



# IAAAM NEWS

**Volume 34, Number 4, November 2003**

**Rhonda A. Patterson, Editor**

**IAAAM's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
April 4 - 10, 2004**

## **President's Message submitted by Nina Young**

With the holidays approaching I would like to wish you all Happy Holidays! This newsletter is bursting with important information. In addition to our reminder about the quickly approaching deadline for abstracts for our 35th Annual meeting in Galveston, I especially want to draw your attention to proposed changes to our Constitution and Bylaws provided in this issue. One of the strengths of IAAAM is that it is a constantly growing and evolving organization and as such the Executive Board believes these changes should be reflected in our Constitution and Bylaws. While some of the proposed changes streamline the text or are cosmetic, others update our objectives, qualification for membership, structure of the Executive Board, and provisions for postal votes.

For example in the objectives we propose adding the term "conservation" to reflect the association's recognition of the close link between conservation, management, and health as well as the memberships' ever increasing interest in this area. We have broadened, somewhat, the criteria for membership recognizing our memberships' diverse academic background and interests in aquatic animal medicine and have streamlined the membership process. Given the burden and the numerous tasks associated with the office of Secretary/Treasurer, we are proposing to split that position into two board positions-Secretary and Treasurer and define the duties of each office. We are also proposing to make the Newsletter Editor an elected position on the Executive Board; therefore, allowing that individual to be eligible to move through the board to possibly become President. To elucidate both the Constitution and Bylaws with regard to meetings and postal votes, we are proposing clarifying language to provide for postal votes on important issues that may arise between our annually scheduled business meetings. So the conference hosting facility knows with certainty whether a person

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registering is entitled to the "member" rate, the Board is proposing a new deadline by which dues must be paid. Finally, we offer language to clarify the type of "benefits" that can be distributed to the membership. The Board agrees with the principle of this provision that limits benefits; however, we also recognize that the Association does provide student travel and/or presentation awards; gifts given to conference hosts and/or organizing staff, session chairs, the President as they become Past-President, and so on, all of which can possibly be construed as benefitting those members. The Board proposes language to change the Bylaws to exempt these actions from the prohibitions.

These changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will also be available on the website. After being posted for thirty days, you will receive a ballot in the mail. You have twenty days to complete and return that ballot. Please take the time to review these changes and vote. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or any other Executive Board member. Thanks so much for your time and support!

**SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS FOR THE GALVESTON CONFERENCE DEADLINE  
IS COMING UP SOON**  
submitted by Laurie Gage

ABSTRACTS ARE DUE ON **DECEMBER 15** THIS YEAR. Please go to the IAAAM website ([www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org)) and download the instructions to authors, the abstract submission form, and the sample abstract. Fill out the form, and mail it with a copy on a disk (PC only and in WORD or RTF) to Dr. Laurie Gage, 1131 Second Avenue, Napa, CA 94558 OR email the completed abstract to [Laurie.Gage@iaaam.org](mailto:Laurie.Gage@iaaam.org)

Due to the increased numbers of papers submitted in recent years, it is possible not all abstracts that are submitted will be accepted for oral presentation. If you are submitting an abstract for an oral presentation, please indicate if you would be willing (if necessary) to present your paper in poster format. If you submit more than one abstract, please state your preference of which paper you would rather present orally if you had to choose.

A brief email to Laurie Gage ([Laurie.Gage@iaaam.org](mailto:Laurie.Gage@iaaam.org)) with your working title BEFORE December 15, 2003, would be appreciated for conference planning purposes.

Authors will be notified by email when their abstracts are received and a second notification, by January 15, 2004, if their abstracts have been selected.

**Call for Student Travel Award Applications**  
submitted by Tracy Romano

The Student Liaison Committee has been appropriated the sum of \$2000.00 to award to students intending to deliver oral presentations at the annual IAAAM conference in April 2004. The intentions of the awards are to defray the cost of travel to the April 4-10, 2004 conference in Galveston to promote student participation in the professional program, and to further the commitment of the IAAAM to its students. Moneys will be awarded on a competitive basis, with the goal of supporting as many students as possible. Undergraduate students, Masters and PhD students, veterinary students, veterinary interns/residents, and postdocs are eligible. The requirements for all applicants include the following:

1. A cover letter that describes the future plans of the applicant with regard to aquatic animal medicine.
2. A copy of the abstract of the paper to be presented. This abstract must not exceed 500 words in length. Only abstracts will be considered.
3. Curriculum vitae and two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an active member of the IAAAM.
4. An itemized budget that details the travel expenditures (i.e. airfare, lodging, meals, etc.) and indicates the funds available from student stipends and personal resources.

5. The student presenter must be a member (with dues paid up-to-date) of the IAAAM. The Education Member of the IAAAM Executive Board and the Student Liaison Committee will review the applications. Applicants will be ranked according to judgement criteria that will include: the quality of the written abstract (500 words or less), the justification/significance of the work, the complexity of the work relative to the student's academic achievements, and the commitment of the student to aquatic animal medicine. The intent of the Student Liaison Committee and the Executive Board is to fund as many students as possible, beginning with the highest ranked and continuing through the list of ranked applicants until the appropriated funds have been exhausted. No awards will exceed \$500.00. The rankings will be determined from the entire pool of applicants; separate awards for different academic classes of applicants (i.e. undergraduate, graduate, veterinary) will not be offered.

The deadline for receipt of the original signed applications is December 15, 2003. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Recipients will be contacted by March 1, 2004. Students submitting abstracts for the travel award competition must separately submit their presentation for acceptance into the conference proceedings. The Secretary/Treasurer of the IAAAM will be notified and will send checks to the successful applicants. The Student Liaison Committee and the IAAAM Executive Board welcome this opportunity to assist deserving students.

Candidates should send their application information to the following address:

Tracy Romano, PhD  
 Texas A&M University  
 Dept. of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health  
 VMA Bldg. Room 107A  
 College Station, Texas 77843  
 Phone: (619)-553-1340  
 FAX: (619)-553-5068  
 E-mail: romano@nosc.mil

The following judgment criteria will be used to evaluate applications submitted for the 2004 IAAAM student awards:

Category	Points	Total
<b>Abstract (500 words or less)</b>		<b>50</b>
Quality of the written abstract	20	
Definition of hypothesis and objectives	5	
Justification	5	
Design	5	
Results or observations	5	
Conclusions	5	
Complexity and academic achievement	5	
<b>Cover letter</b>		<b>15</b>
Definition of long term goals	15	
<b>Curriculum Vitae</b>		<b>15</b>
Commitment to aquatic animal medicine	15	
<b>Letters of Recommendation</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Budget</b>		<b>5</b>
Realistic and justified	5	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		<b>100</b>

**AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!**

Send us scanned copies of your favorite pictures of IAAAM members at large or at past meetings! Help us celebrate 35 years of wonderful memories in a slide show to be presented at this year's meeting in Galveston!

*Send pictures, negatives, or jpeg files to:*

Nina Young  
C/O The Ocean Conservancy  
1725 De Sales St. NW  
Suite 600  
Washington DC 20036  
[nyoung@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:nyoung@oceanconservancy.org)

*Best picture/submission will win a prize!*

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS**

**December 15, 2003**

- \*Abstracts are due to Laurie Gage.
- \*Student travel award paperwork is due to Tracy Romano.
- \*Hotel and conference registration information and forms will be available on the web site ([www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org)).

**March 1, 2004**

- \*Dues must be paid by this date in order to receive membership rate for conference registration.

**April 4 - 10, 2004**

- \*35th Annual IAAAM Conference in Galveston, TX.

# PROPOSED REVISIONS OF THE IAAAM CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

## submitted by the IAAAM Executive Board

The following is the constitution and by-laws for the organization. Wording that the Board wishes to remove is shown with the “strike-out” marking through it. New wording that the Board wishes to add is shown in bold and underlined. After each section that has a proposed change there is a brief explanation for the change(s). The explanation is in red and italic. The italic was added in case the reader wishes to print the newsletter out, but does not have a color printer and therefore would have more difficulty in distinguishing the explanation from the body of the document.

### CONSTITUTION

#### Article I Name

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM), **hereafter called the Association.**

*This change is simply to make it easier to reference the group throughout the rest of the document.*

Section 2 The **Association** ~~IAAAM~~ is defined as an organization of individuals who are professionally ~~interested~~ **involved** in ~~and devote a significant amount of time to~~ the practice of aquatic animal medicine or ~~to~~ **in** teaching and research in aquatic animal medicine or to the husbandry and management of aquatic animals.

*Since it is impossible to define "a significant amount of time" it was removed.*

#### Article II Objectives

Section 1 To advance the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health and promote the free exchange of knowledge in the interest of improving the health care and husbandry of aquatic animals in the ~~domestic sense~~ **held in human care** and the proper **conservation and** management of aquatic animal resources in the wild ~~sense~~.

*The change to “held in human care” was remove any misunderstanding as to where the animals were being held. The addition of “conservation” was made to reflect the association’s ever increasing interest in this area.*

Section 2 To provide an organization within which interested and professionally qualified individuals can work together to achieve these objectives.

- Section 3 To provide a setting in which the development of the practice of aquatic animals medicine, ~~by doctors of veterinary medicine who so aspire~~, may be facilitated and enhanced.
- Section 4 To promote the application of ~~veterinary medicine principles~~ **the principles of veterinary medicine**, ~~by doctors of veterinary medicine~~, to aquatic animal disease problems.

*It is understood that the founding members of this organization were all veterinarians and both the main and major emphasis of this organization is still driven by veterinary medicine. It was thought that in order to better reflect the diversity of the organization's membership and also to draw in new members with a variety of backgrounds/degrees, this change was in order.*

Article III Membership

Section 1 Membership of this Association shall be divided into the following categories:

- a. Member
- b. Student Member
- c. Life Member
- d. Honorary Life Member
- e. Sustaining Member

Section 2 Qualifications for Membership. Membership shall be limited to:

- a. Member. Persons who **are professionally involved in** ~~have contributed to the advancement of aquatic animal medicine, are involved in aquatic animal medicine practice, research or teaching aquatic animal medical science, are engaged in the management of aquatic animals, or persons who devote a portion of their professional activities to aquatic animal medical practice, research or teaching of aquatic animal medical science and whom the Executive Board of the IAAAM considers eligible as members through the maintenance of a strong professional interest in the~~ **and support the** objectives of the Association as defined in Article II **and whom the Executive Board of the Association determines to be eligible as members.**

*This change in wording is to simplify the parameters of being a "member".*

- b. Student Member. Duly enrolled **college or university** students **or interns/residents at AZA accredited or equivalent institutions** having interest in conservation, veterinary practice, research, husbandry or management related to aquatic animals.

*This change in wording is simply to clarify under what conditions someone can apply for student membership.*

- c. Life Member. Upon professional retirement, full members in good standing for a minimum of 10 consecutive years of active membership may be afforded life membership by the Executive Committee upon petition by the member.

- d. Honorary Life Member. Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of aquatic animal medical science and the realization of the objectives of the Association.
- e. Sustaining Member. Available on an annual basis to interested individuals or institutions who wish to make financial contributions of \$250.00 or more to sustain the work of the Association.

Section 3 All applications for membership and requests for change in membership status must be approved by ~~majority action of~~ the Executive Board.

*This wording change is due to a change in duties of the Board and its members.*

Section 4 Only Members, Life Members, and Honorary Life Members may vote and hold office in the Association. Student and Sustaining Members are entitled to receive the Association newsletter and attend scientific sessions of the Association.

Article IV Officers

Section 1 The officers of the Association shall be those of President, President-Elect, Past President, ~~and~~ Secretary, and Treasurer.

*This reflects the desire to change the Secretary-Treasurer position into two separate positions.*

Section 2 The term of office for the President, President-Elect, and ~~Past President~~ Secretary-Treasurer shall be one year beginning at the close of the annual business meeting and continuing until their successors are installed. ~~An individual~~ elected to the office of Secretary ~~and~~ Treasurer will serve a three year term which may be renewable for one additional term. ~~may not succeed himself/herself more than twice.~~

*This reflects the desire to change the Secretary-Treasure position into two separate positions and to make both positions have three year terms.*

Section 3 The President-Elect shall be installed as President and assume the duties and responsibilities of the President at the end of the business meeting of the annual meeting following the annual meeting at which he/she is elected.

Section 4 The Past President shall become Acting-President to fill out the unexpired term if, for any reason, the President should be unable to fulfill the duties of that office. If both the President and Past President are unable to fulfill the duties of the office of President, the President-Elect shall become Acting President. In such case, the President-Elect shall become eligible to serve his or her own full term as President. The Executive Board shall fill other vacancies, which might occur, ~~shall be filled by the Executive Board from qualified members.~~

*This change was to clarify the wording.*

Article V	Executive Board
Section 1	<p>The Executive Board Shall be composed of eight (8) members: The <del>five</del> <b>four</b> officers; <del>including the immediate Past President, the Newsletter Editor,</del> and three other qualified members elected at large at the annual meetings. <b><u>One of these positions will be designated to fulfill the role of the Newsletter Editor for the Association's newsletter.</u></b> A majority of the members of the Executive Board shall, at all times, be Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.</p> <p><i>This change was to reflect the change in the number of Board officers and to be sure that one of those positions was still designated for the role of newsletter editor.</i></p>
Section 2	<p>Elected at large Board Members shall <del>initially</del> serve <b><u>three year</u></b> terms <b><u>and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term.</u></b> <del>of 3 years, 2 years, and 1 year, respectively. Thereafter, Board Members elected to fill the single vacancy arising annually shall serve 3-year terms. Thus, one-third shall be replaced each year. Elected at large Board Members shall be eligible for re-election.</del></p> <p><i>This change was to clarify the new length of terms for each of the three Board members (compared to the officers).</i></p>
Section 3	Terms of office for the Executive Board members shall begin at the close of the annual business meeting and continue until their successors are installed.
Section 4	The Board shall be the executive body of the Association and shall have the responsibility of administering Association affairs.
Article VI	Meetings
Section 1	The time and place of the regular annual meeting and of all special meetings shall be chosen by the Executive Board.
Section 2	<p><del>Notice of time and place of all meetings shall be mailed to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to such a meeting.</del> <b><u>All members shall be given at least thirty (30) days notice, either electronically or via a postal service, of the time and place of meetings.</u></b></p> <p><i>This change in wording was meant to reflect the change in communication means available now.</i></p>
Article VII	Amendments
Section 1	<p>Amendments to the constitution may be effected by two-thirds of the voting members at a regular or special business meeting. <del>Such amendments will be mailed to all voting members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.</del> <b><u>Proposed amendments may be listed on the official Association website, with an electronic or postal notice being sent at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and the balloting.</u></b> Those members unable to attend the meeting may cast their ballots by mail. <b><u>Mail-in ballots must be received by the Secretary no later than ten (10) days prior to the meeting to</u></b> <del>All such mail ballots received by the Secretary-Treasurer no later than ten (10) days prior to the meeting will be counted along with</del> <b><u>those ballots cast</u></b> <del>the voting members at the meeting</del> <b><u>by the members present.</u></b></p>



## Section 2

Amendments to the constitution may also be effected by two-thirds of the voting members through a postal vote. Proposed amendments will be mailed to all voting members or listed on the official Association website at least thirty (30) days prior to the postal vote. The Secretary shall mail ballots to the members eligible to vote. Members must return their ballots to the Secretary within 20 days of the transmittal of ballots.

*The changes in Section 1 and the addition of Section 2 is meant to reflect the changes in means of communication available today, and to clarify deadlines for submission of ballot votes.*

As amended ~~May 12, 1996~~ **December 15, 2004**

## BY-LAWS

### Article I

#### Membership

#### Section 1

Membership applications shall be submitted to the **Executive Board member in charge of membership issues** ~~Secretary-Treasurer~~ on a form authorized by the Association, and signed by the applicant and at least one member in good standing, **and be accompanied by a resume or curriculum vitae.**

*It was felt that a formalized method of application for membership should be spelled out with the By-Laws.*

#### Section 2

~~Completed applications will be forwarded to the Executive Board for review. The Executive Board~~ **member in charge of membership** will **act upon applications for membership based in accordance with the decision of the Executive Board as defined in Article III, Section 2a of the Constitution.** ~~in turn, act upon all applications for membership.~~

*The change in wording here is simply meant to clarify the new process that the Board wishes to institute for the application process.*

#### Section 3

Membership in this Association shall be terminated by the Executive Board for the following reasons:

- a. For conduct unbecoming a professional individual.
- b. For nonpayment of dues by **March 1** ~~the start of the Annual Conference.~~

*To make it easier on the conference hosting facility to know whether a person registering is entitled to the "member" rate it was necessary to specify a date by which a person needs to have paid their dues.*

- c. When requested by the member.

### Article II

#### Dues and Finances

#### Section 1

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30. Members shall pay annual dues for the next fiscal year in an amount specified by **the Executive Board** ~~voting members~~ of the Association at the Annual Meeting of the current fiscal year in accordance with Article IV, Section 1. All dues shall become payable by **March 1** ~~June 30~~

of the current fiscal year. ~~Payment of the annual dues after June 30th shall invoke assessment of a Late Fee in an amount specified the preceding year by the members of the Association at the Annual Meeting.~~ The Executive Board shall be authorized to waive membership dues partially or entirely in cases of hardship and upon retirement because of age.

*Due to the decision of the membership to make our Late Fee equal to \$0, it is now time to remove any wording regarding the Late Fee.*

## Section 2

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of or be ~~distributable~~ **distributed** to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Articles II and III, hereof, **and reimburse the Executive Board for reasonable expenses, excluding salaries, associated with the execution of their duties set forth in Article III.** No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an Association exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by any Association, contributions to which are deductible under Section 1760(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law).

*This is an attempt to deal with the use of money from the organization to provide for student travel and/or presentation awards; gifts given to conference hosts and/or people that worked for them, session chairs, President's as they become Past-Presidents, etc.; software needed for the running on the business of the Association; etc.*

## Section 3

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for educational or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Executive Board shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of Common Pleas of the country in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## Article III

### Duties of Officers

## Section 1

The President shall preside at all meetings; shall serve as Chairman of the Executive Board; shall appoint all committees and at the conclusion of his/her term of office, shall serve for 1 year as a member of the Executive Board.

## Section 2

The President-Elect shall:

- a. Become Acting-President to fill out the un-expired term if, for any reason, the President and Past President should be unable to fulfill the duties of office.
- b. Become President of the Association and shall serve as President after the President has completed his/her term of office.
- c. Serve as Chairman of the Program Committee for the annual meeting.

## Section 3

~~The Secretary-Treasurer shall record complete minutes of the~~ **any meetings of the Executive Board and the annual** business meeting; shall sign all legal documents; **and** shall be custodian of all properties of the Association. **The Secretary is responsible for mailing copies of the proceedings to members who did not attend the annual conference and for correspondence from members of the Association to the board, with libraries and institutions, and with non-members via the website or sent directly to the Executive Board.**; ~~shall make at least one annual billing for dues, receive all fees, dues, and contributions; shall pay all debts of the Association subject to approval of the Executive Board; shall forward to the Executive Committee applications for membership; shall send a notice of the annual business meeting to all members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date; shall prepare a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year, and this budget, in final form, shall be ratified by the Executive Board and shall submit a Treasurer's report for auditing at the annual business meeting; shall assist the editor of the newsletter in publishing and posting the newsletter.~~

*The change in wording for this section is meant to reflect the change from the combined Secretary-Treasurer position to the single Secretary position and the responsibilities of that single position.*

## Section 4

The Past President shall serve on the Executive Board and shall become Acting-President to fill out the un-expired term if, for any reason, the President should be unable to fulfill the duties of that office.

## Section 5

**The Treasurer shall make one billing for dues; receive all fees, dues, and contributions; shall pay all debts of the Association subject to approval by the Executive Board; shall prepare a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year, and this budget, in final form, shall be, if necessary, modified, and ratified by the Executive Board; shall submit a Treasurer's report for auditing at the annual business meeting; shall prepare a final budget for the coming fiscal year and final accounting of the current fiscal year for publication in the newsletter following the end of the fiscal year; and shall prepare and submit the appropriate tax returns within the required time frames.**

*This section has been added to reflect the change from the combined Secretary-Treasurer position to the single position of Treasurer and the duties associated with that position.*

## Article IV

Duties of the Executive Board

### Section 1

The Executive Board shall be the governing body of this Association; ~~shall appoint the Newsletter Editor;~~ shall give majority approval of all bills; shall act upon all membership applications; shall act upon all petitions for Life Member status; shall receive reports of all

committees; ~~shall recommend to the membership of the Association, for action,~~ **shall determine** the levels of membership Dues and related Late Fee to be levied in the year following the current Annual Meeting; shall have the power to remove any member from any appointed post **by a simple majority vote by the total board membership or from any elected post by a two-thirds majority vote by the total board membership**; shall have the authority to revoke membership in the Association by a unanimous vote of members; shall have the authority to waive membership dues partially or entirely; and shall carry out all other required actions appropriate to its role.

*The newsletter editor position will no longer be an appointed position, but rather one of the three Board member positions that are elected positions. The change in wording is also to allow the Board, instead of the membership, to set the dues. This changes has been suggested so that the dues notices can be sent out earlier which would allow the Treasurer to more effectively deal with the finances of the Association.*

- Section 2                      A majority of the members of the Executive Board must be present to constitute a quorum.
- Article V                     Meetings
- Section 1                     The annual business and scientific meeting shall be held at appropriate times and places as determined by the Executive Board.
- Section 2                     Special meetings may be called by the President. The time and place of such meetings shall be selected by the Executive Board
- Section 3                     At least **Fifteen (15)** ~~twenty (20)~~ percent of the full membership **eligible to vote**, ~~but in no case less than twelve (12) members~~ shall constitute a quorum.

*Due to the recent trend in the number of members that are attending the conference, it was suggested that the percentage be changed to allow for voting to occur at the annual business meeting held at the conference. This would help to minimize the number of times some type of mail out of ballot would need to be done.*

- Article VI                    Order of Business
- Section 1                    The order of business at the annual meeting shall be as follows:
- a.        Call to order
  - b.        Reading of the minutes
  - c.        Unfinished business
  - d.        Board and Committee reports
  - e. ~~Setting of annual dues and late fee~~
  - f.        New business
  - g.        Nominations
  - h.        Election of officers
  - i.        Induction of officers
  - j.        Adjournment

*The removal of this item reflects the change in the Board setting the annual dues.*

## Article VII

### Elections

#### Section 1

The Association shall elect (by ballot or other acceptable voting method) at the annual meeting members to fill vacant positions within the Executive Board. ~~the following officers: President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and one member to serve on the Executive Board.~~

*Since the number of vacant positions on the board can be highly variable (as seen over the last several years) it seemed necessary to simplify the wording of this section.*

#### Section 2

A nomination committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board, and it shall be their duty to prepare a list of agreeable nominees who shall have consented to serve if elected for all elective offices. This list shall be forwarded to all Members, Life Members, and Honorary Life Members thirty (30) days prior to the annual business meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by any Member, Life Member, or Honorary Life Member in good standing.

#### Section 3

A majority vote by those members eligible to vote and present at the annual meeting shall be necessary to elect the officers and Board Members from the nominees proposed by the Nominating Committee or by nomination from the floor.

## Article VIII

### Parliamentary Procedure

#### Section 1

All parliamentary proceedings at the meetings of this Association, its boards or committees shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, except where otherwise provided in these By-laws.

#### Section 2

A parliamentarian may be appointed by the President at any regular or special meeting of the Association and shall serve in an advisory capacity.

## Article IX

### Amendments

#### Section 1

With prior notification by the Executive Board, amendment of these By-laws may be effected by two-thirds of the voting members at a regular or special business meeting providing said amendment is read at the opening business session prior to the scientific program of the annual meeting or by mailing such amendments to all members eligible to vote at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting.

#### Section 2

**With prior notification by the Executive Board, amendments of these By-laws may be effected by two-thirds of the voting members through a postal vote. A postcard will be mailed, at least thirty (30) days prior to the postal vote, to each voting member to inform them that proposed amendments are listed on the official Association website. The Secretary shall mail ballots to the members eligible to vote. Members must return their ballots to the Secretary within twenty (20) days of the transmittal of ballots.**

*This section has been added to reflect the changes in means of communication available in today's society.*

As amended through ~~April 29, 2001~~ **December 15, 2004**

## **Explanation of the Secretary/Treasurer Report submitted by Don W. Stremme**

This is my last year as Secretary/Treasurer, so I'll soon be saying goodbye. I would like to add a comment about this position. This position is too much work for any one volunteer. I want to encourage you to vote to split this position into separate secretary and separate treasurer positions.

When trying to understand the proposed budget and then the actual income/expense report, it is necessary to keep a few things in mind. The fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30th. The annual conference is usually in May. Expenses related to the annual conference such as student travel and paper awards, proceedings and the membership directory can fall into either year. It is therefore somewhat difficult to compare items fairly. For example, the student auction money would be from the current year, but the student award costs may include some from the previous year.

This year the membership dues category is the most difficult to follow, due to changes in how and when dues were collected. Membership dues should be paid by July 1st for the upcoming membership year. The current process requires us to set the dues at the annual business meeting and THEN in the next 4-6 weeks send out dues notices and collect dues (it is almost impossible, and I think this needs to be changed). In the past a late fee was charged to try to encourage members to pay on time. We voted to make it \$0 last year. Historically about ½ of the membership dues are paid on time and ½ are paid late. That didn't change even though a late fee was no longer charged.

There was a problem with non-paid members trying to pay their membership fees at the last minute to get the member's conference rate. Changes are being recommended to avoid this complication next year (see constitutional changes proposal).

In order to save money and keep dues low, we decided to try to "go electronic" where possible, as many other organizations are doing. As you can see from the expense/income balance sheet, we'll save a lot of money in postage and printing with this change. For the transition this year, we distributed both printed proceedings and proceedings on CD-ROM. We think the membership was happy with this. Next year we will be sending out ONLY the CD-ROM version to members who didn't attend the annual conference. ONLY members attending the conference will receive printed proceedings (and the CD-ROM version) starting with the upcoming Galveston conference. There will be no more printed newsletters either. They will be uploaded onto the website in a members only area when ready. We will then send out an e-mail announcement telling you they are ready. For this reason, it is very important to keep your e-mail address current.

To try to end confusion with membership records and changes, we decided to have members download the form from the website (thus saving postage) and then send it directly to the membership board member (this year Dr. Berzins). S/he would then make all the necessary changes and send the dues to the secretary/treasurer to be deposited into the bank. NOTE: Some of you made your checks payable to Dr. Berzins (lucky her!) or the Florida Aquarium. This is incorrect! Dues are to be paid to either "IAAAM" or the "International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine". For those who use a computerized check writing system, please make these changes now, so it is correct for next year.

Since we hadn't resolved the issue of contacting members by email and it took longer than expected to post the membership renewal form, practically no one paid on time this year. Only those who paid during the annual conference were really "on time". That makes a big difference in the income/expense balance sheet for this year. Normally about ½ of the members have paid by July 1st (that is usually \$6,000-8,000 in addition to the same amount paid late from the proceeding year - so the dues amount should be \$12-15,000). This didn't come in until

**(Secretary/Treasurer Report continued)**

after July 1st, so it doesn't show up in the dues category as it was expected to and budgeted. I expect this to correct itself next year.

Following are some more notes about the budget and expense/income report included in this newsletter. I will try to do this in order, so it is easier to follow.

**Conference Income and Expense:** For several years, we received a "gift" from the conference host, which was a profit generated during the conference. In both Portugal and Hawaii this did not occur, so I had budgeted \$1,000 but we received nothing. Generally, IAAAM doesn't incur any expense related to the annual conference; however, this year the membership indicated the desire to include students at the annual banquet. DolphinQuest charged us an additional \$750 for this, besides all the tickets that had been turned in for students.

**Auction:** We aim for \$3,000 income here to cover the student travel and paper awards.

**Bank Fees and Interest and Credit Card expenses:** The bank interest has been dropping over the past 2-3 years. Most of the money is kept in a higher interest bearing money market account. Two years ago the membership voted to accept credit cards to make paying membership fees easier, especially for non-USA residents. In all my research, the best I could do (since we have no permanent address - this seems fishy to most banks), was to have a system with fees adding up to about \$1,000/year to cover the credit card machine lease and other fees related to accepting cards. The percentage and fees are higher, since we don't have a permanent address and since we don't have high ticket items (only \$40 or less) and fees charged are higher for non-US charges. In fact, the only reason I could convince a bank to give us a credit card account was by using my own business account as leverage. The reason I mention all of this, is because I have had complaints from some members that we are paying too much for the privilege of accepting credit cards. If any members can find something more inexpensive, we'd be willing to try to make it work. PayPal was more inexpensive but in the end didn't work for most people. The income listed here is interest on the money market account and the expenses listed include the credit card expenses and monthly bank fees for having an account. All of this is combined, so cannot be separated out. We are getting larger and are an international association. To me there is no question. We must accept credit cards and we must accept the fees necessary to do so.

**CD-ROM sales:** In the past we have received a royalty for CD-ROM sales of past conferences. This year we received nothing.

I think the committee expenses are self-explanatory, and I have already discussed the dues issue above.

**Newsletters:** There is a huge drop in the newsletter costs, since we went electronic. We save printing and postage expenses and a lot of work.

**Proceedings:** Some proceedings are sold to non-members, hence the income. I am not sure this will continue - at least not the printed version. Each year we must try to estimate the number of proceedings needed based on the paid membership and estimate of the number of conference registrants. This is not an easy task. Libraries like to purchase printed proceedings. We may not have enough to sell next year, but will take this into consideration. This year there were more non-members present at the conference than expected, so we needed more proceedings printed. This more than tripled the price of the second printing proceedings.

**Membership Directory:** We had decided to keep the membership directory and proceedings separate, so that only members have both. Since that decision was made, we may have printed our last membership directory. It will be easier and cheaper to keep this on line in the members-only area.

**Student Awards:** The student awards indicates only the travel awards for the Hawaii conference. The paper awards for Portugal were billed and paid last year and the Hawaii awards were billed and paid after this current fiscal year, so it will show up in next year's income/expense summary.

**Education:** When I first joined the board, they had \$3,000 budgeted for development of an educational CD-ROM on aquatic animal health. I kept including it each year, but nothing has happened. This year I considered leaving it out of the budget, but since it may eventually appear, I left it in.

## 2002/03 Fiscal Year Income/Expense Summary

		Budget Category		Income	Expense	Net Balance		
Budget for FY 2003		Opening Balance				\$69,977.82	Budget for FY 2004	
Income	Expense						Income	Expense
\$1,000.00		Annual Conference (Hawaii)		\$0.00	-\$750.00	-\$750.00	\$0.00	
\$3,000.00		Auction Proceeds (Hawaii)		\$2,048.00		\$2,048.00	\$3,000.00	
\$0.00		Wet Labs		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
\$1,200.00	-\$100.00	Bank Transactions		\$771.75	-\$886.64	-\$114.89	\$900.00	-\$100.00
	-\$1,000.00	Bank Credit Card Costs						-\$1000.00
\$500.00		CD-ROM Sales		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$240.00	
	-\$200.00	Awards Committee			-\$171.30	-\$171.30		-\$600.00
	-\$400.00	AVMA Liaison Committee			-\$301.75	-\$301.75		-\$400.00
	-\$100.00	Comm/Publ. Committee			\$0.00	\$0.00		-\$100.00
	-\$1,300.00	Computer Committee			-\$913.48	-\$913.48		-\$1,000.00
	-\$1,100.00	Executive Committee						-\$1,100.00
	\$0.00	Student Liaison Committee			-\$44.80	-\$44.80		-\$50.00
\$16,400.00		Dues Total	\$9,247.11	\$9,247.11		\$9,247.11	\$14,275.00	
\$0.00		Late Fees	\$20.00	\$20.00		\$20.00	\$0.00	
	-\$3,000.00	Newsletter			-\$1,237.61	-\$1,237.61		-\$1,000.00
		Postage \$493.98						
		Printing \$743.63						
	-\$5,000.00	Proceedings		\$175.00	-\$6,143.84	-\$5,968.84		-\$3,000.00
		Postage \$370.84						
		Printing \$4,948.00						
		CD-ROM \$825.00						
	-\$1,350.00	Directory			-\$1,071.00	-\$1,071.00		-\$800.00
	-\$550.00	Secretary/Treasurer			-\$513.83	-\$513.83		-\$600.00
	-\$3,000.00	Students Awards			-\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00		-\$3,000.00
	-\$3,000.00	Education			\$0.00	\$0.00		-\$3,000.00
\$22,100.00	-\$20,100.00	TOTALS for FY 2003		\$12,261.86	-\$14,034.25	\$1,772.39	\$18,415.00	-\$15,750.00
		Balance on Hand				\$68,205.43		



## Summary of 2002/03 Fiscal Year

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS	June 30, 2002	June 30, 2003
Checking Account	\$6,490.79	\$3,946.65
Certificate of Deposit	\$63,487.03	\$64,258.78
TOTAL ASSETS	\$69,977.82	\$68,205.43

## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Veterinary Intern in Zoological and Aquatic Animal Medicine**  
**Lincoln Park Zoo and Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, IL USA**  
**Posting period: September 5, 2003 - November 30, 2003**

**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:** Under the direction of staff veterinarians, assist in the implementation of the zoo's preventive health program. The internship is designed to further professional development through participation in all aspects of zoological medicine, including health and husbandry. This is a 12 to 18 month position shared between Lincoln Park Zoo and Shedd Aquarium.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include: case assessment, safe immobilization techniques, diagnostics, and development and implementation of treatment plans and surgery. Perform gross necropsies and post mortem diagnostics in coordination with the Zoo Pathology Program. Coordinate with veterinary staff, husbandry staff, and appropriate consultants to assess nutritional needs of select animals in the collection. Complete two scientific papers suitable for publication and a project at each institution, the scope and subject of which will be determined jointly by the intern and veterinary staff. Prepare and present pathology rounds to the animal care staff. Prepare and present at least two other informal seminars to the animal care staff at each institution. Conduct educational programs for staff and students. Conduct tours and speak with the public. Assist in supervising the veterinary student externs.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Candidates must possess a DVM degree and be licensed to practice in the state of Illinois. Must possess or be eligible to possess a DEA license and accreditation by the USDA. Veterinary experience in a zoological setting or other non-domestic veterinary or animal husbandry experience strongly desired. Preference will be given to candidates who have completed an internship or have been employed at least one year in a clinical setting. Significant, demonstrated interest in the field of zoological medicine is required with preference given to applicants with a concentration in infectious disease. Strong written and verbal communication skills required. You must be available to work all necessary hours including all shifts, weekends, holidays, and special events. Candidates must submit resume, letter of intent, application, veterinary school transcript, and names and contact information for three references.

Human Resources Department - Vet Intern  
Lincoln Park Zoo, P.O. Box 14903  
Chicago, IL 60614  
FAX: (312) 742-2299  
(No phone calls please.)

For a printable version of our application, visit our website at <http://www.lpzoo.com> Lincoln Park Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Cover letters and applications are required with all resumes.

**(Position Announcements continued)**

**Veterinary Fellow  
The Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur (MMCC/FM)  
Los Angeles, CA USA**

**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:** The MMCC/FM is a non-profit rehabilitation center located in Los Angeles, California, treating primarily seals and sea lions (50-400 animals per year) for release back into the wild. This position is a two-year, grant-funded position. Salary is non-negotiable at \$49,000/yr.; benefits are excellent; status is Exempt.

**DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** The Veterinary Fellow will work directly with the MMCC/FM staff and under the supervision of consulting veterinarians to oversee animal intake assessment, perform diagnostic and pre-release evaluations and ensure the increased quality of care and health of each animal. He/she will be expected to utilize on-site facilities to perform baseline diagnostics, routine treatments and surgical treatment options. The Veterinary Fellow will perform comprehensive necropsies or supervise veterinary technicians and/or volunteers in the sampling process and be ultimately responsible for documentation of gross post-mortem findings. He/she will oversee the appropriate handling and shipping of these samples to an outside laboratory. The Veterinary Fellow will be expected to help produce professional quality publications and presentations for dissemination at conferences, meetings, and appropriate public forums. He/she will assist staff with volunteer and veterinary student training, help to update written procedural guidelines, and initiate collaborative opportunities with other facilities. In the absence of the Operations Manager, the Veterinary Fellow may be asked to perform other duties.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** An ideal candidate must possess a valid California Veterinary License; have been in practice for one-two years, have marine mammal experience in a rehabilitation, research or captive setting, demonstrate a proven ability to work independently yet effectively with volunteers, and be adept at performing medical procedures in a rehabilitation setting such as (but not limited to): venipuncture, radiology, ultrasound, surgery and the administration of anesthesia. This person will have the ability to work with animals ranging in size from 20-600 pounds. He/she will also be able to perform necropsies and/or instruct veterinary technicians or volunteer staff in appropriate sampling techniques.

Please mail a letter of application, resume (including references) and letters of recommendation to:

Jackie Jaakola, Director  
Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur  
3601 S. Gaffey St.  
San Pedro, CA 90731

You may address questions by email at [jackjaak@aol.com](mailto:jackjaak@aol.com)

The candidate search will close when the appropriate candidate is found. This position is scheduled to receive funding in early 2004.

**VETERINARY INTERNSHIP / RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN AQUATIC ANIMAL MEDICINE  
AT MYSTIC AQUARIUM**

With the assistance of both external and in house funding the Research and Veterinary Services Department of Mystic Aquarium, a division of Sea Research Foundation, is sponsoring a one-year internship/research opportunity in aquatic animal medicine. Applicants for the internship should be graduates of an AVMA accredited veterinary college or ECFVG certified. Preference will be given to applicants with graduate degrees and/or postgraduate clinical experience in a practice or internship setting. Entry level familiarity with ultrasound, radiology and endoscopy systems is expected. The stipend for the position is \$23,500 per annum plus benefits.

**(Position Announcements continued)**

The successful applicant will assist the research, veterinary, and husbandry staffs in the diagnosis and treatment of medical cases from the Aquarium's extensive collection of invertebrates, fresh and saltwater fishes, penguins, seals, sea lions, and beluga whales. In addition the intern will participate in our rescue, rehabilitation, and release program for stranded marine mammals and turtles. Collateral opportunities at cooperating area academic, government, and private industry laboratories are possible and encouraged. The intern will have an opportunity to develop teaching skills by his/her involvement in the Aquarium's veterinary externship program and at informal seminars. The intern will be expected to pursue one or more clinical or research interests and to prepare the results for presentation to our staff and at an appropriate professional meeting as well as for publication in the peer reviewed literature. Past interns have gone on to acceptance into well-recognized graduate/residency programs or employment in the field of aquatic, comparative, or zoological medicine. Applicants should submit the following material to:

DR. J. LAWRENCE DUNN  
STAFF VETERINARIAN  
MYSTIC AQUARIUM  
55 COOGAN BLVD.  
MYSTIC, CT 06355

**Three Tenure Track Positions Available in Biological Sciences Department  
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS**

The Department of Biological Sciences (<http://www.usm.edu/biology>) is accepting applications at this time for three positions that will begin fall 2004. Specifics about each position are given below. Opportunities for collaboration and access to additional research facilities are available through the Mississippi Functional Genomics Network (<http://mfgn.usm.edu>). The successful candidate must have a proven research and publication record, the ability to develop an externally funded research program, and a commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education. Postdoctoral experience preferred.

**Position 1: BIOINFORMATICS / COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY**

We are seeking an individual with strong credentials in computational approaches to fundamental problems in biology. Areas of interest may include, but are not limited to, molecular evolution, gene interaction/ regulation, complex systems biology, and genomics. Send curriculum vitae, statement of research and teaching interests, up to three representative reprints, and names and addresses of three references by December 15, 2003, to Dr. Glen Shearer, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5018. AA/EOE/ADA

**Position 2: CELL BIOLOGIST**

The Department of Biological Sciences is expanding research and teaching capabilities in the area of cell and molecular biology. Send curriculum vitae, statement of research and teaching interests, up to three representative reprints, and names and addresses of three references by December 15, 2003, to Dr. Shiao Wang, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5018. AA/EOE/ADA

**Position 3: FISH ECOLOGIST**

The Department of Biological Sciences is home to one of the larger fish collections in the Southeast region with nearly 30,000 species lots and 500,000 specimens representing approximately 600 freshwater and marine species. A 3,000-square-foot Wet Lab Facility, including environmental chambers, and storage buildings with field equipment and boats, are available. Mississippi is home to an abundance of research opportunities as well as an extensive network of collaborators at other institutions and state and federal agencies. Send curriculum vitae, statement of research and teaching interests, up to three representative reprints, and names and addresses of three references by December 15, 2003, to Dr. Brian R. Kreiser, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5018. AA/EOE/ADA

# **REPORTS FROM THE AVMA COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

## **Animal Agricultural Liaison Committee (AALC) of the AVMA submitted by Stephen A. Smith**

At the September 11-12, 2003 meeting of the Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee (AALC) of the AVMA, some of the aquatic medicine issues that were discussed or noted included the following:

\* The Minor Use/Minor Species (MUMS) amendment still looms on the horizon. The bill is due for mark-up by the Senate committee in October 2003. Strong efforts have been made to counter the initial negative publicity MUMS encounter. This bill is still strongly supported by the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA) and the Aquaculture and Seafood Advisory Committee (ASAC) of the AVMA, and the aquatic and aquaculture community.

\* The USDA/APHIS continues to monitor the Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) situation in Maine. State and federal officials confirmed an outbreak of ISA, a foreign animal disease in the United States, at a Maine salmon farm in June, 2003. This was despite efforts to control the disease after a series of outbreaks in 2001 that ended in the depopulation of more than 2.6 million farmed fish in 2002. The ISA virus was detected June 11 in one cage housing 28,000 market-size fish at a farm operated by Heritage Salmon in Cobscook Bay, according to the Maine Department of Marine Resources. All 28,000 fish were depopulated and no other salmon at this or any other farm in the area have tested positive for the disease. The current outbreak is a blow to an industry still recovering from the ISA outbreak that spanned nine months in 2001 and ended with the depopulation of 2.6 million farmed fish in Cobscook Bay in January 2002. These outbreaks cost the Maine salmon industry at least \$24 million, according to estimates by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the agency leading ISA surveillance and control efforts in Maine.

\* The USDA/APHIS also continues to monitor for Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC) virus, another foreign animal disease of aquatics in the United States. At present, no new outbreaks of SVC have been reported in U.S. aquaculture facilities since the June, 2002 outbreak.

\* A session on aquatic animal medicine was presented at the 2003 AVMA Annual Convention, July 19-23 in Denver, Colorado. Speakers included Drs. John Clifford, Otis Miller, Ruth Francis-Floyd, Roy Yanong, Ilze Berzins, Michael Walsh and Allen Riggs with topics ranging from sea turtles to marine mammals to pet fish.

\*The Aquaculture and Seafood Advisory Committee (ASAC) of the AVMA held their last meeting September 5-6, 2003 in Schaumburg, IL. Major items discussed included the new ISA outbreak in Maine, update on MUMS legislation, certificates of veterinary inspection, and a proposed epidemiological surveillance workshop to be presented by the authors of the new epidemiology chapters in the OIE Manual.

\* The 29th annual Eastern Fish Health Workshop will be held March 22 - 26, 2004 at the Royal Pavilion Resort and Conference Center in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. Special sessions will include helminths of fish, emergent issues associated with the health of tropical fishes and tropical reefs, largemouth bass virus, and issues associated with aquatic animal diagnostics. There will also be a one day CE course on Tumor Biology in Fish. Those desiring more information should contact the program organizer, Dr. Rocco Cipriano (rocco\_cipriano@usgs.gov).

\* The 34th annual conference of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) will be held April 4-11, 2004 in Galveston, TX. For more information please contact the Program Chair, Dr. Laurie Gage (Wetwildvet@aol.com) or the IAAAM web site at [www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org).

**(Reports from the AVMA Committee Representatives continued)**

**AVMA Committee on Environmental Issues (CEI)  
Report Drawn from the Minutes of the October 12-13 2002 & February 8-9, 2003 Meetings  
and Subsequent Actions  
submitted by Val Beasley**

**AVMA Executive Board Actions on Previous CEI Recommendations**

**AVMA Position on Control of Environmental Contamination:** The AVMA Executive Board approved the CEI recommendation from October pertaining to reducing contaminant exposures from at their November 14-16 meeting. The motion read as follows: *"The AVMA supports legislation to prevent toxicological problems in wildlife, domestic animal, and human populations through prioritized source reductions and mitigation, both domestically and internationally."*

**AVMA Policy on Eligibility for Service as a Governmental Representative on AVMA Councils and Committees:** Following on from a request from the CEI after the October meeting, the AVMA Long Range Planning Committee submitted a recommendation on criteria for government service positions on AVMA councils and committees. Their recommendation was amended and passed by the Executive Board. The text of the recommendation as passed is: *"Individuals will be eligible to represent government service if they are currently employed as such, or have not been out of government service for more than one year at the time of appointment."*

**AVMA Position on Environmental Responsibility:** In February, the CEI submitted a motion to the Executive Board requesting approval of the following revised AVMA position on the concept of environmental responsibility. It was approved as follows: *"Environmental Responsibility, The AVMA supports environmental responsibility, including:*

- 1. Education of veterinarians and the public on the importance of rehabilitation and maintenance of a healthy environment using cost analysis and science-based, peer-reviewed information;*
- 2. Understanding control, and prevention of the environmental impacts of chemicals, and medical and animal wastes;*
- 3. Promotion of scientifically-based, environmentally sensitive practices of veterinary medicine to ensure a viable ecosystem for future generations."*

**AVMA Position on Veterinary Wastes:** In February, the CEI submitted a motion to the Executive Board requesting approval of a revised AVMA position on veterinary wastes. The Executive Board amended the requested version slightly and approved the following position statement: *"The AVMA encourages research to establish a scientific characterization of veterinary wastes, identify any risks, and define methods to eliminate or minimize those risks."*

**AVMA Position on Agricultural Waste Management:** In February, the CEI discussed the total maximum daily load (TMDL) issues and approved a motion to the Executive Board for a revision in the AVMA policy. It was approved. The new position is: *"The AVMA supports the basic premises of the Clean Water Act, Joint Strategy, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rule, recognizing that excessive wastes entering waterways from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are undesirable, and that reasonable approaches to keeping animal wastes out of waterways are inherently worthwhile. Thus, the AVMA supports:*

- Voluntary incentives for best waste management practices;*
- State-based education, outreach, and extension programs; and*
- Research on animal waste management and water quality, including veterinary involvement; and*

## **(V. Beasley Report continued)**

*The AVMA urges state VMAs to develop outreach programs that target prevention of agricultural waste problems through formation of strategic partnerships with:*

*State Cooperative Extension Service and Land-Grant colleges*  
*State Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection*  
*Local VMAs*  
*State producer group affiliates*  
*Farm Bureau*  
*4-H*  
*Other relevant groups"*

### **Aquaculture Effluent Regulations:**

EPA—The AVMA submitted comments to the EPA on the effluents from aquaculture facilities. The CEI indicated that it is not appropriate for EPA to assess drug usage in these facilities although it is appropriate to assess the effluents coming out of them. The guidelines should not interfere with veterinarians' efforts to control diseases in aquaculture production systems provided the use of such drugs presents only insignificant risks to free-ranging animals and the environment.

Maine—The CEI, along with the Aquaculture and Seafood Advisory Committee, recommended that the Board of Governors approve AVMA providing testimony to the Maine Board on Environmental Protection on proposed Maine Pollution Elimination Discharge System permits for aquaculture at a public hearing in Machias, Maine. Dr. David Scarfe, Assistant Director, Scientific Activities Division, briefed the CEI on his testimony on behalf of the AVMA.

Food Animal Production & Accelerated Evolution of Pathogens: There was much discussion on the dilemma of the domestication of animals; the role of veterinary medicine; whether AVMA should facilitate pro-active research and management to avoid acceleration of disease evolution in production systems and whether this is an issue for the CEI. The Committee believes the challenge is to improve management so as to limit emerging diseases, especially as they relate to animal production settings. The discussion will be carried over at the October, 2003 meeting.

Proposed Articles on Waste Management, Carcass Disposal and Medical Waste – Update: The Committee has received approval from the Publications Division Director to prepare and submit for publication in Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association a series of articles on waste management.

### **AVMA Convention Programs:**

2003—CEI member Dr. Scott Haskell will moderate a session at the 2003 annual convention in Denver entitled: CAFOs: Waste Discharge, Nutritional Management, and Carcass Disposal. Roberta Parry from the EPA will speak on the 2002 CAFO rules, and Gregory Albrecht, MSc, from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Cornell University will speak on methods to implement on farm nutrient planning as a requirement of the 2002 CAFO rules.

2004—It was proposed and approved that the CEI present at the 2004 AVMA convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an AM session entitled "Getting Underway in Careers that Improve Wildlife and Ecosystem Health", a PM session entitled "Productive Careers that have Improved Wildlife and Ecosystem Health", and a second day field session entitled "Methods of Assessment to Support Improved Wildlife and Ecological Health".

Feral Cats: After its October 2002 meeting, the CEI began reviewing the AVMA policy on feral cats. While the Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine and Animal Welfare Committee have primary responsibility for this issue, the CEI will contribute to review of this policy. The CEI reviewed the feral cats policy statements of other organizations and will incorporate some of that information into its own draft statement. The

## **(V. Beasley Report continued)**

CEI approved a motion to forward its draft statement and comments to the Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine (CPHRVM) and the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) asking that the draft and comments be considered before the final revised statement goes to the Executive Board. The CEI will continue to gather information on this issue. The CEI in general is very concerned about support of trap, neuter, release programs in the absence of evidence of effectiveness for protection of the welfare of wildlife and the cats themselves.

**Invasive Species:** During the October 2002 meeting the Committee determined it would provide nominations to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The CEI and AVMA staff will monitor the Federal Register for announcements regarding nominations. Committee members will put forth names of potential nominees. Drs. Barrows, Dutton, Beasley, and Haskell will gather information and submit names to AVMA staff.

**Endangered Species Issues:** Florida Manatees, Northwest Salmon

**Florida Manatees**—At the request of the Legislative Advisory Committee, the CEI reviewed the manatee delisting issue. The CEI approved a motion to forward a memorandum to the LAC proposing that the AVMA object to the move by the Fish and Wildlife Service authorizing the incidental taking of small numbers of Florida manatees.

**Northwest Salmon**—The CEI will continue to monitor the potential for disease transmission by the translocation of salmon.

### **AVMA Food Safety Advisory Committee (FSAC) submitted by Kathleen Hughes Hartman**

**Highlights related to Aquatic Animal Food Safety/Public Health topics:** In my report relating to current issues regarding seafood safety, I informed the committee of several recent issues related to public health and seafood products: (1) in Sept. 2003, one shellfish farm in Washington State experienced problems with domoic acid which may cause paralytic shellfish poisoning; (2) in Sept. 2003, imported salmon products were placed under a ban upon finding traces of malachite green compounds in the filets; and (3) continued concerns regarding chloramphenicol residues (as well as others, i.e. OTC, ivermectin in fish filets) in seafood products (i.e. shrimp, crab, crayfish) imported from Asia.

I also emphasized in my report that the major issue regarding seafood safety in the U.S., and one of the biggest concerns for foodfish/shellfish producers in the U.S., is the large quantities of imported products entering the U.S. Though the FDA is testing for some chemical residues in imported products, the use of compounds illegal in this country, but used in other countries, is a major source of frustration and breach of food safety. I mentioned the development of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP), which aims to improve the health of aquatic animals in the U.S. on a national scale. I also mentioned the 2002 Farm Bill which clarifies market names for catfish products. Retailers are now required to inform consumers at the final point of sale as to the country of origin for a product. I discussed the hardships facing the aquaculture industry in the U.S. related to the impact of the negative media attention regarding the use of GM fish and open sea cage farming.

A primary general topic of discussion was the issue of consumer confidence in the U.S. food industry. The committee agreed that it is extremely important to continue the support of research in the areas related to pre-harvest conditions that may reduce zoonotic pathogen loads in the human food supply. An outcome from these discussions was the request to draft white-papers discussing the process from the farm to the consumer for each animal industry (i.e. poultry, swine, beef, dairy and fish). The intention of these papers are to discuss the process, what is currently being done to minimize contamination, and what are the short-falls the industry currently faces regarding food safety.

**(K. H. Hartman report continued)**

The papers will be published in JAVMA as a series and will be revised to target the lay-consumer with possible venues such as "Good Housekeeping". I am soliciting help, input, advice from anyone with knowledge and experience in this area; specifically, seafood HACCP and plant processing.

In addition, I made (am drafting...) recommendations to the draft of the "Compendium of measures to prevent disease and injury associated with animals in public settings 2003", which did not include any specific references to zoonotic diseases related to aquatic animals and human interaction (i.e. *Mycobacterium* sp.). Overall, the committee was quite interested in aquatic animal health and seafood safety and the status of the industry in the U.S.

It is my pleasure to represent the IAAAM. Again, any suggestions with contact information related to the white-papers would be greatly appreciated! The first draft is due Feb 1st. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns related to this report or the FSAC meeting.

## **COURSE AND MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Aquaculture Veterinary Medicine for Practitioners**

Dr. Myron Kebus is the Michigan State Fish Health Veterinarian who directs the state aquatic animal health program. He and his colleagues developed a veterinary-training short-course, Aquaculture Veterinary Medicine for Practitioners with the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, and national fish health experts. It is an intensive program designed to provide practical training in field techniques for sample collection and field diagnostics. The University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine, awards all participants that complete the course 10 continuing education hours that may be used to fulfil legal requirements for licensure in many states. Since April of 1999 he has conducted 13 veterinary training sessions. These sessions have attracted over 60 veterinarians from Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, South Dakota, and of course, Wisconsin. For details on this course contact Dr. Myron Kebus by phone at 608-224-4876 or by email at [myron.kebus@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:myron.kebus@datcp.state.wi.us)

### **Capture and Handling Techniques for Small Odontocetes During Tagging, Health Assessment and Sample Collection**

Date: Sunday, 14 December 2003. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cost: US \$25 prepay, \$30 at the door (To cover equipment expenses, refreshments, and printing of a summary volume) -accommodations will be made for individuals (including students) needing funding assistance for registration cost.

Introduction: The capture-release of odontocetes for tag deployment, as well as clinical assessment of the animal and tissue collection, has become an important component of studies of behavior, range, habitat use, and health and reproductive status of free-ranging animals. There are now numerous programs doing captures around the world on a variety of species.

This workshop will provide a forum for exchange of ideas between researchers, veterinarians and other interested parties on handling and attachment practices during tagging and other capture activities of odontocetes. The emphasis will be on techniques and issues related to animal and human safety and that are common across several species.



## **(Course and Meeting Announcements continued)**

The workshop will open with a series of talks to be followed in the afternoon by group discussion and working groups focused on specific issues. A summary volume will be prepared for publication and distributed to the participants. The talks will include specific examples of capture and handling techniques for a variety of species and circumstances and issues of specific interest to health and well-being of the animals and their handlers. Field experience of capture and handling of: Finless species, General porpoise species, Larger odontocetes, River dolphins, and Delphinid species. Issues related to safe handling of odontocetes: Monitoring of animal during handling, Use of ultrasound in tag attachment, Tagging of pregnant animals, Tag release mechanisms, and Zoonotic diseases.

This workshop provides a valuable opportunity for those who are interested in and/or involved with odontocete tagging projects to meet and exchange ideas and experiences.

**Call for abstracts:** We are soliciting abstracts for oral or poster presentations, which relate to one of the topics stated above or similar topics. Oral presentations will be limited to 15-20 minutes. There will be a poster session during the mid-morning and afternoon breaks and during lunch. If you would like to present at the workshop, please submit an abstract no greater than one page in length that includes the title, submitter's name, affiliation, mailing and e-mail address and phone number to Rod Hobbs or Stephanie Norman by 30 November 2003.

**General Registration:** Please contact one of us to register. Mail prepayment of fee to Rod Hobbs payment can be by cash, check or money order, make checks payable to Rod Hobbs. We will be able to accommodate up to 100 registrants. Registration will be open until 30 November. Walk-ins will be accommodated on the day of the workshop, as space is available.

Roderick Hobbs, Ph.D.  
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Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA  
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Stephanie A. Norman, DVM  
Marine mammal veterinarian  
Protected Resources Division  
National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA  
7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Building 1  
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Phone: 206.526.4747  
Fax: 206.526.6736  
Stephanie.Norman@noaa.gov

The workshop announcement may also be accessed at the following link:

<http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/CetaceanAssessment/smallcetworkshop.htm>

**Meeting on Erysipelas in Cetaceans at the Society for Marine Mammalogy Conference**  
**Coordination of research to advance the understanding and control of this infectious disease in in-situ**  
**and ex-situ populations of cetaceans**  
**Saturday, December 13, 2003 - 1:00 to 5:00**  
**Sheraton Greensboro Hotel**

Although the causative organism of the disease, *Erysipelothrix* sp., is well-characterized in domestic animals, the pathogenesis of erysipelas is poorly understood in marine mammals. Domestic animal research has led to effective preventive measures in the swine and poultry industries, but research into the epidemiology of erysipelas and the associated immunology in cetaceans is limited. At present, little is understood of the disease process or its control in cetaceans. What is known, has primarily been learned from animals in public display and other managed collections.

## **(Course and Meeting Announcements continued)**

In 2000, a workshop at Shedd Aquarium brought together clinicians and research scientists to share information and develop strategies for advancing the study of erysipelas and its control in cetaceans. The objectives of this workshop were: (1) to share knowledge about erysipelas as it affects cetaceans, (2) to develop and prioritize an agenda of research to advance knowledge of the disease, and provide clinicians and collection managers with greater resources to control and prevent it, and (3) to identify funding and support strategies for this research.

A NOAA funded research program will further the agenda of the 2000 Erysipelas workshop. The program will advance the state of knowledge relative to this disease, and afford the knowledge necessary to make important management decisions for managed populations of whales and dolphins and their wild counterparts.

Please join us for an interactive half-day discussion. Respond to either Rhonda Patterson or Jeff Boehm by November 14 to let us know if you will participate.

Jeff Boehm, DVM  
Senior Vice President  
Conservation and Veterinary Services  
John G. Shedd Aquarium  
(312) 692-3234  
jboehm@sheddaquarium.org

Rhonda Patterson, PhD  
Research Scientist  
University of Southern Mississippi  
(601) 266-5710  
rhonda.patterson@usm.edu

## **REQUEST FOR SITE SUGGESTIONS**

The Executive Board and the Site Selection committee would like to ask all of the members of IAAAM to consider making suggestions for future conference sites. Though we have traditionally had our meetings in connection with an aquarium, oceanarium or marine mammal facility, it would be just as interesting for us to consider other venues. Perhaps a university group or a large aquaculture center or a marine biology center or a stranding/rehabilitation facility would consider hosting us in the future. We are trying to offer our members at least two choices for each year, so we are encouraging everyone to seriously think about being one of our future hosts. If you would like to offer to host our meeting or you have a suggestion or two about how could be a host, please contact Sam Dover of the Site Selection committee or one of the members of the Executive Board.

### **\*\*\*\* SPECIAL KUDOS \*\*\*\***

The Executive Board would like to thank Dr. Gregory Bossart for contributing this year at the “sustaining member” level.

The Newsletter of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is published four times a year (January, April, August, and November). An annual conference is held every year in the spring and proceedings from that conference are mailed out in June or July to those not in attendance. The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health.

Newsletter submissions are welcomed, although the newsletter editor and the IAAAM board reserve the right to edit and/or refuse the publication of any submissions. The deadlines for submissions are December 1, March 1, July 1, and October 1. Submissions should be made in WORDPERFECT, RTF (Rich Text Format), or WORD format. For submissions contact Rhonda Patterson, Newsletter Editor, at USM Box 5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5018; phone (601-266-5710); fax (601-266-5797); or email (Rhonda.Patterson@iaaam.org).

For membership information, including dues payment, and address changes

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