

# SVM NEWS



SASKATCHEWAN  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

MAY 2018  
VOLUME 53, ISSUE 2



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# The Conversation about Animal Welfare in Saskatchewan

*continues ...*

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TWO MORE REGIONAL CE DAYS  
HAVE BEEN ADDED – **REGISTER NOW**

The effects of animal abuse and neglect touch all of us. The reality is, abuses of pets and livestock persist. This full day of approved scientific CE will address the following in a conversation with veterinary professionals about dealing with abuse and neglect:

- Changes to the SK Animal Protection Act: Issues and consequences of mandatory reporting; Goals and expectations of investigative process
- What the Human Model of Mandatory Abuse Reporting Can Teach Us
- Considerations for Euthanasia of Large and Small Animals: Timeliness; Transport of compromised animals
- Managing Nutritional Welfare Cases in Beef Cattle

WITH

**Dennis Will, DVM**  
Retired CFIA Veterinarian

**Yolande Seddon, PhD**  
Asst Prof. WCV  
Large Animal Clinical Sciences

**Kaley Pugh, MSc**  
Director, Animal Protection  
Services of Saskatchewan

**John Campbell, DVM**  
Professor, WCV Large Animal  
Clinical Sciences

**Judy Currie, DVM**  
SVMA Registrar

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SATURDAY

**MAY 26**

**Swift Current**

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SATURDAY

**JUNE 2**

**Yorkton**

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**\$100 for  
6H scientific CE  
with lunch included.**

**Details and  
registration at  
[www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca)**

*The veterinary profession's importance to animal protection cannot be overstated. Please plan to attend the Conversation about Animal Welfare in your area.*





SPRING 2018

**SVMA NEWS** is a publication of:

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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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STAYING ON  
AN EVEN KEEL



A CONVERSATION ABOUT  
ANIMAL WELFARE



2018 MENTORSHIP,  
PRECEPTORSHIP  
PROGRAMS



NEW CE PORTAL

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## president's perspective

Dr Lesley Sawa



**T**hank goodness the warmth and sunshine have finally returned! I think all of us have had more than enough of the seemingly endless winter of 2018! With the spring comes change and growth, and I see our Association dealing with important changes this year. Some changes have generated questions from our members, and as your Association Council, I hope we can help shed light on the issues and answer any questions you might have.

The Bylaw re-write has been a welcome update and will, in the end, help to clarify some grey areas. Many members posted their thoughts on the Member's Side discussion forum during the widely advertised 60-day member comment period from March 01, to April 30. Comments submitted by members during the comment period are being reviewed by Council and are being incorporated into the new Bylaws as applicable. Changes will be made before the AGM to make our annual meeting move smoothly. Even though the official comment period has ended, please make sure to familiarize yourself with the re-written Bylaws if you have not done so already. It is very important to understand the Bylaws and take all opportunities to have your say.

This year's animal welfare CE sessions have been well attended. Our membership has been getting important education about the proposed changes to the provincial Animal Protection Act and the implications of mandatory reporting.

An important aspect of the reporting discussion is the mixed feelings veterinarians can often have about reporting suspected abuse. Sometimes veterinarians are reluctant to report. There can be fear of repercussions from clients, employers and colleagues.

It is both our right and our responsibility to report any concerns we may have about welfare situations. In cases where we may feel conflicted, the decision is made easier

when we remember that it is our responsibility to uphold the law (and that as professionals, upholding the law overrides the conditions of any employment contracts we may have).

But there is a lot we can do before we even get to the 'Should I report it?' stage.

**“ Our reports of suspicion or statements of opinion about evidence of animal cruelty carry a lot of weight because we are recognized animal health experts.”**

Many cases that can be rectified through education and help from other veterinarians. Sometimes there are complications in animal welfare cases including mental health and financial issues. Putting our clients in touch with helpful resources can make a difference.

If a welfare situation has not been rectified after we have tried to educate the owner, reporting our concern is the next step. Reporting amounts to simply notifying an animal protection agency that we have a suspicion that there's a problem. An Animal Protection Officer (APO) will then follow up by investigating and confirming whether there is, in fact, a problem.

APOs will identify needed changes and attempt to educate the owner. Proposed updates to The Act will mean APOs will have the power to make changes to animal treatment a legal requirement for the owner and place a time frame around making those changes. If the conditions aren't met, they will assess the situation further. If the owner does not rectify the problem and further, shows no intention to do so after the identified period of time, enforcement measures will then be considered.

The changes in the Animal Protection Act are for the protection of animals and the public - and this is why we chose our profession. We have all given an oath to protect animal health and welfare and prevent or relieve animal suffering. In addition, we

must keep up the dignity and ethics of our chosen profession. Statistics show that the public believes we report, and expects us to report, all animal abuse. By not reporting animal cruelty, we put our own professional reputations at risk. I have been asked recently to speak at a high school about animal abuse and its prevention. We are truly the shepherds on this issue.

Our professional courage is needed by APOs who need our support in their endeavours. If we have reported a concern, we must be willing to stand behind it. Anonymous reports don't have any power in court. Our reports of suspicion or statements of opinion about evidence of animal cruelty carry a lot of weight because we are recognized animal health experts. No one else has more expert credentials than we do. If we are asked to provide expert testimony, or if we are otherwise identified as attesting to suspicion of animal cruelty, we don't have to worry, because The Animal Protection Act protects veterinarians who have done so in good faith. We cannot be sued when we report in good faith.

When we really understand that we are recognized as leaders in animal health, that we ourselves are not at risk if/when the law requires us to report, and that the public expects us to do so, we can feel more comfortable reporting suspicions of animal cruelty when appropriate. Most of the country has already made mandatory reporting the law. Manitoba has had mandatory reporting as law for nine years and MB veterinarians are fine with it because they are aware the law and culture support them in doing so. In short- mandatory reporting works.

Since many large animal veterinarians have been unable to attend the late winter sessions (due to calving), we have added two more 'Conversation About Animal Welfare in SK' sessions, one on May 26th in Swift Current and one on June 2nd in Yorkton.

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*Continues on page 5...*





## An Invitation to... THE COUNCIL TABLE

When you think about your Association's decisions and policies, do you wish you had more influence? Would you like an opportunity to handle things differently? The opportunity is here, at the SVMA Council table.

Your Council is made up of member veterinarians just like you. Every SVMA member has important ideas

and perspective to share. We want your point of view, your knowledge and your ideas.

Council members invariably say they obtain a wealth of knowledge and insight about the Saskatchewan veterinary profession to take back to their practices.

All SVMA members with at least five years of practice

experience are welcome.

Council terms go by quickly, and two (2) council seats will need to be filled by election at the next AGM in September. Members with experience from volunteering with other SVMA committees are preferred. If you are interested, please contact the SVMA office or a current Council member for more information.

**BE PART OF THE PROCESS.  
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR PROFESSION.  
RUN FOR A SEAT ON COUNCIL.**

### *Presidents perspective continued from page 4*

These sessions are open to all veterinary professionals.

On another subject, your incoming president Dr Victor Kernaleguen has written a thoughtful letter pertaining to rebates on antimicrobials, and I feel it is an important issue (see page 20, this issue) If we are really committed to antimicrobial stewardship and the reduction of use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine (and medicine in general) we need to stop accepting rebates from drug companies for antimicrobial products

Antibiotics must only be used when needed. There is no indication for other medications that are supplied by drug companies to be taken off rebate, but for the sake of prudent antimicrobial use, antimicrobials should be. Drug companies should be dedicated to this concept and take responsibility as well. Imagine if the public found out that we got 'kickbacks' from drug

companies for antibiotics when we are the sole sellers of these drugs because they are now only available by veterinary prescription. Are we not supposed to be leaders in the AMS movement? At first, this may seem like a bold statement, but when the rubber hits the road, the public must see the retail process as supportive of the ethics involved, or it will reflect very badly on our profession.

So many important issues are before us and I feel this has been a serious report. It has been a long winter and it is time for us to come out of hibernation. It doesn't have to be upsetting to meet these important issues head on. We are respected professionals and we have the power to effect positive change on many levels.

We want to hear input from our membership! If you have a beef with these statements, let us know. You can contact Council members or office staff anytime. Give us your thoughts. If you want to make

some changes, consider sitting on Council or joining a committee. You can't make any changes if you don't speak up and jump on board. Let's enjoy the spring and move forward into a summer of positivity. Let's hear your voices. I can't say enough about being involved in our self-governing profession. It's our responsibility and if we are not careful, we may see ourselves being governed by those that have insufficient expertise (see Alberta Bill 31).

But, enough of all the serious issues. I wish you all well and hope there are good times ahead for all of us and for our profession. I love going to work knowing I am making a difference in the lives of animals and the public. It is daunting sometimes, but veterinary medicine is a vital part of the fabric of agriculture, public health and welfare and animal health and welfare. Let's enjoy it and take pride, both in our profession and in our meaningful contributions. 🐾

# HEALTH COVERAGE IS NOW A REALITY FOR SVMA MEMBERS!

The SVMA Group Health Plan kicked off March 1st for Saskatchewan practices and SVMA members, and users are already taking advantage of GHP benefits.

Coverage is available several ways. In most cases, claims can be submitted directly to Saskatchewan Blue Cross at the point of service. Just present your card and most pharmacies, health and dental providers can confirm your coverage on the spot.

Out of pocket expenses can also be submitted for payment by mail, fax or E-claim. The Blue Cross mobile app is easily downloaded from the Apple App Store, or Google Play. The app provides fast, reliable and easy access to your Blue Cross benefits on the go. E-claims are easy to enter and you will be emailed once your claim has been processed. Claims are typically processed within 5-7 business days. You can receive payment by cheque or direct deposit.

For access to complete information about your GHP benefits in a secure environment, including: claims history, eligibility for specific products or services, and online registration

**All SVMA members  
are eligible,  
but you need to know:**

**Hassle-free enrollment  
and blanket coverage of  
pre-existing conditions  
are only available  
until May 31, 2018.**

for direct deposit of your claims, visit the Saskatchewan Blue Cross member services site - just select 'Member Statements' from the Navigation toolbar. If you use the Blue Cross mobile app, simply tap 'My Claims' from the main screen. Your Explanation of Benefits statements are also available in these locations.

No hassle enrollment for blanket coverage of pre-existing conditions is a limited time benefit. All current members are eligible to enroll in the GHP with no coverage exclusions on pre-existing conditions, but only until midnight May 31, 2018. After May 31, any current SVMA members who enroll individually in the GHP will have to complete a medical history questionnaire and approval of coverage for pre-existing conditions will no longer be guaranteed.

**Don't wait – if you're thinking of enrolling, contact us now.**

For information about individual enrollments, contact us at the SVMA office anytime. Please direct questions about practice coverage and rates to our GHP advisors Don (306) 270-6446 and Ken (306) 261-6965. Visit [www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca) for complete details. 📄

**Judy Currie, DVM**  
Registrar, secretary/treasurer  
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jacurrie@svma.sk.ca



## registrar's desk

There have been several questions and comments posted to the Members' Side chat space set up for discussion about the drafted Bylaws and supplementary documents that will be presented at the AGM in September. Here are some key areas of member inquiry: Two members have suggested the Association start charging a fee for laying a complaint with the intent being to reduce frivolous or vexatious complaints resulting in unnecessary time and expense to the SVMA and members.

This has been suggested in the past. I consulted with SVMA legal counsel the last time this was brought up and again more recently. Legal counsel consistently affirms that it would be wrong in principle to charge members of the public to lay a complaint. SVMA Council is given wide powers to regulate the veterinary profession and it is under a corresponding obligation to act in the public interest. It is important that professional groups deal expeditiously and fairly with public complaints and any hindrance to that process, including the levy of a fee, is contrary to that duty. In fact, in a courtroom situation, it could be decided that imposing such a fee is unlawful because it could be interpreted as being in place for the specific purpose of discouraging members from complying with the Act and regulations. The professional conduct committee (PCC) can weed out inappropriate complaints at the onset by deciding whether to investigate. The Veterinarian's Act states the following:

20(1) If any person makes a written complaint that a member is guilty of professional misconduct or professional incompetence, the professional conduct committee shall review the complaint. This means the PCC, after reviewing a complaint, can dismiss it without investigating. The committee is obligated to review but not to investigate every complaint received.

There is concern there will be loss of pharmaceutical income for small rural veterinary clinics when veterinarians can fill other veterinarians' prescriptions.

Concern about loss of income for practices is understandable, but SVMA can't pass or keep in place bylaws for the sole purpose of protecting veterinarians. That conflicts with the mandate of public protection for which the SVMA is responsible.

In Alberta, modified live vaccines can be sold only out of veterinary outlets and only with a VCPR in place. Because sale of killed versus MLV is an issue in Alberta, it seems prudent to have the discussion in SK while the Bylaw rewrite is in progress.

There are three key arguments against controlling sales of vaccines:

- Vaccines are non-prescription. None are listed on The Prescription Drug List (PDL).
- SVMA has no legislated authority to require a VCPR prior to sale of vaccines.
- Reducing access to vaccines by controlling sales is contrary to prudent antimicrobial stewardship.

Of concern is that veterinarians will be held to a higher standard than a lay retail outlet selling vaccines. Should there be an issue with the vaccine efficacy and the producer or animal owner seeks recourse, will the veterinarian be held responsible? This issue is resolved by making clear the sale of MLV and killed vaccines by vets is allowed without requiring a VCPR. This can be written into the policy document. Use of Rabies vaccine is regulated under the Health of Animals Regulations: 134.2 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), no person shall sell or offer for sale a rabies vaccine to anyone other than a veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture of Canada or a veterinarian who holds a

valid licence to practice veterinary medicine issued by the veterinary licensing body of a province. (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of rabies vaccine that is sold or offered for sale in accordance with the written permission granted by the Minister for its use (a) in a temporary emergency veterinary clinic; or (b) in a remote area where veterinary services are not readily available.

Another topic raised was the sale of prescription products to community pastures and feedlots.

Sometimes, invoicing for medications used for pasture and feedlot animals is done by the veterinarian directly to the owner of the cattle needing treatment. Alternatively, the manager of the pasture or feedlot would be considered the agent for the animals and the VCPR would need to be with the pasture or feedlot manager. As the agent for the animals, the manager would then buy the medications and pass the cost for their use over to the cattle owner with other fees.

The registration process for Veterinary Technologists has become more formal over the last couple of years. A question regarding whether techs will be required to attend a registration or licensing seminar and write an exam was asked.

The licensing seminar, presently held 1-2 times a year for new DVM members has become a requirement for RVT members as well, meaning all new members will be required to attend a licensing and registration seminar and pass the licensing exam.

As a means of grandfathering existing member RVTs in, we are setting up an online registration/bylaw/Act/practice standards CE module. All current member RVTs will have the online licensing session as mandatory CE for the next CE reporting period. Existing RVTs will need to take the online licensing session and pass an exam.

There will be legal counsel present at the AGM to help with explanations regarding the new Bylaw document and why it was necessary. I encourage all of you, DVMs and RVTs, to review the draft Bylaw document that was posted on the SVMA website March 1st and to send comments or questions to me at jacurrie@svma.sk.ca. 📧

**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.



# STAYING ANEW





ON  
VEN

# KEEL

## Strategies for Maintaining Equilibrium in the Practice

Vivienne Jones, Sue Gauthier,  
Katelyn McIntyre, Erin Wasson

**This article was crafted from discussions at last year's wellness bistros. 'Sask Vets' (practice owners, managers, associates, RVTs and clinic staff from across the province) shared their strategies for keeping their practice wellness afloat.**



## CULTIVATE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Attitudes are contagious and positivity breeds positivity. Just as with dress codes, as the practice owner, you set the tone. Your demeanor has more influence than you think.

- Respect staff and be realistic. You all undergo tough experiences and stress. Acknowledge each other's stress -that's taking a community approach to wellness.
- Emotional weather reports at staff meetings: each person presents a 'weather report' saying what the forecast is for themselves now and later that day in meteorological terms. It's an upbeat, supportive way to check in with your staff.
- Let staff meetings be fun and revisit your practice's mission/core values periodically.
- Openly advocate for a culture of positivity- it's contagious. Be willing to change the way you do things if doing them differently would improve things in challenge areas.

A practice is like a family, and families all need some fun to round things out and keep stress at bay.

- Have staff outings regularly (ie: quarterly). Share videos at lunchtime. Work a little fun into the day. The staff will surely have lots of ideas of their own.
- Take/post staff photos in your staff area. Make sure everyone's represented.
- Encourage staff to make/bring healthy snacks to share. Have a potluck or take turns.
- Create healthy staff challenges-score points for fitness, eating enough servings of veggies a day, etc. Consider a gym membership as a staff prize, perk or even added to compensation packages. Some local gyms may be willing to negotiate a group membership for your practice. It's worth a phone call to find out.
- Celebrate self-care: a quiet night at home, socializing with friends, attending a concert or anything else that your staff members enjoy on their off time is part of their personal formula for balance and should be respected.

## KEEP WORK HOURS UNDER CONTROL

Your work time is a resource. The following strategies can help you make the best use of it:

- Prioritize your 'to-do' list - delegate what others can/are allowed to do.

- Do small, easy things first to get 'warmed up' and shorten your list fast
- Toss useless stuff – like when cleaning a home, get rid of the junk. Time-wasters need to go.
- Organize realistic day schedules with appointments, jobs that need doing, and prep time (start, before lunch and end of day). One clinic books 30 minutes of catch up time in every 8 hour shift to finish calls and files so they can leave shifts on time without leaving work undone or taking it home. Others book an hour.
- Acknowledge to yourself what you have done! (The glass is half-full....)

### LEAVING WORK ON TIME

Everyone agrees that getting away from the practice reasonably close to the end of a shift goes a long way toward basic sanity. It may not be possible to leave on time every day, but the following ideas help some SaskVets:

- Make a habit of trying to do things as they come rather than putting things off until later (example: doing exam notes during appointment time).
- When you are low on time at the end of the day, do only emergency or necessary items on the to-do list. Everything else gets 'demoted'.
- Close your practice and turn phones off at least 30 minutes before shifts end to finish needed daily tasks.
- If you have an important engagement, consider booking the afternoon off so you're not preoccupied and stressed about leaving on time.
- When possible, walk home - in daylight. Sunshine helps you unwind better than darkness.

### 'GETTING OUT OF DODGE'

We all need to 'unplug' from our work life on a regular basis. That basis may not be daily, or even weekly (especially for practice owners). Some people only really get centred if they leave town for a few days. One veterinarian refers to this as 'getting out of Dodge'. When she's at home/in town, the practice rules 24/7. She needs to get completely away to get that needed break.

## DEFLATE STRESSORS

### ON-CALL

On-call time presents a challenge. SaskVets suggest you include on-call time as part of your work schedule. Being mentally prepared and having meals prepared is ideal. Choose activities that are flexible and

allow you to get in much needed fun, but still allow you to respond as needed to your practice.

### INTRUSIVE COMMUNICATION

There were some funny and not so funny anecdotes from SaskVets who found they were being barraged during their off-time by 'urgent' phone calls or persistent emailers. It seemed that everyone had at least one story about a client calling, texting or emailing to personal numbers or outside of business hours.

Having a practice policy about phone numbers and emails protects everyone. Business lines take messages and allow you to advise/refer in emergencies. You may work at a 24-hour practice- but you are not the practice. Be up front about your limits – you have a right to them. Be perfectly clear in your own mind about why those limits are in place and abide by them yourself. Respecting a limit and the logic behind it is as important for you as it is for others. When you are confident in laying down a boundary, others will take their cue from you and respect it.

Round-the clock availability is a persisting expectation that many clients have of rural veterinarians (and that many rural vets have of themselves). Turning off the phone at a specific time may not seem like a viable option. It's hard to refer to after hours or emergency services when you provide those services. Collaboration with other practitioners can effectively spread out the load (and despite what some people think, clients are very unlikely to leave their vet and go to a new one). Of course, there will always be vet-hopping clients no matter what you do. It comes down to deciding how much is worth it to you to worry about/feel in control of.

Whatever you decide your practice boundaries are, train clients to respect them (phone calls, texting, emails, general availability) by being consistent and communicating these limits without guilt. One clinic has their policies framed and hanging proudly in the waiting area. This is a smart, friendly way to educate clients. Clients who transgress won't be caught off guard when you refer to them. They also give you an external reference point in confrontational situations. Can poorly behaved clients be 'fired'? Sask Vets at the wellness bistros agreed: poorly behaved /repeat offenders can indeed be fired.

### ANGRY CLIENTS

People usually want to be heard, first and foremost, so listen. Repeat back to them what you are hearing to help them make clear what they are upset about. If they're



angry, try not to take it personally.

How people express their angry feelings is not your concern (they may actually not even be angry with you/the clinic) unless or until their behaviour 'crosses the line'. If it does, you should act accordingly to affirm your clinic's codes of behaviour.

If their emotional behaviour is non-threatening, your job is to acknowledge and problem-solve. Try to empathize with the client and keep in mind that you're not meeting them on their best day. You never know what someone may be dealing with in their life, and a veterinary emergency certainly adds stress.

There's no benefit to making a client (or anyone) guilty in your mind- they are human and so are you. Having that perspective allows you to roll with mistakes, yours and others'. Stay positive by thinking about your unique ability to help someone during their time of need - not by buying into some sense of obligation to be a doormat.

### NEGATIVE ONLINE COMMENTS

Limit the interactive use of social media. Your practice social media accounts are best used for to provide information, show fun photos and tell stories. Just like your website, social media perform the function of promoting your business and building a relationship with your community.

If you get a negative post from a client, respond to them privately by offering a phone call and/or meeting and then delete the post. **DO NOT ENGAGE WITH CLIENTS IN A PUBLIC FORUM.**

### YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE

Medical mistakes are going to happen, but it's how you deal with them that determines how they impact your relationship with the client. Communication is critical, and most times an apology is what the client wants most and goes a long way in diffusing the situation. Tell them why the mistake occurred, and if possible, the steps you and the staff are going to take to ensure it won't happen again.

There is an additional factor, known as the 'second victim' condition<sup>1</sup>, where clinicians involved in errors and other adverse events report feelings of shame, anger, failure, depression, inadequacy, and loss of confidence; some even report symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. If/when a mistake is made, the response a veterinarian or vet tech has will vary with the individual, but colleagues need to know that some type of reaction is normal and worthy of peer support. Sask Vets recommend giving yourself the gift of failure and recovery. Mistakes happen on the road to learning. Not a one of us is exempt from the process.

Interestingly, from a business perspective, your practice's efforts to make good on a mistake actually do more for its reputation than had the mistake never happened at all. It may seem counterintuitive, but it's true. People are actually more loyal to a business they know cares about its clients and patients than a business that has all perfect reviews. Why? Because it's authentic.<sup>2</sup>

## FIND YOUR EQUILIBRIUM

### DOES 'WORK-LIFE BALANCE' EVEN EXIST?

Even for those who have been in practice for 30+ years, it seems a never-ending struggle to achieve the seemingly elusive 'work-life balance', but if we think of it as more of a work-life *equilibrium* it immediately becomes more attainable.

There is no such thing as a "work-life balance" because the scale is always going to be tipped in one direction or the other. Picture a canoe tipping a little back and forth as it glides forward. The canoe's balance is challenged on a constant basis, but as the canoers adjust their positions and paddling, equilibrium is maintained. Acknowledge to yourself when you are upset. Then, have some strategies to help you regain your equilibrium, in your own way. Some may be:

- Make sure that there is more to your life than only work so that you have outlets – family, friends, hobbies, activities, interests outside of veterinary medicine. Have a group of friends who aren't part of the vet community who want to talk about things other than your work.
- Push yourself to say yes to experiences like yoga, a concert, night out with friends or a weekend trip.
- Prioritize a hobby or exercises that help you to de-stress. Every person has different activities that help them unwind.
- Activities with repetition or patterns can reduce stress. Running, biking, meditation or breathing exercises quiet the mind and release negative energy.

### FAMILY DEMANDS

Families are part of the landscape for any workplace. Prioritizing family life and giving permission for the need to change/cancel work-related commitments to attend to the needs of family is a real need.

Most SaskVets are parents. Children are usually adaptable, understanding and supportive of work schedules, but if you have young children, some SaskVets suggest making your kids your priority because 'you won't ever get this time back with them'. You

may want to consider working part time or shortened days. This may require a conversation with the practice owner, especially if they do not have children themselves.

Partners and aging parents are part of the family too, and will have need of your time as well.

### SELF CARE

Diet, sleep, exercise, sexuality, hobbies and interests – remember to honour and care for yourself. All those things matter to our sense of wellbeing. Wellness is an evolving process- your wellness needs can and will change throughout life. Continue paying attention to your internal cues and honour them.

**Thank you to everyone who came out to the Wellness Bistros to socialize with colleagues and share so many great and helpful ideas! It takes effort to do what's good for us and going out to social events when we're tired is no exception.**

Look for 'Wellness Strategies in Practice' at [www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca) on the Member Health & Wellness page. Add your ideas by emailing [sgauthier@svma.sk.ca](mailto:sgauthier@svma.sk.ca). Everyone has pearls of wisdom to share. Your stories may not seem exceptional to you, but they will be inspiring to others. 🐾

### REFERENCES:

1. **Second Victims: Support for Clinicians Involved in Errors and Adverse Events Patient Safety Network Primer** <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primers/primer/30/second-victims-support-for-clinicians-involved-in-errors-and-adverse-events>

2. **Enhancing Public Perception of the Veterinary Profession** (seminar, Feb 24, 2018; Edmonton AB) Dr Kyle Murray, Vice Dean, Alberta School of Business

### SUGGESTED READING:

**7 Habits of Highly Effective People** (Free Press/1989) by Stephen R Covey



# 2018 MENTORSHIP, PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Photo by Jobie Ryzak, RVT

## Summer Student Mentorship Program is in its 15th Year

The annual Summer Student Mentorship Program (SSMP), sponsored by the SVMA and SK Agriculture, provides first and second year Saskatchewan origin students an agriculture-based practice experience that showcases this career path in a positive manner and demonstrates the

range of both professional and lifestyle options to be found in the agri-food sector in rural Saskatchewan, and gives SSMP gives students the context to seriously consider food animal or mixed practice as an attractive career option. 2018 marks 15 years of the Mentorship Program, whose

80% success rate demonstrates a proven return on investment.

Veterinarians from different types of practices do things, see things and think about things in different ways. Individual livestock producers and other clients are equally as diverse in their ways of handling

livestock and managing their production units. Exposing students to food animal practice from many points of view is one of the strengths of the SSMP. From the day-to-day activities of a practitioner dealing with animals to billing and other commercial aspects of the practice, mentors have seemingly endless opportunities to provide mentees with many pieces of knowledge that can only come from real-time experience in veterinary practice.

Any mentored student (or 'mentee') will tell you that a good mentor provides support, understanding, a listening ear and helpful feedback. In this way, burgeoning confidence is nurtured and helped to blossom into steady and confident proficiency. In the same way, mentors repeatedly describe the satisfaction they feel passing on their experience and helping young professionals come in to their own.

Mentors themselves benefit in many ways as well. As mentors are helping give young colleagues a leg up, they may remember back to guidance they received

from their own mentors when they were starting out. It's also beneficial for everyone in the clinic to revisit the hows and whys of different tasks and roles from time to time. Mentoring is a way to pass wisdom on to a new generation of veterinary

colleagues after learning by trial and error. (SVMA mentors characterize it as 'paying it forward'.) Yet it also provides another mechanism to achieve business goals: this student will very likely become a new associate. 🐾

#### 2018 MENTORSHIP STUDENTS AND MENTORING PRACTICES

Mentorship Student	Class	Practice	
Heather Barnett	2021	LaBrash Veterinary Services	Meadow Lake
Cassandra Brassard	2021	Deep South Animal Clinic	Ogema
Willow Burnes	2021	Animal Health Clinic of Humboldt	Humboldt
Esther Derksen	2020	South West Animal Health Centre /Associate Pet Hospital	Swift Current
Hayley Down	2021	Valleyflats Veterinary Services	Moosomin
Erika Driedger	2020	McCarthy Veterinary Services	Wawota
Rachel Flath	2021	Norsask Veterinary Group	Rosthern, Warman
Brigitte Hautcoeur	2020	Earl Grey Veterinary Services	Earl Grey
Lindsey Monea	2021	Animal Hospital of Assiniboia, Borderland Veterinary Clinic	Assiniboia, Rockglen
Jasmine Tenkink	2020	Park Range Veterinary Services	Prince Albert

## New Preceptorship Program Launches This Summer!

Even with the Summer Student Mentorship Program in place, the demand for veterinarians in all areas of practice is high. In recent years, it's become normal for rural large animal and mixed animal veterinary practices to face challenges hiring and retaining qualified associates. On top of that, many retiring rural veterinarians are unable to find a successor, forcing practices to close. The result is an ongoing deficit in the supply of veterinarians in outlying areas where large animal care is needed.

The Mentorship Program's work placement concept is being expanded this year to offer third year Saskatchewan origin WCVN students opportunities to intern and plant roots in rural Saskatchewan just as they are transitioning to practice through a second placement initiative, the Preceptorship Program.

Because livestock producers count on large animal veterinarians to care for their herds and provide expert guidance to achieve quality, health and reproductive outcomes, having enough large and mixed animal veterinarians in Saskatchewan is a clear need for the livestock industry. For this reason, the funding formula for the Preceptorship Program involves partnership

SVMA is pleased to announce our 2018 Preceptorship Program Fund Partner:



with livestock producers.

The summer of 2018 is the pilot year for the Preceptorship Program (PP). We have limited the 2018 number to a conservative five students in order to evaluate the program. The formula for wage subsidies is 35% from SVMA, 35% from the hiring

practice and 30% from producer partners. SVMA is pleased to announce our 2018 Preceptorship Program Fund Partner: Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association.

Large or mixed rural practices have been selected for program funding based on the level of need for veterinary service in their area. The Preceptorship Program will have different expectations of the mentoring practice. Because third year students are more proficient and able to undertake more aspects of veterinary medicine than their greener counterparts, PP students will be expected to do more in the practice, and will be directly supervised in doing so. We expect this summer's preceptorships to be a next-level learning experience for both students and practices. 🐾

#### 2018 PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM STUDENTS AND PRACTICES

2018 Preceptorship Students		Practice	
Anne Hanbidge	2019	Battlefords Animal Hospital	North Battleford
Emily Horan	2019	Poplar Valley Animal Clinic	Mankota
Jasmine Paulson	2019	Deep South Animal Clinic	Ogema
Christine Reinhart	2019	Weir Veterinary Services	Lloydminster
Laci Schmidt	2019	Animal Health Centre of Melville	Melville



# 'A conversation about animal welfare in saskatchewan'

## Insights from this important and popular regional CE series

**Dr Dennis Will**

Animal Welfare Committee Chair

The 2018 'Conversation About Animal Welfare in Saskatchewan' CE series, which focusses on proposed changes to the Animal Protection Act and mandatory reporting, is in even greater demand than last year's inaugural 'Conversation' series. All types of veterinary professionals are attending in good numbers. Session discussions have been animated and marked by widespread support for mandatory reporting.

### **This year's Conversation topics include:**

1. Changes to the SK Animal Protection Act; Issues and Consequences of Mandatory Reporting; Goals and expectations of the Investigation Process, by Kaley Pugh
2. What the human model, 50 years of mandatory human abuse reporting and 9 years of mandatory veterinary reporting in Manitoba can teach us, by Dennis Will
3. Considerations for Euthanasia of Large and Small Animals; Timelines; Transport of Compromised Animals, by Yolande Seddon
4. Managing Nutritional Welfare Cases in Beef Cattle, by John Campbell

There has been plenty of discussion, clarification, suggestions, sharing, learning from each other, and feedback from attendees in Regina and Saskatoon.

### **Feedback from Regina attendees identified the following themes:**

- The participants really liked the concrete examples/pictures of animals that differentiated between normal and cases of abuse. There were several references to participants wanting many more concrete examples and real life situations and pictures that depict the range of "acceptable or normal" and a range of the cases of animal abuse for all species, including companion animals.
- There were lots of requests for more

knowledge, training and resources, including those associated with animal welfare in companion and food animal practice and the CFIA, the Animal Protection Act, Nutrition, SVMA based links, information pamphlets, the Codes, and Euthanasia.

- The importance of identifying and communicating with resource people.
- Step-by-step processes or guidelines as to how veterinary involvement can/should proceed from the initial awareness of possible animal abuse through educational measures to methods of resolution.
- The need to be proactive, communicate and raise the bar in terms of community and individual awareness and expectations for animal welfare.
- The need to be self-aware and take means to minimize or address issues associated with stress and mental health.

As with Regina, the Saskatoon participants really liked the event. Feedback frequently referenced individual speakers and topics that were meaningful to the attendees:

- There was reference to the need for "upstream" preventative work and supports in the community (arising from the discussion on the human situation) and the need to have a collaborative approach.
- There was very positive feedback about the discussion at the end about how

mandatory reporting fits with SVMA regulations. Some saw this as the highlight for the day. There were comments on the importance of mandatory reporting, as well as making difficult decisions that seemed to arise from Judy's comments on veterinarian's obligation to report and the discussion at the end. A couple of people could relate to the conversation about us not always having made the right decision but moving on from that.

- The variances in reported cases of family violence by Province and by communities within Provinces was discussed, including some of the underlying causes, and the impact this may have on the incidence of, reporting, and ability to address cases of animal abuse. Differences in human demographics and change were also addressed.
- There were frequent references to the need for us to plan a phase 3 of training. Participants would like us to organize smaller training sessions with case-specific examples of animal welfare issues to review types of animal welfare conditions, with a range in severity for each, and discuss the options for response, including education and enforcement, for companion animal and mixed animal practices, for vets and support staff. I think this training would best occur after the Act and Regulations have become law.
- The need for enhancement of the animal welfare curriculum at WCVI. This ap-

peared to come from students, vets and faculty.

- The need for training, resource materials, and mentors.
- The need for clearly defined reporting/ education procedures and guidelines and the need for these to be included in the smaller training events. This request appeared to include upstream client and community education options.
- Strategies for communication with, and education of clients (upstream and during an animal welfare case).
- A couple of veterinarians made reference to the proposed inclusion of slaughter plants and transport in the revised APA, especially in Provincial Inspected plants and the many Health plants where there is no live animal inspection. They felt there is a real need as this is where many of the out-of-spec, poor condition and disabled animals go to slaughter.

I would encourage anyone with questions to contact any of the following individuals:

**Kaley Pugh**

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306-382-2418

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**Leo Perlinger**

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**Lorraine Serhienko**

lserhienko@svma.sk.ca

There is also a significant amount of material already posted on the SVMA website with more to come. Please contact Sue Gauthier regarding CE interest areas and posting website materials and links. Please contact Lorraine Serhienko about materials in and for the Veterinary Resource Binder and about social media messaging.

I would encourage everyone to attend future animal welfare training events, and to provide us with feedback indicating your needs. Your feedback guides us going forward in addressing persistent issues with animal welfare in our province. 🐾

**Dennis Will**

Animal Welfare Committee member and chair, and one of the trainers in this CE exercise.

## Attendee insights from the 2018 Conversation About Animal Welfare in Saskatchewan:

- That the veterinarian can report and has some “legs” and backing to report.
- As a profession (and as a beef “cow-calf” industry) a very good pro-active movement is underway. We all need to keep the ball rolling!! Thanks! Well Done.
- All veterinarians need to do more education and work with the public and clientele about improving animal welfare.
- I feel I have a better understanding about animal welfare issues, the updates to the Animal Protection Act, considerations for euthanasia and better ways to communicate when addressing these issues. I love those pictures shown by John Campbell.
- Having vets comfortable with legislation will make a big difference. Develop protocols in clinics before it becomes a problem. Talk to others if you need help with this. The goal is relief of distress! Mandatory reporting makes it easier to report.
- We need to focus on the animal as much as the client.
- There are changes to the SK Animal Protection Act, and we need to work with producers and animal owners regarding animal welfare and animal abuse rather than “attacking” them.
- Consider euthanasia when animals are suffering. Improve communication with producers and clients about euthanasia.
- We need to have the conversations with clients about their animals’ quality of life as well as industry standards.
- We do have new legislation, but it is in its infancy and it will be interesting to see where it goes. Also, euthanasia needs more time in the spotlight and we need to discuss it way more.
- I will endeavour to educate my clients about a euthanasia decision-making tree for their animals.
- Awareness: what was once acceptable no longer is, and we have to work with clients to change it.
- Information and support for past reporting and past AW cases is available.
- More education for veterinarians and animal owners is necessary.
- This is not a black & white problem! Lots of subjectivity.
- Don’t ignore Animal Welfare issues or bottle them inside, raise your voice as needed.
- When in doubt call someone!! (Key point from human study). The goal of animal protection services is to educate and help, not seize animals.
- That mandatory reporting is very important; how to recognize the signs; that we need to be more involved in our communities and change the “norm” which is sadly known as “Saskatchewan Disease”
- Veterinarians have a lot of support in cases of animal abuse, neglect and reporting.

Two more regional sessions have been added to the 2018 Conversation About Animal Welfare in Saskatchewan series. Visit [www.svmsa.sk.ca](http://www.svmsa.sk.ca) to register for:

Swift Current  
Saturday May 26  
Yorkton  
Saturday June 2

## **NEW CE Portal for SVMA MEMBERS!**

The SVMA office staff is excited to announce a new website CE Portal for providing our member DVMs and RVTs with free access to online CE videos, testing and credit. Non-member professionals will also be able to access the CE courses for a small fee.

The secure platform goes live May 1, 2018. The two antimicrobial videos currently available on our website for CE credit have been moved to the new platform. The mandatory licensing seminar exam will also be hosted there in the future. A new online CE course will be released later on this summer, so stay tuned! 🐾

**For details, visit [svma.sk.ca](http://svma.sk.ca)  
and look under Continuing Education.**

Continuing  
Education





# Animal Health Perspectives

## Changes in Animal Health Regulations

By: Betty Althouse, Chief Veterinary Officer, Saskatchewan

*"Adapt or perish, now as ever, is nature's inexorable imperative."*

*"Change is good, Donkey."*

Whether you prefer the words of H.G. Wells or Shrek, we do live in a changing world, and lately in the field of animal health, changes seem to be occurring at a faster pace. In the last year, and into the next, a number of important regulatory changes will require adaptation and change by livestock sectors and veterinarians.

Changes to antimicrobial access are led by the Veterinary Drug Directorate (VDD) of Health Canada and align with the Pan-Canadian Framework on Antimicrobial Resistance. Changes include: restrictions on Own-Use Imports, a more flexible regulatory environment for approval and import of Veterinary Health Products, increased oversight of import and use of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, removal of growth promotion claims for antimicrobials and a change of all medically important antimicrobials (MIA) to prescription status.

- Own Use Import allows producers to import animal health products for direct use on their own animals. Since November 2017, only low risk products on List B can be

imported. No antimicrobials are included in the list, which is primarily comprised of parasitides.

- It is now easier to get approval for import and sale of low risk Veterinary Health Products that promote health and welfare of animals, but are not meant to prevent or treat disease.
- Beginning in May 2018, a Drug Establishment Licence will be needed for veterinarians or pharmacists to import an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient for compounding. Good Manufacturing Practices must be followed. Producers will not be able to import APIs for direct use in food animals.
- Use of antimicrobials for growth promotion was voluntarily withdrawn by industry December 2017, to harmonize with United States implementation of the Veterinary Feed Directive. Label changes to clearly indicate prescription status for all MIA, and remove growth promotion claims, are currently being reviewed by VDD, and will be enforced

December 2018. In addition, changes to the Compendium of Medicated Ingredients Brochure are underway to include all approved in-feed drug uses, including those that will require prescriptions.

- All medically important antimicrobials (MIA) moved to the Prescription Drug List in February 2018, but will be allowed to be sold over-the-counter in lay outlets until December 1, 2018 to allow for label changes and for existing product inventory to be sold. After Dec 1, any MIA use will require a veterinary prescription. Prescriptions are based on a veterinary-client-patient relationship where the medical records of the practice contain sufficient evidence of relevant and timely interaction between the veterinarian, animal owner and animal patients.

Mandatory reporting of sales volumes by manufacturers and importers begins in 2019, and feed mills will need to collect data on in-feed MIA drug use. Some of the logistics of in-feed medications are still to be worked out, but feed mills will

only be able to dispense MIA in feed, supplements or premixes, not as the drug itself. All feed products containing a MIA will only be able to be sold with a veterinary prescription.

Changes to federal traceability rules are also expected within the next year. Traceability is based on three pillars: animal identification, premises identification and movement reporting. Full national traceability is in effect in the hog industry, and for commercial poultry. Animal identification (tagging) requirements have been in place for cattle, sheep and bison for many years. Premises identification has been a requirement in Saskatchewan since fall 2016. Any premises where livestock and poultry are grown, bred, kept, raised, displayed, assembled or disposed of should be registered, including veterinary clinics and assembly sites. Federal tagging requirements for goats and farmed cervids, along with movement reporting for cattle, sheep, goats, bison and cervids are coming. Under proposed federal regulations, operators

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## Veterinary Diagnostics Partnering continued...

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will need to provide the premises identification number for the location where approved tags are applied to their animals. If animals are moved to a new location, outside of the farm operation, including to veterinary clinics, the premises identification number for the destination location will need to be provided. The proposed regulations are expected to be published in Part I of the Canada Gazette in 2018. Following the publication stakeholders will have 75 days to review and provide comment. These new regulations will impact many livestock sectors, so it is important that changes are understood and any impacts are recognized and planned for.

Some federal disease control changes are also occurring or

expected in 2018. The CFIA is changing their response to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) beginning April 1, 2018. An eradication policy has been in place since 2002; however it has proven to be ineffective in stopping the spread of CWD. Ninety of 95 farmed cervid cases of CWD in Canada have occurred in Saskatchewan, and CWD continues to be detected in wild cervids in new areas of the province. The new federal program is focused on protection of a "compartment". This is an OIE accepted disease control method where a sector of the livestock industry is recognized as "distinct" in disease risk, based primarily on biosecurity, and supported by surveillance. In this case, herds on the CWD Voluntary Herd Certification Program, with prescribed biosecurity

and surveillance requirements, are recognized as a lower risk compartment for CWD. CFIA will continue to offer full disease response, such as depopulation with compensation, to herds in the compartment. Herds not on the Program will not be subject to disease control measures beyond initial tracing to identify any links to herds in the compartment. Because positive CWD herds will no longer all be depopulated, Saskatchewan is developing provincial disease control options to control movement of animals from these premises to limit CWD spread through farmed cervid movements.

Additional CFIA consultations are expected this summer regarding proposed changes to the federal response to Equine Infectious Anemia. Consideration is being given to using Zoning to control the disease. Zoning is another OIE recognized disease

control measure where animal populations are recognized as having differing disease risks due to geographic location. Saskatchewan and Alberta, where most EIA cases have occurred in the past few years, would be zoned as higher risk and any animals moving out of the zone would require a negative EIA test. Over time, additional controls inside the Zone may be considered. Interested horse owners and veterinarians should watch for further information so they can learn more about the proposed changes and provide input.

Changes to regulations and policies may be made in response to changing disease conditions, changes in risk perception, changes in scientific knowledge or to shift the focus toward preparedness or prevention, rather than disease response. **Change is good; adapt or perish.**

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# Modern Diagnostic Pathology and Companion Animal Medicine: Strengthening the Partnership

*By: Steve Mills, Veterinary Pathologist, PDS Inc.*

As a veterinary pathologist, these are exciting times indeed! I am quite certain my family and close friends could testify to my boundless enthusiasm for the field and the value it represents, both to those lucky enough to make a career out of it, and more importantly, to the greater veterinary profession. I can think of no other vocation that provides such a broad, vital suite of services that directly affect the well-being of such a wide range of species. With modern communications technology, backed by state-of-the-art laboratories and talented support staff, we can produce and distribute evidence-based interpretations more quickly and comprehensively than ever

before. Advancements in computing, biotechnology, science, and medicine are relentless. Their influence on the practice of veterinary pathology is, and will continue to be, immense, promising to improve deliverables to every stakeholder within our scope (no pun intended).

For the past several years, I also had the privilege to work in private, small animal practice, and to appreciate the view from that sphere. When I wear my primary practitioner's hat, the outlook is decidedly different. The perceived value (dare I say relevance) of the veterinary pathology complex, vis-a-vis the greater machine of companion animal medicine, varies significantly. For many primary

veterinarians, technicians, and the vast majority of the companion animal-owning populace, the role of the veterinary pathologist is poorly, or at least incompletely understood. There is a tendency to view pathology as an 'ivory tower' profession, populated by individuals who long ago eschewed any 'real world' interactions with patients or pet owners. Instead, preferring to be cloistered away with their textbooks and journal articles, adjudicating at arm's-length with limited utility in a "real world" context.

As is usually the case when painting in broad strokes, this characterization is unfair and short-sighted, but it contains kernels of truth. It is also useful

in that it promotes introspection, and can serve as an impetus to continually improve the vital services only we can deliver, and the way we deliver them. With the proliferation of affordable "in-house" laboratory analyzers, high-quality CE, and numerous, readily available electronic information resources, to what extent can specialists in veterinary pathology continue to add value in a cost-effective way? I would argue that we represent a unique cache of gold-standard information and medicine within companion animal practice. I am also quite certain that our stakeholders want and need our services. But are we doing our best? Knowledge, truth,

technological advancement, rigorous application of the scientific method are all fundamentally useless unless they can be applied, made practical, and made accessible in the contemporary clinical environment. Put another way, **customer service is paramount**, and when executed effectively, all trails lead to gold-standard medicine and optimal patient care.

My interest in this topic was kindled after reading an article by Newman et al. (2014). Their study investigated an apparent disconnect between specialists (pathologists) and non-specialists (primary veterinarians) with respect to red blood cell morphology results. It revealed not only differences in interpretation (and thus understanding) of the findings between the two groups, but also material communication deficiencies that impacted medical decision-making. Though the study was small and ostensibly limited in its applicability, I believe these issues have broad implications for the practicing diagnostic pathologist. In that spirit, and with a view to better appreciate the services our primary stakeholders in companion animal medicine require, I will now indulge in a short examination of their unique perspectives, priorities, and interests:

**1.** The primary small animal veterinarian is responsible for and typically has direct involvement in all aspects of clinic function including customer service, preventative care, medicine, diagnostics, dental procedures, and surgery. They are sometimes practice owners, but much more often, busy associates; they may have been trained in Canada or internationally. Veterinary decision-making is driven by two inexorable mandates: positive patient outcomes and profitability. Massive industry consolidation, the proliferation of small animals clinics (especially in urban centers), and the recent

economic downturn have all contributed a challenging macroenvironment. As a result, to variable extent, success (professional and financial) tends to accrue to those veterinarians who are also good salespeople. Notwithstanding a predisposition to high-quality care and compassion, gravity is therefore tilted towards recommending higher-margin services such as dental procedures, diagnostics, specialty surgeries, and hospitalization. Timely, real-time assistance with diagnoses and treatment plans most often involves 'consulting with' internet resources such as Google, YouTube, Veterinary Information Network (VIN) or Vetfolio where available. Asking an associate or less often, reviewing a textbook may also be pursued. Veterinarians working in emergency/specialty practice bear brief mention here. These tend to be larger, more corporate practices with higher fees. Gold-standard medicine is practiced, and larger teams are present with better-equipped facilities. Patients within this setting arrive previously assessed and referred, or are suspected to be ill. Diagnostics are more frequently and extensively performed, and hospitalization and/or surgery are more commonplace; answers are needed quickly. Specialists work in these settings, often requiring more frequent and/or advanced diagnostics and follow-up care.

**2.** The veterinary technician carries out a diverse set of supportive roles. Often, all clinic activities outside the realm of diagnosis, interpretation of diagnostic tests, treatment orders, medical procedures, and surgery can and are carried out by a technician. To the extent that pathology can be practiced in-clinic, it is usually carried out by technicians, with necropsy being the exception. If desired, blood smears, cytology, CBC, Chemistry, Endocrine testing, SNAP testing, culture and more

can all be completed in clinic, though appropriate quality control and accurate interpretation are often sub-optimal. Veterinary technicians are akin to nurses, working very closely with patients and often representing their strongest advocates in-clinic.

**3.** Companion animal owners are a very diverse group difficult to describe concisely or with generalities. So-called millennials (aged 26-38) now arguably comprise the largest segment of the companion animal-owning population. According to The Pet Owner Paths 2017 study (sponsored by Merck, Unfenced, and Kynectec), modern pet owners are willing to invest more time and money into their pets when a trusting bond exists with the care provider, prefer a preventative (and increasingly 'natural') approach to veterinary care, and want timely, expert advice from veterinarians as part of a collaborative approach to decision making about the health care of their pet. Animals are thought of as family members. Borrowing a line from Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc., pet owners want their pets to be happy, healthy, pain free, and to live as long as possible.

**4.** Ultimately we serve companion animals, and aim to improve their health and healthcare. Their perspective can be best appreciated by considering the Five Freedoms, developed in the 1960's in response to livestock husbandry practices. They have since come to represent the fundamental aspects of animal welfare under human control. Among them is Freedom from Pain, Injury, or Disease. This is the component veterinary pathology becomes relevant, where we have immense opportunity to affect lives positively. At the end of the day, this is the core of our motivation and the inspiration for this article.

The practicing diagnostic

veterinary pathologist traditionally communicates (provides their 'service' to stakeholders) through emailed or faxed, typewritten reports including test results +/- description, interpretation, and/or comments. In a small minority of cases, this may be complemented with telephone conversations, almost always with the primary veterinarian. These interactions represent the primary means by which pathologists can inform, educate, and collaborate on a case. Continuing Education events or publications (such as this one) are other examples of opportunities where the worlds of veterinary pathology and small animal practice can come together, learn from one another, and better align their common energy and goals.

There can be no doubt that referral laboratories offer superior value in terms of diagnostic yield, accuracy, precision, and interpretive guidance. These are essential elements of gold-standard care, and can have direct effects on patient management and outcomes. That being said, diagnostic laboratories provide the best results to those who know how to use their resources effectively. It is incumbent on practitioners (and to a lesser extent technicians) to investigate the best diagnostic and treatment plan(s) given a particular circumstance. At the same time, a diagnostic pathologist is performing at his or her best when all lanes of communication are open and actively utilized. Only by understanding the needs and context of all of our stakeholders can we meet the challenge of providing exceptional diagnostic services, so as to improve the lives of companion animals and the people who love them.

Newman AW, Rishniw M and E Behling-Kelly. 2014. Reporting and interpreting red blood cell morphology: is there discordance between clinical pathologists and clinicians. *Vet Clin Pathol* 43/4; 487-495.



# Kitten colitis associated with *Clostridium piliforme*

By: Yanyun Huang, Veterinary Pathologist, PDS Inc. and Jolanda Verhoef, Department of Veterinary Pathology, WCVN

Tyzzler's disease (causative agent: *Clostridium piliforme*) affects many mammalian species and is usually a fatal disease. *C. piliforme* first infects the intestinal epithelium; then enters the blood stream and a hepatitis, with intracellular bacterial colonization, ensues. Tyzzler's disease is typically recognized histologically by its hepatic lesions, with intracellular characteristic bacteria. Cats had been reported to be susceptible to *C. piliforme* and most of the reported feline cases are the typical form which includes hepatic lesions. However, an atypical form of this disease, associated with mortality of young kittens, with only colitis but no hepatitis has been rarely reported.<sup>1, 2</sup> Despite these sporadic reports, most clinicians and pathologists are not aware of this atypical presentation. Here we report a diagnostic investigation aiming to further characterize this clinical entity.

During 2013 to 2017, 9 cases of atypical Tyzzler's disease were diagnosed in PDS. The median age of 7 kittens was 7 weeks (4 to 7.5 weeks). Gender was not consistently provided, but there was at least 1 male and 1 female kitten. The most common clinical presentations were death without premonitory signs; diarrhea and weight loss. Lethargy, weakness, ataxia, vomiting, inappetence and pale mucous membranes were also reported. Gross post-mortem examinations revealed either no

significant findings or evidence of diarrhea. Eight of these kittens were originally from rescue facilities.

On histologic examination, significant changes were confined to the large intestines. The lesions consisted mostly of a mild catarrhal colitis. The surface epithelial cells of the large intestines were swollen and sloughed into the lumen (See Figure 1)

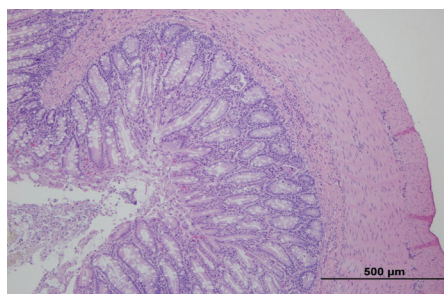


Figure 1. Colon. Surface epithelium are sloughed into the lumen, a lesion that can be easily mistaken as autolysis. H&E stain.

mimicking post-mortem autolysis. Characteristic, intracellular, long, rod-shaped bacteria, which sometimes formed "hay stack" patterns, were occasionally observed in the epithelial cells. These bacteria could be seen with H&E staining, but were better demonstrated by a silver stain method (See Figure 2). In more severe cases, there was neutrophilic infiltration in the lamina propria and the intestinal crypts. Immunohistochemistry for parvovirus was negative for 6 of the kittens. Histologic Lesions consistent with a parvoviral enteritis were also not observed in any of the kittens.

A conventional PCR assay for *C. piliforme* was developed. DNA

was extracted from six, formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissues. The presence of *C. piliforme* was confirmed, using this PCR assay, in 2 samples.

The sensitivity of a PCR assay is reduced in FFPE tissues, thus the negative results from the other 4 kittens were not considered a rule-out, especially when the histological lesions of all kittens were similar. It should also be noted that the conventional PCR assay is not fully validated and was used for research purposes only.

Our findings indicate that *C. piliforme* is associated with colitis in kittens. There is a characteristic clinical presentation that we observed during this investigation. 1) **Affected kittens are young (median: 7 weeks).** In our experience, feline parvovirus infection and feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) are not common at this age. We were also able to reasonably rule out parvovirus and FIP. However, co-infection of feline panleukopenia virus and *C. piliforme* has been reported. 2) **Clinical signs are non-specific, but most frequently include death, diarrhea and weight loss.** 3) **Affected kittens were mostly from rescue facilities.** We encourage clinicians to include atypical Tyzzler's disease as a differential etiology when encountering similar clinical cases.

In conclusion, catarrhal colitis associated with *C. piliforme* is associated

with severe and often, fatal disease in young kittens. Careful histological examination for intracellular bacteria is needed when investigating kittens with similar clinical presentations. Both clinicians and pathologists need to work together in order to establish this diagnosis.

We are grateful for the funding provided by Jay M. Isa Veterinary Research Assistance Fund. We also thank Anju Tumber from PDS PCR laboratory for her technical help in this investigation.

## References:

1. Wilkie, JS Nimmo, and I. K. Barker. "Colitis Due to *Bacillus piliformis* in Two Kittens." *Veterinary Pathology* Online 22.6 (1985): 649-650.
2. Neto, Rachel T., et al. "Coinfection with *Clostridium piliforme* and Feline herpesvirus 1 in a kitten." *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* 27.4 (2015): 547-551.
3. Ikegami, T., et al. "Enterocolitis associated with dual infection by *Clostridium piliforme* and feline panleukopenia virus in three kittens." *Veterinary pathology* 36.6 (1999): 613-615.

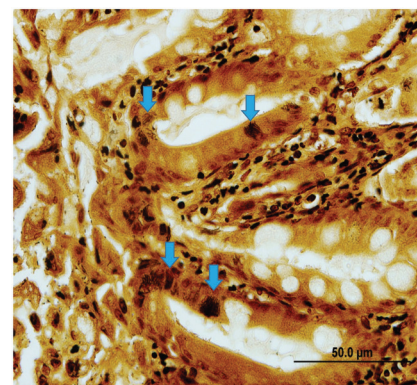


Figure 2. Colon. Typical intracellular long rod bacteria arranging in "hay stack" patterns, consistent with *Clostridium piliforme*. Warthin-Faulkner silver stain.

## 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) and they will be forwarded appropriately.

## report from the ministry of agriculture

# New Canadian Agricultural Partnership Funding for Surveillance and Assurance



**Betty Althouse, DVM**  
Chief Veterinary Officer

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) is a five-year, \$388 million investment by the federal and provincial governments in strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture. CAP replaces Growing Forward 2 and targets funding to six priority areas: science, research and innovation, environmental sustainability and climate change, risk management, value-added processing, public trust, and markets and trade.

The work of the Animal Health Unit applies mainly to Risk Management and Public Trust.

One of the Risk Management areas is assurance systems. Assurance programs seek to improve competitiveness and resilience of livestock sectors through disease prevention and control and by improving animal health and welfare. The programs provide support to producers for improvements to biosecurity and animal welfare on-farm, and producers will have access to support for On-Farm Food Safety certification or re-certification. There is support for industry organizations to provide information on traceability. The Industry Organization Development Program (IODP), under Public Trust, provides project funding to Saskatchewan-based industry associations to build capacity in organizational development, strategic planning and emergency preparedness.

The goal of the on-farm assurance program is to encourage the adoption of national biosecurity standards and Codes of Practice by producers. This in turn will reduce risk through disease prevention and help build public trust in animal production. The assurance program funding will include partial reimbursement to producers for veterinary expenses related to the development of herd health plans or for assessments of on-farm biosecurity or animal welfare. These assessments will allow producers to access additional funding for recommended (and approved) equipment or facility changes to improve biosecurity or welfare. Assessments will be based on the recommended Codes of Practice and national farm level biosecurity standard for the species. All species of livestock are included in the program, where codes and standards exist. There are some limitations: farms must have

at least \$50,000 in farm income to be eligible and funding is at 50%, up to \$15,000, over the five years.

A similar abattoir assurance program will provide support for welfare assessments at abattoirs, along with rebates for recommended improvements.

Animal health surveillance has been allocated nearly \$1 million annually, under Risk Management. This continues many of the programs started under Growing Forward 2, including support for the Rabies Response Program, Johnes' Disease Surveillance Program, Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) Testing and Response Program, and notifiable animal disease testing surveillance. There will also be continued funding for sampling at additional Saskatchewan broiler and swine farms under the Canadian Integrated Program on Antimicrobial Resistance (CIPARS), along with new funding to expand antimicrobial use and resistance surveillance to feedlots. Support for the Western Cow-Calf Surveillance Network, Canada West Swine Health Intelligence Network, and swine influenza virus surveillance continues. The Dis-

ease Investigation Unit will have some more stability with the assurance of five years of funding, increased to \$60,000 annually.

Several previous programs for surveillance at the wild-domestic interface at Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative are being amalgamated. Funding will be in place for wild bird avian influenza surveillance, wildlife rabies surveillance (foxes in the north, skunks in the west), wild boar disease surveillance, and there will be some continued funding for Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance in wild cervids. The surveillance veterinarian position at Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) will continue under a separate general PDS funding agreement. There are plans to continue antimicrobial resistance surveillance and reporting, such as the published Antibigrams, and to produce more endemic disease reports such as those produced on BVD.

This new five year focus on disease prevention, surveillance and preparedness, as well as building public trust, will help place the Saskatchewan livestock sector in a strong position. 🐾

## Update on the Provincial Rabies Response Program – Payment Processes

Since April 1, 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture has contracted veterinarians around the province to collect and submit samples under the Provincial Rabies Response Program. Contracts were required to enable the province to issue payments for services rendered. These contracts expired on March 31, 2018. We are working on reducing administration associated with the payment process; therefore, going forward we will no longer require veterinarians to enter into contract in order to receive payment. Instead, we will pay invoices for services directly, much as any of your other clients would.

Other than not having a contract, nothing needs to change at your end. Please continue to submit your invoices to the Ministry using the same process as you have in the past. If you have any questions on

the billing process, you can contact Graeme Mansfield at 306-787-6469. Veterinarians will be notified if there are any changes to this process down the road.

Employers are responsible, under The Occupational Health and Safety Act, to ensure that all staff who participate in rabies sample collection and packaging are appropriately trained in the necessary safety procedures. Self-study training materials, developed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, are available on request. Employers must also ensure all staff who may potentially be handling rabid animals, tissues and fluids are protected from rabies (rabies titre, vaccination) and that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used to minimize the risk of exposure to possibly rabid animals, tissues and fluids. 🐾

**Wendy Wilkins, DVM PhD**  
Animal Health Unit,  
Livestock Branch

## SAVT update

**Breanne Barber, RVT**  
SAVT President Elect

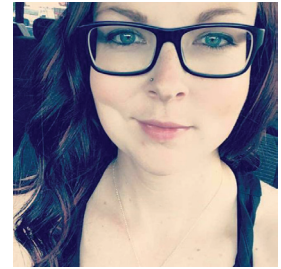
Calving season is in full swing here on the prairies and we are grateful for the end of a much-too-long winter. "Hope for the best, but always prepare for the worst" is a pretty good rule to follow when you live on the prairies.

The SAVT has been busy with website upgrades, conference planning and creating connections with other provincial associations. We continue to have a very strong representation all over Saskatchewan and Canada. Most recently I, along with our RVTTC representatives Carolyn Cartwright and Darlene Ford and SAVT President Lois Ridgway, attended the CenCan Conference in Winnipeg, MB on February 2-4. We all enjoyed the socialization with colleagues, the learning atmosphere, the MVTA AGM and of course the food! The SAVT is looking forward to attending other provincial conferences and bringing greetings from our Association.

The SAVT is also working on strengthening the bond between the

Association and the VT students. The SAVT hosted two evening informational sessions (which included free pizza!), where we created an open communication atmosphere for the VT students to bring forward their concerns or any questions they had regarding the SAVT or the RVT world in general. Both evening events were held at the SAVT office and they were well attended by students, Board members and a few WCVS students involved in the Wild and Exotic Animal Medicine (WEAMS) program who brought some special exotic "guests". Overall, I believe the students learned a lot and asked the appropriate questions to allow them to understand how the SAVT and SVMA will be involved in their future in this chosen profession.

The SAVT Board of Directors has created committees to have a more focused Board. Continuing Education (CE), Mentorship/Veterinary Technician Specialties (VTS), Bylaw/Policy and Public Relations committees have been struck.



It is not just members of our Board that are on the committees. We reached out to the membership and received great feedback and more volunteers to join the committees. This approach will allow RVTs on the Board and in our Association to focus on an area that they may be passionate about; it also allows the SAVT Board of Directors to create more connections through these committees. We look forward to seeing what each committee will accomplish this year.

As we see a new group of enthusiastic RVTs graduate and enter the workforce, we encourage clinics to work with the SAVT to ensure their new hire is registered with the SAVT and the SVMA. If you are looking for a RVT to join your practice, we offer advertising on our website and via e-blasts to over 500 members. 🐾

## on campus at the wcvm

**Joana Bruce**

As the year is ending, so are many of the events and happy hours here at the WCVS. The fourth years had their last happy hour 'hoedown' in conjunction with the WCVS's 'Drink a small town dry'. Along with social events, 'Back Row Boys' was a great success this year! Every year, a first-year student is awarded a 'Back Row Boys' scholarship. The winner of last year's BRB scholarship was Sheldon Cousins. The winner of this scholarship is responsible for planning a party at the end of the year for the school!

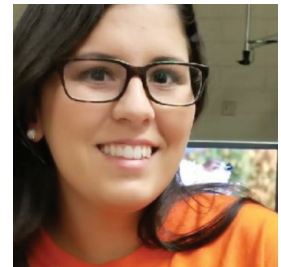
March was mental health awareness month and the students of the WCVS organized lots of events. We had a week full of activities including skating in the bowl, sign painting night, cat yoga, 'Pets with the Profs', lunch talks with our school's social worker, Erin Wasson, and a wonderful transition-to-practice event, 'Women of the Round Table'. A huge thank you to the

panel of practising DVMs who shared their experiences and insights in the 'Women of the Round Table' discussion: Drs Cheryl Bellamy, Natalie Preikschat, Melissa Smith, Gillian Muir, Marina Leis, Sarah Figley, Deb Hupka-Butz, Lina Johansson, and Lesley Sawa. Lastly, on top of all the activities, WCVS held Mental Health First Aid certification for students and faculty.

### What is going on this summer for the students of WCVS?

'Global Vets', a team of second year students who fundraise all year round to travel to other countries to provide volunteer veterinary services, refine their veterinary skills, and experience how veterinary medicine works in other countries, departed for their trips at the end of April.

Many of the third years are transitioning into beginning their 4th year rotations, summer jobs and externships. I particularly



am excited to start my externships where I will be going to Ghana and Morocco for two months of the summer to learn about disease prevention in third world countries, food management, and helping with local producer education on disease management with respect to chickens and pigs. These externships provide us with great opportunities to experience every aspect of veterinary medicine.

Finally, the fourth years are wrapping up the year and beginning their careers in the world of veterinary medicine.

I want to wish all the students a wonderful summer and to the new grads, good luck and congratulations on completing vet school! 🐾



from the wcvm

# An Update from the dean

**Dr Douglas Freeman**

Western College of Veterinary Medicine



**Dr Douglas Freeman**  
WCVM Dean

In the past few months, several researchers at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) have received funding for some exciting animal and human health projects.

#### NSERC Industrial Research Chair:

Researcher Yolande Seddon, working with 14 industry partners, has been awarded a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada Industrial Research Chair (IRC) in swine welfare worth nearly \$2 million. Seddon, who is an assistant professor in the WCVM's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, is the youngest recipient of an IRC. Her position also has the most industry partners ever recorded in the program's history.

NSERC provided \$837,750 for the program. With Canada's swine industry providing a matching \$837,750 along with in-kind support, and the U of S committing funding over the chair's five-year term, Seddon's project totals nearly \$2 million. The research and training program will involve up to 10 undergraduate students, five graduate students and two post-doctoral fellows. The 14 partners include pig producers and processors as well as a genetics company.

As a specialist in animal behaviour and welfare, Seddon is working with the swine industry to develop robust and resilient pigs to improve their health and welfare. Seddon's research will contribute to the scientific understanding of methods to improve animal welfare and identify progressive management approaches. Results could support changes to the industry's codes of practice that establish

the required and recommended practices of animal care.

Seddon's position at the WCVM builds on the college's strengths in food animal behaviour and welfare that were pioneered by applied ethologist Dr Joe Stookey, now a professor emeritus of the WCVM. Seddon is working alongside Dr Diego Moya, the WCVM's new beef cattle ethologist who joined the faculty in January 2018.

CIHR funding for vaccine research: The University of Saskatchewan (U of S) was recently awarded six project grants totalling \$4.45 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. One of the grants involves Darryl Falzarano, a researcher at the U of S Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) and an adjunct professor in the WCVM's Department of Veterinary Microbiology. He is collaborating with three researchers in Alberta, United States and Saudi Arabia to produce a vaccine that prevents transmission of the Middle-East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) among camels. MERS-CoV, which is believed to be transmitted to humans from single-humped camels, has been fatal in one-third of human cases. Falzarano received \$679,320 to develop the vaccine.

Novel MS research includes WCVM scientist: Neurologist Dr Michael Levin,

inaugural Chair in Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Research at the U of S, is among 12 U of S researchers awarded Collaborative Innovation Development grants by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) for 2017-18. Levin and co-applicants Josef Buttigieg, a neurophysiologist at the University of Regina (U of R), and Dr Gillian Muir in the WCVM's Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, were awarded \$50,000 for research to develop a novel therapy that attacks the pathologic immune response in multiple sclerosis (MS). They have developed and are testing a new drug designed to stop the body's auto-immune response from attacking the myelin coating on nerves in the brain and spinal cords of MS patients.

Bone substitute research: SHRF granted another \$50,000 to a group of U of S researchers who are investigating a possible means of repairing bone defects. Led by U of S engineering professor Xiongbiao (Daniel) Chen, the team includes Dr Ali Honaramooz, a professor in the WCVM's Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences. The researchers are working to develop novel three-dimensional printed bone substitutes (scaffolds) that incorporate biomaterials as a way to restore permanent bone function. The project will also focus on developing non-invasive synchrotron imaging technology to track bone regeneration in scaffold-treated animal models. 🐾

FOR MORE WCVM NEWS, VISIT [WCVMTODAY.COM](http://WCVMTODAY.COM) OR FOLLOW @WCVMTODAY ON TWITTER OR FACEBOOK.  
YOU CAN ALWAYS CONTACT ME (306-966-7448; [DOUGLAS.FREEMAN@USASK.CA](mailto:DOUGLAS.FREEMAN@USASK.CA)) IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

# REBATES AND ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

## An open letter to SVMA Council

### **Dr Victor Kernalleguen**

After investigating and peer consultation regarding antimicrobial stewardship, I have determined that there are concerns we as veterinarians, to fulfill our obligations for its success, need to consider.

As veterinarians we need to take a stand and let the pharmaceutical industry know that the rebate programs on antibiotic purchases need to be discontinued. There should be no incentive to buy antibiotics. If the general public finds out that we are the only place where they can purchase antibiotics, and that we receive rebates on our purchases, what will their response be? My perception is that this will not align with the concept of antimicrobial stewardship.

The concept of antimicrobial stewardship is to reduce the use of antibiotics where they are not indicated. We should be working with animal owners and the industry to develop protocols that avoid antibiotic use in animal care and production where ever possible.

We need to take a stand as the SVMA, along with other VMAs, to make the changes required on these antibiotic rebate programs. If the veterinary associations take this to the pharmaceutical industry, I believe that they will have to comply with our request



### **From SVMA Council:**

Rebates on antibiotics may be a plus for practice economics, but the environmental effects (and optics of professional hypocrisy) are both potentially very negative. Council president Dr Lesley Sawa is recommending that other associations and government bodies consider banning rebate programs for antimicrobials as a way to discourage and decrease antimicrobial use. Veterinarians would still be able to select other pharma products (NSAIDs, vaccines) based on rebate programs, just not antimicrobials. 🐾



# 2018 SVMA AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

## Call for Nominations

Recognizing member excellence is a valued SVMA tradition. From advances in veterinary science or high profile initiatives to behind the scenes collegial support, Saskatchewan veterinarians are doing remarkable things all the time.

Members are invited to nominate their colleagues for one or more of the following awards, which have been established to recognize and honour individual members of the Association. Initial nominations for an SVMA award must come from a member of the association. Additional information in support of a nomination can be submitted by another member, a veterinary technologist, lay staff or family and friends of the nominee.

The nominator must identify the specific award and submit a written overview of the member's achievements or contributions related to that specific award. All submissions will be dealt with in confidence by members of the Awards committee. Awards are presented at the SVMA Awards Night Banquet at the September Annual Conference.

★ **THE 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.

★ **THE 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.

★ **THE MERITORIOUS  
SERVICE AWARD**

recognizes a member in good standing who has made an outstanding single or long-term contribution to the quality of life in their community or province. This achievement may be in the area of youth or senior programs, philanthropic organizations or the arts.

★ **THE 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.

★ **THE TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD**

is given to recognize a technologist who plays an integral part in the practice of veterinary medicine. This person must be an active member in good standing of the SAVT; be active and have made a significant contribution in the field of animal health and demonstrate outstanding performance and dedication to their profession.

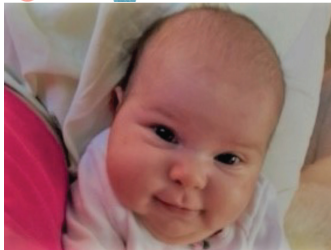
A downloadable nomination form and a history of previous awards recipients can be found on the svma website.

Please submit nominations to the SVMA office by June 30, 2017.



## Member News

### CONGRATULATIONS



Bridget Gray, Brian, August and Holt welcomed a healthy 8lb baby girl Georgia Anje Katherine Gray on January 16th, 2018.



Beau Christian Braaten was born to Christie and Ian Braaten of Warman, SK on March 16 at RUH. Despite being 4 weeks and 5 days early, he was 8.5 lb at birth and 20.75"!



Joe, Katelyn (McIntyre) and Stanley Zimmer welcomed Hazel Jane on March 21st, 2018, weighing 8lbs 6oz and measuring 20.25 inches in length. Everyone is settling in nicely as a family of four.



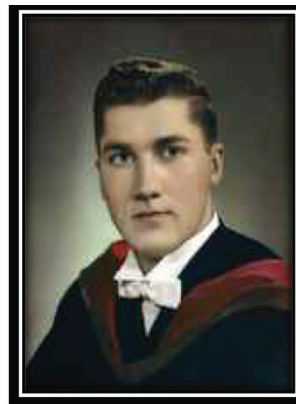
To Anique- McCrea Spence: Liliana Scarlett Spence was born April 4th at 10:19am, 7 lbs 6 oz, 20.5 inches long. Both baby and mom are healthy!

## WCVN CLASS OF 1978 40TH REUNION

All graduates of the WCVN Class of '78 are invited to Saskatoon this September 8th to reminisce and celebrate great moments past and present. SVMA is sponsoring this festive evening alongside the 2018 SVMA Conference at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon. Graduates, please contact Jim Inglis at [jiminglis@shaw.ca](mailto:jiminglis@shaw.ca) for further information and to RSVP. Your classmates want to see you!

## REUNITED, AND IT FEELS SO GOOD!

## We Sadly Announce...



**Dr Benjamin Gerald (Ben) Kessler**, of Watrous, SK passed away peacefully at Royal University Hospital Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on Monday, March 26th, 2018 at the age of 76. Ben is survived by his loving wife Linda, 2 daughters, Andrea and Paula (Kane); 2 grandchildren, Ireland and Kingston; 3 brothers, Harvey, John and George and a sister, Irene Yacucha. For online condolences, tributes or to make a donation in his memory please visit [fotheringham-mcdougall.com](http://fotheringham-mcdougall.com)



The SVMA office is sad to report the passing of **Dr John Philip (Phil) Murray** on Monday April 2, 2018 at the Galloway Health Centre in Oxbow, Saskatchewan at the age of 71.

Phil is survived by his wife Gail Clair of Oxbow; three step-children, Heidi Arbo, Jeffrey and Randy Clair; five grandchildren; two aunts, Ruth Bulmer and Verna Bulmer; cousin, Alison (Wade) Duncan of Alameda; one brother, Fraser Murray and family. He was predeceased by his parents, Mr and Mrs Ulmont and Elizabeth (Bulmer) Murray.

Donations in memory of Phil may be made to the Oxbow Health Care Auxiliary, Box 268, Oxbow, SK. S0C 2B0

A celebration of Phil's life will take place on the afternoon of May 26 at the Glen Ewen Communiplex in the Village of Glen Ewen.







# 2018 CanWest VETERINARY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 13-16, 2018 | FAIRMONT BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

### COMPANION ANIMAL

- **Cannabis and Companion Animals Breakfast Presentation** – Dr. Katherine Kramer, Vancouver Pet Hospital, Vancouver, BC
- **How I Manage Endocrine Diagnostic and Therapeutic Problems** – Dr. Ellen Behrend, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, USA
- **Critical Care** – Dr. Scott Shaw, VCA, Oxford, MA, USA
- **Small Animal Dermatology** – Dr. John Angus, Animal Dermatology Clinic, Pasadena, CA, USA
- **Cardiology** – Dr. Sonya Gordon, Department of Small Animal Clinic Science, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Science, Texas A & M University, TX, USA

### EQUINE

- **Antimicrobial/Infection Therapy** – Dr. Steeve Giguere, Professor and Hodgson Research Chair in Equine Studies, Veterinary Medical Center, University of Georgia, GA, USA
- **Equine Emergencies** – Dr. Thomas Divers, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA
- **Equine Dermatology** – Dr. Derek Knottenbelt, Equine Medical Solutions, Stirling Scotland, UK

### FOOD ANIMAL

#### PHARMACOLOGY

- **Regulatory Changes** – Dr. Phil Buote, ABVMA, Edmonton, AB
- **Challenges and Opportunities** – Dr. Cody Creelman, Veterinary Agri-Health Services, Airdrie, AB
- **The Future of Pharma** – Dr. Derek Foster, NC State College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC, USA

#### THE BUSINESS BEHIND FOOD ANIMAL MEDICINE

- **Feedlot Health** – Dr. Tye Perrett, Feedlot Health Management Services, Okotoks, AB
- **Customer Service** – Dr. Greg Andrews
- **Dairy Practice** – Speaker TBA
- **Swine Practice** – Speaker TBA

#### FOOD ANIMAL MEDICINE PRACTICE GEMS

- **Clostridial Disease** – Dr. Roy Lewis
- **BRD: Treatment and Prevention** – Speaker TBA
- **C-Sections** – Speaker TBA
- **Prolapses** – Speaker TBA
- **Repro Synch, Repro Nutrition, Repro Infections** – Speakers TBA

### OTHER CE EVENTS:

**ABVMA/UCVM Wet Labs** – Fri. Oct. 12, 2018

**ABVTA Pre-Conference CE** – Sat. Oct. 13, 2018

**The ABC's of ECG's, Blocked Cats and GDVs** – David Liss, RVT - Program Director, Vet Tech Program, Platt College and ICU Tech at VCA Vet Specialists, CA, USA

**Keynote Lunch Presentation** – Tues. Oct. 16, 2018  
Speaker, Dr. Jason Coe, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, CAN

**PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

### VETERINARY TEAM

- **Integration of Hospice and Palliative Care into GP and Specialty Practice** – Dr. Shea Cox, Certified Hospice Veterinarian and Pain Practitioner, Bridge Veterinary Services, Berkeley, CA, USA
- **Delivering effective recommendations, overcoming exam room barriers, communicating cost to achieve optimal outcomes** – Dr. Jason Coe, Associate Professor, Dept. of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, ON, CAN
- **Social Media, Online Presence and Handling Online Reviews, Reducing Dr. Google** – Speaker TBA

### VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST

- **What to do in the first five minutes, Nursing stat: critical care, GASP: respiratory emergencies, Red, white and blue: transfusion medicine in dogs and cats** – David Liss, RVT, Program Director, Vet Tech Program, Platt College and ICU Tech, VCA Vet Specialists, CA, USA
- **Large Animal Medicine for Technologists** – Topics and speakers TBA

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## FEELING OVERWHELMED?

### The SVMA Wellness Support Program is here for you.

The SVMA Wellness Support Program is open to all active member DVMs and RVTs. Eligibility is immediate upon licensing.

Members can access this counselling service by contacting Professional Psychologists & Counsellors (PPC) and providing their SVMA or SAVT licence number. PPC will provide intake, sourcing, vetting, referral and payment to therapists.

At no time will SVMA know the identity or geographic area of persons using the service. PPC will bill SVMA for all services and ensure complete anonymity.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact:

Professional Psychologists & Counsellors (PPC)  
1118 College Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W2  
Phone (306) 664-0000  
Fax (306) 664-0037  
[www.peopleproblems.ca](http://www.peopleproblems.ca)

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## MORE UPDATES TO THE

## VETERINARY RESOURCE BINDER

The updated edition of the digital Veterinary Resource Binder (formerly referred to as the practice library) is available on the SVMA website. ALL SVMA members may download any of the information from the SVMA website, including Veterinary Resource Binder contents by logging into the Member's Side. Newest updates to the VRB include: VCPR resources, updated library list, relinquishment forms, biosecurity standards, and client handouts!

Thank those who have shared ideas to be incorporated into this project to make it a success! Stay tuned for the next update later this year!

## PARTNERS IN PRESERVING VETERINARY SERVICE IN RURAL SASKATCHEWAN

### 2018 SVMA Preceptorship Program

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SASKATCHEWAN  
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



SASKATCHEWAN  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## canadian veterinary medical association (CVMA)

**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

### THE CVMA IS PLEASED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO COUNCIL/COMMITTEES:

**Dr Debbie Barr**

National Issues Committee

**Dr Marie-Claude Blais**

Council, FMV/AVC Representative

**Dr Leighann Hartnett**

Animal Welfare Committee  
& Environmental Advisory Group

**Dr Ted Kilpatrick**

Animal Welfare Committee

**Dr Emiko Wong**

Animal Welfare Committee

All five veterinarians began their term on January 1, 2018.

### POLICY AND ADVOCACY

#### POSITION STATEMENTS

The CVMA has produced the following new position statements:

- **Responsibility of Veterinary Professionals in Addressing Animal Abuse and Neglect**
- **Veterinary Dentistry**

The CVMA has revised the following position statement:

- **Capture of Wild Animals for the Pet Trade**

The following position statement is being finalized after member consultation:

- **The Welfare of Cull Dairy Cows**

### GLOBAL AND NATIONAL STRATEGY TO REDUCE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

From February 6 to 8, 2018, CVMA led the second phase of two initiatives that support the global and national strategy to reduce antimicrobial resistance and improve antimicrobial stewardship and surveillance in animals. Project activities have focused on developing ready-for-delivery, practical tools to assist veterinarians in the prudent use of antimicrobials for six defined species groups (swine, poultry, beef, dairy, small ruminants, and companion animals), as well as conceptualizing, designing and implementing a pilot veterinary AMU surveillance initiative that initially focuses on animal feed. Both initiatives have been underway since early 2017, with financial support from the CFIA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

### ANTIMICROBIAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK TIMELINE

In conjunction with the Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) and the Canadian Animal Health Institute, CVMA developed a diagram outlining the dates and intent of the different changes that may affect veterinary practices. This diagram can be found at [canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/veterinary-oversight-of-antimicrobial-use-in-canada](http://canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/veterinary-oversight-of-antimicrobial-use-in-canada). The CVMA, in collaboration with VDD, will continue to inform veterinary teams, veterinary regulators, and academia on the implementation of the new regulatory and policy changes and their implications.

### ONE HEALTH ROUNDTABLE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

The CVMA participated in a One Health Roundtable on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) hosted by the Public Health Agency of Canada in March 2018. Stewardship activity to date has focused on the development of a tool set to meet critical information, oversight, and decision-support needs related to prudent antimicrobial usage. The next phase of activity is focused on expansion of the information platform developed to date to include aquaculture and equine sectors and will include a dedicated area for non-antimicrobial alternative treatments and associated tools. The integration of stewardship support tools with prescription/dispensing and AMU surveillance software will be explored for more seamless veterinary oversight support. The development of a repository for AMU surveillance information extracted and collated from prescription and dispensing activities undertaken by veterinary clinics and feed mills will also be explored. Successful achievement of the surveillance and stewardship initiatives will support veterinary oversight and better veterinary decision-making.

### CVMA PROVIDES INPUT ON THE APPROACH TO THE REGULATION OF CANNABIS

The CVMA emphasized three main points in its submission to the Government of Canada, following public engagement by Health Canada on its proposed approach to the regulation of Cannabis: the right for veterinarians to authorize client access to medical cannabis for veterinary patients;

the need for labelling to protect animals; and the benefits of including certain cannabis products in the low risk Veterinary Health Products category. The letter was prepared by a working group under the CVMA's National Issues Committee based on members' participation in roundtable meetings with officials from Health Canada's Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Branch in early December 2017, as well as discussions with outside experts. Read the full letter in the National Issues section, under the Policy & Advocacy tab of our website.

### **FEE PROPOSAL FOR DRUGS AND MEDICAL DEVICES**

The CVMA raised several concerns and made suggestions to Health Canada on the Fee Proposal for Drugs and Medical Devices during its consultation period. The CVMA is concerned that the implications for manufacturers could result in unintended consequences that would negatively impact animal health and food safety. The CVMA strongly supports veterinarians being able to access effective animal health products for the benefit of their clients and patients. The limited resources in the existing regulatory system should not be put under extra pressure that would result from the proposed fee increases. The CVMA urged Health Canada to proceed with caution as it reviews its fee schedule and include consideration of the benefits of facilitating the availability of safe and effective animal health products in the Canadian marketplace for the public good in its analysis.

### **SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE**

#### **MARCH WAS NATIONAL TICK AWARENESS MONTH**

CVMA, in partnership with Merck Animal Health, once again provided unique and exciting community engagement tools to help you and your clients stay ahead of the tick invasion in Canada. Ticks are still active — you can access Q&A videos, social media videos, and social media graphics, by visiting the CVMA website ([canadianveterinarians.net/practice-economics/practice-tools-national-tick-awareness-month](http://canadianveterinarians.net/practice-economics/practice-tools-national-tick-awareness-month)).

### **CVMA CONVENTION RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER THIS SUMMER!**

After 10 years, the CVMA Convention returns to downtown Vancouver from July 5 to 8, 2018 at the newly-opened JW Marriott Parq Vancouver, located next to the BC Place Stadium. The CVMA is pleased to share that, once again, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards RACE committee has reviewed and approved the 2018 Convention program as meeting the Standards adopted by the AAVSB. Choose from over 105 diverse sessions, with over 25 speakers, two wet labs, and one workshop. Sessions are open to DVMs, RVTs, and clinic staff. Attend CVMA signature events including the CVMA Summit, National Issues Forum, and the Emerging Leaders Program. Visit the Exhibit Hall with over 75 exhibit spaces. Register and find more information at [canadianveterinarians.net/science-knowledge/annual-convention](http://canadianveterinarians.net/science-knowledge/annual-convention).

### **PRACTICE AND ECONOMICS**

#### **2018 PROVINCIAL SUGGESTED FEE GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE**

Every year, the CVMA, in partnership with the provincial veterinary medical associations, produces suggested fee guides to offer Canadian veterinarians a fee list considered fair in their respective province. These are suggested fees and veterinarians are not obligated to follow them. The 2018 fee guides were prepared based on information provided in the 2017 Practice Owners Economic Survey. Visit the Business Management section of the CVMA website to access your provincial fee guide.

#### **2017 NON-DVM WAGE REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE**

A priority program of the CVMA, the CVMA Business Management Program delivers practice management resources and veterinary economic surveys. Access the 2017 Non-DVM Wage Reports under the Business Management section of our website.

#### **REFERENCE TOOL: OPIOIDS: RISK EVALUATION/MITIGATION STRATEGIES IN VETERINARY MEDICINE**

A document called Opioids: Risk Evaluation/Mitigation Strategies in Veterinary Medicine

was created to be used as a brief summary of current knowledge and best practices, as a potential reference for the veterinary healthcare team, and as a resource for further discussions. The document is not intended to be a policy paper, a position statement, nor a standard for legal use. Find the document under the Practice & Economics tab on the CVMA website.

### **VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP**

#### **THE CVMA AND GOODLIFE FITNESS PARTNER TO OFFER MEMBERS DISCOUNTED GYM MEMBERSHIPS**

Take advantage of the CVMA-GoodLife Fitness Corporate Discount Program. CVMA members can benefit from up to 44% off an annual membership (\$499 for a year if paid in full or \$24 bi-weekly, with the option to cancel at any time). Visit [corporate.goodlifefitness.com](http://corporate.goodlifefitness.com) to join — have your CVMA Membership ID Number ready and select Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (ACMV). Please contact the CVMA ([admin@cvma-acmv.org](mailto:admin@cvma-acmv.org)) with questions.

#### **REMEMBER THE IMPORTANCE OF VETERINARIAN WELLNESS**

Long hours, heavy workload, and poor work-life balance threaten the health and well-being of veterinary professionals. A section of the CVMA website was created to provide easy access to pertinent resources and information from numerous sources to help support the personal and professional well-being of veterinarians and veterinary students, with a focus on emotional and mental health, physical health, and veterinarian wellness. Additional resources will continue to be added as they are identified. The CVMA also offers a mentoring program and web resources to support early career DVMs. Visit the Veterinarian Health and Wellness Resources section under the Practice & Economics tab of our website for more information.

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).





# CLASSIFIED ADS

For complete, up-to-date listings, look for Classifieds under News & Information on the SVMA website.

## VETERINARIANS REQUIRED

### EARL GREY

Earl Grey Veterinary Services is accepting applications for a full-time veterinarian to join our growing mixed practice (65% small/35% large) immediately. Clinic is located in the small friendly community village of Earl Grey, about 35 minutes from Regina.

We are a progressive practice looking for someone to join our supportive and dynamic team. New graduates are welcome to apply. We offer paid CE allowance, paid association fees, group health benefits, insurance and a clinic vehicle on top of a competitive wage, and attractive on-call incentives and employee discounts! We currently have a complete in-house lab, digital radiography, equine power float, laser therapy and ultrasonic dental equipment.

Are you an energetic team player? Do you have superior communication skills and a passion for veterinary medicine? Do you want a rewarding career in a small rural community that you can call home? You will want to manage and run your own clinic one day, why not get started and take the first step now. Call me and I can explain how to do this.

Dr Debbie Hupka-Butz Earl Grey Veterinary Services 109 Assiniboia Avenue Earl Grey, Sask. Phone 306 939 2264 Email: egvets@sasktel.net

### ELROSE

Even though Hooves & Paws Veterinary Clinic is in rural Saskatchewan, people say we are in the middle of Everywhere! We also have the best clients and support staff on the planet. So if you are thinking of mixed practice as a career choice, we have a competitive wage package, negotiable call schedule and mentorship if needed. We even have references from former mentorship and veterinary students and locums who have worked here. We look forward to meeting you! Call 306-378-2252 or send your resume to elrose-vetservices@sasktel.net.

### INDIAN HEAD

The Indian Head Animal Clinic is seeking a full or part time veterinarian. The hours and duties are somewhat flexible, and salary will be based on previous experience. We are a strictly small animal practice with a fantastic clientele. We pride ourselves on providing exceptional medical and surgical care and customer

service. The clinic boasts digital radiography (CR), digital dental xray, GE Logiq Ultrasound and extensive dentistry equipment. We also offer numerous orthopedic procedures including TPLO, pins & wires and external fixators.

For the interested candidate, there is a strong possibility for transition to clinic ownership in the near future (4-7 years) with the current owner assisting in the transition. This position is ideal for someone who wants to experience the slower pace of small town life, yet within close driving distance to Regina. Indian Head provides all necessary services and is located close to the resort area of Katepwa Lake.

Please apply by email with a resume to Dr Melanie Roth at [ihancin@gmail.com](mailto:ihancin@gmail.com), indicating your preferred days and hours of work, as well as your preferred type of work (appointments/medicine/surgery).

### KELVINGTON

Full time veterinarian needed to set up a 50/50 large and small animal practice in an existing clinic in Kelvington SK. The clinic is owned by 5 municipalities. The building rental is FREE, plus a monthly fee will be paid to the vet for travel expenses.

Kelvington is a charming rural town of 900, located 2.5 hours from Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. It offers K-12 schools, a new hospital, 4 doctors, senior care home and lodging. Sarbi (rehabilitation for brain injury) is here, as well as STARS and ambulance service.

This largely agricultural community has plenty of recreational facilities including curling and skating rinks, swimming pool, bowling alley, rec hall, walking and cross-country ski trails and a beautiful golf course. It also has an auction market (animals) and an RCMP station. Within a 1/2 hour drive is a provincial park plus 3 recreational lakes, ATV and ski trails and hunting. Route 66 toboggan trail comes through town.

Contact Maurice Patenaude [maurice.p@sasktel.net](mailto:maurice.p@sasktel.net), or phone 306-327-5366 or 306-327-8511.

### MAPLE CREEK

Outdoor enthusiasts, find the career and lifestyle you deserve in the beautiful hills of southwest Saskatchewan! Maple Creek Veterinary Services is looking for a fully licenced veterinarian to complete team. Position available for a mixed animal veterinarian looking to

focus excellent quality care in a chosen interest area (SA, EQ, Sm ruminant or beef cattle) while maintaining their mixed practice skills. The finer details... on call for large and small animal patients is essential but don't worry, mentorship and support as needed (anticipated 1 in 4 call). We have a strong, cohesive team in a wonderful community nestled in the majestic Cypress hills. We are located in the busy tourist town of Maple Creek, Saskatchewan which boasts many great spots to visit both summer and winter - Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills, Elkwater and more all within close driving distance. View [www.maplecreekvet.com](http://www.maplecreekvet.com) or our Facebook page for practice information and Town of Maple Creek [www.maplecreek.ca](http://www.maplecreek.ca) for community info. Looking to expand and hone your clinical skills with a great group of people... then we would love to have you on our team! Resumes to: [info@mosaicvet.com](mailto:info@mosaicvet.com)

### MELFORT

STOP! Look no further! We have the compensation and benefits, facilities and everything else that the best clinics have. But we can offer you something most others can't:

A REWARDING PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE with a GREAT TEAM OF FRIENDS in the BEST PLACE TO LIVE- Melfort, Saskatchewan! Contact Janine right now at 844-752-7387 or email her at [janine@gatewayvet.ca](mailto:janine@gatewayvet.ca) for more information.

### MELVILLE

YOU GET A CAR! well okay, you get use of a clinic vehicle for all necessary work! Signing bonus available and moving expenses can be covered to assist in relocation! We are seeking a great team member! Part time or full time veterinarian position open for the candidate who seeks to be part of a team of exceptional and abundant support staff (our staff enjoy monthly potlucks!) in a mixed animal practice that excels at being forward-thinking, technologically advanced and fully progressive.

Do you have an area of interest that you want to excel at? Dentistry, orthopedics, acupuncture? We want diversity and we want you to practice what you love. Interested in mentorship with a flexible on call schedule? Perhaps it's every third weekend on call and a few nights a month (or you can take more as compensation is paid for all calls seen outside of regular

business hours). Low after hours call volume exists (average 3 to 5 calls per week!) in mixed animal practice (65 % SA and 35% LA).

Our amazing newly built facility with in house DR xray (portable unit for all animals), DR dental xray and full dental cart, In house lab for CBC, CHEM and more (fructosamine, phenobarb etc). The majority of LA obstetrical cases are handled in clinic. Potential to earn more than \$80 000 per annum with paid licensing fees, continuing education allowance, group insurance plan (health, life and disability), staff discounts and more!

Melville is a great, growing community with ample opportunities for family members to seek employment, play (regional and provincial parks are not far away, lots of kid and adult activities and sports) and enjoy life outside of work! You must be able to be licensed in Saskatchewan and Canada and have passed all requirements to do so if you have training outside of the USA or Canada. This is not small town living and this is not your typical rural mixed animal practice! Visit [www.melvillevet.com](http://www.melvillevet.com) and check us out! We are also on Facebook and twitter! Be part of this amazing team and apply to Dr Deana Schenher at [deanaschenher@hotmail.com](mailto:deanaschenher@hotmail.com) or call 306-728-2633 for more information.

### MOOSE JAW

Bellamy Harrison Animal Hospital (BHAH) is seeking to hire a sixth full-time veterinarian in our exclusively small animal practice. We are located in the thriving and friendly community of Moose Jaw, population of 35,000, within 40 minutes of Regina, Saskatchewan's provincial capital. We are a progressive practice with half the management team under 40. Potential future buy-in may be a possibility for the right candidate. New graduates or seasoned applicants alike are welcome. The practice is equipped with an in-house laboratory, digital direct radiography, digital dental radiography, high speed dental unit and ultrasound.

We offer an above average salary, paid continuing education, licensing fees, and insurance. BHAH takes great pride in offering exceptional care, in a friendly and enjoyable work environment. (We are just down the street from a great coffee shop!)

To help cover the cost of relocating we will offer a \$2000

bonus to help cover the move. In addition, we are offering a \$5000.00 signing bonus. Our multi-doctor practice allows for a team approach to challenging cases. Check us out by visiting our website at [www.bhah.com](http://www.bhah.com). Be sure to view our video section. You never know- you could become a "star" in the next Just Like You video!!

Contact: Dr. Bob Bellamy, Bellamy Harrison Animal Hospital, 790 Lillooet Street, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan S6H 8B4; phone: (306) 694-1639; fax: (306) 694-1920; e-mail: [b.bellamy@sasktel.net](mailto:b.bellamy@sasktel.net)

### MOOSOMIN

Valleyflats Veterinary Services of Moosomin, SK is looking for a full or part-time Veterinarian to join our busy mixed practice in Southeast Saskatchewan.

We are a thriving, progressive, well equipped large and small animal hospital and ambulatory practice with an excellent full team of experienced AHTs and support staff. Our large and small animal facilities have been designed to function smoothly and allow excellent care of hospitalized cases. The practice is very well equipped for both in clinic and ambulatory large and small animal.

Moosomin is a progressive community located along the Trans Canada highway just 2.5 hours east of Regina and 1.5 hours west of Brandon, MB. Moosomin is a thriving rural centre offering all services and amenities with many new restaurants and hotels, a new recreation centre and a new hospital. We are within minutes of the scenic Pipestone and Qu'Appelle Valleys; offering golf, hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, ATving, and the beautiful Moosomin Lake resort - so if you enjoy the outdoors, there are endless recreation opportunities here!

This position requires a genuine, energetic, outgoing individual who is interested in a truly mixed animal practice. The practice is approximately 65% large and farm animal with a strong beef and equine clientele, and 35% small animal. We offer above average remuneration, comprehensive benefits package, paid licensing fees, CE allowance and employee discounts.

This is a great opportunity for a rewarding career in a rural community which combines most of the amenities of a larger center, with a friendly small

town rural lifestyle. Applications from both new graduates and experienced Veterinarians are welcome! Associates who are interested in ownership possibilities are encouraged to apply. We look forward to hearing from you! For more information or to apply please contact Dr Rebecca Gervin at valleyflats@sasktel.net.

#### OGEMA

The Deep South Animal Clinic is currently accepting applications for an Associate Veterinarian(s). We are located in Ogema, Saskatchewan, one hour south of Regina. We are a very well equipped large and small animal practice which has been established for over 60 years. We used to list all our in house equipment, but to make a long story short, if we don't have it, you don't need it! Both large and small animal facilities have been designed to function smoothly and allow excellent care of hospitalized cases. More than 95% of the large animal obstetrical cases are in clinic.

Your first job is really important in shaping your career! We feel our combination of up-to-date facilities, practice philosophy and enthusiastic, experienced staff makes this position an attractive place for you to deliver high quality veterinary medicine. We will provide a competitive salary and an extensive benefits package, tailored to your needs. Contact Dr Andy Acton at Deep South Animal Clinic, Box 387 Ogema SK S0C 1Y0 dsac@sasktel.net Phone: (306) 459-2422 Fax: (306) 459-2880

#### REGINA

Are you a veterinarian who values your personal time? We do too! Airport Animal Hospital is an AAHA accredited hospital and we care about our team having a work-life balance, which means no after hours or on call, no evenings, and limited weekends. We carry out our vision by working together in a positive, approachable, supportive, and respectful way to create a stress-free environment for our patients, clients and team. Our progressive hospital is fully equipped with digital x-ray, digital dental x-ray, digital lab equipment, surgical laser, therapy laser, ultrasound, ultrasonic dental unit and electronic medical records.

We offer a competitive salary (based on experience) and up to a \$10,000 signing bonus. Benefits include an RRSP plan, great health/dental plan, paid

license dues, continuing education, and discounts on services and products. Must be a DVM (or equivalent) and be NAVLE certified.

For additional information about our hospital, please visit our website at [www.airportanimalhospital.ca](http://www.airportanimalhospital.ca) or check us out on facebook. We look forward to you joining our team!

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to Nicole Raines, 4645 Rae Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 6K6, or by email: [operations.aah@sasktel.net](mailto:operations.aah@sasktel.net).

#### REGINA

Gardiner Park Animal Hospital in Regina Sask., is seeking a full or part-time permanent veterinarian to join our practice. We are primarily small animal-based, including birds and exotics. Our hospital is equipped with an in-house laboratory, digital x-ray and dental equipment. We have a great working environment and we offer competitive salaries and benefits for employees. Please send resume to [gard-parkjoan@sasktel.net](mailto:gard-parkjoan@sasktel.net) or fax 306-721-1024.

#### REGINA

We are a six veterinarian small animal practice looking for a full or part time veterinarian to join our team. Our paperless clinic is well equipped with digital radiography, digital dental radiography, therapeutic and surgical lasers, in clinic lab, ultrasonography and Tonovet. We strive to provide the best in patient care and client service in a great work environment. Compensation is very competitive and no after hour on call is required.

Please send your resume to Dr Denita Shtuka at [vicvetclinics@gmail.com](mailto:vicvetclinics@gmail.com). Visit our website for more information [www.victoriavetclinic.com](http://www.victoriavetclinic.com)

#### REGINA

We are looking for a full-time veterinarian to join our busy practice. We are an integrated small animal practice offering conventional medicine as well as homeopathy, spinal manipulation, acupuncture, and physiotherapy. Our hospital is fully equipped with an in-house laboratory, digital x-ray, digital dental x-ray and ultrasound. We are enthusiastic and have a great team environment. Offering a competitive salary and benefits.

Please contact: Renee Irving, Lakewood Animal Hospital, 1151 Lakewood Court North, Regina, SK S4X 3S3. Ph: (306) 545-6487, Fax: (306) 545-1374 or email [renee.lakewoodanimal@sasktel.net](mailto:renee.lakewoodanimal@sasktel.net)

#### REGINA

The Animal Clinic of Regina is looking for an outgoing and motivated small animal veterinarian to join our team. Our unique 66 year-old walk-in practice located in the heart of this beautiful, growing city is fully equipped with digital radiography, ultrasound, laparoscopy, orthopedic equipment and paperless Avimark software. Our focus is exceptional patient and client care in a comfortable and accommodating environment. We encourage our veterinarians to pursue their special interests with paid CE opportunities and strive to provide a supportive setting for developing skills. We have remarkable technologists and support staff and pride ourselves on our open style of management that inspires professional excellence, respectful engagement and team collaboration. Benefits include group medical coverage, valuable staff discounts as well as no emergency or on call hours. We offer a competitive salary and encourage new graduates and experienced vets alike to apply. Email your resume to [animalclinicofregina@sasktel.net](mailto:animalclinicofregina@sasktel.net) or mail it to: Attention Dr. Lesley Sawa, Animal Clinic of Regina, 1800 Garnet Street, Regina, SK, S4T 2Z2.

#### SASKATOON

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine offers a permanent, full-time, clinical appointment in Elective Surgery commencing July 1, 2018 and start date is negotiable. Apply at <https://careers.usask.ca/>

#### SASKATOON

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine offers a 12 month term clinical appointment in Emergency & Urgent Care beginning July 1, 2018 (with the possibility of extension). Apply at <https://careers.usask.ca/>

#### SASKATOON

The Department of Veterinary Pathology invites applications from veterinarians for an extension position working with poultry. The position is funded by the Saskatchewan Poultry Industry, based at the University of Saskatchewan and supervised by faculty members of the Departments of Veterinary Pathology and Animal and Poultry Science.

Please contact Dr S. Gomis, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine Office: (306) 966 7299; Fax: (306) 966 7439; Email: [susantha.gomis@usask.ca](mailto:susantha.gomis@usask.ca)

#### WARMAN / ROSTHERN

Norsask Veterinary Group is seeking a full-time veterinarian to work in our mixed practice. The successful candidate will possess the skills and abilities to work with all domestic animal species. The ability to function successfully in a team environment with multiple other veterinarians and support staff is essential. New graduates would find this practice supportive to developing your career as a veterinarian. We are a multi-veterinarian mixed animal practice operating from two well-equipped clinics in Warman and Rosthern. We strive to maintain a well recognized high level of customer service. We value a team approach to practicing quality veterinary medicine in a friendly atmosphere while maintaining a healthy work-life balance for all team members. We offer a competitive compensation package, group benefits plan, practice vehicle, continuing education allowance, and the advantage of living and working close to all the amenities of Saskatoon. Check us out online at [www.norsaskvetgroup.com](http://www.norsaskvetgroup.com). If you would like to discuss the possibilities of this position further, please contact Dr John Ayres at 306-232-7898 or email [j.ayres@norsaskvetgroup.com](mailto:j.ayres@norsaskvetgroup.com).

#### WEYBURN

Weyburn – Named the best city to live in on the prairies by MoneySense magazine. Now is your opportunity to come live and work here. Prairie Animal Health Centre Weyburn is seeking a mixed animal veterinarian.

Tired of working at practices with high staff turnover? PAHC's staff retention is AMAZING, 85% of our staff have been employed with us for over 5 years and 50% for over 10 years.

The right veterinarian has the opportunity to make an exceptional salary with lots of perks. Our practice size allows for specialization in certain species/ services while maintaining the ability to share on-call. Attitude, work ethic and sense of humor are more important qualities than level of experience. PAHC provides the best CE opportunities to learn and develop. Check us out on our website at [prairieanimalhealthweyburn.com](http://prairieanimalhealthweyburn.com) and the City of Weyburn at [weyburn.ca](http://weyburn.ca). Better yet don't delay - send me your resume or call and ask questions. Contact info: Kristin Caldwell, CVO/RVT at [kristincaldwell@pahc.ca](mailto:kristincaldwell@pahc.ca) cell 306-861-3487. We can't wait to

meet you!

#### TECHNOLOGISTS REQUIRED

##### ELROSE

Hooves & Paws Veterinary Clinic in Elrose, Saskatchewan is seeking a full time RVT for a maternity position with the possibility of continuing full time. We are a one vet, two technologist practice that strives for excellent client/patient service. The ideal tech will be confident, have great people skills and needs to be both an independent worker and a supportive team member. Experience is not a necessity and new grads are welcome to apply.

Hooves & Paws is a busy mixed practice in southern Saskatchewan, located one and a half hours from Saskatoon, 1 hr from Swift Current and 1 hr from Kindersley. The clinic is equipped with a CR digital radiograph unit and dental xray unit, two ultrasound units in-house Abaxis lab, and dental cart. We are closed on Saturdays and Sundays for work-life balance. Starting date will be January 1st of 2018 but this is negotiable. Memberships and CE are fully paid. Our staff benefit package includes group health insurance, dental benefits, staff discounts, and uniform allowance. Applicants must have graduated from a vet tech program and passed the VTNE. Send resume to [elrosevetservices@sasktel.net](mailto:elrosevetservices@sasktel.net) or fax to Hooves & Paws Vet Clinic at 306-378-2304.

##### SASKATOON

Poultry Extension Program – Animal Health Technician Department of Veterinary Pathology needs a veterinarian to support the ongoing extension activities of the University of Saskatchewan Poultry Extension Program.

Nature of Work: Reporting to the Poultry Extension Veterinarian and Poultry Scientist, the successful candidate will assist with day-to-day duties. Please send a CV and the names of 3 references to: Tyler Moss, Department of Veterinary Pathology [tyler.moss@usask.ca](mailto:tyler.moss@usask.ca)

##### SASKATOON

All About Cats and Dogs Veterinary Hospital is seeking a full-time or part-time RVT in our small animal practice in Saskatoon. We are seeking applicants who are enthusiastic, organized, self-motivated and able to multitask. The ideal candidate will possess both technical skills (especially monitoring of anesthesia



# CLASSIFIED ADS

and animal restraint) and have familiarity with reception work (limited duties). Applicants must have graduated from a vet tech program and passed the VTNE.

All About Cats and Dogs is a well established 1.5 to 2 veterinarian clinic. We have an in-house laboratory, digital radiography, ultrasound and dental suite. We use a combination of paper files and veterinary software Practice Vantage. We offer a competitive salary based on experience. Benefits for a full-time RVT after 3 months include annual medical/dental coverage, annual paid SAVT membership fees, 3 weeks holiday and discounted veterinary services and merchandise for your pets. CE allowance available after 12 months employment. Start date is May 1, 2018, or earlier. To apply, please email your cover letter and resume to mandygude-lot@gmail.com

## SASKATOON

Corman Park Vet Services is situated 5 miles west of Saskatoon and is seeking an experienced full-time Vet Tech. Corman Park Vet Services is a mixed animal practice that services a large clientele that is always growing. We are seeking an individual who can work in a high paced environment and provide excellent care to our clients and patients. Wages based on experience and benefits available. Please submit resume to Dorrie at dorrie.cpsv@gmail.com.

VCA Canada Frontier Animal Hospital is hiring two full time RVT's (one permanent and one for a maternity leave contract). We are looking for energetic, confident and positive individuals who are passionate about achieving their goals in veterinary medicine. Due to the growth planned for our hospital, there may be opportunity for a full time permanent position upon completion of the contract.

VCA Canada is committed to enabling our teams to flourish! We offer career growth opportunities, CE Allowances, access to Annual VCA conferences, and industry leading customer service training. Additionally, we offer competitive salaries, benefits package, pet discounts, uniforms, CE allowance and if applicable moving expenses. To review the complete job posting please visit us online at <https://careers.vcacanada.com/job/registered-veterinary-technician-42/>. Please apply to: Nadine.Schueler@vca.com

## SASKATOON

VCA Canada Central Animal Hospital is looking for a full time

Registered Veterinary Technician to join our team. We are looking for an energetic, confident and positive individual who is passionate about achieving their goals in veterinary medicine. We are a leading edge, progressive companion animal veterinary practice with 4 full time veterinarians and a large tech support staff. We are a fully equipped hospital with digital X-ray, digital dental X-ray and ultrasound. We are a recognized referral hospital with a team approach to case management. Saskatoon is a University City and offers a diverse recreational, cultural and educational climate. Saskatchewan has one of the fastest growing economies in North America. Our highly compassionate staff deliver an exceptional client experience and excellence in veterinary care. VCA Canada is committed to enabling our teams to flourish! We offer career growth opportunities, CE Allowances, access to Annual VCA conferences, and industry leading customer service training. Additionally, we offer competitive salaries, benefits package, pet discounts, uniforms, CE allowance and if applicable moving expenses. Please send your resume to: donna.mcbeth@vca.com

## SASKATOON

VCA Canada Frontier Animal Hospital is hiring two full time RVT's (one permanent and one for a maternity leave contract). We are looking for energetic, confident and positive individuals who are passionate about achieving their goals in veterinary medicine. Due to the growth planned for our hospital, there may be opportunity for a full time permanent position upon completion of the contract.

VCA Canada is committed to enabling our teams to flourish! We offer career growth opportunities, CE Allowances, access to Annual VCA conferences, and industry leading customer service training. Additionally, we offer competitive salaries, benefits package, pet discounts, uniforms, CE allowance and if applicable moving expenses. To review the complete job posting please visit us online. Please apply to: Nadine.Schueler@vca.com

## PRACTICES FOR SALE

### PRINCE ALBERT

I graduated in 1959 in St. Hyacinth. I built the clinic in 1974. The time has come to make plans for retirement.

I wish very much that this ad will find a veterinarian enthusias-

tic to take over. If interested get in touch and come and see.

Contact Dr Bernard Chapuis, Marquis Road Veterinary Hospital for Companion Pets, Prince Albert SK. Tel: (306)764-3461 Fax: (306)764-3462 marquisvet@sasktel.net

## ALBERTA

Exciting, Unique Practice Type for Sale! Boasting a one-of-a-kind mobile vet clinic equipped with a kennel bank, office/reception, examination room, surgery suite and living quarters! Pet food compartments can hold 6000 lbs of prescription, pre-ordered product. Contains Computed Radiology, blood lab and dental unit. Built in 1998, to Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Standards, this self-contained clinic is designed to be self-sufficient and function "off the grid" as a fully licensed facility. The clinic is custom built into a 48' drop frame van and pulled with a '01 Kenworth. The unit is maintained at commercial standards - last Commercial Vehicle Inspection was October, 2017.

Our home base has been High Level for the past 10 years. We currently lease a 60x80' building, the owner of which is amenable to continuing the rental agreement. Currently we run 10 day clinics every 6 weeks to Hay River and Fort Smith, NT. Quarterly we see Rainbow lake, AB and Fort Providence, NT sponsors a clinic annually. We have also been approached by 6 additional communities to host clinics. Plenty of room to grow in this pet dense/veterinary sparse region of northern AB and NT. With low overhead, this practice will maximize your earning potential. For more information please contact Dr James Stickney at Jim\_Stickney@yahoo.com or (780) 512-7684.

## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Nikon Eclipse E100 Microscope for sale with plastic cover, hard case and instruction manual. Great condition, rarely used. Purchased for clinical pathology rotation and not used outside of this purpose. Asking \$750 obo. Located in Saskatoon area. Please contact Vanessa at 250-319-3103 or vm.tonn@gmail.com.

Features:

- 4x, 10x, 40x, 100x objective lens
- 30 degree eyepiece tube with 180 rotatable eyepoint adjustments
- Light weight, compact design with small footprint
- Removable lens unit cover for bulb changes (replacement bulb included)

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

## VETERINARIANS

### GENERAL

BRAR, Dilbag ..... April 10

### SHORT TERM TO GENERAL

CARMALT, Kathryn ..... February 12

FROIMOVITCH, Ira ..... April 4

### T-GENERAL

ANDERSON, Kevin ..... March 21

GWILLIM, Samantha ..... February 20

PALMER, Shannon ..... May 1

SAMARAWICKRAMA, Hewa ..... February 1

### T-SHORT TERM

MANDRUSIAK, Daren ..... February 12 to March 11

POHL, Sven ..... February 15 to March 14

POLITIS, Michael J. .... March 17 to April 16

### T-EDUCATIONAL TO T-SHORT TERM

DILLON, Chelsea 30 day April 12 to June 10

### T-LIMITED GENERAL

AERTSENS, Adrien ..... March 2

CHIU, Yi-Ting ..... February 12

GHOSH, Kazal ..... March 20

ISKANDER, Peter ..... December 10

### T-EDUCATIONAL

BERTAMINI, Chavonne ..... July 1

PODSIEDLIK, Maria ..... July 15

### LIFE PRACTISING TO LIFE NON-PRACTISING

KUCHARSKI, Henry G. .... March 14

### DECEASED

KESSLER Ben G. .... March 26

MURRAY, J. Philip ..... April 2

## VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS

### ACTIVE

Wilk, Patti ..... February 12

McLoughlin, Lauren ..... February 12

Leibel, Jenna ..... February 26

Hayes, Jill ..... April 10

### PROVISIONAL ACTIVE

Ellison, Megan ..... February 13

### STUDENT

Bax, Kelsey ..... January 18

Sukenik, Jessica ..... February 12

Sorokoski, Kendra ..... February 28

Bielecki, Nicole ..... March 20

Fitzsimons, Chelsea ..... March 26

Roosen, Taylor ..... March 26

### NON-PRACTISING/SOCIAL

Hudson, Kari ..... February 12

Paradis, Allise ..... February 12

Svoboda, Lori ..... February 12

### STRUCK

Brennan, Joel ..... February 1



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- Next day, pre-paid delivery utilizing the WDDC dedicated fleet of ambient temperature controlled trucks
- Weekend order fulfilment for Monday delivery
- Case lot discounts for members and annual dividends based on purchases
- Discounted pet food pricing program (value pack)
- Multiple payment methods (Visa®, Mastercard®, Pre-authorized withdrawals and online banking payment option)
- 2% prompt payment discount off statement
- Online ordering with up-to-date product pricing, quantities on hand, expiry dates, ETA on back ordered items, customizable retail price ticket feature, and Human & Veterinary Compendiums
- Integratable web link from our Professional Pet Products retail website
- Full line of instruments, kennels and cages, surgery tables and lights, veterinary and dental equipment
- Returns processed and credits issued within statement periods
- Prime Vendor Partner Program - ensuring competitive pricing for our members
- Custom member sales reporting, price ticket, shelf labels & barcode technologies
- Member Affinity Programs such as long distance, discounted courier rates, fuel discounts, waste disposal, office & janitorial supplies, blade sharpening & equipment repair, office equipment, educational programs, printing & promotional items & digital imaging, Staples Advantage, TD Merchant services, clinic insurance and financial lending programs
- Human Resource education and support for members
- Online controlled substance ordering with next day delivery (electronic signature)
- Vantage suite of programs CattleVantage™ (Herd Management Program), AdVantage™ (informational media tool) PracticeVantage™ (complete practice management suite), EVantage™ (electronic educational tool), mobile and batch scan ordering tools
- Veterinary apparel including clothing, footwear and coveralls
- Practice management CE (continuing education) for AHT's and Veterinarians

For further information on the above services contact Customer Service  
Toll Free Phone 1-877-746-9332 • Toll Free Fax 1-800-329-9332 • [msservice@wddc.com](mailto:msservice@wddc.com)

**MOVING?  
CHANGING EMPLOYERS?  
CLOSING A PRACTICE?  
CHANGING YOUR  
CONTACT INFORMATION?**



You must let the SVMA office know.  
Call (306) 955-7862, fax (306) 975-0623 or  
email [svma@svma.sk.ca](mailto:svma@svma.sk.ca).

## DID YOU KNOW

Sharing SaskVets posts with your clients on your practice website or Facebook page has proven financial returns: informational and promotional posts travel furthest and return the greatest financial benefit to your practice when you retweet, LIKE and SHARE them. **Try it for yourself!**



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[info@jandacga.com](mailto:info@jandacga.com)

### LOOKING for a veterinarian?

An RVT?

A VOA?

A locum?

How about volunteers?

Check out the **CLASSIFIEDS** page on the SVMA website [www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca), where members can post ads of up to 200 words for three months, free!



# 2018 SVMA CONFERENCE

## AGM & TRADE EXPO

SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2018

**SAVE THE DATE...** for Saskatchewan's best veterinary CE and networking opportunity of the year!!

Join us as we celebrate our 110th Anniversary with:

- Saskatchewan's best veterinary CE value with a total of 36 hours RACE-approved CE
- 110th Anniversary Awards Banquet, Cocktails & Connections Reception, Prairie Lily Boat Cruise and WCVN Class of '78 40 Year Reunion
- SVMA Annual General Meeting and Members' Forum Lunch
- Latest products and services from veterinary industry partners in the Trade Expo
- Lots of leading edge discussion and networking opportunities
- A beautiful new waterfront location at the Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon (and free parking)

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

for 2018 speakers, registration fees, program and event details and special hotel conference rates.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**  
**EARLYBIRD DISCOUNTS IN EFFECT**  
**UNTIL AUGUST 24.**

SEE YOU IN SASKATOON!



### 2018 SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

#### PLENARY

**MS TINA VARUGHESE**

'50 Shades of Beige'  
Cross-Cultural Communication

**DR JUDY CURRIE**

VCPR Case Discussion

#### COMPANION ANIMAL

**DR ERIN SIMMONDS**

Cannabis Toxicity; The DKA Pet

**DR MARGARET DOYLE**

Forensic Pathology (3 hrs)

**DR VINCENT DEFALQUE**

Dermatology (3hrs)

**DR ANDREW MACKIN**

Hematology (4hrs)

**DR JORDAN WOODSWORTH/  
ERIN WASSON**

Challenging Conversations  
with Pet Owners

#### LARGE ANIMAL

**DR ELEMIR SIMKO**

Honeybee Health and  
Diseases (2 hrs)

**DR VIRGINIA FAJT**

Pharmacology, AMR and  
Decision-Making Scenarios (3hrs)

**DR CASSANDRA TUCKER**

Cattle Branding, Animal Welfare  
and Market-Driven Change

**DR JULIA MONTGOMERY**

Rhabdomyolysis

**MS ERIN WASSON**

Challenging Conversations  
with Rural Clients

#### WET LABS

**DR ROMANY PINTO**

Rehabilitation of Cranial  
Cruciate Ligament Rupture

**DR KATE ROBINSON**

Equine Dentistry in  
Ambulatory Practice