

# *The Louisiana* **Veterinarian**

Vol. 32 No. 1

The Official Publication of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association

Jan/Feb 2022

## President's Report



Dear LVMA Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying 2022!

Thank you for joining

us at the LVMA Winter Meeting in New Orleans. Melanie, Emily, and Mary kept the meeting running smoothly despite any COVID complications. I would like to extend another thank you to Dr. Jesse Brandon for his leadership for the past year and a half through hurricanes and a pandemic. We look forward to his continued service as our Southwest Veterinary Symposium Representative. Please save the date and join us in Fort Worth, TX from September 22-25, 2022 for SWVS.

I am honored to serve as your LVMA President this year. I love being a veterinarian and giving back to our state and profession. After graduating from LSU, my veterinary career has varied over the years from the US Army Veterinary Corps, to private practice, to shelter medicine, to HQHVSN, and educating future registered veterinary technicians. I am grateful there always seems to be a new opportunity within veterinary medicine.

We are excited to restart our Power of 10 program this year to engage our recent graduates. The program is a wonderful experience and of great benefit to the attendee and their practice or employer. Additionally, the LVMA will continue to monitor legislative and regulatory issues that impact animal health and the practice of veterinary medicine

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in Louisiana.

Thank you for continuing your commitment to and membership in the LVMA. Please reach out with any concerns or ideas.

Happy Mardi Gras!

**Kathleen Elstrott Achord, DVM**  
**President, LVMA**



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Host	Location	For More Info
July 29 - Aug. 2, 2022	AVMA Convention	AVMA	Philadelphia, PA	<a href="http://www.avma.org">www.avma.org</a>
Sept. 22 - 25, 2022	SWVS	SWVS	Fort Worth, TX	<a href="http://www.swvs.org">www.swvs.org</a>
Feb. 10 - 12, 2023	2023 Winter Meeting	LVMA	Lafayette, LA	<a href="http://www.lvma.org">www.lvma.org</a>



Proudly serving the Gulf Coast Region for 12 years. We are here to provide stellar, compassionate care for our community's pets. Dr. Rose Lemarie (Boarded Veterinary Surgeon) and Dr. Melissa Blazeovich (AVDC Candidate Practice Limited to Dentistry and Oral Surgery), are here for all your pets' needs in their respective disciplines. In addition to advance surgery and dentistry, South Paws also offers physical rehabilitation, hyperbaric, oxygen therapy, regenerative medicine, and advanced diagnostic imaging such as MRI and CT.

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Dr. Jason Poynter, District 4  
Dr. John Mauterer, District 6  
Dr. Paul Ritch, District 7  
Dr. Clare Scully, District 9  
Dr. Pamela Mitchell, Member-at-Large

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Abby Sticker

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Political Action: Dr. Fenton Lipscomb

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Dr. Robert C. Gros

#### **AVMA Alternative Delegate**

Dr. Pamela Mitchell

#### **Executive Director**

Melanie Talley, CAE

#### **Submit articles and advertisements to the LVMA office as follows:**

Jan./Feb. Newsletter	January 15th
March/April Newsletter	March 15th
May/June Newsletter	May 15th
July/Aug. Newsletter	July 15th
Sept./Oct. Newsletter	September 15th
Nov./Dec. Newsletter	November 15th

## **Executive Director's Report**

Happy New Year...only a month or two later. Yes, it is still the first quarter and a lot has happened already in 2022 for the LVMA. We were able to successfully hold our Annual Winter Meeting with over 300 attendees and 44 exhibitors. We typically do have more in the New Orleans area but due to COVID-19 circumstances, our numbers were expected to be down but overall we were pleased with the outcome. We thank everyone that attended, participated and contributed to the wonderful programming that LVMA is committed to providing. A huge thank you to our Program Committee – Drs. Jesse Brandon, John Mauterer, Dale Peyroux, and Clare Scully. We ask that you save the date for our 2023 Winter Meeting to be held February 10 – 12th, in Lafayette, LA.

As some of you may know, the Louisiana Legislature is already in session for redistricting but will begin the regular session on March 14th. Please know that LVMA is already working to protect the veterinarian profession and can only do so by the contributions to the LVMA Political Action Committee (PAC). Please consider contributing so we can continue to protect YOUR profession. Contributions can be made online at [www.lvma.org](http://www.lvma.org).

Lastly, LVMA dues statements for 2022 are out and hopefully you have already returned them to the LVMA Office. They include an optional voluntary contribution to the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation (“the Foundation”) which has provided over \$115,000 in grants to those affected by Hurricane Ida. Contributions to the Foundation are deductible as charitable contributions; however, please note contributions to the PAC are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve this association and look forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

Melanie Talley, CAE  
Executive Director



# 2022 WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The 2022 Winter Meeting in New Orleans was a success! The meeting featured 20 hours of continuing education for veterinarians. Sessions included Companion Animal, Practice Management, Large Animal, Alternative Medicine, and Veterinary Technician tracks, all covering a broad range of topics from “Fetal Readiness and Elective C-Section in Dogs” by Dr. Carlos Pinto to “Increasing Efficiency in Our Ever-Changing Practice Life” by Dr. Jodi Michaelson. The Exhibit Hall featured 44 booths and provided entertainment and networking for attendees during breaks. Among the exhibitors were our meeting sponsors—big thank you to our Gold Sponsors: South Paws Veterinary Surgical Specialists and Veterinary Specialists of Greater New Orleans; our Silver Sponsors: IDEXX and Resurge Veterinary Surgical Specialists and Rehabilitation; and our Bronze Sponsor: Zoetis. Thank you to all of those who helped to make this year’s meeting a success.

During the Business Meeting and Luncheon, AVMA President Dr. Jose Arce inducted the 2022 LVMA Board of Directors Officers. Dr. Kathleen Elstrott Achord assumed the role of President, Dr. Kimberly Little assumed the role of President Elect, Dr. Adrianna Smith assumed the role of Vice President, and Dr. Jesse Brandon assumed the role of Immediate Past President. The 2022 Board of

Directors is as follows: Dr. Kathleen Elstrott Achord, President & Member-at-Large; Dr. Kimberly Little, President Elect & District 5; Dr. Adrianna Smith, Vice President & District 8; Dr. Jesse Brandon, Immediate Past President & District 3; Dr. Dale Peyroux, Treasurer; Dr. Glen Ritter, District 1; Dr. Bethany Bailey, District 2; Dr. Jason Poynter, District 4; Dr. Paul Ritch, District 7; Dr. Clare Scully, District 9; and Dr. Pamela Mitchel, Member-at-Large.

The 2022 Lifetime Members and 2021 Award Winners were also honored at the Business Meeting & Luncheon. Robbie Averett received the 2021 Everett D. Besch Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Jon Fletcher was named the 2021 Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian of the Year. Brittney Phelps was named the 2021 H. Bland O'Connor Support Person of the Year. Ross Hickman was named the 2021 Sales Person of the Year. The Black Family accepted the 2021 Pet of the Year award on behalf of their beloved dog, Pepper Jack, who lost his life after distracting an aggressive dog who was attacking one of the children.

Thank you to all who attended the 2022 LVMA Winter Meeting! ***We look forward to seeing everyone in Lafayette, February 10-12, 2023 for the 2023 LVMA Winter Meeting!***





*Drs. Jesse Brandon, Adrianna Smith, Kimberly Little, Kathleen Elstrott Achord being inducted by AVMA President, Dr. Jose Arce*



*Pet of the Year  
**Pepper Jack**  
Owned by the Black Family*



*Dr. Gordon Calahan accepting his  
Lifetime Membership certificate*



*Dr. Jesse Brandon & Dr. Kathleen  
Elstrott Achord*



*Sales Person of the Year  
**Ross Hickman***



*Everett D. Besch Distinguished  
Service Award  
**Robbie Averett***



*H. Bland O'Connor, Jr.  
Support Person of the Year  
**Brittney Phelps***



*Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian  
of the Year  
**Dr. Jon Fletcher***



## Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation

*Thanks to the following people, clinics, and all past contributors, the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation continues to grow. Your continued support will help the Foundation to reach new heights. Please Consider a contribution today and encourage your clients to participate in our memorial program.*

### ***Donations in memory of persons:***

*In memory of Dr. John Cooper*

Doug & Charlene Kent

*In memory of Mrs. Robbie Bishop*

Nanette & Gordon Pirie

*All donations received will be recognized. Family members will receive a card notifying them of the donation and the individual or clinic that made the donation.*

# Looking to Help?

**DONATE TO THE WALTER J. ERNST FOUNDATION  
TO HELP WITH HURRICANE IDA RELIEF EFFORTS**

**LVMA.ORG/WJEFFOUNDATION**

## Welcome New Members!

Jeanne Beck  
Abita Springs, LA

Stephanie Conner  
Slidell, LA

Laura Faucheux  
Hammond, LA

Ashley Gotreaux  
Iowa, LA

Amelie Lanuax  
Metairie, LA

Rose Lemaire  
New Orleans, LA

Brittany McClendon  
Prairieville, LA

Emelie McLellan  
Baton Rouge, LA

Rafael O'Halloran  
Gretna, LA

Blakeley Ramirez  
New Orleans, LA

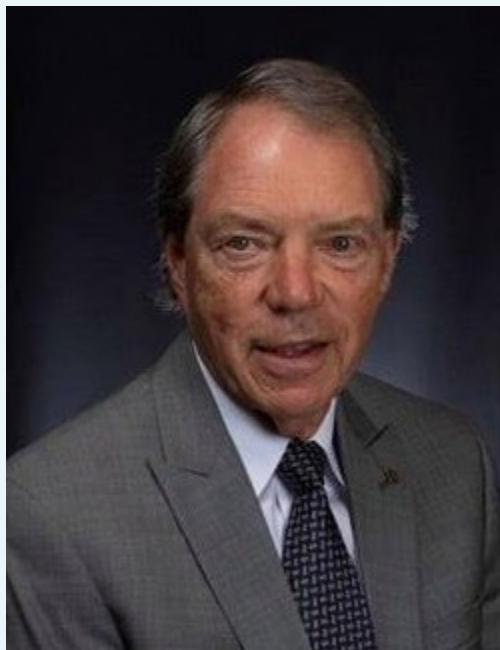
Alexis Schlamp  
Baton Rouge, LA

Nadeeshani Wijetunge  
Baton Rouge, LA



In Loving Memory of  
**Dr. Robert Lofton**

*March 29, 1946 - January 1, 2022*



Dr. Lofton passed away Saturday, January 1, 2022 after a year long battle with ALS. He died at home surrounded by family and friends.

Robert was the oldest of three boys born to Matt and Frankie Lofton. He was born in Alexandria, Louisiana and raised in Ball, Louisiana. By the age of 16 he knew he wanted to be a veterinarian and he set his sights to meet that goal by working in local vet clinics making plans to attend LSU where he continued to work in local clinics and work on campus. He attended Auburn School of Veterinary Medicine and made lifelong friends and colleagues while a student.

After graduation he practiced for a year in Roanoke, Virginia then moved to Lake Charles, LA where he built a small animal practice, University Animal Clinic and worked for 40 years. While in Lake Charles he was involved in many areas of veterinary medicine on local, state and national levels. He was a deacon at Trinity Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School for young marrieds for most of his years at Trinity. He was also active in the community with Little League, Scouts and Kiwanis.

Upon retirement Robert moved to Opelika, AL to move to his wife's hometown and to help take care of his mother-in-law. At this time he was able to fulfil another dream of being on staff at AU Veterinary School. At Auburn he worked with Fourth Year students in the Community Practice and still be able to work with clients while teaching the students to put into practice what they had learned the three years previous.

Once again he retired from his wonderful profession and had to learn to fill his day with new friends and hobbies and get some travel time in as well. Staying still was not easy or fun for him so he turned his attention to local politics and won a seat on the Opelika City Council. This was another lifelong dream that he did not have time to pursue while practicing medicine. He also got back into the role of Bible teaching at First Baptist Opelika by teaching a wonderful class of people who were a great supporter during his final battle with ALS.

Robert loved life! He had many loves the first being his family, then veterinary medicine, followed close behind. He felt he got to practice in the best of times and never dreaded a day at work. He loved the outdoors whether it was working or playing. He loved the mountains and backpacking became a great hobby. He loved his native state of Louisiana and soon became adjusted to the marshlands near Lake Charles along with the wonderful food found there. He loved everything Auburn! Vet School, football, basketball, baseball and anything else Auburn. He was known to throw a roll of toilet paper after a victory or two.

Most of all he loved people! He could talk to anyone and find out more about them in a short period of time. He loved the young and the old, the successful and those who needed a hand up. Most importantly he loved the Lord and wanted to be sure that people knew the Lord as their personal savior. His first prayer about ALS was that God would be glorified in the process.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Matt and Frankie Lofton, a niece Lynne Lofton Walker, his in-laws, John and Margaret Melson, and sister in law, Barbara Lavallet, who also died from ALS, and her husband, Phil.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Lela and their son Jesse Robert Lofton, brothers and sister in laws Dewey and Karen Lofton, Terry and Brenda Lofton, sister in law and brother in law, Sally Melson Phillips and Jody Phillips and numerous nieces and nephews, and of course his faithful dog, Grace.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Alabama chapter of ALS, 300 Cahaba Park Circle Ste 209, Birmingham, AL 3542 or Circles Opelika, 2133 Executive Park Drive, Opelika, AL in Roberts memory.



# Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (HPFL)

## About the HPFL

The Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana is a non-profit organization that provides confidential services to various licensing boards and licensees in the healthcare industry. We are a voluntary advocacy and monitoring program that allows healthcare professionals with impairments or in need of medical treatment to avoid formal disciplinary actions by their licensing boards and obtain remediation in order to practice with skill and safety. Our main goals are to facilitate care to the licensees and improve efficiency to the licensing boards.

## Services the HPFL Provides

### Advocacy

We advocate and act as a liaison on the professional's behalf with employers, insurance carriers, and other state monitoring programs.

### Education

Through our process licensees are provided psychoeducation regarding impairments, and the HPFL staff present information around the state to notify and educate licensees about our program.

### Monitoring

Participants in our program have their compliance certified through screening, therapeutic treatments, and communication with the HPFL medical director and case managers.

## Referrals

The HPFL receives referrals from multiple sources including but not limited to hospitals, colleagues, the LVBM, office staff, treatment centers, family, or friends. If you suspect impairment or have concerns for his/her safety or the safety of patients or employees, please contact us. Early intervention could save someone's life. In addition, we encourage self-referrals. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to call. Any professional who has not been treated or monitored previously by the HPFL can be a participant in the HPFL with a level of confidentiality.



## Contact Us

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P: (225) 291-500

F: (225) 291-5400

4303 Bluebonnet Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

### Medical Director

David Hammond, M.D.  
jdhammond@hpfla.org  
(225) 291-5000 ext. 15

### Senior Case Manager

Felix Vanderlick  
fvanderlick@hpfla.org  
(225) 291- 5000 ext. 12

### Case Manager

Katie Dalton  
kdalton@hpfla.org  
(225) 291-5000 ext. 13



## Classifieds

For Sale: Well respected solo small animal practice, with established clientele, in south Lafayette. Real estate available, 2,400 square foot building with 3 exam rooms, fully equipped, with room to grow! For more information text 337-288-0411 or email [dav\\_org@msn.com](mailto:dav_org@msn.com).

**SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARIANS:** We would love to speak to you about the possibility of employment (P/T or F/T). We are located in North Bossier Parish. Four day work-week (8-5:30) and one Saturday a month. NO EMERGENCY or on call duty. We have in-house blood analyzers, digital radiography, ultrasound, dental radiography, tonopen, video otoscope, cryopen, O2 generator, surgical monitoring, and doppler blood pressure. Our support staff is amazingly competent allowing you to spend your time practicing quality medicine and surgery. We have a loyal client base and a GROWING clientele. Competitive Salary (\$100K+ depending on experience), production %, 401K, professional dues, malpractice, medical insurance, CE and paid vacation. [Bentonanimal@gmail.com](mailto:Bentonanimal@gmail.com). 318-965-2371.

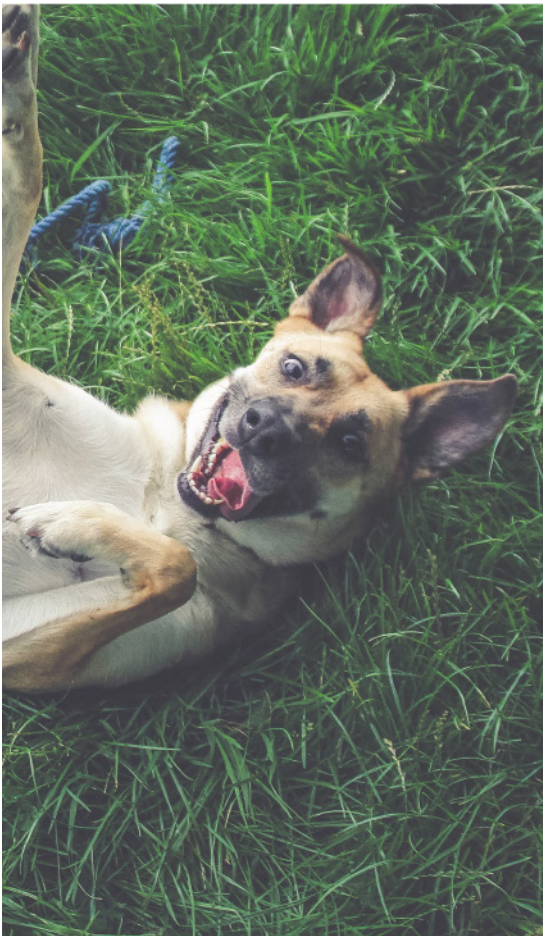
LA: Sold! Small Animal Clinic, 3 FTE DVM, extremely profitable, Real Estate available, 2020 Gross \$2.38M [LA S21]

LA: Small Animal Clinic, 1 DVM, Real Estate available, 2020 Gross \$658K [LA P18]  
Please call Wilson McManus, DVM CVPM, Simmons MidSouth 256.650.8387  
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For sale - Well-established, highly profitable well-equipped 1 1/2-2 DVM small animal practice in central Southwest Louisiana. Equipment- Idexx Lasercyte, Catalyst, Sedivue UA, digital x-ray, digital dental x-ray, high speed dental unit, ultrasound unit, radio surgical unit, and stance analyzer. Great high quality, loyal clientele. Potential also for development of large animal practice for the DVM interested in practicing mixed animal medicine. Great work-life balance. Clinic open 35hrs/wk M-F. Real estate available or will consider lease of building. Contact Drs. Bert or Sally Coco at 337-884-1399 or 337-884-9997 after 5:00 or email [bert.coco@gmail.com](mailto:bert.coco@gmail.com) or [scoco79@gmail.com](mailto:scoco79@gmail.com)

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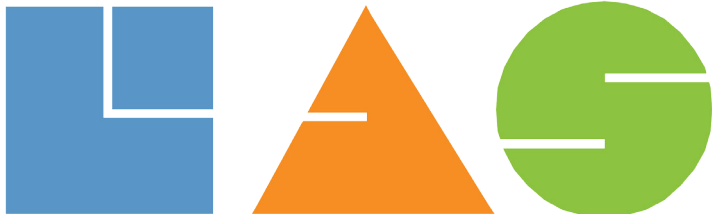


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American National is a group of companies writing a broad array of insurance products and services. Products and services may not be available in all states. Terms, conditions and eligibility requirements will apply. Property and casualty products and services may be underwritten in Louisiana by ANPAC Louisiana Insurance Company, Springfield, Missouri.

19-314914.V1.09.21







*Save The Date*

2023 LVMA Winter Meeting

Lafayette, LA

Feb. 10-12





**TIME TO  
RENEW YOUR  
LVMA DUES**

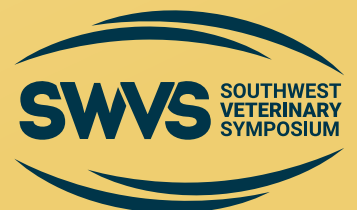
**It's time to renew your 2022 LVMA  
Membership!**

**Go to [www.lvma.org](http://www.lvma.org) to Renew**

# SOUTHWEST VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM



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SEPTEMBER 22-25







**The Louisiana Veterinarian**

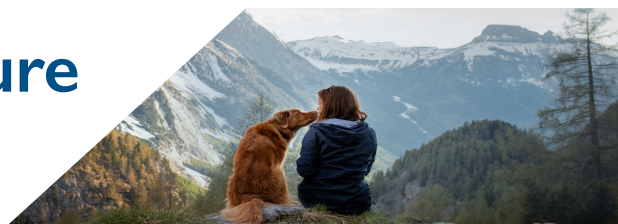
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**Alabama • New!** Great New Listing: Make 2022 the year you step into practice ownership! 100% Small Animal Hospital with increasing revenues up 20% 2021 revenues of approximately \$1.15M. This 1.2 FTE DVM practice is located in Southeastern Alabama close to the Florida Panhandle and beautiful Gulf Coast. This very profitable & well-equipped small animal practice is a great opportunity to have a balanced lifestyle as well as the ability to easily pay off student loan debt as it currently provides ~\$245K in after debt income to a new owner. With a five-day work-week, the hours are conducive to a balanced life. Practice and Real Estate both available. (AL W22)

**Louisiana • SOLD!** This southern Louisiana veterinary hospital is a fantastic opportunity to start building equity in your own future. A 3 FTE DVM practice in 2020 with Gross Revenues of ~\$2.38M and after debt income ~\$285K. (LA S21)

**Kentucky • Profitable Single DVM Practice.** Located conveniently to both Louisville and Lexington, this community is a great place to reside. The practice is currently open 4 ½ days a week. The practice is located in an attractive 2,500 SF free standing hospital and is well equipped. 2021 Revenues in excess of \$655K; After-debt income estimated ~\$151K. Practice & Real Estate available. (KY W17)

**Kentucky • Very profitable and well-equipped single DVM small animal practice with substantial growth** located in beautiful western Kentucky. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking for a great place to live and practice. The practice is open Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm and Saturday from 8:00am – 12:00pm. 2021 Gross Revenues in excess of \$1.125M after-debt income estimated ~\$194K. Practice and Real Estate for Sale (KY 807)

**Tennessee • SOLD – Corporate Sale** Thriving Small Animal Hospital just southeast of Nashville. This growing veterinary practice is currently a 1.25 FTE/DVM practice. Perfect for a new owner. Practice and Real Estate Available. 2020 Gross Rev. \$970K+ (TN910)

**Tennessee • New!** Solo DVM Practice - Located on approximately 0.8 acres in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and in close proximity to the Great Smokey Mountains. This well-equipped, 4,100+ square foot, free-standing veterinary building has the capacity to serve both small and large animal patients. With desirable Monday – Friday office hours and small animal emergencies referred to Knoxville, this opportunity allows for the perfect work-life balance. Gross Revenues for 2021 were ~\$1.2 million with 15.5% year over year growth. Estimated after debt income of \$182,000. Practice and Real Estate are both available. (TN R24)

**Louisiana • Price Reduced!** Located within the larger New Orleans–Metairie–Hammond combined statistical area. This well-established, full-service hospital has served the local community for many years. Convenient to the beaches of the gulf coast, this practice is well situated for the lover of the outdoors with numerous lakes, streams and forest lands to enjoy. Currently a single DVM, with 2021 Gross revenues estimated in excess of \$720K after-debt income estimated ~\$183K. Owner is motivated to sell and would welcome offers. (LA P18)



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