill an unexpired term [2007 – 2011].

Dr. Brushan Jayarao, (District II) – elected to Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. William Swecker, (District II) – elected to the Council on Education

7. This was the most successful AVMA Convention in history based on the number of attendees in all categories. Also, it was profitable, well liked, and well organized. We should be proud of our accomplishments.

Respectfully Submitted. **Salvatore Cirone, Delegate, DCVMA**



Report from your District 2 Representative – Dr. John Brooks

Greetings from your AVMA, I hope this brief overview of the past few months' AVMA activities will help to provide each of you, as District II AVMA members, a better insight into the AVMA ongoing issues and personnel changes. The annual AVMA convention was held in Washington, DC this past July and had a record 10,300 attendees, with over 1000 hours of CE offered. Those attending the House of Delegates were privileged to see Dr. Greg Hammer, your former Executive Board representative, assume the presidency of the AVMA. Greg, in his remarks, challenged each of those attending to work hard to further the successful passage of the Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act, Senate bill 746/House Bill 1232. This particular bill would authorize \$1.5 billion over 10 years to build the capacity in veterinary medical education to expand the workforce engaged in public health practice, food safety, and biomedical research. Additionally, Dr. Bruce Little was honored as he prepared to retire from his position as Executive Vice President of the AVMA. Dr. Little was instrumental in moving the AVMA forward on many fronts during his tenure as Executive Vice President, and established the AVMA as the international leader in organized veterinary medicine. **Dr. Ron DeHaven**, former Administrator of APHIS, was selected to succeed Dr. Little and Dr. DeHaven started working on August 9. Other senior AVMA personnel changes of note include Dr. Janet Donlin, Assistant Executive Vice President, who is leaving AVMA to take a senior position with Hill's.

My AVMA responsibilities for the next several months include the EB liaison to the Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine (CPHRVM), the Food Safety Advisory Committee, and the Committee on Disaster Issues. Each of these entities meets twice yearly for 2-3 days each. I will be traveling to Atlanta on October 10th for the fall meeting of the CPHRVM which will be hosted by Dr. Lonnie King at the CDC. This is a great opportunity for the AVMA to become more familiar with the workings of the CDC and to develop a closer relationship. This comes at a very opportune time as the AVMA moves the One Medicine, One World initiative forward, spearheaded by AVMA Past President Roger Mahr. I recently accepted appointment on the Board of Directors for the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF). The main emphasis of the AVMF is in the arena of disaster response through the AVMA VMAT infrastructure and support of State Animal Response Teams (SART). The potential for the AVMF to increase its presence in these areas is directly dependent on each of our AVMA members being vocal advocates for the AVMF.

The next few months will be very busy for yours truly traveling to AVMA Headquarters and other sites representing you, our membership. I want to thank each of the veterinary associations in District II and you the members for the great hospitality extended to me as I attend the annual state VMA events. I have said it before but it bears repeating: I have the distinct honor to represent not only the largest number of AVMA members in any district but without a doubt, the most active and forward thinking veterinarians. I wish the best to you and yours for the upcoming holidays and as always, remain available either directly, or through your AVMA Delegate and Alternate to respond to your concerns.

Cheers, **Dr. John Brooks**



Thank You to the Volunteers at the DC AVMA Convention

The AVMA convention in Washington, DC was an overwhelming success, thanks in part to the generous volunteers, many of them DCVMA members (in bold) and VMRCVM students (marked with an asterisk), who gave their time to various activities and events:

For the 5K run: **Dr. Jane Robens**, Laura McCarthy*, **Dr. Dale Boyle**, Beatrix Cziprusz*, Dr. Doug Graham, **Dr. Dan Teich**, Dr. Natalie Titus, Dr. Hope McKalip, and **Dr. Patty Bennett**.

For the Welcome Booth: Courtney Mason*, Dr. Ilaria Brun delRe, Dr. David Stevenson, Brianna Wilson*, Dr. Suzanne Locklair, Dr. Janet Methvin, Dr. Elizabeth Embree, **Kimberly Topper**, **Dr. Paul Hildebrandt**, Dr. Natalie Titus, Amanda Hall*, Dr. Judi Lynch, Dr. Hope McKalip, Dr. Jennifer Brown, Dr. Doug Graham, Dr. Michael Watts, C. Gifford, and **Dr. Dan Teich**.

For the wetlabs; Herb Yee*, Brianna Wilson*, Katie Clark*, Laura McCarthy*, and Beatrix Cziprusz*.

Thanks also to our volunteer coordinator, **Dr. Patty Bennett!**



Federal Legislation Round-Up

Dr. Sarah Lister has generously offered to regularly provide a 'legislation round-up' to inform us of recent items considered in Congress that may be of interest to veterinarians. Legislative information can be found at www.congress.gov.

On September 27, President Bush signed P.L. 110-85, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, which affects a number of FDA programs. The law does not include a provision from the Senate bill that would have lifted FDA's current ban on the sale of baby turtles. The law contains two pet food safety provisions, requiring FDA to establish processing and ingredient standards for pet foods, and a surveillance system to detect outbreaks of animal illness associated with pet foods. Additional provisions apply equally to the safety of human and pet foods, including a requirement that manufacturers notify FDA within 24 hours if they become aware that the food may be harmful. The law also establishes new programs for post-market safety reviews of human drugs. These provisions do not apply to veterinary drugs.

Submitted by Sarah A. Lister, DVM, MPH, DACVPM



Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act Needs to Be Passed in Original Form, AVMA Says

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is calling on its members to get involved in lobbying efforts that would help reverse a growing shortage of public health and food supply veterinarians. This veterinary workforce shortage threatens U.S. security, our economy, and the food supply.

At the turn of the 20th century, virtually every veterinarian in the United States was a food supply veterinarian, but today there are just 8,857, making up just 17 percent of the veterinary workforce. According to a recent study, the shortage of public health and food supply veterinarians is expected to get worse by 4 to 5 percent every year. Considering that food animal production generates \$124 billion annually to the U.S. economy and that 80 percent of potential bioterrorism agents are zoonotic, this growing shortfall is becoming a crisis.

The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act (VPHWEA) was introduced in the spring of 2007 to authorize \$1.5 billion over 10 years for a competitive grant program that would build capacity in veterinary medical education to expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice, food safety, and biomedical research. More recently, the Senate HELP Committee modified the language in VPHWEA and inserted it into the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, which passed the full Senate on July 24th, 2007. This revised language replaced the \$1.5 billion authorization with "such sums as necessary," shortened the program to five years, and replaced "capitol construction" with "minor repairs and improvements." Former Senator John Melcher, an AVMA member and consultant to the AVMA Governmental Relations Division (GRD), said that this revised legislation simply won't work.

"We will be working to pass the bill as it was originally introduced because that is the only way that we'll be able to increase enrollment in veterinary colleges," Melcher said. "We need every veterinarian to contact their senators and representative and ask that the original draft of the legislation be passed to address this problem. We need to put the pressure on, and we need to be insistent that the original bill be passed in the House and Senate. Grassroots efforts will prevail if we work together."

Additional information about the VPHWEA and how you can contact your representative can be found at <http://www.capwiz.com/avma/home/>. For more information, contact Dr. Robert Nichols (rnichols@avma.org) at the AVMA-GRD at (800) 321-1473, ext. 3204.



AVMA Committees and Councils – Request for Nominations

Attachments can be found at the end of the newsletter. Please note the tight deadline!

To: Organizations Represented in the AVMA House of Delegates
Delegates and Alternate Delegates
American Society of Veterinary Medical Association Executives
International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine
Association of Shelter Veterinarians
AVMA Executive Board

AVMA Staff

FROM: J. Karl Wise, PhD, CAE
Associate Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: **November 2007 Appointments - Request for Nominations**

Deadline October 12, 2007

DATE: August 27, 2007

Attached is a list of appointments to be made at the November 2007 AVMA Executive Board meeting. The appointment will be effective at the end of that meeting.

We are requesting that you submit nominees for the listed positions from your organization. For your convenience, information about the charge and representation on specific AVMA committees is provided on the AVMA web site at www.avma.org/resources. A booklet entitled "Volunteering in the AVMA - Councils, Committees, and Trusts at a Glance" can be viewed online or downloaded and printed.

Board policy requires that nominations for appointive positions be received 30 days prior to the Board meeting at which the appointments are to be made. **Please submit your nominations by October 12, 2007 for the Executive Board appointments.** All nominations must include the enclosed nomination form and a one- or two-page resume. Please do not send more extensive resumes. *The Executive Board has specified a maximum of two pages.*

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (kwise@avma.org, extension 6602) or Kathleen Garner (kgarner@avma.org, extension 6605).

Attached: 2007 Appointments - Request for Nominations List
Nomination Form, and Protocol for Appointments by the Executive Board

You may email or fax your nominations



Zoning of Animal Establishments in DC

In September 2007, the DC Zoning Commission adopted the following, summarized below:

Maintains veterinary hospital as a use permitted as a matter of right within the C-2, C-3, C-4, C-M and M Zone Districts and adds that a veterinary hospital "may also include the incidental boarding of animals as necessary for convalescence, pet grooming, and the sale of pet supplies, but not as an independent line of business." Adds animal shelter as a use permitted as a matter of right within the C-M and M Zone Districts, subject to enumerated conditions. Animal shelter is added as a special exception use within the C-2, C-3, and C-4 Zone Districts, if approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment ("BZA"), subject to enumerated criteria. Pet grooming, pet shop, and veterinary boarding hospital are added as special exception uses within the C-2, C-3, C-4, C-M and M Zone Districts, if approved by the BZA, subject to enumerated criteria. A veterinary boarding hospital is defined as a veterinary hospital that boards animals as an independent line of business. The amendments also define the terms "animal shelter," "pet grooming establishment," "pet shop," "veterinary boarding hospital," and "veterinary hospital."



Washington Humane Society Offers \$35 Microchip Clinics

The Washington Humane Society is offering a low cost (\$35) microchip clinic at either of their two shelters or at their Spay/Neuter Center on October 13 from 12:00 - 3:00. No appointment is necessary and there is no limit on the number of animals. Cats must be in a carrier and dogs on a leash. For more details, see: <http://www.washhumane.org/upcomingevents.asp>.



Kitten Found in D.C. Diagnosed with Rabies

As reported in the Washington Post by [Joe Holley](#) on Thursday, September 20, 2007

DC Department of Health (DOH) officials reported today that a kitten found at the Anacostia Farmers Market tested positive for rabies after biting five people. The kitten, described as black with brown markings, was found by a resident last week at the market at 14th and U streets SE. The resident, three of her friends and a veterinarian tried to help the sick animal and were bitten. All five are undergoing rabies prophylaxis treatment, health officials said. DOH staff members posted flyers in the area of the farmers market and talked with nearby residents and customers. They are advising anyone who might have had contact with the kitten to immediately contact the department at 202-576-6664.

The department also has initiated a trapping plan to capture any remaining stray cats in the area. "The DOH has been in contact with veterinarians operating in the District," said Gregg Pane, director of the department. "Rabies vaccinations for cats and dogs are required by District law. We encourage all residents to vaccinate their pets and keep them from wandering freely in neighborhoods at large."



Recent DCVMA Honorees

USDA Award: Presidential Rank Awards

Each year, the U.S. President recognizes and celebrates a small group of career Senior Executives with the President's Rank Award for exceptional long-term accomplishments. Nominations are put forward by agency heads. Nominees are evaluated by boards of private citizens and are approved by the President. The evaluation criteria focus on leadership and results. Winners of this prestigious award are strong leaders, professionals, and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service. Distinguished rank recipients receive a lump-sum payment of 35 percent of their base pay; meritorious rank recipients receive 20 percent of base pay. All recipients receive a framed certificate signed by the President. It is the highest honor in the civil service.

President Bush recognized 297 federal executives as the elite of the elite by conferring the Presidential Rank Award upon them. Among the USDA recipients, our very own **Dr. Jane Robens** (USDA-ARS), recipient of the 2006 Presidential Rank Awards For Meritorious Senior Professional.

Congratulations Jane!

The following DCVMA Members received AVMA recognition for achievements in Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine in 2005, 2006, and 2007:

Dr. Salvatore M. Cirone: ACVPM Distinguished Diplomate 2006

Dr. Theresa W. Casey: Promoted to Brigadier General, USAF

Dr. Katherine A. Feldman: James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award, CDC 2006

Congratulations Sal, Theresa, and Katherine!



One Health Initiative Update

Dr. Bruce Kaplan has provided several updates on the One Health initiative:

- Dr. James O. Cook, then AVMA District IV representative and board chair, announced members of the One Health Initiative Task Force, July 12. The Veterinarians on the task force are Drs. Lonnie J. King (chair), director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Carina G. Blackmore, Florida state public health veterinarian; Michael J. Blackwell, dean of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine; Elizabeth A. Lautner, director of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories; Leonard C. Marcus (who, in addition to being a veterinarian, is also a physician) of Travelers' Health and

Immunization Services; James E. Nave, AVMA globalization monitoring agent; Marguerite Pappaioanou, professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health; and Rear Adm. William S. Stokes, assistant surgeon general. 2006-2007 AVMA President Roger K. Mahr, who proposed the formation of the task force, will be its Executive Board liaison.

Nonveterinarian members are Student AVMA President Justin Sobota; Thomas P. Monath, MD, of Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield, and Byers; medical student Travis E. Meyer; and Jörg Ohle, president and general manager of Bayer HealthCare LLC's Animal Health Division. The American Medical Association's representative to the task force is Larry Anderson, MD. The AMA liaison is Ronald M. Davis, MD, the association's president; Jay H. Glasser, PhD, is the American Public Health Association liaison.

- Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a physician and prominent “One Health” advocate/supporter, was a keynote speaker at the Aspen Health Forum in Aspen, Colorado on October 4, 2007. His talk was titled: Dangerous Liaisons: The Intersection of Environmental, Animal and Human Health. Outbreaks of the Ebola virus and bird flu in recent years have underscored that public health is inseparable from people’s relationships with their physical environment. Dr. Frist explained why we should all be concerned about vectors of combined airborne, waterborne and food-chain contamination — no matter where they occur.
- A “One Health” Symposium at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) <http://www.astmh.org/> 56th Annual Meeting, is to be held November 4-8, 2007 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The One Health-One Medicine session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. This session, “Reviving “One Medicine/One Health” Concept to Enhance Biomedical Research and Public Health Efficacy,” was organized by Thomas P. Monath, MD, past President of ASTMH.



Newsletter Material

Please submit material for the DCVMA newsletter! Please send submissions to the Newsletter Editor, **Dr. Katherine Feldman**, by email: kfeldman@dnhm.state.md.us.

