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Montana Veterinary Medical Association

# Newsletter

SPRING 2023

## President's Message

**Nancy Belk, DVM | MVMA 2022-23 President**



Dear MVMA members,

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the winter meeting in Bozeman in January. I hope to see more familiar faces at our upcoming Summer Meeting June 22-24 in Missoula. We will be touching on many topics from Bees to

Brucellosis, pain management to practice management. I think there will be something for everyone, including the Trade Show with our Allied partners. For details see the Summer Meeting Brochure on pages 11-18.

The Bee Lab will take place on Thursday, June 22. It is a program that was scheduled for the 2020 meeting before it was canceled due to Covid-19. Fortunately I was able to get Beth Blevins to put it together for our meeting this year.

In addition, we are pleased to offer a Rabies Vaccine Clinic for practitioners and their staff through the Missoula City-County Health Department. Take advantage of this important opportunity to get current on your rabies vaccine, and keep in mind pre-registration is required so the Health Department will have enough vaccines on hand. The CDC has also updated Rabies Vaccine Guidelines. Learn more on page 26.

In the past few months the legislature has been in session and the Policy/Regulatory Committee has been

closely following various bills that could affect veterinary medicine. Stuart Doggett has provided a Legislative Update on page 4 of this issue, so learn more about how MVMA has represented you throughout the session.

As you will remember, a year ago the MVMA Board and members voted to move Committee Meetings to a virtual format via Zoom. This encourages greater participation and opportunity for input from you, our members. I urge you to attend our committee meetings that will occur in the weeks prior to the summer meeting. Watch your email for meeting notices.

The six committees discuss various topics of interest:

- Companion Animal Committee topics include Brucella Canis, Breeding—what is a “breeder”, Rabies testing, and “fake” service animals.
- Disaster Preparedness Committee has discussed large animal rescue training.
- Large Animal Committee topics have been on RFID tags, use of pain medication prior to branding or castration, Johnes Disease, and lay equine dentists.
- Practice Management Committee topics include employee recruitment, incentives and retention.
- Membership Services and Association Management Committee discusses the budget/finance,

*President's Message continued on page 2*

membership, nominations, CE programs, website/publications, and eulogy.

- Policy/Regulatory Committee covers legislative session reports, animal



*If you have a topic you want to discuss with your fellow MVMA members, the committees are a good place to do it. Your involvement is needed to keep the MVMA relevant.*

Nancy Belk, DVM  
MVMA President



welfare, Department of livestock concerns, and legal updates.

If you have a topic you want to discuss with your fellow MVMA members, the committees are a good place to do it. Keep in mind all MVMA members are welcome to attend any and all Committee Meetings.

Your involvement is needed to keep the MVMA relevant.

*Nancy Belk DVM*

# MVMA ASSOCIATION NEWS

## New MVMA members approved

Help us welcome the members below, whose applications were approved during the 2023 Winter Membership Meeting in January in Bozeman. The MVMA Board, staff and membership extends a sincere welcome to all of these valued members!

## Register now for the 2023 MVMA Summer Meeting

The 2022 MVMA Summer Meeting will be held June 22-24 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula. Dr. Nancy Belk, MVMA president, has gathered a variety of outstanding speakers from both Montana and across the United States to present 16 hours of pertinent continuing education. There are also an additional 4 CE Hours offered through the Honey Bee Lab, coordinated by Dr. Beth Blevins. See pages 11-18 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](http://www.mtvma.org).

Please note, given the busy summer tourism in Missoula you are encouraged to make hotel room reservations as soon as possible. There are a limited number of rooms available at the reduced rate of \$139/night plus taxes. **Discounted rates will be honored until sold out or June 7.** The online room block link is on the MVMA website, or call the hotel directly at 406-532-5300 and request the MVMA block, group code: MTVET.

## Nominations sought for MVMA Board position

During the June 2023 Summer Meeting, MVMA 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

## Welcome, New Members!

### Full:

Karl Anderson, Hamilton  
Shoni Card, Bonner  
Linda Frank, Gardiner  
Charles Gue, Belgrade  
Brianna Idleman, Kalispell  
Arielle Mansur, Billings  
Merry Michalski, Clancy  
Hunter Rung, Livingston  
Erica Schumacher, Dillon

Makayla Balogh, Livingston  
Mark Duffy, Clinton  
Jessica French, Big Timber  
Jennifer Higgins, Bozeman  
Jessie Lex, Columbia Falls  
Douglas McInnis, Klamath Falls, OR  
Jamie Reynolds, Belgrade  
Adrienne Schucker, Wibaux

### Student:

Bailey Bailey, Washington State University

### Life:

Dennis Moore, Hamilton  
Minott Pruyn, Missoula  
Erick Sorenson, Townsend

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 seven-year term, advancing from a Director (two years) to Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, President and Past President.

Nominations will be forwarded to a nominating committee for consideration, then 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](mailto:bemter@montana.com) or 406-447-4259.

### **MVMA Committees to meet prior to 2023 Summer Meeting**

As you will recall from last fall, MVMA Committee Meetings are now held virtually in the weeks prior to the Winter and Summer Meetings. The Spring Committee Meetings will be held in May and June, so be sure to watch your email

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? If so, be sure to use the MVMA Online Job Board through our website 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](mailto:bemter@montana.com). Please note that relief services, practice sales or equipment sales notices are still posted through the MVMA office. Those submissions should be emailed to [bemter@montana.com](mailto:bemter@montana.com).



### **Future MVMA Meetings... Mark your calendars!**

**2024 MVMA Winter Meeting** – January 25-27, GranTree Inn – Bozeman

**2024 MVMA Summer Meeting** – June 27-29, Heritage Inn – Great Falls

## **PIMA Medical Institute in Dillon ceasing veterinary programs**

Pima Medical Institute in December announced the decision to close down the Dillon campus and the associated Veterinary Assistant and Veterinary Technician programs in 2024. In the announcement, they said the remote location and continued low enrollments made it difficult to maintain campus operations.

The final class to enroll for the Veterinary Assistant program was November 23, 2022 with an expected graduation of July 3, 2023. All students currently active and attending classes will continue with the program as scheduled; however, students who fail one or more courses may not be able to retake the course(s) and complete the program.

The final class to enroll for the Veterinary Technician

program will be May 3, 2023, with an expected graduation of April 9, 2024.

The Veterinary Technician program is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) and graduates of an AVMA CVTEA accredited program are eligible to apply for the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE).

"We have enjoyed serving the community and providing students with the education they need to work in the field of Veterinary Medicine," Trisha Stone, CVT, campus director, wrote in the announcement.

Questions should be directed to Trisha at [tstone@pmi.edu](mailto:tstone@pmi.edu), or (406) 988-0888.

# MVMA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Stuart Doggett, MVMA Executive Director



*For a full list of bills MVMA has tracked throughout the 68th Legislative Session, check out the MVMA Bill Tracker at [mtvma.org](https://mtvma.org) and click on the "Legislative" tab (you will need member login information).*

At press time, Montana's 68th Legislative Session was near completion, with MVMA well-represented and members engaged in the legislative process on your behalf.

Throughout the session, MVMA has actively tracked nearly 40 bills that could either directly or indirectly affect the veterinary industry in Montana. There were another 42 bill drafts on MVMA's radar that, in the end, were not introduced. For a full report of bills MVMA has been working on and the position taken on each bill please check out the MVMA Bill Tracking List, which is linked at [mtvma.org](https://mtvma.org) under the "Legislative" tab.

## **Key bills worked on by MVMA:**

### House

**HB 84, A bill from the Dept. of Livestock to revise laws related to treatment of garbage fed to swine. MVMA supported this bill** in both the House and Senate Hearings as drafted. The bill passed both chambers of the legislature and was signed into law. It goes into effect on October 1, 2023.

**HB 87, Standardize licensing board organization including the Board of Veterinary Medicine. MVMA opposed this bill** as introduced as it calls for reducing the size of Board of Veterinary Medicine from 7 to 5 members. MVMA successfully requested this provision be amended to keep the Board of Veterinary Medicine at 7 members. With the amendment, MVMA withdrew its opposition to the measure. The bill has passed the House as amended and with a few days to go in the session it appears it will pass the Senate and be signed into law. Provided this happens the bill will go into effect on July 1, 2023.

**HB 152: Revise laws related to professional and occupational licensure. MVMA opposed this bill and asked for amendments** in various areas, including

changes called for in Section 124 that made modifications to the Veterinary Technician Licensure bill passed in 2021. Many other professional organizations and statewide trade associations opposed the bill in the House and as a result it was reduced from approximately 234 pages to 5 pages then sent to the Senate. At the end of the session the Senate Business Committee was working with the administration to restore some of the bill to its original form as it was part of their "Red Tape Reduction Packet." Provided the bill is passed it will go into effect on October 1, 2023.

### Senate

**SB 504, Revise Veterinary Laws to Allow Shelters to Care for Stray Animals.** MVMA supported and offered to continue working on the language of this bill when it was heard in the Senate since it was the day before the midway transmittal deadline. After learning more about the bill the **MVMA Legislative Committee felt the bill was unnecessary and opposed the measure in the House Business Committee, where it was ultimately killed.** Supporters of the bill suggested it was needed to clarify shelters may give vaccinations with the exception of rabies. MVMA learned this concern had been discussed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine and their legal staff on April 14, 2022. Specifically, the legal counsel explained that shelters fall under the exempt language in 37-18-104(4)-**own farm animals and they can continue to provide vaccinations. As a result, the MVMA Legislative Committee decided to oppose the bill as seeking an unnecessary change to the Practice Act.**

*Legislative Update  
continued on page 10*



## IN MEMORIAM

# REX ANDERSON, DVM



Dr. Rex Richard Anderson (65) of Absarokee MT passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on December 12, 2022.

Born in Glenview, IL

on September 14, 1957, Rex was beloved son to Jean and Andy and impish big brother to Lisa and Susan. He was preceded in death by Jean, Andy, Letha Perry, and Lisa.

Rex is survived by Susan Anderson and her husband Casey Greenwood (Depoe Bay, OR). He had a special connection with Kathy Beattie (Denver) and a brief marriage to Monica Ravenheart (Livingston area).

Rex was an extraordinary man. Veterinarian, pilot, motorcycle and BBQ enthusiast, and multi-business owner. He committed his life to Veterinary medicine.

Rex derived great joy from serving his community and any organization he was part of. He enjoyed a deep appreciation for music, seizing any opportunity to attend events or pass instruments out to guest enjoying his warm hospitality.

Rex was in his element when friends gathered at his home, while he cooked for them. He was happiest while flying his plane and experiencing the peace and freedom he felt while flying. Raise a glass to the man! We will forever miss him.

Dr. Rex was a guiding presence in the AVMA House of Delegates for nearly two decades. He was elected as Montana's alternate delegate to the AVMA HOD in 2004 and was soon elevated to

delegate. He remained in that position until 2018, when he again became Montana's alternate delegate. In August 2021, Dr. Anderson was elected to a yearlong term as chair of the House Advisory Committee, making him an invited participant at meetings of the AVMA Board of Directors.

Dr. Anderson was known for his humility, honesty, and passion for organized veterinary medicine. He was quoted in the winter 2022 edition of the MVMA Newsletter as saying, "I really don't want to emphasize anything about myself, mostly I want to encourage participation."

Asked what guidance he would offer young veterinarians regarding involvement in the AVMA and Montana VMA, Dr. Anderson responded: "Our profession would be a mess without the unified voice we gain through organized veterinary medicine. Taking ownership in your profession's future is reasonable, important and rewarding. Most of all it's necessary."

Donations can be made to the "Rex Anderson Memorial Fund" at any First Interstate Bank. There is also a memorial fund in memory of Rex at the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, [avmf.org](http://avmf.org).



“

*Our profession would be a mess without the unified voice we gain through organized veterinary medicine. Taking ownership in your profession's future is reasonable, important and rewarding. Most of all it's necessary.*

Rex Anderson, DVM

”

# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK UPDATE

## DOL ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU

### Dr. Marty Zaluski

State Veterinarian  
(406) 444-0782

### Dr. Brad DeGroot

Brucellosis Program Veterinarian  
(406) 444-3374

### Dr. Merry Michalski

Program Veterinarian  
(406) 444-2939

### Britta Sekora

Compliance Technician  
(406) 444-2892

### Kaylee Hiel

Compliance Technician  
(406) 444-5200

### Sara Starkey

Disease Compliance Specialist  
(406) 444-1587

### Jacqueline Cima

DSA/Brucellosis Compliance Specialist  
(406) 444-3703

## SBS Plan Training

Secure Beef Supply Plan training meetings were held in early April in Dillon, Three Forks and Great Falls. An SBS Plan specific to a particular beef operation is founded on three components:

- 1) A verified physical address (USDA PIN)
- 2) Movement logs for livestock, equipment, and visitors
- 3) Biosecurity plans including drawing a line of separation, a perimeter buffer area, access points, traffic patterns and parking areas on a satellite image of the operation.

SBS Plan discussions focused on the word "Plan" – what transmission control measures can be implemented if a disease outbreak makes them necessary. An example of practical considerations raised during discussions at the meetings included methods to keep cattle on different summer ranges epidemiologically separate. Other discussions focused on how communities of ranchers who must trade work, travel common roads, and share natural water sources can apply biosecurity principles in their extensive environments.

Producers who implement SBS plans will be the first to reenter commerce in the case of a national scope disease event, while making their operations more resilient to introduction of common production diseases.

## Tuberculosis Investigation Nearly Complete

Montana's Blaine County TB investigation is nearly closed. An assurance test of two dairy cows kept for family milk consumption will be

completed this summer. While most producers elected to euthanize animals purchased from the index herd, a producer in Lewis and Clark County chose to test out.

To summarize the entire incident, a herd in Blaine County was detected when one of the cows was found with TB lesions at slaughter. Testing the index herd revealed three additional TB positive cows. The index herd was depopulated with federal indemnity. Epidemiologic investigation of contact herds and wildlife surveillance indicate no spread of bovine TB from the index herd. Testing included just over 41 herds comprised of approximately 7,823 head; 129 caudal fold suspects were tested with Gamma Interferon and those yielded four post-mortem investigations. Histopathology and culture of collected tissues indicated 0 TB reactors. Surveillance of small mammals, coyotes, and deer in a 20-mile area around the index herd did not indicate any spread to wildlife. Additional wildlife surveillance will be conducted in the fall of 2023.

The Department plans an assurance test for a Madison County herd this fall. Tuberculosis was confirmed in a cow sent from this herd to slaughter in 2021. A subsequent TB test of this herd revealed no other infected cattle and the herd was thus classified as not infected.

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

At press time, there was a Highly Pathogen Avian Influenza outbreak reported in Rosebud County, the first in Montana since January. In comparison, the USDA has confirmed infections in 39 flocks across 12 states over the last 30

days. These 39 infected flocks included over 250,000 birds. In the 13 months since the first U.S. case in domestic fowl, the USDA has confirmed infection in 809 flocks with more than 58 million birds in 47 states. Since Montana's first confirmed case in April of 2022, 16 flocks and 82,635 birds have been affected.

While flocks can become infected with HPAI through many routes of infection, waterfowl are the primary reservoir. With spring migration approaching, please advise poultry-owning clients that the most important biosecurity measure is to maintain isolation between domestic fowl and waterfowl.

#### **Brucella canis**

The MDOL-enhanced *Brucella canis* surveillance program has revealed many infections, as was expected. *B. canis* is shed most effectively by sexually intact dogs and bitches, but shedding by castrated and spayed animals has been reported. In addition to causing reduced fertility and abortions in breeding animals, *B. canis* infections produce debilitating skeletal lesions in a significant percentage of infected animals. Importantly, people can become infected with *B. canis* and experience similar health problems when exposed to infected pets.

As with other *Brucella* species, *B. canis* infections are difficult or impossible to cure even with long-term administration of antibiotics. Because *B. canis* is effectively shed in urine and other bodily fluids, biosecurity to prevent further transmission from infected animals is difficult to achieve and the MDOL recommends euthanasia of animals with confirmed infections. With rigorous surveillance and transmission control, the Department hopes to decrease *B. canis* prevalence.

#### **Assistant State Veterinarian Position Open**

DOL has a vacancy for the Assistant State Veterinarian and wants to encourage anyone with an interest in population medicine, epidemiology, public health and policy to apply. We are grateful for all of Dr. Tahnee Szymanski's contributions to animal and public health in Montana over the years of her service. Please join us in wishing her well in her new challenges and opportunities at the USDA. The Department will be hard pressed to replace her, but we are actively recruiting. Please view the position description on the State of Montana Careers website ([statecareers.mt.gov/](http://statecareers.mt.gov/)).



*We are grateful for all of Dr. Tahnee Szymanski's contributions to animal and public health in Montana over the years of her service. Please join us in wishing her well in her new challenges and opportunities at the USDA.*



## **An update from the Big Sky Veterinary Technician Association**

The BSVTA is busy at work setting up for our 2023 Continuing Education Events. We are focused on assisting our members with the transition to LVT under the Montana State Veterinary Board, and networking with other State VTAs to help improve Veterinary Technician Credentialing across the states. It is very confusing trying to keep up with what standards each state has, and we are constantly striving to improve the BSVTA to serve our members to the best of our ability. There are a few legislative bills like HB152 the BSVTA is keeping a close eye on as well.

#### **Coming CE events (Check [bigskyvettech.org](http://bigskyvettech.org) for more information):**

July 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: BSVTA in conjunction with the American Association of Equine Veterinary Technicians and Assistants

- Equine topics ranging from Equine Hospital Management, Field Anesthesia, Diagnostic Imaging (Radiology/Butterfly Ultrasound), and Equine Fear Free handling.

- Will be a mixture of lectures and wet labs.
- Attendance is open to members of the BSVTA, AAETV, and DVMs.
- Will be hosted at Hardaway Veterinary in Belgrade.

#### **Events to keep an eye out for:**

- Small Animal CE in October 2023 covering small animal toxicology.
- Equine Dentistry for Veterinary Technicians: Speaker Dr. Jan Winderl. This will be hosted at Meadow Creek Veterinary Clinic in McAllister, MT. It will be a mix of lecture and wet labs, and will be held in late summer or early fall of 2023.

Information will be posted on [bigskyvettech.org](http://bigskyvettech.org) and the BSVTA's Facebook page.

Thank you all for everything you do in the Veterinary Community!

**Eli Olind, LVT  
BSVTA President  
AAEVT Regional Contact**

# MONTANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE UPDATE

## MT Board of Veterinary Medicine Members

**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

### Board member updates

The Board said goodbye to Dr. Barbra Calm in the Fall of 2022 and welcomed our newest board members Dr. Greg Carlson and Ms. Marcia Cantrell.

Dr. Greg Carlson of Lewistown MT was appointed to the board September of 2022. Dr. Carlson brings a wide array of veterinary expertise and represents the rural area of Central MT. We are excited for his perspective and contribution on the board.

Ms. Marcia Cantrell of Livingston MT was appointed to the board effective January 3, 2023. Marcia will be the new Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) representative implemented by SB 106. Marcia was an active committee member for the LVT license type, holding a vital role in the committee's work. Marcia has done an excellent job representing technicians in MT and we look forward to her continued contributions on the board.

Annual elections of the board members are required by Statute- at the full board meeting in September 2022, the Board conducted their annual elections. Dr. Nelson has effectively stepped into her role leading the Board. Department staff greatly appreciate the leadership of all our Vet board members.

- Dr. Tia Nelson-Board President
- Dr. Katie Rein -Board Vice President
- Dr. Jeanne Rankin-Board Secretary

### Licensed Veterinary Technician implementation

The Board received 175 applications as of 3/27/23; department staff continue to work with applicants to issue licensure. To qualify for the LVT license an individual must meet the LVT rule requirements. For the LVT online application and other resources, please visit the Board's website at [boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/veterinary-medicine](https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/veterinary-medicine).

*Since the implementation of the LVT licensure, the department has seen an influx of compliance concerns regarding the advertising and/or calling oneself an "LVT" when not licensed with the board.*

As a caution for those working in the veterinary field, Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 37-18-701(4) states:

*(Effective January 1, 2023) License required for veterinary technicians -- requirements -- license renewal -- use of initials or terms. (1) (a) An individual seeking to practice as a veterinary technician in this state must be licensed as a veterinary technician by the board*

*(2) To be eligible for licensure as a veterinary technician, an applicant:*

- (a) Shall file an application on a form furnished by the department and pay fees as prescribed by rule;*
- (b) must meet the requirements of subsection (3); and*
- (c) must meet additional requirements set by the board by rule.*

*(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection*



(3)(b), an applicant must be a graduate of a program accredited by the American veterinary medical association as determined by board rule and pass an examination as prescribed by the board.

(b) An applicant who does not meet the qualifications required in subsection (3)(a) shall:

(i) obtain a minimum of 4,500 hours of experience equivalent to that of a licensed veterinary technician; and

(ii) pass an examination as prescribed by the board.

(4) Subject to review by the board, a person who does not hold an active license as a veterinary technician may not state or imply orally, in writing, or in print that the person is a "licensed veterinary technician" or use the initials "LVT."

### 2023 Legislation

Department staff have been monitoring the 2023 legislative happenings on behalf of the Board.

**HB 87- Standardize licensing board organization-** Section 17. Section 2-15-1742.

**HB 115- Consolidating and clarifying penalties for unlicensed practice-** page 9/11- New Section. Section 10. Reapler. 37-18-50, 37-18-502, 37-18-703.**HB 152- Revise laws related to professional and occupational licensure** - Bill passed as amended.

**SB 504- Generally revise veterinary laws.** Bill tabled in House Business & Labor Committee (likely dead).

### Upcoming Full Board Meetings

May 23, 2023: 8:30 am start time; in-person meeting in Helena

Board meetings are open to the public and any licensee or member of the public. If you wish to be added to the board's interested parties list to receive updates on proposed rulemaking and upcoming board meeting agendas just e-mail your request to [dlibsdrv@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdrv@mt.gov).

## 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.

## A Word from Marcia Cantrell, LVT member on the Board of Veterinary Medicine

As most of you know, the 2021 legislative session passed SB106 to create a license for Veterinary Technicians, define a scope of practice for Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVT), as well as place a LVT on the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine. This law took effect 1/1/2023.

I am honored to be chosen as the first Veterinary Technician to sit on the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine. It has been a very long journey, beginning around 2014. I have been attending the Board meetings for the last 8 years and have a great deal of respect for the board, its members, and its role in the veterinary community. The board consists of five veterinarians, one member of the public, and as of January 3, 2023,

one Licensed Veterinary Technician.

I was confirmed to the position on Jan 31 during a Senate Ag committee hearing, along with two Veterinarian members. My first official board meeting will be in May and I am happy to say that it will be an "in person" meeting! My appointment will last for 5 years. I am excited and slightly terrified to serve!



**Marcia Cantrell, LVT**

## Donations being accepted for the MVMA WIMU

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

*The MVMA is pleased to announce it is once again accepting applications for 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 (join today at [mtvma.org/join](https://mtvma.org/join)).*

*For more details and an application, visit [mtvma.org/scholarships](https://mtvma.org/scholarships).*

### **Scholarship**

As we reported previously, a generous, anonymous donor has graciously made a commitment to match – dollar for dollar – MVMA’s commitment of \$12,500 over two years to create a \$25,000 MVMA endowed scholarship. Beginning in 2024, the *Montana Veterinary Medical Association WIMU Scholarship*, a \$1,000 scholarship (or approximately 4% of the total endowment) will be awarded in perpetuity.

The scholarship may grow through additional earnings and gifts as well, .

You can support the MVMA WIMU Scholarship and help benefit more students.

#### **Giving online:**

- Navigate to [msuaf.org](https://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: P.O. 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](mailto:austin.oneill@msuaf.org).

***Thank you for your support of MSU WIMU Students!***

## **Legislative Update (continued from page 4)**

**SB 561, Create veterinary retail facility permits.** This bill was pursued by Eastern Montana 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. **MVMA opposed this bill in the Senate and House as introduced** and suggested it was not needed and explained other options are available for producers to secure these medications such as new efficient and easily accessible on-line services. Additionally, MVMA opposed the bill as introduced and asked for amendments to license the veterinary tech retail person under that Board of Veterinary Medicine and not the Board of Pharmacy. This amendment was adopted and passed by the House and later the Senate. Provided the Governor signs the bill it will go into effect on, July 1, 2023.

**SR 26, Confirm Governor Appointments to Board of Veterinary Medicine.** MVMA supported this resolution before the Senate Ag Committee to confirm the

Governor’s three appointments to the Board of Veterinary Medicine. These included the following MVMA members and allies: Dr. Greg Carlson, Dr. Jeanne Rankin, and Marcia Cantrell as the new Veterinary Technician representative. This resolution has passed the Senate and the three individuals are officially confirmed.

A sincere thank you to the MVMA Legislative Committee and Board of Directors, who have contacted legislators when needed and testified at hearings on critical legislation. This engagement has been a critical part of the process and ensuring MVMA members’ interests are protected.

Watch your email in the coming weeks for a full summary of the Legislative Session when it adjourns in early May. And don’t miss the MVMA Summer Meeting in June to hear a complete recap of the Session and details on legislation affecting our industry.



**Thank you, 2023 Summer Meeting Sponsors!**

**AmerisourceBergen**  
MWI Animal Health®



**Boehringer  
Ingelheim**



**Montana Veterinary Medical Association**

# 2023 Summer Meeting & Trade Show

**JUNE 22-24**

**HILTON GARDEN INN**

**MISSOULA, MT**

## ▪ Meeting Information ▪

**\* 16 Continuing Education Credits**

**Plus 4 additional CE through the Honey Bee Lab \***

**\* Trade Show Featuring Allied Business Partners \***

### **Pre-Registration—by June 1**

- MVMA Members—\$355
- Non-MVMA Members—\$485
- Technicians/Office Staff—\$180
- Honey Bee Lab—\$75

### **After June 1 or On-Site Registration**

- MVMA Members—\$395
- Non-MVMA Members—\$525
- Technicians/Office Staff—\$220

### **Free for CVM 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 at [mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org).
- Mail: Complete the registration form on the back page 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.

**Questions?** Check out [mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org) or contact Beth at the

## ▪ Rabies Vaccine Clinic ▪

The Missoula City-County Health Department will be conducting a rabies vaccine clinic during the meeting. Pre-registration is required to ensure adequate doses are available, and is part of meeting registration.

- Learn more about current CDC rabies vaccine guidelines for veterinarians, technicians and support staff in the article on page 26.
- Your vaccine may be covered by your health insurance. MCCHD will provide the necessary paperwork for those wishing to submit a claim to insurance for potential reimbursement.

## ▪ Room Reservations ▪

The room block at the Hilton Garden Inn is sold out; however, rooms may still be available at a higher rate. To reserve call (406) 532-5300.

A block of MVMA rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Grant Creek Inn in Missoula.

- \$289/night plus taxes
- Discounted rates will be available through June 12 or until sold out. Only king rooms are available.
- To reserve call the hotel at 406/543-0700 and request the MVMA room block. To book online click [here](#).

***Please note that the Summer Meeting coincides with one of Missoula's busiest times of the year, the Missoula Marathon, so we encourage you to make lodging reservations early.***

*Continued next page*

## THURSDAY, JUNE 22

1–5 pm **Honey Bee Lab** **4.0 CE**

**Beth Blevins, DVM, All Creatures Mobile Clinic**

**Kristen Clark, MPH, DACVPM, CCRT, Hobbyist Beekeeper**

**Sargent Chuck Lewis, Plan Bee**

**Bee Safe: Working with Honeybees**

Hive handling basics that will keep you, the bees, and the beekeeper(s) safe and happy! Topics will include but not be limited to:

- Basic equipment overview
- How to work with bees
- Handling frames and supers
- Basic hive examination
- Signs of a healthy colony
- Signs of colony abnormalities
- Basic diagnostic sampling and treatment overview (including VFDs)

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

6:30 pm **Steak Fry**

Fort Missoula Regional Park

Hosted by

**AmerisourceBergen**  
MWI Animal Health™



**Boehringer  
Ingelheim**

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23

6:30–8 am Registration

7–8 am Breakfast Buffet

## 8 AM—NOON

**Small Animal Session** **4.0 CE**

**Kristen Clark, DVM, MPH, DACVPM**

**Iowa Public Health Veterinarian/ Hobbyist Beekeeper**

**Part I: Honey Bee Basics.** This session will cover an overview of the significance of honey bees, why veterinarians are involved with their care, terminology, equipment, and the basics of hive inspections.

**Part II: Honey Bee Maladies and How Veterinarians Can Help.** This session will cover bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic diseases of honey bees and other management challenges faced by beekeepers and honey bees. It will also review the potential roles of veterinarians in honey bee medicine as well as resources where veterinarians can learn more.

**Leptospirosis Through a One Health Lens.** This session will provide an update on the current knowledge of leptospirosis and its impact on human and animal health. Information will be framed through a One Health lens with a look at human, animal, and environmental interactions and their impact on the

transmission, prevalence, and presentation of leptospirosis infection.

**Large Animal Session** **4.0 CE**

**Andrew Allen, DVM PhD DACVIM-LAIM**

**Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Sciences -**

**Washington State University**

- Pain management in ag animals
- Preconditioning Calves (how do we get this done?)
- Johnne's Disease in beef cattle
- Heat stress in feedlot cattle
- Assorted cases from the Field Disease Investigation Unit at Washington State University

## NOON—1:30 PM

**Trade Show Opening/Lunch Buffet**

Enjoy a lunch buffet and take time to visit our allied industry partners who generously support MVMA.

## Rabies Vaccine Clinic

The Missoula City/County Health Department will be conducting a rabies vaccine clinic in conjunction with the meeting. Pre-registration is required (see registration form for details).

## 1:30—5:30 PM

**Mixed Animal Session** **4.0 CE**

**Garrett Ryerson, DVM**

**Small Animal Veterinarian-Banfield Pet Hospital**

**Instructor-Montana State University**

**Katie Reese, DVM**

**Small Animal Veterinarian-Banfield Pet Hospital**

**Compassionomics in Veterinary Medicine.** The sacred relationship between client and veterinarian is truly the bedrock of veterinary medicine. While long considered a given factor in patient care, the strain of providing for an increasingly large number of pets with a dissipating workforce has pushed the relational component of medicine to the margins. In this presentation central tenets from current clinical research along with points from the book "Compassionomics" are discussed to provide solutions that cross disciplines into the world of veterinary medicine. Expectations between veterinarians and clients tend to shift over time, but when the lines of communication are kept open, the goals of both parties are far more likely to be complementary, not competitive. We hope to spur leaders in every practice to make their time spent with the client count; improving patient outcomes by increasing client trust and satisfaction.



# ■ ■ AGENDA ■ ■



## Small Animal Session

4.0 CE

**Jessica Bunch, DVM CCRT CVA**

**Assistant Professor/Service Lead, Integrative Veterinary Medicine— Washington State University**

**Where Does it Hurt? Pain management for musculoskeletal and neurologic conditions.** Assessing pain in small animals and a review of both pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical management options for pain associated with musculoskeletal and neurologic conditions.

**Move It or Lose It: Basics of physical rehabilitation.** Introduction and overview of veterinary physical rehabilitation including information regarding various therapeutic modalities commonly used in rehabilitation.

**A Whole New World: Newer modalities and therapies for osteoarthritis and soft tissue injuries.** A look at some of the newer therapeutic modalities and treatment options for osteoarthritis and soft tissue injuries such as shockwave, pulsed electromagnetic field therapy, and monoclonal Ab therapy.

**Assistive Devices- Beyond the cart.** An introduction to a variety of assistive devices including wheelchairs, harnesses, orthotics, and more. Will also explore considerations and indications for use as well as provide resources on various manufacturers.

**5:30—9 PM**

## Trade Show, Social, Dinner & Dancing

Unwind from an informative day by visiting with our Trade Show Exhibitors, as well as colleagues from around the state. The evening will include a social hour, dinner buffet and musical entertainment by **Tarek Isham, DVM.**

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24

6:30—8 am Registration

7— 8 am Trade Show/Breakfast Buffet

Don't miss one more opportunity to cruise the Trade Show and thank our Exhibitors for their support of MVMA!

**8 AM—NOON**

## Small Animal Session

4.0 CE

**Rance Sellon, DVM, PhD, DACVIM**

**Associate Professor, Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Sciences Washington State University**

**My patient is ill- is it from its tumor?** Tumor-bearing patients can become ill for a variety of reasons that may or may not be related to its tumor.

**Prepping a patient for an oncology referral.** There is importance/value to a tumor diagnosis, tumor grade, PARR/flow cytometry for lymphoma, routine labs, thoracic radiographs, and perhaps abdominal ultrasound—things that can be obtained by most practitioners prior to an oncology referral.

**Chemotherapy for the private practitioner/Oncology potpourri.** Chemotherapy can be available to a private practitioner. Also, an overview of electrochemotherapy and immunotherapy will be presented as well as perspectives on liquid biopsies (blood, urine).

## Large Animal Session

4.0 CE

**Debra Sellon, DVM, PhD, DACVIM**

**Professor of Equine Medicine— Washington State**

**Equine pain management** – The first hour of this presentation will focus on recognition of behavioral indicators of pain in horses and the ways that our backgrounds can influence how we assess pain in our patients. The second hour will begin with a brief overview of the pathophysiology of pain followed by discussion of analgesic medication options for horses with an emphasis on new information.

**Equine infectious diseases** – This presentation will use a journal club format to review new information on common equine bacterial and viral diseases. Recent publications will be introduced with a review of the questions being asked, the results that were reported, and how those results might impact practitioners in the field.

**NOON – 1:30 PM**

## Lunch Buffet/General Membership Meeting

**1:30 – 5:30 PM**

## Mixed Animal Session

4.0 CE

**Kerry Pride, DVM, MPH, CVA, CEVMM, DACVPM**

**Public Health Veterinarian, Montana Public Health & Safety Division**

**Merry Michalski, DVM**

**Program Veterinarian, MT Dept. of Livestock**

**Erika Schwarz, DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVM**

**Clinical Veterinary Microbiologist, MT Veterinary Diagnostic Lab— Bozeman**

**Jennifer Ramsey, DVM**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Veterinarian**

**Rabies, Brucellosis, Tularemia, Q Fever, Anthrax....Oh My!** Learn about the importance of zoonotic diseases and which ones occur in Montana. Understand the history, modern context, human and animal disease processes, treatment and prevention from a One Health approach.

## **Andrew Allen, DVM, PhD, DACVIM-LAIM**

**Associate Professor, Veterinary Medicine Extension, Washington State University**



Dr. Allen received his DVM and PhD from Washington State University. He serves as Associate Professor in the WSU Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. He is also a team member of the Field Disease Investigation Unit at WSU's Agricultural Animal Health Program within the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Allen is a Diplomate within the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) - Large Animal Internal Medicine.

## **Beth Blevins, DVM**

**All Creatures Mobile Clinic Inc.- Ronan**



Beth, was born in Cut Bank, Montana. She attended Carroll College for undergraduate, veterinary school at Colorado State University, graduating in 1986, did a large animal internship at WSU and returned to her beloved Montana in August 1987, settling in Ronan.

A local single rancher brought in a lovely buckskin mare with navicular disease and Beth married Craig Blevins about 2 years later. After an accident in February of 1993 involving twin calves needing extraction, thick fog and a logging truck, Beth taught science and math at a local Christian school, wrote some chapters for a Christian Veterinary Mission book, had a baby girl and started her own, mainly mobile, practice in November of 1994. A son was born to the couple 3 ½ years later and life became complete. The mainly mobile practice tending to horses and cattle, with a few goats, sheep and pigs thrown in for diversity, in the beautiful Mission Valley, along with the couple's Rafter E Angus purebred Angus herd keeps them busy and lets Craig be boss at home on the ranch, while Beth is boss to her veterinary technician/husband on the road. Beth has been active in MVMA for many year, most recently serving as president from 2019 to 2020.

## **Jessica Bunch, DVM, CCRT, CVA, RACVSMR**

**Assistant Professor, Washington State University**



**Service Lead, Integrative Veterinary Medicine Service**

Dr. Jessica Bunch is an Associate Professor at Washington State University and service lead for the Integrative Veterinary Medicine Service. After graduating from WSU's

College of Veterinary Medicine in 2002, she worked in private practice for 14 years, first in mixed animal then small animal

practice primarily in western Washington. She became certified in canine rehabilitation in 2013, acupuncture in 2017, has received additional training in Chinese herbal medicine and is currently pursuing an alternative track residency in canine sports medicine and rehabilitation. In 2016, Dr. Bunch developed the Integrative Veterinary Medicine service at Washington State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital offering physical rehabilitation, acupuncture, pain management, and herbal therapy options for patients as well as a clinical rotation and elective course for veterinary students. She has served as the University Liaison, President and Past-President for the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians.

## **Kristen Clark, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CCRT**



**President, Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium-Madrid, IA**

Dr. Kristen Clark is a public health veterinarian dedicated to the promotion and protection of human, animal, and environmental health. She holds her BS in Zoology and DVM from Iowa State University, her MPH from the University of Minnesota, and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. In addition to working in private practice, she previously served as an epidemiologist and coordinator for food and feed emergencies for the Iowa Department of Public Health. In 2015, Dr. Clark began her employment as a public health veterinarian with Iowa State University and has held several roles in education, outreach, and administration. In 2021, she began serving in her current role as Iowa State's inaugural University Public Health Coordinator where she oversees campus public health operations for all faculty, staff, and students. She currently serves as President-Elect and Public Health Committee Chair for the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association and represents the American Association of Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians to the AVMA House of Delegates.

As a hobbyist beekeeper since 2015, she enjoys combining her passion for honey bees with her professional role as a veterinarian. She has contributed to multiple publications about honey bee medicine and currently serves as the President of the Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium, which she would encourage all of you to join! (Shameless plug!) She enjoys sharing her passion for honey bee medicine with a variety of audiences through public speaking engagements around the country. She lives just outside of Ames, Iowa, with her son and their fibered, feathered, furry, and buzzing menagerie better known as the Happy Bottom Homestead.

# ■ ■ SPEAKERS ■ ■



## Tarek Isham, DVM

### Small Animal Veterinarian/Musician—Clyde Park



Doc Tari is a one-man band, formed under the influence of New Orleans busking acts. Driving out feel-good rhythms on foot pedal drums, guitar and harmonica, Doc Tari sings songs that trace the roots of American music back through the annals of country, blues, gospel and folk music. His set includes new arrangements of both rare and well-known gems of American music as well as original songs, drawing on experiences gained while living across the country, from New Orleans to Montana, New York to California. He lives on his family's ranch in Clyde Park, Montana, where he is a mixed-animal veterinarian, working to bring care to populations of under-served horses and donkeys.

## Chuck Lewis, Sargent and Retired Veteran, USMC, USNR

### Plan Bee- Ronan

Sargent Chuck Lewis, aka the "Montana Honor Guard (MHG)," is a United States Marine Corps (USMC) and United States Navy Reserve (USNR) Veteran. After serving in the Marine Corps, he received a degree in Electronics Technology and went to work for the Department of Defense at the Naval Air Warfare Center in California for 27 years. He is, indeed, a "Rocket Scientist." He and his wife, Linda, raised six children in the desert community and, after retiring in 2001, relocated to Ronan, Montana.



After being inspired during a funeral, Chuck volunteered to join the Veteran's Honor Guard of Polson and that led to the creation of the "Montana Honor Guard" and "Standing for the Fallen – Montana," entities used to educate the general public, recruit Honor Guard members and raise funds for programs that support wounded and disable military Veterans.

Building on that effort, Chuck then started a program called "Plan Bee" after he completed Plan A, a 3,500 mile walk across the US – [www.WalkingForTheFallen.com](http://www.WalkingForTheFallen.com) – to bring attention to the high suicide rate among his military brothers and sisters. Plan Bee uses beekeeping to help military veterans living in Northwestern Montana who may be disabled, wounded, or suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. At the end of the program, these Veterans take their education, hives and colony of bees home at no cost. He has maintained honeybees for the past 17 years and runs about a dozen hives, which he considers his own personal therapy.

## Merry Michalski, DVM

### Program Veterinarian, MT Dept. of Livestock- Helena



Dr. Merry Michalski joined the MT Department of Livestock Animal Health Bureau in September 2022. She is the new Emergency Preparedness Veterinarian and oversees programs for *Brucella canis*, Rabies, Secure Food Supply, and National Poultry Improvement Plan.

Dr. Michalski grew up in Colorado and attended Regis University in Denver where she received a bachelor's degree in biology. She earned her DVM from Colorado State University in 2013 and spent her first 8 years in small animal private practice where she excelled in surgery and emergency medicine. She is excited for her transition from private practice to regulatory medicine where she can contribute to the study of zoonotic diseases and to emergency response for diseases of livestock.

Merry and her husband, Allen, have called Helena home for 8 years. Allen is from Anaconda, MT and works as a dentist in Helena. Outside of work you will find them hiking, mountain biking, trail running, backcountry split-boarding, or hunting. When they are not on the trails, they are either out golfing, testing out new recipes at their home-brewery, or watching college football.

## Kerry Pride, DVM, MPH, CVA, CEVMM, DACVPM

### Public Health Veterinarian,

### Montana Public Health & Safety Division- Helena

Dr. Kerry Pride has been working for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services since 2015. She provides veterinary public health expertise on zoonotic diseases and provides support to local and tribal health departments. Dr. Pride grew up in rural Montana where her family ranched, raised racehorses, and outfitted in the Greater Yellowstone Area. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Louisiana State University, and her Masters of Public Health from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Kerry practiced mixed animal medicine for 10 years in Alaska and Montana. She then made the transition to public health after being accepted into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellowship, which she completed at the Wyoming Department of Health. She also completed the CDC's Preventive Medicine Fellowship at the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, during which she became board certified in veterinary preventive medicine. Dr. Pride continues to practice veterinary medicine,



*Speakers continued next page*



*Continued from previous page*

but her practice is focused on acupuncture and spinal manipulation. Kerry lives in Twin Bridges where she enjoys training and running barrel horses and riding in the mountains.

## **Jennifer Ramsey DVM, MPVM**

### **Wildlife Veterinarian, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Dr. Jennifer Ramsey is a 1999 graduate of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Following graduation Jennifer worked for six years as an associate veterinarian in mixed animal practice where her work focused heavily on preventive herd health and emergency medicine of livestock. She received her Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine in Wildlife and Ecosystem Health from the University of California at Davis in 2007, while also working at the California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Investigations Lab. Dr. Ramsey began working for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in the fall of 2008. Her primary roles with MFWP include leading the agency's Wildlife Health Program and Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization Program.



## **Katie J. Reese, DVM**

### **Small Animal Veterinarian, Banfield Pet Hospital- Bozeman**

Dr. Reese received her DVM from Washington State University. She has been practicing for 24 years, first with exotics, then in critical care, and now with companion animals.

## **Garrett J. Ryerson, DVM**

### **Small Animal Veterinarian, Banfield Pet Hospital- Bozeman**



### **Teaching Professor, Montana State University**

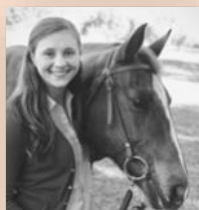
Garrett Ryerson is a veterinarian from Bozeman MT, and a graduate of WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Currently, he splits his time between practicing small animal medicine and serving as an instructor at Montana State University. He is invested in the development of the veterinary profession

through organized veterinary medicine and currently serves on the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference Planning Committee. Outside of veterinary medicine, Garrett is a passionate outdoorsman, and loves spending time backpacking, skiing, and competing in the occasional marathon.

## **Erika Schwarz, DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVM**

### **Clinical Veterinary Microbiologist, Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory-Bozeman**

Dr. Schwarz is a Clinical Veterinary Microbiologist at the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Bozeman, Montana.



As Microbiology Section Head, she provides diagnostic technical expertise, veterinary consultation, and oversees daily operations and clinical testing in the Bacteriology, Virology, Molecular Diagnostics, and Serology sections. Erika received her Bachelor of Science, Master of Public Health, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Florida. She is also board certified by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. As a classically trained virologist, she has an extensive background working with a wide variety of human and animal pathogens. Her professional interests include infectious diseases at the human-domestic animal-wildlife interface, diagnostic techniques for high-consequence pathogens, translational medicine, and One Health.

## **Debra Sellon, DVM, PhD, DACVIM**

### **Professor- Equine Medicine, Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Sciences Washington State University**

Dr. Sellon received her DVM from Louisiana State University followed by a large animal rotating internship at Texas A&M University. She then spent 2 years in private practice working on a large Standardbred breeding farm in central Kentucky. She left practice to pursue a large animal internal medicine residency training program at North Carolina State University followed by PhD training at the same institution. Her doctoral research focused on pathogenesis of equine infectious anemia virus. Dr. Sellon joined the faculty at Washington State University in 1997 where she is currently a Professor of Equine Medicine. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the author of numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts, abstracts, and book chapters related to equine medicine. She has co-edited 5 textbooks including 3 editions of *Equine Internal Medicine* and 2 editions of *Equine Infectious Diseases*.



## **Rance Sellon, DVM, PhD, DACVIM**

### **Associate Professor, Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Sciences Washington State University**

Dr. Sellon received his DVM from Texas A&M University in 1987. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and is Board Certified in the specialties of Small Animal Internal Medicine and Oncology. Dr. Sellon has been a faculty member at Washington State University since August 1997 with an active clinical presence in medicine and oncology services.





# ■ ■ IMPORTANT INFO ■ ■



**Special thanks to Dr. Nancy Belk,  
MVMA president, chair of the  
2023 MVMA Summer Meeting.**

**We appreciate all of the time and expertise  
she has put into planning this meeting!**



## **Trade Show Featuring MVMA Allied Partners**

Learn more about all our Allied Partners have to offer during the MVMA Summer Meeting Trade Show. The Trade Show will be open from Friday at noon through Saturday morning. Highlights include:

**Friday, Noon—1:30 PM**

### **Trade Show Opening/Lunch Buffet**

Take a break from meetings and enjoy lunch while visiting with the Trade Show Exhibitors. The Trade Show will continue to be open throughout the afternoon sessions.

**Friday, 5:30—9 PM**

### **Trade Show, Social, Dinner & Dancing**

After a day of meetings, socialize with Exhibitors throughout the evening's social hour, dinner and musical entertainment.

**Saturday, 7– 8 am**

### **Trade Show/Breakfast Buffet**

Don't miss one more opportunity to cruise the Trade Show and thank our Exhibitors for their support of MVMA!

## **MVMA Contacts** **2022-23 Executive Committee**

President	Nancy Belk, DVM Winnett	President Elect	Scott Damby, DVM Lewistown
Vice President	Linda Kauffman, DVM Stevensville	Secretary/ Treasurer	Barr Gustafson, DVM Browning
Director	Julie Oghigian, DVM, CVA Bozeman	Director	Alan Goldhahn, DVM Bozeman
Past President	Cara Voss, DVM Glendive	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
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**Montana Veterinary Medical Association**  
**2023 Summer Meeting Registration**  
**Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, MT – June 22-24**

**Registration Available Online!** Save postage and time—pay with a credit card at [www.mtvma.org](http://www.mtvma.org).

**Please Print**

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

**Clinic** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Provide only if it is used for your mailing address*

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Two Day Rate (Friday & Saturday) – includes registration packet and all meals**

Total of 16 CE Hours	Through June 1	After June 1	Your Fee (includes meals)
MVMA or VMA Member of Other State (not practicing in Montana)	\$355	\$395	
Non VMA Member	\$485	\$525	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager	\$180	\$220	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> Student <b>No CE Awarded</b>	free	free	

**One Day Rate – includes registration packet and all meals for one day**

Friday: 8 CE Hours	Saturday: 8 CE Hours	Through June 1	After June 1	Your Fee (includes meals)
MVMA or VMA Member of Other State	Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$290	\$330	
Non VMA Member	Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$420	\$460	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager	Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$150	\$190	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> Student <b>No CE Awarded</b>	Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	free	free	Free (select meals below)

**Honey Bee Lab (4 CE), Thurs., June 22, 1:00-5:00 pm**

\$75

**Rabies Vaccine Clinic, Fri., June 23, Noon-1:30 pm**  
*(MVMA will follow-up for additional information.)*

Imovax Vaccine: \$418  
Rabies Titer: \$116

Guest/Life/Student Meals	Guest Name:	Meal Fees – Life, Students, Guests ONLY
Both Days – all meals		\$180
One Day Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	Friday only	\$110
	Saturday only	\$75
Thursday Evening Steak Fry		No charge
Friday Trade Show Social/Dinner/Dance <b>ONLY</b>		\$45

**Please let us know if you and/or your guest have any dietary restrictions:**

**Total Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lodging:** A block of MVMA rooms has been reserved at Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula at the rate of \$139/night plus taxes. The discounted rate will be honored until sold out or June 7. Find the online booking link at [www.mtvma.org](http://www.mtvma.org), or book by calling the hotel directly at 406-532-5300 and requesting the MVMA Room Block (code MTVET).

Send Registration Form with payment to: MVMA, PO Box 6322, Helena, MT 59604  
Questions? Call or email Beth: [info@mtvma.org](mailto:info@mtvma.org) | (406) 447-4259

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# WIMU GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

## Dr. Madeline Fellin, Butte, MT—WIMU Class of 2021



**Name:** Dr. Madeline Fellin

**Hometown:** Gallatin Gateway, Montana

**Graduation Year:** 2021

**Current position/clinic:** Associate Veterinarian at VCA Amherst Animal Hospital and Veterinary Ambassador at Orvis Dogs

**Family:** Husband Wade, parents Nate & Sue Nehls

**Pets:** Two Labrador retrievers: Bodee and Hopkin; a Puggle named Lucy; and two cats: Piper and Marble.

### Why did you select the WIMU program for your veterinary studies?

Though I visited and had an interest in other well-regarded schools, the opportunity to spend my first year close to home, earn scholarships, and the affordable tuition for Montana residents enrolled in the WIMU program, made it an easy decision. In just a few short weeks of school in Bozeman I knew I had made the right decision after working with Montana's professors and gaining access to the tight network of veterinarians in Montana. The class size was initially more of a question of whether I would be maximizing peer-learning opportunities with a group of just ten but by the end of year one it was clear that the ten of us were uniquely granted the opportunity to grow and work as a team and build lifelong relationships.

### What influenced your decision to select a Montana practice as your first veterinary position?

If you can make it in Montana, you've made it. It's not easy to live here, and

getting harder with wealth from all over the world moving to the beautiful mountain west. I knew if I worked hard I could earn the opportunity to build a life where I want to be. I love working with the people of Montana and the veterinarians I interact with are fabulous. Veterinary salaries in Montana are competitive and are continually increasing. The opportunity to fly fish, ski, or hike after work and on the weekends also made Montana an easy choice.

### What advice would you give to



### current students? How about those just entering the field?

Soak in all aspects of veterinary medicine while in school. You can go in so many directions with your degree, from private practice, to research, to consulting and the WIMU program gives you a taste of each. Take advantage of the expert business advice and business classes afforded to you by the WIMU professors. After speaking with colleagues from other institutions, I feel I received a well-rounded business education, not just a medical education. For those just about to enter the field, take time to find a practice







that provides good mentorship, a fair contract, and focuses on new and advancing aspects of veterinary medicine. Your first few years of practice are full of learning and new experiences, so be sure to do your research before accepting a position.

**What is the best part about working in veterinary medicine? Biggest challenge?**

In veterinary medicine, no two days are the same and I wouldn't have it any other way. I also know I'm helping people by helping their beloved pets. I know the fear

that arises when one of my pets is hurting or sick and being able to problem solve and help those animals back to health is extremely rewarding. The biggest challenge? Well, you're entering a career full of constant learning and one that knows little-to-no downtime. Finding a balance which allows for you to prioritize your work and fulfill your obligations while caring for yourself and your family is a difficult dance starting out, but can be done.



“

*I knew if I worked hard I could earn the opportunity to build a life where I want to be. I love working with the people of Montana and the veterinarians I interact with are fabulous.*

Dr. Madeline Fellin

”

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# AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION UPDATE

## Dr. Sandy Willis, AVMA District Director, Region XI



**Sandy Willis**

DVM, DACVIM

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I am pleased to prepare for you a summary of AVMA activities in early 2023. As your AVMA Director on the AVMA Board of Directors representing District XII (states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana) I work closely with Montana AVMA House of Delegates Dr. Bill Duncan and newly appointed Dr. Duane Colmey, to bring news from the AVMA to you and more importantly, listen to your successes and concerns, bringing them back to the AVMA. I look forward to visiting with you at your Montana VMA conference this spring in Missoula. Feel free to contact me if you have any comments or questions; my contact information is listed to the left.

The AVMA Board is meeting in a few weeks to discuss strategic topics for 2023 and beyond. These include work force issues particularly topics around optimizing veterinary technician utilization, ideas around creation of new positions including something akin to a mid-level practitioner, expanding use of telehealth around the framework of the in-person-established VCPR, emerging issues needing our AVMA advocacy, and continuing to expand AVMA reach in topics of importance to members. In a constantly changing world, the AVMA is working to stay the course on our major strategic goals while being nimble to new challenges and opportunities.

Please remember we need your support and contributions to both the AVMA PAC ([www.pac.avma.org](http://www.pac.avma.org)) and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation ([www.avmf.org](http://www.avmf.org)) to help make a difference in your profession and the people and animals we serve.

**The AVMA is now at an all-time high in**

**membership** with more than 101,960 members, including members in every state and territory and more than 60 countries. This is truly a milestone in AVMA history. We are immensely grateful for the support and commitment of our members, and we are honored to serve the profession in all that we do, from policy, resources, tools, and continuing education to important advocacy work, insurance plans, and so much more

At the Veterinary Leadership Conference in January 2023, Drs. Sandra Faeh Butler, Arnie Goldman, and Bob Murtaugh all announced their candidacy **for AVMA president-elect**. The election will take place in July 2023 at AVMA convention in Denver, CO.

The AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) also discussed two topics during the Veterinary Information Forum, the biannual HOD meeting where new topics chosen by the House Advisory Committee (HAC) and AVMA member input on said topics are debated and discussed. The winter'sss topics were: **The Impact of Workplace Culture on Wellbeing and Retention, and The Veterinary Healthcare Team - Is there a need for a Mid-Level Position?** The AVMA members received over 100 pages of comments on each topic. HOD delegates identified that there are many relevant AVMA resources available and stresses the need to make sure that members are aware of what is available and how to make use of them. HOD members discussed the mid-level practitioner position but reaffirmed at this time the importance of optimizing the role of veterinary technicians in the practice.

The HOD also reviewed the following policies as part of the standard 5-year

review of AVMA's policies. All AVMA policies are available at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org). Policies debated and approved include **Inherited Disorders in Responsible Breeding of Companion Animals, Therapeutic Medications in Competition Equids, Unregulated Horse Racing, Bovine Disbudding and Dehorning and Bovine Castration, Harmonized Approach to Voluntary and Regulated Aquatic Animal Health Programs, Veterinary Compounding, The Importance of Veterinarians in Food Safety and Dog Bite Prevention** that adds a

Registration is open for the **2023 AVMA Convention**, which will take place July 14-18 in Denver. Keynote speaker Mariana Atencio, will speak on "Reaching New Heights." Her book, "Perfectly You," is an Amazon bestseller, and her highly popular 2017 TEDx talk called "What Makes You Special?" is available on UTube. To register and for more information, please visit [www.avmaconvention.org](http://www.avmaconvention.org).

A variety of factors are affecting our **veterinary workforce**, including remnants of the impacts of COVID-19, more veterinarians opting for relief work or to work fewer hours as they seek to improve work/life balance, increased demand for high-value veterinary services, growth in veterinary practice size and number, and private and/or public practice shortages in some rural areas.

Exacerbating these challenges are the recognized shortage of veterinary technicians and high turnover of practice staff generally, making it all the more critical that we fully utilize, support, and properly remunerate these employees who are so key to our success. Actions have been proposed in response to concerns about suggested gaps in the workforce such as increasing the supply of veterinarians by expanding class sizes and a new type of paraprofessional, a mid-level position, who would operate between a credentialed veterinary technician and a veterinarian.

Any major adjustments to the profession's workforce should be strategic, not reactionary, so that the solutions we choose to implement will protect, promote, and advance the profession now—and into the future.

A key feature of the 2023 research agenda is Phase 2 of the **Wellbeing and Burnout Study**, conducted in collaboration with Cornell University, and made possible through research support funding from Zoetis.

The AVMA workforce roundtable project commenced in the fourth quarter of 2022 and is continuing in 2023. To date, the AVMA has conducted five roundtables involving 20 organizations and 25 key individuals from across the diversity of the veterinary profession.

The importance of retention within the profession was a key feature of these conversations, especially for areas of veterinary professional life that typically have a single point of entry early in a veterinarian's career—principally specialty, equine, and food animal practice. Other key 2023 workforce initiatives relate to: Leveraging the veterinary team, particularly credentialed veterinary technicians, focusing on system and process efficiency, leveraging technology and Providing tools to support client communication and relationship building through the Language of Veterinary Care Project and the Reputation Management Toolkit.

The **AVMA Model Rabies Control Document** has been updated with new guidance and is available on the AVMA website. Among other changes, the updated document indicates for the first time that horses and other equids should be vaccinated against rabies. It also provides differentiated guidance for post-exposure management of companion animals believed to have been exposed to rabies, depending on

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*In a constantly changing world, the AVMA is working to stay the course on our major strategic goals while being nimble to new challenges and opportunities.*

Dr. Sandy Willis

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*AVMA Update continued on page 24*



## AVMA Axon

AVMA Axon provides veterinarians and veterinary professionals free and reduced-price access to on-demand webinars and live broadcasts. There are recently added courses on **Compounding: Understanding FDA final guidance #256, Disaster response and relief, and Best of AVMA Convention 2022**. Certificate programs (those who complete these programs receive a certificate of completion, and, in the vast majority of cases, CE credit is also earned): Veterinary First Responder Certificate Program, Disaster Business Continuity Certificate Program, the Preventative Healthcare Certificate Program, the Workplace Wellbeing Certificate Program, and the Brave Space Certificate Program. Learn more at [axon.avma.org](http://axon.avma.org).

their rabies vaccination status. [www.avma.org/rabies](http://www.avma.org/rabies).

The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine released **GFI #256: Compounding from Bulk Drug Substances** in April 2022. An AVMA webpage ([avma.org/GFI256](http://avma.org/GFI256)) provides more information about GFI #256 and what it means for veterinarians. In addition, a webinar on AVMA Axon provides an overview of this guidance, which the FDA plans to begin enforcing through routine inspections in April 2023. Please see more at [www.avma.org/compounding](http://www.avma.org/compounding).

**“Journey for Teams”** is a sweeping new initiative to enhance **diversity, equity, and inclusion** throughout the nation's veterinary profession. It's a voluntary program that provides a shared path for everyone in our profession to deepen knowledge of DEI and advance it in our workplaces. There are resources that have been added to the JFT website [www.journeyforteam.org](http://www.journeyforteam.org), and the new 15-minute educational modules released monthly are available for use by anyone on the veterinary team.

**Educational debt** has a significant impact on the career path choice of young veterinarians. In 2022, the average educational debt for veterinary graduates who borrowed was more than \$179,000. Highlights for AVMA Advocacy: **Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program**: The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) offers educational loan repayment to enable veterinarians to serve in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-designated shortage areas in rural areas or public practice. The USDA announced 237 designated veterinary shortage areas in 47 states for 2023, and the AVMA's advocacy team is working to ensure programs like the VMLRP are properly funded for Fiscal Year 2024.

**The VMLRP Enhancement Act:** This bill would exclude VMLRP awards from gross income, thus ending the federal taxation of these awards and freeing up additional funding and allowing the program to reach more communities in need. After receiving its highest level of congressional support during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, the AVMA's advocacy team is working with lawmakers to reintroduce the legislation in the new Congress and identify the most efficient route to getting the bill passed. AVMA Axon has resources for educating veterinarians on educational debt. It also includes a **“Student Loan Repayment Options and Strategies”** webinar. The AVMA's My Veterinary Life microsite ([MyVeterinaryLife.com](http://MyVeterinaryLife.com)) has resources including: Veterinary Salary Estimator, Personal Financial Planning Tool, Videos on money management and financial wellbeing and Video modules on loan repayment strategies.

**Federal Advocacy Efforts on Xylazine:** Xylazine is an important veterinary drug that is used in almost every sector of clinical veterinary medicine. Congressional lawmakers are considering scheduling xylazine as a controlled substance by legislation. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has begun its internal process to schedule the drug. This change in status from a veterinary prescription drug to a drug scheduled under the federal Controlled Substances Act is intended to provide additional tools for law enforcement and bring stricter punishments to bear on the illicit market. The AVMA recognizes and supports efforts to curtail the public health issues related to illicit xylazine use while working to create awareness that, scheduling xylazine to help control the illicit trade will also impact the use of the drug in veterinary medicine.

Since learning of these congressional efforts, the AVMA has been working with



members of Congress, allied groups, stakeholders, and federal agencies to policymakers to facilitate their understanding that xylazine is not being diverted from veterinary channels while ensuring that veterinarians and their clients continue to have access to xylazine as rescheduling vacancies at the Food Safety and Inspection Service. Stay tuned.

**Cyberbullying:** The "AVMA Reputation Management Toolkit" offers step-by-step, comprehensive advice for coping in real time with cyberbullying incidents and social media firestorms and restoring reputational damage to the veterinarian or practice in

their aftermath. The new tools for veterinary teams are available to AVMA members and non-members alike, thanks to an educational grant by Banfield Pet Hospital. Please see [www.avma.org/REPUTATION](http://www.avma.org/REPUTATION). AVMA members who are facing an immediate cyberbullying situation also have existing access to a half-hour of free consultation and advice from crisis management experts at Bernstein Crisis Management. For more information, members can log in to <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/practice-management/reputation/cyberbullying-help-AVMA-members>.

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### **Montana AVMA House of Delegates**

Dr. Bill Duncan  
Missoula

Dr. Duane Colmey  
Livingston (alternate)

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# AVMA outlines rabies pre-exposure vaccination and titers for the veterinary team



*Veterinarians, credentialed veterinary technicians, and veterinary assistants (including non-credentialed staff working at technicians) are now considered to be in risk category 3 of 5, and are recommended to get a primary PrEP series with two doses of rabies vaccine, seven days apart, to provide protection for up to three years.*



Rabies exposure is an occupational hazard for veterinary professionals, and preventive measures are necessary to protect veterinary teams.

Pre-exposure rabies vaccination (also known as pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP) is an important part of this protection, as is a rabies antibody titer check when recommended. But protection doesn't stop there. PrEP doesn't replace good preventive practices, such as appropriate use of personal protective equipment when handling animals or lab specimens.

## PrEP benefits and administration

PrEP doesn't eliminate the need for additional treatment after rabies exposure. What it does eliminate is the need for post-exposure rabies immunoglobulin administration. It also decreases the number of post-exposure doses of vaccine needed. Rabies PrEP also may provide some protection if post-exposure rabies treatment is delayed or if rabies exposure goes unrecognized.

## Vaccination recommendations

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) develops recommendations on vaccine use for the prevention of disease—including rabies—in U.S. human populations.

In May 2022, the ACIP redefined its categories for people at risk of rabies, and revised its recommendations concerning rabies PrEP. Veterinarians, credentialed veterinary technicians, and veterinary assistants (including non-credentialed staff working at technicians) are now considered to be in risk category 3 of 5, and are recommended to get a primary PrEP series with two doses of rabies vaccine, seven days apart, to

provide protection for up to three years. In addition, either of the following also is recommended:

- A one-time rabies antibody titer check between one and three years after the primary two-dose series, then a booster if the titer is less than 0.5 IU/mL
- A single booster between three weeks and three years after the first dose in the primary series was given

Although not specifically mentioned by ACIP, the same recommendations could be presumed to apply to other members of the veterinary team who have contact with animals, as well as veterinary students.

That's it. No additional boosters or titer checks are recommended, although the recommendations are more stringent for people at elevated risk for unrecognized rabies exposures (i.e. those in risk categories 1 or 2).

Vaccination may be performed with either the human diploid cell vaccine or the purified chick embryo cell vaccine, by intramuscular administration in the deltoid area of the arm. **Failure to complete the primary two-dose PrEP series puts you at risk of incomplete protection if exposed to rabies.**

Rabies vaccines can be ordered by a physician, or you can arrange vaccination through your local or state health department. Insurance coverage varies, so ask your provider whether your policy includes coverage, either full or partial.

## Rabies antibody titer testing

The ACIP recommends that a value of 0.5 IU/mL be used as the minimum acceptable rabies antibody titer for determining whether a booster dose of rabies vaccine is needed. This value aligns

with guidance from the World Health Organization.

Series testing of rabies antibody titers every two years is no longer recommended for veterinary personnel/students and other people in risk category 3. The rationale is that such people are likely to recognize when they've been exposed to rabies, and this knowledge would automatically prompt evaluation for post-exposure treatment anyway. Plus, data indicate that an antibody titer of at least 0.5 IU/mL one year after the primary two-dose PrEP series confers long-term immunoprotection.

### **Requirements to undergo rabies PrEP and titer checks**

Veterinarians and veterinary team members aren't legally required to be vaccinated against rabies or have titers determined. As for veterinary students, most veterinary schools require pre-exposure vaccinations prior to admission or during pre-clinical coursework, and they may offer subsequent titer measurement

prior to graduation.

### **Coverage of rabies PrEP for veterinary technicians and other staff**

In general, veterinary practices are not required to pay for a rabies vaccination for veterinary staff. However, practice owners are encouraged to consult state regulations to determine their obligations and should weigh the benefits of providing the vaccination to their employees against the potential costs. The cost of post-exposure rabies prophylaxis can easily reach into the thousands and may involve workers' compensation claims. Providing pre-exposure rabies vaccination could not only protect your staff, but could reduce overall costs associated with rabies exposure. If you offer medical benefits to your staff, check with your health insurance carrier to see if this is a covered benefit.

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*For complete information on the most current CDC recommendations for pre-exposure rabies vaccines, visit [cdc.gov/rabies/prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention) and click on "Pre-exposure Prophylaxis" on the left-hand side.*

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## **MVMA offering vaccine clinic for Summer Meeting attendees**

Thanks to the Missoula City-County Health Department, MVMA will be offering a rabies vaccine clinic in conjunction with the Summer Meeting June 23 in Missoula. PrEP doses and boosters will be offered, as well as antibody titer checks. Those receiving the primary two-dose PrEP dose will need to get a second dose seven days later at their local health department or through their healthcare provider. The MCCHD can help source second doses. Services are offered at cost and include:

- Rabies Vaccine (Imovax): \$381 vaccine + \$37 administration fee = \$418/dose
- Rabies titer: \$80 lab fee + \$36 blood draw and shipping = \$116

Pre-registration is required to ensure adequate doses and staffing are available, and is part of meeting registration (see pages 11-18).



Your vaccine and/or titer check may be covered by your health insurance. MCCHD will provide the necessary paperwork for those wishing to submit a claim to insurance for potential reimbursement.



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*See pages 11-18  
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