



HSVMA In Action

2013 YEAR IN REVIEW



OUR MISSION: To protect and advocate for animals while providing leadership and service opportunities that support a humane veterinary profession.

SERVICE

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

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2013 HSVMA Year in Review Welcome Message

Barry N. Kellogg, VMD
Senior Veterinary Medical Advisor, HSVMA

The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association was formed as a home for veterinary professionals who want to engage in direct care programs for animals in need, educate the public and others in the profession about animal welfare issues, advance humane alternatives in veterinary education, and advocate better public policies for animals. In short, **We ARE Animal Welfare!**

What a year it has been for changes and progress in addressing specific welfare issues. As you look through this report, you will see many highlights from the year 2013. Each area speaks for itself but I'd like to touch on some of the HSVMA accomplishments that have had significant impact on animals in need:

- In the United States, more than **4,200 animals** were treated, **200 veterinary students** trained and **110 professional volunteers** engaged through our RAVS (Rural Area Veterinary Services) program. That equates to more than **40,000** volunteer hours logged.
- Internationally, there have been clinics in **six countries**, providing care to nearly **3,000** animals, training to **125** veterinary students and professionals as well as training for **250** Mexican veterinarians and veterinary students.
- Our Advocacy efforts have resulted in a total of **675** veterinary professionals being activated to assist efforts ranging from support for The Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act to addressing extreme confinement of farm animals.
- The HSVMA Webinar Series has provided CE credits and has been attended by more than **1,600** veterinary professionals, covering a wide range of topics from wildlife care to current spay and neuter research issues.
- HSVMA Members have given **20** presentations at veterinary schools on topics ranging from feral cats to cosmetic surgery and brought our message to more than 1,200 veterinarians of tomorrow.
- We have even sponsored three research projects made possible by a grant to HSVMA by the Kislak Family Foundation!

We pride ourselves in the fact every member has a voice. It is very important to realize that our members are our driving



Barry Kellogg examining dog. Photo Credit: Dr. Barry Kellogg

force. We have undertaken a comprehensive membership survey to help us establish our association's future priorities. You, the members, are providing the thoughts and opinions that will determine these, and if you have not done so, I encourage you to go to surveymonkey.com/s/hsvma_welfare_survey and complete the short survey.

I have personally been appointed to the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) of the American Veterinary Medical Association as the representative for Humane Organizations. This has been a great opportunity to build a bridge between our organizations. Again, I am reminded of the fact that together we can do more than we can individually!

The HSVMA mission has as its primary focus animal welfare. Now, it is more important than ever to join us and be an active part of HSVMA if you are concerned about and want to address animal welfare issues as a priority.

Our single most rewarding member benefit is in fact the knowledge that we are doing what is right and good for the benefit and care of animals of all species. We veterinary professionals should be taking the lead in addressing animal welfare concerns. Individually we are limited in our ability to make change, but collectively we can be very powerful.

In short, **We ARE Animal Welfare**, and we need you. We hope you will continue to support and define our collective efforts in 2014 and beyond.

Barry N. Kellogg VMD

Cover Main Photo: HSVMA-RAVS surgery suite at Cheyenne River Sioux Field Clinic. Photo Credit: Shea Long

Cover Inset Photo: Dr. Susan Krebsbach and other Pets for Life volunteers pose with a happy client and his dog at a Milwaukee wellness clinic. Photo Credit: Dr. Susan Krebsbach

HSVMA-RAVS Update from the Field

Windi Wojdak, RVT
Director, HSVMA-RAVS

As I reflect on 2013, my 10th year with the HSVMA-RAVS program, I can't help but think about how a decade seems to have flown by in the blink of an eye. Yet, I have a million fond memories.

There are all of the long, hot days and short nights in far-flung locales; the many thousands of animals brought to us in boxes, on bicycles, in trucks, in the arms of their caretakers — animals whose lives have been saved and suffering relieved by the care our teams provide. There are the incredible families, whose love and dedication to their animal companions shine through despite almost unfathomable poverty. And of course, there are all the skilled, compassionate and dedicated professionals who are the essence of this program. These individuals give their time, expertise and most of all their hearts to bring lifesaving care to animals in communities where veterinary attention is virtually nonexistent.

In the last 10 years, RAVS' teams have travelled to 19 countries and 20 states. From the mountains of Peru to the plains of South Dakota, more than 5,000 hardworking volunteers have provided high-quality medical and surgical care to 90,000 animals who would otherwise receive no veterinary care at all. We've trained more than 4,000 eager students from every veterinary school in the United States and from schools around the world. With intensive, hands-on experience and supportive mentorship, these students have gained valuable clinical skills, confidence and, perhaps most importantly, a sense of inspiration and empowerment to use their skills to help those in need.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WE NEED YOU! HSVMA-RAVS' ability to provide quality veterinary care and educational opportunities depends on the many dedicated professional volunteers who generously share their time and expertise in our field clinics each year. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are needed for our 2014 clinic season. Applications are being accepted now. CE credit is available. Please check our clinic schedule and find more information on how you can get involved at hsvma.org/ravs.

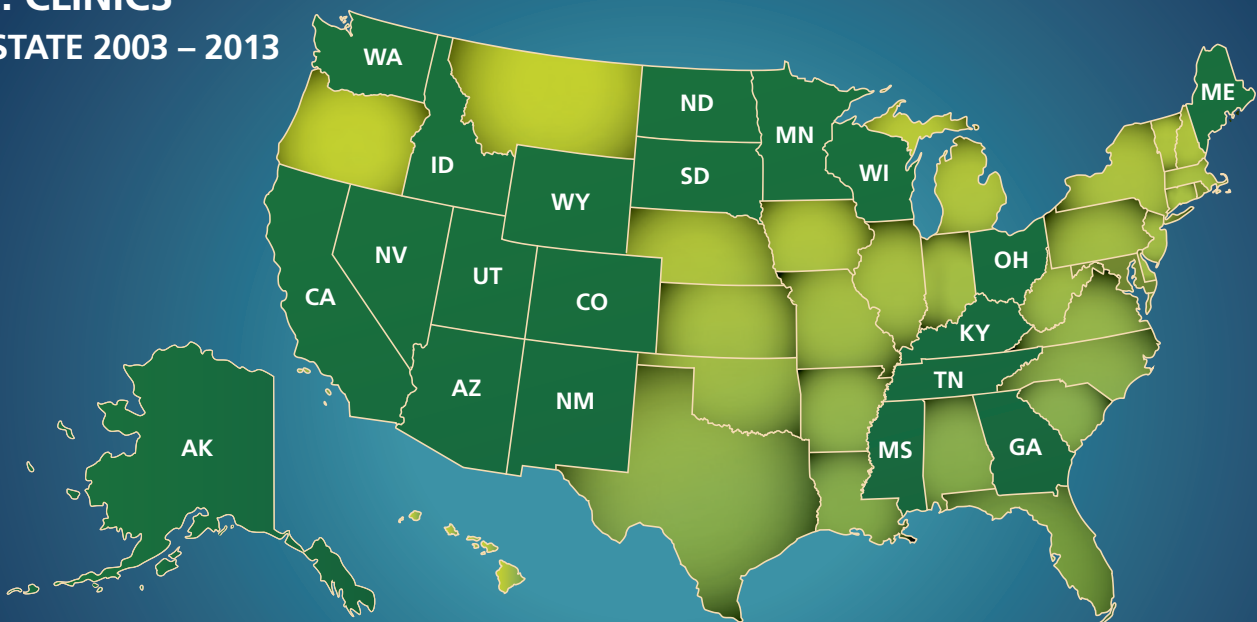
As impressive as these numbers are, they only tell a small part of the story.

At its core, RAVS is about relationships. It's about empathy, compassion and respect for every animal, every client and every member of the team. It's about bringing these individuals together for a common purpose and about forging bonds. From these relationships spring a wider web of connections that reach out into veterinary practices and communities around the world, inspiring a dedication to improve the health and well-being of animals everywhere.

For those of us who have found our calling with RAVS, the experiences we've shared and the relationships we've built have changed our lives, shifted our perceptions, loosened our judgments and opened our hearts. RAVS has made me a better person and allowed me to be of service in a way that too few are fortunate to know.

Yes, the last decade has been an incredible journey — and I look forward to the adventures of 2014 and beyond.

U.S. CLINICS BY STATE 2003 – 2013



HSVMA-RAVS International 2013 Year in Review: The Ripple Effect

Susan Monger, DVM
Director, HSVMA-RAVS International

The HSVMA-RAVS International program began in 1996 with a handful of veterinarians and veterinary students providing direct care to horses in Peten, Guatemala. Shortly after, we started delivering direct care to the dogs and cats as well. Over time, we brought teams to more villages and then more countries, providing more services and helping more animals.

As the RAVS program grew in scope and size, I saw that we were able to effect change in many ways. First, more volunteers donated their time and skills to mentor veterinary students while helping animals in need of veterinary care. Then we began working with local veterinary professionals, which included veterinarians and “tecnicos,” locals who we trained in basic veterinary care so the community would have access to basic care during our absence. Families and their animals lined up at our clinics from early in the morning until late in the afternoon to receive care for their dogs and cats. People who depend on horses for their livelihoods began to wait for us to castrate their horses, rather than castrating them themselves. Our techniques minimized the time needed for aftercare, which allowed horse and caretaker to get back to work faster.

We also began to teach in local veterinary colleges to eager students and veterinarians who wanted to learn more about anesthesia, analgesia and surgery; how to humanely castrate a horse; and most of all, how to improve their skills and knowledge, which would allow them to provide humane treatment of animals everywhere they went on to work. To our delight, the veterinary professionals we trained in turn trained more veterinary professionals in their own countries. Over the years, RAVS International teams have worked in 19 foreign countries, treated more than 30,000 dogs, cats and horses and



Dr. Susan Monger with a patient at Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo Veterinary School, Dominican Republic, in March 2013. Photo Credit: Dr. Melina Stambolis

trained 1,200 veterinary professionals with the help of more than 260 volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technicians. In turn, as a result of our focus on sustainability, over 50,000 additional small animal sterilization surgeries have been performed by in-country veterinarians trained by RAVS or employed by spay/neuter programs begun or enhanced by RAVS.

I call this amazing chain of events “The Ripple Effect.” Our volunteers return year after year to work long hours in foreign countries under often challenging physical conditions. Think of an eight-to-twelve-hour hike at 15,000 feet in the Andes in order to arrive at the next clinic site to deliver care to equids belonging to families who depend on them for work and transportation, as there are no vehicles. Think of sleeping on a floor without air conditioning in places with 90% humidity and swarming with insects. Think of conducting a surgical training clinic with only a hose and buckets as a water source. Despite these hardships, our volunteers rise before dawn each day, eager to greet the people and their animals. They continue to return year after year and tell their colleagues about us, which in turn results in more dedicated volunteers.

What generates this ripple effect? I believe it is seeing animals without any access to veterinary care arrive at the clinic in the mornings, nervous and overwhelmed, reunited with their caregivers after a day in surgery with tails wagging and throats purring. Seeing horses and their owners walk home after a surgery or treatment, knowing health and worth have increased exponentially for both the horse and the family. Usually, the now-vaccinated trusty family dog is trotting along behind. Watching student skill and confidence grow over the course of a clinic and hearing their comments of sincere appreciation and gratitude at the end of the course. Working with passionate individuals who want to help create positive change, developing relationships that will last a lifetime. At its core, RAVS is all about relationships. These relationships create sustainability which allows the ripple effect to radiate out improving animal welfare all over the world.



A patient and clients returning home. Photo Credit: Dr. Raul Casas

HSVMA RURAL AREA VETERINARY SERVICES 2003 – 2013*

CLINICS & COMMUNITIES

	U.S.	INTL	TOTAL
# Trips	253	108	361
# Locations	84	29	113

ANIMALS TREATED

	Canine	Feline	Equine/Other	TOTAL
Surgery	22,238	14,064	4,798	41,100
Medicine/Wellness	25,604	7,389	15,987	48,980
TOTAL ANIMALS	47,842	21,453	20,785	90,080
# Treatments Provided				402,507

VALUE OF SERVICES

	Small Animal	Equine	Other Species
Surgery	\$6,926,940	\$1,480,400	\$25,530
Medicine/Wellness	\$7,592,911	\$2,814,045	
Total/Species	\$14,519,851	\$4,294,445	\$25,530
TOTAL VALUE			\$18,839,826

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

	US/Canadian	Foreign	TOTAL	Volunteer Hours Contributed
Veterinary Student	3,548	535	4,083	373,961
Tech Student	32	0	32	2,168
Technician / Assist	504	0	504	54,104
Veterinarian	729	320	1,049	124,895
Other	357	39	396	34,544
TOTAL VOLS	5,170	894	6,064	590,122

More than **360** field clinics serving **84 U.S. reservations/counties** and **19 countries**

More than **90,000 animals** treated

Over **400,000 treatments** provided

Nearly **\$19 million in free veterinary care** provided

6,000 volunteers contributed more than **590,000 volunteer hours!**

27 U.S. veterinary schools represented by student participants

Professional volunteers from 48 states + DC, 6 provinces, 5 other countries

**The RAVS program began in 1995 with a small scale vaccination clinic on the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota and grew rapidly from there. The project became a program of The HSUS in 2002 and the direct care arm of The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association in 2008. Statistics here reflect RAVS work only since 2003.*



Dr. Kate Kuzminski and a RAVS volunteer check on a dog at the San Carlos Apache Reservation.
Photo Credit: Kathy Milani/The HSUS



RAVS volunteers removed dozens of porcupine quills from this patient's face and mouth.
Photo Credit: Shea Long



Dr. Paul Breckenridge removes quills from the mouth of the anesthetized dog.
Photo Credit: Shea Long

HSVMA On Campus in 2013

2013 marked another year of continued growth for the HSVMA's Student Outreach section with an expanded presence on veterinary school campuses, an active Speakers Bureau, a growing student chapter program and new skills development opportunities for students.

HSVMA Speakers Bureau, Suture Labs and Student Events

- 20 presentations
- 4 suture labs
- 1,400 students reached at 13 different schools
- 5 new schools reached (Colorado State, Illinois, Iowa State, Louisiana State and Michigan State)
- 50 students attended HSVMA networking reception at SAVMA symposium with a talk on providing veterinary care in low-income neighborhoods

Skills Development offered by HSVMA

- Dry suture lab
- Dry lab: Identifying and reporting animal cruelty
- Student member participation in the Pets for Life (PFL) Community Outreach Program—Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago
- Veterinary externship opportunities at the Cape Wildlife Center and the South Florida Wildlife Center
- Humane Lobby Day—lobbying for animal welfare legislation in California, Massachusetts and New York

**New student members from
35 different DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL veterinary schools**



Dr. Ahne Simonsen (second from left) demonstrates a suture technique on simple phantoms created with cardboard, a huck towel, string, tubing and painters tape. Photo Credit: Pam Runquist/HSVMA



University of Florida CVM student and HSVMA research grant recipient Hagar Hauser addressed reducing canine hyperactivity in the shelter environment. One of the calming treatments consisted of reading to a dog for 15 minutes with no interaction. Photo Credit: Hagar Hauser

NEW! HSVMA Student Scholars Program for Animal Welfare Research at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

Made possible by a grant from the Kislak Family Foundation

HSVMA sponsored 3 research projects

- Social enrichment methods for shelter dogs with hyperactivity
- Service learning opportunities for veterinary students through spay/neuter clinics for feral (community) cats
- Dog vaccination issues in Ecuador – evaluating titers



"Thanks to the tremendous support of the HSVMA, co-president Hanna Wachtel and I were able to achieve some pretty ambitious goals within our student chapter. Our membership has grown, our outreach projects increased, and the overall positive feeling that HSVMA invests in students and our local community is stronger than ever."

– Sarah Buckenberger, UC Davis SVM Class of 2015 on her experience as an HSVMA student chapter member. Sarah was 2013 co-president of the HSVMA UC Davis student chapter and is also an HSVMA-RAVS student volunteer.

HSVMA Offers Continuing Education with a Humane Slant

Lorna Grande, DVM
HSVMA Continuing Education Advisor

Popular Webinar Series Provides CE Credits for Welfare Training

HSVMA continued to expand our unique continuing education program in 2013 by offering more opportunities for veterinary professionals to learn about animal welfare topics while also earning RACE-approved CE credits.

HSVMA Webinars on Animal Welfare Topics

The HSVMA webinar series has proved to be popular among veterinary professionals, providing the opportunity to earn CE credits on a wide variety of welfare topics pertinent to practicing veterinarians and veterinary technicians from the comfort of your home or office.

HSVMA hosts live webinars every other month, and our 2013 topics ranged from “Low Stress Handling of Difficult Cats” with Dr. Sophia Yin to “Reviewing the Latest in Spay/Neuter Research” with Dr. Philip Bushby and “Veterinary Needs of the Growing Population of Backyard Chickens” with Dr. Lynne Luna.

Current HSVMA members have free access to all of our webinars, and the webinars are archived at hsvma.org/webinars for those unable to view the live presentation. CE credits are also available for viewing the recorded versions after completing a quiz.



*Another popular webinar topic in 2013 was “Backyard Poultry.”
Photo Credit: Jenny Brown*

Upcoming webinar topics for 2014 include a review of dog training techniques presented by Dr. Melissa Bain, head of the Clinical Animal Behavior Service at the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine; an overview on how to create a cat-friendly practice by Dr. Elizabeth Colleran, past American Association of Feline Practitioners president; and a discussion of the veterinarian’s role in addressing genetic and other health disorders facing purebred dogs with Dr. Lorna Grande, HSVMA continuing education advisor, and Dr. Paula Kislak, president of the HSVMA’s Board of Directors.

More information and registration for all upcoming HSVMA WEBINARS can be found at hsvma.org/webinars.

In-Person CE Events Focus on Critical Welfare Issues

In addition to our webinar series, HSVMA also hosted several in-person continuing education events during 2013 that focused on critical animal welfare issues. In January, renowned bioethicist Dr. Bernard Rollin delivered an HSVMA presentation at NAVC 2013 on the subject of euthanasia and the moral stress it creates for the veterinary profession. More than 250 veterinary professionals attended this thought-provoking session.

Also in 2013, wildlife veterinarian Dr. Roberto Aguilar delivered several presentations on the subject of how veterinary hospitals can provide emergency veterinary care to injured and orphaned wildlife. This topic has proven to be popular for veterinary professionals who want to provide temporary care for these animals until they can be transferred to a rehabilitator. HSVMA has produced a reference manual on the same topic, “Before the Rehabilitator Arrives: Wildlife Care Basics for Veterinary Hospitals,” which is available to members at a special discounted rate of \$25. For more information, visit our website at hsvma.org/benefits.



Among the most popular HSVMA Continuing Education Webinars was an overview of the latest in spay/neuter research. Here, HSVMA veterinary consultant Dr. Susan Krebsbach instructs students on preparing a cat for spaying at a 2013 HSVMA World Spay Day Event in Madison, Wis. Photo Credit: Jacob Hand

HSVMA Advocates in Action

Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA
HSVMA Advocacy/Policy Division

More than 650 veterinary professionals joined HSVMA in actively supporting a wide range of legislation aimed at improving the well-being of farm and companion animals and wildlife species during 2013.



HSVMA member Dr. Jennifer Conrad and HSVMA veterinary advisor Dr. Barbara Hodges on a legislative visit to the California state capitol in Sacramento Photo Credit: Steve Yeater

HSVMA members advocated for humane legislation in a variety of ways, including signing endorsement letters, calling and emailing their legislators, testifying at legislative hearings, writing articles and columns, submitting letters-to-the-editor and op-eds, and attending veterinary lobbying events.

The veterinary professional support was critical in ensuring passage of several bills, including a landmark bill to require non-lead ammunition in hunting in California, and will likely help move forward several other pending animal welfare legislative efforts next year.

State Legislative Efforts

ENDING INHUMANE FARM ANIMAL CONFINEMENT METHODS

HSVMA supported three state bills aimed at ending the extreme confinement of breeding sows and veal calves in crates so small the animals cannot perform most natural behaviors, including turning around and extending their limbs.

- **New Jersey – Gestation Crates:** HSVMA gathered the endorsement of 100 New Jersey veterinarians in support of a bill (S 1921/A 3250) to end the extreme confinement of pregnant sows in gestation crates. HSVMA

Leadership Council member Dr. Gordon Stull, a N.J. veterinarian, also had an op-ed supporting the measure published in a major New Jersey newspaper. The bill was overwhelmingly approved by the New Jersey Legislature, but then vetoed by Gov. Chris Christie. An effort to overturn the Governor's veto was underway at year-end.

- **Massachusetts – Gestation and Veal Crates: More than 210** Massachusetts veterinarians signed onto an HSVMA letter in support of Massachusetts legislation (S 741) to prohibit the use of gestation and veal crates. The measure is still pending.
- **New York – Gestation and Veal Crates:** The HSVMA New York Veterinary Lobby Day team advocated for a bill (A 1656/4987) to ban gestation and veal calf crates at the state capitol in Albany in May. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass out of agriculture committees.

PROTECTING CRITICAL WILDLIFE HEALTH AND WELFARE

HSVMA supported four legislative efforts addressing cruel and unsporting hunting and trapping methods.

- **California – Banning Lead Ammunition:** With Gov. Jerry Brown's signature on AB 711 in October, California became the first state in the nation to require the use of only non-lead ammunition in recreational hunting. **More than 110 California veterinarians**, including board-certified avian and other wildlife experts, endorsed HSVMA's "[Statement of Veterinary Support for a Requirement of Non-Lead Ammunition for Hunting](#)." In addition, several HSVMA members visited legislators in their district offices in California to convey their support for the bill.
- **California - Restrictions on Cruel Trapping and Killing Methods:** HSVMA submitted a statement in support of AB 789, which prohibits wildlife trappers from using specific methods of killing (stomping, drowning or injection of toxic chemicals); requires the posting of signage where lethal traps are set on public lands; and reduces the size of allowable body-crushing traps. The measure was signed into law by Gov. Brown.
- **Maine - Bear Hunting Ballot Initiative:** **More than 45 Maine veterinarians and veterinary clinics** joined with HSVMA in endorsing the efforts of the Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting coalition to place a measure on the 2014 state ballot calling for an end to the cruel and unfair practices of trapping, hounding and baiting bears. Maine remains the only state in the nation to allow these practices as recreational.
- **Michigan - Ballot Campaign to Stop the Trophy Hunting of Wolves:** Soon after the Great Lakes wolf was removed from federal protection in 2012, Michigan passed legislation designating wolves as game and open to trophy hunting. **More than 115 Michigan veterinarians** joined with HSVMA to endorse a successful effort to put a veto referendum of that bill on the 2014 ballot. However, the state legislature quickly passed a second bill, Public Act 21, to circumvent the first referendum and allow the trophy hunting to resume. Signature collection is now underway to qualify a second veto referendum—this time, aimed at overturning PA 21—on the 2014 ballot.

STRENGTHENING PUPPY MILL REGULATIONS AND PROMOTING COMPANION ANIMAL LEMON LAWS

HSVMA supported one bill to strengthen standards of care imposed on dog dealers, and two state companion animal 'lemon laws,' providing legal and financial recourse to consumers who inadvertently purchase sick pets.

- **New York - Puppy Mill Bill:** The HSVMA advocated for A 1655/S 4799, a bill to establish improved humane housing and standards of care for puppy mill dogs, during a lobbying event in May. Unfortunately, it did not pass out of agricultural committees.
- **Massachusetts – Puppy and Kitten Lemon Law:** This bill (SB 401/HB 1874) would prohibit the sale of puppies and kittens who are less than 8 weeks old, allow the Department of Agriculture to regulate commercial breeders and give consumers improved recourse when they unknowingly buy sick puppies. The HSVMA Lobby Day team advocated for this legislation in September. The bill is still pending.
- **Illinois - Puppy and Kitten Lemon Law:** This bill (SB 1639) allows consumers to receive reimbursement for veterinary costs after purchasing a puppy or kitten if the animal was sick at the time of the sale or if the dog or cat has a significant genetic condition. The legislation also requires pet stores to report outbreaks of animal diseases to the Department of Agriculture and to notify consumers who bought a cat or dog from the store in the two weeks preceding the occurrence of any such outbreaks. Several HSVMA veterinary members submitted testimony in support of this legislation. Gov. Pat Quinn signed the bill in August.

Federal Legislative Efforts

PREVENTING CRUELTY TO HORSES BY SUPPORTING THE PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS ACT (S 1406/HR 1518)

- The PAST Act would protect Tennessee Walking, Racking and Spotted Saddle Horses from cruel and inhumane 'soring,' the intentional infliction of pain to horses' hooves and legs by unscrupulous trainers in order to gain an unfair competitive advantage at horse shows. It would strengthen the Horse Protection Act of 1970 by banning action devices and stacked shoes associated with soring, increasing penalties for violations and ending industry self-policing. HSVMA submitted an organizational support statement to federal legislators and also activated our veterinary membership to contact key legislators in support of this legislation. The measure is pending.

SUPPORTING THE VETERINARY MEDICINE MOBILITY ACT (S 950/HR 1528)

- The VMMA makes the legislative changes needed to allow licensed veterinarians to transport and dispense controlled substances outside their registered locations in order to treat animal patients in the course of providing mobile or ambulatory medical services. Passage is essential for veterinarians practicing under field conditions, conducting house calls or mobile spay/neuter clinics, and in some agricultural and wildlife scenarios. HSVMA submitted a support statement and also joined with a coalition of veterinary groups in advocating for this legislation, which is still pending.

To read more about HSVMA legislative and other advocacy efforts, visit our website at hsvma.org/advocacy.

HSVMA VETERINARY LOBBY DAYS

HSVMA expanded our organized veterinary lobbying activity during 2013 with Veterinary Lobby Days in two state capitols, and piloted a program in which constituent veterinarians advocated at the local offices of their own representatives.

New York Veterinary Lobby Day (May 21)

A team of eight New York veterinarians convened in Albany and lobbied on behalf of bills strengthening animal cruelty laws, eliminating inhumane farm animal confinement practices and improving the standards of animal care required of commercial breeders.

Massachusetts Veterinary Lobby Day (Sept 18)

A team of five Massachusetts veterinarians met at the State House in Boston for a day of lobbying in support of bills addressing farm animal confinement systems, puppy mills and disaster preparedness for pets.

California Legislative District Office Visits

Teams of California veterinarians visited the local offices of their own state Senators to convey support for AB 711, a bill to require the use of only non-lead ammunition in hunting. As constituents and veterinarians, they were able to communicate firsthand knowledge of the harmful effects of lead toxicity on animals.



People lined up early for the PFL event in Chicago. Photo Credit: The HSUS

HSVMA Improves Pets' Lives through Pets for Life

The Humane Society of the United States' Pets for Life (PFL) program is a community-outreach effort that uses innovative strategies to reach animals in underserved communities. The program grew out of an increasing awareness that, because of economic, social, linguistic, or cultural factors, many communities don't have access to pet care information, resources, or veterinary and related services, despite an often great need. By providing assistance to these communities, the PFL program aims to reduce suffering and cruelty, prevent shelter overpopulation, and promote veterinary care, thus improving the lives of people and animals. HSVMA members – veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary and veterinary technician students – are an important component of this program.

Pets for Life has dedicated staff on the ground in four cities: Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. Through the generous financial support of PetSmart Charities, PFL is also able to provide training and mentoring for local groups in an additional 10 cities. To date, HSVMA members have taken part in wellness and vaccination clinics held in each of the four established program cities, plus Milwaukee, which is one of the cities where PFL is supporting pilot programs.



Dr. Susan Kresbach (left) and other PFL volunteers pose with a happy client and his friendly pet pit bull dog. Photo Credit: Dr. Susan Kresbach

2013 HSVMA Humane Awards



Photo Credit: Dr. Debra Teachout

2013 HSVMA Veterinary Advocate of the Year: Dr. Debra Teachout

Dr. Debra Teachout is not only an experienced practicing veterinarian but also has special interests in ethics and animal welfare—excelling in both areas. Since graduating from

the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 1986, she has shown her dedication to the promotion of respect and humane standards of care for all animals. In addition to pursuing postgraduate education in the areas of ethics and animal welfare, Dr. Teachout is also an animal welfare consultant, writer and teacher.

Dr. Teachout is an adjunct Assistant Teaching Professor in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine where she teaches an online course entitled "Animal Welfare and Ethics." Since 2008, Dr. Teachout has been a volunteer veterinary consultant for Mercy for Animals, providing written expert veterinary opinion concerning the welfare of farm animals captured in undercover video footage. At the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association's Sixth Annual Veterinary Forensic Science Conference in 2013 she gave a presentation entitled *The Undercover Video as Evidence in Animal Cruelty*.

In addition to all of this, Dr. Teachout is also an associate veterinarian at Pulaski Animal Hospital, in Chicago, Illinois, a columnist for the *Journal of Wildlife Rehabilitation*, and has been a course developer and instructor on wildlife rehabilitation, as well as a wildlife veterinarian. She is a frequent participant in the HSVMA Speaker's Bureau, presenting on a variety of animal welfare topics at veterinary schools throughout the United States.

Given her active, wide-ranging and effective role in advocating for animals, the HSVMA is proud to recognize Dr. Debra Teachout as the recipient of the 2013 Veterinary Advocate of the Year.



Photo Credit: Dr. Stacey Daley

2013 HSVMA Direct Care Practitioner of the Year: Elizabeth Peach, LVT

Elizabeth Peach is an extraordinary Licensed Veterinary Technician and passionate, dedicated advocate for animal health and welfare. She has committed her life and her career to improving animal health and strengthening the human-animal bond by providing communities in need with access to high quality wellness and spay/neuter clinics, and to promoting sustainability through training veterinary professionals and students.

Liz's passion for international welfare work was ignited during undergraduate community wildlife management semester in Kenya while at Tufts University and subsequent Peace Corps service in Ecuador. Liz has served as Clinic Director and LVT during field service work in South America, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific since 2004. Through Proteccion Animal Ecuador, she organized the first of now annual clinics in Ambato, Ecuador to address the overpopulation and welfare of street dogs, and provide spay/neuter services to low-income families in the community.

Liz has also served as Associate Director and Clinic Director for Soul Dog Rescue on Native American reservations since 2010. As an LVT Educator for the National Spay and Neuter Project, she worked to create sustainable spay/neuter programs in low-income communities in New York City.

Liz's tireless dedication to promoting animal welfare makes her an inspiration for all veterinary professionals. The HSVMA is proud to name Elizabeth Peach, BS, LVT the 2013 Direct Care Practitioner of the Year.

"My HSVMA-RAVS trip last summer was a life-changing experience. Maybe even more important than the increased confidence I gained from the mentored experience is that my faith in the kindness of people was restored. The sense of teamwork and common purpose was infectious and inspiring. The attitude of the group trickled down from the group leaders who set the stage — this sense of compassion and commitment was the MO of the entire organization. It felt great to play a part in the HSVMA-RAVS mission and to try to improve the status of animals in a community by setting an example of treating them with the respect and dignity that I would wish to be bestowed upon all animals."

Sara Vogler Michigan State University CVM Class of 2016

2013 HSVMA Veterinary Student Advocate of the Year Care Award: Michelle White

Our fourth annual HSVMA Student Advocacy Award recipient is Michelle White, a class of 2014 student at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. This award recognizes students who have promoted humane and respectful treatment of all animals while in veterinary school.

Michelle's accomplishments and commitment to animal welfare are numerous. While at Cornell, she founded the HSVMA Student Chapter and organized many other welfare-related presentations. Michelle's compassion extends to all animals; including volunteer work at farm animal welfare organizations, advocating for the protection of carriage horses in New York City, and completing an externship at the Fund for Animals' Cape Wildlife Center in Massachusetts. She also engaged in legislative and professional advocacy through participation in both the HSVMA's and The Humane Society of the United States' Humane Lobby Days at the New York state capitol in Albany, and recently attended the AVMA conference "Can You Hear Me Now? The Conversation: An Intraprofessional Conversation about Animal Welfare."

In addition to pursuing her DVM, Michelle is a Ph.D candidate in genetics and will continue her studies at Cornell after her graduation this spring.



Photo Credit: Michelle White

2013 HSVMA Veterinary Student Direct Care Practitioner of the Year Award: Ada Norris, Ph.D

The HSVMA is pleased to announce the selection of Ada Norris as the winner of the 2013 Veterinary Student Direct Care Award. Ada will graduate from Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2016.

Ada Norris came to veterinary medicine via a long and winding road of diverse interests, including wilderness Emergency Medical Technician training, serving as an ambulance driver, and receiving a Ph.D in Literature. As a veterinary student, Ada has been involved with numerous projects addressing free-roaming and under-served companion animals – including ongoing work with HSVMA-RAVS and other veterinary field programs, clinical and investigative work with animal shelters, community outreach to low income families, a field service project in Madagascar and numerous shelter medicine activities at Cornell.

Ada reflects how the practice of veterinary medicine is an art, a profession and a calling. She combines a curious nature with a striking intellectual capacity and a realistic laid back manner that allow her to connect and communicate with individuals from all walks of life. The HSVMA is pleased to honor her efforts and looks forward to her future endeavors.



Ada Norris consults with HSVMA-RAVS Senior Staff Veterinarian Dr. Paul Breckenridge on a case. Photo Credit: Windi Wojdak/HSVMA

HSVMA Member Benefit Updates for 2013-2014

Member Benefit Updates

The HSVMA is pleased to announce the latest member benefit updates. The HSVMA discount on John Wiley & Sons publications available to current members has been upgraded from 20% to 35%. Wiley's scientific, technical, medical and scholarly business, also known as Wiley-Blackwell, serves the world's research and scholarly communities and is the largest publisher of veterinary titles and textbooks in the world.



Browse all subjects and imprints at wiley.com and when you are ready to check out, add discount code SD151 in the promotion box to receive your discount.*

And, if you are an HSVMA veterinary member working for or with a non-profit animal welfare organization, thanks to our friends at The Humane Society of the United States' Shelter Partner program, you are now eligible for special discounts on Abaxis Veterinary Reference Laboratory Services such as VetScan Rapid Tests, VetScan VSpro Cartridges, handheld analyzers and more. The discounts vary by product. For information about specific discounts, please contact us at membership@hsvma.org.



To place an order, visit vet.abaxis.com/hsus, or call 1-800-822-2947 and follow the prompts: Press 3 for Veterinary Point of Care Products, then press 1 for customer service to place an order; or press 4 for Abaxis Veterinary Reference Laboratory Services. Please mention HSUS/HSVMA Shelter Partner Discounts.

If you are unsure of your membership status for HSVMA member discount eligibility, please log in to your member profile to check your expiration date at hsvma.org/members, or contact us at 301-258-1478 or by email at membership@hsvma.org.

*35% Wiley-Blackwell discount not available on German language titles and certain major reference works such as Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook

Please update your HSVMA Member Profile Today!

Speaking of HSVMA member profiles, we encourage you to log in and make sure we have all your up-to-date contact information and any biographical information that we may be missing, such as your veterinary school or technician/assistant program or school name and graduation year. It's especially important that we have your most up-to-date email address to keep you informed on HSVMA news and send you alerts about upcoming webinars, special offers and updates as we continue to expand HSVMA member benefits.

HSVMA MEMBER SURVEY

As a veterinary professional organization, our members' thoughts and opinions are pivotal to the strength and accomplishment of our activities and efforts. To that end, HSVMA launched a member survey at the end of 2013 to help us gather a sense of our members' priorities and give our members a voice in helping to determine our direction for 2014 and beyond.

If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete our short online survey at surveymonkey.com/s/hsvma_welfare_survey to let us know which animal welfare issues are most important to you. Your responses will influence HSVMA's focus in the future.

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