

**SVMA**

# NEWS

NOVEMBER 2015, VOLUME 50, ISSUE 4



SASKATCHEWAN  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

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# president's perspective

DR DEB HUPKA-BUTZ

As I write my first president's report, I have to marvel at the beautiful fall colors outside my window! Harvest is progressing ahead of average this year and appears to be quite bountiful. A happy harvest makes for happy farmers and when the farmers are happy, we are all happy!

Another AGM and successful September Conference have come and gone. A few bylaw changes to note are:

1 The inclusion of 1 hour mandatory CE on Antimicrobial resistance. This global issue of AMR will not soon disappear and it is prudent that we as veterinarians do our part contributing to round table discussions with government and industry stakeholders, do our best to follow the updated Dispensing Manual for Veterinarians and keep up with continuing education in this area. The required hour of condensed, relevant Antimicrobial Resistance training will be available online soon. Watch for it on our SVMA website.

2 The other by-law change is 5 hours of acceptable CE can now be non-scientific. At a meeting with other VMAs, it was found that in all provinces, most complaints that ended up going to Professional Conduct had resulted either from inadequate communication between the veterinarian and the client or from errors in medical recordkeeping. So to allow our members to get some training in these problem areas makes sense. Most other provinces already allow some mandatory CE to be non-scientific.

Visit the Members' Side of our new and improved SVMA website to see all 2015 bylaw changes and become familiar with them.

This year after the AGM, council tried something new: "Boots & Salutes", an open discussion for all members of the SVMA. Any member present was able to voice their opinion about anything going on in the Association and some good discussions were had. The session was very well attended. Council will plan to continue this open discussion session in conjunction with future AGMs. A few specific topics

did come up that council will address in the upcoming year. Practice standards and practice inspections surfaced as a couple of the hot topics.

The continually declining number of BSE submissions has been an ongoing concern of SVMA Council. By chronically failing to meet our submission requirements, the future of the entire Canadian beef industry and its export markets is very much at risk. The SVMA has recently conducted a member survey on various aspects of BSE sampling to determine the root cause of our declining submission numbers. We had a very good response rate from practicing veterinarians. The results should be available to our membership soon. Council is currently lobbying the CFIA for more money for both the vets and producers and also to have mileage paid! As a result of the survey it appears that one of the biggest factors for declining BSE submissions is that veterinarians are not being adequately compensated for mileage or their time to collect samples.

I would like to welcome our new council members, Dr Alan Chicoine (WCVM), Dr Lesley Sawa (Animal Clinic of Regina) and Dr Travis Ducherer (Unity Vet Services). Glad to have you aboard!

Thanks to outgoing council members Drs Andy Acton, Miles Johnson and Tanya Marshall. Your time and opinions on council were very much appreciated. Special thanks to our past-president Dr Cheryl Bellamy for a job well done!

Council welcomes your comments and any ideas you may have to improve our Association! I look forward to my upcoming year as your president 🐾



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### SVMA MISSION

We are an organization dedicated to the protection of the public by ensuring the proficiency, competency and ethical behaviour of its members in the practice of veterinary medicine. Our association promotes veterinarians and veterinary medicine. We support the physical, personal, financial and professional well-being of our members through continuing education and professional interaction. We regulate our profession through the licensing of veterinarians, approval of practices and disciplining of members as required.

### THE SVMA BELIEVES IN

- the personal responsibility of veterinarians to develop and maintain competency in their chosen area of veterinary medicine
- fostering our profession by involvement in education of future and present veterinarians
- quality veterinary practice, humane animal care and compassionate treatment of the client
- providing for public protection and confidence through the fair and unbiased administration of The Veterinarians Act
- enhancing the public's awareness of veterinary medicine and its contribution to society
- the unbiased treatment of members and we expect members to treat each other fairly
- supporting members by providing guidance and information

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A COMMON 'TAIL'  
MORE ON  
RESCUE DOGS



TURNING CLIENT  
COMPLAINTS INTO  
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2015 CONFERENCE  
ALBUM



## Review of the AGM

Attendance at the AGM was comparable to past years with fifty-three members present and eligible to vote. That is slightly less than 9% of the total members who are able to influence the interests of your association.

The finances were reviewed, a budget and fees for 2016 were approved and four council members were elected by acclamation. Your council members for 2015-2016 are Drs Deb Hupka-Butz (president), Charlotte Williams (vice president), Cheryl Bellamy (past president), Corin Berg, Al Chicoine, Travis Ducherer, Lesley Sawa and the public member who is appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Brian Braun.

**Dr Terri Chotowetz was elected to a second term as your CVMA representative.**

Most fees will increase by 3% this year, but there will be no fee collected for the legal fund which is current at its required base value of \$300,000.

Not all of the proposed bylaw changes were accepted. However, there were a few changes. Among them, a clause was added to section 31.8 allowing acceptance of non-science based disciplines for continuing education credit. Effective in the current reporting block of 2015-2016 you can claim up to five (5) hours of non-science based CE "that impacts the delivery of veterinary services." The eligible areas are practice management and communication. Recommendation for this change resulted in part from the influences of poor communication and record keeping repeatedly noted during investigations of complaints cases.

Also added is the requirement for at least one hour of continuing education containing material addressing prudent use of antimicrobials. Other provincial VMAs

have recently passed bylaws requiring CE relevant to antimicrobial stewardship in response to current public concern with resistance to antibiotics and the effects on human health. A video project is in the works to produce a one-hour online presentation that will be free for members to access in the New Year. The video will cover material applicable to all types of practice. Everyone who attended Leigh Rosengren's presentation Under the microscope: antimicrobial use in livestock has already fulfilled this requirement.

Section 31.11 of the Code of Ethics is worth reviewing because it has been substantially modified to clarify the scope of the VCPR. The 12 month period that previously was assumed to be an appropriate amount of time to allow for 'sufficient knowledge' to initiate a diagnosis and treatment of a medical condition of an animal or group of animals has been removed. The rewording requires a practitioner to establish a VCPR within which there is sufficient knowledge to "recommend a course of treatment, prescribe medications, or perform any medical or surgical procedure". Sufficient knowledge will vary from case to case and depend to a certain extent on the species being treated.

Changes to bylaw 32.3 updated the stated platforms for communication with the public by adding members' websites and social media such as Twitter and Facebook. 🐾



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Keep  
informed

of the decisions council is making and actions being taken on your behalf. The minutes from council meetings are posted on the Members' Side of the SVMA

website [www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca).

Council welcomes comments and suggestions from all members. Email your comments

or questions to a councillor (addresses are on the website's Contact Us page) or to the office and they will be passed on to council.

## New Funds Kickstart Livestock Research Centre

An innovative new centre focused on all aspects of beef cattle and forage production is on the horizon at the University of Saskatchewan.

The new Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) will serve as a real-time production field laboratory for U of S researchers and students as well as for Saskatchewan producers and the public. With funding from the federal and provincial governments, the U of S and the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, components of the \$25-million centre are expected to be operating by 2018.

The centre, which was announced on July 30, is the result of nearly a decade of discussions and two years of intensive planning and partnerships between governments, U of S and numerous producer groups. The new facilities will allow the province to make gains in research and industry — conducting large projects with hundreds of cattle and building on partners' strengths.

"We're building on our research strengths — absolutely. But we're going to catapult them to a whole other level," says Mary Buhr, dean of the U of S College of Agriculture and Bioresources. She describes the project as "an holistic, 'whole picture' approach to every aspect of what drives improved production of high quality protein and environmental sustainability."

"Finding various strategic partners with whom we can develop better programs and share resources and facilities is a better use of taxpayers' money — and this is also better for the training of students



because it provides them with more opportunities than our college can offer on its own," says Dr. Baljit Singh, associate dean of research at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

The plan for the centre builds upon three existing facilities that will be combined into two new hubs — one site that concentrates on beef cattle production and a second unit that focuses on cow-calf and forage production.

The new Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Unit will be located on about 1,760 acres near Clavet, Sask. It will have a capacity for up to 2,000 cattle as well as new laboratory facilities. The location will also allow researchers to focus on environmental stewardship. About 700 acres of the site has never been used for intensive livestock handling, and researchers will be able to use this "green field" site to make environmental assessments before and after cattle move on to the land.

Through collaboration with the U of S Global Institute for Water Security, the research team will continually monitor the impact of intensive animal production on the environment.

"There is no other place in North America and probably the world where this is going on," says Buhr.

The new Forage and Cow-calf Research and Teaching Unit will be located at the WCVM's existing research farm near Floral, Sask. A breeding herd of up to 500 cows will live at the 2,367-acre site where researchers will conduct studies focusing on forage crop production.

Work at the LFCE will include environmental monitoring, land management and research in cattle reproduction, nutrition and metabolism. Animal health and welfare will be studied as well as economic and policy work that allows the research to be useful to the public.

"[It] brings the industry right close to us," says Singh. "This centre will allow us to be more responsive to the needs of the industry in providing technologies to increase the competitiveness of Canada's agriculture sector."

Buhr acknowledges that the centre's development is extremely complex and involves many people who all see the project from very different backgrounds and perspectives.

"But the cool thing is that everybody believes that this centre could be amazing — and everybody wants to make it happen," says Buhr. 🐾

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# Report from the Ministry of Agriculture



**DR BETTY ALTHOUSE**  
CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER,  
SK MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



## ANIMAL WELFARE AND VETERINARIANS

Animal Welfare is at the heart of veterinary medicine. Veterinarians are on the front lines, and are most often the first to see animals that may be abused or neglected or those requiring treatment or intervention.

We are all aware that standards of care with respect to pain control for animals are improving. Do you know about changes to standards of care for cattle that are coming soon? As of January 1, 2016 the Beef Cattle Code of Practice requires that producers:

- Use pain control, in consultation with their veterinarian, to mitigate pain associated with dehorning calves after horn bud attachment.
- Use pain control, in consultation with their veterinarian, when castrating bulls older than nine months of age.

## ARE YOU PREPARED TO ADVISE THEM ON PAIN CONTROL?

During your farm calls this fall and winter, you may become aware of farm animals that are not receiving adequate care or nutrition. If it is a feed issue, provincial Regional Livestock Specialists are available to work with producers on animal care, ration formulation, assessing feed tests, and other related management concerns. They can be reached by calling the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377. If animals are not being cared for and suffer from lack of feed, water, shelter, or essential veterinary care, this should be reported to Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS) by calling 306-382-0002 or Toll Free 1-844-382-0002 or visiting their website: <http://animalprotectionservices.ca/>

None of us should be waiting until animals are dying to take action. Starving cattle

is not a “normal production practice”! Individuals within a herd that are not coping cannot just be left to die. These animals need to be identified, separated and treated appropriately. If they cannot be treated, they must be humanely euthanized, not left to suffer a lingering, and often painful, death. When these distressed animals are identified and euthanized, they can also be sampled for BSE, providing some value while relieving them from their distress.

## WILL YOU WORK WITH PRODUCERS TO IDENTIFY WELFARE CONCERNS EARLY, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUTHANASIA?

Transportation of cattle is necessary. Every bovine that doesn’t die on-farm is transported somewhere. Most of these are calves or yearlings in good condition going off to auctions or feedlots. Most of these handle transport very well, with very low death losses, if handled with care and provided appropriate space. Cull cows and bulls require some extra consideration. Are they “fit for the trip”? Compromised animals need special care provisions when transported. They should be in small compartments, well-bedded, separated, and only travel short distances. An example might be a limping cull cow that is still able to walk and keep up with the herd.

Some animals are unfit for transport and should not be transported at all, except for veterinary treatment. This includes any limb fracture. If otherwise salvageable for slaughter, cattle with fractured limbs must be killed on farm, and not loaded for transport. There are options

in Saskatchewan for on-farm slaughter or transport of the carcass to certain abattoirs for butchering. In either case, arrangement must be made with the slaughter plant ahead of time; however, it is inhumane to keep an animal alive until slaughter can be coordinated. These are emergency slaughter situations and these animals must be killed in a human manner as soon as possible. If slaughter for salvage cannot occur quickly, then euthanasia and BSE testing is the humane option.

## RECENTLY, SASKATCHEWAN VETERINARIANS HAVE CERTIFIED ANIMALS WITH FRACTURED LEGS AS SUITABLE TO BE HAULED TO SLAUGHTER AT DOMESTIC ABATTOIRS. THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE FEDERAL HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS, AND THESE VETERINARIANS COULD BE CHARGED FOR VIOLATIONS TO PART XII, TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS.

Good information on assessing suitability for transport can be found on the CFIA website: <http://www.cfia-acia.agr.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/humane-transport/compro-mised-animals-policy/eng/1360016317589/1360016435110#guide>

Great resources for veterinarians and producers can be found at: <http://www.livestockwelfare.com/livestock-transport/>

This site has posters with decision trees developed for cows, sheep and goats, pigs and birds that are a useful reference that could be prominently posted where decisions on loading are being made.

As veterinarians, we should be providing advice that supports animal welfare to ALL our clients, pet owners and producers alike.

## 2015 | INTRODUCING 2016 | SVMA COUNCIL



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# A COMMON Tail

## MORE ON RESCUE DOGS

DR DENNIS WILL

Changes in the global trade market have led to a thriving international pet trade. Affluence in Canada has resulted in large numbers of rescue animals being imported into this country. Imported animals may be infected with diseases that put animals or the public at risk. In the United States the Federal regulations are being reviewed by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to determine if they need to be updated to address import trends and disease risk, such as requiring a health screen prior to importation.

Rescue dogs are imported to Canada on a regular base. They come from several countries and continents, but primarily from the US and Mexico. Dogs less than 8 months of age cannot be imported if they have not previously been adopted. Dogs that are 8 months of age and older must be vaccinated for rabies. There are no other requirements, including no requirement for quarantine prior to entry to Canada, or at the point of entry into Canada. Rescue dogs may be stray dogs in an often impoverished environment, or dogs that have been submitted to animal shelters.

In Canada, most municipalities have animal control bylaws to control and regulate cats and dogs. In general, neither cats nor dogs are permitted to be at large or on a street or other public place. In the case of a dog it must be leashed and under control at all times.

This is not the case in some parts of Canada and is not the case in many countries. Many countries have no dog control requirements, or have requirements that are not enforced. In many countries the cultural norm is to permit dogs to wander at large. One study of free ranging dogs indicated the numbers of strays was closely correlated to high density low income areas. Rescue animals include those that are allowed to wander at large by the owner, those that have escaped, those that have been abandoned, as well as those that have resulted from breeding while the dogs were at large as strays. These dogs are often very thin and are exposed to any of the many disease processes affecting animals and humans in their community. Studies of stray dogs from several countries indicate they have elevated levels of exposure to disease organisms, including Brucellosis.

Dogs from southern California and Mexico are routinely imported to Canada. In a 2013 case several dogs were picked up in San Diego, California one of which was infected with Brucellosis. Facts of this case included:

- The Health certificates were dated June 8, 2013
- The suspect dog was neutered on June 9, 2013
- The dogs were transported 2625 km (Google map indicates this takes 23 hours of continuous driving) road trip and a border crossing for delivery to Calgary Alberta, arriving in Canada on June 12, 2013
- The dogs went to a rescue shelter in Calgary, with dogs from Mexico, the US and Canada
- They were then placed in foster homes
- The foster family took the dog to a veterinary clinic as the incision and scrotum were inflamed.
- A few weeks later the adoptive family took the dog to another clinic for severe back pains
- The dog was diagnosed as having disco-spondylitis
- The laboratory results initially indicated the infection was *Brucella melitensis*
- It was later determined to be *B. canis*
- In addition to the index case, 3 other dogs from the same imported load became ill and were diagnosed as having *B. canis*
- A Canadian dog with long term contact with one of the imported infected dogs was diagnosed as having *B. canis*
- A dog belonging to a separate shipment of dogs from Mexico was diagnosed as having *B. canis*

It should be noted that *Brucella* may spill over from typical maintenance hosts to other species. This includes *B. canis*, *B. abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*.



I have lived and worked in underdeveloped parts of the world where there are no enforced bylaws concerning dogs, where the cultural norm is to permit dogs to wander at large, where neutering is not practiced and where there are significant animal and public diseases that are foreign to Canada. There are animal welfare and public health issues associated with this widespread practice.

In my opinion the efforts and expense of bringing large numbers of rescue dogs to Canada although well-meaning is misplaced and short-sighted. It will not have a significant impact on the numbers and general welfare of animals in the countries from where they are imported.

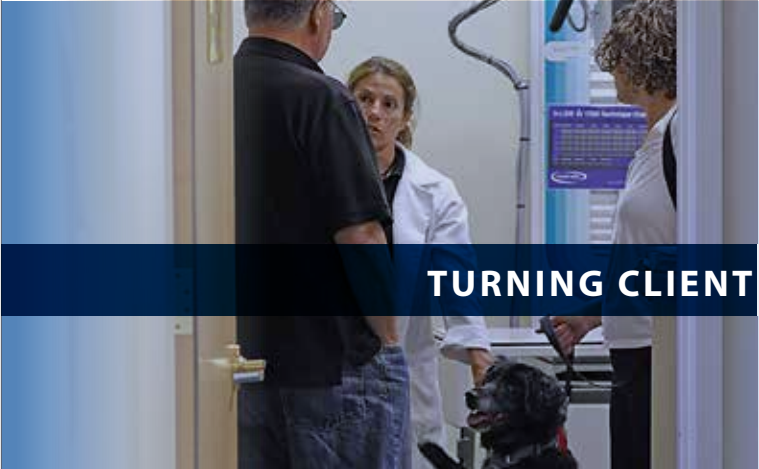
For example, John Murray (also known as Englishman John) routinely makes this trip to Canada in 24 hours with as many as 11 to 14 dogs in a van, with only short stops for fuel. He indicates he rescued 1900 dogs in a 2012.

(Visit the following web url for an interview John Murray gave to a reporter with the British newspaper "The Mail".)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?offset=0&size=50&sel=site&searchPhrase=handbag+dogs&sort=recent&type=article&authnamef=Caroline+Graham+for+The+Mail+on+Sunday&authnamef=Caroline+Graham&days=all>

Denying food, rest and proper access to water to animals that have just undergone surgery is not acceptable. It would be preferable to redirect our efforts towards the education of owners and government officials, encourage the implementation and enforcement of dog control legislation, encourage and sponsor widespread neuter and vaccination clinics, and foster practical efforts to raise the economic well-being of the people all of which would have a far greater impact on the people and the welfare of the animals of these countries.

It is perhaps politically incorrect to say so; however, I do wonder if this practice isn't sometimes more about the individuals involved with importation than it is the welfare of the animals they are importing. 🐾



TURNING CLIENT COMPLAINTS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

Andrea Harding, MS  
Practice Manager, Natick Animal Clinic  
Reprinted from Veterinary Team Brief May 2014

A satisfied client is the sustenance of our business. If you work in a service industry, as we do, you are bound to experience client complaints. So how do we handle an upset client and keep him? Especially when we know maintaining our client’s loyalty leads to greater profitability?

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS CLIENT COMPLAINTS SO THAT THE COMPLAINT WORKS TO YOUR BENEFIT?

Consider it this way; our best source of learning will come from our unhappy clients. Understanding the client’s experience is essential to retaining the client, and that is why complaints provide us with an opportunity to understand the client’s experience and improve our services or internal processes. Accept the advantages that client complaints give you because they’re opportunities to gain	insight to improve, and bring you closer to ensuring client loyalty.  Disney’s unique knowledge about what customers want separates their reputation for client service from most of ours.  In the book, If Disney Ran Your Hospital, author Fred Lee writes, “It is Disney’s consistency in the day to day execution of universally	shared values and commonly desired behaviors” that sets Disney apart in the “experience and service economy.” As he says, our competition for customer loyalty is anyone the customer compares us to. <sup>1</sup> Therefore, focusing on the client is more vital than ever because this consumerist client environment makes us vulnerable to loss of our greatest resource—our clients.
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WHEN YOU BEGIN TO THINK OF COMPLAINTS AS OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE, YOU ACKNOWLEDGE FOUR OBJECTIVES:

You allow the client to be heard, and this is always the first step to addressing their problem.	You have an opportunity to analyze why the problem happened. By examining the complaint, you have the opportunity to dissect it into smaller sections, allowing an opportunity to zero in on the element that may indeed be broken.	You can turn a complainer into a fan because you listened and took action.	You role model the organization’s priority about the value it places on client experience
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So how do you address client complaints so that the complaint works to your benefit? It may sound simple, but try the following:

- open up a dialogue with the client
- listen to what they’re saying
- gather information

Research suggests that customers who had problems satisfactorily resolved are more loyal than those simply happy with your product.

Here are five steps you can take to make a complaining client a fan:

REMAIN CALM, PATIENT, AND SINCERE

Clients can tell insincerity a mile away. Therefore, it is important, especially if the complaint is rooted in emotion, to remain calm, patient and sincere. This helps you stay focused as well.

REFRAME THE INFORMATION YOU GAINED

Reframe the information you learned in speaking with the client in an effort to confirm that you understood the nature of their dissatisfaction. This not only allows you to verify that you have heard the client correctly, but it reinforces to the client that you are actively listening. Sometimes, I even tell the client that I don’t blame them for being upset and that I might be upset too if I had the same experience that they just described. Many times this helps soothe the client’s emotions, and serves as the bridge to

allow me to offer some insight or new information that may tame their complaint or ease the severity of the emotion behind their complaint.

*In every complaint there is a sense of vulnerability.*

Ross Shafer, author of *The Customer Shouts Back*, writes that his company examined 1,000 letters of complaint and found that the common thread of all complaints is that customers feel an emotional impact before, during and after a transaction that upsets them.<sup>2</sup> Clients may have emotions that cover a range of feelings from anger to rejection, embarrassment to feeling undervalued. The emotion is very specific to their perception of poor client service. In every complaint there is a sense of vulnerability. However, when you listen to the complaining client, it opens up an opportunity to communicate how much you value and appreciate their input.

ASSESS WHAT PROTOCOL NEEDS TO CHANGE

Once you discover why your client is unhappy, it’s time to assess where the root of the problem started so you can begin to offer a solution. Listening to a client’s perspective may show you a way to a better solution. Carin A. Smith, DVM, writes the following in *Client Satisfaction Pays*:

“Although some clients are happy to mention their

displeasure to anyone they encounter, others may withhold this information, fearing that the receptionist will get in trouble or the doctor’s feelings will be hurt. Smart veterinarians view complaining customers as an asset because they provide the opportunity to improve. Let clients know you want to hear their complaints. A threat-free environment must exist for clients or the team to feel comfortable in pointing out a problem or a mistake.”<sup>3</sup>

TELL THE CLIENT WHAT PROTOCOL WILL BE CHANGED

Once you assure the client that you understand why the client is unhappy, offer specific steps that you plan to take so that the issue doesn’t occur again. Your choice of words, communication and listening skill are important because you are trying to win back their affection, trust, and loyalty. The actions you take to address a client’s dissatisfaction in an effort to return the client to a state of satisfaction is known as “Service Recovery.” The objective is to maintain a positive business relationship with a customer. So appreciating the value of client complaints as a strategic planning tool helps the company to gather critical marketing and consumer information to improve itself.

BE TIMELY (IF NOT IMMEDIATE!) IN YOUR RESPONSE

Up until a few years ago, clients could tell you they were unhappy or write you a letter eschewing their dissatisfaction, but today social media makes

customer dissatisfaction a brand unto itself if you are not careful. There are multiple sites for angry clients to “loudly” voice their complaints these days. Some of the sites I’ve seen include: [www.complaints.com](http://www.complaints.com), [www.thesqueakywheel.com](http://www.thesqueakywheel.com), and [www.my3cents.com](http://www.my3cents.com). Then, of course there is Facebook and Twitter. Social media has changed the rules of engagement, and therefore, to make use of client complaints, you have to be timely in your efforts to reach out to the client to begin a discussion about their experience.

Even best-run practices will make a mistake which can lead to client dissatisfaction. However, the White House Office of Consumer Affairs suggests that 50-70% of customers who complain will do business with you again if you resolve their problem.<sup>4</sup> Use these experiences and the steps outlined above to turn a complaining client into a fervent fan, and secure both their loyalty and continued (or increased) business. 🐾

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# 2015 CONFERENCE ALBUM

After all the planning and preparation, anticipation and excitement, it's difficult to sum up a whole conference on one or two pages! Nevertheless, I am happy to report that the 2015 SVMA Conference, AGM and Trade Show was another successful Association event, with over 160 attendees, 40 industry partner companies and 14 local and international speakers gathering at the Delta Regina Hotel for three days of great professional development.

This year's SVMA Day was all about SVMA members and membership. Bylaw changes affecting the entire membership were discussed and voted on by Annual General Meeting attendees. (See 'From the Registrar's Desk', page 4, for details.) The afternoon kicked off with Kit Krieger, registrar of the former BC Teachers' Association and his engaging look

at different structures of professional associations. The subsequent 'Boots & Salutes' open forum succeeded in engaging members and council in a no-holds-barred discussion of issues of concern to the profession. Such open forums are important and will continue to be part of SVMA tradition.

SVMA Day was capped off by the 2015 Awards Banquet at the Telegraph Room at Casino Regina, an ideal venue for our annual awards dinner and festivities. Also receiving many compliments were the surf and turf dinner and pianist Jesse Brown's smooth piano accompaniment.

Outgoing council president Cheryl Bellamy passed the gavel to new president Dr Deb Hubka-Butz and presented certificates to 2016 Life members Drs Robert

Allen, Bob Bellamy, Doug Bienia, Catherine Kirk, Margaret Northcote and Doug Russell. (Congratulations also to Life members Drs Spencer Barber, Vladimir Brozek, Greg Graham, James Randall, Alan Raymond and Murray Woodbury, who were not able to attend.)

SVMA's largest Exhibit Hall ever drew the crowd for lots of great contact and conversation. Thanks once again to all of our industry partners whose generous support makes our conferences possible. New industry products were unveiled, and several great prizes were nabbed as well. The SVMA handed out a free full registration for next year's Conference in Saskatoon to Dr Lois Herperger. The grand prize, a \$500 wellness package from Temple Gardens Resort and Spa, went to Dr Catherine Kirk. Congratulations!





## Memorable conference moments:

- Boots and Salutes discussion forum, where members and council shared frank and candid discussion of the issues
- Excellent venue, wine, surf & turf, live music and comraderie at the annual SVMA Awards Banquet
- The die-hard spirit of Drs Howard Seim and Leigh Rosengren as they trekked forward with their talks during a blackout
- One of SVMA's best received CE programs to date (see last issue of SVMA News for details)
- An amazing day of companion animal surgical CE, courtesy of Dr Howard Seim who has lectured worldwide
- Lots of fun and 'spirited' socializing at the Exhibitors' Welcome Reception
- Too much delicious food; Asian and pasta buffets and treats galore
- Chill Café dessert & coffee house with wellness talk by the now famous of Erin Wasson
- Watching the sun come up during morning yoga
- Adorable babies in the arms of Drs Franziska Ruder and Val MacDonald-Dickinson
- Henry McCarthy's 13 year old 'budding veterinarian' daughter absorbed by CE lectures
- The sea of green Roughrider fans who converged on the hotel on Saturday afternoon
- A weekend of spectacular fall weather
- All of our awesome attendees!

**JOIN US NEXT YEAR  
IN SASKATOON FOR  
THE 2016 SVMA  
CONFERENCE, AGM  
AND TRADE SHOW  
SEPTEMBER 7-10.**



Recognizing member excellence is a valued SVMA tradition. The SVMA congratulates the following deserving recipients of the 2015 Awards of Distinction:

### COMMUNICATIONS/ PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD

recognizes a member's efforts to bring information, knowledge or advice related to veterinary medicine or the profession to the public. This year's Communications/ Public Relations Award was presented by Dr Kenn Wood to **Dr Bob Bellamy**.

Bob Bellamy is a Saskatchewan born and trained DVM who has practiced mixed animal medicine and surgery for the majority of his career. The Moose Jaw clinic he co-owns with his wife Dr Cheryl Bellamy is now devoted solely to companion animal care.

Although Bob has devoted an enormous amount of his time to SVMA committees (practice economics, community relations), SVMA Council and the WCVN new student selection committee, he has distinguished himself time and again in the veterinary profession through unique projects. Bob has a way of shaking up the status quo and sending it in new and better directions. He has broken the most new ground in raising the public profile of veterinarians in Saskatchewan. Bob's 2015 Profession of Caring video offers a heartfelt tribute to the passion still strong in the veterinary profession in Saskatchewan. With his now widely distributed Just Like You videos, Bob is increasing exposure for Saskatchewan veterinarians with their clients locally and with their colleagues across the country.

**“ Bob has a way of shaking up the status quo and sending it in new and better directions.**

### MENTORSHIP/ LEADERSHIP AWARD

was inaugurated in 2014 to recognize a member who makes an outstanding contribution as a leader or mentor in our profession. By fostering an interest in students, new grads or employees, and cultivating their veterinary aspirations, mentors play a vital role in assisting young veterinarians with their transition into practice. This year's Mentorship/ Leadership Award was presented by Dr Ed McCall to **Dr Murray Jelinski**.

Dr Murray Jelinski received his DVM from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1985. Shortly after graduation, he established a mixed animal practice in Saskatchewan, which he owned and operated for seven years. In 1992 he returned to the WCVN to complete a MSc degree in epidemiology, studying fatal abomasal ulcers in young unweaned beef calves. Following his MSc, Dr Jelinski embarked upon a career in the Canadian veterinary pharmaceutical industry, starting as the Manager of Regulatory Affairs and Product Development with Hoechst Roussel Vet. After a number of successive positions within the industry he ended his pharmaceutical career as General Manager for MetaMorphix Canada Inc, an early stage biotechnology company. In January 2006 he joined the WCVN as the Alberta Chair in Beef Cattle Health and Production Medicine.

Dr Jelinski has lately distinguished himself in the area of mentorship by partnering with the WCVN, Dr Kate Hodgson OCFP, CVO and western VMAs in researching and developing a fresh approach to student mentorship that emphasizes mentees as agents of their own success in the experience of being mentored.

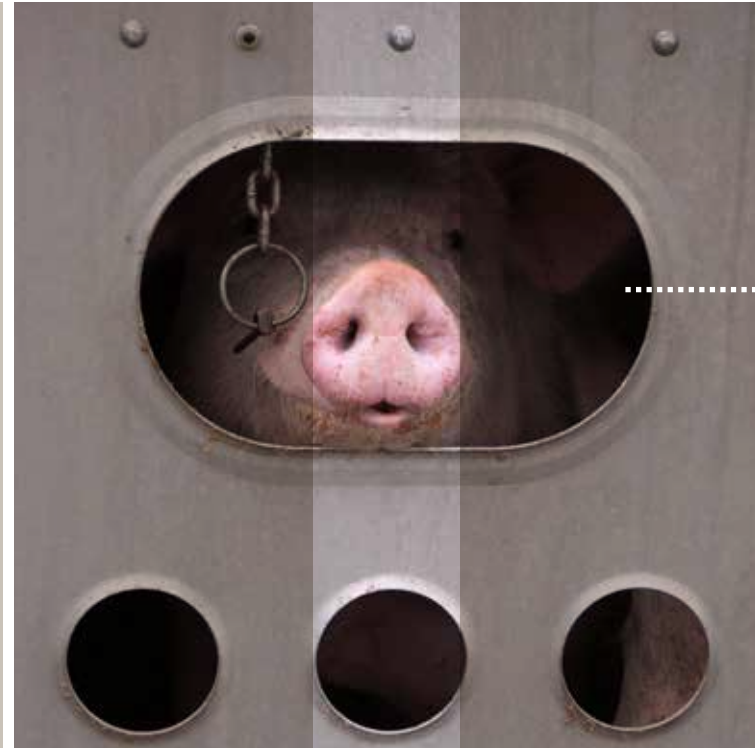
### J.J. MURISON DISTINGUISHED VETERINARIAN AWARD

is the highest level of recognition the SVMA can bestow on a member and is presented annually. The criteria for selection include service to the SVMA, the profession and the public as well as competency, personality and character. This year's J.J. Murison Distinguished Veterinarian award was presented by Dr Greg Harasen to **Dr Lesley Sawa**.

Dr Lesley Sawa is the founder and driving force behind Team North, a northern spay and neuter program that has spayed many hundreds of dogs and cats and has been the inspiration for several similar programs across the country. Team North has made numerous trips to Stanley Mission, Ille-a-la-crosse and La Loche over the last decade. In the process, Lesley's group has provided a practical solution to the problem of stray dog populations in northern communities. The program has also inspired several northern students to consider post-secondary education and opportunities beyond their communities because of their exposure to veterinarians and veterinary technologists. Team North has provided a bridge between cultures as the volunteer teams meet and work with aboriginal communities.

Lesley is also a busy practice owner, noted for her compassionate practice style. She is mother of two outstanding young women who are active in their community, and the wife of Regina Symphony Orchestra conductor, Victor Sawa. In the course of Victor's duties, Lesley has encountered many celebrities, politicians, and royalty and has always been an example of charm and grace that has reflected especially well on our profession.





## IS THIS ANIMAL 'FIT FOR THE TRIP'?

**DR. LEEANN FORSYTHE DVM MVetSc**  
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian  
SK Agriculture- Livestock Branch

Animal welfare is important to livestock producers and to the general public. One component of Canada's Health of Animals Regulations is the humane transport of livestock. Both livestock producers and transporters must understand the importance of ensuring that animals are "Fit for the trip."

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has authority under Canada's Health of Animals Regulations for the humane transport of animals. All people responsible for transporting animals must follow these requirements.

### The regulations prohibit:

- Overcrowding animals;
- Transporting animals that are unfit for transport; and
- Loading, transporting or unloading animals in a way that could cause injury or suffering.

The CFIA monitors compliance with the regulations by doing routine inspections at strategic locations such as points of entry to Canada, registered

establishments, auction markets and assembly yards, and by conducting roadside blitzes. Inspectors also follow up on reports of non-compliance. Producers are responsible to make decisions on whether their animals should be transported. If the animal is unfit: Do NOT transport.

An unfit animal is at high risk of undue suffering during transportation. If an animal is not "Fit for the Trip," the producer must delay transport unless destined for veterinary treatment or diagnosis. If delaying transport could result in undue suffering and if the animal is unlikely to get better, the animal must either be treated or euthanized on site. Knowing when to humanely euthanize an animal on farm safeguards the animal's welfare.

### An animal is considered unfit for transport if it:

- Is emaciated, weak, lame or feverish;
- Cannot stand without assistance or move without being dragged or carried;

- Has a fracture that considerably hampers mobility or is likely to cause severe pain when being loaded or transported;
- Is dehydrated, exhausted or in shock;
- Is on the verge of death or giving birth;
- Has a suspected or confirmed nervous system disorder;
- Has a prolapsed uterus or a hernia that impedes movement, is painful when palpated or touches the ground when the animal is standing normally; or
- Has an open skin wound, ulceration or obvious infection.

The entire "Fit for the Trip" checklist can be found on the CFIA website <http://www.cfia-acia.agr.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/humane-transport/compromised-animals-policy/eng/1360016317589/1360016435110>

If in doubt that an animal can be loaded humanely, producers or transporters can contact a veterinarian or the CFIA for guidance. 🐾

## Chief Veterinary Officer Update

*By: Dr. Betty Althouse (Saskatchewan Chief Veterinary Officer)*

The office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) has a number of initiatives going on, focused on protecting and improving the health and welfare of Saskatchewan livestock and the quality of animal and food products for domestic and world markets.

Animal welfare remains a priority. In April 2015 investigation and enforcement of animal neglect and abuse cases transitioned from the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (SSPCA), which had delivered such services for over 40 years, to Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS). APSS is a newly formed Humane Society, directed by a board comprised of individuals concerned about animal welfare, including veterinarians and livestock producers. The majority of the animal protection staff from SSPCA moved to APSS, therefore service continued uninterrupted. Ministry funding has been increased by 15% for the next 2 years to \$610,000 annually.

With this transition, some regulatory changes are required, so this provides an opportunity to carry out a wider review of animal welfare in the province, including the legislative framework. Wide consultations with people involved in animal protection, from humane societies and animal shelters, livestock producers, veterinarians, researchers, municipalities and others are occurring to gather information on concerns and ideas for solutions. A meeting on October 29, 2015 in Saskatoon is the start of the review process and we hope it will culminate in an updated The Animal Protection Act in a few years.

An expanded provincial notifiable disease list came into effect in February 2015. Laboratories must notify the office of the CVO within 24 hours if one of these diseases is confirmed. If veterinarians submit to out-of-province labs, they are responsible for

notifying us if any of the listed diseases are detected.

### Notifiable Animal Diseases in Saskatchewan:

- Anthrax
- Rabies
- Bovine Anaplasmosis
- Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea
- West Nile Virus
- Lyme Disease
- Salmonella Enteritidis
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever
- Equine Herpes Virus
- Infectious Laryngotracheitis
- Q Fever
- Swine Influenza
- Swine Delta Coronavirus
- Transmissible Gastroenteritis

Provincial disease response plans are in place for anthrax, rabies and porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED). We have some funding for identification of these diseases, as well as response plans.

The anthrax program involves reporting, quarantines, and ensuring proper carcass disposal is in place. Private veterinarians may be contracted by the province to oversee disposal, cleaning and disinfection, quarantines, and the collection of epidemiological information. Detailed anthrax information for producers and veterinarians is provided. Carcass-side test kits for anthrax are available to interested vet clinics and a validation method is in place. All used kits must be submitted to the Provincial Disease Control Lab for validation. Anthrax was detected, and responded to, in cattle in the Preeceville area in December 2014,

### WHAT'S INSIDE

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in bison in the North Battleford area and in cattle in the RM of Harris in July 2015.

The provincial rabies program, in place since April 2014, has been functioning well. The Ministries of Agriculture and Health have co-funded a provincial program, overseen by a Rabies Risk Assessment Veterinarian, Dr. Clarence Bishop. Over 50 veterinary clinics have contracts for sample collection and submission, and over 200 veterinarians and Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) have been trained in sample collection and shipping procedures. Responses are coordinated to ensure suspect rabies samples are collected and submitted in a timely manner. In the case of human exposure to rabies, public health responds to ensure appropriate post-exposure treatments. When animals are exposed, the RRAV conducts an investigation, educates animal owners and takes any necessary control actions such as advising on vaccination and overseeing quarantines. In the first year of the program there were 218 samples submitted for rabies testing. Twenty-two positive cases were confirmed (10 skunks, 8 bats, 3 dogs and 1 horse), with four of these



Chief Veterinary Officer Update (continued from page 1)

involving human contact requiring post-exposure prophylaxis. The public reporting line for rabies suspects is 1-844-7RABIES.

PED has been an important issue in the swine industry since it was first diagnosed in Canada in January 2014. So far, Saskatchewan swine production units remain PED-free. We have investigated suspect herds and those associated with suspect or positive samples from transport trailers or sites, and the cost of that additional tracing and testing is covered by the provincial PED response program. In addition, on-going weekly surveillance occurs at three co-mingling sites in the province. Strong biosecurity programs are the best defence against PED introduction and spread. The Saskatchewan Swine Biosecurity Program is focused on PED prevention at production sites and providing truck wash audits to improve

truck cleaning and disinfection protocols.

Animal health surveillance initiatives recently supported by the Ministry under Growing Forward 2 (GF2) include; BVD screening program for beef cattle, Johne's disease and BVD surveillance in dairy herds, sheep flock abortion project, wild boar disease surveillance, swine influenza virus characterization and development of passive surveillance using laboratory data. The latter initiative is being accomplished through the funding of a full-time disease surveillance position at PDS. This position, ably manned by Dr. Anatoliy Trokhymchuk, also works to continue to improve PDS's data management, as well as collaborating on national animal health surveillance and data standardization through the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN). Now that a full year of data is available in the new system, veterinarians

and producers can expect more reporting from findings. Surveillance programs for chronic wasting disease and avian influenza continue through regular Ministry funding.

The Ministry of Agriculture supports the Disease Investigation Unit (DIU) located at WCVM, which contributes to passive surveillance. All investigations are initiated by private veterinarians working with livestock producers. Since 2007, the DIU has assisted with 123 investigations; 13 of these cases were investigated in 2014/15. Veterinarians with a diagnostic challenge are encouraged to contact Dr. John Campbell (Telephone: 306-966-7158; Email: john.campbell@usask.ca).

Saskatchewan Verified Beef Production (VBP) has received Growing Forward 2 funding for veterinary consultation visits to conduct biosecurity assessments and

to develop biosecurity protocols to better manage disease risks. A similar program is in place with the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board. Eligible beef or sheep producers may receive reimbursement for 50% of costs, up to a total of \$1000, for veterinary visits related to herd health plan development and/or biosecurity risk assessments. Producers must first attend an industry biosecurity workshop to be eligible for the program. Veterinarians are encouraged to promote these programs to your clients to access this funding.

The Provincial Domestic Meat Inspection program continues with third party delivery utilizing inspectors from The Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre. Funding is in place to ensure diagnostics to support disposition decisions and the PDS pathologists have been very supportive. We are also focusing on humane stunning

and slaughter assessments. Funds are being provided under GF2 to assist with assessments at all slaughter plants in the province, including those not enrolled in the Provincial Domestic Meat Inspection program, with support for equipment funding needed to improve slaughter welfare.

Education and awareness of prudent antimicrobial use is important for producers and veterinarians. Dr. Leigh Rosengren is working with the Ministry, assessing industry's needs and developing education and awareness materials that can be used by industry groups and the Ministry. Our staff participates in national working groups on the issue of antimicrobial use and resistance in agriculture. We have been assessing available data from PDS and received input from SVMA council on what tools veterinarians need to help address antimicrobial resistance concerns. A working



group has been formed in order to develop next steps.

A fully functioning Premises Identification (PID) system is now operational in Saskatchewan. Although it remains voluntary, veterinarians and producers are encouraged to sign up to receive a PID number. Entering this PID number on PDS submission forms can be helpful for producers and vets to track locations of submissions. It can also be used in mapping submissions and results to improve animal health surveillance. The more complete

You will get what you ask for: the science and art of filling out a laboratory submission form

By: Anatoliy Trokhymchuk (Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, PDS)

Prairie Diagnostic Services offers over 700 tests to help veterinary practitioners and other animal health stakeholders address diagnostic, production, surveillance, and regulatory needs. We combine the latest in laboratory technology with qualified personnel to deliver a high level of service. Our customers expect to receive information that will help with their clinical and management decisions. For all our customers' expectations to be met, clear communication is the key. Laboratory services requisition form is the first step to start this communication and to ensure timely delivery of our reports and interpretations to our customers. The following guidelines will help you to make sure that your submission forms are complete and accurate.

- 1. **PICK THE RIGHT SUBMISSION FORM.** To better address all the diverse needs of our customers we have 18 different submission forms. With changes in laboratory technology and evolving needs of our clients' we do update our forms periodically. Using an outdated submission forms is not recommended because missing critical information will lead to unnecessary delays or incorrect tests and interpretations being provided. Current submission forms can be downloaded from our website at: <http://pdsinc.ca/Resources/Forms.aspx>
- 2. **FILL ALL FIELDS** We understand how busy our clients are and our submission

forms ask only necessary questions. Check boxes are used extensively to make the process as quick as possible. There are seven key areas on our species-specific submission forms:

Invoice to	
Clinic:	
Address:	
Postal Code:	Phone:
Veterinarian:	Fax:
Print name	
Email:	
Copy to:	

- **Client information** We will use this information to communicate results and issue invoices. All the fields in this section are critically important and ensure our business and reporting transactions are correct. Providing an accurate e-mail address is especially important – results are real time and are electronically forwarded when individual test(s) are completed. "Copy to" email address helps to deliver report to other people who need to know the results. Email addresses listed on your account for reports, invoices and statements compliment the PDS web client access for getting online reports. For more information about benefits and details of PDS web client please visit <http://pdsserver.usask.ca/webclient>.

- **Animal owner, location, and demographics**

Owner/Farm Name:	
Animal Location/Premise ID:	
Animal ID:	Barn ID:
Species: PORCINE	Breed:
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Gilt <input type="checkbox"/> Sow <input type="checkbox"/> Boar <input type="checkbox"/> Barrow (Check all that apply)	
Age:	

Our Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) tracks all your individual client submissions and reports. This capacity opens potential for customized individual client data analysis – the only limitation – you need to provide accurate information about the animal owner, animal location, and details of animal demographics on **each and every** submission form. This information is critical to assist you and your client in the event of a reportable disease outbreak. Animal health surveillance and disease control programs rely heavily on reliable reporting to maintain Canada's access to international markets. Premise Identification Number is especially important (Premise ID). Premise ID is designed as a unique identifier for each location with agricultural animals and it is the most efficient way to keep track of your clients' individual submissions. More information about Premise ID programs for each commodity group can be found here: <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/PID>

- **Special coding**

<input type="checkbox"/> STAT (no reply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabies Suspect	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Case	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Case	Date Collected:
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Information from this section gives PDS a heads up if urgent testing is required. When special biosecurity measures needs to be taken or when special procedural steps and extra documentation needs to be considered for legal or insurance

matters. Knowing when the sample was collected will help us to choose the most appropriate laboratory technique to provide you the best possible diagnostic answer.

- **Submission reason**

REASON FOR SUBMISSION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diagnostic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Research	
<input type="checkbox"/> Surveillance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Monitoring	

This information is essential for our data analysis and reporting – we perform testing for practitioners, researchers, animal

agriculture industry, and government. It is important to be able to efficiently and reliably categorize cases and you are the best person to do it for your submission.

- **History**

HISTORY: (include vaccination history, treatments, etc)	Special Project Name (if applicable):
Previous submission #: _____	Submitters Signature: _____

Besides providing relevant details that give direction for our pathologists in establishing diagnosis, this section offers you an opportunity to assign a project number to your submission (**Special Project Name**) and directly link this submission to previous PDS case (**Previous submission number**). **Special Project Names** are especially handy to track lab work you are doing for a particular group of clients over time or when conducting a large animal health investigation. This is also the area to identify special requests for your case.

- **Herd demographics**

Collection of this information provides useful data for your herd health efforts. Herd demographics is key in developing



You will get what you ask for: the science and art of filling out a laboratory submission form (continued from page 2)

Herd size: \_\_\_\_\_

No. sick: \_\_\_\_\_

No. dead: \_\_\_\_\_

New disease; duration: \_\_\_\_\_

Ongoing disease; duration: \_\_\_\_\_

Non disease: \_\_\_\_\_

and refining disease investigation and control strategies. Consistent submission of this information assists in the collective effort of identifying management related issues and disease.

National animal health surveillance data

\*\*\*NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE\*\*\*

Please complete this section

\*\*\* Production Stage \*\*\*

☐ Farrow to Finish

☐ Farrow to Wean

☐ Grow Finish

☐ Non Commercial

\*\*\* Primary Systems Affected \*\*\*

☐ Abomasal/Small Intestine

☐ Cardiovascular

☐ Gastrointestinal

☐ Integument (skin)

☐ Mammary

☐ Musculoskeletal

☐ Neurological

☐ Reproductive

☐ Respiratory

☐ Sudden/Unexplained death

☐ Unthriftness/Anorexia/Poor Production

☐ Urinary

☐ Whole body/Multisystem

☐ Non disease

☐ Other

National animal health surveillance is increasingly important. It is our common goal to keep industries in animal agriculture and companion animal populations in good health. It is also vital to demonstrate our freedom from exotic diseases. Demonstrating that we are making a sufficient effort to detect exotic disease maintains access to our international markets. With sufficient number of observations, national animal health surveillance systems play a role in early detection of disease. Syndromic surveillance is based on comparing the number of diagnostic

- Requested tests**  
Yes, there are many fields, and yes, it may get confusing, so if you have any questions or doubts, please contact our Diagnostic Services Office (306-966-7316) or any of our diagnostic specialists: <http://pdsinc.ca/OurTeam/DiagnosticSpecialists.aspx>
- DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR FORM!**  
We recommend to enclose submission forms in a sealed Ziploc bag and place at the top of your shipping container. This will protect the submission form from being made unreadable by leaking samples, but most importantly, it will give PDS reception staff a heads up what to expect from your shipment. It is critically important if zoonotic disease is suspected. Pack your samples properly in leak proof containers, use an appropriate amount of absorbent material and cold packs. It is also very important to pick a right shipping container to get the samples to the lab in good shape.

Reminder: HIGH-RISK Sample Packaging Protocols

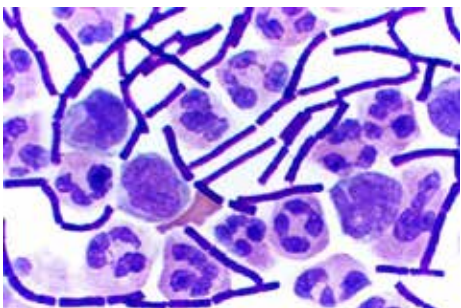
There have been a few incidents recently where high-risk materials were sent to PDS for testing, without appropriate packaging or warnings applied to outside of the primary submission packaging. These incidents resulted in the potential exposure of laboratory staff to serious zoonotic threats such as anthrax and salmonella.

Instructions for sample packaging can be found on the PDS website, under “resources”, or <http://pdsinc.ca/Portals/0/Sample%20Packaging%20Protocol.pdf>

**In addition to basic sample packaging, high risk and/or zoonotic suspect samples need additional packaging.** Once the sample has been placed into the primary packaging as per specifications above

(leak-proof primary container, placed into a secondary container e.g. sealed bag, with adsorbent material between primary and secondary, and then into a rigid box), the outside of the primary package should be clearly labelled with an appropriate warning (e.g. ANTHRAX SUSPECT) and attached laboratory requisition form. The primary packaging should be placed into another box with the normal waybill attached for shipping to PDS.

Once laboratory receiving staff open the outer box and see that it is a high-risk sample, the primary package with the laboratory requisition form can then be taken to a high-biosecurity location and handled with the appropriate protective equipment.



Please educate your staff on proper packaging procedures for high-risk and zoonotic suspect submissions.

READERS’ FEEDBACK

The **Animal Health Perspectives** editorial team (Dr. Moira Kerr, Brian Zwaan and Kathryn Tonita) invite readers’ comment on material published in the newsletter or questions on material submitted by contributors.

Submit your comments or concerns to Dr. Moira Kerr (email: [moira.kerr@pds.usask.ca](mailto:moira.kerr@pds.usask.ca)) and they will be forwarded appropriately.

To be added to the distribution list for the electronic link, email: [brian.zwaan@pds.usask.ca](mailto:brian.zwaan@pds.usask.ca)

message from the SAVT president

Fall Greetings from the SAVT!

A special thank you to the SVMA for extending an invitation to RVTs to the recent SVMA Conference in Regina, SK. It was a superb opportunity for networking with members of the Veterinary Profession, RVT colleagues and veterinary product specialists. The CE selection was excellent. The SAVT will continue to promote the SVMA conference, a valuable forum for obtaining CE credits, in our communications with members.

Speaking of “communications” - I have been recently thinking about the value of effective communication in relationship building with colleagues. Let’s look at a definition -

“Communication (from Latin *commūnicāre*, meaning “to share”) is the purposeful activity of information exchange between two or more participants in order to convey or receive the intended meanings through a shared system of signs and semiotic rules.”

Wikipedia

The basic components of any communication event, whether verbal or written, are generally the same -message composition, message encoding and transmission of signal, reception of signal, message decoding and finally interpretation of the message by the recipient. Well, that seems simple enough.

When considering written communications in particular, the progression in veterinary related businesses is movement towards dependency upon, and even preference for, e-mail as the primary connection with colleagues and outside clients. I have found that while digital technology is wonderful for improving the speed of written information transfer, in that it instantaneously and simultaneously flashes across digital devices, laptops and tablets. It is, however, a mode of communication that can have a detrimental effect on the actual personal relationships involved. How many times have you sent an e-mail or text message with the best intentions, only to have its message misconstrued on the recipient’s end? A short response sent in haste during the busiest part of your work day can

easily be misinterpreted as uncaring -- or worse, as a sign that you’re angry, argumentative, inconsiderate or disrespectful. And, perhaps the key points of the message are missed altogether.

It is essential that written email and text messages are given careful thought in terms of composition, grammar and spelling; consider the possible negative interpretations of the message that may be conceived by the recipient – re-word as necessary or save to “Drafts” until intense emotions have faded ....before the “send” button is depressed. Invite the recipient to ask questions to

ensure clarity and accurate information transfer. Further, written electronic communications are not necessarily secure or confidential. That is something to consider!

Research indicates that the majority of meaning derived from a communication event comes not from the words themselves, but from the speakers’ facial expressions, nuances in speech, tone of voice, eye signals and body language. When gestures, smiles and other non-verbal cues are not a part of the communication event, as in email or text messaging, the recipients freely create their own interpretation of the message.

Here’s a suggested “treatment” for email and text messaging technology overload – pick up the phone....but, make a voice call. Better yet, take a little walk across the office and talk to your colleague, employee, or client, face-to-face. This approach has proven to be more successful in both delivering the intended message and in strengthening the personal relationship. 📞

Source: research conducted by UCLA psychology professor Albert Mehrabian. [Inc magazine 2005/09/01]



LOIS RIDGWAY, RVT



# COMMITTEE UPDATES

Your Association is run by you – the members. The backbone of your professional Association is made up of volunteers who serve on committees and in representative roles. The committees develop CE programs, recommend colleagues for awards, determine practice standards, promote the veterinary profession, prepare fee guides, disseminate information on animal welfare issues, investigate complaints and review the bylaws on a regular basis. In order to keep your organization vibrant and moving forward, the committees must be maintained, re-populated, and active. If you are interested in participating on an SVMA committee, please mention it on your 2016 license renewal submission, contact the chair of your committee of interest or email [sgauthier@svma.sk.ca](mailto:sgauthier@svma.sk.ca).

## ANIMAL WELFARE

**Dr Dennis Will, co-Chair**  
[md.will@sasktel.net](mailto:md.will@sasktel.net)



I am happy to step into the chair role for the Animal Welfare Committee. This is something that really interests me and is why I was a national co-lead for animal welfare at slaughter for several years while I worked for the CFIA. To advance the project we attempted to learn as much as we could, consulted with stakeholders, developed policy, provided program support, raised awareness, motivated staff, management and industry and did everything we could to move the file forward. I look forward to bringing this experience to bear in assisting the SVMA and this committee in any way I can.

Current issues of concern in the animal welfare realm include importation of rescue dogs, abuse awareness and reporting protocols, and as we go forward into the winter, dealing with potential shortages of hay and other nutritive livestock feeds.

Humane slaughter and disposal are also important concerns. Thousands of animals are slaughtered for food every day. In my mind humane slaughter includes (but is not limited to) the transport of poultry and pigs to slaughter in the extremes of summer and winter, the transport of disabled and downer animals, as well as activities associated with slaughter. Disposal includes the killing of animals

for disease control purposes, market adjustments, neglect, those that have reached the end of their productive life and animals that are old, infirm, or no longer wanted.

As is typical, the Animal Welfare Committee is the largest SVMA committee, and currently includes Bridget Gray, Anne Allen, Joe Stookey, Erinn Hilberry, Terri Chotowetz, LeeAnn Forsythe, Allison Danyluk-Ross, Melanie van der Loop, Aman Deep, Brittany Wiese, Karen Machin, Julia Wyatt and Brie Hamblin.



We are happy to announce Dr LeeAnn Forsythe, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, SK Agriculture Livestock Branch, as the newly appointed Animal Welfare Committee co-chair. She has been active on the AWC since 2012. We expect Drs Forsythe and Will to make a dynamic team in their leadership of the AWC this year!

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The mandate of the Community Relations Committee is to promote a positive image of the profession and all SVMA members to the public and to foster pride within the profession. Fresh and practical ideas for furthering the profile of SK veterinarians, promoting the profession and fostering pride in our members are always welcome.

Do you have an interest in the public's view of the veterinary profession? Do you

have ideas about social media content or management? If you are interested in joining the Community Relations Committee, please contact the SVMA office. The CR Committee includes Drs Bob Bellamy, Colette Neudorf, Maria Just, Vivian Fan and Katina Stewart - but is in need of a committee chair.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

**Dr Kent Weir, chair**  
[kentdweir@gmail.com](mailto:kentdweir@gmail.com)



The CE committee is just coming off of a high after hosting another very successful annual SVMA Conference in Regina. Numbers were good and the speakers were very high quality. We would like to take this time to thank Dr Val MacDonald-Dickinson for her knowledge, leadership and fun over the last few years.

We are also excited to move forward in working with the SVMA to provide the new updated mandatory 1 hour CE in prudent antimicrobial use. A one-hour PAMU video is currently in production with the excellent guidance of Drs Leigh Rosengren, Al Chicoine and Chris Clark.

Members of the CE Committee currently include Drs Katina Stewart, Brian Gibbs, Aimee Hayden and myself. Welcome to new member Dr Kathy Linn and returning member Dr Vivienne Jones. We are already at work planning the 2016 conference in

Saskatoon with several speakers confirmed. Everyone is encouraged to let us know if you have heard any really good speakers in the last few years. As always, we would like to focus our conference on practical topics that will be of help and interest to the general practitioner. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have ideas or concerns regarding the regional or annual CE.

## DISCIPLINE

**Dr Al Theede, chair**  
[d.alan.theede@gmail.com](mailto:d.alan.theede@gmail.com)



The Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) refers cases to the Discipline Committee (DC) when the PCC investigation indicates a Hearing should be held to determine if disciplinary action is required. In the past year four Professional Conduct Committee Cases were referred to the Discipline Committee.

DC Hearings were held for each of these Cases. These were Cases #2013-10, #2014-01, #2014-02 and #2014-06. These are now completed and the results of Discipline Committee Hearings, as usual, have been or will be reported in the Newsletter.

One previous DC Case #2013-08 was appealed. A Court of Queens' Bench heard this Appeal on September 16, 2015. The decision of the Court was received on October 2. A brief summary of this case and the results are included in this edition of the Newsletter

Case #2013-08 indicates how complex and detailed many of the disciplinary cases have become in recent years. The DC retains a legal advisor during the hearing and subsequent reporting. This is in addition to the legal services used by the PCC to present and prosecute the complaint. Thus the expense to the SVMA is significant.

Nonetheless, it is rewarding as a DC member to participate in this very important aspect of "self-regulation" which has been entrusted to the SVMA by the Legislature of Saskatchewan. The Committee is in need of new members

so that the workload can be shared and cases heard within the necessary timelines. As you can imagine it is difficult for our Registrar to organize times with 3 to 5 DC members, two lawyers, etc. Mentoring and training are an important aspect of the DC. Formal training sessions are held, often in association with the PCC, and as much as possible we mix more experienced members with newer one for each hearing.

The current SVMA Discipline Committee members are: Ernie Dawson (Public Member), Jo-Anne Wolan (Public Member), Dr Barb Eatock, Dr Ernest Olfert, Dr Greg Harasen, Dr Al Choquer, Dr Ed McCall and myself. The veterinary members extend a special thanks to the public members of the Discipline Committee for their dedication, hard work, insight, experience and support of our profession. Welcome to new Committee member Dr Don Wyand.

## PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

**Dr John Ayres, chair**  
[j.ayres@norsaskvetgroup.com](mailto:j.ayres@norsaskvetgroup.com)



As one of the legislated committees of the Association, the professional conduct committee has been active in the past year. The committee's primary mandate is to investigate complaints

made against Association members and make recommendations whether the complaint should proceed to a full discipline hearing or not. In the event of a discipline hearing, it is the PCC that will assist the prosecuting attorney during the DC hearing.

As always, the cases presented for investigation have represented a wide range of situations, species and practice types. A significant number of the cases revolve, at least in part, around breakdowns in communication between client and veterinarian. This is not unusual from years past, but it is a reminder to all members that communication resulting in a fully informed client should be a primary goal at all times.

Proper medical record keeping, while not a favourite of most veterinarians, is essential in a member's defense of any complaint. Complete documentation of all findings, procedures, treatments, and most importantly all client communication, is essential, not just in the context of any potential complaint, but also in day-to-day continuity of care within the practice.

Over the past several years, the committee has struggled to devise an alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism to deal with complaints that, in the committee's opinion, do not seem to merit a full discipline hearing but where an absolute discharge also seems inappropriate. As there is no formal legislative framework for this process, the committee has attempted to make reasonable decisions on a case by case basis that adequately address valid allegations of professional misconduct balanced against the severity of that misconduct. The majority of ADR resolutions will revolve around recognition of the complainant's concerns combined with education of the veterinarian in hopes of avoiding similar situations in the future.

The present members of the committee include Drs Tania Baker, Jelal Bikey, Rayna Gunvaldsen, Deanna Johnson, Chris Luby, Glenn Merth, Melanie Roth, Brad Scandrett and Kathy Taylor. They are all to be commended on their common sense, perseverance, and overriding sense of fairness exhibited during each investigation and subsequent committee deliberations.

## PRACTICE ECONOMICS

**Dr Bob Bellamy, chair**  
[b.bellamy@sasktel.net](mailto:b.bellamy@sasktel.net)



This year's Economic Survey was sent out in September. We are not yet certain what the response rate has been. Dependent on response the next Suggested

Fee Guide will be delivered in January 2016. It should be noted that the CVMA Business Management Committee has been downgraded to an Advisory Group, which no longer meets other than through



conference calls. It appears economic surveys will continue. However the committee downgrade would suggest that provincial VMAs should be devoting more effort and resources into promoting the survey.

Current members of the Practice Economics Committee include Drs Brian Gibbs, Duncan Hockley, Katina Stewart, Sylvia Carley, Theresa Cook and Chris Clark.

PRACTICE STANDARDS

Dr Lina Johansson, chair  
lina.johannson@inspection.gc.ca

The Practice Standards Committee is continuously assessing how well our existing practice standards apply the requirements of the Act and Bylaws to the practice of veterinary medicine in Saskatchewan. One of the PSC’s current areas of focus is medical record keeping in clinics, and why it is of direct importance to the issue of veterinarians’ legal ability to both prescribe and dispense.

When legislation is written, regardless of the exact wording in the act, interpretation comes down to the intent. The intent of the acts regulating narcotic, controlled and targeted substances is to ensure there is no opportunity for abuse by the practitioner, pharmacist, hospital staff or a member of the public. Records that do not account for each use of such drugs could be construed as being purposely contrary to the intent of the act. The fact that SVMA Practice Standards require accounting for each dose says that we, as a profession, hold to the intent of the statutes.

When a physician or dentist - the practitioners for whom the majority of legislation regarding control of narcotics, controlled and targeted substances have been written - prescribes one of these substances they do not have direct access to them. They must acquire these drugs for their patients by written prescription that is then electronically logged into a national database by the pharmacist. Records of drug use are thus tied to individual health numbers which track prescriptions by

patient and practitioner. The physician or dentist (that is, the practitioner) is recording administration of doses of a previously prescribed drug which has been dispensed through a pharmacy. The pharmacist has already made a record of dispensing the prescription to the individual patient. In such a scenario, the pharmacist maintains records of drugs entering the pharmacy, similar to the SVMA requirement for a Master Drug Log, and drugs dispensed from the pharmacy, similar to the SVMA Dispensing Drug Log.

Veterinarians have access to drugs in a way that no human practitioner does. On a daily basis, veterinarians handle substances to which the rest of society is not allowed access. In addition, we can both prescribe and dispense which allows us significant privileges for the use of scores of medications. Supervision over use of narcotics, controlled and targeted substances and their storage are responsibilities which we must take seriously. For many years, the requirements for narcotics, controlled and targeted substances logs have been poorly held to by most clinics. If you ever need to track down the whereabouts of one of these drugs using your logs, it will certainly be problematic if you and your staff are not diligent in your record keeping.

We work with species that come in a wide range of sizes making calculation of dosing for narcotics, controlled and targeted substances a necessity. In many cases, the volume of the dose can be quite large, certainly large enough to be subject to abuse. At other times, the volume of the dose is very tiny, resulting in the disposal of a significant amount of drug remaining in the vial. All of these volumes must be traceable from the day they were received by the practice to the day they were prescribed to a patient. They also need to be traceable to the responsible individual who ordered them, logged them into inventory and then dispensed them from the inventory. To meet legal requirements, all of this must be signed off by a licensed veterinarian. Only a licensed veterinarian has the privilege to perform the roles of a pharmacist – veterinary technologists

do not have the legal (or ethical) ability to perform the acts of a pharmacist. It has been suggested that the SVMA practice standards for recording use of narcotics, controlled and targeted substances are overly strict and that the wording from the federal documents is sufficient and should be followed. To do so would be falling to a lesser standard than what has been in effect in Saskatchewan for many years. One could argue that the SVMA Practice Standards have simply provided an interpretation of the role of “practitioner”, “pharmacist” and “hospital” as outlined in the federal statutes.

Bylaws written by professional licencing bodies such as the SVMA can be more demanding than provincial and federal legislation. The reverse is never permitted; we cannot write bylaws granting more freedom than that specified in any act or set of regulations. Veterinarians cannot select which level of law they wish to follow; provincial always trumps federal.

Our veterinary licence allows us to both prescribe and dispense. We act as both the prescribing practitioner and the pharmacist. Over time our standards have evolved such that clinics are held to the federal standards of a pharmacy when narcotics, controlled and targeted substances go out the door; and, to the federal standards of a hospital for narcotics, controlled and targeted substances that are dispensed for administration in-clinic. By this rationale, every dose of a narcotic, controlled or targeted substance for every patient must be logged.

(The above was created with input from Sue Mack-Klinger, Registered Pharmacist and Head of the Pharm Tech Program at SaskPolyTech, Dr Cemaine Tsang, member Practice Standards Committee and Dr Lina Johannson, Chair, Practice Standards Committee.)

Current members of the Practice Standards Committee include Drs Lina Johannson, Lois Herperger, Vivienne Jones, Henry McCarthy, Liz Snead, Cemaine Tsang, Altina Wickstrom, Mike Evenson and Angela Oranchuk.

WELLNESS

Dr Jennifer Jinks, chair  
Jinksjennifer@hotmail.com




In the past months we have focused our energy on the most pressing issues regarding member wellness: providing completely confidential counseling services and building our strong community

of veterinarians. Thank you to everyone who attended the social events. The Night Out at Boffins was held in Saskatoon on March 23rd with speaker Erin Wasson, the Veterinary Medical Centre’s resident social worker. Veterinary Team Family Day in Moose Jaw on May 31st allowed veterinarians, team members , their families, and their dogs to spend some time relaxing.

In the next months we will develop a program to provide support to members going through the disciplinary process,

as well as work on establishing a stronger locum bank. A locum bank, wherein members providing locum work can list their service so that members seeking a locum can have accessibility, is now part of the SVMA website classifieds. Locum veterinarians, please submit your contact information to the SVMA office. This service is highly utilized in neighboring provinces, so let’s make it work - your participation is needed. As always, we welcome your input and ideas to make a wellness program that will benefit us all.



HAVE YOU VISITED YOUR ASSOCIATION’S WEBSITE LATELY?

Look for complete lists of committee members along with current news and information for SK veterinary professionals at [www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca).

STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The following committees exist as the infrastructure of the SVMA:

Regular Committees

- Animal Welfare
- Awards
- Community Relations
- Continuing Education
- Finance
- Legislation
- Professional Wellness
- Practice Economics

Legislated Committees

- Professional Conduct
- Discipline
- Practice Standards

DID YOU KNOW?

General Committee Terms of Reference

- Each committee member term shall be three (3) years duration. The option of serving on the same committee two (2) consecutive terms is available.
- One-third of the committee should be replaced yearly.
- Each committee shall appoint a chair. This person is responsible for calling a meeting, determining the agenda and distributing to the committee in advance of the meeting. This person shall serve as the contact and report the activities of the committee to council.
- Each committee shall appoint a member to record minutes of the meeting. A copy of these minutes is to be submitted to the SVMA office.
- Each committee will have a member of SVMA council as a contact.
- Each committee will have an SVMA staff person assigned to support committee activities.





wcvm student update

EVELYN MUMA

I am very excited to be this year's SVMA student representative. I look forward to sharing the latest news at the WCVM with my future colleagues.

I was born and raised in Regina, SK and spent a few years prior to vet school volunteering for the Regina Humane Society and working at a local small animal clinic. For the past two summers I have worked on research projects at the WCVM. During the summer between first and second year I researched various proteins involved in endometrial contractions. During the summer between second and third year I researched the effects of palliative radiation therapy on quality of life in dogs and cats. Interestingly enough, my experiences with the oncology



department at the Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) has me contemplating a future career in veterinary oncology. 🐾

**Vetavision** took place on Oct. 2nd-3rd. This year was the first time the event took place over two days instead of four. Nevertheless, the event was a huge success! Over forty different school groups and 4H clubs booked tours to come to the event and the general public swarmed in on both days. This year there were thirty different booths for the public to explore such as: small animal and production animal nutrition, animal welfare, gross pathology, germs worms and toxins, large animal medicine and surgery, small animal medicine and surgery, oncology, kiddie carrel and many more.

Each booth offered interactive and educational activities. In small animal medicine and surgery, children had the opportunity to get dressed in a cap, gloves and gown to perform a mock surgery on stuffed animal patients. In gross pathology guests were shown the lesions associated with Lumpy Jaw, Johnes's disease, Diamond Skin disease and many more. The kiddie carrel allowed children to hold

chicks, brush ponies, and pet goats and piglets.

The event featured various demonstrations including sheep herding, falconry and the crowd favorite, Cinnamon the Fistulated Cow. Who knew so many people would have a burning desire to stick their arm into a cow's rumen? Vetavision came to a close on Saturday night with Pre-Vet night. There were over 100 eager high school and undergraduate students from all four Western Provinces looking to join the veterinary profession. Vetavision is now being held every two years: the next one will take place October, 2017.

As winter begins to roll in, students will inevitably start finding their warmest blankets, comfiest clothing, coziest sitting spot, and favorite coffee or tea mug to settle in for the long hours of studying for midterms and final exams ahead. As for me, I am looking forward to choosing third year electives for the 2017 year. 🐾



**WCVM Class of 2019**

The start back to school was exceptionally busy this year. Students welcomed Dr Chris Clark as this year's Academic Dean, since Dr Bruce Grahm is away on sabbatical. The Class of 2019 was welcomed at the annual White Coat Ceremony and students were recognized for their achievements at the annual Awards Night. As usual, the buff was booming with welcome back activities and club sign-ups, but in addition students were busily preparing for WCVM's 45th Vetavision weekend. 🐾

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ONE PROFESSION. ONE STRONG VOICE.

CVMA strives to address issues of relevance to veterinarians across the country. We're pleased to provide you with an overview of what the CVMA has recently been working on for you, our valued members in Saskatchewan.

The CVMA is pleased to announce the opening of our 2016 Award Nominations on Nov. 1, 2015. Each year, we proudly recognize individuals who have demonstrated significant accomplishments, exemplary leadership and tireless commitment to Canada's veterinary community. Nominations for 2016 CVMA Awards are being accepted until January 31, 2016. Award nominees (excluding those nominated for Honorary Membership) must be current CVMA members to be eligible for nomination; however, they can be nominated by non-CVMA members. We invite you to consider nominating a deserving colleague for one of our prestigious awards. Please visit the CVMA Awards section of [canadianveterinarians.net](http://canadianveterinarians.net) for more information.

The CVMA will hold the 7th edition of the CVMA Emerging Leaders Program as part of our 68th Convention in Niagara Falls, July 7 to 10, 2016. The objectives of the ELP are to help identify and develop leadership skills within Canadian veterinarians, technicians and technologists while building a leadership network within the veterinary profession. Please visit the Science & Knowledge section of our website to see how you can participate.

The CVMA is pleased to have celebrated its 30th Annual Health Week with nearly 200 veterinary practices participating across Canada in October. This year's theme, "The Perfect Pair: Partners in preventive veterinary care," reminded animal owners that they and their entire veterinary team are important partners in ensuring optimal health for their animal. Visit [canadianveterinarians.net](http://canadianveterinarians.net) for highlights of the event held from October 4 to 10.

The CVMA celebrated National Veterinary Technician Week with the Registered

Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RVTTTC) in October. The week, October 11 to 17, celebrated the vital role veterinary technicians play in the day-to-day function of veterinary practices. CVMA and RVTTTC signed a collaboration agreement in 2014 to strengthen ties between veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians/technologists and registered animal health technicians/technologists (RVT/RAHT). Both of our associations believe working together will benefit veterinary healthcare teams and animal patients across Canada.

CVMA, in partnership with Brief Media, is pleased to offer members a free global edition of Clinician's Brief™. The monthly digital subscription provides practical clinical information to companion animal practitioners and is available at no cost to all CVMA members. To request your free subscription, visit the CVMA Member Benefits & Services section of our website and click the Clinician's Brief link.

The CVMA is currently addressing a number of issues regarding best practices and the humane treatment of animals. In late September, the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) held a teleconference to discuss progress and plan next steps in the current process to revise the Kennel Code of Practice. The AWC is also busy drafting or revising various position statements, which are expected to be circulated for member comment or finalized by the end of the year, including: Devocalization of Dogs, Humane Training Methods for Dogs, Cutting Canine Teeth in Adult Dogs, Humane Slaughter, Mass Depopulation, Forced Moulting of Poultry, Seal Hunt in Atlantic Canada, Use of Animals in Entertainment and Recreation, and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. The committee will also be reviewing and updating a number of position statements in the new year, including: Animal Abuse, Keeping of Native or Exotic Wild Pets, Ownership and Selection of a Pet, Disbudding and Dehorning of

Cattle, Firing of Horses, Tail Docking of Dairy Cattle, Castration of Piglets, and Electroimmobilization. Given the recent attention declawing of cats has received in the media, the AWC will also be updating the Onychectomy (Declaw) of the Domestic Felid position statement on a priority basis before the end of 2015.

The National Issues Committee (NIC) is currently reviewing CVMA general position statements. The following are expected to be completed before the new year: Legislation Concerning Vicious Dogs, Importation of Rescue Dogs, and Aquatic Animal Veterinary Medicine, with Veterinary Dentistry being reviewed in 2016. Importation of Rescue Dogs is also scheduled to be the topic of the NIC forum at the upcoming CVMA Convention in Niagara Falls, July 7 to 10, 2016. We hope to see you there!

2015-2016 print editions of the CVMA Source Guide were distributed to members in late summer and there is a digital version available on our website by visiting "My Profile" under the Login link. This annual publication is distributed exclusively to members of the CVMA. Our objective is to make this publication an all-encompassing reference document – one that members consider useful and a valuable benefit of their membership.

The CVMA is proud to welcome the 2015-16 Executive Committee into their new roles: Dr. Nicole Gallant, President; Dr. Troy Bourque, President-Elect; Dr. Troye McPherson, Vice-President; Dr. Terri Chotowetz, Executive Member; Dr. Jean Gauvin, Immediate Past-President; and Dr. Barry Stemshorn, Treasurer..

Questions or Suggestions? Contact your CVMA National Office: Tel: 1-800-567-2862, or email at [admin@cvma-acmv.org](mailto:admin@cvma-acmv.org). Contact your provincial Council Representative, Dr. Terri Chotowetz at [tchotowetz@gmail.com](mailto:tchotowetz@gmail.com).



Canadian beef producers missed the BSE surveillance quota again last year!

In 2014, Canada fell short of the 30,000 tests required by the CFIA in order to meet OIE's recommendations for a country with a "Controlled BSE Risk" status.

Saskatchewan cattle producers are responsible for at least 7,500 submissions per year until 2016 when it may be possible to be upgraded to "Negligible BSE Risk" status.

Even though 2014 testing results show Canada continues to be 100% BSE FREE, the minimum of 30,000 tests must still be performed every year (7500 submissions in Saskatchewan).

To learn more watch this informative video. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtD\\_rS6Fdyk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtD_rS6Fdyk).) Type the foregoing URL into your browser or scan the above QR code with your smart phone.





## newsletter notice

### DISCIPLINE CASE REPORT 2013-08:

PCC V DR WENDY SCHMALTZ

The Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) investigated and subsequently forwarded to the Discipline Committee (DC) a complaint made against Dr Wendy Schmaltz by the SSPCA. The SSPCA had inspected the Schmaltz ranch following a report of starving cattle. During the inspection, it was noted that Jack Russell terriers were being housed under inadequate conditions.

The Discipline Committee heard the charges against Dr Schmaltz in April and June of 2014 finding her guilty and imposing a \$7500 fine, payment of 75% of the costs of the complaint process up to \$50,000, and a 12 month suspension from practising.

Dr Schmaltz appealed the DC decision and penalty through the courts. A judgement was received October 2, 2015 as a result of an appeal hearing held in the Court of Queen's Bench September 16, 2015.

The court upheld the DC findings in that Dr Wendy Schmaltz has been found guilty of professional incompetence and professional misconduct for failing to provide her cattle adequate feed, shelter and water resulting in the death of 12 cows and failing to provide adequate shelter and exercise for her Jack Russell terriers.

As well, the court upheld the twelve month suspension imposed by the discipline committee and payment of a \$7500 fine. The suspension of Dr Schmaltz' licence to practice took immediate effect.

Not supported by the court was the DC decision instructing Dr Schmaltz to pay 75% of the costs of the proceedings to a maximum of \$50,000. The court set a maximum of \$40,000 which is approximately 40% of the slightly greater than \$100,000 cost incurred by the SVMA to investigate, hear and deal with the appeal of the complaint."

**ON THE MOVE?**  
**CHANGING EMPLOYERS?**  
**CLOSING DOWN A PRACTICE?**  
**CHANGING YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?**



**YOU MUST LET THE SVMA OFFICE KNOW.**  
**EMAIL SVMA@SVMA.SK.CA CALL**  
**306-955-7862 OR FAX 306.975.0623**

## FEELING OVERWHELMED?

If you are feeling burned out, at your wits' end or even depressed, you may want to consider taking advantage of the counselling services that are available to you free of charge through your Association. SVMA funds confidential professional counselling to all active general, life practising and educational members who have been licensed for at least six months. The **Members' Wellness Program** covers four hours of professional mental health services annually, up to \$120 per visit. **This service is absolutely confidential:** no identifying information is given back to the SVMA.

Details of the Members' Wellness Program are available at [svma.sk.ca](http://svma.sk.ca) along with other support and resource links.

To obtain further information from PPC or to make a confidential appointment for counselling, call: Professional Psychologists & Counsellors (PPC) at 306-664-0000, or visit [www.peopleproblems.ca](http://www.peopleproblems.ca)

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## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### T-GENERAL

BLEROT, Kaylee Sep 8  
ERICKSON, Dorothy E. Sep 22  
GAGNON, Jerome Oct 1  
GAZDA, Megan Aug 24  
GRAY, Allister Jul 29  
JOHNSON, Delaney C Sep 10  
MCDONALD, Marshall Oct 5  
PENNEY, Kira K Aug 10  
STIRTON, Sara J.L Aug 4  
WEIR, J.A. Malcolm Sep 8  
WHITTY, Justin A Aug 1

### T-LIMITED

BROEMEL, Catharina Oct 1

### T-SHORT TERM

GENDRON, Karine Oct 13 to Dec 4  
GREENWOOD, Sarah 30 day, Sep 24

HUFF, John Sep 14 to Sep 15  
JACOBSON, Teresa R. Nov 9 to Nov 20

ZWICKER, Lesley Aug 4 to Aug 14

### EDUCATIONAL

PAWLIK, Michael Sep 23

### T-EDUCATIONAL

YOSHIMURA, Seiji Oct 2

### GENERAL TO LIFE PRACTISING

ALLEN, Robert W. Sep 17  
BARBER, Spencer M. Sep 17  
BELLAMY, Robert T. Sep 17  
BIENIA, Doug A. Sep 17  
BROZEK, Vladimir Sep 17  
GRAHAM, Gregory R. Sep 17  
KIRK, Catherine I. Sep 17  
RAYMOND, Alan J. Sep 17  
WOODBURY, Murray R. Sep 17

### SOCIAL TO LIFE NON-PRACTISING

NORTHCOTE, Margaret J. Sep 17  
RANDALL, James W. Sep 17  
RUSSELL, Douglas H. Sep 17

### RESIGNED

ANDERSON, Stacy Dec 31  
BOHAYCHUK, Kaylee Dec 31  
DESANTI CONSOLI, Helene Marie Jul 31  
GUILLEMAUD, Anne Marie Aug 27  
HERING, Adam Dec 31  
HIGGINS, Sara Sep 25  
JOSEPH, Heather Sep 11  
MCGREGOR, Glenna Sep 30  
POST, Joanne N. Sep 23  
RIVAS, Maritzabel Dec 31  
SANCHEZ, Andres Aug 17  
TALLANT, Amanda Aug 20  
TUSLER, Charlotte Jun 30  
WARKENTIN, Cara Sep 1  
WILSON, Sarah A. Jul 31

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