



Newsletter

The American Association of
Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Martha A. Littlefield, DVM, MS
Assistant State Veterinarian
President, AAHABV



Dear Members

Happy New Year! I hope you have all put in your resolutions to visit New Orleans this summer for the AVMA meeting! Don't forget to ink in the Human Animal Bond Section on that Tuesday. The goal in planning this particular group of speakers was to look at "giving back" to the community. As a veterinarian, we are always asked to do something. Through these speakers, we hope to present you with all the tools to put together presentations (or use other ideas) to increase the human animal bond in your community. For example, eighteen and a half years ago, pregnant with my first future Eagle Scout, I was asked to lecture at a baby fair on introducing pets to babies. I called out the big guns in our town and together, Dr. Lynn Buzhardt and I spoke for years and years to lots of pregnant women, future grandmothers and dads. You will enjoy Lynn's presentation.

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Greetings from the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine Counseling Services!

Written by Stephanie W. Johnson LCSW,



Stephanie W. Johnson, LCSW

My journey into Veterinary Social Work began in August of 1990. As a graduate student in Social Work I was placed at the LSU-SVM for an internship; it was a perfect fit from the start. The program's humble beginnings consisted of a part-time Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a mission, Sandra Brackenridge, and 2 interns from the LSU Master of Social Work program. Our goals were to serve the veterinary student's mental health needs, to provide grief counseling to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Clinic clients through the *Best Friend Gone* Project, to provide an educational resource to veterinary professionals relative to communication skills, and promote public awareness of grief and loss. This was only the beginning.

I completed my MSW training and never left the LSU-SVM. My mentor left to teach Social Work in 1994 and I took over the Counseling Services full time. Since then our mission has remained the same, but the outreach has expanded tremendously. The counseling services of

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Letter from the President: Martha Littlefield-Chaubad DVM, MS

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If you come to New Orleans (there's a jazz song in there somewhere), make sure you know "Where you got 'em shoes." when you hit the French Quarter. A popular betting question to tourists as they visit Jackson Square, even my brother paid up a twenty when he lost the bet to the answer "in Jackson Square".

What better advertisement for the Human Animal Bond than Katrina and Rita? (Most of us in South Louisiana would prefer not to have this type of advertisement again!!) New Orleans has come a long way since "The Storm/Levee Break/Once in a 100 years event/Where were you???" event. By next summer, the population will be within 80% of pre-Katrina times and the residents will be back with their pets. Even so, one will still be able to tour the flooded areas—that will take a long time to disappear.

Please begin to make your plans now to visit the Bayou State, where counties are parishes, names like Tchoupitoulas, and meals like Crawfish Étouffée (Pronunciation: ay-too-FAY, Definition: A spicy and delicious Cajun stew traditionally made with crawfish, vegetables and a dark roux. Étouffée is usually served over rice. The word comes from the French étouffer, which means to smother) will keep you on your toes and tummy happy!

Greetings from the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine

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the LSU-SVM still offers counseling to our veterinary students and grief counseling to our VTH&C clients as well as those clients of other veterinarians in surrounding areas. We also offer education, to our students, and the entire veterinary team relative to communication skills training. Our students receive this education in each year of the curriculum through instruction in various courses and specific electives.

Veterinarians have many roles, only one of them being the "Doctor". Learning to develop successful "helping relationships" is vital to the success of any veterinary health care team. To do so veterinary professionals need to recognize their roles:

Educator of ourselves, our clients and the community/public.

Support Person to our clients, staff, and future veterinarians

Facilitator to our clients, staff, the community, and our local, state and federal veterinary organizations

Resource and Referral Guide to outreach services including counseling, assistance animals, behavior support, volunteer possibilities, disaster preparedness, etc.

These roles do not stop at individual client contact; they must include the communities in which we live and practice. To have an effect, we must learn how to step out of the four walls we live in. Much has been written in the recent past about the importance of non-technical skills in professional veterinary education. The LSU-SVM continues our outreach in the community through: student teaching, Veterinarians in the Community; pet therapy and animal assisted activity, Tiger HATS (Human Animal Therapy Service); opportunities for participation in Community Wellness/Shelter Medicine service learning; and opportunities for training in disaster preparedness.

We still get many questions concerning the recovery of our area and surrounding areas since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Although there has been much progress, there is still much to do. What happened was devastating; what we learned, priceless. The experience will be once in a lifetime for many of our students, veterinary professionals and countless volunteers. What we took away from the experience, each one different, changed us profoundly. Once again, the "roles" had to be redefined and change. Isn't that the way it should be, don't we ask this of our clients- to reevaluate the situation as it changes?

I hope you enjoy and learn from this edition.

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What We Learned from the Hurricanes

Written by Stephanie W. Johnson, LCSW
& Dr. Joseph Taboada



New Orleans Floodwaters near a canal break.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, classes at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine were suspended while the campus became an important center for shelter and medical care of both humans and companion animals. Many of our students worked in animal shelters, responding to the needs of companion animals, horses and cattle. Many students were involved directly in efforts to rescue these animals from damaged homes and floodwaters. Still other students volunteered in human shelters, providing support and comfort to those in need. Even after classes resumed many of those student volunteers continued to give of their time, talents and energy.

The magnitude of Hurricane Katrina's devastation was unanticipated, creating overwhelming and extraordinary demands on both physical and psychological resources for everyone involved. Each student was affected either by sheer circumstance and/or choice to participate in rescue/relief efforts. The National Mental Health Association recognizes that as volunteers "the tragedies you are witnessing, the long hours you are working, and the stress of dealing with others' needs along with your own frustrations and personal losses will be physically, mentally and emotionally exhausting" (2005 NMHA). Even so, the majority of disaster volunteers will experience little or no lasting stress, anxiety and/or depression response. There are a minority of disaster volunteers who may develop symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), major depressive disorder or other anxiety/depressive disorders.

LSU students were in a unique position to be both directly affected by the hurricane devastation on both a personal and volunteer level. A survey was designed to discover the students' experiences in relation to both hurricane Katrina and Rita as well as evaluate any long lasting effects they might be experiencing.

A 115 item online questionnaire was developed that consisted of six parts: demographics, Depression, Anxiety, Stress Scales (DASS, self-report), Impact of Event Scale-Revised (IES-R, self-report), Traumatic Exposure Severity Scale (TESS, self-report), Hurricane Coping Self-Efficacy Measure (HCSE, self-report), and Hurricane Questionnaire (designed by experimenters). Students were issued an invitation by e-mail in Early Spring of 2007 and asked to voluntarily complete the questionnaire requiring approximately 0.5-1.5 hours to complete.

One hundred and ten students from the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine answered the survey from a total of 408 students who received the survey invitation, for a response rate of 26%. Volunteerism was high among LSU students. Approximately 90% of those who responded to the survey reported volunteering after the hurricanes. 90% volunteered to work with animals but many revealed volunteering in multiple areas involving both animals and humans.

Results indicated that those students who volunteered



Ag Center Parker Coliseum on the campus of LSU served as a shelter for owned companion animals.

to work with animals did not report significantly more symptoms of psychopathology compared to those who did not volunteer to work with animals. Similar results were found for those who volunteered with people or who volunteered at different locations (i.e., Lamar Dixon, Parker Coliseum, other centers) and there was no significant difference between those who felt adequately prepared by their course work compared to those who did not. Overall, results suggest minimal mental health impact on veterinary students engaging in volunteer work following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Of those students participating in animal rescue/relief efforts, 62% felt that their coursework adequately prepared them for this experience while 38% did not feel adequately prepared.

The students reported changes in behaviors/actions taken as a result of the hurricanes that included stocking up on dry goods and nonperishable foods, watching the weather channel daily, being more safety conscious, keeping kennels and pet food at the ready, always keeping gas in their cars and preparing an evacuation plan. Some of our students also experienced significant life change as a result of the hurricanes. 7% lost their jobs and 9% experienced a decrease in support resulting from the disaster. 7% had to move, 44% had friends move away, and 46% found themselves with new neighbors as a result of the hurricanes. 45% of student's families had damage to their homes with 5% experiencing a total loss.

Hurricane Katrina has been labeled the single largest natural disaster in America. The majority of our students did volunteer during the hurricanes in some capacity. Many volunteered for much longer than the week off school, all while housing family and friends in their homes.



Waiting for Rescue



Reunited

Life on and around campus changed, class schedules were interrupted and rescheduled requiring longer hours at school. For months following the storm, traffic increased tremendously, as did the lines in the grocery stores and the gas stations. As a result, students reported that their priorities changed; they found themselves thinking about and organizing life in ways they never thought of before.

Despite the unprecedented, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine students did not experience any long lasting Mental Health effects as a result of the hurricanes. Students felt that more emergency and critical care medicine, a disaster plan, courses in emergencies and emergency preparedness, training in communication skills, specifically grief counseling and relating to clients in emergency situations would have helped them respond more effectively.

It is important to provide support to those students experiencing a disaster. Support should include mental health resources and students need to be afforded the opportunities to reach out to these resources. It is also important to provide opportunities to return to normal while appreciating that "normal" has changed.

Veterinary school is stressful; yet, even the stress of school coupled with all of the outside stressors and changes around them, our students show no negative lasting effects from their experiences with the hurricanes. Perhaps the community support offered to each other is what kept things tolerable. Perhaps it's the "heart" of the veterinary profession we speak of; only perhaps this "heart" comes prior to graduation. It seems to bring students into the profession.



SHELTER: LSU and HSUS Assist Animal Shelters in a Variety of Ways

Susan M. Eddlestone, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM)
Assistant Professor
Small Animal Medicine
School of Veterinary Medicine
Louisiana State University

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit the Louisiana-Mississippi Gulf Coast in August 2005, the Humane Society of the United States and the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine entered into a partnership to increase the amount of spay/castrations being performed in homeless and low-income family pets over the next two years. We wanted to develop a program to educate students on the recovery of communities and their pets after disasters and the effect of the socio-economic strain on animal shelters. Although there were overpopulation problems prior to the storm, the problems and needs post-storm were now even greater.

The Southeast Louisiana Spay/Neuter/Animal and Community Wellness program began July 1, 2007. This is a two-week rotation where third- and fourth-year veterinary students visit shelters in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. Dr. Wendy Wolfson, a 21-year veteran of shelter medicine formerly employed at the New Orleans LASPCA, was hired to lead this part of the program. Students assist Dr. Wolfson at a different shelter each day in spay/castration, wellness exams, medical care, behavior consultation, euthanasia consultation and general protocol assessments for the shelters' infection control procedures and preventative health care of the shelter animals. Essentially, Dr. Wolfson and students

are there to lend a hand with any problem a shelter is having.

Over the last four months, there have been 11 students enrolled in the course, and they have together serviced over 1,000 animals thus far. There are 26 fourth-year students enrolled for the coming spring semester and 34 students in the third-year class who have scheduled it for the coming spring and fall semesters. As expected, it has become one of the more popular elective courses amongst the students. Students are given a questionnaire prior to the course and at completion of the course to evaluate what they are learning; the results have been exciting.

An elective didactic course is also planned that will allow speakers with personal experience on the various topics of shelter medicine to educate veterinary students in the growing field of animal shelter medicine. With more and more student involvement, we will be able to help more animals and obtain greater student exposure to the needs of the communities, as well as the daily problems that shelters encounter. It is hoped that these future veterinarians will take the experiences with them and continue to serve their local community shelters in the future, with some maybe even considering a career in shelter medicine, a field that has been lacking in exposure in the veterinary curriculums for years.

A Mobile Veterinary Unit has been funded by the American Kennel Club and the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. This unit will allow us to provide spay/castration to shelters that do not have surgical facilities. It will also allow us to be better prepared to serve these



SVM students providing "Community Wellness Checks" at the St. Bernard Shelter.

communities should a future disaster strike and animals need our help.

The LSU-Animal Sterilization Assistance Program (LSU-ASAP) was initiated in May 2006 to provide once-a-month spay/castration to local cat organizations that do Trap-Neuter-Release and to low-income family pets. Approximately 30 veterinary students (Years I, II, III and IV) and eight veterinarians (interns, residents, faculty and local practitioners) volunteer one Sunday each month to spay/castrate 100 cats. The cats are also completely vaccinated and given medical care for problems that are usually encountered in these populations. To date, we have serviced over 1,200 cats in this program alone. Both the LSU-ASAP and the Southeast Louisiana HSUS/LSU spay/neuter program complement each other with student participation as each program grows and the awareness of overpopulation dynamics and the socio-economic problems that contribute to the problem is recognized.

In addition to providing shelter animal care, there is a social worker position that is currently being filled that will provide an additional service to shelter staff and the people in the communities we serve. We hope to provide counseling to staff on stress in a shelter environment, educate school children and communities on the human-animal bond issues and preventative health care for dogs and cats, and offer pet grief counseling and pet adoption counseling. Overall, we want to know what the people in these communities really need and do what we can to provide that resource. Research on our efforts will be conducted to evaluate outcome assessments. We will pursue grant funding to further the life of the program, which we hope will be alive for many years to come.



A recent volunteer group at the St. Bernard Shelter

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Disaster Preparedness: Fighting the “It won’t ever happen to me” attitude

Written by Dr. Rebecca McConnico



In the fall of 2005, life in south Louisiana was changed forever. The 2005 hurricanes wiped out the lives of many (both human and animal). A storm season like that is unlikely to happen again, but the threat of emergencies and disasters affecting any one of us in the U.S. is much greater than many of us are willing to recognize or admit. So far this year there have been over 58 major Presidential disaster declarations in 31 different states (January-November 28, 2007). Almost all were for natural disasters (fires, severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, landslides, mudslides, ice storms). Even at this moment, a large storm is moving across the country reeking havoc in America’s heartland with over a million customers without power. Many animals will suffer and die because their families have been evacuated to shelters and most people do not have an effective family emergency plan that includes their animals or pets. The average number of disaster declarations per year in the U.S. is 31 in the last 55 years, thus the likelihood of any one of us being affected is much greater than many believe. So what will it take for families to understand that they need to have an effective emergency plan that includes their animals?

One of the biggest lessons learned in Louisiana since fall 2005 is the importance of local community planning and response. The Equine Branch of Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART) has spent the past 2 1/2 years since Hurricanes Katrina & Rita working on local, regional, and state level emergency preparedness and response. LSART is the operational arm of ESF-11 (Emergency Support Function 11 – all official emergency response having to do with animals in the state of Louisiana) and is under the jurisdiction of Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. More specifically, LSART has assisted Louisiana parishes (similar to counties) with identifying local and

regional resources for pre-storm/pre-emergency evacuation and sheltering, organized equine emergency response teams for post-storm veterinary medical assistance, search and rescue, post-storm evacuation and sheltering. Many LSART equine veterinarians have participated in community preparedness presentations, and have authored several publications and resources for horse owners to assist them with making their own emergency family plans to include a plan for their horses. LSART has gathered emergency supplies for equine sheltering at 3 locations throughout the state and have identified teams of people to assist with future incidents requiring emergency response. There are equine shelters (pre-storm evacuation, post-storm, & response), search and rescue teams, and veterinary medical teams organized in every region of our state – all lead by Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association equine veterinarians.

With the support of PetSmart Charities and the American Veterinary Medical Association, LSART held the first Louisiana SART Summit bringing together over 150 people representing government agencies, non-government organizations, equine –interest groups, producer groups, agriculture organizations and independent volunteers to identify both the resources and the gaps for our state with regard to animal emergency planning issues – including horses.

The LSU Equine Health Studies Program (EHSP) Team has partnered with LSART to provide assistance with future events requiring: 1) Equine Shelter Veterinary Medical Support, 2) Equine Field Veterinary Medical Hospital Support Services, 3) Equine Search & Rescue Veterinary Medical Support Team, and 4) A disaster response surge hospital (on site LSU-SVM campus). In addition, the

LSU-EHSP, LSART, and LSU- Fire & Rescue Training Institute worked together to hold a Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Training Course in October for Louisiana first responders, veterinarians, and animal care authorities (under the instruction of Drs. Tomas & Rebecca Gimenez, TLAER, Inc.). Recognizing the importance of veterinarians as leaders in their communities, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has added a course entitled “The Role of the Veterinarian in Community Disaster Response” to the professional curriculum so DVM graduates will be better prepared to take care of themselves as well as the animal owning public in their own communities. The course will include National Incident Management System – Incident Command System training, leadership training, as well as technical large and small animal rescue, setting up a field medical hospital, and medical triage training. The LSU Ag Center has organized a Hay Hotline – directed and has participated heavily with training of Ag Extension specialists in emergency planning. The Louisiana Stockyard Association and several individuals are organized into evacuation and trailering teams. Louisiana Tech University, located in Ruston, LA is an active partner with LSART team and recently obtained a grant to train and provide equine sheltering and response for local, regional, or state emergency needs. A technical large animal response training exercise is planned for the spring of 2008 for the LSU-Student Chapter of the AAEP and the LA Tech Equine Studies team.

The LSART leadership team, under the direction of private practitioner Dr. Renee Poirrier, continues to provide remarkable leadership in working with state and federal officials. They have developed a 24/7 website (www.LSART.org), initiated a public service announcement campaign (kick-off support of \$5,000 each by the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association’s Dr. Walter J. Ernst Foundation and the LVMA Equine Committee Foundation), organized regional and parish leadership teams, and have authored both small animal and equine shelter manuals (becoming widely used by others across the nation). They have held numerous pet evacuation trainings especially in the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Lake Charles areas, all heavily affected from either Hurricanes Katrina or Rita or both. The state veterinarian’s office of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has updated and improved their horse tracking system whereby a scanned RFID microchip number will immediately allow current owner identification complete with address and telephone



LSU SVM students treat a rescued horse. Over 400 horses were rescued from floodwaters.

contact information.

Most LSART equine volunteers and LSU-EHSP members have taken the important FEMA National Incident Management Training courses required for official state or regional credentialing. LSART and LSU- EHSP recommend that all animal owners make an emergency evacuation and response plan for your family (that includes your pets and/or agriculture animals). Work within your communities to make and file your family plan with your local Office of Emergency Preparedness. Visit www.LSART.org. Be Ready!

Visit us online
WWW.AAH-ABV.ORG

Veterinarians in the Community

Written by Dr. Alissa Whitney

What is the best way to teach so that a student truly understands? Regardless of an individual's learning style, the greatest benefit will be seen when all teaching modalities are utilized. A mixture of auditory, visual and kinesthetic input allows the student the richest possible access to the material.

Take, for example, veterinary students being taught to speak to clients. Communication skills are particularly hard to teach in a traditional didactic environment. It is one thing to be told how to speak as a professional; it is another thing entirely to do so. No matter how many times a student is told to speak confidently and project authority, the first time that student attempts to speak with a client, the result will be a slow, stumbling mess. Practice is necessary to become comfortable speaking as a professional.

LSU's "Vets in the Community" class is an elective course with a more rounded approach to teaching communication skills. Veterinary students are given a crash course in educational theory and pointers on how to prepare an appropriate lesson plan before being sent into elementary school classrooms as guest speakers. The topic of the classroom visit involves some aspect of animal husbandry and bite prevention. Younger children usually get a lesson on basic pet care, while older children may hear about food animals or wild animals. The veterinary students are separated into pairs, given their grade level assignments and left to their own devices to develop lesson plans, activities and follow-up exercises for their schoolchildren. By thinking through the steps needed to educate the youngest of clients and following through on them, the veterinary students become much more effective communicators than if they had only had lecture-style lessons.

The course coordinators provide a resource bank and guidance as needed, but the exercise is entirely self-directed. Most students embrace the course wholeheartedly; they create their own activities, make posters, design games and provide other manipulatives for the children to use. Almost

all visits involve a live animal guest. On their way out the door, the vet students often leave worksheets or other follow-up activity to reinforce the lessons learned that day.

The schoolchildren find the lesson as memorable as the veterinary students. Any visitor to the classroom, especially a furry one, is a noteworthy experience and the variety of activities in the day's lesson provides information across multiple modalities. Consider an early-elementary lesson on bite prevention: the children are allowed to discuss their experiences with animals, evaluate a dog's mood by viewing pictures of various situations, hear how to greet a dog for the first time, and then practice their new skill on the canine visitor. The take-home coloring sheet reminds them to "be a tree" or "be a log" when confronted with a scary dog. Thus, the visit is more than practice for the young veterinarian; it is an important safety lesson for those most at risk of suffering dog bites.

The need for bite prevention training across all age groups is one of the most eye-opening aspects of participating in "Vets in the Community". Children show varying degrees of savvy when interacting with animals. A preschooler may already know to offer their hand to sniff, while a high-schooler may scream and run from even a friendly dog; the veterinary student must communicate effectively with schoolchildren of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds. There is more than a grade at stake; effective bite prevention training may save a life.

"Vets in the Community" creates a win-win situation: it is the first opportunity for veterinary students to speak as professionals and it teaches pet care skills and bite prevention to local children. There may be no better training ground for learning to speak with the cross-section of clients seen in day to day practice.



Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital

Tiger HATS Testimonial

Written by Sharon D. Wesberry, Child Life Manager
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center



We at Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital are blessed three times a month with a visit from our friends at "Tiger Hats." Escorted by a member of the Child Life Department, the dogs and their owners go room to room spending time with the children and their families. The children are so excited (as well as surprised) to see dogs in the hospital. With the visit come smiles and laughter.

One of our recent patients, Lindsey McDonald, had to stay a week in the hospital. As a 14-year-old, she described her encounter as "Really Cool!" "This lady came in our room and asked if I wanted to see what was in her purse. This little dog came out and got in bed with me. He was so calm and let me pet him forever." The dogs bring so much to the children:

peace, excitement, joy. It is an experience like no other. Our families are so thankful for the opportunity to bring happiness to a child during a very difficult time. A mother explained, "She had not smiled in days- the large Poodle came into the room and the biggest smile came over her face. It is irreplaceable!"

The owners and their pets are the true champions of our program's success. They all do an outstanding job with the patients and focus on making a difference during the time they spend with the children. Several of our owners/pets have made special trips to see a particular patient when it is requested. We were asked by a parent to see if the dogs could come and visit because her child would not be in the hospital during the time one of the three visits occurred. We put out a call to see if anyone would be available to see this patient and in no time we had several responses. It meant so much to this mother and her child. Our pet therapy program has been able to truly impact the hospitalization of so many children.

We look forward to a special visit from some of our friends from Tiger Hats on Christmas morning.

Tiger HATS (Human Animal Therapy Service) began 16 years ago at LSU. The program's purpose is to demonstrate the benefits of Human-Animal interaction through the development and maintenance of community programs. These therapeutic programs enhance our clients' daily living through interactions with animals whose unconditional acceptance promotes health and well being. Tiger HATS is composed of trained and tested (health and temperament) volunteers from LSU and the surrounding community. Many of our volunteers are currently in training to become registered Pet Partners through the Delta Society.

The LSU Tiger H.A.T.S. program offers the pet owner the opportunity to reach out and make a difference in the lives of individuals in need. Each member spends time each month making visits out in our community in hospitals, nursing homes, halfway houses, schools, and libraries. They work with the very young to the very old. They join in on special occasions from celebrations to education. The volunteer team (owner and pet partner) share in the experience with a zeal that spills over to the individuals they visit.

The First International Symposium on Veterinary Hospice Care

Written by Dr. Tami Shearer
 Pet Hospice and Education Center
 16111 State Route 37
 Sunbury, Ohio 43074

After ten years of planning, Kathryn Marocchino, founder of the Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets, joined forces with Assisi International Animal Institute to make a dream of The First International Symposium on Veterinary Hospice Care come true in 2008. On March 28-30, the campus of the University of California at Davis will host this unique event at their School of Veterinary Medicine.

A growing number of pet owners are requesting hospice care services for their pets. Ultimately the goal of hospice care in veterinary medicine is to relieve suffering while enhancing the quality of life for the pet and family. Very little information is available to guide the veterinary practitioner through this philosophy and process of hospice care, but now the symposium will provide a foundation to share information in a more organized manner.

The event is recommended for all who have an interest in pet care. Veterinary professionals, human hospice professionals, veterinary support staff, practice managers, psychologists, social workers and grief counselors will all benefit from the seminar because of the importance of the topic to society.

The Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets and The Assisi International Animal Institute were able to recruit world famous veterinarians and human hospice professionals with a shared vision to meet in one location to share valuable information. It may be a once in a lifetime event for the following human-animal bond supporters to meet together at this symposium. The veterinary speakers include Dr.

Eric Clough, Dr. Robin Downing, Dr. Cheryl Schwartz, Dr. Cheryl Scott, Dr. Tami Shearer, Dr. Anthony Smith, Dr. Rick Timmons and Dr. Alice Villalobos. An overview of the relationships between human hospice and pet hospice will be presented by Susan Marino, RN; Kathryn Marocchino, PhD; Sue Raimond; Elaine Reinhart, CNC; Mark Robinson, MSW; Jeri Ryan, PhD; and Jeanette Sanchez, LCSW, CT.

Some of the topics of the symposium include, the history and evolution of veterinary hospice care, pharmacological breakthroughs in pain management, case studies, mobile hospice care, and setting up a veterinary hospice facility. The lectures will be followed by a question and answer session. The Symposium offers up to 17 continuing education credits for attendance.

More information about the symposium can be found at <http://www.cevs.ucdavis.edu>.

To learn more about the Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets and the Assisi International Animal Institute, check out the websites www.pethospice.org and www.assisianimals.org.

Join Our New Standing Research Committee.

During the November 2007 AAH-ABV Board Meeting, Past President, Dr. Rick Timmins, moved to establish a standing research committee. The goal of this committee would be to establish the approach that the AAH-ABV will take in the area of developing research in the human-animal bond. This committee would have 2 teleconferences/year and a yearly meeting. Membership for this Standing Research Committee would be open to board members and other members of the AAH-ABV who are interested in developing the role of the association in facilitating research in the area of the human-animal bond.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. John Wright at wrigh008@tc.umn.edu and Dr. Rick Timmins at rptimmins@gmail.com



The American Association of
 Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians
 Dr. Tom Krall
 St. Petersburg College
 P.O. Box 13489
 St. Petersburg, Florida 33733

Join the AAH-ABV online at www.aahabv.org,
 or fill out the form below:

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 of the class of _____ at _____.

Faculty Signature _____ Date _____

Mission Statement

- To further awareness of the human-animal bond
- To further scientific progress in the area of the human-animal bond
- To further educational opportunities in the area of the human-animal bond
- To encourage veterinary participation in human-animal bond activities with related organizations and disciplines
- To explore the potential for establishing a veterinary specialty in the area of the human-animal bond

***All AAH-ABV members will be listed in the directory unless the member specifies otherwise. Please write checks to AAH-ABV and send them to Dr. Tom Krall, St. Petersburg College, PO Box 13489, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733**