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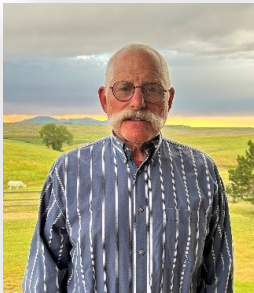
Montana Veterinary Medical Association

Newsletter

SPRING 2023

President's Message

Scott Damby, DVM | MVMA 2023-24 President



Dear MVMA Members,

Mother nature has treated us unbelievably well this winter in central Montana and I hope that holds true for the rest of you. We've experienced moderate temperatures, making calving much easier, and cattle prices are still UP... lots of happy people around here.

Our winter meeting was incredibly successful with more than 160 attendees. This nears an all-time high and the reviews proved very positive as well. Many kudos to those responsible for its organization and all their efforts throughout. The Power of 10 turned out to be the Power of 13 this year, with many enthusiastic and highly-qualified participants. The group really displays involvement and positivity in our profession. Thank you to those involved in that program and to the leaders as well for all your great energy.



This letter brings me down the home stretch as your president. I appreciate you allowing me this privilege to serve as well as learn new life skills. It's been truly a touching experience...

Scott Damby, DVM

MVMA
President



The upcoming Summer Meeting in Great Falls is shaping up well and promises to provide a wide variety of valuable continuing education as well as entertainment. The list of presenters is quite diverse, and I can't wait to see you all there.

I'd like to provide an update on the three new veterinary schools proposed (two in Great Falls, one in Billings). I've heard nothing recently from the two Great Falls leaders, but it looks like the Billings school (Rocky Vista University) is moving forward with their plans and have received formal approval by the Montana Higher Learning Commission to offer a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. This school is a corporate-owned private school that will depend on tuition fees and donations for its operation. As it was presented to me, this school will rely on private industry entities to gain clinical experience.

Our six committees (companion animal, large animal, practice management, disaster preparedness, membership services and policy/

President's Message continued on page 2

MVMA ASSOCIATION NEWS

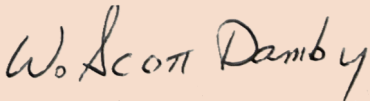
President's Message Continued from p. 1

regulatory) meet via Zoom bi-annually prior to the scheduled MVMA meetings. The Zoom format has increased participation. I encourage you to get involved and share your thoughts.

Dr. Katie Rein of Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service sent a letter expressing her gratitude to the MVMA for our support of her successful pursuit of a grant for Antibiotic Research & Education on Montana livestock operations. Congrats to Katie and her crew on receiving this grant (see the article on page 6).

This letter brings me down the home stretch as your president. I appreciate you allowing me this privilege to serve as well as learn new life skills. It's been truly a touching experience working with our Helena leaders, fellow board members and all my MVMA colleagues.

Sincerely,



W. Scott Damby, DVM
Lewistown, MT
MVMA President
2023-2024

MVMA members gather in Bozeman for Winter Meeting

More than 160 MVMA members and guests gathered at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn in Bozeman for the 2024 Winter Meeting. Dr. Linda Kauffman, MVMA president-elect, planned the meeting that included excellent speakers and 14 CE credits.

MVMA members heard from Dr. Wouter van Hoven of Ecolife Expeditions on wildlife conservation in Africa during the Friday evening banquet. The general membership business meeting included updates from the Department of Livestock, the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine, the MSU WIMU program, and MVMA committees and staff.

Boehringer Ingelheim generously sponsored the social hour Thursday evening of the meeting, which included WIMU students and the 2024-25 Power of 10 class. Thanks to MVMA sponsors BI, as well as MWI Animal Health and Bridger Veterinary Specialists, and to all the attendees who helped make the gathering a success.

New MVMA members approved

Help us welcome the members below, whose applications were approved during the 2024 Winter Membership Meeting in January in Bozeman. The MVMA Board, staff and membership extend a sincere welcome to all of these valued members!

Register now for the 2024 MVMA Summer Meeting

The 2024 MVMA Summer Meeting will be held June 27-29 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. Dr. Scott Damby, MVMA president, has gathered a variety of nationally-recognized speakers from across the country to present 15 hours of continuing education on wide ranging small and large animal topics. See pages 9-13 in this newsletter for all of the meeting details and a registration form. And keep in mind, you can easily register online by going to the MVMA website www.mtvma.org.

Please note, attendees are encouraged to make hotel room

Welcome New Members!

The following individuals were approved at the Membership Meeting during the 2024 Winter Meeting in Bozeman. Welcome to MVMA!

Full Members:

Cody Boyce, Cartwright, ND
Warren Lane Brush, Townsend
Madison Comes, Lewistown
Markee Dupea, Billings
John Ellington, Belgrade
Heidi Folden-Willard, Williston, ND
Heather Fumia, Missoula
Lauren Gentle, Bonners Ferry, ID
Lilly Griffin Duncan, Butte
Elisabeth de Haan-Rinta, Bozeman
Susannah Haupt, Butte
Michael Hayes, Big Fork
Chris Kimbrell, Belgrade
Erin Maxted, Three Forks
Madison McCann, Shepherd
Angela Muggli, Miles City
Jerry Oler, Polson
Shelby Prevost, Missoula
Baylie Rodenbaugh, Miles City
Laura Roe, Bozeman

Anna Sims, Great Falls
Cyndi Wood, Frenchtown
Eric Zuniga, Anaconda

Life Members:

Scott Damby, Lewistown
Russell Hill, Great Falls
Tom Linfield, Helena

Student Members:

Oregon State-
Abigail Gleason
Washington State-
Sierra Cahill
Triston Edwards
Elizabeth Evans
Emily Evans
Morgan Radtke
Shelbie Wilcox
Kelsey Wright

reservations as soon as possible. There are a limited number of rooms available at the reduced rate of \$119/night plus taxes. **Discounted rates will be honored until sold out or June 12.** The online room block link is on the MVMA website, or call the hotel directly at 406-761-1900 and refer to the MVMA room block.

Nominations sought for MVMA Board position

During the June Summer Meeting, MVMA members will be electing one new member to the Executive Board. In accordance with the Association bylaws, candidates must have been an active member of the Association for at least three years, three of which must be immediately prior to his/her nomination and shall have attended one of the regular sessions during this three-year period.

The Executive Board meets twice per year on the day prior to the Summer and Winter meetings. Interim conference calls are held as needed. Board members are also assigned the task to select topics and speakers for the Summer and Winter meetings. Each Board member serves a 7-year term, advancing from a Director (two years) to Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, President and Past President.

Nominations will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee for consideration, and a slate will be presented for a membership vote during the Summer Meeting. If you are interested in nominating yourself or another MVMA member, please contact Beth at the MVMA office: bemter@montana.com or 406-447-4259.

MVMA Committees to meet prior to Summer Meeting

The Spring Committee Meetings will be held in May and June via Zoom, and all members are invited and encouraged to participate. Watch your email in the coming weeks for meeting notices, agenda topics, and

Zoom login information.

Check out MVMA's Online Job Board

Are you looking to fill a staff position or are you looking for a new job? Be sure to use the MVMA Online Job Board through the MVMA website at mtvma.org to post clinic position openings or resumes. The service is free to members, but members will need their website login information to post a job opening. In addition, for \$50 you can bump your post to the top of the board as a "featured posting"—this also publishes it on the Google Jobs Network. Office staff may also post ads for MVMA members for free using a discount code.

Contact Beth at the MVMA office with questions or for the discount code: bemter@montana.com. Please note that relief services, practice sales or equipment sales notices are still posted through the MVMA office. Those submissions can be emailed to bemter@montana.com, and will be posted free of charge to members.

In Memoriam

Dr. Herb Hanich, 84, of Missoula passed away Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. A memorial service was held January 12, 2024, at the First Lutheran Church of Missoula.

After graduating from the University of Nebraska, Dr. Hanich was accepted into the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, where he obtained his Doctorate Degree. From 1969, he practiced Veterinary Medicine at the Animal Clinic in Missoula, and took over the practice in 1980. His legacy continues through his son, Dr Greg Hanich, who took over the practice in 2007. Herb married Jayne White in 1964, and they had two children, Greg and Kathleen. The couple later separated. Herb met and married



~Save the Date~

Upcoming MVMA Meetings:

2024 Summer Meeting
June 27-29
Heritage Inn—Great Falls

2025 Winter Meeting
January 23-25
GranTree Inn—Bozeman

2025 Summer Meeting
June 26-28
Fairmont Hot Springs

In Memoriam continued on page 4

IN MEMORIAM (continued)



Herb Hanich, DVM

Jean DeCock in 1992 and she was by his side at his passing.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Jean Hanich; children, Dr. Greg (Meighan) Hanich; Kathleen (Jerry) Christensen; stepchildren, Eric (Jamie) Agnew; Grant (Lori) Agnew; ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, as well as nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Dr. Gale Allen Jellum, loving father, Grandpa and brother, passed away Sunday, January 21, at the age of 80 at the Gallatin Rest Home in Bozeman. A celebration of life was held January 26 at the American Lutheran Church in Chinook.

Gale attended Montana State University in Bozeman, and after two years at MSU transferred to Washington State University in Pullman to pursue his degree in veterinary medicine.

On July 2, 1966, he married Karen Louise Dokken, the love of his life, and together they celebrated 47 years of marriage. In 1969 they made their home in Chinook, after Gale purchased the Chinook Veterinary Clinic. In addition to running his Vet Clinic, in 1977 Karen and Gale took over the operation of the Dokken family farm in Glasgow, where they lived during the farming season. Gale sold the Vet Clinic in Chinook in 1999 but continued to dedicate his life to caring for animals even after retirement.

Gale and Karen were blessed with two children, Kirk and Kimberly. His wife, Karen, passed away in 2013, and Gale continued to focus on his Grandson's Lucas and Levi.

Gale is survived by his two children, Kirk Jellum of Salt Lake City and Kimberly (Matthew) Garson of Bozeman, MT, along with his two special grandsons, Lucas and Levi Garson. He is also survived by one brother, Steven (Gayle) of Gillette,

Wyo., sisters Susan (Chuck) Boid, of Great Falls, and Diane Rosander of Billings, special friend, Karen Covert of Chinook, sister-in-law Marilyn McCready of Ohio and many nieces and nephews.

Dr. JoAn Carey Marshall passed away April 3, 2023, at Dahl Memorial in Ekalaka.

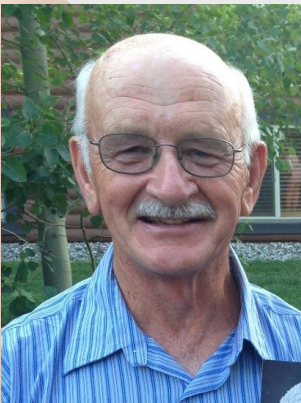
Very few women became veterinarians in her time, but she was very smart, worked hard, got good grades at the University of Montana in Missoula, and was accepted to veterinary school in 1954 at Washington State University in Pullman. It was there that she met Wes Marshall who was in her veterinary school class, and they were married in 1957 and both graduated in 1958. She was the only woman in her class.

The Marshalls went on to own the West Valley Veterinary Clinic together for 40 years in Lompoc, Calif., while raising three children: a daughter Kerri who also became a veterinarian (WSU 1985), and two sons, Daniel, an attorney, and Matthew, a pharmacist and pharmacy systems technologist.

When they turned 70, Wes and JoAn moved to the ranch in Montana and retired in the beautiful Chalk Buttes on the ranch 17 miles out of Ekalaka.

JoAn's lifetime honors included becoming a regional California director for the American Animal Hospital Association, serving on the Santa Barbara County Fair board, and joining the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine where she served for many terms and became the first woman to turn 80 on the board.

JoAn is survived by her daughter, Kerri, her two sons Daniel and Matthew, and her grandchildren (Daniel's children) John Marshall and Michelle Marshall.



Gale Jellum, DVM



JoAn Carey Marshall, DVM

WIMU STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Morgan Radtke, Drummond

2024 recipient of the Rex Anderson Memorial Veterinary Leadership Conference Travel Endowment Scholarship



Hometown: Drummond, MT

Projected Graduation Year: 2027

What led you to pursue veterinary medicine as a career?

My family's cattle ranch and years in 4-H introduced me to animal stewardship and the value of a rural community. From then on, I knew I wanted to have a lifestyle that included animals and was centered in a rural area. During my undergraduate studies I found a strong interest in medicine, and with the help of some great mentorship found a way to combine my interests.

Why did you select the WIMU program for your veterinary studies? I am so glad that I decided to attend veterinary school through the WIMU program. The small class size as a first year gives the opportunity for great in-

class discussion and a powerful learning environment. Additionally, the WIMU program offers a unique opportunity for Montana residents to receive in-state tuition, making the financial burden of veterinary school much more manageable.

What are your future goals after graduation? After completing my DVM I hope to serve a Montana community as a large animal practitioner.

What is the best part about studying veterinary medicine? Biggest challenge?

One of the best things about being a veterinary student in 2024 is the strength of mentorship and passion for the field of veterinary medicine from professors and practitioners. I think that it is something that is unique to the

industry. So far as a veterinary student I have felt incredibly welcome in clinics across the western part of the state by practitioners who care a lot about the field and are excited about teaching.

As far as challenges go, my first year has been an adjustment in learning how to study a huge volume of information week by week while still making time to do the things I enjoy. My peers and professors have helped make the transition much easier though!

Anything else you would like to share? I would like to thank the MVMA for their generosity and support of the WIMU program.

This is the speech Morgan gave at the Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago in January.

It is an honor to be invited to say a few words on behalf of the Rex Anderson Memorial VLC Travel Endowment Scholarship. I am humbled and so grateful to receive an award of such emotional value to the AVMA. I would like to thank the AVMA for hosting such a great event, and I would like to personally thank those who donated to the AVMF scholarship fund. Without your generosity, many students could not make the trip to Chicago for VLC.

I'll start by sharing a little bit about myself. My name is Morgan Radtke, I am a first-year veterinary student at Montana State University in the 1+3 program with Washington State University. My current aspiration is to return to Montana as a rural practitioner. Prior to this, I was a student at the University of Montana, where I lived out a 5-year dream as a collegiate athlete; I have since retired to marathon training. But before that, I was a ranch kid

in rural Montana— possibly the most important part of my story.

Rural Montana leads me to the small town of Absarokee, the home of the late Dr. Rex Anderson. Dr. Anderson was a friend and colleague to many; in fact, he is the sole reason many of us are here at VLC. I never had the opportunity to meet Dr. Anderson, but I do not doubt that he was witty, humble, and passionate about the field of veterinary medicine. Dr. Anderson served rural Montana and was a well-respected and inspiring leader in the AVMA.

It is my honor to be awarded this scholarship, and I hope it is a legacy that continues for decades to come. May we all live, serve, and lead a little more unified, encouraged, and hopeful because of Rex Anderson.

Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service receives grant for antibiotic research, education



Katie Rein, DVM

Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service, Harlowton

Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service has been approved to receive a grant from the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) for antibiotic research and education in Montana livestock operations. SARE is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture whose mission is to advance innovations that improve profitability, stewardship, and quality of life in American agriculture by investing in groundbreaking research and education.

Katie Rein, DVM, a veterinarian for Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service, will be joined by Sweet Grass County Extension Agent Marc King, and livestock producers Rachel Endecott, PhD, Dick Raths DVM, Tami Sanders, and Sarah Mauws, RN. This group will work closely with the Human Ecology Learning and Problem

Solving (HELPS) Lab from Montana State University-Bozeman to design a survey that gathers information from livestock producers about their current antibiotic therapy decisions.

The group will collaborate with producer groups across the state to distribute these surveys. Once the results are compiled, the group will review the current scientific literature to find the best treatments for the top five disease processes.

Finally, the group will travel across the state to various producer groups, presenting their findings to aid producers in on-ranch diagnosis and treatment of these diseases. They will also share their findings through newspaper articles and social media. Be on the lookout for the surveys this summer and results this fall.

New Veterinary Retail Facility Permit law explained

During the 2023 Montana Legislative Session, Senate Bill 561 was passed to establish new veterinary retail facility permit regulations. This bill was pursued by legislators who viewed it as a solution to the FDA's ruling in Guidance for industry #263, which removes all livestock antibiotics from over the counter (OTC) use.

Senate Bill 561 and the rules package do not apply to current dispensing practices for Montana veterinarians. The new veterinary retail facility and technician license types are intended to help improve access to veterinary medications, especially in rural areas, pursuant to a veterinarian's prescription but with certain restrictions. For example, the new law does not allow for such facilities to dispense controlled substances or to dispense for extra-label use.

There is no change to the existing practice, veterinarian patient client relationship requirement, or authority for Montana veterinarians to continue to dispense directly to their clients. The new law does not impact the veterinarian's clinic/office practice setting.

Some additional clarifications:

- Prescriptions can continue to be filled at in-state pharmacies or out-of-state mail order pharmacies licensed in Montana.

- The person-in-charge (PIC) requirement does not apply to veterinarians or their office/practice locations, just the new veterinary retail facilities to have a PIC identified as a point of contact for the Board. In addition, dispensing is not limited to the PIC, any licensed veterinary dispensing technician working at a licensed facility can dispense.
- The new licensed facilities will be inspected by the Board of Pharmacy on an annual basis.
- The rule, and upcoming educational material, direct the veterinary dispensing technician to contact the prescribing veterinarian if there are any questions or need for clarification prior to dispensing.

As a reminder, the veterinary dispensing technicians will be licensed by the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine, and the veterinary retail facilities will be licensed by the Montana Board of Pharmacy. Additional information will be provided once the final rules are in place and the online application process is available.

For more details, see the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine article on page 16.

MVMA Power of 10 Class for 2024-25 kicks off with January gathering

The 2024-25 Power of 10 Class kicked off with an inaugural gathering on January 27 just prior to the MVMA Winter Meeting in Bozeman. The new class—dubbed the “Power of 13” due to its size of 13 bright and energetic members—includes veterinarians who have graduated from veterinary school between 2016 and 2023 and are practicing in all parts of Montana. They are led by program chair Katie Rein, DVM, and co-chair Mark Albrecht, DVM.

The Power of 10's first session was sponsored by Elanco Animal Health and focused on the Insights Discovery personality profile. With facilitator Heidi Hulon, DVM, of Elanco, the group learned about their individual profile traits, and how understanding those traits can help them develop effective strategies for interaction and better respond to the demands of their environment.

The Power of 10 Class will meet throughout the next year for workshops and meetings designed to enrich the individual and benefit the individual's practice, community, and profession.

These recent graduates will develop foundational skills in leadership, communication, and business.



Congratulations to the Power of 10 Class of 2024-25!



*Makayla Balogh, Livingston
Alyssa Bennin, Three Forks
Cody Boyce, Sidney
Madison Comes, Lewistown
Markee Dupea, Billings
Lacey Fahrneier, Roberts
Jessica French, Big Timber*

*Emily Gosda, White Sulphur Springs
Lilly Griffin-Duncan, Butte
Chris Kimbrell, Belgrade
Madison McCann, Shepherd
Whitney Potts, Lewistown
Michael Whitmore, Havre*

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- Yearling Bull Nutrition Programs and AI Nutrition Programs
- Field Investigation Services
- Legal, Mediation and Expert Witness Services

WIMU cooperative veterinary program in tenth year

MVMA offers \$2,000 scholarship to Montana veterinary school student

The MVMA is pleased to announce it is once again offering a \$2,000 scholarship for a second, third or fourth-year veterinary student.

Applicants must have completed at least one year of veterinary school, and be a student member of MVMA (apply today at mtvma.org/join).

Applications are due by May 17, 2024. For more details, visit mtvma.org/scholarships.

Montana State University's cooperative veterinary program with Washington State University—known as the Washington Idaho Montana Utah, or "WIMU" regional program—is currently in its tenth year. We have graduated more than 60 excellent veterinarians, with approximately two-thirds currently practicing here in Montana. This percentage should increase over the years as graduates return after completing internships or gathering experience in specialized areas.

Our WIMU endowed scholarship fund is providing assistance in offsetting the high cost of a veterinary education for our first year students. Please consider contributing to this fund as it is a great way to give back to our profession and our great state. There are significant tax benefits to donating also. Our state association has funded one of these scholarships. [See below for more details on how you can contribute.]

Offers have been sent out to a well-qualified group of students who will

start their veterinary education this fall. We will have the names of those accepting at the Summer Meeting in June in Great Falls.

Morgan Radtke, a WIMU student in her first year of veterinary school here in Bozeman, received the Rex Anderson Travel Scholarship to attend the VLC conference in Chicago last month [see related article on page 5]. She did such a good job representing Montana, the MVMA board voted to give her a scholarship to assist her in attending the conference for the student chapter of the AVMA in March of 2024. We will look forward to hearing more about her experience there.

Thank you for your continued support of the WIMU program and the mentoring of current and future veterinarians.

**Alan Goldhahn, Bozeman
MSU WIMU Faculty
MVMA Board Member**

Remember MVMA WIMU Scholarship in your giving

As you plan your charitable giving, keep in mind the *Montana Veterinary Medical Association WIMU Scholarship*, a \$1,000 scholarship (or approximately 4% of the total endowment) to be awarded in perpetuity.

Thanks to an anonymous matching donor, MVMA's \$12,500 contribution was matched dollar for dollar to create a \$25,000 MVMA endowed scholarship. The first scholarship will be awarded in the fall of 2025, and the fund may grow through additional earnings and gifts, so consider it in your planned giving.

Giving online:

- Navigate to msuaf.org, click "Give to MSU"
- Click "Make a gift online" (about ¾ of the way down the page, under annual giving); Search for "Montana Veterinary Medical Assoc."
- Click "Montana Veterinary Medical Assoc. WIMU Scholarship"

- Finally, click "Proceed to Gift Details" in the upper right corner where you will be prompted for the remaining information.

Giving via mail:

- Mail to: MSU Foundation, PO Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717
- Make the check payable to: Montana State University Alumni Foundation, Memo: MVMA WIMU Scholarship

Questions? Contact Austin O'Neill, MSU Alumni Foundation director of development, at (406) 994-4508 or austin.oneill@msuaf.org.

Thank you for your support of MSU WIMU Students!



Thank you, 2024 Summer Meeting Sponsors!

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animal health vaccines.

CB1
COLLECTIONS

Montana Veterinary Medical Association

2024 Summer Meeting

& Trade Show

JUNE 27-29

HERITAGE INN

GREAT FALLS, MT

▪ Meeting Information ▪

* 15 Continuing Education Credits *

* Trade Show Featuring Allied Business Partners *

Pre-Registration—by June 6

- MVMA Members—\$395
- Non-MVMA Members—\$540
- Technicians/Office Staff—\$205

After June 6 or On-Site Registration

- MVMA Members—\$445
- Non-MVMA Members—\$590
- Technicians/Office Staff—\$255

Free for Students or Life Members (no CE)

- Pre-registration is required; any meal tickets must be purchased.

Ways to Register:

- **Online:** Fast, easy and secure. Complete registration form and pay by credit card or invoice at mtvma.org.
- **Mail:** Complete the registration form on page 13 of this brochure and mail with payment to: MVMA, PO Box 6322, Helena, MT 59604.

Proceedings: Proceedings will be available online prior to the meeting. **Printed proceedings will not be made available at the meeting.**

CE Certificates: Once attendance is verified, CE certificates will be sent to attendees within two weeks of the meeting.

▪ Room Reservations ▪

A block of MVMA rooms has been reserved at the Heritage Inn-Great Falls.

- \$119/night plus taxes & fees
- Discounted rates will be available through June 12 or until sold out.
- The online room block link is on the MVMA website, or call the hotel directly at 406-761-1900 and request the MVMA block.

Rooms available through the MVMA Block are limited, so we encourage you to make lodging reservations early to take advantage of special Summer Meeting pricing.

Continued next page

Thursday, June 27

2:00 – 5:00 pm **MVMA Board of Directors Meeting**

6:30 pm **Steak Fry**
Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center
Sponsored by

AmerisourceBergen  **Boehringer Ingelheim**
MWI Animal Health™

Friday, June 28

6:30 – 8:00 am **Registration**

7:00 – 8:00 am **Breakfast Buffet**

8:00 am – Noon **Mixed Animal Session** 4.0 CE
Amy Grice, VMD MBA, Veterinary Business Consultant
Transition of ownership; Getting comfortable with difficult conversations; How to be an effective mentor; Creating a healthy practice culture.

Large Animal Session 4.0 CE
Bo Brock, DVM, DAVBP-Equine
Brock Veterinary Clinic, Lamesa, TX
Navicular Disease

Noon – 1:30 pm **Trade Show Opening/Lunch Buffet**

1:30 – 5:30 pm **Small Animal Session** 4.0 CE
Steven Budsberg, DVM, MS, DACVS
Professor Emeritus

University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine
Treatment options for managing osteoarthritis in dogs and cats; Dealing with the cruciate deficient stifle from a Spectrum of Care Viewpoint; Minimally Invasive Surgery in Orthopedics - What exactly is going on?; Managing Bone and Implant infections.

Large Animal Session 4.0 CE
John Madigan, DVM, DACVIM, DACAW
Distinguished Professor Emeritus

UC-Davis College of Veterinary Medicine
Good Practices: Examination and Routine Care of the Newborn Foal; Prevention of infection in the neonatal foal; Neonatal Maladjustment Syndrome: the dummy foal is finally figured out; The science behind and the practical use of the Madigan Squeeze in neonates: all kinds; Non-chemical restraint of the neonatal foal; Practice tips for the equine neonate.

Approx. 2:30 pm **Break in Trade Show**
6:00 – 9:00 pm **Trade Show/Social/Dinner Buffet**
Entertainment by Bo Brock, DVM, DAVBP-Equine
Author of “Crowded in the Middle of Nowhere: Tales of Humor and Healing from Rural America”

Saturday, June 29

6:30 – 8:00 am **Registration**

7:00 – 8:00 am **Trade Show/Breakfast Buffet**

8:00 am – Noon **Large/Mixed Animal Session** 4.0 CE
John Madigan, DVM, DACVIM, DACAW
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
UC-Davis College of Veterinary Medicine

The role of the veterinarian in disaster response; Veterinary issues with wildfires: horses, cattle, sheep; Sedation and anesthesia for the equine emergency patient, including the catastrophic injury; Approach to the weak, down, or stuck horse: new methods, new slings, and down horse assist devices; Case examples: Tales from the cliff, the ravine, the mine shaft, the flood.

Large Animal Session 4.0 CE
Robert Gentry, DVM-Medgene

Prescription Platform Vaccines: What, How and Why?; Bovine Respiratory Disease: Finding the Needle in the Haystack; Got Warts? Bovine Papillomavirus Pathogenesis, Transmission and Vaccination; Playing Scrabble with Scours: Arranging multiple antigens in a vaccination scheme.

Approx. 9:30 am **Break In Trade Show**

Noon – 1:30 pm **Lunch Buffet**
General Membership Meeting

1:30 – 4:30 pm **Mixed Animal Session** 3.0 CE
DEA Rules and Regulations for the Registrants in the Veterinary Field—Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Investigator, Denver Diversion Outreach

This presentation will provide an overview of the Drug Enforcement Administration and what is required of veterinarians as DEA registrants. It will provide information on remaining in compliance in the field while attending to the needs of the animal population. It will also cover the current media campaigns that DEA is involved with for the public and the issues that surround the current drug trends.

Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention
Tracy Rassley, Montana Chapter-American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

This will be a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Participants will learn common risk factors and warning signs associated with suicide, and how to keep themselves and others safe.

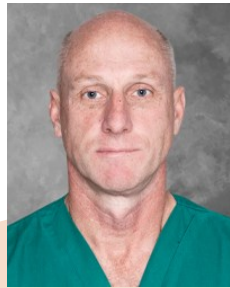
Personal Wellness Session—Finding Hope: How Christ Entered and Affected My Life
Roy Koch, Rancher/Pastor-Lewistown, MT

Bo Brock, DVM, DAMVP-Eq., owns a thriving, multi-species veterinary clinic in Lamesa, Texas (population 9,207 and sometimes referred to as “the middle of nowhere”). He graduated magna cum laude from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990, and established Brock Veterinary Clinic in 1992, a



mixed animal hospital that focuses primarily on equine medicine and surgery. Dr. Brock is a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners/Equine, and was voted equine practitioner of the year for the state of Texas in 2007. After writing about his veterinary tales in his local newspaper once a month for decades, in 2014 he put the articles into a book titled “Crowded in the Middle of Nowhere: Tales of Humor and Healing from Rural America.” In addition to operating a successful veterinary practice and moonlighting as an author, Bo is an active public speaker and adjunct professor at Texas Tech University.

Steve Budsberg, DVM, MS, DACVS is a professor emeritus at the University of Georgia. He obtained his DVM and MS from Washington State University, and completed his internship at Angell Memorial, as well as his surgical residency at Michigan State University. He was a faculty member at LSU and UGA and a practicing orthopedic surgeon for



35 years. His research focuses on Canine Gait Analysis, Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs and other analgesic agents for the treatment of chronic pain. He has been honored with several awards including the ACVS Founder Award for Career Achievement, the AVMA Career Achievement in Canine Research Award, the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence (twice), the AVMA-AKC Excellence in Canine Research Award, the AVMA-Fido Award, and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association—Hill's Pet Mobility Award. He has been recognized by Washington State University as a Distinguished Veterinary Alumnus and by Michigan State University as a Distinguished Postdoctoral Veterinary Alumnus.

Robert Gentry, DVM, graduated from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1981. After spending 2 years in Iowa in a mixed practice, he moved back to Kansas and purchased a mixed practice in Beloit, Kansas, which he operated for 30 years. In 1992, Dr. Gentry passed the UK foreign exam at the University of Glasgow and became



a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. He obtained a Certificate in Beef Production Medicine from the University of Nebraska-Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center (GPVEC) in 1996, and became a faculty member in Beef Production Medicine, also at GPVEC, in 2009. Dr. Gentry has completed graduate work in epidemiology and development and interpretation of diagnostic tests. He is a past president of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, and is one of the founders of the Academy of Rural Veterinarians. He has delivered lectures to veterinary students on rural practice in the US, UK and Australia. Dr. Gentry joined Boehringer-Ingelheim in 2012, and Multimix in 2014, both as a technical service veterinarian. Dr. Gentry returned to private practice in 2018 and joined Medgene in 2022. In practice, Dr. Gentry was involved in reproduction in most species of domestic animals, predominantly cattle, dogs and horses, and still enjoys cattle reproduction on his days off. Dr. Gentry lives in Beloit, Kan., with his wife Lesley. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Amy L. Grice, VMD, MBA, was an ambulatory equine practitioner in the Hudson Valley of New York for more than 25 years, serving as the managing partner of the 13-doctor equine referral hospital in Rhinebeck, NY. At the end of 2014, she retired from clinical practice to concentrate on veterinary business consulting, and moved her residence to Virginia City, MT. Dr. Grice received her BA in Biology from Wellesley College in Massachusetts and completed



Speakers continued next page

her veterinary education at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine in 1990. She earned her MBA with a concentration in Ethical Leadership from Marist College School of Management in 2014. Dr. Grice is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, where she served on the Board of Directors from 2015-2018, and as treasurer (2021-2023). She is also a member of the AVMA Economic Strategy Committee (2018-present). Dr. Grice is a frequent speaker at educational seminars for veterinarians across the country, as well as the founder of Decade One, which leads networking groups for equine veterinarians early in their careers. In addition, she consults with a diverse range of veterinary businesses and collaborates with industry partners to bring business education to veterinarians. Dr. Grice aids with transitions of ownership, strategic planning, financial projections, and other solutions for private practitioners.

Roy Koch is a rancher, married with two sons, in Lewistown, Montana. He found Jesus Christ in 2002 and it has changed everything.

John Madigan, DVM, DACVIM, DACAW, is a distinguished professor emeritus at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the American College of Animal Welfare. Dr. Madigan's significant accomplishments in veterinary medicine through the past 40 years include 180 peer-



reviewed scientific publications in the areas of neonatal medicine, comparative neurology, infectious diseases and disaster medicine. He created the first neonatal intensive care unit at UC Davis and is the author of the Manual of Equine Neonatal Medicine. He founded the UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT) in 1997 and was appointed to the State of California CARES committee to develop protocols for animals in disasters. Dr. Madigan received a homeland security grant to train first responders and veterinarians in disaster response, including preparedness, response and recovery. Awards received related to his many responses to aid animals in floods, fires, and other incidents include the AVMA Animal Welfare Award, Red Cross Hero Award, American Association of Equine Practitioners Distinguished Service and Life Time Achievement Award, UC Davis CalAggie Distinguished Service Award, and the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Achievement Award.

Tracy Rassley is the Programs Manager for the Montana and Wyoming Chapters of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). After 24 years as a paralegal and volunteering with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for almost 7 years, she has now been in her current position more than a year.



Tracy has presented countless trainings for AFSP, including "Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention," "Supporting Those at Risk, It's Real: Teens and Mental Health," and "It's Real: College Students and Mental Health." In addition, she is a certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainer.

Special thanks to Dr. Scott Damby, MVMA president and chair of the 2024 MVMA Summer Meeting. We appreciate all of the time and expertise he has put into planning this meeting!



**Montana Veterinary Medical Association
2024 Summer Meeting Registration
Heritage Inn – Great Falls, MT | June 27-29**

Registration Available Online! Save postage and time—pay with a credit card at www.mtvma.org.

Please Print

Name _____ **First CE meeting?** Yes No
As it should appear on your name badge

Clinic _____

Mailing Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Two Day Rate (Friday & Saturday) – includes registration packet and all meals			
Total of 15 CE Hours	Through June 6	After June 6	Your Fee (includes meals)
MVMA or VMA Member of Other State (not practicing in Montana)	\$395	\$445	
Non VMA Member	\$540	\$590	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager	\$205	\$255	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> Student No CE Awarded	free	free	

One Day Rate – includes registration packet and all meals for one day				
Friday: 8 CE Hours	Saturday: 7 CE Hours	Through June 6	After June 6	Your Fee (includes meals)
MVMA or VMA Member of Other State	Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$330	\$380	
Non VMA Member	Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$475	\$525	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager	Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$175	\$225	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> Student No CE Awarded	Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	free	free	Free (select meals below)

Guest/Life/Student Meals	Guest Name:	Meal Fees – Life, Students, Guests ONLY	
Both Days – all meals		\$185	
One Day Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	Friday only	\$120	
	Saturday only	\$80	
Thursday Evening Steak Fry – <i>Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim/MWI</i>		No charge	\$0
Friday Trade Show Social/Dinner/Entertainment ONLY		\$55	

Please let us know if you and/or your guest have any dietary restrictions: _____ **Total Amount \$** _____

Lodging: A limited number of discounted rooms is available at the Heritage Inn-Great Falls for \$119 per night plus taxes/fees. Call (406) 761-1900 and refer to the MVMA Room Block to make a reservation.

Send Registration Form with payment to: MVMA, PO Box 6322, Helena, MT 59604

Or register online at mtvma.org.

Questions? Call or email: info@mtvma.org | (406) 447-4259

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK UPDATE

DOL ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski
State Veterinarian
(406) 444-0782

Dr. Brad DeGroot
Brucellosis Program Veterinarian
(406) 444-3374

Britta Sekora
Import Office Manager
(406) 444-2892

Sara Starkey
Disease Compliance Specialist
(406) 444-1587

Jacqueline Cima
DSA/Brucellosis Compliance Specialist
(406) 444-3703

Compliance Specialists
Lindsey Ehlke
444-5200

Rebecca Trammel
444-3703

Becky Rouns
444-9525

USDA Biennial Review Supporting the Delisting of *Brucella spp.*

The United States Department of Agriculture has published a proposed rule to remove *Brucella spp.* from the select agent list. The successful delisting of brucellosis will remove substantial regulatory barriers to the research and development of new diagnostic tools and vaccination technology, ultimately benefitting the management of brucellosis in Greater Yellowstone Area wildlife and livestock subject to increased disease surveillance due to the risk of disease spillover.

MDOL submitted comments strongly in support of the delisting. Without efficacious vaccines and sensitive, specific diagnostic tools, *Brucella spp.* will continue to expand in territory with wildlife reservoirs, resulting in additional costs to producers, and state and federal disease control programs.

The comment period closed April 1.

Live Elk Capture and Brucellosis Surveillance

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks recently completed capture of 122 female elk in the Highland Mountains south of Butte as part of the ongoing targeted elk brucellosis surveillance project. All 122 animals tested negative for brucellosis, giving the study area an estimated seroprevalence of 0 (95% confidence interval: 0-3.1%). Additionally, 30 animals were fitted with GPS collars. Location data will provide a better understanding of elk movements in the region.

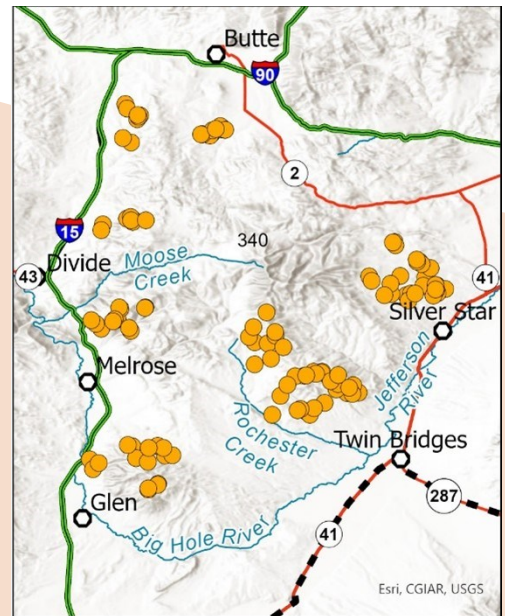
The negative results on these animals provide MDOL additional confidence that the current designated surveillance area (DSA) boundary appropriately addresses

livestock populations at risk of infection from wildlife.

Swine Health Improvement Plan and Swine Exhibition

The Swine Health Improvement Plan is now in its fourth year and program involvement continues to grow nationally. Modeled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan, the program hopes to minimize impacts to the swine industry due to a high consequence disease outbreak within the US swine population. The components of the program include biosecurity, traceability, and disease surveillance, although during “peace time” no surveillance is required in the program.

With substantial adoption in the commercial swine industry (68% of US breeding herd and 61% of US growing herd), the next focus is to encourage participation among



Capture locations of elk in the Highland Mountains south of Butte during January 2024. Credit: Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

smaller producers, with emphasis on the exhibition swine sector. MDOL has received funding for outreach to small operations, fairs, and other swine exhibitions. If you are involved with fairs or swine exhibitors in your community, MDOL would appreciate the opportunity to share program materials and conduct outreach about the program.

Seneca Virus in Swine

A Blaine County swine facility was recently diagnosed with Senecavirus A (Seneca Valley Virus, SVV). The infection started in the weaning population as diarrhea and increased mortality. After the feedback of intestinal homogenate to improve immunity in the sow herd, multiple sows began showing clinical signs of disease, including vesicular lesions.

SVV is a non-enveloped single-stranded RNA virus of the family Picornaviridae. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and swine vesicular disease virus (SVDV) are also members of this viral family and have similar clinical presentations. SVV is a low consequence disease and animals can be sent to market once lesions have healed. However, given the similarities to FMD, any case that presents with snout or coronary band vesicles should be investigated as a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) to rule-out FMD infection prior to any animal movements.

These cases are the first reported to MDOL from swine facilities and are an important reminder that all vesicular lesions in swine should be reported to our office for appropriate follow up.



If you are involved with fairs or swine exhibitors in your community, MDOL would appreciate the opportunity to share program materials and conduct outreach about the [Swine Health Improvement Plan].

Montana Department of Livestock



An update from the Big Sky Veterinary Technician Association



Greetings from the Big Sky Veterinary Technician Association. As we embrace the new year, our board remains committed to serving veterinary technicians and support staff, dedicated to advancing their skills, knowledge, and professional experiences. We are excited to share details about upcoming continuing

education events that have generated considerable anticipation.

On June 8th at the Hotel Finlen in Butte, Meg Harrington will be presenting a session on Bovine Production Medicine and the Veterinary Technician's Role. Further information and open registration details will be released soon.

Looking ahead, BSVTA is actively planning continuing education events for small animals in the fall/winter. Stay tuned for additional details, which will be shared

on bigskyvettech.org and BSVTA's Facebook page.

Some changes to the executive board's composition have occurred in the past year, and we are eager to share these updates with our valued members as we move forward:

- President: Trisha Stone, LVT
- President Elect: Leah Anderson, LVT
- Past President: Eli Olind, LVT
- Secretary: Katie Bruhn
- Treasurer: Dixie Mack, LVT
- Director 1: Ciara Sherman, LVT
- Director 2: Shandell Briese, LVT
- Director 3: Isaac Rost
- CE Chair: Annie O'Hara, LVT

Please reach out to our board with any questions or comments.

***Trisha Stone, LVT
BSVTA President***

MONTANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE UPDATE

MT Board of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Tia Nelson
DVM Member
Board President

Marcia Cantrell
LVT member

Dr. Gregory Carlson
DVM member

Dr. Paul McCann
DVM member

Kateri Nelson
Public member

Dr. Jeanne Rankin
DVM member
Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Katie Rein
DVM Member
Vice President

Kelly Welsh
Executive Officer

New License Type began implementation January 2024: Registered Veterinary Dispensing Technician

In 2023, the Montana Legislature passed SB 561, authorizing the licensing of Veterinary Retail Facilities (VFR) by the Board of Pharmacy, and Veterinary Dispensing Technicians (VDT) by the Board of Veterinary Medicine. The new authority allows for increased access to veterinary prescription drugs by licensing non-pharmacy facilities and staff to dispense veterinary prescription drugs for livestock to a client based on a prescription issued by a veterinarian.

This legislation was implemented to meet the FDA final guidance on GFI #256. GFI #256 outlines enforcement discretion for certain categories of animal drugs compounded from BDS:

- *Patient specific prescriptions (Not limited to a BDS list)*
- *Office Stock for nonfood-producing species*
- *Antidotes for food producing animals and sedatives for free-ranging wildlife.*

The implementation of SB 561 does not impact current dispensing practices for Montana Veterinarians. There are no changes to the definition or requirement for the veterinarian/ client/ patient relationship or "VCPR"- ARM 24.225.301(12) [See related article on page 17.]

The final rules adoption was published by SOS on January 12,

2024, and effective January 13, 2024. Applications for both the veterinary retail facility and dispensing technician will be available live on the board's websites. IT implementations are being tested.

It is required that a dispensing technician has a direct employment relationship with a veterinary retail facility. Both the facility and the technician will apply for licensure; the technician is required to list what facility they work for. However, for the initial launch, the applicants will not need to include the license number of the facility where a technician will be working or the technician license who will serve as the person-in-charge for a facility. These license verifications will be turned off for the first 60 days of processing applications. In addition, a dispensing technician can work at multiple retail facility locations.

A Licensed Veterinary Technician or "LVT" has special authority to work as a dispensing technician without additional licensing. And LVT will need to submit an application at no cost to inform the Board of the licensed facility, or facilities, where they intend to work. With this process, the LVT license will be updated to reflect dispensing authority at X licensed veterinary retail facility(ies).

Collectively, the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Board of Pharmacy will issue information regarding the two license types and how they are tied together. Additional information is being crafted and finalized. Veterinary/

Pharmacy licensees will receive an email that provides an overview and explains the new license types.

At the time of application, the dispensing technician will be required to attest that they have completed and understand an education packet that outlines “receiving and reviewing prescription orders,” “processing of veterinary prescription orders,” statutory definitions which include livestock and alternate livestock, unauthorized dispensing activities, and unprofessional conduct. The boards have also developed additional resources and helpful

links for technicians to utilize while on the job.

Contact us with any questions:

Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine
Phone: 406-841-2258

Email: DLIBSDVET@MT.GOV

www.vet.mt.gov

Montana Board of Pharmacy
Phone: 406-841-2371

Email: DLIBSDPHA@MT.GOV

www.pharmacy.mt.gov

MT Board of Veterinary Medicine Mission Statement

The mission of the Board of Veterinary Medicine is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of veterinary medicine and the licensing of competent professionals. The board makes every effort to include relevant and current information pertaining to licensing and regulation on our website.

MVMA Contacts

2023-24 Executive Committee

President	Scott Damby, DVM Lewistown	President Elect	Linda Kauffman, DVM Stevensville
Vice President	Barr Gustafson, DVM Browning	Secretary/ Treasurer	Julie Oghigian, DVM, CVA Bozeman
Director	Alan Goldhahn, DVM Bozeman	Director	Chelsey Petz, DVM Three Forks
Past President	Nancy Belk, DVM Winnett		
AVMA Delegate	William Duncan, DVM Missoula	AVMA Alternate	Duane Colmey, DVM Livingston
MVMA Staff			
Executive Director	Stuart Doggett stuart@montana.com	Assn. Coordinator	Beth Emter bemter@montana.com

AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Dr. Sandy Willis, AVMA District Director, Region XI



Sandy Willis

DVM, DACVIM

AVMA District Director, Region XI

(MT, AK, WA, OR, WY, ID)

sandy7957@comcast.net

American Veterinary Medical Association

1931 N. Meacham Rd.

Suite 100

Schaumburg, IL 60173

(800) 248-2862

www.avma.org

Welcome spring!

As your District XI representative on the AVMA Board, I am delighted to provide this update. I look forward to meeting many of you this June 27-29 for the MVMA conference in Great Falls.

My contact information is to the left. I welcome your comments.

Workforce: challenges and opportunities

The past few years have been extremely challenging, and the pandemic unquestionably exacerbated staffing shortages and disrupted workflows. Hiring challenges are real, but some numbers being circulated regarding future workforce needs appear to substantially overestimate demand and underestimate supply. Changes are already in motion to correct this, and we are starting to see their impacts. These include class-size expansion at multiple established schools, as well as colleagues joining us from three new veterinary schools graduating classes in 2023, 2024, and 2025. There are at least 12 proposed veterinary schools in various stages of development.

Veterinary workforce topics, including supply and demand of veterinarians and veterinary services, the mid-level practitioner, and the VCPR, were the focus of the AVMA House of Delegates Veterinary Information Forum held during the HOD's meeting January 5.

HOD members expressed concerns around establishing a mid-level position and allowing the virtual establishment of a VCPR. The in-person visit gives the veterinarian information about the animal's physical condition, obtain appropriate diagnostic specimens and make a

prompt and accurate diagnosis. It also provides information about the animal's owner, information critical for developing treatment plans that address the animal's medical or behavioral issues and owner's ability to comply.

Comments were made regarding the lack of an educational and regulatory structure for the mid-level practitioner, and the impact of it and the proposed virtual VCPR on the quality of services provided for animals and our clientele.

The HOD strongly recognized the importance of leveraging veterinary technicians to the top of their degrees and training to ensure their career satisfaction and retention.

Stay tuned: much more to follow.

Wellbeing: Some Good News and further opportunities

The results of the fourth Merck **Veterinary Wellbeing Study** were just released. These newest results revealed a few key findings. Almost 3/4 of veterinary professionals express personal satisfaction with their career. While veterinarians and support teams experience stress and burnout, there are many aspects of the job they enjoy. Ninety-eight percent of veterinarians and 92% of veterinary team members note that they are invested in their work and take pride in doing a good job. More than 80% also believe the work they do makes a positive contribution on other peoples' lives.

A significant difference between perceptions of satisfaction and actual rates of career satisfaction were also noted. Although 43% of veterinarians perceive that *others* in the profession are satisfied with their careers, 74% self-report being satisfied with their careers. More opportunities are

available to support veterinarians and veterinary team members to support their wellbeing

For more information about many more findings of the Veterinary Wellbeing Study, please visit merck-animal-health-usa.com

American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF)

We have a new program: AVMF REACH Program™ – each AVMA member can apply for up to \$2,000 per calendar year to use to support clients who have financial need. You can learn about the guidelines and complete an application on the website: www.avma.org.

Disaster Reimbursement Grants – the recent fires in TX are a good reminder that natural disasters can happen at any time. The AVMF supports veterinarians with up to \$5,000 in reimbursement for medical care provided to the community as well as \$2,000 in reimbursement for individuals to buy necessities due to a natural disaster.

Scholarships: Last year \$1M was awarded in scholarships to 424 applicants.

A new AVMF Scholarship, the **Dr. Rex Anderson Travel Scholarship**, was awarded to Morgan Radtke, a native of Drummond, Montana. This scholarship supports a student or recent graduate from Montana to attend the Veterinary Leadership Conference. I had the honor of reviewing the applications for this award, and then the pleasure of meeting Morgan Radtke at the VLC. Rex would have been delighted to have supported Morgan's trip to wintry Chicago, home of the Blues,

to experience this amazing leadership opportunity among friends and colleagues. *[Read more about Morgan's story on page 5.]*

We need your help to be able to expand these programs. Go to www.avmf.org and click on "give now" to choose a program to support. If you want to support the travel award for Dr. Rex Anderson, choose his fund from the drop-down menu. And sign up to review scholarships: we need more volunteers.

Xylazine Update

The US House and Senate are now considering the bipartisan Combating Illicit Xylazine Act. The AVMA believes that this legislation will best ensure that common uses of xylazine (including veterinary) remain legal although it does schedule xylazine under the federal controlled substances act as a schedule III drug. There will be some additional provisions to help maintain the availability of the drug and track the legitimate supply. AVMA has reached out to the state associations for advocacy of House and Senate members to pass this bill.

AVMA Convention

The AVMA Convention this year takes place in Austin, Texas in **JUNE**. Not July. Dates are June 21-25. Magic Johnson is the Key Note speaker and the concert will feature Brothers Osborne. And Austin has a BAT Cruise and Bee Excursion. Who knew??

In addition to myself, your Montana House of Delegates Drs. Bill Duncan and Duane Colmery are always available. We welcome your feedback. See you in Great Falls.



Almost 3/4 of veterinary professionals express personal satisfaction with their career. While veterinarians and support teams experience stress and burnout, there are many aspects of the job they enjoy.

Dr. Sandy Willis



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*See pages 9-13
for more information
and to register!*

Visit
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to register online!



Make plans to attend the
2024 Summer Meeting
& Trade Show

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