Vol. 31, Number 3, Summer 2008

President’s Message

Greetings to all of you from Atlanta! It was wonderful to see everyone in St. Louis this year and visit with old friends, many of whom I don’t get the chance to visit with outside of this organization’s yearly conference. I hope you all enjoyed St. Louis as much as I did! I was thrilled to get the chance to go up in the St. Louis arch, thanks to a friend who dragged me there one afternoon after the sessions were over. My initial reluctance to walk the 10-15 blocks was quickly replaced by tremendous appreciation for the historical structure and underground museum, as well as the grounds surrounding the arch which were absolutely beautiful in the late afternoon sun.

I am honored by the opportunity to serve as the President of the SFT. It is a privilege to serve you in this capacity and I hope to follow in the footsteps of those who have so competently led us in years past. Communication between the membership and the Board is crucial to continued improvements in the way we address upcoming issues and conduct business. I’ll take the opportunity to pass on the wise words of a successful businessman I once met on a train who said, “You can’t over communicate”. I encourage all of you to bring any concerns or issues you feel strongly about to our attention this year. Communication between the membership and the Board is crucial to continued improvements in the way we address upcoming issues and conduct business. I’ll take the opportunity to pass on the wise words of a successful businessman I once met on a train who said, “You can’t over communicate”. I encourage all of you to bring any concerns or issues you feel strongly about to our attention this year. Contact information for all board members is on the back of this issue of TherioNews and on our website (www.therio.org).

Adams Takes Over as President of Society

Dr. Ana Adams of Alpharetta, Georgia assumed the position of president of the Society for Theriogenology for 2008-2009 during the General Session of the annual convention held in St. Louis, Missouri on August 13th, 2008.

Congratulations Dr. Adams and thank you to Dr. Patrick Hearn of Canada for the past year of dedicated leadership to the Society.

This year’s conference was a great success thanks to the tremendous efforts of so many dedicated contributors including Cheryl Lopate, small animal session chair and organizer of the canine breeder’s symposium and wetlab, Juan Samper, equine session chair, Richard Hopper, food animal session chair and Gary Warner, bovine symposium chair, as well as all the exhibitors who so graciously shared their time, information and expertise during the conference. As always the team at Franz Management helped keep us on track and helped the conference run smoothly and for this I extend my sincere appreciation.

We are also so thankful for the contributions of our generous sponsors, without which the quality of our conference would greatly struggle.

This was the first year for the dual track program in the small animal and food animal portions of the conference and it was well received by...
2008-2009 Society Leadership

The following individuals are newly elected Society for Theriogenology officers for 2008-2009: Drs. Ana Adams of Alpharetta, Georgia, president; Thomas Riddle of Lexington, Kentucky, president-elect; Richard Hopper of Starkville, Mississippi, vice-president; Gary Warner of Elgin, Texas, secretary-treasurer; Patrick Hearn of Orangeville, Ontario Canada, immediate past-president; James Floyd of Raleigh, NC, director; Donald Sanders of Urbana, Ohio, director; William Schultz of Okemos, Michigan, director.

Dr. Howard L. Whitmore Honored with Bartlett Award

Dr. Howard L. Whitmore of Champaign, Illinois presented the David E. Bartlett Honorary address after being selected for the Bartlett Award for his decades of involvement in the affairs of theriogenology inter-laced with dairy husbandry and sciences.

Dr. Whitmore was president of the American College of Theriogenologists in 1987 and has written over one hundred scientific papers and five book chapters. He received his DVM from Oklahoma State University in 1960, and his MS and Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin in 1971 and 1973 respectively.

During the Bartlett Award ceremony Dr. Whitmore was presented with a check for $1,000 and a Nandi statue with wooden base and engraved panels.

Dr. Whitmore’s address may be found under the history section of www.therio.org. Congratulations Dr. Whitmore on this well deserved recognition.

Dr. Ina Dobrinski Receives Theriogenologist of the Year at Annual Therio Awards Dinner

More than one hundred forty people listened intently as Dr. Ina Dobrinski of Pennsylvania, the recipient of the Theriogenologist of the Year award, spoke at the annual Therio Awards Dinner in St. Louis on August 14, 2008.

Dr. Dobrinski was recognized for her contributions to the field of Theriogenology as an expert in andrology and an outstanding researcher. Those who nominated Dr. Dobrinski all mentioned her ability to be a mentor for others, both seasoned Theriogenologists and those who are young trainees.

Currently Dr. Dobrinski is the Director of Animal Transgenesis and Germ Cell Research, New Bolton Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Kennett Square, PA, and the Associate Professor (with tenure) of Large Animal Reproduction. She is also a Diplomate in the American College of Theriogenologists.

Congratulations Dr. Dobrinski on this well deserved award!

Exhibitors & Sponsors Help Make 2008 Conference Possible

You may not give it much thought while you are attending the annual convention each year, however, companies who support the Society and the College by being exhibitors and sponsors provide tremendous financial underwriting and help in presenting educational opportunities. Please make it a point to thank the following exhibitors and sponsors for their continued support.

Academy of Rural Veterinarians
AKC Canine Health Foundation
Aloka Ultrasound
Animal Reproduction Systems
Bioniche Animal Health
ChemoMetec
Classic Medical Supply
CryoSafe
Elsevier
Exodus Breeders
Fertility Technology Resources
Fort Dodge Animal Health
Genex
Haygard Pharmacy
Hamilton Thorne Biosciences
I.M.V. International
Intervet- Schering Plough Animal Health
Jorgensen Laboratories
I.W. Scientific
Lane Manufacturing
Medical Electronic Systems
Merian
MILA International
Minitube of America
Neogen
Pfizer Animal Health
PRN Pharmacal
Rocky Mountain Microscope Corp.
Rood and Riddle Veterinary Pharmacy
SCSA Diagnostics
Sexing Technologies
Symbiotics Corp.
Universal Ultrasound
Zerlotti Equine Reproduction
2008 Student Case Presentation Winners

Winners of the Student Case Presentation Competition at the annual Therio convention held in St. Louis, Missouri were Justin Phillips, University of Florida, “Breeding Related Full-Thickness Vaginal Tear with Associated Peritonitis,” first place ($650); Jonetta Tabor, Auburn University, “Tibial Hemimelia: Presentation, Testing and Inheritance,” second place ($525); Heather Avery, Auburn University, “Removal of a bovine mummified fetus via colpotomy,” third place ($450); Kathleen Scarlett Black, Auburn University, “Signs, diagnosis, surgical options, and future prognosis of a 21 year old mare with granulosa-theca cell tumor,” fourth place ($375); Megan Anderson and Elizabeth Coffman, University of Tennessee, “Diagnosis, treatment, and histological identification of an ovarian leiomyoma in a Vietnamese Pot-Bellied Pig,” tie for fifth place ($300); and Jessica Byrd, University of Missouri, “Epididymitis due to Comamonas testosteronei and Pseudomonas alcaligenes infection in a Quarter Horse Stallion,” tie for fifth place ($300).

(L-R) Megan Anderson-University Tenn; Scarlett Black-Auburn Univ.; Randi Armstrong (accepting for Heather Avery) Auburn Univ.; Jonetta Tabor-Auburn Univ; Justin Phillips-University FL; Dr. James Alexander, Student Competition Chair.

2008 Abstract Competition Award Winners

The annual Dr. Jerry Rains Memorial Abstract Competition sponsored by Intervet-Schering Plough Animal Health, was held during the 2008 Therio Conference and Symposia in St. Louis, Missouri, August 12-16.

Winners of this year’s competition were Dr. Erica Gee of Fort Collins, Colorado, “Efficacy of medroxyprogesterone acetate in suppression of estrus behavior and follicular activity in cycling mares,” first place ($1,000); Dr. Catherine Deluca of Fort Collins, Colorado, “Comparison of 3 doses of reFSH for superovulation of mares,” second place ($750); Dr. Christianne Magee of Fort Collins, Colorado “Luteinizing Hormone-Induced release by kisspeptide in primary cultures of equine pituitary cells,” third place ($500); Lori McPartlin of Ithaca, New York, “Soluble adenylate cyclase generated cAMP acts via protein kinase A and not Epac ½ to direct capacitation-associated protein tyrosine phosphorylation in stallion sperm,” fourth place ($250).

2008 Dr. Jerry Rains Memorial Abstract Competition winners from left to right are Lori McPartlin, Drs. Christianne Magee, Catherine DeLuca, and Erica Gee. Also Pictured far right is Dr. Hannah Galantino-Homer, chair of the abstract competition committee.
2008 Canine Breeder Proceedings Available Online

The third annual Canine Breeder Symposium was held August 16th, 2008 as part of the Society’s annual convention held in St. Louis, Missouri. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the presentations they are available online at no charge.
(www.therio.org)

2008 Canine Breeder Program Content

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*Thanks to AKC Canine Health Foundation for being a Platinum sponsor, and to Minitube of America and C.L.O.N.E. West for their Gold sponsorships.

President’s Message

Continued from page 1

most attendees. What a treat to hear (from several people) that their one complaint was having too many good presentations to choose from! This is evidence that the quality of the programs continues to be exceptional and bodes well for the energy and interest that we need to carry our organization into the future.

With regard to the future, the concept of creating a new journal for the dissemination of clinical information relevant to our specialty continues to evolve. Dr. Robert Youngquist has graciously accepted the position of editor of “Clinical Theriogenology” (please note: name not yet official!). Results of a survey conducted among the Society membership revealed continued support for and interest in development of such a journal. Roughly 79% of those replying to the survey agreed to there being a need for the creation of a journal of this type, and roughly the same percentage showing a clear interest in receiving a subscription as a benefit of membership in the Society. The Board was encouraged by these results and is moving forward with further analysis regarding publishing budgets, creation of an editorial board and submission of papers or articles. It is truly an exciting opportunity that we face as members of the Society, particularly when we consider the wealth of clinical knowledge and experience in our midst that in the past has not had a clear venue for dissemination.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Board members for their many contributions during the last three years: Drs. Todd Anderson, Cheryl Lopate and Cliff Shipley. I would also like to welcome those newly elected to serve: Drs. Richard Hopper, James Floyd, Donald Sanders and William Schultz. We look forward to working with all of you and meeting together in Albuquerque at the January board meeting.

Finally, remember to mark your calendars for August 25-29, 2009 in Albuquerque, the site of the Annual Convention and Symposia. The program for next year is being organized by Dr. Tom Riddle. Albuquerque is a great city to visit and our session chairs are already busy working on what promises to be a great conference!

Dr. Ana Adams

Data Base Referral Service Available to Increase Your Business!

As part of the Society for Theriogenology’s renewed mandate to position itself as the leader in veterinary reproductive care and education, we are continuously working to increase the visibility of the Society and its members in the eyes of both the veterinary community and the public.

Through marketing and advertising, the Society is striving to make the consumer more aware of the services our members provide.

A public website database (referral service) is available to assist breeders and veterinarians in locating a Society member veterinarian who provides the services being sought.

If you have not updated your profile on the Therio website, do so soon to take advantage of any referrals which may come your way.

It’s simple to do. Just log on with your user name and password and click on “Update Profile” to either add or change the information related to the services you offer.

This is just one of many benefits available to the membership, at no charge!

Questions should be submitted to: Tammy Wallace, Society for Theriogenology, PO Box 3007, Montgomery AL, 36109; (334) 395-4666 office / (334) 270-3399 fax; tammy@franzmgmt.com.

Call for Articles/Stories from Students

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have news from your SFT Student Chapter or college of veterinary medicine that you would like to share with Therio members, please send it to Charles@franzmgmt.com.

Please make sure to put “TherioNews Article” in the subject line of your message.
Boards Adopt Position Statement on Mandatory Spay-Neuter

Recently, the Society for Theriogenology (SFT) and the American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) adopted a position statement on mandatory spay/neuter procedures. The statement and a complete version explaining the basis for the position can be found at www.therio.org. Simply go to the home page and click on Veterinary Resources. There you will find a tab for “Position Statements.”

Statement

The American College of Theriogenologists and The Society for Theriogenology believe that companion animals not intended for breeding should be spayed or neutered; however, both organizations believe that the decision to spay or neuter a pet must be made on a case by case basis, and this decision should be made between the pet’s owner and its veterinarian, taking into consideration the pet’s age, breed, sex, health status, intended use, household environment and temperament.

While there are health benefits to spaying and neutering these must be weighed against the health benefits of the sex steroids. In general, the advantages of spaying or neutering a pet include effective population control, decreased aggression, decreased wandering, decreased risk of being hit by a car, and decreased risk of mammary, testicular and ovarian cancer. On the other hand, the disadvantages of spaying or neutering may include increased risk of obesity, diabetes, osteosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, prostatic adenocarcinoma, transitional cell carcinoma, urinary tract infections, urinary incontinence, autoimmune thyroiditis, hypothyroidism and hip dysplasia. Therefore, the decision to spay or neuter a dog or cat should be made solely by the pet’s owner with the direct input of their veterinarian and will be dependent on each particular animal’s situation.

Additionally, research has shown that in locations where mandatory spay and neuter programs have been instituted, a decrease in the number of vaccinated and licensed animals has been seen due to poor program compliance from pet owners’ fears of seeking veterinary care if their animals are still intact. This may result in decreased preventive care and regular wellness examinations which may then diminish the pet’s quality of life because of increasing undiagnosed health issues. It also may result in an increase in zoonotic diseases, such as hookworm and roundworm infection in children due to poor deworming programs, and decreased compliance with routine rabies vaccination.

The ACT and SFT make the following recommendations to continue moving toward effective methods of reducing the number of abandoned, unwanted and euthanized dogs and cats in the US and other countries where similar problems exist.

1) Provide increased jurisdictional control to the AVMA Governmental Relations division, Animal Welfare Committee, and the APHIS-Animal Care division.

2) Ensure suppliers to pet stores are providing adequate care for breeding stock and offspring.

3) Support programs to expand the public awareness of pet overpopulation, acceptable breeding standards, and responsibilities of pet ownership. Provide the public a means to access assistance with concerns of pet health, ownership, behavior and management issues.

4) Work with state and local rescue and humane societies to assemble accurate data on causes for relinquishment of dogs and cats to enable these organizations, federal and local governments, and veterinary organizations to address the fundamental causes of abandonment.

5) Provide low cost spay/neuter facilities for economically disadvantaged persons and communities.

6) Continue to work on reduction of feral cat populations.

7) Establish programs to ensure access of breeders to proper reproductive care and counseling.

8) Provide local or federal governmental assistance to registered rescue organizations to facilitate placement of unwanted pets.

Bluegrass Symposium Slated for October

Reminder!!! The 2008 Hagyard Bluegrass Symposium will take place October 16-19, 2008. This year’s focus is Equine Reproduction (information presented will be very practical take home material for the veterinarian, veterinary technician and student). Please visit our website for program and registration information. Contact information Nicole Tomlinson, ntomlinson@hagyard.com, 859-685-3709, http://www.hagyard.com/symposium
Call for Abstracts - 2009

The Society for Theriogenology (SFT) and American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) issue a call for research abstracts to be presented at the Annual Conference August 25-29, 2009 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Abstracts will be considered in two categories:

1. **Competitive Category**: Abstracts submitted for this category must have a graduate student or resident as the first author (only one submission per first author will be accepted in this category). These abstracts will be judged on the basis of scientific merit (written). The 8 abstracts with the highest written scores will be selected for presentation during the abstract competition. Graduate students and residents chosen to present in the abstract competition will receive one complimentary registration for the meeting. The abstracts will be presented during a plenary session and judged for presentation quality (oral). Financial awards will be given to the four presenters with the highest total score (written plus oral). Forms used for scoring written abstracts and oral presentations may be viewed at the ACT website (www.theriogenology.org).

   **The first author (graduate student or resident) will be required to present the abstract during the abstract competition at the SFT Annual Conference.** Oral presentations will be 10 minutes in length; an additional 2 to 3 minutes will be allowed for questions only. Time limits will be strictly enforced for the abstract competition; exceeding the 10-minute time limit will result in disqualification from the competition.

Other high scoring abstracts not selected for the abstract competition will be chosen for presentation during a noncompetitive session, and one of the authors will be required to present the abstract at the SFT Annual Conference during a general session or educational session. Presenters of these abstracts will not receive complimentary registration for the meeting.

2. **Non-Competitive Category**: All individuals, including practitioners, faculty, graduate students, residents, and veterinary students, are encouraged to submit abstracts to be considered for presentation during a general session or an educational session (there may be more than 1 submission per first author in this category). Presenters in this category will not receive a complimentary registration to the conference. Oral presentations will be 10 minutes in length; an additional 2 to 3 minutes will be allowed for questions only. If the number of accepted non-competitive abstracts is sufficient, abstracts that are not accepted for oral presentation can be presented in poster format.

   **General**: Presenters of research abstracts will not be reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred in presenting an abstract, nor will they receive an honorarium. Submission of an abstract for consideration in either the competitive or noncompetitive sessions is considered a commitment that, should the abstract be accepted in either category, the appropriate author (as detailed above) will be present at the SFT annual meeting to present the abstract in a formal oral session. Accepted abstracts will be printed in the Annual Conference Proceedings.

**DEADLINE**: Abstracts must be received no later than Thursday, February 12, 2009 for consideration.

Those submitting abstracts for consideration will be notified by March 27, 2009 if their abstract(s) were accepted or declined.

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**Submission Form**

Send Abstracts by Thursday, February 12, 2009 to:

SFT Headquarters
Attn: Charles Franz, DVM, P.O. Box 3007, Montgomery, AL 36109
charles@franzmgmt.com

**Please type the following information:**

Yes, I am submitting an abstract to be considered for presentation at the 2009 Annual Conference and if chosen will present it in the session designated by the Abstract Committee.

**Competitive Category.** The first/presenting author must be a graduate student or resident or must have completed such a program since February 12, 2008. Veterinary students not enrolled in a concurrent graduate degree programs (e.g., PhD or Masters degree) are not eligible. Abstracts not accepted in this category may still be accepted and required to present in the non-competitive category.

**Non-competitive Category.** Open to all individuals.

☐ Competitive Category  ☐ Non-competitive Category (Check one)

In the event that my abstract is NOT accepted for oral presentation, I would be willing to present my abstract in poster format:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  (Check one)

Name and Degree(s): ____________________________

_____________________________________________________

Business or Institution: ____________________________

_____________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________

_____________________________________________________

City/State/Zip/Country: ____________________________

_____________________________________________________

Telephone: ____________________________

Fax: ____________________________

E-mail: ____________________________

Title of Submission(s): ____________________________

_____________________________________________________

If there are any questions, contact:

Dr. Mushtaq Memon
Phone: 509/335-0711
E-mail: memon@vetmed.wsu.edu
**Call for Abstracts - 2009**

**GUIDELINES: WHAT TO SEND AND HOW TO SEND IT**

- **Electronically**: Submit via e-mail (address on top of Submission Form) or on a 3.5" disk or CD (compatible with Word)
- **General**: Detailed instructions for submission and presentation of abstracts can be found on the SFT website (www.therio.org) under “2009 Abstract Guideline for Submission”. All authors are strongly advised to read these instructions and the Guide for Authors for the journal Theriogenology to be familiar with appropriate submission guidelines as well as penalties for abstract withdrawal.

Any author who is concerned about journal rules affecting future publication may submit a long (one page) abstract for scoring and a short (< 250 word), edited version of the same abstract for publication in the Annual Conference Proceedings.

- **Font**: 12 point Times New Roman
- **Length**: No longer than one page (long abstract) and < 250 word limit (short abstract, if submitted)
- **Paper**: 8.5” x 11”
- **Margins**: 1.5” top and bottom – 1” left and right
- **Header**: The title, authors, and their affiliations must be centered at the top of the page.
- **Content**: Abstracts should state clearly the aims of the project, describe the methods used, and summarize the findings. Keywords (up to 5) should be listed at the bottom of the page.

Abstracts not adhering to these guidelines will not be considered for presentation.

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**Visit the THERIO E-STORE for LOGO’ed APPAREL**

If you attended the 2008 Annual Conference & Symposia, you may have noticed the shirts with the Therio logo worn by members of the conference staff. You too can have the very same type of shirts by logging onto the THERIO E-STORE!

In December 2007 The Society for Theriogenology announced the opening of its THERIO E-STORE in conjunction with the American Veterinary Medical Association and the world renowned Lands’ End Business Outfitters. If you have not already visited the THERIO E-STORE you are missing out on a great opportunity to acknowledge your expertise in the field of theriogenology while proudly displaying the Therio logo on such things as team jackets, lab coats, sweaters, tote bags, shirts, blouses and other wearing apparel and incidentals. Therio members receive a 10% discount on all Lands’ End Merchandise and a 10% discount on logo application fees. And, there is no minimum production fee!

This is a great member opportunity to purchase quality logo’d apparel with extraordinary customer service.

Go to www.therio.org and click on ‘Therio E-Store on the home page. You will be able to choose from nearly 150 items.

It is Lands’ End privilege to outfitting members of the Society for Theriogenology, and it is the Society’s privilege to offer this benefit to its membership. We hope you will enjoy shopping the THERIO E-STORE!

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**The Society for Theriogenology Participates in OEPS Weekend in Kentucky**

The Opportunities in Equine Practice Seminar (OEPS) was held August 29-31, 2008 in Lexington, KY for the veterinary class of 2010. OEPS offers third year veterinary students an overview of all aspects of the equine industry, ranging from large animal hospital settings to independent practitioners at nominal to no cost.

Over the course of three days, students have a chance to visit with practitioners from all over the country to learn more about equine practice, including externship and internship opportunities. Seminars were given throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday on topics such as “Success in the first few years” by Dr. Jeffery Beshear; “Opportunities in internal medicine and academia” by Dr. Bonnie Rush; and “Why equine?” by Dr. Larry Bramlage and Dr. Steve Reed. The students were also given tours of three local thoroughbred farms, three area equine Hospitals, and Keeneland Racecourse.

The Society of Theriogenology participated in this wonderful event by having an information booth Friday evening during the Welcome Reception and Saturday afternoon between the seminars. The students were encouraged to join the SFT as student members and to promote participation in their schools “Therio” or “Repro” club. It was very rewarding to hear from students how successful their individual clubs were doing and how enrollment was growing each year for most. The SFT kindly donated hats to give away to the students as we passed out membership pamphlets to interested students.

Dr. Carol McLeod donated four equine theriogenology books to be raffled off to the students. The books included Equine Stud Farm and Management signed by Dr. Michelle LeBlanc; Manual of Equine Reproduction signed by Dr. Dickson C. Varner; Current Therapy in Equine Reproduction signed by Dr. Juan C. Samper; and Equine Neonatal Medicine and Surgery. The raffle was a great success and the students all enjoyed the chance to win the autographed therio books. We plan to offer this again next year at OEPS 2009.

I want to thank everyone that participated in OEPS weekend and to the Society for Theriogenology for donating hats and books to give away to the students. I would like to give a special thank you to Drs. Tom Riddle, Carol McLeod, and Sam Schalnus for volunteering their time to meet with students at the booth during this weekend event.

By: Modesty Dallmeyer, VMD
Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital
Report of the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD), September 2008
Carla L. Carleton (Delegate) & Chet Rawson (Alternate Delegate)

The 145th AVMA Annual Convention was held in New Orleans, LA in July 2008. Both the regular sessions of the House of Delegates (HOD) and the conference were successful. It was good to be in New Orleans 3-years post-Katrina and be witness to the vibrant return of a historical city. The ongoing 2008 hurricane season reminds us of the fragile nature of the system of levees that serve to protect New Orleans.

Overview: During the summer meeting of the HOD there are a number of informal gatherings, District meetings, and Reference Committees scheduled. During each of these, Delegates and alternate Delegates debate the issues that have been brought to the HOD. The most substantive issues are introduced as resolutions that require sequential recommendation (approval or disapproval) by the Executive Board (EB), House Advisory Committee (HAC), and appropriate reference committee.

Recommendations offered by those entities are taken into consideration by the HOD. After due deliberation during floor debate, the HOD votes for approval, disapproval, or in some instances referral to an appropriate entity such as the Animal Welfare Division. Referrals may indicate a resolution is weak and needs some tweaking to strengthen its case for future action, or additional detail is needed regarding its financial impact, in some instances to identify advocates who can develop the seed of a good idea that is “not ready for prime time,” etc.

• The first session was brought to order on Friday, July 18. Nominations and balloting for Council and HAC positions took place using the electronic voting system for the first time - both time and paper were saved. The system was deemed a success and enhanced the efficiency of the formal sessions. Reference Committees met all afternoon to address outstanding issues and resolutions that had been assigned to their committee.

• The second session of the HOD convened on Saturday, July 19. Nomination and balloting for officers led off the morning. Reports of all Reference Committees were presented by each chairperson with support or opposition to current resolutions included in each Reference Committee report. Action was taken on each Resolution. Run-off elections for Council positions were held. Finally, the 2008-2009 EB officers were elected (unanimous as they were uncontested) and the session ended with recognition of newly elected individuals and officers.

• For individuals who wish to have a comprehensive report of all actions taken by the HOD, I would recommend a visit to AVMA’s web-site.

Many resolutions were submitted for consideration by the HOD in 2008. The following, most pertinent to the SFT membership, were Passed (Approved):

• Resolution 2: to adequately enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, the AVMA encourages the Dept. of Agriculture’s FSIS to add more veterinary positions and hire more veterinarians.

• Resolution 3: encourages Delegates and alternates, State & Allied organizations to engage in grassroots support for funding of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank.

• Resolution 6: the AVMA will develop a Model Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for the Domestic Travel of Companion Animals.

• Resolution 7: encourage the FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine to strictly enforce its rules prohibiting drug compounding that produces unapproved mimics of commercially available FDA-approved drugs, to ensure the health and welfare of animals and the public. This does not target traditional patient-specific compounding.

• Resolution 8: resolve that the HOD support identification of livestock to enable trace back and trace forward of animals for disease control and eradication programs.

• Resolution 9: mandate the AVMA to engage in enhanced collaboration and communication with the health sciences professions and their respective associations working locally, nationally, and globally among multiple disciplines to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment.

• Resolution 13: approved as amended that the EB encourages, rather than commissions, the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (NCVEI) to (1) study economic factors impacting veterinarians in federal and state public practice and academia, including salaries and benefits, recruitment, retention, and professional opportunities, (2) evaluate how these factors compare with allied health professions, and how they affect allied professions, and (3) make recommendations on how to close any gaps that exist and prevent them from growing.

• Resolution 16: the AVMA “supports a change in real husbandry practices that severely restrict movement, to housing systems that allow for greater freedom of movement without compromising their health or welfare.”

• Resolution 17: that the AVMA actively promote the implementation of linking companion animal microchip databases.

Opportunities for SFT members to participate in Committees and Councils (2009-2010) will be sent to Delegates later this year with a list of vacancies for each entity. I encourage all of you to volunteer and place your name into consideration - be an active participant in your AVMA. The general public and government listen to the voice of the AVMA. I and the SFT office staff shall be glad to assist anyone interested in placing his/her name in nomination, provide information on how you can prepare your nominating presentation before the HOD (maximum 2 minutes), how you can gather support for your candidacy, etc.

If you have not visited the AVMA’s web-site recently (www.avma.org), please take the time to do so. There is a wealth of information regarding legislative issues and the government relations division (GRD), access to AVMA journals, hot topics facing veterinary medicine, position listings, continuing education opportunities, etc. If you have any questions regarding activities of the HOD or wish to have your representatives act on a particular issue, I encourage you to contact either me or Chet Rawson, your alternate Delegate.

Thank you, Carla L. Carleton (carleton1@msu.edu), SFT Delegate, AVMA HOD
Transport of equine ovaries for assisted reproduction

Use of assisted reproduction to obtain foals from valuable mares postmortem typically necessitates holding of ovaries during shipment to a laboratory. The present study evaluated whether holding ovaries briefly at a warm (approx 30°C) temperature improves meiotic and developmental competence of oocytes, as determined after maturation in vitro and intracytoplasmic sperm injection. Ovaries were packaged in pairs in insulated containers, and held either at 24° or 25° to 35°C for 4 hours, followed by cooling. Ovaries in both treatments were held for either a short (mean, 7 to 7.4 hours) or long (mean, 20.6 to 20.7 hours) duration before oocyte recovery. Control ovaries were collected en masse at the abattoir. The ovary temperature in this treatment slowly decreased to approximately 27°C; oocyte recovery was performed after 3.5 to 7 hours total holding. There was no effect of temperature on oocyte meiotic or developmental competence within either treatment time period. Oocytes in the short duration holding group had similar meiotic competence to controls, but had a significantly decreased rate (P < 0.05) of blastocyst development. Oocytes in the long duration holding group had decreased (P < 0.05) meiotic competence and blastocyst development compared to controls. These findings indicate that storage of equine ovaries for only 7 hours may decrease blastocyst development, and that longer storage reduces both rate of oocyte maturation and blastocyst development. Further work is needed to determine if there is a critical time before 7 hours postmortem by which equine oocytes should be recovered to maximize developmental competence.

Embryo yield and quality following dietary supplementation of beef heifers with n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA)
Childs,S; Carter,F; Lynch,CO; Sreenan,JM; Loneragan,P; Hennessy,AA; Kenny,DA (2008) Theriogenology. 70, 992-1003.

The objective of this study was to examine the effects of dietary n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid (n-3 PUFA) supplementation on embryo yield and quality in heifers. Animals were individually offered barley straw and concentrate diets supplemented with either palmitic acid (C16:0; CON) or a partially rumen protected n-3 PUFA-enriched supplement. Following estrous cycle synchronization, superovulation was induced using FSH. Blood samples were collected for the measurement of fatty acids, metabolites, insulin and IGF-1. On day 7 after insemination, the number of ovalets was estimated and embryos recovered nonsurgically and quality graded. At embryo recovery, 50 mL of the uterine flushing was collected from each horn for fatty acid analysis. Grade 1 embryos were isolated, snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C. mRNA expression for six genes, LIF, BAX, Cx43, and E-CAD associated with embryo development, and PPAR-α and -δ, associated with lipid metabolism was analyzed. The n-3 PUFA supplementation increased the plasma n-3 PUFA concentration (P < 0.05) and reduced the n-6/n-3 PUFA ratio (P < 0.05). Uterine concentration of the n-3 PUFA, eicosapentaenoic acid, was increased (P < 0.05) and the concentration of arachidonic acid decreased (P < 0.05) following n-3 PUFA supplementation. While CON increased triglyceride concentrations, diet did not affect the other plasma metabolites, insulin or IGF-1 (P > 0.05). Similarly, there was no effect of diet on superovulation rate, embryo recovery rate, embryo quality, or mRNA expression of the genes examined (P > 0.05).

Prolonging the interval from ovarian hyperstimulation to laparoscopic ovum pick-up improves oocyte yield, quality, and developmental competence in goats
Abdullah,RB; Liew,SL; Rahman,ANMA; Chan,WK; Wan-Khadjiah,WE; Ng,SC (2008) Theriogenology. 70, 765-771.

The objective was to evaluate the effect of the interval between ovarian hyperstimulation and laparoscopic ovum pick-up (LOPU) on quality and developmental competence of goat oocytes before and after in vitro maturation (IVM) and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). Estrus was synchronized with an intravaginal insert containing 0.3 g progesterone (CIDR) for 10 days, combined with a luteolytic treatment of 125 μg cloprostenol 36 hours prior to CIDR removal. Ovaries were hyperstimulated with 70 mg FSH and 500 IU hCG given I.M. 36, 60, or 72 hours prior to LOPU (n = 15, 16, and 7 does, respectively). For these groups, oocyte retrieval rates (mean ± S.E.M.) were 24.7 ± 2.9%, 54.5 ± 4.7%, and 82.8 ± 4.6% (P < 0.001), and the proportions of cumulus-oocyte complexes (COC) with more than five layers of cumulus cells were 29.7 ± 8.3%, 37.6 ± 6.9%, and 37.3 ± 7.0% (P < 0.001). The proportion of IVM oocytes was highest at 72 hours (82.1 ± 2.8%; P < 0.05), with no significant difference between 36 and 60 hours (57.3 ± 8.9% and 69.0 ± 8.4%). Cleavage rates of ICSI embryos were 4.2 ± 4.2%, 70.9 ± 8.4%, and 78.9 ± 8.2% with LOPU 36, 60, and 72 hours after FSH/hCG (P < 0.01), with a lower proportion of grade-A embryos (P < 0.05) following LOPU at 36 hours compared to 60 and 72 hours (29.7 ± 8.3%, 37.6 ± 6.9%, and 37.3 ± 7.0%). In summary, a prolonged interval from FSH/hCG to LOPU improved oocyte retrieval rate and oocyte quality. Therefore, under the present conditions, LOPU 60 or 72 hours after FSH/hCG optimized yields of good-quality oocytes for IVM and embryo production in goats.

Quality and reactive oxygen species of extended canine semen after vitamin C supplementation
Michael,AJ; Alexopoulos,C; Pontiki,EA; Hadjipavlou-Litina,DF; Saratsis,P; Ververidis,HN; Bocos,CM (2008) Theriogenology. 70, 827-835.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the quality of extended dog semen processed with diluents containing various concentrations of vitamin C. Ejaculates from five dogs were collected, pooled, and evaluated for concentration, sperm motility, rapid steady forward movement (RSF-movement), viability, acrosomal integrity, and by the hypo-osmotic swelling test. Also, superoxide (O2-·-) production, hydroxyl radicals (OH·) and total reactive oxygen species (tROS) were determined. The pool was divided in five aliquots, which were diluted to a final concentration of 66 X 10^9 spermatozoa/mL with a 'Tris–glucose–egg yolk extender containing one of the following concentrations of vitamin C (0, 0.1, 0.5, 1 or 2.5mM). The semen aliquots were chilled and preserved at 4°C. Portions of chilled semen were removed at 24 and 72 hours, and semen quality was evaluated after rewarment. This process was repeated 10 times in pooled semen of the same origin, and data were analysed by one-way analysis of variance. At both times, none of the semen quality parameters were positively influenced (P > 0.05) by vitamin C supplementation. At 24 hours, none of the reactive oxygen species (O2-·-, OH·, tROS) were significantly altered. At 72 hours, significant reductions of O2-·- production were observed for the concentrations of 0.1, 0.5 and 2.5mM, compared with the 0mM concentration (P = 0.049). Also, at 72 hours, the 2.5mM concentration caused significantly lower OH· values in comparison with the control group (P = 0.048). In conclusion, addition of vitamin C to semen extenders does not benefit the quality of canine extended spermatozoa.
Historic St. Louis, Missouri was the gathering site of the 2008 Therio Conference and Symposia August 12-16th at the Hyatt Regency Union Station. By all accounts the convention was a great success with more scientific programs, multi-level sessions, workshops and “How-To” sessions than in previous years. With more than 400 registrations the program committee was pleased with both the turnout and the location, which offered a variety of things for attendees to see and do without leaving the complex.

There were 111 first time attendees and their comments regarding the program and the speakers reflected a positive experience.

On Tuesday, August 12th, the Happy Hour Abstracts kicked off the convention at 5:00 p.m. followed by a Happy Hour Abstract Reception at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesday morning Dr. Howard L. Whitmore of Champaign, Illinois accepted the 2008 Bartlett Award, which is given annually to a distinguished individual who has made important contributions to the field of theriogenology. The Dr. Jerry Rains Memorial Abstract Competition and the Student Case Presentations took place following the Bartlett Award. (See related stories in this edition of TherioNews.)

For the second year in a row, Intervet (now Intervet-Schering Plough Animal Health), held a Student Symposium on Friday and Saturday, August 15th & 16th. The purpose of the symposium was to offer students the first step toward preparing for clinical rotations and their future life in veterinary practice.

This year’s symposium for 3rd and 4th year students offered comparative interactive case challenges in equine, bovine, companion animal, swine, and small ruminant plus a career paths round table. A reception for the students was also held at the conclusion of the
symposium sponsored by Intervet-Schering Plough.

Intervet – Schering Plough Animal Health gave each participating student a $200 travel stipend and will make a comprehensive proceedings available free to all 3rd and 4th year veterinary students this fall. This is a very large commitment undertaken by Intervet-Schering Plough and the Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists extend a sincere thank you for their generous support.

A Bovine Symposium and Wetlab were held on Friday at the Purina Research Farm about forty-five minutes from the general conference site. Forty-five attendees were bussed to the research campus to attend the day-long event which included four rotating labs. The society thanks Purina for being such gracious hosts and providing this outstanding opportunity.

The third annual breeder program for the general public was also held on Saturday, August 16th with nearly forty participants. A number of Therio members were also in attendance. The day long program was supported by Platinum Sponsor AKC Canine Health Foundation, and Gold sponsors Minitube of America and C.L.O.N.E.West.

The 2009 Therio Conference and Symposia will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 25-29.
ACT PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE...

It is truly a great honor to assume the presidency of the American College of Theriogenologists and to be able to address the membership. I appreciate this opportunity to serve our college and hope to be as effective as the many esteemed theriogenologists before me. I know this is possible because I will have an opportunity to work very closely with a great team of colleagues on the boards of the ACT and SFT as well as an enthusiastic and dynamic management company, represented by Dr Charles Franz and his staff. Most importantly I am excited about the opportunity of working with all members of our college.

As always, the annual conference was a great opportunity to meet fellow theriogenologists, veterinarians and students with interest in our wonderful discipline. I encourage all our members to make it a goal to attend the annual conference for the esprit de corps and to take advantage of the learning opportunity it offers. This year’s venue in St Louis was superbly organized and well executed under the leadership of program chair Dr. Ana Adams.

Dr. Hannah Galantino-Homer led the ACT abstract committee and offered the attendees a variety of great abstracts from basic reproductive biology to applied aspects of clinical reproduction. I hope submissions for the abstract sessions will continue to grow both in quantity and quality. I highly recommend that all theriogenologists and private practitioners participate in these sessions and encourage their graduate students/residents to submit abstracts.

Among other highlights of the conference was the second edition of the senior veterinary student survival program sponsored by Intervet-Schering Plough Animal Health and initiated by Dr. Travis Meredith. This program is particularly close to my heart as an educator. It truly showcases our discipline to future generations of veterinarians and raises awareness of the importance of the discipline in veterinary education.

The ACT executive board held its summer meeting prior to the conference to discuss the College’s efforts in various areas including its mission and financial situation. It has become a tradition that a board member of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR) participates as an observer in the ACT board meeting (and vice versa). This year ECAR was represented by Dr Fernando Juan Pena Vega of Spain. The ACT and ECAR are looking toward further collaboration in the area of development of residency training guidelines. The board also gave approval to a position statement on mandatory spays and neuters which can be found on our website, www.theriogenology.org.

Another highlight of the St Louis meeting was the awards banquet in which we honored Dr. Ina Dobrinski, the recipient of this year’s Theriogenologist of the Year as well as the winners of the competitive abstracts (Please see related stories in this edition of TherioNews). I would like to thank Fort Dodge and Intervet-Schering Plough for sponsoring this banquet. Dr. Charles Estill will be leading the effort for nominations regarding the 2009 Theriogenologist of the Year. The official nomination form can be found in this edition of TherioNews.

The education committee continues to work towards more standardized guidelines for residency training which were discussed in the educators meeting. I would encourage all interested persons to join the educator list serv and participate in this discussion. Dr. Peggy Root Kustritz is leading an effort to gather educational material for use by educators and practitioners that will be web-based. Please be supportive and answer her call for resource materials. Dr. Stuart Meyers presented some ideas for more formal educators meetings for future conferences. More information on this will be forthcoming.

On a sad note, our family of theriogenologists lost three active members this past year: Drs. Robert Kenny, Howard Levine and John Steiner. On behalf of all members of the college, the board has expressed condolences to the families. The board also discussed ways to honor our passing members.

Finally, the board received the recommendations of the examining committee of the candidates who passed the certifying exam. This year, eleven candidates were accepted as Diplomates (See related story in this edition of TherioNews). Congratulations to all and thanks to the examining committee and in particular Dr. Sylvia Bedford-Gauss, the outgoing chair. A special thanks to Dr. John Kastelic for his continuous support of this committee.

In closing, I would like to emphasize again the importance of member participation in all these efforts for the success of the College. Please contact board members (www.theriogenology.org); join the discussions in the ACT list serv and educators list serv; and, do not hesitate to respond to calls for committee work or task force participation.

The next board meeting will be at the end of January 2009 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the site of the 2009 annual conference chaired by Dr. Tom Riddle. This is the time to start making plans to attend and for all educators and mentors to prepare for submission of scientific abstracts!
Eleven Successfully Complete ACT Diplomate Certification Examination

Eleven of twenty-seven candidates successfully completed a rigorous two-day exam to become new Diplomates of the American College of Theriogenologists during the annual Therio Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri August 12-16, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency-Union Station. Congratulations to the new members of the American College of Theriogenologists!

Newly accepted Diplomates of the American College of Theriogenologists pose for a picture after being introduced to the general membership during the Therio Annual Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri. Pictured standing left to right are Drs. Stephen Hughes, Howick, Republic of South Africa; Anthony Claes, Kapellen, Belgium; Katherine Naughton, West Lafayette, Indiana, Erica Gee, Fort Collins, Colorado. Sitting from left to right are Drs. Angelica Stock, Brossard, QC, Canada; Gurmeet Dhilliwall, Gainesville, Florida. Not pictured are Drs. Joy Altermatt, Fort Collins, Colorado; C. Scott Bailey, Gainesville, Florida; Marco Bregliano, Calgary, AB, Canada; Allan Gunn, Scone, Australia; Jason Johnson, Auburn, Alabama.

ACT Student Outreach Fund

The ACT is seeking to promote awareness of the College and to encourage veterinary students to aspire to Diplomate status after graduation. As part of these goals, we have set up a Student Outreach Fund. The purpose of this fund is to facilitate travel and related expenses for non-local ACT Diplomates invited by student groups to visit and teach at veterinary schools. We hope that these visits will stimulate student enthusiasm for and interest in the College by broadening students’ awareness of the many opportunities open to our Diplomates. This opportunity is open to all student groups. It is not required that the school has an active Student Chapter of the Society for Theriogenology. Each school must designate one student as its representative.

Amount: The ACT will pay up to $1,000 in travel-related and/or associated speaking expenses per application for up to 5 invited Diplomates annually. Each student group can submit more than one application per year. However, in the event that more than 5 quality proposals are received, preference will be given to those student groups that have not yet received an award.

Overview: Each student group is encouraged to submit one or more proposals outlining their plans for inviting a specific Diplomate to visit their Veterinary College. Invited Diplomates must not be affiliated with the student applicants’ Veterinary College and must be an individual with whom the students would otherwise not have an interaction. The invited Diplomate should agree to provide education to the students. Education can be in the form of formal lectures, wet labs, round table discussions, etc. Topics can be of the students’ and/or Diplomate’s choosing but must in some way promote awareness of the discipline of theriogenology in general and, more specifically, should highlight one or more of the many varied advantages that Diplomate status carries.

Funds Available: 5 x $1,000 stipends will be available annually.

Recommended Procedure: Interested student groups first should identify a Diplomate that they would like to invite to their school. Your faculty advisor is likely to be an excellent resource in choosing the right person and in selecting a topic that is of interest to your group. The student representative then should contact the Diplomate to confirm his or her interest in the program. Once the Diplomate has agreed to the visit, an application should be completed by the student group and submitted to the Awards Committee of the American College of Theriogenologists.

Application Process

1) Interested student groups should complete an application form available from the American College of Theriogenologists main office or from the website (www.theriogenology.org). In addition to information on the student group and the visiting Diplomate, the application must include a detailed description of the proposed program and a budget. If costs of Diplomate travel and/or other program expenses will exceed the $1,000 stipend, then the student group must provide additional information on how these expenses will be covered.

2) A letter of support from a representative of the Veterinary College must accompany the application. This letter must document that the Veterinary College supports the proposal and will allow use of its facilities if and as needed to support the program (e.g., lecture hall, hospital space, animals, etc.)

Only those proposals deemed appropriate by the Awards Committee will be approved for funding. Award money must be spent within 1 year of notification that a proposal has been funded.

Deadlines for Application

Completed applications must be received by the Chair of the ACT Awards Committee by Nov. 1, 2008. Applications should be saved as MS Word files and sent in electronic form. Members of the Awards Committee will review all proposals and will make ranked recommendations to the ACT Executive Board in time for the Board’s annual winter meeting. Rankings will be reviewed and approved by the Board. Student groups will be notified of the final decisions by February 14, 2009. Successful groups will be responsible for notifying the visiting Diplomate of the status of the application.

Send Applications to:
Charles@franzmgt.com
For questions call 334-395-4666
Dr. John Steiner Memorial Fund

Immediately following the untimely death of former ACT president Dr. John Steiner in May of 2008, a joint memorial fund was established through the Foundation of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and included the Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists. To date more than $18,760.00 has been contributed to this memorial. The memorial fund remains open for donations by going online at www.aaep.org/foundation_make_gift.htm, or mailing a contribution in Dr. Steiner’s name to the AAEP Foundation, 4075 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, Kentucky 40511.

In a recent development, Minitube of America which has been a long time supporter of the Society and the College has announced it has named a new cytology brush in memory of Dr. Steiner who was the primary developer of the brush. Sarah Baumgartner, Equine Sales Associate for Minitube, told TherioNews that for every Steiner Cytology Brush sold, Minitube will donate 25-cents to the AAEP/SFT/ACT Memorial Fund set up in Dr. Steiner’s name. “This is just a small way to remember Dr. Steiner and all the great things he did to promote the Equine profession,” Ms. Baumgartner said.

The boards of directors of the College and the Society wish to thank Minitube for their support in this manner, and everyone who has made a contribution in Dr. Steiner’s memory.

Remembering a Friend

By Dr. Walter Zent

It has been several months since the passing of one of my closest and most admired friends and I can tell you that the loss is still overwhelming at times.

John Steiner, former president of the American College of Theriogenologists and long-time member of the ACT, was taken from his family, friends and colleagues following a tragic accident as he went about the work he loved.

John and I met in 1989. We both graduated from Cornell which may have played a large role in the development of our friendship. We worked very closely together at Hagyard Davidson and McGee in Lexington, Kentucky (Now Hagyard Equine Medical Institute) for 16 years. The working relationship we had was something a person very rarely finds in their professional career. John had such an easy way about him and it was a pleasure working together. His knowledge and professional skill was admired by everyone who came in contact with him.

John was raised on a family farm in Putnam County, NY. His love of horses and cattle came naturally. After receiving his DVM degree in 1968, he ventured out on his own founding an equine practice in Mahopac, NY, his home town. In 1989 he sold the practice and moved to Lexington where he purchased a farm next door to mine and started a new equine practice. Four years later he joined Hagyard and along with Dr. Karen Wolfsdorf and me, began the equine fertility unit there. He specialized in stallion and mare reproductive problems, equine embryo transfer, semen freezing and other assisted reproductive techniques. We worked hard, had a good time and enjoyed a lot of laughs and visits with students and colleagues from around the world. John, Karen and I enjoyed young people and we were frequently blessed with externs, interns and students from all corners of the world. John always had time for them and enjoyed teaching and helping them with their careers.

John became a member of the American College of Theriogenologists by the practitioner route which was no small feat for a man in his 50’s. However, when you have enough brain cells to get 100 in organic chemistry at Cornell, it would stand to reason that you would have enough left in middle age to pass the boards, and enough determination to persevere!

In 2003 he became vice president of the ACT, and as fate would have it I was honored by being elected vice president of SFT that very same year. For the next four years we were not only colleagues in practice, we were honored to be officers of two sister organizations, both of which were very important to our careers. This past convention in St. Louis was a different meeting for me and many others without him.

It was a sad day in 2008 when he told me that he and his wife Geri were moving to the family farm in New York where he planned to join the staff of Rhinebeck Equine and continue his equine reproduction work. I knew this was something he wanted to do (move back home to the family farm). But for me it meant not being able to see my friend as often as I would like. It was only a few short months later that this friend and colleague would succumb to a tragic accident and be gone forever, at least physically. It’s a great thing about memories; they give you the ability to make the “gone forever” somewhat easier to bear. The memories I have of Dr. John Steiner are of a man who was a tremendous and gifted theriogenologist. John was a person of infinite wisdom with the ability to lead. He was a person who left a positive impact on the field of theriogenology for generations to come.

But most of all, I remember John Steiner as my close and valued friend. I think of him often with very fond memories. We were born on the same day, five years apart. It was always a challenge to see who was going to make the first call to wish the other happy birthday. I will miss that challenge.
Tibary Takes Helm of ACT

Dr. Ahmed Tibary of Pullman, Washington took the reigns as president of the American College of Theriogenologists for 2008-2009 during the 2008 Therio Convention held in St. Louis, Missouri in August.

Congratulations Dr. Tibary and a thank you to Dr. Gary Nie for a year of outstanding leadership as ACT President for 2007-2008.

Dr. Ahmed Tibary (R), incoming ACT President, presents outgoing President Dr. Gary Nie with a plaque recognizing his year of service to the College.

2008-2009 ACT Leadership

The following are the newly elected officers for the American College of Theriogenologists for 2008-2009. Drs. Ahmed Tibary, Pullman, Washington, president; Charles Estill, Corvallis, Oregon, president-elect; Augustine Peter, West Lafayette, Indiana, vice president; Stuart Meyers, Davis, California, treasurer; Gary Nie, Springfield, Missouri, immediate past president. Dr. Ben Epsy of San Antonio, Texas was elected to the Board of Directors.

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Mission Committee Volunteers Needed

By Dr. Travis Meredith

As we continue to consider our goals, our mission, and our awareness in the professional community, the ACT Executive Board has approved and is seeking volunteers for the ACT Mission Committee. The committee will consist of 10 Diplomates with representation from all major species groups in both private and academic environments, and will be charged with researching and making recommendations as to the board in matters of improving our organization’s awareness, outreach strategy, marketing, and branding. The Mission committee will spend significant time evaluating the previous efforts conducted by the Society for Theriogenology, solicit bids from market research and brand development groups, estimate financial commitments, and present preliminary and final recommendations to the board. We are seeking motivated volunteers from all backgrounds, both new and more “seasoned.” If you’re interested in participating or have more questions, please email Travis Meredith directly at tmertthdvm@gmail.com.
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