

The Louisiana Veterinarian

Vol. 24 No. 5

The official publication of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association

September/October 2014

President's Report



Dear Members Extraordinaire,
I would like to give a large written hug and thank you to Dr. Peter Haynes whose retirement is official as of September 1st after 40 years of dedication to LSU. I remember Equine block back in the 80's, when we were both young, and he thought I was about as capable as a potted plant. Well,

not everything changes, I'm afraid. Speaking of change (not sure if I want to go where THAT may lead)....did you know that tuition and fees at the LSU SVM now run \$24,000 a year? My first house didn't cost much more than that! Consider that when negotiating with a new graduate. Speaking of which, the coating ceremony at LSU SVM was on Wed., August 20th. I looked at all those excited young faces and age told me that one day they will look back at those times and wonder, "What WAS I thinking with that hair?" Or is that just me?

The Southwest Veterinary Symposium is coming up in September from the 25th to the 28th. Please consider going. It is money well spent. The LVMA got \$19,000 last year because of our attendance as a partnering state. That money will be put to good use for my presidential library in beautiful downtown Marrero.

In the category of did you know....as of August 18, 2014, Tramadol has become a Schedule IV (why Roman numerals? Really?) drug according to the DEA and must be logged like the other controlled substances. You can get more details at AVMA's Veterinary Compliance with the Controlled Substance Act and the DEA (member login required.) Also, USDA health certificate requirements are becoming more stringent. It would behoove you to review what you need to do before signing off on one of those (i.e., fax state copy to state

veterinarian within 30 days, finding out what is required at state or country of destination, etc.). The fax number for the state office is 225-237-5555. You are responsible for knowing how things are to be done correctly and will be notified by state officials and possibly the Feds if something is amiss. Don't tell them your hard drive crashed. That excuse has been used and only works if you're one of "them."

Summer is winding down and CE programs are cranking up. Take some down time to look at the LVMA website and see what we are all doing for you and our profession, for example the winter meeting in Lafayette in January. Check it out.

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Dr. Sue Olivier
LVMA President



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Executive Director's Report

FALL IS HERE....FOOTBALL, SWVS, AND POLITICS ARE HOT ITEMS!!

While packing my bags for the Southwest Veterinary Symposium in Fort Worth, I took time out to purchase a ticket to Commissioner Mike Strain's Fall Ball. This year Dr. Strain's soiree will be at the Old Governor's Mansion from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Thursday, October 23, 2014. This is a great annual event to benefit the future campaigns of a distinguished public servant who never forgets his veterinary roots and chosen profession. If you are like me and can't actually attend this year (I will be in San Antonio), I have it on excellent authority that the Commissioner's campaign would still like to sell you a ticket.

Plan now to attend the LVMA Winter Meeting in Lafayette, January 22-25, 2015! The LVMA Winter Meeting is always the premier annual event for Louisiana veterinarians to gather together for continuing education, business and social discussion, and encounters with veterinary industry vendors in a relaxed but professional environment. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this important meeting!

It is not too late to meet the November 14, 2014 deadline for submitting nominations for Pet of the Year, Support Person of the Year, Salesperson of the Year, the Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian of the Year, and the Dr. Everett D. Besch Service Award. Each year the LVMA recognizes and honors people that have made important contributions to veterinary medicine, the veterinary community and/or animal health, as well as an animal that has distinguished itself in a special way. Don't miss this opportunity to nominate someone you believe is worthy of consideration. Forms are available on pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter or by calling or emailing the office.

Stay well and stay connected!

Welcome to the Board

The LVMA would like to welcome the following new members to the Board of Directors:

**Dr. Paul Ritch, Mandeville
District 7 Representative**

Thank you for your commitment to the LVMA and the veterinary profession.



The Louisiana Veterinarian

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
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Baton Rouge, LA 70809
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Committee Chairs

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Emergency Management: Dr. Renee Poirrier
Food Animal: Drs. Shannon Gonsoulin, Darren Schilling and Jacques Fuselier
Legislative Committee: Dr. Patrick Thistlethwaite
Political Action: Dr. Alfred Stevens

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Dr. Richard Lefebvre
Dr. Jacqueline Simon

AVMA Delegate

Dr. C. Wayne Roberson

AVMA Alternate Delegate

Dr. Robert C. Gros

Executive Director

H. Bland O'Connor, Jr.

Submit articles and advertisements to the LVMA office as follows:

January/February Newsletter	December 15th
March/April Newsletter	February 15th
May/June Newsletter	April 15th
July/August Newsletter	June 15th
September/October Newsletter	August 15th
November/December Newsletter	October 15th

MedVet Neurology

Beginning September 1, to further augment our surgical capabilities and in response to the wishes of our referral partner colleagues, MedVet will offer the full-time service of board certified veterinary neurologist Dr. Rosanne Krupka Peters.

We are delighted to present this addition to our specialties and to the services available in our community.

Mandeville

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Mandeville

New Orleans

1937 Veterans Blvd.

Metairie



www.medvetforpets.com

LSU | School of Veterinary Medicine

Case Report from the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Signalment and History: Zailee, a 5 month old, intact, female Weimaraner puppy, presented with a one-week history of anorexia, lethargy and diarrhea with blood. Zailee was imported from Germany at two months of age and was initially brought to Texas, where she had known exposure to ticks before moving to Louisiana at three months of age. She received three DHLPP vaccinations according to a routine vaccination schedule; the last vaccination was administered two weeks prior to the onset of her illness.

Physical Examination: Zailee was thin, weak and depressed but responsive. Body weight at presentation was 9.7 kg (21.3 pounds). Frank blood was observed on rectal examination with a temperature of 102.3° F. Her respiratory rate was 30 breaths/minute with increased effort and amplified bronchovesicular sounds in all lung fields. Heart rate was (P 180 bpm). The most marked abnormality on physical examination was a generalized lymphadenopathy (Fig. 1). All peripheral lymph nodes were palpable and markedly enlarged (3-4 cm diameter). Zailee was reluctant to move with a “walking on eggshells” appearance to her gait (Fig. 2). Generalized musculoskeletal pain was detected especially on palpation of the distal metaphyseal region of the radius bilaterally. Severe pain was elicited on palpation of the ramus of her mandible bilaterally.

Clinical Evaluation: Laboratory evaluation detected marked leukocytosis (WBC = 60,100/uL with mature neutrophilia and no left shift) and a normocytic, normochromic nonregenerative anemia (PCV 28%). Notable abnormalities on the chemistry panel were hypoglycemia (66 mg/dL), hypoalbuminemia (1.9 g/dL) and mild azotemia (BUN – 68 mg/dL, Creatinine – 1.6 mg/dL). Thoracic radiographs revealed a moderate amount of pleural effusion (Fig. 3), but the amount and location could not be safely sampled via thoracocentesis. Radiographs of the extremities and skull showed changes consistent with hypertrophic osteodystrophy (HOD). These changes were mild, but included sclerosis of the metaphyseal region of the radius and sclerotic/lytic changes of the mandible and frontal bones of the skull (Fig. 4 & 5). Lymph node cytology demonstrated marked neutrophilic lymphadenitis, but no infectious micro-organisms could be seen. A blood sample was submitted for a Hepatozoon PCR, and blood/serum samples were submitted for tick-borne pathogen serology and PCR testing. All infectious disease testing was negative.

Assessment: Because of Zailee's travel history, physical exam findings and laboratory abnormalities, an infectious disease or a non-infectious inflammatory process was considered a likely differential. Pending test results, her initial empirical therapy plan included Clindamycin (12.5 mg/kg BID) and doxycycline (10 mg/kg SID). She was given methadone (0.2 mg/kg q6h) for pain management. Despite treatment, Zailee continued to worsen with some changes becoming quite dramatic, including worsening of lymphadenopathy, onset of fever and the development of severe swelling of her muzzle (Fig. 6).

Outcome: Consultation within the hospital raised speculation of a “hyper-inflammatory syndrome” reported in young Weimaraner dogs following distemper vaccination. Diagnosis of this disease requires a heightened level of clinical suspicion. Classic cases have overt evidence of hypertrophic osteodystrophy, but severe systemic manifestations are also possible (and may dominate clinical features of some cases). Currently, there is no definitive diagnostic test, but anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid therapy often results in a good clinical outcome. To be sure, use of corticosteroids in a puppy with generalized lymphadenopathy and a 60,000 white blood cell



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

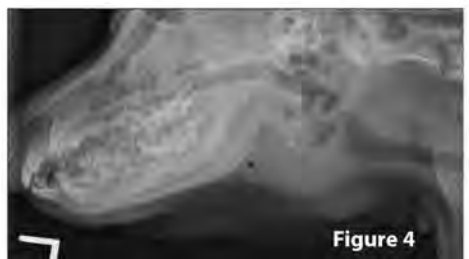


Figure 4



Figure 5

count was controversial. However, within 24 hours of initiating glucocorticoid therapy, Zailee had dramatic improvement. Lymph node size decreased by 50% and musculoskeletal pain and facial swelling resolved within 48 hours (Fig.7). The attitudes of a normal puppy quickly returned as Zailee was bright, alert, playful, and eating regularly. A complete recovery is expected. Postural changes associated with HOD often persist.

Review: The hyper-inflammatory syndrome of Weimaraners typically appears in puppies in the range of 3 to 9 months of age. This naturally corresponds with the age of vaccination, which could skeptically be viewed as a coincidence. However, modified live distemper vaccines have been implicated as a general risk factor for hypertrophic osteodystrophy in many breeds. In Weimaraner puppies, the hyperinflammatory syndrome is often characterized by lethargy, anorexia, intermittent fever, lymphadenomegaly, pyogranulomatous disease (including profound neutrophilia, pyothorax, polyarthritis, stomatitis, osteomyelitis, and muscle abscesses). Clinical and radiographic signs of hypertrophic osteodystrophy are often present. Treatment involves anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid therapy and supportive care. Given the extreme leukocytosis observed in some cases, systemic antibiotic use is prudent. Modified vaccination schedules have been proposed for Weimaraner puppies although no scientific consensus has been reached on what schedule is most appropriate (see the Weimaraner Club of America: <http://tinyurl.com/weimaraner-vaccines>).

A special thank you to Zailee's family and Drs. Matthew Crochet and Roger Boughton for their referral and support of our hospital.

**LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Skip Bertman Drive at River Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70803**

225-578-9600 (Small Animals)

225-578-9500 (Large Animals)

www.vetmed.lsu.edu

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@LSUVetMed

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Up Coming Events and Continuing Education at the LSU SVM

October 11-12	Ultrasound: Lectures and Wet Lab
October 17	SVM Fall Family Picnic
October 18	SVM Homecoming—CE in the morning; Tailgate in the afternoon
October 19	Technicians: Lecture and skills lab (Approval Pending)
November 23	Annual Dermatology Conference

License Renewals

**The Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine
would like to remind you of the**

2014-2015 Renewal Period

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
admin@lsbvm.org

LBVM 2015

The LVMA is losing an important board member, Dr. J. Edwin Davis, but Dr. Davis will keep on serving the profession this time on the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Below is the 2015 LBVM:

Steve Slaton, DVM—*Board President*

Patrick R. Bernard, DVM—*Board Vice President*

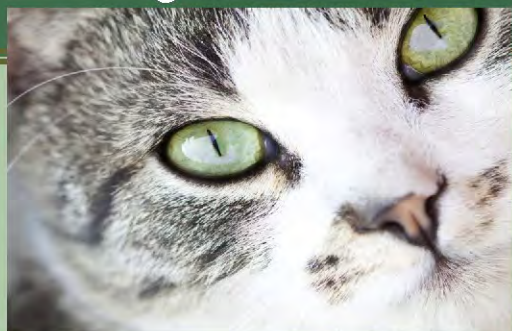
John S. Emerson, DVM—*Board Secretary-Treasurer*

J. Edwin Davis, DVM—*Board Member*

Fenton R. Lipscomb, DVM—*Board Member*



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Winter Meeting Update

Planning for the 2015 Winter Meeting in Lafayette, LA is in full force. Our program committees have been working diligently to finalize speakers and topics that will provide great continuing education for our members and the veterinarian community. Here's a sneak peek of just some of the speakers you can look forward to:

Companion Animal:

- Dr. Todd Tams
- Dr. John Mauterer
- Dr. Gary Norsworthy
- Dr. Jon Fletcher, Endocrine
- Dr. Cherie Pucheu, Dermatology
- Dr. Britton Grasperge, Cytology
- Dr. Rosanne Krupka Peters, Neurology
- Dr. Lorrie Gaschen, Radiology
- Dr. Robert Hancock
- Dr. Alan Ralph, Cardiac Emergencies
- Dr. Erin Daniels, Antimicrobial Resistance
- Dr. Mary-Belle Glaze
- Dr. Gregory Rich, Exotic Pets
- Dr. Mark Cousins, Feline Veterinarian

Practice Management:

- Dr. Robert Gribble
- Gabe Van Brunt
- Dr. Jim Humphries



You don't want to miss this year's lineup. Be on the lookout for the 2014 Winter Meeting brochure to hit your mailbox and email inbox in the next month. We are looking forward to a great year in Baton Rouge!

**Schedule subject to change.*

WALTER J. ERNST, JR. VETERINARY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

thanks the following contributors

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:

James E. Broussard, DVM
in memory of J. Peverly Broussard, DVM

The Sulphur Animal Clinic
in memory of Richard Villa

Donations in Memory of Pets:

The Helouin Veterinary Hospital

The Jefferson Animal Hospital

The Sulphur Animal Clinic

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



LSART News



Hurricane season is here!!

So far we have been fortunate to have little activity in the gulf. The Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART) has continued to help local and state agencies as well as communities prepare for disasters. On April 5 at the request of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, LSART participated in a full scale exercise coordinated by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. LSART Provided a Just In Time training on Safer Pet Handling to members of the Louisiana National Guard in St Charles Parish as well as in Calcasieu Parish. LSART also participated with responders from ASPCA, East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control and Rescue Center and Calcasieu Parish Animal Services in Animal Search and Rescue (ASAR) operations. ASAR was coordinated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Calcasieu Parish. Animal Control officers from East Baton Rouge Parish, Calcasieu Parish, and St Charles Parish participated in the exercises. Pets used in the exercises were provided from Calcasieu and St John Parishes.

On April 10 and 11 LSART provided a 2- day seminar to the students enrolled in the veterinary technician program at NSU in Natchitoches La. Personnel from the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office, Natchitoches Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness as well as the City of Natchitoches Animal Control attended the seminar. Seminars presented included Emergency Planning for Animal Businesses, Household Pet Evacuation, and Household Pet Sheltering.

On April 28 through May 2 LSART partnered with the LSU SVM, ASPCA and The Stephens Disaster Management Institute to provide a week of animal disaster training for LSU SVM students, veterinarians, vet techs, animal control officers and volunteers. Technical Large Animal Response, Slack Water Rescue and Animal Decontamination were offered and provided 40 hours of continuing education. Because of issues identified during Hurricane Isaac the animal decontamination course was added to prepare animal responders to safely decontaminate animals during disasters and emergencies.

As hurricane season approached LSART provided training in pet evacuation and pet sheltering to New Iberia St Tammany and Orleans parishes as well as a seminar on Animal Disaster Planning for Business and Organizations to the Louisiana Animal Control Association. LSART also provided discounted microchip clinics in New Iberia and Lafayette. Hurricane season is a good time to review disaster plans for veterinary hospitals and educate clients about being prepared for disasters and emergencies.

The AVMA has a comprehensive booklet called SAVING THE WHOLE FAMILY that is a great resource for clients. These booklets can be ordered for a small fee or they are available to download for free at the AVMA website.

Let's hope this hurricane season continues to be a quiet one.

Renee Poirrier ,LSART Director



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2014 AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

2014 RALPH C. COOPER VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR

The Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian of the Year Award is given annually to the person who is recognized by his or her colleagues as having given the most of themselves in time, energy, and ideas to the veterinary profession in the state of Louisiana.

Nominee Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Office Phone _____

Year of Graduation _____

Veterinary School _____

Specialty or area of practice _____

Local, state and national committees served on and positions held:

Describe nominee participation in promoting animal health and welfare:

Describe any other activity which should make this individual a good candidate for the Veterinarian of the Year:

Criteria for Nomination:

1. Nominee must be a member in good standing in the LVMA.
2. Nominee must have had a positive influence in promoting animal health and welfare in the community as well as within the profession.
3. Nominee should be of good character and well respected by colleagues.
4. Nominee should be presently or previously active in local, state, and/or national veterinary associations.
5. Nominee should have shown an outstanding contribution to organized veterinary medicine either through their work or through their actions and public awareness.
6. Current LVMA Board members are not eligible for nomination.

2014 DR. EVERETT D. BESCH SERVICE AWARD

This award was formerly the LVMA Service Award. It is awarded annually to persons in recognition of outstanding service to the community and to the veterinary profession.

Nominee Information:

Name _____

Employer _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Office Phone _____

Describe an outstanding contribution to the community (if nominee is a veterinarian):

Describe an outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine (if nominee is not a veterinarian):

The LVMA's Dr. Everett D. Besch Distinguished Service Award was established to recognize outstanding service to the community and veterinary profession.

Recommendations for this award must be made in writing by two LVMA members. If you wish to nominate someone, please send your recommendation to the LVMA office by November 14, 2014.

Those eligible for the award are in two categories:

1. Veterinarians who have made an outstanding contribution to their community.
2. Non-veterinarians who have made an outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine.

Nominated by:

Veterinarian: _____

Phone: _____

2014 PET OF THE YEAR

In an effort to recognize animals throughout the state of Louisiana for their special talents or heroic deeds, the LVMA has established the "Pet of the Year" award. This award recipient will be selected from nominations made by veterinarians who are aware of or witnessed these animals in their area of practice. Examples of such animals might include pets that have saved their owner's lives or were instrumental in helping their owner overcome overwhelming odds, physical handicaps, or serve the public in any way for many years.

Nominee Information:

Pet's Name _____

Species _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Age _____

Description _____

Owner's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Description of pet's accomplishments

Please include photos you may have.

Nominated by:

Veterinarian: _____

Phone: _____

2014 SALES PERSON OF THE YEAR

Beginning in 1990, the Sales Person of the Year Award was given to that individual for performing his or her duties in the most professional manner, servicing the veterinary community.

Please give a brief description of candidate's achievements and specific reasons why candidate should be chosen as the Sales Person of the Year.

Nominated by:

Veterinarian: _____

Phone: _____

SEND NOMINATION FORMS TO:
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Phone (800) 524-2996 or (225) 928-5862
Fax (225) 408-4422
E-mail office@lvma.org

2014 SUPPORT PERSON OF THE YEAR

The LVMA Support Person of the Year Award is presented annually to a veterinary technician, office management, kennel or other staff person with a minimum of two years of experience who has distinguished himself or herself in actively promoting animal health and welfare on the job and in the community.

Nominee Information:

Name _____

Employer _____

Position Held _____

Length of Employment _____

Educational Background _____

Professional Experience _____

Service to the Profession _____

Service to the Community _____

Organizations _____

Other Comments _____

Criteria for Nomination:

1. Nominee must be employed by a member in good standing of the LVMA.
2. The individual should be active in promoting animal health and welfare on the job and in the community.
3. The individual should have a minimum of two years experience as a working veterinary technician, office management, or kennel help, etc.
4. Nominations are to be made in writing and should include employment information, educational background, professional service and community service accomplishments.

Nominated by:

Veterinarian: _____

Phone: _____

Nominations Due November 14!

NOTE: Additional pages may be added with other necessary information about nominee.



ENGAGE2014

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SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2014

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AVMA House Of Delegates Report

Dr. Bobby Gros and I were in full attendance at the HOD meeting in the mile high city of Denver, Co. The meeting was expected to be exciting and I don't believe anyone was disappointed.

If you are unaware, the President signed the veterinary mobility act passed by both chambers and is now the law of the land. The new law states "a registrant who is a veterinarian shall not be required to have a separate registration in order to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice at a site other than the registrant's registered principle place of business or professional practice, so long as the site of transporting and dispensing is located in a State where the veterinarian is licensed to practice veterinary medicine and is not a principal place of business or professional practice."

The AVMA community is opposed to the Fairness to Pet Owners Act of 2014. Write or call your congress person and ask them to oppose H.R. 4023. You can find more information under governance on the AVMA web site.

Now with that out of the way the following is a brief summary of what happen at the summer session of the AVMA House of Delegates. Again, detail may be attained from AVMA.org.

The AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) held its Annual Session on July 24th and 25th. This meeting consists of the general annual business of the HOD, which includes elections of AVMA officers and council members, in addition to the consideration of four proposed **bylaws** amendments (including one postponed from the Winter Session in January) and seven proposed resolutions.

Prior to the meeting of the full HOD to vote on the proposed bylaws amendments and resolutions, the HOD members break into reference committees for initial discussion. The reference committees provide their recommendations for action when the HOD meets in full. Although the HOD members are informed of the recommendations of the AVMA Executive Board, House Advisory Committee, and reference committee, each member of the HOD casts a vote on the bylaws amendment or resolution.

Two AVMA officers were elected by the HOD: Dr. Rebecca Stinson was elected AVMA Vice-President, and Dr. Joseph Kinnarney was chosen as AVMA President-Elect. Dr. Kinnarney will succeed Dr. Ted Cohn as AVMA President in 2015. (Dr. Cohn officially takes the office of President on July 29, succeeding Dr. Clark Fobian, and will serve until July 2015.)

A number of AVMA members were running unopposed for AVMA council positions, and the HOD voted to **confirm** them as a group. Several elections were held for contended positions, and the results were as follows: Dr. Terry Lehenbauer (Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents); Dr. Bruce Coston (Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents); Charles Broaddus, Adam Eichelburger and Mary Grace Stobieski (Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine); Joni Scheftel (Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine). In addition, an election was held for one **open position** on the House Advisory Committee; Dr. Melanie Marsden was elected to this position.

Now, on to the nuts and bolts of the meeting:

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 2—AVMA Mission Statement and Objectives was referred to the Executive Board for return to the HOD in January 2015, with 70.9% of members voting in favor of referral.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 3—Council on Veterinary Research was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 4—House of Delegates generated much discussion. This bylaws amendment was a product of the governance discussion and several years' work by a task force and team that performed in-depth analysis of the AVMA's governance system and produced a report with recommendations for governance changes to evolve the organization. The bylaws amendment was amended by the House in response to a change proposed by the House Advisory Committee. Because any decisions made by the HOD are effective immediately, two provisos were made to the bylaws amendment to prevent conflict with the existing HOD until the governance changes could be implemented in a systematic manner. The HOD voted to approve the proposed bylaws amendments, with 64.9% voting in favor. A motion was made to take the final vote on the amended bylaws amendment (that's a mouthful, huh?) by roll call vote instead of electronic vote, but the roll call vote would require a 2/3 majority to pass and 2/3 was not obtained (57.4% voted in favor). Another motion was made to refer the proposed bylaws amendment back to the Executive Board, to be returned to the HOD in January 2015, but 71.8% of the HOD voted in opposition to this motion. In the end, the HOD defeated proposed bylaws amendment 4-2014 with 73.3% voting to defeat it.

For proposed **Bylaws Amendment 5—Executive Board**, a similar proviso amendment was needed to allow currently-serving Board members **to complete** their terms; in other words, the proviso amendment stated that the changes in term limits would **apply to** Executive Board members elected after the **close** of the 2014 HOD Annual

Continued page 15

Session. This proposed bylaws amendment was approved with a vote of 92.5% in favor of passage.

Moving on to the proposed resolutions:

Resolution 3—Revised Policy on Pregnant Sow Housing was approved by the House, with a vote of 99% in favor.

Resolution 4—Revised Policy on Declawing of Domestic Cats was amended as follows: a new second sentence was inserted that reads, “The decision to declaw a cat should be made by the owners in consultation with their veterinarian.” The amendment was passed with 97.9% in favor, and the HOD unanimously approved the amended resolution. The link in this blog post does not show the amended resolution – the updated policy will be posted on our website within the next few weeks.

Resolution 5—Revised Policy on Judicious Therapeutic Use of Antimicrobials was approved by the House with a vote of 93.2% in favor.

Resolution 6—Revised Policy on Veterinary Dentistry was approved by the House with 73.7% vote in favor.

No vote was taken on **Resolution 7** because it had been withdrawn by the submitting group prior to Reference Committee meetings.

Resolution 8—Revised Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics was referred to the Executive Board for return to the HOD at the 2015 Winter Session, with 50.2% voting in favor of referral.

Resolution 9—Interest Rate on Veterinary Student Loans was approved by the House with 91% voting in favor of passage.

Thanks to Dr. Kimberly May for putting together this report.

C. Wayne Roberson, DVM

AVMA Delegate

Fairness to Pet Owners Act??? But Are Veterinarians Being Unfair?

Congress has reintroduced the “Fairness to Pet Owners Act H.R. 4023/ S. 2756 “into both the House and the Senate. This bill was originally killed in the House as H.R. 1406, but has been reintroduced by Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah. This legislation would require veterinarians to provide prescriptions WHETHER REQUESTED OR NOT for any domesticated household animal that requires treatment. It would also prohibit the veterinarian from charging for the prescription, or asking a client to sign a liability waiver related to write the prescription.

This bill, just in the naming of it, assumes that veterinarians are being unfair to pet owners. The AVMA has always supported the right of a client to choose where they have a prescription filled, however it is unnecessary and disabling to the daily function of a veterinary clinic to require veterinarians to write a prescription for every medication they dispense. In this day and age of “Pet Med Express” commercials on every channel it would be difficult to believe that clients are not aware that possible options for less expensive medication are out there. Many clients enjoy the convenience of one stop shopping and being able to get their animal’s health needs and medications all in one place rather than having to make a trip to a pharmacy.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) held a public workshop in 2012 and is summarizing its findings which examined the competition and consumer protection issues in the pet medications industry. These findings have not been released yet but this bill may be trying to solve a problem that does not exist.

Please write to your Congressman in opposition to this bill either by personal letter or email (names are listed below, see their websites for contact information) or by going to the AVMA website and under the “ADVOCACY” tab click “AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network”. It is IMPERATIVE as veterinarians that we speak out against this burdensome bill as it will shift the focus of our day from patient care to paperwork.

Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA)

Senator David Vitter (R-LA)

Representatives:

District 1—Steve Scalise (R)

District 2- Cedric Richmond (D)

District 3- Charles Boustany (R)

Trisha Marullo, DVM

LVMA Vice President

District 4- John Fleming (R)

District 5- Vance McAllister (R)

District 6- Bill Cassidy (R)



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Animal Disease Traceability

Animal Disease Traceability is a federal law that took effect on March 11, 2013 that requires all livestock moving into interstate commerce to have a health certificate and official identification ***unless exempt***. The health certificate must be written by a Category II Accredited Veterinarian and the official ID must be individually listed on the certificate. Health certificates must then be submitted to the Louisiana Office of the State Veterinarian within 7 working days by mail, email, or fax.

Livestock covered under this rule include cattle and bison, horses and other equine species, poultry, sheep and goats, swine, and captive cervids. There are some exemptions to this rule so each state of destination should be called to make sure you comply with their entry requirements. Because of some confusion, it's best to note name of person talked to and time of call on your health certificate.

States will be enforcing traceability by checking health certificates for accuracy and inspecting livestock trailers as they enter their state or at livestock markets. Some states are sending notices of non-compliance to Louisiana veterinarians and in a few cases have impounded animals and sent them back to Louisiana. A health certificate is a legal document and the accredited veterinarian should verify that another state's entry requirements have been met before signing the certificate. LDAF and USDA Area Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO) are working closely with private practitioners when a notice of non-compliance is sent to our office. Accreditation and state license are separate in Louisiana so an error on a health certificate will not affect your license; but repeated violations on health certificates will impact your accreditation and your ability to write health certificates and to conduct large animal testing. Traceability enforcement will initially focus on cattle, but compliance for all covered livestock will follow.

Call the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Veterinary Health Division for a list of state veterinarian offices to call for entry requirements or for more information on Animal Disease Traceability: (225) 925-3980. Let us know if you would like your Area VMO to work directly with you and your staff on health certificates and official ID. Also ask about electronic health certificates and our free trial offers for eCVIs!

National Veterinary Accreditation Program

The National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) is a federal program established so private practitioners could assist Federal and State veterinarians in controlling animal diseases. NVAP is managed nationally by the USDA and is implemented by each state. In 2009 two accreditation categories were established to replace the previous single category. Continuing Education (CE) and accreditation renewal requirements were also added that are ***due every three years***. NVAP CE may be applied to annual Louisiana license renewal if taken within the renewal dates. One NVAP training module or unit equals one hour of CE. Category I DVMs who treat mainly companion animals need 3 hours of CE. Category II DVMs who treat all animals need 6 hours of CE.

Approved CE may be taken:

1. At approved veterinary meetings
2. Online at www.aphis.usda.gov under Animal Health Veterinary Accreditation
3. By CD ordered from USDA
4. By printed materials ordered from USDA

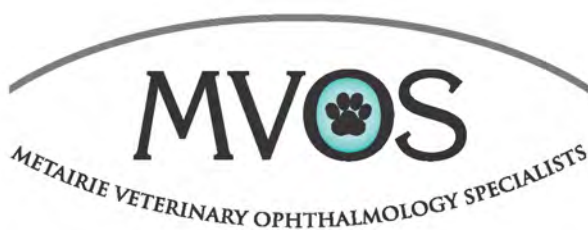
Renewal Process: Once necessary CE courses have been taken, complete a form VS 1-36A and submit the completed form to the USDA VS Area Office in Arkansas. The contact information for that office is:

Deb Hicks
NVAP Coordinator AR/LA/MO/OK
USDA APHIS VS
1200 Cherry Brook Dr; Suite 300
Little Rock, AR 72211
Phone: (501) 224-9515 Fax: (501) 225-5823
deb.l.hicks@aphis.usda.gov

Renewal may also be done online if you register at a USDA site. Call us to learn more about online registration and for more NVAP information: LDAF at (225) 925-3980 or the USDA Area Office in MS at (601) 936-8580.



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Petstar Animal Care is seeking a full-time Veterinarian with interest in triage of critical care cases, surgery and inpatient care to expand our services in beautiful Ruston, Louisiana. Excellent client communication and staff communication skills are required. We are a family oriented, AAHA accredited practice with a knowledgeable support staff and a top notch clientele. We currently employ 3 doctors with family oriented veterinary work schedules. Our 6500 sq. foot facility houses 5 exam rooms, a spacious treatment area, pharmacy and laboratory, surgery suite and intensive care unit, as well as a luxury boarding wing. The practice is also well equipped, offering Eklin Digital Radiology, MyLab30 Gold Ultrasound, Idexx Catalyst, Lasercyte and Coag, In house Lab Equipment, Tonovet Tonometry, IM3 Deluxe Dental Machine, AVImark Veterinary Software and much more. To join our team, please e-mail resume' to jessica@petstaranimalcare.com or call Dr. Underwood at 318-255-7081.

Need a speaker for your local association meeting?

Please contact the LSU Office of Veterinary Continuing Education for help scheduling a speaker & selecting a topic.

Contact: Paula Jones: 225-578-9825, paulaj@lsu.edu OR Dr. Kirk Ryan: 225-578-9600, kryan@lsu.edu

Small Animal Emergency Clinic located in West Monroe, LA has an immediate opening for a full time veterinarian. The position offers a very attractive base salary plus production percentage. Please e-mail resume to Tracy Miller at tracym2001@gmail.com or mail it to 102 Downing Pines Road West Monroe, LA 71292.

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To place a classified advertisement, please email the LVMA office at office@lvma.org. If you are a LVMA member, classified ads are free of charge. All others are \$6.00 per line. If you have questions about our advertising rates, please contact the LVMA office at (225) 928-5862, (800) 524-2996, office@lvma.org, or visit our website at www.lvma.org.

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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
American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologist	45th Annual American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists Conference	October 8—12, 2014	Omni Fort Worth Hotel	Fort Worth, TX	www.acvoconference.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

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