Meet the Recipients of the 2020 Compassionate Care Scholarships

Applicants for this year’s HSVMA Compassionate Care Scholarships have already proven their resilience and determination as future veterinary professionals. As the coronavirus pandemic shut down in-person learning on campuses across the world, students continued to persevere and make the best out of a less than ideal situation. We had a record number of applicants this year, and HSVMA is proud to assist this year’s recipients as they navigate uncharted territory in a One Health crisis never before seen in this century. Thank you to our leadership who continues to donate their time and resources and who make these scholarships possible. We are excited to recognize these students and the work they are already performing to advance animal welfare in the veterinary field: $3000 Award: Benjamin Flakoll, Cornell University CVM, class of 2021, $2000 Award: Naomi Guzman, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign CVM, class of 2021, $1500 Award: Sheree Deadrick, Tuskegee University CVM, class of 2021. You can read about these amazing recipients on our webpage. Congratulations Ben, Naomi and Sheree!

This year's first place scholarship recipient, Ben Flakoll

Photo credit: Benjamin Flakoll

2020 Animal Welfare Symposium for Students Moves Online

HSVMA is excited to co-host this year’s Animal Welfare Symposium with The Humane Society of the United States via a virtual platform. Two concurrent lecture tracks will allow attendees more topic choices for a full day of welfare-related presentations. After completing your registration here, login here with your email address on Saturday, November 7, to attend lectures and participate in a live Q&A with the speakers during the scheduled lecture times. After November 7th, registrants can access the lectures on-demand through January 31, 2021! As with our past symposiums, registration is FREE and all veterinary students and veterinary technician students are welcome! In addition to a full day of lectures, a
networking event will take place on the live date (November 7) immediately following the presentations. Students will be able to chat with the speakers in an informal and relaxed atmosphere via Zoom. Go to our website to view the agenda and check back as more details are made available. Make sure to share using our HSVMA Facebook event page. A huge thank you to our Platinum sponsor, Total Planning Veterinary Services, and our Gold Sponsor, Safehold Special Risk! See you online on November 7th!

RAVS Suture Labs Go Virtual!

As the pandemic continues to require alternatives to in-person events, including our usual suture lab workshops, the Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) program is now offering virtual suture labs! Attendees can 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 PowerPoint presentation detailing the high-quality, high-volume techniques utilized during clinics. Attendee numbers will be restricted to a 1:2 instructor to student ratio so two consecutive labs may be scheduled if there are more than 8-12 students interested in participating. Once a date is set, 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. HSVMA and RAVS can help with constructing a suture board and acquiring suture materials prior to the lab. Please contact Anne Marie McPartlin at amcpartlin@fundforanimals.org to set up a lab at your school.

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and concerns about the safety of the communities within which RAVS operates, the program has decided to postpone opening applications for next year until early 2021. Student informational and volunteer recruitment presentations will also be postponed until we all have a better sense of what specific opportunities will be available. HSVMA and RAVS will reach out with updates as clinic plans are
determined. Thank you for your patience and we hope to be back on the road with you soon!

**Puppy Mill Research Grants and Bootcamp**

Thanks to a generous grant, we are able to offer two $7000.00 stipends to veterinary students who would like to complete a 2021 [summer research project related to puppy mills](#). Focus areas of research can address any of the issues related to the welfare of animals in puppy mills. Students who are selected for the stipends by an HSVMA review team will be expected to work full time (40 hours or more per week) 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 stipends will cover the research project as well as the cost of travel to the symposium. In order to apply for the stipends, students will 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](#). Applications are being accepted now and until filled for 2021 summer research projects. Any questions can be sent to Heather Schrader, HSVMA Student Outreach Program Manager, at [hschrader@hsvma.org](mailto:hschrader@hsvma.org)

Two upcoming online events will educate attendees about this timely animal welfare issue. The Puppy Mill Action Boot Camp is being hosted by the Humane Society of the United States on Saturday, Oct. 10th. In addition, the HSUS Puppy Mill campaign will host a booth in the exhibit hall of our online Animal Welfare Symposium for Students on Saturday, November 7th. In addition, Dr. Lorna Grande, HSVMA’s Veterinary Adviser, will be giving a lecture at the symposium titled *Puppy Mills and Irresponsible Dog Breeding: Fertile Ground for Canine Health and Welfare Concerns*. You can register for the Puppy Mill Action Bootcamp [here](#) and the Animal Welfare Symposium [here](#). Registration for both events is free!
Comments or questions about HSVMA student outreach programs and activities? Please contact us at students@hsvma.org