

President's Report

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Dear LVMA Members,

Summer has definitely arrived in Louisiana, whether we go by the calendar or not.

The heat, the humidity, and the pace of this time of year remind us pretty quickly that we are in the thick of it. It is also a season where a lot seems to happen at once. We are welcoming new graduates into the profession, while at the same time keeping an eye on the challenges that impact our patients and practices every day.

On May 15, I had the honor of welcoming the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2026 to our profession and to the LVMA. This year marked a special milestone, the 50th Annual LSU Veterinary Medicine Commencement, with 128 new veterinarians entering the field. We were honored to have Dr. Ashley Stokes as the commencement speaker. As Dean of the UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and LSU Vet Med's first PhD-DVM graduate, her career highlights the many

paths available in veterinary medicine. We were also proud to have Arkansas VMA President Dr. Sarah Shedenhelm join the stage, representing the strong relationship LSU shares across our region and the impact its graduates continue to have throughout the South.

These graduates bring skill, energy, and a fresh perspective to our profession. As they begin their careers, I encourage all of us to support them, whether through mentorship, encouragement, or simply being available when they need a sounding board. The habits that make this career sustainable, setting boundaries, managing expectations, and staying connected, are things we learn from each other over time.

At the same time, we must remain vigilant in the face of emerging animal health threats. Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed New World screwworm (NWS) in Texas. While this detection remains geographically limited at this time, it serves as an important reminder that this parasite poses a serious risk to livestock, companion

animals, wildlife, and, in rare instances, people.

New World screwworm infestations occur when fly larvae invade living tissue, resulting in significant tissue damage, animal suffering, and economic loss. Early detection is critical, and veterinarians across all sectors, large animal, small animal, and mixed practice, play an essential role in identifying cases and educating clients.

I strongly encourage you to communicate the following key points to your clients:

- Routine inspection is essential, particularly for at-risk animals such as newborns, animals with recent surgical procedures, fresh wounds, or periparturient livestock
- Be alert for draining wounds, maggots, egg masses, or unexplained



President's Report Continued

lesions, especially around body openings such as the nose, ears, genitalia, and umbilicus

- Prompt reporting of suspected cases to state animal health officials or USDA is critical to containment and response
- Familiarize yourself with FDA-authorized treatments and control measures, as well as appropriate guidance for extra-label drug use and withdrawal intervals

It is equally important to emphasize that there is no need for panic. This is a disease we have successfully controlled in the past, and federal and state partners, including USDA, APHIS, FDA, and animal health officials, have been actively preparing for this possibility. Response efforts are already underway, including surveillance, movement controls, treatment stockpiles, and sterile insect release programs designed to disrupt the pest's lifecycle.

Our role, as veterinarians on the ground, is indispensable. Your vigilance, clinical expertise, and communication with clients are the front line of defense in protecting animal populations and preserving the integrity of our food supply. I have also included helpful links and resources at the end of this update for your use and further information.

On the legislative front, the U.S. House recently advanced a new Farm Bill, which includes several key priorities for veterinary medicine. These include strengthening dog importation standards, continued support for animal disease preparedness programs, reauthorization of workforce programs like VMLRP and VSGP, and continued support for FARAD. These efforts directly support the work we do every day and the long-term strength of our profession as the bill moves to the Senate. There is a lot happening right now, and it is a good reminder of how important your role is in animal health, public health, and your communities.

Finally, I encourage you to join us for the Southwest Veterinary Symposium, September 17-20, 2026, in San Antonio. This is a great opportunity for high-quality continuing education, reconnecting with colleagues, and

supporting an event that directly benefits the LVMA.

As always, thank you for the work you do every day and for your continued support of veterinary medicine in Louisiana.

All the best,



Clare M. Scully, MA, DVM, MS, DACT
President

New World Screwworm resources:

LSU AgCenter resources: <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1756155363631>.

Official APHIS announcement of NWS case: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/agency-announcements/usda-confirms-presence-new-world-screwworm-united-states>

Unified Government website for most accurate and up to date NWS information: screwworm.gov

USDA New World Screwworm Playbook and Supplemental materials: www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nws-response-playbook.pdf

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Animal Drugs for New World Screwworm: <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/safety-health/new-world-screwworm-information-veterinarians>

USDA APHIS Pesticides for Control of New World Screwworm: www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pesticides-for-nws.pdf



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Submit articles and advertisements to the LVMA office as follows:

Quarter 1 Newsletter - February 15th
Quarter 2 Newsletter - May 15th
Quarter 3 Newsletter - August 15th
Quarter 4 Newsletter - November 15th

Executive Director's Report

As we move into the summer season, the 2026 Louisiana Legislative Session is officially complete! Throughout the session, the LVMA advocacy team remained actively engaged tracking over 15 bills—working alongside legislators, staff, and partners across the state to influence policy decisions, reduce potential burdens on the veterinary profession, and advance initiatives that support and protect veterinarians. While each session has a defined end, our advocacy efforts continue year-round.

Now is also a great time to recognize excellence within our profession. We encourage you to submit nominations for the 2026 LVMA Awards. Honorees each year represent individuals—and even animals—who have made a meaningful impact on veterinary medicine, animal health, and the broader community. Nomination details and forms can be found at www.lvma.org.

Looking ahead, the 2026 SWVS Conference in San Antonio will take place September 17th – 20th. This premier event features more than 400 hours of continuing education across 13 specialty areas, offering something valuable for every attendee. **Participation also directly benefits LVMA through the SWVS VMA Partnership Program, so we hope Louisiana will be well represented.**

Planning is already underway for future LVMA programming as well. Be on the lookout for registration details for the 2027 LVMA Winter Meeting, scheduled for **January 21-24 at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans! Yes, we are headed back to New Orleans but a different location than before.** The Hilton Riverside is optimally located at the end of Poydras which provides walkability to the French Quarter and the Warehouse District. Also the Hilton Riverside has a connecting parking garage that allows for self parking – all the amenities in such a vibrant city – looking forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, I encourage all Louisiana veterinarians to mark their calendars for Commissioner Mike Strain's Fall Ball on October 22, 2026, at the Old Governor's Mansion. This event is a meaningful opportunity to show support for a key advocate for veterinary medicine in our state. Additional event information is available at www.mikestrain.org/fallball or by calling 225-771-8942.

Take care,



Melanie Talley, CAE

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Host	Location	For More Info
July 10-14, 2026	AVMA Convention	AVMA	Anaheim, CA	www.avma.org
Sept. 17 - 20, 2026	SWVS	SWVS	San Antonio, TX	www.swvs.org
January 7-9, 2027	AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference	AVMA	Chicago, IL	www.avma.org
January 21-24, 2027	LVMA Winter Meeting	LVMA	New Orleans, LA	www.lvma.org

Classifieds

Feline only Practice for Sale
 The Cat Doctor – Feline Medical Center, was established in 2007 as a single doctor practice and is now a 2 doctor, Gold Level Feline practice in Northwest Louisiana serving clients from East Texas to East Louisiana and south to Natchitoches. The practice is well equipped and housed in an attractive facility with all the amenities of a progressive practice. Includes large billboard and digital reader board. This is a financially healthy practice, and the owner is motivated and willing to help with transition. Owner finance available. No solicitors/Buyers only. Willing to talk. Contact: catdox@gmail.com

Solo Practice For Sale:
 Terry Parkway Animal Hospital is an established and growing small animal, solo practice for sale. It is located in Gretna on the Westbank of the Greater New Orleans area. We have served the entire westbank and some of New Orleans since 1983. It is located in a strip mall on the main, busy thoroughfare, Terry Parkway. Call or text Dr. Salles at 504 813-6858 if interested.

OPPORTUNITY for a Veterinarian to move into practice ownership of small animal clinic in Baton Rouge, serving community over 60 years. Contact ccooper123@yahoo.com 225.572.0067

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Want to see your ad here? Visit www.lvma.org under the Newsletter tab for our advertising rates. First 50 words are FREE in Classified Ads for members!







Reminder

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RENEW YOUR LVMA DUES - HEAD TO WWW.LVMA.ORG TO RENEW OR GIVE US A CALL AT 225-928-5862



The LVMA PAC (Political Action Committee) asks YOU to donate to help protect the profession of veterinary medicine. Your donations help us make strategic funding decisions in order to position ourselves favorably.

The LVMA PAC has worked to protect the veterinary profession by:

-  Working with legislatures to educate them on the importance of xylazine in veterinary medicine and reworking the bill to protect that usage.
-  Continuing to protect the scope of practice for veterinarians.
-  Protecting the regulatory authority of veterinary medicine.
-  Mitigating the liability associated with the practice of veterinary medicine.

We need your help to continue protecting veterinary medicine by donating today!
<https://lvma.org/pac> or Scan the QR Code



Welcome New Members!

Anik Puig
Madisonville, LA

Melanie Rosen
Baton Rouge, LA

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:

Dr. Doug Brandon
Sally H. Coco

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 in honor of a pet or loved one.

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

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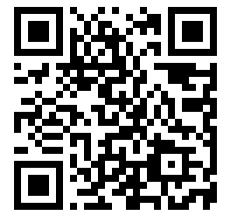




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CONGRATULATIONS LSU SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE *Class of 2026!*



Photo Credit: LSU School of Veterinary Medicine



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