

MVMA Engages New Lobbying Firm

As part of the MVMA's strategic plan, we are continually looking to enhance our representation and ability to aggressively battle the legislation which affects our profession. In accordance with that goal, the MVMA has retained the services of a new firm, Alexander & Cleaver, to represent the association in all state-related legislative issues. Alexander & Cleaver is a lobbying institution located in Annapolis and boasts one of the longest client lists in the State. They will be responsible for tracking legislation and providing updates to the association leadership. In addition, we will be providing regular updates via the website, our monthly Newsbites e-mail bulletin, and our quarterly newsletters. We are confident that Alexander & Cleaver can successfully represent the views of the MVMA as we forge ahead!

In addition, we want to acknowledge our previous long-term legal representative, William Erskine. He and his team at Offit Kurman have been instrumental in the association's representation for several years. He has been incredibly gracious and supportive in providing both time and advice during his time on our Board. Without his guidance and willingness to represent the MVMA on State issues, we would not be where we are today!



News from the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
2015

Fall

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Guess What I Saw?

A 10 year-old female spayed domestic short-haired cat named Sammy presented to her primary veterinarian for weight loss and hind limb lameness. She had a chronic cough and was currently being treated with theophylline for suspected asthma. At this visit, she was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism (T4= 4.5) and tested Felv/FIV negative. Treatment with cyproheptadine and tapazole was initiated. She was rechecked by her primary veterinarian for progressive left hind limb pain and lameness. Bloodwork was performed and showed elevated white blood cells (20,900K), platelets (618,000K) and neutrophils (18.810K) with a high normal thyroid level (T4 3.8). She was treated with a Convenia injection for the leukocytosis. I-131 therapy was discussed and recommended as Sammy was proving hard to medicate. Prior to pursuing this I-131 therapy, she had thoracic

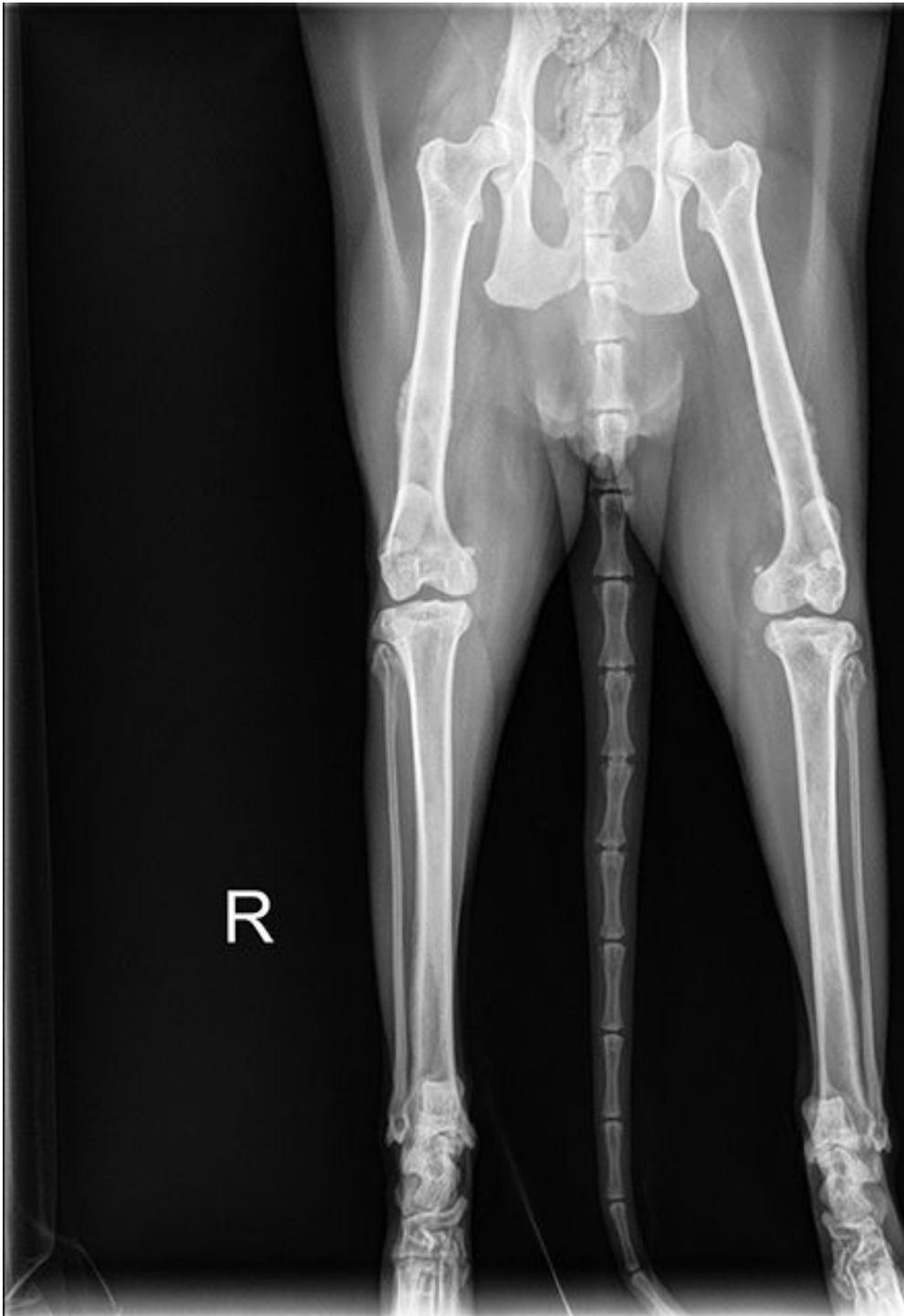
radiographs performed which showed pulmonary nodules. Monitoring these via serial radiographs was recommended. She was also referred to a cardiologist for an echocardiogram to evaluate a longstanding murmur. Her echocardiogram showed mild mitral valve degeneration, and no cardiac medications were indicated. Several days after her echocardiogram, Sammy was presented to a veterinary emergency and referral center for evaluation of continued worsening of left hind limb lameness and pain.

On physical exam, her left hind limb was found to be swollen and painful from mid- thigh to hock. Radiographs of the pelvis and hind limb were performed. Radiologist interpretation suggested irregular to smooth periosteal reaction involving the metatarsals and femoral shafts bilaterally. Faint periosteal reaction was also seen in the right tibial shaft with bilateral increased opacity within the medullary cavities of the tibiae. Periosteal reaction is also seen off the shaft of the right ilium with equivocal changes in the shaft of the left ilium along with slight soft tissue swelling of left hind limb. A second evaluation of the thorax radiographs showed multiple lung masses with the largest involving the right caudal lobe and a suspected small cavitated nodule in the left lung. A suspected metastatic nodule was also noted over the cardiac silhouette in the right lateral view. Forelimb bones visible in these views also revealed periosteal reactions.

(Click on images to enlarge)







These images, exam and history support primary consideration of hypertrophic osteopathy (HO) as the diagnosis. This is rare in a cat and has primarily been reported with thoracic disease, but there are also reports involving abdominal

tumors such as of the kidney or adrenal gland. One report of an adrenal tumor in a cat with secondary paraneoplastic HO showed resolution of the HO lesions within 15 weeks of surgical removal of the tumor. Lesser consideration would be given to differentials of Hepatozoon (H.american or H.felis) infection or an unusual periosteal or soft tissue lymphoma.

HO was discussed with the owner, and Sammy was discharged on buprenorphine (0.045mg SL q8) and a plan to follow up with the internal medicine and oncology service the next day. To determine the extent of disease, the internal medicine service performed an abdominal ultrasound. This showed an approximately 1cm x 1cm hypoechoic and irregular lesion in the pancreas which was concerning for a mass. The spleen was also enlarged and coarse in appearance. Her kidneys were irregular and had decreased corticomedullary definition consistent with chronic disease. Repeat thoracic radiographs still showed the lung mass in the right caudal lobe, and now there was a more diffuse interstitial to nodular pattern. The lung mass was not evaluated well on ultrasound due to air present in lungs surrounding the abnormal tissue.

In cats with single tumors, the bone lesions can resolve after surgical removal. The owners were given options of aspirating the pancreas and spleen for a final diagnosis but her prognosis was poor with widespread disease. The owners elected to humanely euthanize due to this poor prognosis and quality of life concerns.

Drugs that You Can and Cannot Use in Backyard Poultry

by Annika Lynn McKillop, DVM, MSpVM, DACPV

When treating backyard poultry patients, you have to be careful what you prescribe because they are still considered food animals, even if they are pets. There are certain drugs that are illegal for use in poultry. Poultry, as defined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is any life-stage of a chicken or turkey, and does not include ducks, geese, peafowl, squab, pheasants and other avian species. If you are found using these drugs in poultry, you could risk losing your veterinary license.

According to federal regulations enacted through the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA), Extra Label Drug Use (ELDU) means "actual use or intended use of a drug in an animal in a manner that is not in accordance with the approved labeling. This includes, but is not limited to, use in species not listed in the labeling, use for indications (disease or other conditions) not listed in the labeling, use at dosage levels, frequencies, or routes of administration other than those stated in the labeling, and deviation from the labeled withdrawal time based on these different uses."

Drugs with no allowable ELDU in any food-producing animals include Chloramphenicol, Clenbuterol, Diethylstilbesterol (DES), Fluoroquinolone-class antibiotics (including Enrofloxacin), all glycopeptides (including Vancomycin), Nitroimidazoles (including Dimetridazole, Ipronidazole, and Metronidazole), and Nitrofurans (including Furazolidine and Nitrofurazone). Essentially, the uses of aforementioned drugs are prohibited, as they are not labeled for poultry in the United States.

Drugs that have Restricted EDLU's in poultry include cephalosporin-class antibiotics except cephalirin--meaning you can only use these drug as indicated on the label.

According to AMDUCA, veterinarians who treat food animals with drugs in an extra-label manner must use evidence "...derived from food safety data or other scientific information..." in order to determine an appropriate withdrawal interval (WDI) that allows for a conservative estimate of drug residue level in edible animal tissues. A withdrawal time, or WDI, is the time an animal or its byproducts cannot be used for human consumption during and after treatment with a specific drug.

Most of the backyard flocks are layer chickens. There are not many products licensed by the FDA for the use in layer hens for the treatment of disease, and the drugs that are used can only be added to the feed. This makes it difficult to nearly impossible for veterinarians to prescribe medication for sick poultry, and therefore any medication a veterinarian prescribes will be extra-label. For this reason, Congress created a risk management program called the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) that is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture to help veterinarians prescribe medications that are extra-label in food animals.

If you are willing to see poultry in your practice, the following medications are suggested to have on hand to get you started:

- Oxytetracycline injectable (200mg/mL)
- Oxytetracycline soluble powder
- Sulfadimethoxine soluble powder
- Tylan 200, Injectable
- Tylan Soluble
- Wazine 17 (piperazine)
- Corid liquid (9.6% oral solution)
- Lidocaine 2% injectable
- Sterile Saline
- Meloxicam 1.5 mg/ml oral suspension
- 5% Sevin Dust
- 0.25% Permethrin dust
- Albendazole drench (Valbazen)

To get appropriate withdrawal times when using medications, you must contact FARAD at www.FARAD.org.

Dr. Annika McKillop DVM, MSpVM, DACPV is the owner of McKillop Poultry Medicine, LLC in Frederick Maryland, and provides onsite veterinary care and management advice to large and small commercial flocks, niche growers, and backyard flocks in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Dr. McKillop received her veterinary degree from Western University of Health Sciences, completed a Masters of Specialized Veterinary Medicine and Residency program at North Carolina State University in Poultry Health, and is a Diplomate of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians.

Upcoming Events

PVMA/MVMA: Winter Seminar

February 13-19, 2016

Wyndham Grand Mar Rio, Puerto Rico

[Click here for details](#)

MVMA Surgical Lab

Sunday February 28, 2016

Annapolis, MD

Registration \$850 per person. Limited to 20 participants – first come, first served (with payment and registration).

[Click here for details](#)

UMD College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Welcomes Dean Craig Beyrouy

[The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) (AGNR) at the University of Maryland officially welcomed Dr. Craig Beyrouy as dean on November 1st. In this role, Dean Beyrouy will also serve as director of the college's statewide public outreach system, [University of Maryland Extension](#), and of the [Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station](#), which operates four research and education centers located throughout the state.

"I am honored to join the prestigious faculty and staff in the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources," says Dean Beyrouy. "I look forward to helping shape a college that will meet the developing public needs and opportunities of the future in agriculture, families, natural resources and the environment."

Dean Beyrouy has been involved in teaching, research and extension for more than 35 years. He joins the University of Maryland from Colorado State University, where he most recently served as dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Beyrouy concurrently served as director of the Agricultural Experiment Station for Colorado State University, which operates research centers in eight locations throughout Colorado and provides broad-based funding for agricultural-related research.

Previously Dr. Beyrouy held positions as professor and head of Agronomy at Purdue University and professor at the University of Arkansas. He has led and participated in international research, teaching and administrative activities all across the world, in places such as Rwanda, Tokyo, Madrid, and Moscow, among many more.

Dr. Beyrouy is a fellow of the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy. He has served as vice chair of the International Rice Root Working Group and president of the Plant Root Environment Working Group. In 1983, he received the George Scarseth Research Award.

Dr. Beyrouy earned his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in soil chemistry from Purdue University and a B.S. in soil science from Cal Poly State University. Prior to pursuing graduate studies, he mapped soils for the Soil Conservation Service and was a research scientist for Castle and Cooke Foods in Illinois.

Dean Beyrouy succeeds Dr. Cheng-i Wei, who served as dean of the College of AGNR for ten years before stepping into a new role as director of the college's international programs office.

Prince Frederick Animal Hospital Named Small Business of the Year



Dr. Nancy Ramsey (right) receives the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award from Chamber President/CEO Bill Chambers and Chamber Board of Directors Chair Lillian Mattingly.

The Calvert County Chamber of Commerce named Prince Frederick Animal Hospital its small business of the year at its Annual Business Expo in October. The hospital has been in business since 1981 and has been owned by Dr. Nancy Ramsey since 2003.

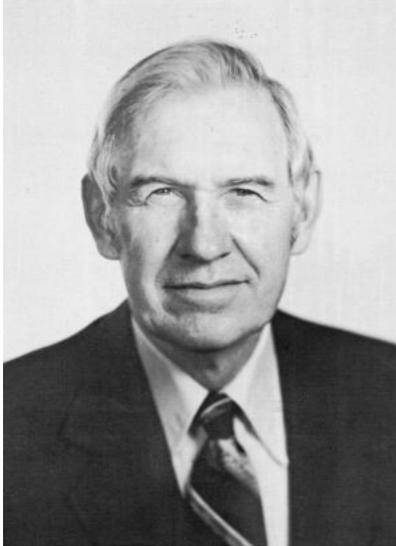
Operating out of a state-of-the-art, 7,000-square-foot veterinary hospital, the business employs 32 people and provides medical and surgical services to the pets of Calvert County.

"We provide pet vaccinations, microchipping, pet county licenses, dental services, monitored anesthetic procedures, ICU care, digital radiology and ultrasound," says Ramsey. "We have a fully stocked veterinary pharmacy and a complete in-house veterinary laboratory. We have added pet grooming and pet boarding, and have expanded our retail sales of pet food and supplies. We even have a pet adoption center."

"We offer discounted services to Calvert Animal Welfare League, Tri-County Animal Shelter and Friends of Feline, as well as many other pet rescue and rehabilitation organizations," she continued. "We have provided staff for Calvert County's rabies clinics. We work closely with Calvert County Animal Control in treating abandoned, abused and neglected animals. Our veterinarian staff has investigated pet hoarding and neglect situations, and our veterinarians have testified in cases of pet abuse and dog fighting. We offer internships to 4th year veterinary students and our veterinarians volunteer at Calvert County school's career days."

In Memoriam: Dr. Bob Hammond

by Dr. Hayes



Bob Hammond passed away September first at the age of 93. Those who knew him realize the giant of a man he was. Veterinary Medicine came to him as a natural extension of his work on the family farm. If not for his HS principal, we would not have had him for a colleague.

I was honored to have been able to attend his memorial service in Charlottesville, Va. on September sixth. At that time I met his granddaughter Dr. Megan Hammond Zinsser DVM, a graduate of VMRCVM. And so the story will continue through her.

My first recollection of him was his hiring by the University of Maryland, to administrate their Veterinary Medicine department, and through that role he was able to influence many students before they ever entered Veterinary school. Later he was very instrumental in the foundation of VMRCVM. For this every Veterinarian who has graduated from the regional college should be thankful.

My impression at the time was what a great model for our career.

Since he came from a mixed practice in rural Pennsylvania and then moved on to improve the Veterinary education program at University of Maryland. I was just starting my general practice in Upper Marlboro, Maryland at the time. When I sold my practice in 1985 Dr. Hammond was retiring and I was ready to move into academia, but alas my reputation preceded me. Therefore, I opened another practice.

Many of our great Veterinarians started on farms then to the class room then veterinary school, mixed practice and after 20 to 25 years on to academic and government work. A little know fact about our friend and mentor, he turned down a commission in the Army to become a medic. This was due to the fact that he was a sympathetic objector but did not shun his obligation to the country.

Bob Hammond belonged to that generation of men who fought and lived through World War II and then became veterinarians to lead us into an enlightened period that we are now in. We are losing too many of our friends. Take time in your life to engage our older colleagues before it is too late. I was lucky enough to be able to see Bob, as I arrived in Central Virginia at about the same time; he then entered a new facet of his life. The blue bird man, master gardener and grandfather extraordinary, were his new passions in life.

We had another commonality, the Maryland Veterinary Foundation, which we had a significant role, in starting, long before we had our own school. When we started the "Dr. Hammond" Fund, he was asked about the criteria for the award. That's when he came up with the most improved student. He produced a formula for compiling the statistical basis which essentially said that the student who went from mediocrity in pre-vet to outstanding after the second year in Veterinary school. Well, the administrators could either not figure out the formula or did not have the right figures. At any rate, the scholarship in his name is still going on, just not in the original intent in fact what it really needs is an influx of funds. What better time to make a substantial contribution in his memory. Any veterinarian that graduated from VMRCVM owes him their gratitude, if not for Dr. Robert Hammond, we would probable would not have a joint venture veterinary college.

Make checks to; The Maryland Veterinary Foundation, "Hammond Fund" and send to; PO Box 5407 Annapolis Maryland 21403.

VMAT Field Training Exercise

by Frederick Lewis, Jr., DVM



The VMAT Field Training Exercise (FTX) was held November 14-15, 2015 at Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture Family Sciences and Technology in Warner Robins, Georgia. Special thanks to Department Head Dr. George McCommon and to Anna Ellis VMAT, and FVSU students who assisted with the training exercises. Thanks also to the VMAT U Trainers, and Dr. Cheryl Eia with AVMA.

The weekend exercises were extremely busy and informative. Safety, security and Incident Command System training overview was presented by Jim Aiello. Jim also showed the team labels and paint markings that the Search and Rescue (SAR) or Fire Dept might use on walls of buildings to highlight times and date of search, any hazards, victims, active status or clear. Markings may also be left by safety officers to note the safety and integrity of a structure or lack thereof. ICS Forms were distributed to the team and a mock operational scenario for an hurricane was initiated - fictitious Hurricane Anna Training scenarios focused on operational strike teams consisting of 2 to 5 Vets and Vet Techs. The MISSION was given to assess potential shelters for large and small animals and to assess the animals health in the geographic area requested by the state of Georgia (for the exercise). Request comes from State Emergency Management to use Fort Valley State Univ for shelter and animal care in this hypothetical hurricane.

The scenarios included lack of water, lack of electricity, damaged structures. Awareness of people who are feeling the stress disaster and need help with their animal or even stressed individuals creating then a safety risk. Safety and security are primary. Operational command emphasis: safety of personnel is a priority; assessment timeliness is imperative. The environment was presented with many hazards to avoid and many challenges to overcome in a changing and fluid operational period (11/14-15/2015). Briefings were held, communications occurred on a regular basis, documentation of all activity and reports were made. All disaster responses offer learning experiences. Preparedness, planning and preparation offer an opportunity to improve safety, security, and improve unity of response with other first responders - Incident Command System is critical to the safe and effective delivery of disaster first response.

- Dr. Patrice Klein presented an excellent review of Foreign Animal Disease and HPAI.
- Dr. Kathleen Becker and Dr. Bill Pope - training on communications.
- Anna Ellis and Dr. George McCommon - Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture.
- Dr. Marie Kerl - Small Animal Triage.
- Dr. Jim Hamilton and Dr. Yoanna Maitre - equine assessment and triage.
- Dr. Mobini - Ruminations assessment and triage.
- Dr. Cheryl Eia - AVMA/VMAT - SPONSOR

There were others involved in the planning and execution of this operational exercise and we thank them all.



Please also refer to the avma.org/vmat for more information.

AVMA summit highlights improving veterinary economics; identifies key areas that need attention

Salaries are climbing. Employment is strong. The debt-to-income ratio for veterinary school graduates is holding steady. All of this positive economic news was shared at the 2015 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) [Economic Summit](#), painting a picture of improved economic indicators across the veterinary profession.

“The economic state of the veterinary profession is improving,” said Michael Dicks, Ph.D., director of the AVMA Economics Division. “Overall, the veterinary profession is recovering along with the rest of the U.S. economy, but we still have a ways to go.”

Specifically, veterinary starting salaries are up to an average of about \$70,000. Unemployment is at about 4 percent, the number of applicants to available jobs has dropped to 1.5:1, and the debt-to-income ratio of graduating veterinary students is hovering right around 2:1.

The economic summit, held Oct. 21 in Chicago, showcased research conducted in 2015 by both the AVMA and more than 20 outside economists, continuing a collaborative effort that is helping the association gather information and data from a variety of sources, including its members.

“The summit updated all of the information we’ve gathered in the past and presented new research from the AVMA and those who are helping us in our continuing efforts to fill the knowledge gaps that exist,” Dicks said. “We are building on the momentum we’ve established, gathering more information that will help guide our research and focus our efforts.”

One area where more information is needed focuses on how consumer income and the price of veterinary care affect consumer demand for veterinary services.

“We need to get a better understanding of what drives and motivates pet owners to seek veterinary care,” Dicks said. “Once we get a better idea as to why and how consumers make decisions related to visiting the veterinarian and selecting veterinary services, the better off we will be in helping improve pet health and addressing some of the economic challenges we face.”

When it comes to practice profitability, Dicks and other summit presenters all agreed that the profession has the opportunity and the ability to increase the demand for veterinary services.

“We can increase clients and patients; we can increase services and products; we can increase visits; and we can increase compliance,” Dicks said. “And one way to do that is for practices across the country, big or small, to collect client data through practice information management systems. This approach can accurately measure clients and patient numbers and services used, it can recapture inactive clients and it can increase new clients with the help of multiple marketing efforts.”

Knowing their current and potential client base can help veterinarians better deal with many of today’s economic, financial and social realities, Dicks said.

“Most people who visit the veterinarian are upper-middle and upper-income people, and that’s a serious concern because that’s only 40 percent of the population,” Dicks said. “Veterinary spending is discretionary spending, and we are in the process of trying to determine where veterinarians fit in the discretionary spending hierarchy. The incomes haven’t recovered adequately enough for the lower two-thirds of the population, and we have to find ways to reach those clients who don’t feel they can afford to take their pets to the veterinarian.”

So what’s next?

“We’re setting priorities as to what areas of research most need our attention,” Dicks said. “For instance, we are beginning to really dig deep into learning why some practices are doing so well and

others are struggling. We need to look at what's happening at these practices to determine why they are so successful. We haven't been focused on practices; we have been focused on the markets. Now, we are turning our focus to the practices."

The AVMA Economics Division, the AVMA's Veterinary Economics Strategy Committee and its research partners will also place more attention on the analysis of consumer demand characteristics, including how to provide affordable veterinary services without reducing standards of care. And a new focus will be placed on helping enhance personal financial education, from the veterinary school applicant to the industry veteran with years of experience.

"The good news is that we are learning more every day and getting better information that allows us to focus our resources to fix the problems and address the challenges," Dicks said. "We can't fix things if we don't know what's broken."

White Coat Ceremony

Welcoming ceremonies for the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2019 were held on August 21-22, 2015. On August 21, the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine held their White Coat Ceremony at the Skelton Conference Center on the Virginia Tech campus.

The White Coat ceremony is a welcoming dinner for the incoming freshman veterinary class and their families where they receive their laboratory coats and stethoscopes. The MVMA was represented by Dr. Bob Silcox and Dr. Rich Streett, III. Also in attendance were several members of the VMCVM faculty, as well as members of the Virginia and West Virginia Veterinary Medical Associations.

The ceremony included dinner for the incoming class of 124 freshman and their friends and family.

Speeches were given by Dr. Cyril Clarke, dean of the CVM, as well as Dr. Terry Taylor, president of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, and Dr. Bob Silcox. Dr. Silcox welcomed the freshman class to the beginning of their new career. He also reviewed the role of the MVMA and the Student Chapter of the MVMA in serving as a resource to the students of the school. In addition, the importance of veterinary associations taking a leading role in guiding the future of our industry was highlighted.

Afterwards, members of the MVMA and the students enjoyed some fun and games out in Blacksburg.

On Saturday, Dr. Elizabeth Crook and other members of the College Committee represented the MVMA at the VVMA Summer Picnic and Tubing on the New River. Overall, it was a wonderful weekend to welcome the Class of 2019.

Mentor Weekend at VMCVM

MVMA members traveled to the campus of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in October to meet with students and serve as mentors. Here are some photos from the event.







Now in its 30th Year, Veterinary Memorial Fund Comes Full Circle

Twenty years ago, a researcher at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine proved that cornea tissue can carry feline leukemia virus, potentially saving countless cats from risky tissue donations from infected animals.

That researcher was Ian Herring, associate professor of ophthalmology in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. His project would not have happened without support from the college's Veterinary Memorial Fund (VMF), which just marked its 30th year of providing competitive grants to faculty members working on clinical research projects.

Recently, Herring and ophthalmology resident Rachel Matusow completed another VMF-funded project whose findings will become part of routine pre-operative care for dogs undergoing cataract surgery at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and beyond. The \$8,000 grant allowed Herring and Matusow to offer anti-glaucoma medication to 120 dogs that underwent cataract surgery over an 18-month period. Their research has been submitted for publication in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Established in 1985, the Veterinary Memorial Fund enables pet owners and families to leave a legacy of support for scientific investigations which improve the quality of health care for future generations. The fund accepts contributions, both small and large, from veterinarians and owners in memory of a pet, as well as from family and friends in memory of a person who loved animals.

[Read more about the Veterinary Memorial Fund.](#)

MVMA NEWS

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Don't Forget to List Your Externship with MVMA

MVMA is compiling a list of externship opportunities to support our relationship and communication with the students at VMRCVM. If you are a member and want to list your externship, [click here](#).

Welcome New Members

MVMA welcomes the following members who have joined since our last newsletter was published.

Matthew Beeson, DVM	Eric Parker Keil, DVM
Jeremy J. Beitinger, DVM	Jenny A. Krueger, DVM
Lauren Boccanfuso, DVM	Anna Leppien, DVM
Laura E. Carpenter, DVM	Katelyn Mazzochete, DVM
Krista J. Carlson, DVM	Nicole Delia McAdams, DVM
Sarah E. Clay, DVM	Katelin McConkey, DVM
Tacia Despo, DVM	Martin L. Morin, DVM
Cathryn Doyle, DVM	Holly A. Phelps, DVM
Adrienne Goode, DVM	Claire E. Rathjens, DVM
Douglas A. Graham, DVM	Tiffany Robertson DVM
Stacey V. Hicks, DVM	Robert A. Simmons, DVM
D'Wayne Hines, DVM	Julianne Simpson, DVM
Suzanne Hoerle, DVM	Amy Twardzik, DVM
Joshua Jackson, DVM	Stacey Waibel – PNC Bank

MVMA Classifieds

MVMA's most recent job listings and listings for practices and equipment for sale. [Click here read them.](#)