

HSVMA IN ACTION

2021 Year in Review

President's Message

Barry Kipperman, DVM, DACVIM, MSc, DACAW
HSVMA Board President

I am excited to share this latest edition of the HSVMA *Year in Review*, which highlights the many accomplishments of our dedicated staff and committed veterinary professional volunteers during 2021.

HSVMA is now nearing our 15-year anniversary, and I am proud of all the organization has accomplished to engage the expertise and compassion of veterinary professionals to advance animal welfare. I am particularly excited about the growing momentum we see from veterinarians, veterinary technicians and students to help with our advocacy, education and outreach efforts despite all the commitments and challenges facing the profession. It is truly admirable.

Our signature HSVMA State Representative program now includes 39 members representing the organization in 33 states and the District of Columbia. These volunteer veterinarians have allowed us to significantly expand our impact by stepping forward to provide testimony on behalf of animal welfare legislation, conducting interviews with the press, delivering educational presentations to veterinary students and other professional audiences, and donating their time and expertise in myriad other ways.

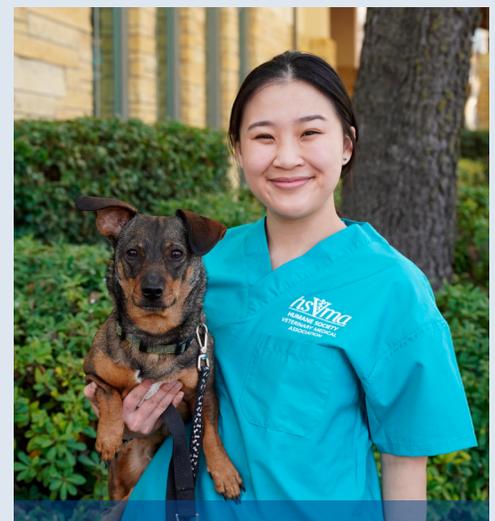
Our Student Outreach program now encompasses an HSVMA student representative or chapter at nearly every veterinary school in the United States as well as several in Canada, the U.K., and the Caribbean, giving us the opportunity to connect with the next generation of veterinary professionals on timely and important animal welfare initiatives. Our annual Compassionate Care



Dr. Barry Kipperman with
Buttercup and Winston
Photo Credit: Lisa Hermes

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UC Davis veterinary student Anny Huang holds a patient, Toast, at The Street Dog Coalition clinic in Sacramento.

Photo credit: Haley Waugh

Veterinary Advocacy in Action

Pam Runquist, MS
Executive Director

HSVMA and our network of veterinary advocates were instrumental in helping pass several key animal welfare reforms during 2021 despite ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic. Highlights include:

Puppy Mills–Humane

Pet Shop Legislation:

HSVMA and our veterinary professional members supported restrictions on pet shop sales of dogs and cats from commercial



Photo Credit: HSUS

breeders in several states in an effort to stem the flow of animals from large-scale mill operations, where the animals often endure inhumane living conditions and little to no veterinary care.

SUCCESS: Most notably, HSVMA’s Florida State Representatives Drs. Michelle Dally and Sy Woon were key to the passage of local ordinances in Orange and Manatee counties, helping to recruit Florida colleagues to endorse this legislation, conducting media interviews and testifying at hearings.

HSVMA advocates also supported similar legislation in Oregon, Texas, New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania, with 300 Pennsylvania veterinary professionals endorsing Victoria’s Law (still pending in that state). More than 400 cities and five states have now passed humane pet shop legislation.

Ending Fur Sales and Fur Farming:

Given the severe animal welfare concerns inherent in the fur trade as well as the fact that fur farms provide potential channels for diseases to propagate from one fur-bearing species to another, including SARS CoV-2, HSVMA teamed up with our veterinary advocates, in particular HSVMA D.C. representative Dr. Gail Hansen, a public health expert, to push for local and state fur sales bans in Rhode Island, Florida, Massachusetts and Michigan.

SUCCESS: In Michigan, HSVMA worked with our colleagues at the HSUS to support a successful fur sales ban in the city of Ann Arbor. This is a landmark ordinance, given that it is the first city in the Midwest to prohibit the sale of fur and the first in a fur-producing state to do so.

We also partnered with our colleagues at Humane Society International to collect signatures from public health veterinarians on an international scientific letter calling for an end to fur farming in the United Kingdom.

Wildlife–Banning Killing Contests and Spring Bear Hunts:

HSVMA’s advocacy team also focused on efforts to ban wildlife killing contests, where prizes are awarded for indiscriminately



Photo Credit: iStock/Brittany Crossman

killing large numbers of animals, often causing orphaning of dependent offspring and displaying a callous disregard for modern wildlife management science. We submitted support statements for bills in Virginia, New Jersey and New York.

SUCCESS: In Maryland, ongoing efforts to support a killing contest ban paid off when Gov. Larry Hogan signed the bill into law midyear, making Maryland the eighth state to ban killing contests.

SUCCESS: In Washington, HSVMA partnered with our colleagues at the HSUS to submit a letter signed by veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators to the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission in opposition to the spring bear hunt. The commission subsequently voted to prohibit the 2022 hunt, meaning that mother bears and their dependent cubs were protected from trophy hunting at the time when they are most vulnerable. Washington is one of only 8 states that allow spring bear hunting. More advocacy work will need to be done to ensure this ban becomes permanent.

Mandatory Reporting of Animal Abuse with

Immunity:

SUCCESS: HSVMA supported a successful bill to require New York veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal cruelty. Existing law already allowed veterinarians to report with immunity. However, the mandatory requirement highlights the urgency of this issue as well as removes any uncertainty for veterinary professionals who suspect abuse. Approximately 20 states now have a mandatory reporting requirement for veterinary professionals.

Cat Declawing:

Efforts to ban the non-therapeutic declawing of cats gained momentum in 2021 with HSVMA working in support of local and statewide bans in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, California, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nevada—and moving into 2022, efforts were underway in Arizona and Maryland.

SUCCESS: In Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh City Council voted unanimously to ban non-therapeutic declawing, making Pittsburgh the 12th U.S. city to ban this inhumane and unnecessary practice. In April 2022, Maryland became the second U.S. state to ban the non-therapeutic declawing of cats. In 2019, New York was the first to do so.

HSVMA also launched a national **Veterinary Professional Statement of Opposition to Cat Declawing**, in order to collect signatures to support



efforts to enact local and statewide bans. Read and sign the statement at hsvma.org/endcatdeclawing.

Veterinary Telemedicine:

In a continuation of advocacy efforts launched at the beginning of the pandemic, HSVMA worked to ensure that veterinary telemedicine options remain legally available to veterinary professionals, at their discretion, to help expand access to veterinary care for families and their pets facing geographic, transportation, financial, and other challenges. HSVMA submitted comments in support of telemedicine in California, Wisconsin and Michigan. HSVMA also conducted a national survey of veterinary professionals and a majority of the more than 550 respondents indicated they support the use of telemedicine to expand access to care.

Animal Blood Banking:

SUCCESS: A multi-year effort to reform California's animal blood banking industry paid off in 2021 with Governor Gavin Newsom signing into law an HSVMA-backed bill that requires commercial closed-colony blood banks to be phased out in favor of community-based blood banking programs. This new law means that donor dogs will not be housed long-term in kennels simply for the purpose of blood banking.



Ventilation

Shutdown:

HSVMA continued to work with a coalition of veterinary and animal welfare groups to urge the American Veterinary Medical Association to change its stance on the use of ventilation shutdown plus (VSD+) so that it is considered “not recommended in all situations.” VSD+ is a brutal method of depopulation in which animals are sealed in barns, the ventilation is turned off and heat and steam are pumped in, essentially baking the animals to death and causing prolonged suffering. This method was used during the pandemic to kill hundreds of thousands of pigs because slaughterhouses were shut down and the pork industry was unprepared for supply chain disruptions. It has also been used to kill birds raised as poultry with the more recent outbreak of the avian flu in the United States.

The coalition submitted a petition to the AVMA, signed by more than 3,000 veterinary professionals and animal advocates, published an Open Letter online, and had an op-ed published in The Chicago Tribune. Updates on this issue are available via the group Veterinarians Against Ventilation Shutdown at vavsd.org.

Emergency Preparedness – USDA-Regulated Facilities:

SUCCESS: Approximately 250 veterinarians joined with HSVMA in successfully requesting that the USDA implement a long-overdue requirement for contingency and disaster preparedness planning for animals in regulated breeding, exhibit and research facilities covered by the Animal Welfare Act. The rule culminates a decade-long campaign to extend the protections provided by the enactment of the PETS (Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards) Act in 2006.

Federal Legislation:

During 2021, HSVMA supported a variety of key federal animal welfare bills including the following, all of which are still pending:

- **Humane Cosmetics Act** to prohibit animal testing for cosmetics manufactured or sold in the United States.

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Scholarships, World Spay Day clinics and Animal Welfare Symposium are highlights of our student work.

Providing education on animal welfare-focused topics is a unique niche for HSVMA in the profession and our popular webinar series continues to address key veterinary-related welfare issues with top-notch speakers, providing free RACE-approved CE for our members. We also have continued to grow veterinary participation in Animal Care Expo by offering CE on shelter, community medicine and access-to-care topics in addition to the opportunity to network with a broad range of animal welfare professionals.

Finally, I am extremely grateful to so many of our HSVMA advocates, more than 1,500, who joined with us during 2021 to speak up on behalf of animal welfare

(Note: HSVMA also worked in support of similar legislation at the state level, including a successful bill in New Jersey.)

- **PAST (Prevent All Soring Tactics) Act** to better crack down on the cruel practice of “soring,” in which unscrupulous trainers deliberately inflict pain on the hooves and legs of horses to force them to perform an unnaturally high-stepping gait.
- **Puppy Protection Act** to strengthen baseline standards of care for the tens of thousands of dogs and puppies housed at large-scale dog breeding operations, including prohibiting the stacking of cages, wire flooring, and overbreeding, and requiring larger enclosures, socialization and exercise space.
- **Preventing Future Pandemics Act:** HSVMA signed onto a coalition letter urging the U.S. Congress to include language in the Preventing Future Pandemics Act that would require substantive action to address the likely root causes of the COVID pandemic, in particular the reckless exploitation of wildlife and the trade in live wildlife for human consumption. ♡

reforms related to puppy mills, wildlife protection, farm animal confinement, animals used in research and expanding access to care. The veterinary voice has such a significant impact in our efforts, and I thank you for your contributions, your commitment and your compassion.

All of us at HSVMA look forward to a continued successful partnership on behalf of animal protection in 2022 and beyond. ♡

Sincerely,



HSVMA State Representatives

Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA

Program Director, Advocacy and Outreach

State Reps Enhance Advocacy with Diverse Backgrounds and Perspectives

Launched in 2014, the HSVMA State Representative program now includes a talented team of 39 Reps, representing 33 states (there are 8 states with Co-Reps) and the District of Columbia.

The HSVMA State Rep team consists of active volunteer veterinarian liaisons who conduct outreach to veterinary medical associations in their states and across the broader profession. They help with advocacy on legislative initiatives, provide expert testimony, submit opinion pieces to media outlets and publish articles in professional journals. They also assist with outreach at veterinary conferences, present talks at veterinary medical colleges and offer vital first-hand field perspectives from their respective states. Many of our Reps further amplify their advocacy work for animals through affiliations with other non-profit endeavors, and some Reps have even established their own.

There is no typical background required of an HSVMA State Rep, except a strong commitment to working within the veterinary community to help advance the health and welfare of animals. In fact, we celebrate their diverse backgrounds.

Among our Reps are small animal and mixed animal practitioners; house call veterinarians; practice owners; animal sanctuary founders; specialists in the pet nutrition and pharmaceutical industries; shelter veterinarians and consultants; teachers of veterinary workshops for kids and an advocate for special-needs pets; board-certified animal welfare specialists; internists and behavior specialists; academics-authors and editors of animal welfare-focused textbooks and children's books; public health veterinarians and consultants; a veterinarian journalist;



HSVMA Florida State Representative Dr. Michelle Dally

Photo Credit: Dr. Michelle Dally

HSVMA STATE REPRESENTATIVES

ALABAMA: Karen Hill Sheppard, DVM

ARIZONA: Nellie Goetz, DVM, MPH

CALIFORNIA: Barry Kipperman, DVM, DACVIM, MSc, DACAW and Paula Kislak, DVM

COLORADO: Jon Geller, DVM, DABVP, MPH Candidate

CONNECTICUT: Melissa Shapiro, DVM

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Gail Hansen, DVM, MPH

FLORIDA: Sy Woon, BVSc and Michelle Dally, DVM, JD

GEORGIA: Sharon Crowell-Davis, DVM, PhD, DACVB and Gloria Dorsey, DVM, MPH

HAWAII: Ranaella Steinberg, DVM

ILLINOIS: Robin Hadley, DVM and Debra Teachout, DVM, MVSc

KANSAS: Sadina Scott, DVM

LOUISIANA: Kate Maher, DVM

MARYLAND: Nikhil Joshi, VMD and Carrie Waters, DVM, PhD, JD, DACVIM

MASSACHUSETTS: Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, DACVB, DACVAA and Christine Schlupf, DVM

MICHIGAN: Ingrid K. Loeffler, DVM, PhD, MRCVS

MINNESOTA: Amos Deinard, DVM, PhD

MISSOURI: Anna Delabar, DVM

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Karen Campbell, DVM, DACVIM

NEW JERSEY: Patricia Zinna, DVM, MS

NEW YORK: Eileen Jefferson, DVM

NORTH CAROLINA: David Stansfield, BVSc, MRCVS, CHAB

NORTH DAKOTA: Lori Gossard, DVM

OHIO: Lee Schrader, DVM, DACVIM

OREGON: Cierra Buer, DVM

PENNSYLVANIA: Nikhil Joshi, VMD and John Rossi, VMD, M Bioethics

RHODE ISLAND: Gary Block, DVM, MS, DACVIM

SOUTH CAROLINA: Jennie Elizabeth Clark, DVM, JD

TENNESSEE: Michael Greenberg, DVM

TEXAS: Lauren Henderson, DVM, MPH

UTAH: Katie Gray, DVM

VIRGINIA: Josette Phillips Richmond, MS, DVM and Laura Parkhurst, DVM, MPH, XMNR

WASHINGTON: Lauren Henderson, DVM, MPH

WEST VIRGINIA: Josette Phillips Richmond, MS, DVM

WISCONSIN: Susan Krebsbach, DVM

veterinarians with advanced training in palliative and hospice care, animal welfare, public health, public policy and epidemiology; a founder of a non-profit free clinic network serving pets of unhoused and indigent people and another practitioner affiliated with this network; providers of veterinary clinic

services at Native American reservations; and three veterinarians who are also attorneys.

Interested in representing HSVMA within your state? Please contact us at advocacy@hsvma.org or visit hsvma.org/statereps to learn more about the program.

In Memoriam:

In 2021, within a period of three short months, HSVMA was rocked by the tragic and unexpected loss of two of our State Rep team members:

Dr. Michael Good (GA) and Dr. Eric Jayne (AR, HI).

There is much to say about each of them—and the unbounded energy and generosity of spirit they possessed. Both men devoted their lives to helping animals—and people, and continually sought new ways to amplify the benefit of their service to their communities.

In Memoriam:

Michael Good, DVM

Dr. Michael Good, one of our Georgia State Reps, passed away suddenly in May.

He was the owner of Town and Country Veterinary Clinic in Marietta, Georgia. For more than 40 years he practiced veterinary medicine while working tirelessly to find loving adoptive homes for pets in need.

Dr. Good believed that early humane education was the key to building a more humane future for animals. In that spirit he founded the Homeless Pet Clubs of America, a free, fun and effective way for youth of all ages to help homeless pets in their local communities.

Dr. Good was honored by the HSUS Puppy Mill campaign for working to help eliminate large-scale commercial breeding facilities which often maintain inhumane operating conditions, including lack of adequate veterinary care for both the breeding dogs and their offspring.

Dr. Good's legacy continues through the non-profit foundation he established in 1998, The Homeless Pets Foundation.



Dr. Michael Good

In Memoriam:

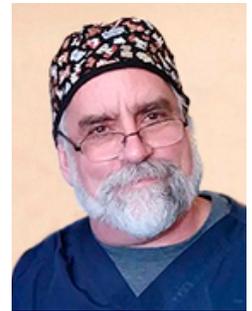
Eric Jayne, DVM, MLS (Indigenous People's Law)

Dr. Eric Jayne, who was our Arkansas State Rep and one of our Hawaii State Reps, was killed in a traffic accident in July.

At the time we met him he was regularly traveling between Arkansas and Hawaii, conducting spay/neuter efforts in both states in conjunction with a number of shelters and non-profits.

Dr. Jayne mentored legions of veterinary students and proudly served indigenous communities wherever his travels took him. He partnered with HSUS' Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) affiliate, delivering veterinary services to the animals of Native American communities. He collaborated with the Pets for Life program, bringing similar services to underserved urban communities. He participated in Spayathon, a multi-year effort to spay and neuter dogs and cats in Puerto Rico.

Dr. Jayne's work continues through the non-profit he helped establish, Sovereign Nations Veterinary, with the mission of 'providing autonomous, accessible veterinary care for Indigenous Peoples.' ♡



Dr. Eric Jayne



Photo Credit: HSUS

HSVMA Webinar Series Offers a Variety of Topics

Lorna Grande, DVM
Program Director, Education and Outreach

Our continuing education webinar series continues to grow. More and more professionals are attending our webinars and the CE series remains a favorite HSVMA member benefit. Members have free access to all live (six per year) and over 40 archived webinars. HSVMA welfare-focused presentations are unique and explore topics not often seen in other veterinary CE venues.

In 2021 we addressed an often-overlooked topic in our profession: grief. Sarina Manifold, a LCSW-Veterinary Social Work, discussed *Befriending Your Grief: How to Cope with Euthanasia and Other Veterinary-Related Losses*. She explained that there has been education and information provided to veterinary professionals on how to support animal owners through their grief, but very little attention is paid to the grief veterinary professionals experience themselves. This program covered grief reactions related to the primary and secondary losses veterinary professionals experience every day.

Also, in 2021 we presented *Best Practices for Rescue Horses: Horses in Transition* with Stacie Boswell, DVM, DACVS-LA. Equine welfare is not emphasized in veterinary CE, and HSVMA is committed to sharing equine welfare topics with our constituents and they have proven to be very popular. Many horses in transition have medical issues and Dr. Boswell discussed how to triage and treat their most common ailments.

Also featured in 2021 were:

All About Behavior: How to Approach Behavior Cases in General Practice

Presented by Christine D. Calder, DVM, DACVB

This behavior webinar explored the process of diagnosing common behavior problems in dogs and cats and outlined the steps needed to create and implement a behavior plan. The difference between a primary behavioral problem and a training issue was discussed as well as when to refer to a behaviorist.

[HSVMA Webinar Series](#) | Continued on page 8

The Veterinarian's Role in the Emerging Field of Wildlife Fertility Control

Presented by Randall E. Junge, MS, DVM, DACZM, DACAW; Kathleen A. Carey, DVM; and Allen Rutberg, PhD



This unique presentation illustrated the important role veterinarians are playing in the development and advancement of the emerging field of non-lethal wildlife management. Major fertility control methods currently used to manage free-roaming wildlife populations were discussed.

Visit hsvma.org/webinars for more information on upcoming and archived webinars.

Some feedback from HSVMA webinar attendees...

“Great practical “pearls” to use every day in our veterinary practices!!”

— Dr. Karen Stuedemann

“It is always inspiring to hear experts speak on the subject(s) they have great knowledge and experience with.”

— Dr. Diane Carpenter

Animal Care Expo Offers Unique Animal Welfare CE and Networking Opportunities

Animal Care Expo is an annual opportunity for veterinary professionals to earn RACE-approved CE credits in animal welfare, shelter medicine and community practice topics while also networking with experts in the fields of animal care, control, rescue and emergency services.



Due to the pandemic, Animal Care Expo 2021 was hosted in a virtual format, allowing veterinary professionals to participate in online sessions focusing on high-quality/high-volume spay/neuter, shelter medicine fundamentals, behavior counseling, access to veterinary care, transport protocols, non-surgical sterilization and other timely topics.

In 2022, Animal Care Expo will return to an in-person format with more than 1,500 animal care professionals gathering in Orlando, Florida, for the event. HSVMA once again will provide RACE-approved CE for sessions focusing on incremental care, evidence collection in crime

cases, telemedicine, effective utilization of veterinary technicians, caring for pets of the homeless, equine rehabilitation, diversity in veterinary medicine, veterinary social work, and more.

Animal Care Expo will also feature an exhibit hall with a variety of veterinary and animal care-related vendors and opportunities to network with other attendees in roundtable discussions, learning labs and various social events. HSVMA members annually have access to a veterinary professional conference discount.

Go to humanepro.org/expo for more information on Animal Care Expo and upcoming dates and locations. ▽

HSVMA Student Outreach

Heather Schrader, RVT, MCJ

Program Manager, Student Outreach

Steadfast in 2021

HSVMA's Student Outreach Program provides veterinary students with a variety of ways to advocate and advance animal welfare through multiple programs and direct-care opportunities.

HSVMA Student Chapter and Student Representative Program:

HSVMA works with many veterinary students who volunteer to serve as officers in our chapters or as representatives. In 2021, HSVMA sponsored student chapters at 11 veterinary schools as well as student representatives at an additional 20 schools, including some in the Caribbean, Canada and the U.K. Our chapter officers and representatives have been involved in many activities in 2021 including:

- Coordinating World Spay Day events at Kansas State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Louisiana State University, North Carolina State University, St. George's University and The Ohio State University.
- Organizing online lectures given through our HSVMA Speakers Bureau on a variety of different animal welfare topics.
- Organizing virtual Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) suture labs for University of Wisconsin-Madison, Colorado State University and Oregon State University to teach students about this popular field service opportunity.

Visit hsvma.org/students for more information on the HSVMA Student Chapter and Representative program.

Education in Animal Welfare Topics

Speakers Bureau: In 2021, HSVMA hosted 42 presentations on a variety of animal welfare-related topics for veterinary students across the country. Students

heard experts present on topics such as farm animal welfare, access to care, recognizing and reporting animal cruelty, puppy mills, community cat management, and caring for pets of the indigent.

Student Summer Lecture Series: Since the first summer student lecture series in 2020 was such a success, we decided to provide an abbreviated version in 2021 for those who wanted to continue their online learning. Three live virtual lectures were presented, one each for the months of June, July and August. You can see the full summer schedule and gain access to the archived lectures at hsvma.org/students.

Collaboration with The Street Dog Coalition: It all started with a Speakers Bureau lecture by HSVMA Colorado State Rep, Dr. Jon Geller, at the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Some students in attendance

were interested in starting a satellite of his nationwide non-profit, The Street Dog Coalition, which provides free veterinary care to pets of people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

Fast forward to October 2021, the date of the first Sacramento clinic. In collaboration with several other local organizations, the clinic provided community members with free basic veterinary care, haircuts, COVID and flu shots, human medical care, and donated toiletries and pet items. Ten veterinarians, nine veterinary technicians, and 26 UC Davis veterinary students volunteered their time and gained experience serving the pets of this growing population in need. The



Dr. Anne Gray instructing UCD vet students at The Street Dog Coalition clinic

Photo credit: Pam Runquist



A client and one of his puppies at the pop-up clinic in October

Photo credit: Phillip Zimmerman

clinic served approximately 40 community members and their 79 companion animals: 62 dogs and 17 cats! The clinics will continue quarterly with support from an amazing group of volunteers. It's truly a One Health effort!

HSVMA Animal Welfare Symposium Remains Virtual in 2021

HSVMA again hosted the Animal Welfare Symposium on a virtual platform in 2021. The theme of this year's symposium was Access to Veterinary Care and attendees were able to participate in the live online event in October as well as listen to archived versions of the presentations through the end of the year.

HSVMA was able to secure sponsorships for this year's symposium and we would like to thank them for their support. Total Planning Veterinary Services, a partner that provides disability insurance at a discounted rate to our members, and Safehold Special Risk, a partner that provides liability insurance at a competitive rate to our professional and student members, both supported this year's student symposium.

2021 World Spay Day: Partnering with Veterinary Students to Support Spay/Neuter

In 2021, HSVMA supported World Spay Day events involving students at five veterinary schools: Kansas

State University, University of Wisconsin, St. George's University, The Ohio State University and North Carolina State University.

The World Spay Day clinics help prevent overpopulation of companion animals in addition to providing students with the training



The Grenada SPCA and St. George's World Spay Day team
Photo Credit: Rolando Cumberbatch and Claudia Cárceles Román

necessary to learn life-saving procedures. HSVMA also encourages students to participate because it is a great opportunity to help animals in their communities and connect with local welfare organizations. For many students, the events inspire them to continue to help address animal overpopulation during their veterinary school years and beyond.



A University of Wisconsin vet student recovering her surgical patient
Photo credit: Kira Surber

These events provided sterilization surgeries for more than 250 animals in need! We commend all the volunteers who helped set up and run these clinics and thank everyone who offered their support!

Compassionate Care Scholarships Recognize Student Dedication



Louisiana State University vet students in their mobile clinic
Photo Credit: Wendy Wolfson

Applicants for HSVMA's Compassionate Care Scholarships continue to amaze us with their dedication and perseverance. We are proud to recognize these veterinary students and the work they are already performing to advance animal welfare.

Thank you to HSVMA leaders who continue to donate their time and resources: Dr. Paula Kislak, HSVMA Board member and California State Co-Representative, and Kislak Family Foundation; Dr. Barry Kipperman, HSVMA Board President and California State Co-Representative;

Dr. Carrie Waters, HSVMA Maryland State Co-Representative; and Dr. Kate Maher, HSVMA Louisiana State Representative. The recipients of these awards were:

RESHMI SENSHARMA (she/her) - 1st Place
University of Pennsylvania, class of 2023



Photo Credit: Reshmi Sensharma

Since it began in 2014, her organization has vaccinated over 6,000 street dogs against Rabies, spayed/neutered over 200 animals, and conducted community campaigns to educate and raise awareness about animal health and welfare.

The past two summers, Reshmi has worked in an immunology lab on campus, helping to develop a virtual immunology course for veterinary students in Malawi's Mikolongwe College of Veterinary Science. She was chosen to receive the Rosenthal Shelter Medicine Student Research Fellowship which helps train future

Reshmi is the founder of Like A Dog, a non-profit organization which provides community-based care and public health programs for animal populations living on the streets of Kolkata, India.

shelter veterinarians to become researchers and ultimately improve animal welfare.

SOPHIA CHAO (she/her) - 2nd Place
University of Wisconsin-Madison, class of 2022

Sophia strongly believes that everyone should be able to access affordable veterinary care for their pets. She saw the



Photo Credit: Mary Morton

need in the hundreds of people who brought their pets to The Empty Shelter Project in Houston, Texas, where she regularly volunteered her time. When Hurricane Harvey caused massive flooding and damage throughout Houston, Sophia volunteered with Houston/Austin Pets Alive!

In vet school, Sophia took on roles to coordinate spay/neuter clinics at UW-SVM, volunteered with Pets for Life in Milwaukee, and took on leadership roles as Secretary, then Co-President, of the HSVMA student chapter. Sophia also helped coordinate two World Spay Day clinics located at Green County Humane Society during the pandemic.

STELLA ELWOOD (they/their) - 3rd Place
Tufts University, class of 2023

While an undergrad, Stella assisted in creating the Animal Welfare Club which exposed students to issues such as factory farming and dogfighting. They also worked for the Humane Society of the United States as a field officer for the 2016 campaign to pass a ballot initiative in Massachusetts protecting farm animals.



Photo Credit: Hannah McCarthy

As a dual DVM/MPH student, Stella was elected to the Animal Welfare Committee, a group of faculty and students which oversees the use of animals on campus. Upon discovering the production-based treatment of pigs for the clinical skills lab, Stella and

a classmate proposed a humane alternative which focuses more on overall care than food-animal techniques. The Curriculum Committee has since implemented this new option and vet students are able to choose a more humane, yet still rigorous, track for this lab. ▽

HSVMA Membership Benefits

A key benefit of HSVMA membership is knowing you are supporting a leadership role for veterinary professionals in the animal protection movement. HSVMA also provides a variety of membership benefits that are designed to directly help you in your professional career. Featured among those benefits are:

Continuing Education

HSVMA Webinar Series

HSVMA members can earn RACE-approved continuing education credit—free of charge—by accessing any of our six live webinars per year and 40+ archived online on-demand webinars, all on welfare-related topics.

Animal Care Expo

HSVMA members enjoy discounted registration rates for Animal Care Expo, which offers 15+ hours of continuing education credit on animal welfare topics annually, with a specific focus on shelter and community medicine and access to care issues.

Insurance and Financial Services

Professional Liability Insurance

HSVMA partners with Safehold Special Risk to offer HSVMA members a cost-effective professional liability insurance program.



Individual Disability Insurance

HSVMA partners with Total Planning Veterinary Services to offer HSVMA members a discounted individual disability insurance product.



Credit Card Processing

A trusted partner of HSVMA, Gravity Payments donates a portion of their profits to HSVMA and will cover the cost of your HSVMA membership while you are a Gravity customer.



Publications and Subscriptions

Free Copy of HSVMA Wildlife Care Basics for Veterinary Hospitals

This guide provides vital information on intake and triage, temporary care, and safe transport of injured animals to rehabbers.



Free Subscription to HSVMA News

Our monthly e-newsletter provides updates about advocacy efforts, volunteer opportunities, member discounts and resources, and the latest in animal welfare news.

Discounts on Animal Welfare Resources

- 35% discount on [Wiley-Blackwell](#) publications
Note: Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook only eligible for 20% discount.
- 30% discount on all animal welfare textbooks available from [CABI Publishing](#)
- 20% discount on all equine books, e-books, and videos from [Trafalgar Square Books](#)

Visit hsvma.org/benefits for more information about these and other valuable HSVMA membership benefits. ▼

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