

Veterinarian Update



Volume 6, Issue 3 Fall, 2008

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South Carolina 2008 Post-Election Update

By Jeff Thorndahl, SCAV Legislative Counsel

While Election Day 2008 left much of the rest of the nation in the midst of a veritable fruit basket turnover, South Carolina saw only a negligible shift in what has been a strong Republican hold on the state's political balance of power. Yet, with only two House seats shifting from Republican to Democrat control, there will still be a lot of changes and new faces when the General Assembly returns to Columbia in January.

The significant changes in South Carolina came as a result of several retirements and a number of upsets during a very contentious primary election in June. The result: twenty-two new faces in the House and six in the Senate. Among the new faces are House members replacing retiring House Agriculture Committee Chairman Billy Witherspoon and Education Chairman Bob Walker, who was ousted by a razor thin margin in a heated primary. Long-time House Labor Commerce and Industry Chairman, Harry Cato, will also relinquish his chairmanship to replace Representative Doug Smith as the next Speaker Pro Tempore.

All of these new faces create a fantastic opportunity for each of you to reach out to your House and Senate member. As veterinarians you have a tremendous statewide presence and we need to take advantage of that and maximize your relationships. You can bet most members, including the new members, have at least one pet that they take to their local Veterinarian.

Due in part to the record Democratic turnout, Charleston Representative Wallace Scarborough, a candidate to replace Cato as chair of the LCI Committee, was defeated by Democrat Anne Peterson-Hutto. Scarborough's was the only general election loss for a sitting House member. In Northeast Columbia, Democrat Anton Gunn was also elected in a hard-fought race to fill the seat of retiring Republican Representative Bill Cotty.

In the Senate, there were no significant leadership changes, although three incumbent Republicans were ousted in June primaries. Three more veteran Senators Kay Patterson, John Drummond and John Hawkins - opted not to seek re-election. While this likely will not result in any significant shifts in committee leadership, it may create what many anticipate will be an ideological shift to the right, at least in terms of budgetary issues and government reform.

Much to the frustration of House and Senate leaders, Republican Governor Mark Sanford, who has been vocal about his frustration with the General Assembly, was also outspoken in his support for a number of candidates who challenged Republican incumbents in the June primary elections. Several of those candidates were successful in their efforts, likely granting Sanford a larger core base of support in the midst of many rivals. The House and Senate have worked together to override the vast majority of the numerous vetoes the Governor has returned to the Legislature in the past six years granting Sanford the dubious distinction of having had more vetoes overridden than all of the states previous governors combined.

With the roster of legislators in place, the House Republican Caucus wasted no time convening to establish their top priorities for the year to come. In addition to some notable rule changes, the House is planning to focus on a short list of critical issues, cognizant of the fact that budgetary constraints will remain a significantly limiting factor for at least the next year. Among those priorities:

- Growing South Carolina's Economy with a specific focus on reducing unnecessary regulatory hurdles
- Implementation of Spending Caps

- Development of a Comprehensive State Energy Policy that addresses both environmental concerns and promotes energy independence
- Reallocation of funds to address growing needs for infrastructure funding with a particular focus on roads and bridges
- Tax Reform, including a review of all current sales tax exemptions
- Education Funding including a possible realignment of the current education funding formula
- Election Reform Legislation

In addition to other issues, several key members of the Senate continue to raise the possibility of legislation to reform or reorganize the Department of Labor, License and Regulation (LLR). Given recent predictions that budget shortfalls will make it difficult for LLR to meet the requirements of the 2008 Immigration Reform Bill, LLR realignment may also become a top-ten priority on the legislative agenda.

While budgetary constraints will limit the scope of legislation to some degree in 2009, legislative leaders are still prepared to undertake an aggressive and substantial agenda of policy issues that are of significance to a number of key constituencies. We will continue to keep you apprised as legislation related to the world of Veterinarian medicine is developed and pre-filed and as agendas are further delineated and action plans are put into place.

SCAV Moving Forward

As the autumn leaves blanket the ground and the temperatures drop, SCAV members can look back at another year of advances and successes. These include the following:

- SCAV held top quality continuing education programs during its Spring and Fall Academy meetings that were designed for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. More than 200 attended these one-day academy meetings that provided hours at no cost to SCAV members. The 2009 Spring Academy will focus on Heartworm Disease and is scheduled Sunday, March 15th in downtown Columbia at the Marriott.
- SCAV veterinarians and veterinary technicians from across the state traveled to Charleston in January of 2008 to participate in the Lowcountry Conference. This year's conference is scheduled January 29-February 1st. A returning highlight will be the Charleston Harbor Dinner/Dancing Cruise aboard the Spirit of Charleston. This is scheduled Friday, January 30.
- SCAV added another category to its annual awards that are presented during the Lowcountry Conference. This new award recognizes the veterinary clinic employee of the year. See nomination information on page 5.
- The Southeast Veterinary Conference that was held in mid June in Myrtle Beach attracted almost 800 attendees.
- SCAV sponsored an Annual Animal Summit that brought together representatives from various organizations to share information and issues regarding animals (see page 3).
- After four drafts, SCAV members voted on a new logo incorporating a silhouette of the state of South Carolina. This new logo was unveiled at the Fall Academy Meeting.
- SCAVs Alternate Delegate to the AVMA and State Veterinarian prepared a resolution urging the US Department of Agriculture

to offer student loan debt relief for veterinary diagnosticians and veterinarians pursuing residencies and advanced degrees who work in food animal veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Who Can Administer a Rabies Vaccination?

According to SC Code Ann. 47-5-60, a licensed veterinarian administers the vaccine. Other duties that the veterinarian must fulfill at the time of vaccination include the signing of a certificate of vaccination and keeping a copy of the certificate on file for not less than three years. The veterinarian must furnish a serially-numbered metal tag, and the veterinarian must report the number of animals inoculated to the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. Nothing in this section indicates that an employee may also administer the vaccine. Below is the wording from this section.



SECTION 47560. Inoculation of pets; certificates and tags.

A pet owner must have his pet inoculated against rabies at a frequency to provide continuous protection of the pet from rabies using a vaccine approved by the department and licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Evidence of rabies inoculation is a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian. The rabies vaccination certificate forms may be provided by the licensed veterinarian or by the department or its designee. The veterinarian may stamp or write his name and address on the certificate. The certificate must include information recommended by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. The licensed veterinarian administering the vaccine shall provide one copy of the certificate to the owner of the pet and must retain one copy in his files for not less than three years. With the issuance of the certificate, the licensed veterinarian shall furnish a serially numbered metal license tag bearing the same number and year as the certificate with the name and telephone number of the veterinarian, veterinary hospital, or practice. The metal license tag at all times must be attached to a collar or harness worn by the pet for which the certificate and tag have been issued. Annually before February first, the veterinarian shall report to the department the number of animals inoculated against rabies during the preceding year. The department, in conjunction with licensed veterinarians, shall promote annual rabies clinics. The fee for rabies inoculation at these clinics may not exceed three dollars, including the cost of the vaccine, and this charge must be paid by the pet owner. Fees collected by veterinarians at these clinics are their compensation.

SCAV Sponsors Annual Animal Summit

By Marie Queen, SCAV Executive Director

SCAV held its Annual Animal Summit last month at the Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health in Columbia. Representatives from the following organizations came together to share information and issues regarding animals: Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health, SCAV, SC DHEC, USDA Area Emergency, Carolina Wildlife Care, Chain Free Beaufort, SC Humane Society and SC DHEC Bureau of Environmental Health.

Dr. Boyd Parr of Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health Programs Extension

1. Clemson Poultry and Livestock Extension has been legislatively mandated to identify 20% in cuts in their animal health programs. To maintain current bank of employees and programs, Clemson will need to reduce services or increase fees for services.
2. Dr. Parr also noted that the Equine Slaughter Act has had a negative impact on the equine population because horse owners are now abandoning older and sick horses since they can no longer sell them across the border for slaughter purposes.
3. USDA has announced its intentions to encourage premise registration as well as animal registration for facilities for livestock. This National Animal Identification System, a database of information, would provide useful information should an animal health disease occur. Clemson is following this federal program that is currently a voluntary one.
4. The current state of the economy makes a bond issue on funding for the new UGA Veterinary Medical Hospital less likely in the next year. He also mentioned that Clemson's Provost Dorie Helms wants to meet with the SCAV Board of Directors.
5. Several states without veterinary schools have contracts in place with various veterinary schools whereby the state schools offer specific classes that count toward the first two years of veterinary school.
6. Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health has hired two veterinarians recently: Dr. Matthew Breed and Dr. Patricia Scharko.
7. Question arose whether Clemson inspectors report animal abuse.

Dr. Charlotte Krugler of Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health Programs Extension:

1. SCAV's Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair Dr. Linda Connolly attended the National Association of Agriculture and Animal Protection meeting held in Baltimore recently. This organization and the AVMA are organizing companion animal emergency preparedness strategies.
2. The Animal Care Reform Act, legislation that was enacted post hurricane Katrina, focuses on the local county level to work with county emergency management and veterinarians to know which vaccines need to be administered when disaster occurs.
3. Dr. Krugler said that once a state governor makes a proclamation of an emergency, FEMA will provide funding to veterinarians who administer these vaccinations.

4. Dr. Venaye Reece mentioned there are some funds on the county level that groups could get to financially assist when veterinarians respond to an emergency.
5. Veterinary Medical Associations can apply for grants at \$5,000 level and then at \$20,000 annually for implementation of emergency plans when disasters strike.
6. SCAV's foundation would need to be in place prior to submission of these grants.
7. SCAV's VLO list needs to be updated.
8. Dr. Krugler has met with the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness and reviewed their evacuation plan. She recommended that the Richland County Emergency Preparedness model this plan when developing theirs.
9. The National Response Plan does require accurate record-keeping for reimbursement to occur from the county to the shelters.
10. Dr. Krugler did emphasize the responsibility of organizing emergency planning is on the county level. Veterinarians are not responsible for organizing the emergency response.
11. FEMA requires shelters to have written emergency plans for evacuation of animals should an emergency arise.
12. Animal clinics are also required to have evacuation of animals in place should an emergency arise.

Dr. Venaye Reece, USDA Area Emergency Coordinator:

1. Animal Care of USDA has 150 staff nation-wide and SC has one officer.
2. USDA Animal Care teams are trying to set standards for shelters.
3. These shelters will need veterinarians to assist with vaccinations.

Kim Bonturi of Chain Free Beaufort:

1. Ms. Bonturi would like SCAV to take a position on inhumane treatment of chaining and tethering of dogs.
2. She clarified she is specifically referring to chaining and tethering of dogs 24-hour a day without proper shelter.
3. Ms. Bonturi provided specific facts to support this legislation: 85 police reports of animal cruelty and dog bites show 30% of these cases involve chaining.
4. Public safety issue: dogs are pack animals and become aggressive when chained consistently.
5. Seven children in South Carolina have been mauled or killed by chained dogs.
6. Dog fighters use chaining to house pit bulls. Chaining law would cut down on dog fighting in South Carolina.
7. Ms. Bonturi's main purpose for attending this summit is to convince SCAV to support legislation against chaining and tethering of dogs for 24 hours a day without proper shelter.
8. City of Beaufort passed this ordinance against chaining, but

because shelter is in the county and not in the city there is no administering of this ordinance.

9. She also mentioned that a definition of proper shelter is needed.

Sue Ferguson of SC DHEC:

1. Ms. Ferguson concentrated on Rabies Control Act which states that all domestic animals (dogs, cats, ferrets) must be vaccinated by veterinarians for rabies.
2. DHEC is trying to convince the SC Legislature to include language in this act that allows vaccination of rabies by someone under direct supervision of veterinarian instead of by only a veterinarian.
3. DHEC will continue to promote increasing of annual clinic rabies vaccination fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00.
4. Veterinarians are required to report to DHEC annual number of rabies administered during 2008 by February 1, 2009.
5. She also asked whether DHEC should continue to send out rabies tags to the veterinarians. Response was to continue to send these out because they are helpful in tracking down homes of lost dogs.
6. 135 cases of rabies have been reported to date in this state this year. Of these 135 cases, three were cats and one was a dog. Raccoons made up the rest.
7. Discussion occurred about increase of distemper diagnosis in raccoons and foxes. If distemper is reported as cause of death, animals may not be tested for rabies.
8. Georgia, Tennessee and other states in the Southeast are dropping sachets of the rabies vaccine for animals in the wild to ingest.
9. Department of Natural Resources has created a volunteer registry for rehabilitating raccoons. Concern was voiced with this registry because many of these volunteers have not received the human rabies vaccine.
10. Only two companies produce human rabies vaccine. There is a short supply of this vaccine. CDC is working with these companies. There is no pre-exposure vaccine available.
11. Dr. Stephanie Cox said this is a huge issue for those wanting to work in wildlife, animal control. It takes a couple of days to get this vaccine and rabies travels at three centimeters per day.

Dr. Stephanie Cox of DHEC:

1. She attended World Rabies Day Conference held September 28th. This international organization is working closely with CDC to educate people in this country and in developing countries about rabies.
2. Veterinarian schools are very involved in this event.
3. This organization conducted vaccination campaigns to bring awareness to the public.
4. There is a North American Rabies Agreement whereby Canada, Mexico and the United States share rabies information.
5. Dr. Cox recommended SCAV promote rabies vaccination and this event in 2009.
 - a. SCAV could post rabies resources on website for the public.
 - b. SCAV could designate public relations funds for a billboard campaign advocating vaccination.
6. Discussion occurred about quarantine requirements. There is a

compendium that the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians releases in December. The purpose of this compendium is to meet the needs of veterinarians when diagnosing diseases.

7. Veterinary Services has developed contracts to train veterinarians in animal disease situations.

Mary Denis Cauthen of South Carolina Humane Society:

1. The SC Humane Society is not affiliated with the National Humane Society.
2. The SC Humane Society does not shelter animals.
3. Discussion occurred about Project Pet, a no kill shelter that is building a new facility.
4. SC Humane Society was the organization that seized the Trexler horses in Florence. Since this event, horse owners have called the SC Humane Society asking if they would take their horses.
5. SC Humane Society does offer a spay/neuter clinic.
 - a. The Society is on track to do 9,000 spay/neuters this year.
 - b. SC Humane Society has a new director and may be good resource for emergency preparedness since he has Red Cross experience.

Joanna Wetzler of Carolina Wildlife Care:

1. Joanna Wetzler announced Carolina Wildlife Care took in its 40,000th animal.
2. Carolina Wildlife will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2009. April 25, 2009 is the date of their first black tie event.
3. In April of this year, Carolina Wildlife along with Project Pet worked to defeat animal anti-cruelty legislation that didn't include wildlife and exotics from protection.
4. Commercial harvest legislation of turtles also died during this year's legislative session.
5. South Carolina doesn't have any control of this commercial harvest. Ships are coming into SC coast that are harvesting turtles. This was held up in the agricultural/natural resource committee. Joanna is looking to restart this bill during the next session.
6. SC Wildlife has postponed their annual conference typically held in the fall. It may be held in February or March and offer a symposium format whereby attendees may choose from a variety of sessions.
7. Joanna said Wildlife is forming an association and welcomes board members from the groups and organizations present at this meeting.

Jeff Thordahl, SCAVs Legislative Counsel:

1. Election will bring a lot of change. There will be a new chair of the House Agriculture and Resources Committee. Marion Frye wont be chairing this committee. Retired veterinarian Tom Dantzer will not be returning to the House.
2. The change will offer and new opportunities with \$5.00 versus \$3.00 rabies shots since opponent of this increase, Marion Frye, has chaired this committee.
3. Jeff recommended groups work together on these issues. Money issue is going to dominate. Bond bill is not likely to move for many reasons.

SCAV Nominating Committee Recommends Slate

The SCAV will hold elections for new officers and directors of District 1 and District 4 during the January 29-February 1 Lowcountry Conference. Below is a list of nominations. Installation will occur during the Saturday, January 31st General Membership Business meeting.

President:	Dr. Sherri Reid Duncan of Murrells Inlet Veterinary Hospital
Vice President:	Dr. Scott Senf of Animal Medical Center of Mt. Pleasant
Treasurer:	Dr. Mark Moore of Seneca Animal Hospital
Secretary:	Dr. Edward Verville of Pawleys Veterinary Hospital
District 1:	Dr. Donald Gamble of Oakbrook Veterinary Clinic
District 4:	Dr. Heather Gleaton of Roper Mountain Animal Hospital

SCAV Members: Awards Nominations Needed



It's time for you - the members of SCAV - to honor colleagues and associates who have made contributions to the profession and animal-related activities. The

SCAV Awards

Committee, chaired by Dr. Cynthia G. Cindy Cleland (Ravenel House Calls, Charleston),

is accepting nominations from SCAV members in the following categories, with awards to be presented at SCAV's 2009 Lowcountry Conference, January 29-February 1, 2009, at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina. Nomination categories include:

Veterinarian of the Year; presented to the veterinarian who has served SCAV, the community and his fellow veterinarians

in such a way as to exemplify the highest ideals of the profession.

Distinguished Veterinarian of the Year; presented to one or more senior veterinarian(s) who has/have served the veterinary profession during the years of his/her/their practice.

Technician of the Year; presented to a South Carolina licensed veterinary technician who has made outstanding contributions as a professional in the past year.

Veterinary Clinic Employee of the Year; presented to the veterinary clinic employee who has made outstanding contributions of service as an employee of a veterinary clinic who is not licensed in South Carolina as a veterinary technician or as a veterinarian.

Humanitarian of the Year; presented to a veterinarian or non-veterinarian who has been responsible for exemplary contributions to the health and welfare of animals.

Please send you nominations, with reasons therefore, as to any or all categories directly to:

Dr. Cynthia G. "Cindy" Cleland

Chairman, Awards Committee, Mailing Address: 5020 Lambs Road, N. Charleston, SC 29418-3527, Phone: 843-760- 2033, Fax: 843-767-6860. Nomination deadline is January 1, 2009.

Save the Dates:

January 29-February 1, 2009:

Lowcountry Conference in Charleston at the Francis Marion.



SCAV LOWCOUNTRY Veterinary Conference



January 29 - February 1, 2009

Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

*(As you would like it to appear on your name tag)

Hospital/Clinic Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Spouse, Technician/Staff or guest attending* _____

*(As you would like it to appear on your name tag)

Member, Non Member, Life & Support Staff fees include CD, Luncheons, Welcome Reception & Breaks

SCAV Member Fee (with member coupon) \$250.00 _____

Member Late Registration Fee after December 31, 2008 \$300.00 _____

Member Registration fee** \$300.00 _____

Member Late Registration Fee after December 31, 2008 \$350.00 _____

Life Members \$150.00 _____

Support Staff (receptionists, assistants, technicians, managers, etc.) \$140.00 _____

Support Staff Late Registration Fee after December 31, 2008 \$150.00 _____

Auxiliary, Spouse Registration (Includes Luncheons & Reception) \$ 50.00 _____

Non-member Registration Fee \$350.00 _____

Non-Member Late Registration Fee After December 31, 2008 \$385.00 _____

Charleston Harbor Dinner/Dancing Cruise - Friday (Departs at 7pm and returns at 10pm. Boarding begins at 6:30pm) \$ 50.00 _____

Round trip bus transportation provided. Leaves from Francis Marion Hotel at 6pm.

Ear Care Wet Lab (Friday Afternoon 1-4pm) \$125.00 _____

Cruciate Repair-Lateral Structure Technique Using Precise Crimping System - 8:00am-12pm \$350.00 _____

Orthopedic specialists will familiarize you with stifle anatomy and techniques to stabilize the joints. You will learn and then practice performing extracapsular stabilization partial meniscectomy and patella luxation repair techniques.

External Skeletal Fixation - 1-4pm \$350.00 _____

This lab is designed to introduce the concepts of applying an external fixator to fractures on plastic bones. Proper techniques, using the Securos External Fixator System, the most widely used fixator system in the US and Europe will include pre drilling, use of positive profile pins and tricks on fracture reduction and alignment.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

If you wish to use a credit card, fill out the following: Type of Card: _____ MC _____ Visa _____ Discover

Number _____ Exp. _____

REGISTRATION AND ROOM DEADLINE!! DECEMBER 31, 2008

Return this with remittance by December 31, 2008 to the SCAV LowCountry Conference Office, PO Box 505, Maury, NC 28554.

Hotel Reservations must be made DIRECTLY with Francis Marion Hotel, 843-722-0600

to guarantee the special conference rate of \$154+ Tax, for standard room (Double occupancy); Suite \$184+ Tax

All Refunds subject to a \$50 administrative fee.

SCAV's Alternate Delegate to the AVMA Prepares Student Loan Debt Relief Resolution

The SCAV Board of Directors approved recently the resolution prepared by Dr. Tony Caver, SCAV's Alternate Delegate to the AVMA and State Veterinarian for South Carolina, for consideration by the AVMA during their House of Delegates Winter Session that is scheduled January 9-11th. The resolution urges the US Department of Agriculture to make student loan debt relief available for veterinary diagnosticians and veterinarians pursuing residencies and advanced degrees who work in food animal veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Statement about the RESOLUTION

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) had identified the National Veterinary Medical Service Act as one of its top priorities. This legislation authorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to pay principal and interest on education loans of veterinary graduates who agree to work in areas of the country that are underserved by veterinarians, in underserved population groups, or in underserved disciplines of veterinary practice.

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) has recognized for a number of years a severe shortage of veterinarians to staff its laboratories. This shortage includes veterinarians in multiple laboratory disciplines including pathology, bacteriology, virology, toxicology and parasitology. The AAVLD's strategic plan calls for programs to increase the pool of

individuals in pursuing careers in veterinary diagnostic laboratories. It also states most laboratories are struggling with staff and faculty recruitment due to few trainees. Most residency positions are a three year obligation, but current salaries are insufficient for many graduate veterinarians who have acquired a large debt completing their four year veterinary education. Many graduate veterinarians who may wish to pursue further education or work in veterinary diagnostic laboratories cannot afford to do so. The AAVLD feels that debt-forgiveness for these graduate veterinarians would greatly increase the workforce for veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

The AAVLD laboratories provide diagnostic services for veterinarians, animal producers, animal owners, wildlife and public health agencies. AAVLD laboratories work with the USDA in surveillance for, response to and recovery from foreign animal diseases, and recognition of emerging diseases, primarily through the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Many AAVLD laboratories work closely with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the Laboratory Response Network (LRN), or with the USDA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN). Working within these networks, as well as in daily work, AAVLD laboratories provide diagnostics for the agriculture industries and food animal veterinarians, for public health officials, and for protection of our nation's food supply.

Charleston Dinner Cruise on Friday, January 30, 2009 • \$50 Per Person

If you visit Charleston and don't see her from the water you'll have missed the best she has to offer! There's no better way to experience Charleston and her history than from an enclosed climate controlled dining salon aboard the Spirit Line yacht. The *Spirit of Carolina* offers a unique dining experience with breathtaking views of the Charleston harbor.

The unforgettable three-hour harbor tour includes gourmet food, live entertainment and dancing. Sea Cruise, a Murrell's Inlet Band, will provide the music.

Parking & Departure

The *Spirit of Carolina* departs from Patriots Point Maritime Museum in Mt. Pleasant, a five minute drive from downtown Charleston. There is ample free parking. Boarding for the dinner cruise begins at 6:30 pm, departs at 7:00 pm and returns at 10:00 pm.

SCAV will provide round-trip bus transportation from and to Francis Marion Hotel. The bus will depart the Francis Marion at 6:00 pm, and the cost for this transportation is included in the \$50 per person fee.

SCAV Member Dr. Freddie Zink Provides Vaccinations of Animals in Iraq

Iraqi Army Soldiers and Coalition forces conducted a veterinary medical event in the Fetoah area July 14. Iraqi Soldiers from 4th Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division assisted Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Division (attached), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during a Veterinarian Civil Action Program.

The 411th Civil Affairs Battalion also provided support for the event. I feel good because we have done a good service for my area and my people by providing them with these services, said Maj. Ahmad Hade, 4/2/23/17 IA commander.

The VETCAP provided vaccinations and internal and external pesticide treatments for the animals of local farmers who are currently without veterinary care or are unable to afford such services. I appreciate the medicine for my animals; it is very good to have the assistance, said Hadi Sloobi Muthawer, a local farmer. (IA and CF) are doing a good job; this is a very important thing to our people, he said. This medicine is good for the animals, he added. It makes them eat more and provide more milk.

A local Iraqi veterinarian worked closely with Maj. Freddie Zink, 445th Civil Affairs Battalion and Multi-National Division-Center veterinarian, to treat more than 200 sheep and 20 cattle from two local farms in the Fetoah area, approximately

15 kilometers southwest of Baghdad. Normally, they would bring animals to a centralized location, but eventually, we got word it would be easier for us to move around to other areas because it was harder for them to bring the animals to us due to them being so spread out, said Capt. Eric Allen Morton, Co. B, 1-35 Armd. Div. commander.

There are roughly 4,000 unemployed veterinarians in Iraq right now. The plan for future events like these is to give whatever vaccinations are left over to the Iraqi veterinarian for him to use the product and go out and charge people to do their animals, said Zink, a Piedmont, S.C., native. Eventually, the goal is for the veterinarian to become self-sufficient and use that money to buy more vaccines, he said. Missions such as these are essential to the future of Iraq and aid them in their efforts of self-reliance. Because the area is so secure now, it lets the Soldiers get out and interact with the IA and the locals, and let them know we have other services we can provide for them, said Morton, a Richmond, Va., native.

It's hard work and hot work, but I get a lot of self-satisfaction out of seeing the mission accomplished and seeing the farmers happy; but I think it's even better seeing coalition forces and the IA building a relationship with the local farmers and Iraqi people in the area, Zink said.



The SCAV Lowcountry Conference will feature the following speakers and topics:

Dr. Teresa Defrancesco on Cardiology, Dr. Randy Basinger on Surgery, Joe Peters on Radiology Safety, Dr. Karen Cornell and Kathleen Bonvicini on Improving DVM and Staff Communication with Clients, and Kitty Cox on Complaint Process. Dentistry, laser surgery and practice management will also be presented. Special thanks go to sponsoring companies:

Merial, Bayer, Novartis, Pfizer, Accuvet Lasers, Med Rx, Idexx, and Antech.

Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Champion Receives Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence

In her four years as Veterinary Technology department head, Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Champion's passion for the profession, the program, the students and Tri-County Technical College has been evident in her work ethic and her vision for the program.

Dr. Champion is a passionate department head, instructor, student advocate and defender of animals, said Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the Health Education Division. She has made a tremendous difference in student learning, student experience and confidence, and the programs recognition.

Dr. Champion received the highest award presented to the faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, at the College's 45th annual commencement May 15.

Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, president, presented the medallion to the Anderson resident. The medallion is presented each year to the instructor who has contributed the most during the academic year to the profession of teaching, to the development of the College and to the students.

Peggy Champion is a highly respected veterinarian who recognizes the value of the licensed veterinary technician in the veterinary practice. Peggys goal is to graduate confident, skilled and experienced veterinary technicians who are leaders in the workplace by the reputation of the program they represent, Dr. Booth said. No other veterinary technician program in the country gives as much hands-on experience for students as Tri-County's.

A hands-on instructor, Dr. Champion works with freshmen and senior students in real-life clinical settings where animals literally depend on the skill and expertise of students for their welfare. The animals experiences become the teachable moments. She leads a team of faculty that is adept at making the clinical situation work within the pedagogy. Students learn from her and from each other. They learn by doing and they graduate with the confidence that they can, added Dr. Lewis.

Students receive instruction and extensive practice experience in the laboratory to develop competencies in large and small animal nursing, diagnostic laboratory techniques, radiology, surgical technology and hospital management. The two-year program includes an externship during the summer term. Dr. Champion was instrumental in the Colleges expansion of the program in the summer of 2007 to include evening classes to accommodate persons who work during the day.

Dr. Champion and her staff work with all shelters in three counties to aid in animal spaying/neutering and adoption. Twice a semester, Adoption Days are held on campus for pets (cats and dogs from the animal shelters) that have been cared for during the semester as part of the Veterinary Technology program. All animals are up to date on shots and have been socialized and introduced

to basic commands. This allows students to have more clinical experiences than ever before, strengthening their knowledge base, critical decision-making skills and competency, said Dr. Lewis.

Further enhancing the clinical experiences, Tri-County was the only community college in the United States chosen in 2006 to receive Pepper, a prototype canine simulator used to teach anesthesia techniques to veterinary students. Pepper, the simulcast head of a grown Labrador Retriever, is invaluable in teaching canine intubation skills by giving students more confidence in handling emergency situations before they work with live animals.

Her availability to students is not restricted to office hours. Animal care and husbandry extend to weekends, said Dr. Lewis.

Community service activities are woven throughout the semester to allow students to make a difference for the campus and the community. Projects include participation the J.D. Massey Horse Show as a student fundraiser and the development of a campus meditation garden outside of Halbert Hall. The Student Chapter of the North American Veterinary Technician Association purchased Feline Leukemia FIV combo tests and donated them to Anderson Animal Shelter, along with donating time to the American Saddlebred Association of the Carolinas horse show. In 2005, following Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Champion and Stephanie Brown, licensed veterinary technician/adjunct instructor, volunteered to treat 12 dogs rescued from the streets of New Orleans.

She is well respected by students, peer veterinarians and administration. Employees notice her passion for the students and the creatures they serve because Peggy and her team make a noticeable difference for the campus and for students, said Dr. Lewis.

Dr. Champion has 27 years of veterinary practice and classroom experience. She first served as Tri-County's Veterinary Technology department head from 1989 - 90. Prior to returning to teaching, she worked as a veterinarian for Village Veterinarian in Florida and at veterinarian practices in Macon, Augusta and Thomasville, GA. She holds B.S. and DVM degrees from the University of Florida. She is a member of the Georgia and Florida Boards of Veterinary Examiners and holds memberships in the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association and the Florida and Georgia Veterinary Medical Association. Her community service includes work with the Audubon Society, the Georgia Conservancy and the American Association of University Women.

Last year she was nominated for the 2008 Nestle Purina Petcare Award, an awards program that celebrates excellence and recognizes those who have made a difference in the field of small animal medicine.

How Do You Compare: AVMA Veterinary Salary Calculator Available

AVMA has updated the Veterinary Salary Calculator with the latest income data. To learn how your pay compares with your colleagues visit <http://www.avma.org/myavma/salary/default.asp>

AVMA also offers for sale a Report on Veterinary Compensation and a Report on Veterinary Business Measures. Web and print versions are available. Cost for web versions of both publications is

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Veterinarian Elected to US House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, DC

Veterinarian and small business owner, Dr. Kurt Schrader, won election to the United States House of Representatives to represent Oregon's 5th Congressional District.

Dr. Schrader, who will succeed retiring Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, is the proprietor of Clackamas County Veterinary Clinics, which treat horses and companion animals. Schrader also owns a small family farm.

Dr. Schrader, a member of the AVMA and the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), has served in Oregon state legislature since 1997, first in the Oregon House of Representatives and then, beginning in 2003, in the state Senate. During his tenure in the Oregon legislature, Schrader was a leading advocate for veterinary medicine and instrumental in securing state funding for key veterinary programs.

Among his goals once in the U.S. Congress, Dr. Schrader has said he will work to help alleviate a shortage of rural veterinarians in the United States. Dr. Schrader has committed to working with the AVMA and Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges to create scholarship or student loan repayment programs for veterinarians who commit to working in rural areas desperate for quality veterinary care.

In addition to being a member of the AVMA and the OVMA, Dr. Schrader is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the Oregon Farm Bureau and the National Federation of Independent Businesses. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University in 1973 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Illinois in 1977

AVMA: Veterinarians need to be included in Proposition 2 implementation

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) thanks the citizens of California for taking the time to consider and vote on Proposition 2. Now that it's passed, extra care and the advice of veterinarians and animal welfare scientists must be employed to ensure its implementation doesn't hurt the animals it's intended to help.

It was encouraging to see voters in California take such an interest in animal welfare, says Dr. Ron DeHaven, CEO of the AVMA. Now that the ballot initiative has passed, veterinarians and animal welfare scientists must be involved in its implementation to make sure that resulting changes in animal housing actually improve conditions for the animals they are intended to help. If we were not careful, animal health and welfare problems could be precipitated that are as significant as the concerns Proposition 2 aspires to address.

Close to \$16 million was spent by those promoting their views on Proposition 2 in California, which sets new standards for livestock housing in that state. Dr. DeHaven points out that the same investment could have gone a long way toward improving conditions for livestock across the country if it had been used to help develop science-based and practical solutions to animal welfare problems.

We agree that more attention needs to be paid to the behavioral well being of production animals. In doing so, we don't want to be singularly focused on just providing additional space, as is the case with Prop 2. For example, moving laying hens to free-range production systems may allow them to engage in more species-typical behaviors, but it also increases the hens risks of illness and injury because it increases their exposure to disease vectors and predators, explains Dr. Gail Golab, head of the AVMA's Animal Welfare Division.

Dr. Golab says the AVMA can help California producers protect the welfare of their animals by providing information gained from research at home and abroad on alternative production systems. We can use this information to help avoid animal welfare pitfalls as we assist California farmers in meeting the requirements of Proposition 2, Dr. Golab explains.

For information, visit www.avma.org.

AVMA seeks nominations for euthanasia panel working groups

Nominations and expressions of interest are sought for membership in working groups that will contribute to the next edition of the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia. The current guidelines are posted at www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf.

Members selected for working groups will have demonstrable expertise in particular euthanasia techniques or the application of those techniques to various animal types, species, or uses. Working groups for which nominations are sought are inhalant agents, noninhalant agents, physical agents, equine, food animals (large animals, poultry), zoo/wildlife (including reptiles and amphibians), birds, aquatics (fish, marine mammals), companion animals (dogs, cats, birds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians), laboratory animals (rodent, nonrodent, primate), and depopulation. Expressions of interest and nominations are also sought for an ethicist, who will engage with the working groups to provide that perspective.

Letters of interest or nomination, together with the individuals curriculum vitae including a current list of publications should be e-mailed to euthanasiapanel@avma.org; faxed to (847) 925-1329; or surface mailed to Kathy Sikora, Animal Welfare Division, AVMA, 1931 North Meacham Rd, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173. Closing date for submissions is Dec. 31. Questions regarding the panel or this process may be directed to the AVMA Animal Welfare Division at (847) 925-8070, Ext. 6635.

Confirmed Cases of Rabies in Animals Statistical Analysis

January 01, 2008 – October 31, 2008

CONFIRMED CASES OF RABIES IN ANIMALS				
JANUARY 01, 2008 - OCTOBER 31, 2008				
COUNTY	REGION	ANIMAL	DATE REP	
ABBEVILLE	1	SKUNK	01/03/08	
ABBEVILLE	1	RACCOON	01/15/08	
ABBEVILLE	1	SKUNK	01/15/08	
ABBEVILLE	1	BAT	07/11/08	
ANDERSON	1	SKUNK	03/27/08	
ANDERSON	1	SKUNK	05/02/08	
ANDERSON	1	SKUNK	05/02/08	
ANDERSON	1	FOX	06/11/08	
ANDERSON	1	BAT	06/16/08	
ANDERSON	1	RACCOON	06/23/08	
ANDERSON	1	FOX	06/30/08	
ANDERSON	1	FOX	07/22/08	
ANDERSON	1	RACCOON	07/29/08	
ANDERSON	1	SKUNK	08/15/08	
ANDERSON	1	SKUNK	08/29/08	
ANDERSON	1	SKUNK	10/08/08	
EDGEFIELD	1	SKUNK	09/11/08	
GREENWOOD	1	SKUNK	01/24/08	
GREENWOOD	1	SKUNK	01/25/08	
GREENWOOD	1	RACCOON	04/08/08	
GREENWOOD	1	RACCOON	04/22/08	
GREENWOOD	1	RACCOON	05/20/08	
GREENWOOD	1	RACCOON	06/10/08	
GREENWOOD	1	SKUNK	09/18/08	
GREENWOOD	1	SKUNK	09/19/08	
GREENWOOD	1	RACCOON	09/24/08	
LAURENS	1	RACCOON	07/01/08	
LAURENS	1	SKUNK	08/19/08	
SALUDA	1	SKUNK	01/22/08	
SALUDA	1	RACCOON	03/03/08	
SALUDA	1	FOX	04/25/08	
SALUDA	1	RACCOON	05/27/08	
SALUDA	1	SKUNK	08/26/08	
				33
CHEROKEE	2	FOX	08/11/08	
GREENVILLE	2	RACCOON	02/15/08	
GREENVILLE	2	RACCOON	02/20/08	
GREENVILLE	2	RACCOON	06/24/08	
GREENVILLE	2	RACCOON	08/26/08	
GREENVILLE	2	SKUNK	09/16/08	
GREENVILLE	2	SKUNK	09/23/08	
GREENVILLE	2	CAT	10/14/08	
GREENVILLE	2	RACCOON	10/23/08	
SPARTANBURG	2	RACCOON	03/07/08	
SPARTANBURG	2	FOX	03/10/08	
SPARTANBURG	2	RACCOON	04/04/08	
SPARTANBURG	2	RACCOON	05/01/08	
SPARTANBURG	2	FOX	06/12/08	
SPARTANBURG	2	FOX	06/17/08	
SPARTANBURG	2	DOG	09/18/08	
SPARTANBURG	2	SKUNK	10/16/08	
				17

Reports by Year

YEAR	Freq	Percent	Cum.
2008	145	100.0%	100.0%
Total	145	100.0%	

Reports by Animal Species

ANIMAL	Freq	Percent	Cum.
BAT	9	6.2%	6.2%
CAT	3	2.1%	8.3%
COW	2	1.4%	9.7%
DOG	1	0.7%	10.3%
FOX	30	20.7%	31.0%
OPOSSUM	1	0.7%	31.7%
RACCOON	72	49.7%	81.4%
SKUNK	27	18.6%	100.0%
Total	145	100.0%	

Reports by Region

REGION	Freq	Percent	Cum.
1	33	22.8%	22.8%
2	17	11.7%	34.5%
3	36	24.8%	59.3%
4	8	5.5%	64.8%
5	6	4.1%	69.0%
6	13	9.0%	77.9%
7	19	13.1%	91.0%
8	13	9.0%	100.0%
Total	145	100.0%	

Reports by County

COUNTY	Freq	Percent	Cum.
ABBEVILLE	4	2.8%	2.8%
AIKEN	3	2.1%	4.8%
ANDERSON	12	8.3%	13.1%
BAMBERG	1	0.7%	13.8%
BEAUFORT	11	7.6%	21.4%
BERKELEY	5	3.4%	24.8%
CHARLESTON	11	7.6%	32.4%
CHEROKEE	1	0.7%	33.1%
CHESTERFIELD	2	1.4%	34.5%
COLLETON	1	0.7%	35.2%
DILLON	2	1.4%	36.6%
DORCHESTER	3	2.1%	38.6%
EDGEFIELD	1	0.7%	39.3%
FLORENCE	1	0.7%	40.0%
GREENVILLE	8	5.5%	45.5%
GREENWOOD	9	6.2%	51.7%
HAMPTON	1	0.7%	52.4%
HORRY	13	9.0%	61.4%
KERSHAW	2	1.4%	62.8%
LANCASTER	1	0.7%	63.4%
LAURENS	2	1.4%	64.8%
LEXINGTON	10	6.9%	71.7%
MARLBORO	1	0.7%	72.4%
NEWBERRY	6	4.1%	76.6%
ORANGEBURG	2	1.4%	77.9%
RICHLAND	5	3.4%	81.4%
SALUDA	5	3.4%	84.8%
SPARTANBURG	8	5.5%	90.3%
YORK	14	9.7%	100.0%
Total	145	100.0%	

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