

# MISSOURI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



## ISSUES & ACTIVITIES 2009-2010

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, *Dr. Ron Palmer, Chair 2009/2010*

- CAPWIZ, our legislative alert program, was put to good use in 2009. There were alerts sent to our members via e-mail regarding legislative issues. There was an overwhelming response and use of this program with legislators mentioning the large amounts of e-mails and letters sent in by veterinarians. This program is meant for a convenient, immediate contact to your legislators and will continue to be utilized in 2010.
- The Large Animal Student Loan payback was funded for 2009 and six students were awarded funding. It allows for six students to have one year of their tuition underwritten for each year they serve in an underserved area.
- Ownership/anti-guardianship bill  
After three years of patient strategy, MVMA succeeded in getting the following language into statute.

**Section 3. No political subdivision of the state nor any local government, city or county, or any agency, authority, board, commission, department or officer thereof, shall enact any ordinance or promulgate or issue any regulation, rule, policy, guideline or proclamation describing the relationship between persons and domestic animals as other than persons may or can own domestic animals.**

This keeps guardianship language from creeping into county and municipal ordinances which will erode the ability of owners to spay/neuter or euthanize animals.

- In 2010 the MVMA plans to pursue and support cite & fine authority to non-veterinarians practicing veterinary medicine.
- The MVMA is acutely concerned about the Missouri Supreme Court decision that rejected the jurisdiction of the Pharmacy Board over veterinary prescription drugs. The MVMA will continue to pursue this in 2010.
- Other veterinary issues being monitored include CVM Financial support, dog fighting, animal I.D., pharmacy issues, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO's), exotic animal ownership, prescription drug monitoring of controlled drugs, rabies regulations, funding of the Mo. Volunteer Veterinary Corps (MOVVC), cite and fine of non-veterinarians practicing, jury duty, medical imaging licensing, and breed restrictions. All of these issues affect your future, the bottom line of your practice, unfair competition from unlicensed individuals, and even your ability to practice veterinary medicine.
- See the last page of this document for a comprehensive list of MVMA's legislative issues.
- In anticipation of these and other legislative challenges yet to come, a "Legislative Contact Network" of MVMA members is being developed. This entails every legislator to have at least one veterinarian who is the lead contact for that legislator. When the next legislative crisis arises, the legislative committee, through the MVMA office, would send calls for action to veterinarians in each Senate and House district statewide. The

Legislative Committee will be working on the identification and training for our members for this network. The MVMA has scheduled a Legislative Day March 23 at the State Capitol for our members to meet with legislators. We will be contacting you.

- Statute of limitations parity for malpractice.  
In 2010 the MVMA will pursue changing the limitations for veterinary malpractice suits from the current five years, to two years. Human medical doctors are subject to the two-year threshold. Veterinarians should not be subject to a longer standard.
- In addition to the MVMA Quarterly, we continue to produce the MVMA Executive Report which is a monthly summary of timely news and issues concerning veterinary medicine in Missouri. This report is sent via fax and/or email and contains timely information on legislative concerns.
- In its second year the MVMA PAC is continuing its efforts to receive donations from any supporters and to issue checks to candidates for political office. A PAC is a political action committee, a legal independent entity. There are hundreds of PACs in Missouri. The MVMPAC will position the veterinary profession as a contributor to legislators key to our issues and concerns. Though there is never a payment for any specific purpose, by contributing to a legislator's campaign, we have better access and rapport to discuss our issues with them.
- MVMA will be weighing in on an HSUS ballot initiative on dog breeding regulations.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH**

**COMMITTEE, *Dr. M. Bill Jones Chair 2009/2010***

***Dr. Bill Wolff MOVVC Chair 2009/2010***

- 2009 continued involving a major recruiting effort enrolling veterinarians, technicians and veterinary students in the Missouri Volunteer Veterinary Corps (MOVVC). Currently the MOVVC has 285 members.
- In 2009 multiple meetings involving Foreign Animal Disease Response, Avian Influenza Rapid Response Training, Annual Animal and Zoonotic Disease and Emergency Response Course, Midwest Regional EDEN Animal Agrosecurity Conference, a Training Conference for Response to Animal Emergencies and more were offered for MOVVC members to attend. The MOVVC has been provided with Biosecurity kits and special trainings will be conducted on their usage.
- The MDA and SEMA regions together have financed five one-day credentialing/badging courses which have been presented around the state. This effort will continue in 2010.
- In 2009, MDA continued offering training for livestock producers throughout Missouri. The intent of the training is to address the importance of the producer's role in preventing, reporting and assisting with terrorist or natural acts resulting in a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak or other types of agriculture animal

emergencies. Meetings are being scheduled and will be held across the state. The MOVVC member participation in this program is vital and is open to veterinarians as well as producers. The schedule of these meetings is continuously updated on the MVMA & MDA website.

- In 2010 the MOVVC anticipates becoming part of Missouri's Show-Me Response System, which allows the state and volunteer organizations to execute a coordinated call up of volunteers comprising various medical professions and fire and rescue personnel.
- A badging system is being set up with the MDA for MOVVC credentialed members. The Corps leadership is developing t-shirts and ball caps for its members as well.

### **ANIMAL HEALTH & REGULATORY MEDICINE COMMITTEE, *Dr. Richard Kent, Chair 2009/2010***

- The chair of the AH & RM committee works closely with the Executive Director and the state veterinarians office on issues related to livestock market veterinarians.
- Key issues being tracked by this committee include: the National Animal Identification Program, Brucellosis and TB status and the lack of Market veterinarians.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE, *Dr. David Prigel, Chair 2009* *Dr. Stacey Beddoe & Dr. Melissa Austin-Gundler co-chairs 2010***

- The committee continues to oversee the distribution of a client promotional brochure entitled "Your Local MVMA Veterinarian: Always Professional. Always Personal. Always There." The brochure has been made available to all MVMA members and are encouraged to place in your clinics.
- Collaboration between the Public Relations Committee and several other MVMA committees continues to occur to identify the public relations needs of our programs and to develop PR materials to meet those needs.
- Animal welfare looms as a major project of the committee in 2010 especially as it relates to the HSUS initiative petition mentioned under the legislative committee.
- The PR committee is discussing working with the Recent Graduate & Collegiate Task Force to increase efforts to gain membership and offer this committee as a resource.
- Among several publications being discussed for 2009 is a: disaster preparedness brochure for the public and animal welfare.
- The MVMA/MVMF booth at the Missouri State Fair was once again in the MizzouCentral, Mo-Ag Theatre building housing various UMC Schools and Colleges and had very good traffic because of that fact. Members liked the idea of being

associated with the UMC-CVM. The new DVD player and large-screen TV helped portray a professional image.

- Involvement with the Veterinary News Network (VNN) continues to be encouraged. VNN is a news source for radio, television and print media and provides interesting and timely animal health stories to veterinary practitioner reporters nationwide.

## CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE,

*Dr. Bruce Whittle, Chair 2009/ Dr. Dana Gillig, Chair 2010*

- This committee has overseen the planning and implementation of the unique networking and educational experience which is the MVMA annual convention. The meeting, which is held in January, offers the attendee an informal, colleague-to-colleague atmosphere that enhances the 17-hour, six tracks Continuing Education program.
- The continuing education program has great variety. It is hoped the MVMA membership takes advantage of this opportunity to network and learn in a very relaxing and entertaining atmosphere.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, *Dr. Dana Gillig, Chair 2009*

*Dr. Dana Gillig, Chair 2009, Dr. James Schuessler, Chair 2010*

- Non-Members were reached through our electronic newsletter as a special e-news directed specifically to non-members. A non-member wrap was created for the MVMA Convention Registration book which provided the benefits of membership and at the same time encouraged their attendance at the convention. This continues to be a great recruitment tool.
- A non-member recruitment will be initiated at the UMC-CVM to encourage faculty to be good role models as MVMA members.
- A clinic resource (either printed or electronic) is being considered as a member benefit to include go-to information like the practice act, OSHA guidelines, Department of Health regulations, and other beneficial hands-on information.
- New for 2010 is a Rabies titer and booster program. It offers convenient access to discounted rabies protection solution for our membership.
- MVMA's membership numbers as of December 2009 were as follows:

Active & Recent Grads	1098	Retired	11
Associate	39	Lifetime	145
Collegiate	430	Lifetime Retired	5
Partners	11	Non-Resident	82
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>1872</b>

## **MISSOURI STOCKER FEEDER QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE, *Dr. Chuck Massengill, Chair 2009/2010***

- This committee oversees the development and implementation of the program which distributes cattle ear tags, through veterinarians, to cattle producers who have met the detailed health and operational guidelines of the program.
- Information on the program was distributed at the Missouri Cattleman's convention.
- Refer to the website for the current program requirements.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, *Dr. George Buckaloo, Chair 2009/2010***

- The committee has conducted meetings with administration and interested members to address opportunities and concerns at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. The MVMA continues to enjoy a healthy, mutually beneficial relationship, while conveying the concerns and suggestions of its membership.
- Student Veterinary Leadership Experience:  
The MVMA once again supported this team-building student event geared to instilling leadership qualities that will benefit the future of organized veterinary medicine.
- The committee and the MVMA continue to work closely with Dr. Neil Olson. Open communication and planning for a positive future have been hallmarks of the MVMA–CVM relationship.
- MVMA continues to support the “VBMA’s” speed networking events. The project continues to grow at the 2010 convention.
- The MVMA was key to the creation of the Large Animal Student Loan Program and continues to fight for full funding for the program each year.
- The MVMA is pleased to work with the college and Dr. Howard Pue of the Mo. Department of Health and Senior services on a public health veterinary student tuition reimbursement program. Dr. Pue is to be commended on his efforts to institute this program. The first two participants in this program graduated in May 2009 and 2010 recipients have been selected.

## **VETERINARY TECHNICIAN'S COMMITTEE, *Dr. Marcy Hammerle, Chair 2009/2010***

- The committee oversaw the creation and operation of the MVMA Certified Veterinary Assistant program. This CVA program meets the important staff training needs of MVMA-member clinics. It delivers high quality training on a flexible

schedule, discounted pricing, and credible certification that saves member clinics time and money.

- The committee oversees the annual technician and practice staff conference held in conjunction with the MVMA Convention. MVMA members' staff were invited to attend this continuing education program at a discounted rate.
- The MVMA and the Veterinary Technician Committee have been working closely with the Missouri Veterinary Technician Association (MVTA) to coordinate the first veterinary technician student academia bowl at the 2010 convention Saturday evening. All are invited to attend.
- The MVMA and MVTA have worked closely to design the program for the Technician & Practice Staff Conference at this years MVMA Convention.
- Current AVMA accredited veterinary technicians programs the MVMA is working with include:
  - Jefferson College, Hillsboro, Mo
  - Crowder College, Neosho, Mo
  - Maple Woods Community College, Kansas City, Mo
  - Sanford Brown College, St. Peters, Mo & Fenton, Mo
  - The Vet Tech Institute at Hickey College, St. Louis, Mo (provisionally accredited)

#### **ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE, *Dr. Mike Muhlbauer, Chair 2009/2010***

- The Animal Welfare committee had two meetings (one in January and the other in September) along with several teleconference calls in 2009 to discuss the purpose of the committee and to tune into some specific goals. Much discussion was focused on puppy mills, unwanted horses, production agriculture, animal shelters and animal research.
- This committee was the first committee to test pilot the professional website LinkedIn as we continue to improve our intra-committee communications.
- Education is the key to success in resolving many animal welfare issues; educating people in many sectors, including our own members, the MVMA, other colleagues in veterinary medicine, law enforcement, and the public. This committee is also working closely with the AVMA, MO Dept. of Agriculture, USDA, Humane Society of MO, and numerous local animal welfare groups and other MVMA committees (such as the Public Relations Committee) to find ways of “getting the message out there” and to explore all available venues toward education.
- Posters and pamphlets are being created to reference proper care for your animals and to educate the public on the difference between animal welfare and animal rights.
- The committee will be a leader in the MVMA’s discussion and activities related to the dog breeder regulations initiative petition in 2010.

- The committee will be working to identify other needs and resources related to Animal Welfare in Missouri so that a plan of action can be developed for this important area in 2010 and beyond.

### **SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE, *Dr. Mark Lux, Chair 2009/2010***

- This committee monitors all allied professions and animal related industries and measure them to a collaborative white paper on Scope of Practice which has been endorsed by the MVMA.
- Deliberations on key issues in 2010 have included: euthanasia technicians, livestock technicians, rabies ordinances, cite and fine authority, and animal I.D, pharmacy board veterinary prescription oversight, pregnancy checking, equine dentistry and animal chiropractics, Prescription writing, prescription liability release, and reporting unlawful practice of veterinary medicine. In addition, the topic of animal physical therapy continues to be a potential issue for the upcoming legislative session.

### **MISSOURI ACADEMY OF VETERINARY PRACTICE, *Dr. Peggy Fisher, President 2009/ Dr. Christopher Morrow, President 2010***

- The Academy is comprised of members of the MVMA with a special interest in raising the quality and use of continuing education opportunities by Missouri veterinarians. With the advent of a C.E. requirement in the Missouri Veterinary Practice Act, the MAVP has undertaken an organized and deliberate system of approving continuing education credit for MVMA constituent district meetings. This includes review of program content and partial underwriting of speaker costs.
- The MAVP also coordinates and recruits speakers and topics for the Mini-Topics on Thursday evening prior to the MVMA Annual Convention.
- This year the Academy has once again helped veterinary students attend the MVMA Convention with funds to offset their hotel and gas expenses.

### **MISSOURI VETERINARY MEDICAL FOUNDATION, *Dr. V.M. Wilt, Chair 2009-2010***

- The Foundation is the MVMA's 501(c)3 charity organization.
- Following up on the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation's theme of *People Helping Animals/Animals Helping People*, your support helps the Foundation with:
  - Promotion of, and public education on, the benefits of veterinary health care
  - Promotion of veterinary medicine and the profession through our Museum
  - Funding to worthy organizations reflecting the Foundation's mission.
- These missions are also well served through the Foundation's nationally and internationally recognized veterinary medical museum. The Foundation is also a

major donor to the Gentle Doctor Benefit which assists veterinary students with scholarships.

- The Foundation generated funding this year for the Heifer Project International which assists third world families in acquiring and learning to maintain livestock for subsistence farming and Museum Artifact Management.
- Funding was also donated to Dr. Richard Meadow's HOPE (Helping Overpopulation thru Education) program which takes CVM students to Kansas City once a month to provide low or no cost spaying and neutering for low-income families.
- The Museum and Animal Archives were widely promoted this year as an exhibitor at the Missouri State Fair, Central Veterinary Conference, Jefferson City's Fourth of July celebration, Munichberg Festival in Jefferson City, Wags to Whiskers and the Holts Summit Fall Festival. The museum was displayed in the window of the Jefferson City's convention and visitor's bureau during the month of June. There were sales of dog toys and t-shirts.
- Recruitment of sponsorships from veterinarians for museum tours provides a bookmark created by the MVMA to include the veterinarian's clinic information and also the student's school. A press release is sent to their local paper.
- This committee has developed a legacy program for the foundation called the Heritage League. League members will be donors to the endowment fund, or indicate an intention to include the foundation as a beneficiary. An oak and marble plaque has been displayed in the museum with sponsoring member nameplates.
- An informational Heritage League brochure and a Heritage League donation brochure have been created and can be picked up at the MVMF booth or by contacting the MVMA.

### **MVMA, LLC. *Dr. Gregory Popp, Chair/ Dr. Roger Dozier, Vice Chair***

- The MVMA, LLC is a legally separate entity, owned by a partnership of the MVMA and the MVMF. The MVMA, LLC owns the building which houses the two partner entities as well as rental space on the lower level of the building. The LLC allows the two partner entities to make the most efficient and productive use of members' dues. The LLC is happy to report that the lower part of the MVMA/MVMF building is currently rented to a day care center. The day care has a three-year contract and is interfacing well with the MVMA office hours.
- Memorial pavers were repaired and re-landscaped in the fall and repairs to the parking lot and building were also made.

### **EQUINE COMMITTEE, *Dr. Bruce Whittle, Chair 2009/2010***

- The Equine Committee produces an Equine Dentistry Referral Directory to be used by veterinarians wishing to refer dental clients to MVMA-member equine veterinarians who perform this service.

- The committee met for the second year for a three-day equine dental seminar and wet lab continuing education program last fall at the Humane Society of Missouri's Long Meadow Rescue Ranch. This event was a huge success that allowed Missouri Veterinarians to polish their equine dentistry skills while providing much needed dentistry to the rescued horses. Evaluations were positive so the committee will likely repeat the event in 2010. This event was followed up with a News Release campaign to promote the fact that veterinarians are the only legal source for equine dental care.
- The Equine Dentistry brochure that was produced by the MVMA is still available to all equine and large animal practices. Call the MVMA to order your free brochures.
- In addition the equine committee also conducted its annual summer program in July which focused on equine sports and internal medicine. This summer program continues to bring in a good number of veterinarians, students, and technicians.

## **RECENT GRADUATE & COLLEGIATE TASK FORCE,**

*Dr. Kara Amstutz, Chair 2009/ Dr. Ellen Ratcliff, 2010*

- This task force is in place to determine how to better connect new graduates and students to the MVMA. It focuses on how the MVMA can better serve the needs of these young veterinarians. Our goal is to help guide new graduates into active participation in the MVMA so they can experience the important co-dependence before veterinarians and organized veterinary medicine. They will also be exposed to role models who will exemplify the responsibilities and rewards of leadership.
- A student speaker's bureau was created by the task force of volunteer veterinarians willing to speak at student events. This list will be updated annually.
- Student recruitment efforts are in motion by developing student liaisons and student representatives from each class to advise the committee.
- The Recent Graduate & Collegiate TF continues to sponsor activities on campus to make the MVMA presence known.
- Student name badges at convention will have a new sticker stating what year they are in school to better initiate networking.

## **MVMA's Legislative Issues**

### **Dog Breeding Regulations**

See the members side of our website [www.mvma.us](http://www.mvma.us) under Newsroom for more detailed information.

### **Statute of limitation parity**

Parity with other medical professionals for 2-year limit on malpractice suits: Currently veterinarians have a 5-year limit on findings for malpractice suits. All other medical professionals have a 2-year limit.

### **Funding of student rural service loan program.**

**Adding to the authority of the Veterinary Licensing Board so it can issue citations and fines to non-veterinarians practicing veterinary medicine.**

**Restoration of jurisdiction over veterinary prescription drugs to Mo. Pharmacy Board.** "State Jurisdiction Over Veterinary Prescription Drugs" White Paper

### **Statewide rabies vaccination law.**

### **Equine Slaughter Issue**

HR503 would make it illegal to slaughter or knowingly send a horse to slaughter. It is recommended that MVMA continue its position of opposition.

HR305 disallows the transport of horses in double-decker vehicles. It is recommended that MVMA continue its position of endorsement.

**Substantial multi-million dollar state funding of capital improvements and faculty support to increase the graduating class size at the MU College of Vet. Med.** was supported previously by MVMA and recommend support as opportunities arise.

### **Dog Fighting**

It is recommended that MVMA follow AVMA policy guidelines and monitor any legislation that includes animal fighting as it pertains to these guidelines.

**Funding for a Volunteer Veterinary Corp manager** was supported previously by MVMA and recommend support if funding becomes available.

### **Veterinary Exemption to a state prescription-monitoring program.**

Because it adds a burdensome reporting obligation that may not be practical in many veterinary clinics, the MVMA will continue to oppose the state-mandated prescription-monitoring program as currently proposed. The program's aim is to curb the practice of individuals getting the same prescription filled at multiple outlets. Though this system may be practiced in human medicine, it does not address the challenging differences in animal medicine such as indistinct patient differentiation. Animals do not have social security numbers nor legal names to reference. How will the system deal with a herd of cows?

**Jury Duty Exemption** is recommended, should be supported only if the opportunity arises.

**Requirement of Medical Imaging License** It is recommended to continue to watch this and react as necessary but take the stand that veterinarians should have an exemption for the x-ray machine that they have.

**Statewide Breed Restrictions** MVMA will continue to oppose breed specific restrictions.

**Pandemic Flu Legislation** If the Public Health Veterinarian does not change his position, it is recommended to continue to support it.

**Large Carnivore Act:** recommend continuing to monitor this.

**Requirement of the State Veterinarian to Accompany Law Enforcement**  
Recommend continued monitoring.

**Required “Negligently” as the State of Mind for Committing Animal Cruelty:**  
Recommend following this to be sure the exemption for veterinarians is not repealed.

Changing the law regarding **impoundment of a neglected or abused animal** is not an area that requires veterinarian intervention and is recommended to be monitored.

**Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO):** A position statement of support was formulated last year and will be continued.

**Voluntary Premise Registration** will still be supported if voluntary

**Oppose Extension Funding Cuts**



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