

Veterinarian

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May/June 2014

President's Report



Me again, back like a bad dream!

The summer is upon us and business usually cranks up a notch as do the temperatures. To get your mind off of the heat, start thinking about attending the LVMA winter meeting in Lafayette from January 22nd through the 25th. Consider going to the business luncheon

as well. I always thought that was about crunching the numbers then torturing the membership with the findings. Who knew there was free food and door prizes? This year we are even offering some evening CE hours.

On the legislative front: the house passed a bill making it mandatory that dogs be secured in the back of pick up trucks when travelling on major highways. The LVMA Board supported this measure because of both the animal safety aspect as well as the road hazard potential should the dog fall onto the road causing loss of control of the vehicle following. We are also circling the wagons to defend ourselves aginst the Fairness to Pet Owners Act. Pretty clever that we are put in a position to appear as though we are AGAINST fairness to our clients. Another thorn in our side is the Vet Mobility Act which is designed to prevent controlled substances from leaving the veterinary facility. Soooo....if I go on a housecall for a euthanasia do I:

1) shake the beads and recite the incantations until death? Or 2) well, there is no 2. Once again, common sense eludes our fearless leaders but, nonetheless, this bill looks like it will go our way. Thanks again to Dr. Thistlewaite and our lobbyists for keeping us in the loop.

One more issue I ponder is tractor stores providing veterinary

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care, out of town doctors travelling to other cities to host quickie vaccination clinics then returning home, and other venues of this sort. I challenge the doctors who do this work to help me understand how this portrays veterinary medicine in a positive light. Where is the doctor/patient/client relationship? Where is the bond between clients and their veterinarians? Can you establish that in 2 hours one afternoon? I'm curious.

Enjoy your summer, get a tan!

Dr. Sue Olivier



Save the Date—2015 Winter Meeting

The LVMA Annual Winter Meeting will take place January 22—25, 2015 at the Hilton Lafayette Hotel in Lafayette, LA. Your program committees are already working to plan for speakers and topics you are sure to be pleased with. More information will come to your mailbox but be sure to mark your calendars now. You don't want to miss out on this great opportunity to acquire 20 hours of CE while networking with other veterinarians, technicians and exhibitors right in your backyard.

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Executive Director's Report

IT'S OUIET NOW BUT THINGS ARE EXPECTED TO WARM UP THIS SUMMER.....

The LVMA experienced a great addition to LVMA. its staff with the recent assignment of Ms. Anais Leblanc as association coordinator. The next LVMA Board meeting will feature Anais grew up in Lyon, France and first the preparation of the budget for the came to Louisiana as a high-school upcoming fiscal year beginning exchange student. The LVMA office is September 1, 2014 and ending on August now officially bi-lingual!

By all indications from Legislative Committee Chair Dr. Patrick Thistlethwaite and our lobbying team, we have had a relatively tame legislative session thus far and are hoping it stays that way. This summer the office will turn its attention to assisting the Winter Meeting Program Committee with finalizing the lineup of speakers for the 2015 Winter Meeting. Drs. John Mauterer, Dale Peyroux, Sue Olivier, Kirk Ryan, Shannon Gonsoulin, Darren Schilling and Jacques Fuselier are expected to do another terrific job in arranging programming of extremely high Stay well and stay connected! caliber for the Winter Meeting. We are also working on getting the word out on the 2014 Southwest Veterinary Symposium (SWVS) scheduled for September 25-28,

2014 in Fort Worth. The current president of the SWVS is LVMA Manager Dr. Tom Tully and our partnership in the SWVS continues to pay big dividends to the

31, 2015. Any requests for funding by the LVMA that are anticipated during that period of time should be submitted prior to July 1, 2014 using an LVMA budget request form. The Board will meet on July 13, 2014 to adopt the budget, as well as conduct other business. Requests for funding that are submitted after the budget is adopted face an uphill battle. Committee Chairs and others who routinely are involved in the budget process should receive budget request forms in May. If you are not on our list and need a form, please contact the office.



Bland

License Renewals



The Louisiana Board of **Veterinary Medicine** would like to remind you of the 2014-2015 Renewal Period

DVM License, RVT, CAET and RED Certificate Renewals are to be mailed out by the end of June.

All licenses/certificates expire September 30, 2014.

Prepare now and avoid late fees, stress and hassle!

For more information contact The Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine (225) 342-2176



The Louisiana Veterinarian

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association 8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001 Baton Rouge, LA 70809 Phone: (225) 928-5862 FAX: (225) 408-4422 office@lvma.org www.lvma.org

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AVMA Delegate Report

Still in the process is the Veterinary Mobility Act. The DEA says that the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) does not permit veterinarians to take controlled medications beyond their registered places of business, often their clinics or homes. The DEA has notified some veterinarians that they are in violation of the law—which leaves us confused and very concerned.

Veterinarians treat animals in many different settings, but the **CSA** does not permit them to carry and use some vital medications beyond their brick and mortar clinics. **We need to push the House to follow the Senates lead and pass H.R. 1528 to relieve veterinarians of this burden. Call or contact your representative to express your concern.** If not there may be a DEA agent in your life real soon. This violation is being viewed as a felony, not a misdermenor.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has approved S. 1406, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act or PAST Act. The bill was amended to match the House version H.R. 1518. The bill will take many important steps to end the inhumane practice of soring.

Below is an article by Dr. mark Lutschaunig, Director of Governetal Relations Division.

New tax proposals could impact veterinary students

Last month, I discussed how a new tax proposal by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman David Camp (R-Mich.) would impact small business owners and tax payers. This month, I want to continue that conversation by showing how the proposal would impact veterinary students.

Currently, families with college students benefit from three programs: the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), the Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC) or a tuition and fees deduction. Congressman Camp's tax reform proposal would consolidate the three separate tax benefits into a single benefit. This benefit would be for students enrolled at least half-time in undergraduate or **certificate programs**.

Camp's proposal would make the AOTC permanent, eliminate the LLC, and allow the tuition and fees deduction to die. In addition, the plan would eliminate a number of other education-related exclusions and deductions, such as the:

- deduction for interest on **education loans**;
- exclusion for employer-provided education assistance;
- exclusion for discharge of student loan indebtedness;
- exclusion for tuition reductions by educational institutions to their employees; and the
- education expense exception to the penalty for early withdrawals from retirement accounts.

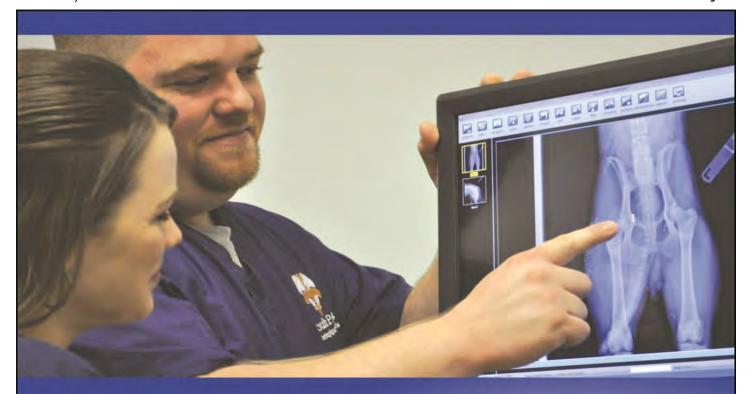
According to the Tax Policy Center of the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution, the AOTC currently allows a 100 percent credit against the **first** \$2,000 of educational expenses and 25 percent of the next \$2,000 to a

maximum credit of \$2,500. Forty percent of the credit up to \$1,000 is refundable. Under Camp's proposal, the AOTC would be modified to make the first \$1,500 of tax credits refundable and lower the income level at which the credit starts to phase out from \$160,000 to \$86,000 for married filers and from \$80,000 to \$43,000 for non-married filers. The credit would be indexed for inflation starting in 2018.

At this point, tax reform is in the discussion phase and we do not anticipate it moving forward in an election year. However, since pre-veterinary and veterinary students will be impacted by these changes, they should continue to closely monitor the tax code for changes to higher education affordability and/or discuss them with their tax advisors.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone of the upcoming AVMA conference in Denver, Co.. the dates are July 25th thru the 29th, 2014. The HOD meets prior to the convention and should prove to be quite lively as the governance discussion continues. Stay tuned!

C. Wayne Roberson, DVM LVMA Delegate to the AVMA



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Teaching Hospital



Signalment and History: "Kuro," a 5 year old male, neutered Chihuahua presented to the dermatology service for skin lesions on his back and face that had become pruritic. His owners also noted a one month history of lethargy, decreased appetite and intermittent lameness. Kuro had been previously treated with antibiotics, pain medication, and a novel protein diet trial but had not improved.

Physical Examination: Kuro was quiet and alert at presentation. His vital parameters were all within normal limits. Dermatologic exam (Figure 1) revealed crusting of the peri-ocular/oral regions, pinnae, tail base and prepuce. All four paw pads were proliferative and hyperkeratotic. Epidermal collarettes were present along the dorsum, and his hair coat was thin overall.

Clinical Evaluation: Laboratory values revealed mild hyperglycemia (128 mg/dL), elevated liver enzymes (ALT 284 U/L, ALP 1061 U/L) and mild hypoproteinemia (TP 5.6 g/dL). A deep skin scrap was negative for mites. Skin surface cytology revealed 10-20 cocci/hpf.

An abdominal ultrasound featured multifocal diffusely distributed well-defined round hypoechoic nodules in the liver surrounded by hyperechoic liver parenchyma (Figure 2). This appearance of the liver is often compared to the appearance of a honeycomb and, with supporting skin changes, is considered almost pathognomonic for hepatocutaneous syndrome. To confirm the diagnosis, an amino acid panel was performed and revealed severe panhypoaminoacidemia, which is a key feature of this disease. Finally, multiple skin biopsies were taken of Kuro's lesions on his paw pads, dorsum, and face. Histopathology featured the unique red, white and blue layering, which is considered diagnostic for hepatocutaneous syndrome (Figure 3).

Outcome: Kuro was hospitalized and treated with an IV amino acid solution. Four daily treatments were given, each over 10 hours. Kuro was discharged on antibiotics to address secondary skin infections, an oral supplemental protein powder and instructions to have one cooked egg added to his daily diet. Amino acid supplementation resulted in significant improvement of Kuro's skin lesions (Figure 4) and energy level.



Figure 1: Pre-Treatment (A) Crusting present in the peri-ocular regions. (B) Severe crusting present in the peri-oral region. (C) Crusting and fissures present on the ventral tail base. (D) Crusting and alopecia of the foot pads.



Review: Superficial necrolytic dermatitis is a rare skin condition associated with systemic metabolic disease. Hepatocutaneous syndrome is a more specific term used to describe animals with the characteristic skin lesions and concurrent hepatopathy. This hepatopathy has been reported secondary to mycotoxins or anticonvulsant administration, but it is most often deemed idiopathic. The most common clinical signs include proliferative hyperkeratotic paw pads, as well as crusting around the eyes, mouth, vulva/prepuce and elbows. These lesions are likely the result of starvation of the skin cells due to the low amino acid levels associated with the underlying hepatopathy. Intravenous amino acid

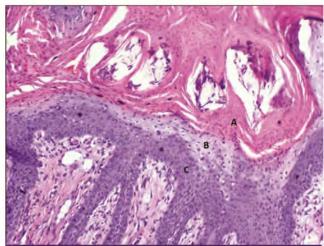


Figure 3: Kuro's histopathology shows a unique red, white, and blue layering commonly observed with hepatocutaneous syndrome. (A) The superficial eosinophillic layer is composed of parakaratotic hyperkeratosis and crusting. (B) The white layer is composed of pale swollen keratinocytes from marked inter and intracellular edema. (C) Finally the basophilic layer was composed of hyperplastic basal cells.

supplementation is effective in improving skin lesions; however, relapse is common. The prognosis is considered guarded.

A special thank you to Kuro's family, Dr. Scott Smith and Dodge City Veterinary Hospital for their referral and support of our hospital.



Figure 4: Post-Treatment (A) Marked improvements in peri-ocular and peri-oral crust. (B) Similar improvements noted on the ventral aspect of the tail and perineum. (C) Hair re-growth and diminished crusts and fissures of the foot pad.

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Louisiana Association of Veterinary Technician Update

Louisiana Association of Veterinary Technicians Update:

LAVT is currently accepting memberships and is seeking volunteers to help organize the LVMA Winter Meeting Technician seminars

If you are interested please contact us via our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Louisiana-Association -of-Veterinary-Technicians/381193465250085

Here you can also find the latest information on continuing education opportunities, membership applications, updates concerning the laws governing the veterinary technician profession in Louisiana, and much more!

Congratulations to the 46 graduates of the four veterinary technician schools for summer 2014

Here is the contact information for anyone wishing to obtain more information on the programs:

Baton Rouge Community College: http://

www.mybrcc.edu/index.php?

option=com_content&view=article&id=404&Itemid=29

Delgado Community College: http://www.dcc.edu/

campus/cp/ahealth/vet tech/

Northshore Technical Community College: http://

www.northshorecollege.edu/index.cfm? md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=224

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degree-plans/#CurriculumforVeterinaryTechnology

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Event Hosts	Event	Date	Venue	City, State	Contact Information
Lake Erie Walleye Fishing, Golfing & Sport Shooting	20thAnnual Veterinary Seminar Weekend	May 15—May 18, 2014	Commodore Perry Inn & Suites	Port Clinton, OH	(740) 344-3061 www.lakeerieseminars.com
California Veterinary Medical Association	2014 Pacific Veterinary Conference	June 19—22, 2014	Hilton San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	(800) 655-2862 www.pacvet.net
American Veterinary Medical Association	2014 Annual Convention	July 25—29, 2014	Colorado Convention Center	Denver, CO	(800) 248-2862 www.avmaconvention.org
Association of Avian Veterinarians	35th Annual Conference	August 2—6, 2014	Sheraton Hotel	New Orleans, LA	(608) 268-4714 www.AAV.org
American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association	2014 American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conference	September 13—16, 2014	The Red Lion on the River	Portland, OR	office@ahvma.org www.ahvma.org
San Diego County Veterinary Medical Association	2014 Fall Veterinary Conference	September 20-—21, 2014	Wyndham San Diego Bayside Hotel	Sand Diego, CA	(619) 640-9583 www.sdcvma.org
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association	2014 Equine Committee Seminar	September 21—23, 2014	Sam's Town	Shreveport, LA	(337) 235-9945 ask for Lacey Blanchard www.lvma.org
Southwest Veterinary Symposium	Engage 2014	September 25—28, 2014	Fort Worth Convention Center	Fort Worth, TX	(972) 664-9800 www.swvs.org
VetLectures	Biking, Hiking, Wine Tasting and Continuing Education	October 23—25, 2014	Pepper Tree Inn Conference Center	Santa Barbara, CA	(866) 417-9570 www.vetlectures.com
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association	Winter Meeting 2015	January 22—24, 2015	Hilton Lafayette	Lafayette, LA	(225) 928-5865 www.lvma.org