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Protecting People, Pets and Livestock - Yesterday, Today and Always.

PRESS RELEASE

ALVMA Installs New Officers

July 8, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association held its annual conference at Sandestin Beach Resort and Spa, June 26-30, in conjunction with the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association. The conference is now known as the Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference and is attended by veterinarians from over 25 states. The new ALVMA officers were installed at the ALVMA Awards Luncheon on June 27.

"We look forward to a productive year for the veterinary profession," says ALVMA President Bill Bledsoe, DVM "We have a great team to represent all practitioners in Alabama and we are pleased to have this opportunity to serve the membership."

New officers were sworn in on Thursday as follows; President Bill Bledsoe, DVM of Camden; President Elect John Hammons, DVM of Athens; Vice President T. C. Branch, DVM of Birmingham; Treasurer Winston Pirtle, DVM of Montgomery and Board Member at Large Harold Pate, DVM of Lowndesboro. Bill Allen, DVM of Gardendale will serve as immediate past president.

The ALVMA seeks to raise public awareness about general pet healthcare and focuses on the ways preventive care can be cost-effective and increase the length and quality of the life of your pet. Additionally, there are topics like disaster preparedness, dog bite prevention and poison prevention that the ALVMA promotes throughout the year. The ALVMA encourages pet owners to stay current on vaccinations and heartworm preventative. In addition to traditional healthcare, the field of veterinary medicine is expanding through new and progressive services and treatments including cancer, diabetes and various types of laser treatments and surgeries. Regular visits to your veterinarian will increase the chances of preventing certain diseases and identifying underlying disease early. Many times veterinarians can detect conditions that would otherwise go unnoticed.

The ALVMA is the oldest and largest professional veterinary association in the state of Alabama and is nationally recognized as one of the most active. ALVMA members are dedicated to the advancement of the art and science of veterinary medicine, the promotion and support of sound legislation as it affects veterinarians, and the encouragement of responsible pet ownership. Many ALVMA members participate in Alabama's spay/neuter license plate program which offers low-cost spay/neuter services to those who qualify for assistance. This program is funded by the sale of spay/neuter license plates and also by designated funds submitted via a check off box on the Alabama income tax return.

Founded in 1907, The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association is comprised of approximately 725 veterinarians from around the state, all committed to protecting People, Pets and Livestock – Yesterday, Today and Always.

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photo cutline: ALVMA officers from left to right: Drs Bill Bledsoe, president; John Hammons, president elect; William Pirtle,