

## OUR COMMITTEES AT WORK-2014

**Advisory Committee to the College of Veterinary Medicine.** The MVMA Advisory Committee to the College of Veterinary Medicine met at the annual MVMA Convention on Sunday Feb. 2.

Dean Olson updated the committee on the status of the veterinary school, including the recent \$1 Million increase in funding from the state legislature that is earmarked for large animal facilities and upgrades and will be recurring now every year.

The increased class size and the possible impact on the suspected surplus of veterinarians already in the marketplace was discussed. Dean Olson had employment statistics for the class of 2010 only available and all graduating students were gainfully employed. Dean Olson stressed the need to look for alternative employment opportunities for veterinary school graduates. Programs such as a dual DVM/Masters in Public Health have been started to address that issue.

The veterinary school will soon have in place a program in conjunction with the Republic of China where the College will accept two students per year and the tuition will be paid for by the Chinese government. The students will spend their first year at Kansas State University for acclimation and then 4 years at Missouri. These students will then return to their own nation upon graduation.

The College continues to have very high scores on the National Board exam for its 4th year students in comparison to other colleges. It was brought to Dean Olson's attention about Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine having their incoming freshmen sign a contract agreeing to pay out-of-state tuition for the full 4 years, instead of gaining resident status following the first year. This has been a major loss of income for the college for a long time. -  
*Dr. Ed Migneco, Chair*

**Animal Health and Regulatory Medicine Committee.** Our committee met February 2 during the MVMA Convention. All livestock market veterinarians as well as any other interested veterinarians or students were invited to the meeting.

Dr. David Hopson spoke about current issues with USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services. He explained the reorganization of federal offices and the likely impact of these changes.

Our state veterinarian, Dr. Linda Hickam, addressed the current issues and status of our state programs and our responsibilities as market veterinarians. Trichomoniasis in the state is the main topic of interest at this time.

Both speakers fielded questions and there was an open discussion among attendees about situations in the markets. –  
*Dr. Richard Kent, Chairman*

**Animal Welfare Committee.** The MVMA Animal Welfare Committee is pursuing funding from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation to work through local member clinics to provide pet oxygen masks to local fire departments throughout the state.

The goal is to place 200 pet oxygen mask kits in the hands of local emergency response personnel in Missouri while raising awareness of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, as well as the animal welfare concerns of the Missouri VMA, the Missouri Volunteer Veterinary Corps and the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation.

If the funding is approved, the committee will be in search of MVMA member clinics interested in a local public relations event to raise awareness by providing one or more of the mask kits to their local fire department.

In addition, the MVMA Animal Welfare Committee is working with the Missouri Academy of Veterinary Practice to do a presentation at the 2015 MVMA Convention Mini-Topics program on bovine animal welfare issues. - *Dr. Steve Strubberg and Dr. Philip Brown, Co-chairs*

**Equine Committee.** The MVMA Equine Committee met at the annual convention on 1/30/2014. We will be hosting a summer equine continuing education seminar that will be held on June 28 – 29, 2014 at the University of Missouri- College of Veterinary Medicine. Drs. Kurt Selberg and Kent Allen will speak on anatomy and imaging related to equine lameness on Saturday. The Sunday speaker is to be determined but will probably speak on equine dermatology topics.

The committee discussed the equine slaughter issue in Missouri relating to the DNR not issuing a waste-water permit to a proposed equine slaughter facility near Gallatin, Missouri. We decided to monitor this issue as the re-opening of horse slaughter in the United States is unlikely due to elimination of USDA funding for horse slaughter inspection.

The committee also discussed the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act regarding use of controlled substances by ambulatory veterinarians. We also discussed scope of practice issues relating to veterinary medicine and farriery based on issues occurring in other states. Finally, each committee member agreed to submit a short article on an aspect of equine health for publication on the MVMA website for client education. - *Dr. Bruce Whittle, Chair*

**Emergency Management and Public Health Committee.** Dr. Massengil continues to shepherd the Volunteer Veterinary Corps. Identification badges are being distributed, training modules are being updated and the P.E.T.S act course is to be revisited this year by the Extension division.

Through MVMA affiliation with ADPAC committee we are developing statewide resource typing protocols which will get everyone on the same page when requesting assets during an emergency. Any MVMA members that know of regional or local resources that are available in disasters please contact Dr, Bill Jones (mbj6100@versailles-mo.net)

We are again attempting to get a memorandum of understanding signed by SEMA with VMAT so a VMAT can deploy to Missouri if needed. VMAT will send an advance team to a disaster to determine what other assets are needed and to help manage the veterinary response. - *Dr. Bill Jones, Chair*

**Legislative Committee.** The MVMA Legislative committee met at the annual convention on January 30th at Tan-Tar-A. The committee was updated on several current and emerging pieces of legislation. The meeting was opened, however, on a sad note and observed a moment of silence to honor the passing of Mr. Gregory Dennis.

We discussed SB 646 which was prefiled prior to the start of the current legislative session. If enacted as currently drafted SB 646 would place the Missouri Animal Care Act and Canine Cruelty Prevention Act under the Missouri Division of Professional Registration. Also, it would create a State Commission of Animal Care Facilities. Certain responsibilities currently with the Missouri Department of Agriculture would be placed under the jurisdiction of this newly-created Commission. Animal Care Facilities licenses would no longer be issued by the Department of Agriculture, but by the Commission. The committee agreed that this was not a desirable piece of legislation and recommended that MVMA oppose its passage.

We also agreed to continue to pursue parity for veterinarians in regards to the statute of limitations and believe there may be opportunities to bring this before the legislature in this session.

While still desirable, we agreed to not actively pursue a unified state wide rabies law this particular session given the recent plight of a similar bill.

We also had a very enthusiastic discussion as to the MVMA's role, if any, in the upcoming ballot initiative for the "Right to Farm". The committee referred the matter to the executive board.

We also continue to monitor for possible rewording and reintroduction of last year's HB 877 that would significantly change the definition of veterinary medicine and pledged our ongoing efforts to see such legislation defeated.

On a national basis we continue to monitor the so-called "Wal-Mart" (Fairness to Pet Owners) bill which would require veterinarians to provide a written prescription for all medications whether the client asks for them or not. At the time of the meeting this legislation was believed to be dead, but has since been reintroduced by two representatives from Utah. We urge all members to contact their representative in D.C. and give your opinion. More can be found on this important and harmful legislation on the AVMA's website. Also, the Veterinary Mobility Act which would thankfully clarify and legalize how veterinarians deal with controlled drugs on farm calls, house calls, etc. continues to progress through the legislation and appears to have little opposition.

Veterinary Day at the Capital is scheduled for March 4th, 2014 and we encourage all to attend.

Finally, a reminder that we are working on a primary contact list for each of our state senators and representatives. This list would allow us to have a quick and direct line of communication in the event of an important topic that requires action by the MVMA and its membership. If you have a personal relationship with any of our state's leaders please contact the MVMA office. - Dr. *Cliff Miller, Chair*

**Missouri Volunteer Veterinary Corps.** The Corps booth at the MVMA convention was a hit. New members were recruited and active members had an opportunity to meet the recent graduates who provide support as regional coordinators. We continue to benefit from the efforts of excellent coordinators. In addition, Drs. Bill Jones, Dave Hopson, Bill Wolff, and John Holste provided educational programs with CE credit for Corps members.

Official identification devices have been prepared and distributed to many of our Corps members. There is an ongoing effort to provide identification cards to all members with a profile and photo in the Show Me Response (SMR) data base. This is another no cost benefit of being a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit under the Department of Health and Senior Services.

The Corps is in the process of providing information to our members on how they can become eligible to participate in the Mo Disaster Response System. This is a state wide MRC unit that provides an emergency hospital, mortuary, and other support functions in areas during a disaster.

The Corps continues to encourage members to register and complete their profile on the on the SMR database. An approved photograph on that site is required for development of an ID Badge.

The Corps is working with SEMA to develop a MOU with AVMA so Missouri will be able to have a site needs assessment performed by a National Veterinary Emergency Response Team. This has been in the works for some time and we expect to complete the process this year.

The Corps has continued to receive funding from DHSS as a result of being a MRC unit. The funding is used to cover expenses of the Corps and to offset some MVMA costs associated with the MOVVC. - Dr. *Charles Massengil, Director*

**Missouri Stocker Feeder Quality Assurance Program Committee.** The MVMA MSFQAP Committee met on January 30, 2014 at Tan-Tar-A Resort. A quorum of the committee members was in attendance. The topics discussed at the meeting included a review of the minutes from the 1/17/2013 meeting, financial statements, MSFQAP veterinarian online survey results, and the revised MSFQAP power point presentation which would be utilized to certify veterinarians and producers in the future. The MSFQAP committee decided to eliminate the load lot certification option from the MSFQAP and to utilize the revised MSFQAP power point presentation for any future educational programs. - Dr. *Voyd C. Brown, Chair*

## **Recent Graduate and Collegiate Task Force.**

### Task Force Goals:

- To support new graduates as they transition into professional life.
- Encourage a younger generation of veterinarians to actively participate in organized veterinary medicine.
- Identify and target the challenges facing the newest generation of veterinary professionals.

The Recent Graduate and Collegiate Task Force had our annual meeting Friday night at the MVMA convention. The evening event welcomed students, recent grads, and those who are interested in hiring new grads for an open forum discussion on new grad topics. Approximately 46 people were in attendance. The presentation gave the group an overview of the 3 topics which were previously identified as hot button items for new grads including: Compassion Fatigue, Threats to the Profession, and Pearls of wisdom (pieces of advice from more experienced practitioners). The group was then strategically broken into small groups for further exploration of each topic. Each topic discussion was moderated by one of the task force's "experts" allowing for an in depth and varying discussion within each group.

On Saturday night in conjunction with the annual VBMA Speed Networking event, the task force hosted the VM 1 and VM 2 students for an informal panel discussion on networking, interviewing, resume building, preceptorships etc. Approximately 35 students were in attendance.

**PLANS FOR 2015: OPPORTUNITIES:** The task force had a great strategic planning meeting at the end of the conference. We have identified a major opportunity; to increase attendance at the conference and at our event for recent graduates and those practice owners who have hired recent graduates. To accomplish this we will send out emails directed at new grads, and separate emails to their places of business letting each group know of the financial benefit for a new grad attending the CE conference (free for the first 3 years). We have also suggested the MVMA recognize new grads in attendance, like students are recognized, and a special recognition for the new grad that traveled the farthest to attend.

We will continue our support of the VBMA speed networking event by offering a presentation on interviewing for a job for the VM 1 and VM 2 students. This may include videos of great, bad, and mediocre interviews which will be made/produced by the task force and our advisors. The videos can then be used to stimulate discussion and serve many students without taking resources from the VM 3, VM 4 networking participants. We may offer resume editing as well. (Resumes will be submitted in advance via email and have suggestions given. We are currently seeking a resume expert to assist us in this venture.

We have created a Facebook page to encourage idea sharing and participation in new grad events. Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/newgradtaskforce>

The Task Force is excited and energized to take on our newest challenges and goals. We are passionate about this subject and hopeful more practice owners will join our cause. Soon we will also need new leadership amongst the task force. All of the very active leaders are nearing 5 years out, and not as much new grads as we once were. If you know of a new or soon to be new grad whose talents and passion may benefit this cause please contact Abby Whiting at [abbywhiting@gmail.com](mailto:abbywhiting@gmail.com). -

*Dr. Abby Whiting, Chair.*

**Scope of Practice Committee.** The committee met on Saturday February 1, 2014 during the MVMA Convention in Lake of the Ozarks.

The 2013 Missouri House Bill 877 which sought to redefine veterinary medicine was discussed. There does not appear to be any “movement” on the bill at this time, but it was agreed that we should keep in contact with the Legislative Committee and monitor this bill for any activity.

A recent conflict between the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners was discussed. The committee felt the MVMA has an excellent relationship with our Licensing Board and that we need to keep the lines of communication open between the Association and other boards and committees.

Although there does not seem to be any assaults on the practice of veterinary medicine at this time, the Committee along with the Association should remain ever vigilant. - *Dr. Mark J. Lux, Chair*

**Veterinary Technician and Practice Staff Committee.** The Veterinary Technician and Practice Staff Committee continues to work with the Missouri Veterinary Technician Assn. to provide CE and support for technicians and support staff. We are working to help show Missouri veterinarians the benefits of having a credentialed veterinary technician or assistant on staff. We have also worked to develop ideas for online webinars that are appropriate for staff training. This year we hope to work with the MVMF to develop a Practice Staff Honor Roll where staff members can be honored for their contributions to our profession. - *Dr. Marcy Hammerle, Chair*