

Puppy Mill Research Stipend Available, Students Weigh In on Local Ordinance

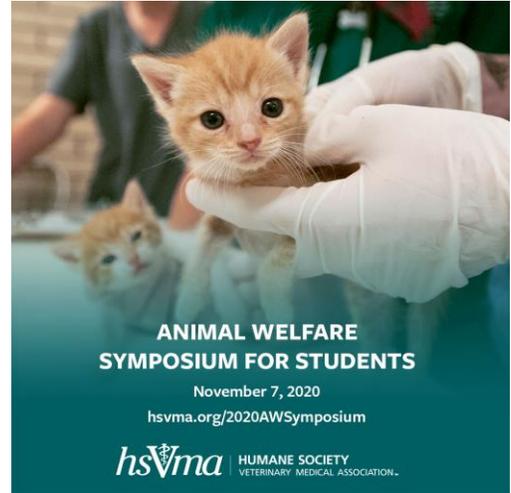
HSVMA has a \$7,000 stipend available to a veterinary student who would like to complete a 2021 summer research project related to the welfare of dogs in puppy mills. The student selected for the stipend by an HSVMA review team will be expected to work full time for a 10-week period, as well as write up and present their results in poster format at the 2021 HSVMA Animal Welfare Symposium, which will be held in the fall at a veterinary school in the United States (location TBD). The stipend will cover the research project as well as the cost of travel to the symposium. In order to apply for the stipend, students have to identify a faculty member at their school (or at another accredited school) willing to endorse the project and mentor the student during the active project period. Required application information can be found [here](#). Any questions can be sent to Heather Schrader, HSVMA Student Outreach Program Manager, at hschrader@hsvma.org



Illinois Vet Students Speak Out Against Puppy Mills: The issue of puppy mills has long been a concern for animal advocates and this has driven the passage of many laws banning the sale of pets in stores. Veterinary students at University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine have signed a letter in support of Chicago Ordinance #02020-2827. If passed, this will close a loop hole from a similar ordinance passed in 2014 that bans the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in Chicago pet stores. This loophole lets non-compliant pet store owners create 'sham' rescues that then sell pets to these stores for profit. The HSVMA chapter at University of Illinois submitted a letter to Chicago Aldermen voicing their concern and citing their Veterinarian Oath to "benefit society through the protection of animal health and welfare; and the prevention and relief of animal suffering." HSVMA is proud that this group of students has spoken out, since the veterinary voice, including veterinary students, carries so much weight with legislators regarding animal advocacy legislation. You can read the students' letter in a [blog](#) published by Chicago area animal behavior consultant and journalist, Steve Dale.

Content for This Year's Animal Welfare Symposium for Students Still Available

HSVMA was excited to co-host this year's Animal Welfare Symposium for Students with The Humane Society of the United States via a virtual platform on November 7th. Two concurrent lecture tracks allowed attendees more topic choices for a full day of welfare-related presentations along with the opportunity to visit the virtual exhibit hall and join live networking sessions with some of our speakers. While we missed the interaction and face-to-face networking as with previous events, our online symposium has been able to reach more students than ever before. Access to the lectures and virtual exhibit hall is available on demand through January 31, 2021 and continues to be free for students as well as all veterinary professionals. Go to our [webpage](#) for more information or register/login to the platform [here](#).



Online Speakers Bureau Lectures and Virtual Suture Labs

Distance learning and travel restrictions due to this year's pandemic have forced us to implement some changes to our student outreach program. Since the start of this semester, HSVMA has sponsored 23 online lectures. As we face the end of 2021, we are anticipating a continuation of online lectures until it is deemed safer to travel. Please see our [Speaker Bureau webpage](#) for the topics we offer and contact Heather at hshrader@hsvma.org to request a lecture. Since we would typically offer food during an in-person lecture, we have transitioned to offering e-gift cards to attendees. If school policy does not allow this, we have offered a book raffle. Please allow at least two weeks advance notice to request a presentation so speakers can fit the lectures into their busy schedules.



Veterinary students participating in a suture lab at University of Wisconsin (pre-pandemic)

Photo credit: Susan Krebsbach

Virtual Suture Labs Also Available: The RAVS team has moved their popular suture labs to a virtual platform and are planning to schedule some new dates after the New Year. Attendees will log on to a scheduled Zoom session to work

with instructors on various suture patterns and techniques via camera. The hands-on portion of the lab will be preceded by a presentation detailing the high-quality, high-volume techniques utilized during clinics. Attendees will complete a poll to assess skill level and be assigned to a Zoom break out room on the date of their lab to work directly with an instructor. To allow students to get the most out of the lab, space will be limited to ensure an optimal instructor:student ratio. Students will want to register before the deadline to avoid missing out! Feel free to contact Anne Marie at amcpartlin@fundforanimals.org for details.

Student-Run Clinics Help Communities in Need

Access to care has become an increasingly important issue in veterinary medicine as so many families have lost their income and housing due to the pandemic. Many veterinary schools have student-run clinics that offer free or low-cost services to community members. These are a great way for students to get hands-on experience and to help support families who need basic care for their furry family member. Some of these clinics offer a OneHealth approach and provide medical and social services to the individuals bringing their pets for care.

- University of Wisconsin has a program called [WisCARES](#) that offers veterinary and social services to low income and homeless families in the Madison, WI area.
- University of California, Davis has a monthly clinic, [Mercer Clinic for the Pets of the Homeless](#), that serves the Sacramento, CA area and [Knights Landing One Health Center](#), that provides services to a low income community north of the UC Davis vet school.
- Colorado State University has a program called [Inclusive Health Collaboration](#) which partners with [The Street Dog Coalition](#), founded by Dr. Jon Geller, our HSVMA CO State Representative.



Students volunteering at a One Health clinic in Detroit, Michigan

Photo credit: HSVMA

- A new program at [Texas A&M](#) will offer veterinary and mental health services via telemedicine, an increasingly popular resource that has the ability to reach more people amidst the pandemic.
- A group of students attending the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine are in the early stages of planning a student-run clinic to serve their community. If you participate in a student-run clinic, the KSU students would like to connect with you for some advice on how to make their clinic a success. Please contact Chris Clarkston at clarkston798@vet.k-state.edu

Comments or questions about HSVMA student outreach programs and activities?
Please contact us at students@hsvma.org



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