

Newsletter

2010 THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Update from the Field



Eric Davis, DVM, MS, DACVIM, DACVS.
©David Paul Morris

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By: Eric Davis, DVM, MS, DACVS, DACVIM

After thousands of miles and dozens of rural communities HSVMA Field Services completed 2010 with more than 8300 animals receiving quality veterinary care. From unwanted horses in equine sanctuaries in California, cats in Native American housing projects on the Great Plains to street dogs in El Salvador and Bolivia, our staff and volunteers kept true to our mission, helping animals in need. Just as importantly 240 veterinary students from 23 different veterinary schools went through our curriculum and participated in our field clinics, receiving invaluable training and experience, and, in most cases, seeing the conditions under which far too many animals are forced to live. As happens every year we received countless testimonials from students, technicians, and veterinarians telling us how the HSVMA Field Services experience has changed their lives.

Beyond our domestic program, the international teaching program has continued to develop in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Peru, and Bolivia. Dr. Susan Monger's Spanish curriculum has expanded, training Latin American veterinarians in everything from small animal anesthesia and surgery to equine dentistry. In 2010 HSVMA Field Services has also produced a document establishing guidelines for minimal standards of care for small animal field surgery. This is a major advancement in the field and is being shared with animal welfare groups all over the world. In a collaborative project with the Universidad Autónoma Nacional de México, the AAEP, and the Donkey Sanctuary, our team started working on equine issues in central Mexico and participated in the First Equitarian Workshop, held in Vera Cruz in October.

Finally, HSVMA Field Services staff were deployed to aid number of important projects including Native Nations spay/neuter clinics through the University of Minnesota, Iowa State University, and the Fort Peck MASH unit in Montana. Additional projects provided veterinary care to dogs in a migrant worker camp in rural California and deployment of veterinarians and animal care supplies to Haiti with Humane Society International.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication of **hundreds of committed volunteer veterinary professionals** who give their time and expertise to provide the highest quality care to animals in need and unsurpassed hands-on training opportunities for students. And of course we would like to thank our many donors whose financial support makes it possible to have the professionals on the ground.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1,368,740	Value of Services Provided in 2010
8,320	Animals treated
241	Student Volunteers trained
136	Professional Volunteers
23	Veterinary Schools Represented

WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE SAYING

"The HSVMA Field Services trip I participated in last year was by far the most incredible veterinary experience I have ever encountered. Every aspect of the service inspired me: the compassion and prowess of the clinicians, the seemingly tireless optimism of the technicians and volunteer staff, the support and friendship the students gave to each other, and the extraordinary human-animal connections witnessed in the communities we visited. In short, I saw the kind of veterinary professionals I aspire to be one day..." *FPO FName LName*

VOLUNTEER FOR A TRIP

HSVMA Field Services is a volunteer-driven program. Our ability to provide quality veterinary care and educational opportunities is dependent upon the initiative and dedication of hundreds of hard-working veterinarians and veterinary technicians who generously share their time and expertise.



Pam Runquist with her dogs. ©HSVMA

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY ADVOCACY

By: Pam Runquist

We extend many thanks to the more than 150 individual veterinarians and veterinary clinics who joined HSVMA and the many other animal welfare organizations, businesses, religious leaders, elected officials and responsible breeders, in helping pass **Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act in Missouri**. The Act establishes basic standards of care for dogs in large-scale commercial breeding facilities, prohibits any breeder from having more than 50 breeding dogs for the purpose of selling their puppies as pets, and creates a misdemeanor crime of "puppy mill cruelty" for violations. The initiative was approved by Missouri voters in November and takes effect one year from the date of passage.

More than 75 Ohio veterinarians joined with HSVMA to publicly endorse the **Ohio Humane Farm Ballot Initiative**, proposed to help define more humane care guidelines for the care, confinement and euthanasia of farm animals and to prohibit the export, sale, receipt or entrance of downer cows into the human food supply. On the same day that 500,000 signatures qualifying the measure for the ballot were to be submitted, an **historic animal welfare agreement** was reached among The Humane Society of the United States, the Ohioans for Humane Farms, the governor and leading livestock organizations. The agreement meant that the initiative was put aside and instead, animal welfare improvements on a broad

Advocacy in Action

range of issues will be implemented including animal agriculture, cock-fighting, puppy mills and the keeping of wild animals as pets.

Along with more than 210 individual Massachusetts veterinarians, HSVMA supported the **successful legislation (House Bill 344) banning non-therapeutic devocalization of dogs and cats in Massachusetts**. Our support reflects our campaign to end the practice of performing unnecessary cosmetic and convenience surgical procedures on animals.

HSVMA encouraged our members and colleagues in the veterinary profession to urge the FDA to end the routine non-therapeutic overuse of antibiotics on industrial-scale farms. We also continued our support of PAMTA (the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act), federal legislation working toward the same goal. By unintentionally selecting for resistant bacteria, non-therapeutic overuse of antibiotics leads to significant risks to animal and public health. Veterinary and human medical communities must preserve antibiotic effectiveness for both animal and human patients.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

In conjunction with the Kislak Family Fund, HSVMA presented a **\$25,000 grant to the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine to support surgical training that benefits injured and ill shelter animals**.

The Helping Alachua's Animals Requiring Treatment and Surgery (HAARTS) Program is one of only two programs in the country that provide a variety of surgical training opportunities for vet students while also providing benefit to shelter animals. HSVMA and The HSUS partnered with the Kislak Family Fund to help initiate the HAART Program in 2008 with a \$40,000 grant. In 2009, HSVMA and the Kislak Fund contributed an additional \$30,000 to the program.



Paula Kislak, DVM

HSVMA Board of Directors

HSVMA ON CAMPUS

We are happy to report that we now have **HSVMA student chapters at eight veterinary schools**. Our student chapters have been busy with various animal welfare-related projects throughout the year including a no-cost vaccination clinic coordinated by Tufts University students in a low-income area outside Boston and feral cat clinics sponsored in part by the Oregon State University chapter. The HSVMA Speaker's Bureau also had an active year presenting **20 of our talks at 13 veterinary schools across the country**. We introduced **three new welfare-related topics this year**, "On the Front Line: The Veterinarian's Role in Recognizing, Reporting and Preventing Animal Cruelty," "Looking for Your First Job: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," and "Are DVMs Patient Advocates? Prioritizing Conflicts of Interest in Clinical Practice." We also hosted **surgical suture labs at four veterinary schools** to promote training opportunities that don't involve harming animals.



FPO Information

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW FOR THE 2011 CLINIC SEASON.

To learn more about how you can support HSVMA Field Services visit us online at hsvma.org/field_services

Equine Welfare Focus of Equitarian Workshop



A group gathers for a hands-on lesson in equine medicine. ©David Turoff, DVM/HSVMA

The first ever Equitarian Workshop took place this past October and was sponsored by an unprecedented collaboration of veterinary professional associations. Asociacion Mexicana de Medicos Veterinarios Especialistas en Equinos (AMMVEE), HSVMA and the American Association of Equine Practitioners—in conjunction with World Horse Welfare (WHW) and The Donkey Sanctuary.

Nearly 60 veterinarians and veterinary students from Mexico, the United States and Canada gathered

this week to participate in the four day exchange of ideas and concepts designed to foster equine welfare on all continents.

Prior to the trip we asked veterinary professionals to tell us in 1,000 words or less, **“Why the veterinary profession should be willing to donate time and resources to help equines in need around the world? What is your motivation?”** The ten winners received a \$500 HSVMA Trip Award to attend the workshop.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HSVMA TRIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Vicky Addie
Dr. Judy Batker
Dr. William Farmer
Dr. Sara Gomez-Ibanez
Dr. Mario Lopez
Dr. Carrie McColgan
Dr. Amber Mullins
Dr. Ahne Simonsen
Dr. Kristen Talbott
Dr. David Turoff



HSVMA Trip Award recipients. ©David Turoff, DVM/HSVMA

FPO definition of Equitarian

EXCERPTS FROM SOME OF THIS YEAR'S HSVMA TRIP AWARD WINNERS' ESSAYS

**Essay By: Dr. Mario Lopez
Ontario, Canada**

Why help other communities?

We are all in this world together, yet there is great inequality regarding the distribution of resources and opportunities available to people in different parts of the world. Those of us living in more favored situations need to do whatever we can to help alleviate this disparity. Nevertheless it is sometimes amazing what can be accomplished with very little.

Why help equines?

The horse is a noble animal. Some, myself included, think it the noblest in creation. That alone makes it worthy of whatever help can be given.

Additionally, in many parts of the world equines remain the primary source of “horsepower”. They carry loads, pull vehicles and operate mills, pumps and other basic machines. They are at varying times the family car, pick-up truck, taxi/bus, dumpster, power plant, delivery service/courier and more. They plow fields, carry irrigation, harvest the crop and transport it. In some areas they provide an income by being rides or carriage horses for visiting tourists. Without a horse, donkey or mule to provide all these essential services it would fall onto the backs of the people themselves to do all of the “donkey work”. Many times it is women and children who end up doing this back-breaking labor.

As veterinarians in arguably the most developed and unarguably the most economically advantageous region of the world we have received training and opportunities that allow us to develop our professional expertise to the highest level. This expertise is a tremendously valuable resource and would have enormous impact in areas where it has been lacking. Because this resource is knowledge- and experience-based it is renewable and non-depletive. Its effects can be mul-

tiplied through teaching and sharing of information.

Learning how decisions are made and actions applied under conditions of hardship will also open the eyes of the visiting experts to different perspectives and decision making processes.

Why me?

My belief is that most of the advantages and gifts that I have are exactly that-gifts. Unearned by merit. Maybe augmented with a bit of application and work but gifts nonetheless. As such they are not mine for my use and enjoyment alone, but rather to be shared and utilized in the community. As a veterinarian I see myself in a privileged position, but with it comes the responsibility to be the caretaker and advocate for the animals in my care. The responsibility to speak out for and help those who can't speak for or help themselves.

I am a veterinarian largely as a result of generous scholarships from the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago (my native country) and New Zealand. As a consequence I have enjoyed a very rewarding and satisfying career being paid to do something I love.

Having reaped those benefits for myself it is now time for me to share this gift by using it to help those equines and their owners who may not normally have access to regular Veterinary care. In this way, by working with the noblest of animals I can help in some way to improve the life of an individual, a family and a community and help them share a little more of the worlds bounty.

**Essay By: Dr. Ahne Simonsen
Boulder, CO**

Upon graduation from veterinary school, I repeated an oath that defined my goals and morals as a vet-

erinarian. By repeating the oath, I have agreed to be an advocate for the welfare and wellbeing of animals; an advocate of community health and livelihood; a moral and ethical practitioner; and a lifelong learner and educator. The oath highlights for me, the numerous reasons that it is important for veterinary professionals to donate their time and resources to helping equines in need around the world. Since cultural norms, standards of living, educational opportunities, access to professionals, and availability of technology all vary globally, it benefits all involved to share all resources in the hopes of global improvement.

Veterinary professionals that give their time and resources to helping equines in need are rewarded in numerous ways. Programs that help equines in need allow professionals with a common interest to meet, share information, and work as a team all while giving to a community and its animals. Young professionals meet mentors and seasoned professionals get the satisfaction of being mentors. Not only are friendships made among professionals, but also new acquaintances are made with community members. Within their own communities, veterinarians become the centerpiece of a network of equine friendly people working to help each other maintain their relationships with their equine family members.

As a veterinarian, I am bound to be an Equitarian by my veterinary oath. As an individual, I am motivated to be an Equitarian by my love for horses and the way I have chosen and continue to choose to live my life. As an individual veterinarian, I am working to be an Equitarian because it feels right.

HUMANE CONTINUING EDUCATION

During 2010, HSVMA launched a new series of webinars and in-person events to provide welfare-focused continuing education opportunities for veterinary professionals. New offerings in 2010 included:

- “Don't Lose Your Patients: How Vets can Prevent Shelter Relinquishment.”
- Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Dodman, HSVMA Leadership Council Member and Tufts University Veterinary School faculty member
- “Truth and Consequences in Dog Training and Behavior Modification,”
Presented By: Dr. Melissa Bain, head of the Clinical Behavior Service at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine
- “Barking Up the Right Tree: Understanding and Dealing with the Causes of Excessive Barking in Dogs.”
Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Dodman

FIELD SERVICES CE UPDATE!

HSVMA Field Services is now offering two different continuing education opportunities. The 2011 clinic schedule is now posted and volunteers are being accepted.

HSVMA Field Services Small Animal Spay/Neuter Wellness Clinics

- 30 CE Hours for Veterinarians
- 30 CE Hours for Veterinary Technicians

HSVMA Field Services Equine Wellness Clinics

- 30 CE Hours for Veterinarians
- 20 CE Hours Veterinary Technicians

HUMANE AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Drs. Jennifer Muller and Jennifer Doll ©HSVMA

Drs. Jennifer Muller and Jennifer Doll received HSVMA's inaugural **Veterinary Advocate of the Year** and **Direct Care Veterinary Practitioner** The Veterinary Advocate of the Year award was bestowed on Dr. Jennifer Muller of Philadelphia, PA, for her efforts to establish better regulations for commercial dog breeders in her state. The Direct Care Practitioner of the Year award was given to Dr. Jennifer Doll of Solon, IA, for providing substantial care to rescued animals in her community.



Dr. Sara White, winner in the nonprofit category. ©HSVMA

Drs. Sara White of Vermont (non-profit category) and **Laura Gay Senk** of New York (private practitioner category) as well as **Mike Phillips**, RVT of New York (veterinary technician category) received our **Best Friend to Feral Cats** awards in recognition of their significant contributions to feral cat welfare in their communities.



Mike Phillips, LVT, winner in the veterinary technician category. ©Gary Granger

Among other initiatives Dr. White She started Spay ASAP, a nonprofit mobile spay/neuter clinic in 2006. Since that time, she has **spayed and neutered more than 13,500 cats** in Vermont and New Hampshire, many of whom are feral. Dr. Gay Senk has been helping feral cats on Long Island, New York, for approximately 20 years. She created the Long Island Cat Project, which provides resources and assistance to feral cat caretakers and veterinarians working with feral cats. Mike Philips is the founder and president of the Urban Cat League, a feral cat organization based in the notorious Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City. He volunteers his time coordinating TNR of feral cats in this area, as well as assisting at spay and neuter clinics for feral cats in New York and New Jersey.



Dr. Laura Gay Senk, winner in the private practitioner category. ©HSVMA



Nicole Putney with Dr. Susan Krebsbach and Michael Markarian, Chief Operating Officer at The HSUS. ©HSVMA

Nicole Putney, Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine fourth-year student, was awarded the second annual HSVMA **Veterinary Student Advocacy Award**. She received the award for her efforts to advance more humane teaching methods.

AND THE WINNER IS...



First-place winner, Makana. Lisa Wakida

Makana, a 6-1/2 year old Labrador Retriever from Kirkland, WA took **top honors this year in our Tales of the Natural Tail Photo Contest**, highlighting the special aesthetic and communicative qualities of a dog's natural—as opposed to docked—tail. It complements last year's **Natural Dog-Eared Photo Contest**, which highlighted the beauty and body language value of a dog's natural—as opposed to cropped—ears. The winner of that contest was Remington, a 5-1/2 month old Doberman Pinscher from Houston, TX.

Spay Day 2011

HSVMA is a proud partner of Spay Day and encourages all veterinary professionals to consider participating in some way, since veterinary involvement is key to the success of Spay Day and solving the nationwide problem of companion animal overpopulation.

Spay Day is an annual campaign of The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International to inspire people to save animal lives by spaying or neutering pets and feral cats. Officially the last Tuesday of February, Spay Day includes events and activities taking place throughout February across the United States and U.S. territories, and around the world.

HSVMA is your veterinary resource for Spay Day 2011, with everything from scrubs to and promotional items for your clinic to training opportunities to help with Spay Day coordination and protocols.

GET YOUR GEAR

All items are available, while supplies last, at [insert link]

Show your dedication to animal welfare with a limited edition HSVMA Spay Day scrub top.



Front

Back



HSVMA Spay Day Clinic Poster

Inspire your clients and promote your hard work with an HSVMA Spay Day Clinic Poster The poster can be printed at home, in your office, or taken to a printer for a full size version. The customizable space at the bottom allows you to promote your participation or you can leave it blank to support Spay Day in general.

A Spay Day clinic isn't complete without having HSVMA slip leads. Avoid the hassle of clients forgetting leashes and have your own on hand. While these slip leads should never serve as a substitute for a collar and leash they are perfect for handling dogs and cats in a Spay/ Neuter clinic setting and promote Spay/Neuter!

GET READY

Whether you're new to Spay Day or a longtime veteran, it's never too soon to start planning and pick up some new Spay Day tips.

HSVMA hosted a special Spay Day webinar series with just that in mind, including:

- How to Organize a Spay Day Event: Maximizing Veterinary-Volunteer Partnerships (To help our non-veterinary allies)
- Behind the Scenes at a Spay Day Clinic: Veteran Spay Day Veterinary Professionals Answer Your Questions. (Check for the recorded version online!)

During your Spay Day Clinic you can help reinforce the benefits of Spay/Neuter and help give basic after surgery care instructions with our new HSVMA video with Drs. Gary Block and Justine Johnson.

GET INVOLVED

Veterinary professionals who participate in a registered Spay Day 2011 event are eligible to:

- Receive a one-year complimentary membership to HSVMA
- Receive a veterinary Certificate of Appreciation
- Be featured as a participant on our website or in our electronic communications

AND

Submit your **favorite Spay Day memory** and you could be eligible to win a trip for two to Animal Care Expo 2011 in Orlando, Florida!

For contest terms and conditions visit www.hsvma.org

HSVMA Direct Care Veterinary Practitioner of the Year and Veterinary Advocate of the Year awards

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 18, 2011

To learn more about the awards, please visit hsvma.org/advocacy

Mark your Calendars

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 15–19	NAVC in Orlando, FL Booth #121
January 18	HSVMA Evening Presentation at NAVC in Orlando, FL
February 20–24	Western Veterinary Conference, Las Vegas, NV Booth #2175
February 22	Official Spay Day; don't forget to participate in local events during the month of February!
February 26–29	Midwest Veterinary Conference, Columbus, OH Booth #824

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