



IAAAM NEWS

**Volume 38, Number 4,
November (December) 2007**

Craig Harms, Editor

www.iaaam.org

Mission: To advance the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health, encourage the free exchange of knowledge in the interest of improving the health care and husbandry of domestic aquatic animals, and promote the proper conservation and management of wild aquatic animals.

What's Inside This Edition?

Message from the President.....	2
Message from our conference hosts in Italy (with 2008 conference information).....	3
Call for Student Travel Award Applications.....	11
New ACZM Diplomates.....	13
AVMA Council on Environmental Issues Report.....	13
Upcoming Meetings and Education Opportunities.....	14
Membership Information.....	16
Contribution, Committee, and Contact Information.....	17

Important Dates:

**IAAAM 39th Annual Conference
Rome, Italy, 10 – 14 May, 2008**

Abstract deadline: 25 February, 2008

**IAAAM 40th Annual Conference
San Antonio, Texas, 2009**

**IAAAM 41st Annual Conference
Vancouver, Canada, 2010**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall has finally arrived in the Northeast. Spring will be here before we know it. Our president-elect, Tom Reidarson, has been working hard with our Zoomarine-Rome hosts on the coast in Torvaianica near Pomezia (about 25km from Roma) to make the upcoming conference a memorable one. The dates are set, so you can start thinking about your conference registration and travel plans. I envy those of you who can linger in Europe a week or two after the conference.

The IAAAM board members work hard for this organization. All of us met for two days in a conference room in Chicago last month to work on some pressing issues. The major issue was how to handle the generous matching funds offered by two of our members, Jay Hyman and Jay Sweeney. These will form the basis of the William Medway Student Endowment. Our treasurer, Julie Tepper, spent a lot of time reading through IRS rules and regulations and obtained advice from an accounting firm to be sure we are within the law for this. Our past president, Bill Van Bonn, not only offered the free meeting space, but also was able to ask the CFO from Shedd, Joyce Simon, to join us and give us advice on this exciting situation. All of this information was very helpful. We formed a student endowment oversight committee to manage the funds. We aren't quite finished with all the arrangements, but are nearly there. We hope to have the set up finished by the next newsletter.

We also discussed the challenges associated with our website. We made a decision to change the board member at large who is responsible for the newsletter to a communications board member. This will include an online newsletter (probably content on the web site) and managing the web site via an outside web host. We are looking for a web host who can provide the missing services such as automatic on line payment, allowing members to access and change their personal information directly, etc. Part of this plan is to make the archival and current proceedings available and searchable to members and others online. We hope to have this change up and running within the next year.

We also spent many hours developing a Policy and Procedures Manual. We have had attempts at this in the past, but nothing was complete. Much of this information is passed down from board member to board member and needs to be written down. Like the Conference Planning Manual, it will be a living document constantly changed by the current board members. Bill Van Bonn has offered to collect all of the information written during this meeting and put together the PPM.

During all of this planning and discussion, we noticed the Constitution and By-Laws will again require some minor revisions. We'll soon make those suggestions available on the web site for discussion and eventual voting.

I would like to thank the hard working IAAAM board and committee members who make our organization what it is!

I wish all of you a wonderful upcoming holiday season!

Donald W. Stremme, V.M.D.
President
Cape May, NJ

Board members (left to right) Julie Tepper, Tracy Romano, Bill Van Bonn, Don Stremme, Tom Reidarson, Lisa Mazaro and Judy St. Leger at work during mid-year board meeting, hosted by Shedd Aquarium. Behind camera: Craig Harms.



MESSAGE FROM OUR HOSTS IN ITALY

Dear Friends,

We are all thrilled and excited for the upcoming 39th IAAAM Meeting that will take place close to Rome, at Zoomarine Italy on May 2008.

You certainly know the expression “When in Rome do as the Romans do”. Remember then to fully sink in the rhythms, food and art of the so-called *città eterna* (the eternal city). Particularly find some time to explore the historic centre of Rome, listed by [UNESCO](#) as a [World Heritage Site](#), aside from the events we specifically organized such as the “Discover Rome” scheduled on Monday afternoon. History and art literally fill your soul when walking through the streets and corners of Rome.

We are looking forward to see you in Rome on May 10th. For the time being, on behalf of the Organization Committee, Zoomarine Italy’s staff and Mr. Pedro Lavia, *arrivederci a presto* (i.e.: see you soon).

Alessandro Bortolotto, Pietro Lanciotti and Cristina Pilenga

2008 IAAAM CONFERENCE INFORMATION POMEZIA, ROME, ITALY

DATES: 10th – 14th May 2008

DEADLINES

- **1st February 2008:** deadline to submit for intention to hold a workshop on 10th May 2008 .
- **15th February 2008:** preferable deadline for purchasing airline tickets.
- **15th March 2008:** deadline to check IAAAM membership status in order to receive member rates for the conference.
- **25th February 2008:** deadline for abstract submission.
- **28th March 2008:** deadline to register for Hotel in order to receive conference rate
- **3/6 months before the conference:** deadline to renew the passport.

Conference cancellation policy:

If the registrant is unable to attend the conference for any reason, then the following refund arrangements will apply:

- **By 10th April 2008:** no cancellation fee.
- **10th April – 25th April 2008:** 25% cancellation fee.
- **25th April – 2nd May 2008:** 50% cancellation fee.
- **2nd May – 10th May 2008:** 100% cancellation fee.

NOTE: Remember to plan for taking an auction item to the meeting and/or spending additional vacation time either before or after the meeting.

OFFICIAL LOCATION for CONFERENCE and ACCOMODATION

Hotel Selene
Via Pontina Km 30
00040 Pomezia, Roma – Italy
Telephone: +39 06 91 17 01
www.hotelselene.com

Getting there:

- **By car:** Take exit n°26 from the 'GRA' into the SS148 'Pontina' Latina. After 13km take the exit 'Pomezia - Castelli Romani' and follow the road signs towards 'Hotel Selene'.
- **By train:** Board a train from 'Roma Termini' directed towards 'Nettuno'. Exit at 'Santa Palomba Station'.
- **By underground subway & bus:** Take a metro B train directed towards 'Laurentina'. From Laurentina station take a public bus to Pomezia centre.
- **By taxis:**

TAXI SERVICE FROM FIUMICINO AIRPORT TO ROME AND VICE VERSA

At the Fiumicino Airport, near exits A, B and C, there is a taxi service for Rome.

The cost of the taxi service is 40 euros, inclusive of luggage, for a maximum of four passengers, for all destinations within the Aurelian Walls delimiting the central area of the city. For further information check with the P.I.T. – Tourist Information Point of the City of Rome inside the airport, which will explain the service and let you know whether your particular destination is subject to the fixed rate. The cost of the service is the same for the opposite direction also, going from Rome to Fiumicino. For destinations outside of the central area of the city, the cost will be indicated by the taximeter, to which the luggage fee must be added.

TAXI SERVICE FROM CIAMPINO AIRPORT TO ROME AND VICE VERSA.

All'aeroporto di Ciampino, near the exit, there is a taxi service for Rome. The cost of the taxi service is 30 euros, inclusive of luggage, for a maximum of four passengers, for all destinations within the Aurelian Walls delimiting the central area of the city. The cost of the service is the same for the opposite direction also, going from Rome to Ciampino. For destinations outside of the central area of the city, the cost will be indicated by the taximeter, to which the luggage fee must be added.

FIXED RATES FROM AND TO THE AIRPORTS starting October 1st:

- 40 euros from Fiumicino to within the Aurelian Walls and vice versa
- 30 euros from Ciampino to within the Aurelian Walls and vice versa

TRAVEL ADVICE

How to get here:

The best way to get to Rome from abroad is definitely by plane.

Rome is served by two airports (www.adr.it).

1. Rome Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport (Km. 38 from the Hotel)

Via dell'Aeroporto di Fiumicino, 00050 Fiumicino (RM)

The *Leonardo Da Vinci* Airport (also known as *Fiumicino* after the suburb of Rome where it is located) is the main international hub served by the American carriers and larger international carriers. *Fiumicino* airport is conveniently linked to central Rome by the Leonardo Express, a direct train service that runs every 30 minutes to Rome's central rail station (Stazione Termini; www.trenitalia.com) between 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. That service costs 9.5€ (\$11.30) and tickets must be stamped before you board the trains on the platform's validating machines.

Passengers facilities

Facilities include information desk, post office, 24-hour bureaux de change, banks, cash points, chemist's, special assistance rooms, left luggage facility, Executive Centre providing meetings rooms and conference organization.

2. G.B. Pastine Rome Ciampino Airport (Km. 35 from the Hotel)

Via Appia Nuova 1651, 00040 Roma Ciampino

Ciampino Airport is a much smaller, largely domestic option that has grown recently due to the increasing number of low-cost airlines who use it. From Ciampino, you can take the Terravision Coach buses to Via Marsala next to Stazione Termini for 8.00€ (\$9.50). The journey takes about 45 minutes and you can book tickets online at www.terravision.it. From Stazione Termini you can easily take a taxi on to your destination or connect via Rome's Metro which has several lines running through the station.

Passengers facilities

Facilities include: information desk, post office, bank, cash and exchange points, chemist's, medical care and service for passengers with disabilities.

ENTERING ITALY: VISA

All foreigners intending to enter Italy must provide the documentation required to justify the reasons and duration of their stay as well as, in some prescribed cases, the availability of adequate economic means and lodging.

In some cases you need a visa, application for which can be made at the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Representations in your country of residence.

List of countries whose citizens are subject to the visa obligation

In view of the need to gradually harmonize the different national visa policies, the European authorities have adopted various measures including the Council Regulation 539 of 15.3.2001 containing the list of countries whose nationals are subject to the visa requirement. Nationals bearing ordinary passports of the following countries/regional configurations are subject to visa obligations: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoro Islands, Congo, Congo (Democratic Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican (Republic), East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Granada, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia (the Former Yugoslav Republic of), Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Marianas, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian National Authority, Papua-New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Taiwan, (non-recognized territorial entity), Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Western Samoa, Yemen, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Nationals of the following countries **do not** require a visa for visits up to a maximum of 90 days, for tourism, on missions, business, invitations or to take part in sports events: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Macao, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, South Korea, Singapore, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela. Is it possible to receive more specific information in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website:

<http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Ministero/Servizi/Stranieri/default.htm>

GETTING AROUND

By Car

All roads might indeed lead to Rome, but driving on them is a daunting prospect. The city's mind boggling network of winding one-way medieval streets and chronic parking shortage is enough to dissuade any visitor from trying to see Rome by car. However, you will need wheels if you plan to explore the countryside around Rome or drive on to another destination. All the major international car rental agencies have locations at the airports and in central Rome. If you're driving in or out of the city, ask your hotel to help you map out your route before hand, paying special attention to the one-way streets.

Taxis

Although Taxis seem plentiful, there is never an empty one available when you need it. Call ahead or have your hotel or restaurant do it for you (+39 (06) 6645/3570/4994/8822/4157/5551). The meter begins at 2.35€ (\$2.85) for the first 3km (1 3/4 miles) and goes up after that .78€ (\$.95) per kilometre. Each suitcase costs 1€ (\$1.20), and on Sunday, a 3.35€ (\$4.05) supplement is assessed. There's another 4.90€ (\$6.85) supplement from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. A 10% tip is expected.

WEATHER

Rome is known for having comfortable weather throughout the year, but May is the best time to visit Rome! In fact the best weather is at the beginning or the end of the long Roman summer, that is April to June and then again in late September through October. You'll still get long days of warm sunshine but avoid the peak tourist crowds at the key sights, as well as the sweltering mid-summer heat.

ITALIAN CUISINE

While the French slave for hours, fussily transforming modest ingredients into perfect dishes, Italians prefer to use perfect ingredients and let them speak for themselves. Pasta is a staple across the country, eaten as a first course and usually followed by a meat or fish main course. Pizza is a popular, cheap, and cheerful alternative. Often restaurant meals are finished with limoncello or another homemade *digestivo*; sometimes they're provided gratis. Italian wines are among the best in the world and are priced accordingly. But in the wine regions you can always get a great inexpensive bottle. The best reds—from full-bodied to ephemeral—come from Tuscany (avoid straw-covered bottles of Chianti, which will invariably be bad), Umbria, and Piedmont, while the best whites from Sicily. If you're celebrating, prosecco (sparkling white wine) is a bargain compared to its French cousin, Champagne.

CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

Since 2002 Italy converted to the Euro. Euro (€) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2, 1 and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents. Please use the following Currency Converter to learn more about the value of the Euro against other currencies.

Currency exchange: Travellers cheques, cheques and foreign money can be changed at banks, railway stations and airports, and very often at major hotels (generally at a less convenient rate).

Banks, though ubiquitous, are concentrated on main drags like the Via Veneto, Piazza San Silvestro and Via del Corso. ATMs, called *bancomats*, are available 24 hours a day outside almost all banks and at many other locations. They are the preferred way of getting cash, because they do not usually add the 2.5%-4% fees that credit cards charge for advances. Cards with the Cirrus symbol are accepted almost anywhere. To change cash and traveler's checks, banks charge a commission of about 3 euros. Post offices charge a fee of 3.13 euros. Exchange rates are generally better at downtown banks and exchanges (*ufficio di cambio*) than at the airports or hotels. *Cambio* hours are generally 8:30 am-7:30 pm. At the airport, try to avoid changing more money than you may need to get into town. You'll also find 24-hour automated exchange machines dotting the city for extra convenience.

Bank hours are generally Monday-Friday 8:30 am-1:30 pm and 2:30-4 pm (with some variation), but some of the larger banks are open throughout the day. In winter, banks often have reduced hours.

Credit & debit cards: MasterCard, Diners Club and Visa are widely accepted, but many small establishments - shops and restaurants only accept cash. It is advisable to ask merchants if they accept credit cards before trying to purchase items.

Travellers cheques: Travellers cheques are accepted almost everywhere. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travellers are advised to take travellers cheques in Euros, Pounds Sterling or US Dollars.

ELECTRICITY

The electrical system is based on 220/240 volts AC US made appliances may require an adaptor for your convenience, that could be provided by the hotel. Please contact the Concierge Desk.

KEY CONTACTS

ZOOMARINE CONTACTS

Tel. +39

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

Giulia Majolino

Tel. +39 339 56 73 689

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION

Medical facilities are available, but may be limited outside urban areas. Public hospitals, though generally free of charge for emergency services, sometimes do not maintain high standards, so travellers are encouraged to obtain insurance that would cover a stay in a private Italian hospital or clinic. It is almost impossible to obtain an itemized hospital bill from public hospitals, as required by many insurance companies, because the Italian National Health Service charges one inclusive rate (care services, bed and board).

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS

Streets in historic city centers are often narrow, winding and congested. Motor scooters are very popular and drivers often see themselves as exempt from conventions that apply to automobiles. Travellers who rent scooters should be particularly cautious. Pedestrians and drivers should be constantly alert to the possibility of scooters' sudden presence. Traffic lights are limited, often disobeyed, and a different convention of right-of-way is observed. Commercial and individual vehicles travel and pass on these well-maintained roads at very high speeds.

SHOPPING TIPS

Rome's selection of trendy stores with the latest fashions just might divert you from seeing one more museum. Fans of Prada, Fendi, Ferragamo or Gucci will have plenty to choose from. What's more, those famous brands, which are available around the world, will seem different: Even the designers known for the purity of their lines—Armani, for instance—seem to offer something a little more baroque in Rome. But the true joy of shopping in this city lies in discovering one-of-a-kind items in specialty shops. There are hundreds of such stores selling goods, particularly shoes and clothing accessories, that are produced on-site, often using centuries-old techniques.

Opening Hours:

Shops are generally open from 9 or 9:30 to early afternoon and from 3:30 or 4 to 7 or 7:30 -- or 8 in summer. There's a tendency for shops in central districts to stay open all day, and hours are becoming more flexible throughout the city. Remember that although department stores are open Sundays, many stores are not, though this is changing, too, especially in the city centre. With the exception of food stores, most stores also close on Monday morning from September to mid-June and Saturday afternoon from mid-June through August.

Sizing It Up:

Italian sizes are not uniform, so always try on clothing before buying, and measure gift items. Children's sizes are all over the place, and though they usually go by age, they are calibrated to Italian children. (Average size-per-age standards vary from country to country.) Check washing instruction labels on all garments (often in English as well as Italian); many are not washable, and those that are may not be preshrunk. Glove sizes are universal. In any case, remember that Italian stores generally will *not* give refunds and often cannot exchange goods because of limited stock.

Counterfeits:

The Prada, Gucci, Fendi, and Vuitton bags sold by sidewalk vendors are fakes. An underground network organizes the illegal manufacture, distribution, and sale of these seemingly perfect counterfeits of stylish status symbols. Both manufacturers and vendors are always one jump ahead of the police. If an incredibly good buy in a name-brand product of any kind is proposed to you, examine the goods carefully. Reliable stores sell at the prices indicated by the manufacturers -- so any enormous discount is suspect.

Duty-Free Shopping:

Value-added tax (IVA) is 20% on clothing and luxury goods, but it is already included in the amount on the price tag of consumer goods. If you are not a resident of the European Union, you may be eligible, under certain conditions, for a refund of this tax on goods purchased here -- Tax-Free for Tourists VAT tax refunds are available at most large stores for purchases of more than EUR155.

The amount added varies from country to country within the EU, and not all stores must offer a refund. Check first or look for the sign in the store window. In addition, only luxury goods such as clothing and wine are considered for a refund. Refunds usually amount to about 13%-16% of the purchase price. You need to present three things to the VAT refund officer at the airport before departure to get a refund: your purchase, the receipt and the customs division's stamped refund form (which must be picked up at the place of purchase). If you don't have these three things, your refund will be denied. Note that only unused articles are eligible for a refund: If the article looks used, you won't get your money back. If everything is in order, the VAT refund officer will give you a final form to be mailed in for your refund. (For your own convenience, see the VAT officer before checking your bags and have your purchases in an easy-to-reach place.)

Some larger stores have a streamlined process: They handle most of the paperwork and then mail the refund to you, usually minus a fee. Private VAT refund services, located at the airport, will give you an immediate refund minus a fee, which is usually a percentage of the refund. This is also possible at a new VAT refund center in the shopping district of Rome's Centro Storico and other large Italian cities. It gives you the refund immediately, for a small charge. The two largest such services are Global Refund and Cashback; you'll see their signs in store windows. For more information, check Global Refund's Web site, <http://www.globalrefund.com>. It provides information, a VAT calculator and a location map showing its refund offices in 34 countries and all major exit points in Italy (airports, harbors and roads).

Rome - Fiumicino Airport (Global Refund Office, Terminal B and C)

Rome downtown - Global Refund Office, Trinità dei Monti 17/A

Shipping:

Always take your purchases with you: having them shipped home from the shop may cause major delays and grief. The mail is partly to blame; the cavalier attitude of some shop owners compounds the problem, especially if you have to correspond with them about why your package hasn't arrived. If circumstances are such that you can't take your goods with you, and if the shop seems reliable, get a written statement of *what* is being shipped and *when* and *how* it will be sent. It's wise when shipping to pay with a credit card.

Sales:

Saldi (end-of-season sales) can mean real bargains in clothing and accessories. The main sale periods are January 6 through February and late July to mid-September. Most stores adopt a no-exchange, no-

return policy for sale goods. At other times of year, a *liquidazione* sign indicates a close-out sale, but take a hard look at the goods; they may be bottom-of-the-barrel.

TIPPING OVERVIEW

This custom is practiced with flair in Italy: many people depend on tips for their livelihoods.

Hotels:

The service charge of 15% to 19% is already added to a bill. In addition, it's customary to tip the chambermaid 1 Euro per day; the doorman (for calling a cab) 1 Euro; and the bellhop or porter 2 Euros for carrying your bags to your room. A concierge expects about 15% of his or her bill, as well as tips for extra services performed, which could include help with long-distance calls. In expensive hotels these Euro amounts are often doubled.

Restaurants:

The tip (usually called 'servizio') is usually added to your bill to cover most charges. This should not be confused with the cover charge (*coperto*), which is a charge for bread and table settings. An additional tip isn't mandatory - however it's nice to leave an extra couple of Euros if you've been pleased with the service. If the service charge is included and you are pleased with the service, it's customary to leave an additional 5%; if the service charge is *not* included, leave a 10% tip. Restaurants are required by law to give customers official receipts.

Taxis:

Tipping in taxis is not obligatory, either, but a tip of 1 euro or so is usually given to the driver.

Dining:

Each region of Italy has its own cuisine, and because Rome has become home to Italians from all over the country, the city's cuisine has been influenced by many different sources. Geographical distinctions aside, the real Roman cuisine is the food of a poor people—you'll find it in the rustic trattorias, not the upscale restaurants. Classic Roman dishes include spaghetti carbonara, *bucatini all'amatriciana* (straw-shaped noodles in a tomato and bacon sauce), *l'abbacchio* (roast lamb), *carciofi alla giudia* (deep-fried artichokes) or the most classic of all Roman dishes, *trippa* (tripe).

Here are a few taste teasers: Begin with an antipasto consisting of marinated vegetables, seafood, bruschetta or a selection of meats. *Prosciutto crudo* is often served with melon or figs in the summer. For your first course, choose a pasta dish, such as *penne all'arrabiata* (short pasta with a dried chili pepper and tomato sauce), *linguini con vongole veraci* (linguine with clam sauce) or *pasta e fagioli* (short pasta cooked in a thick bean soup). For a second (main) course, try *rombo* (turbot), *spigola* (sea bass) or *straccetti con basilico e parmigiano* (thin-sliced beef topped with fresh basil and Parmesan cheese).

The most famous wines of the Latium region around Rome are the dry whites—*Vini dei Castelli* (Frascati, Grottaferrata, Genzano, Marino and Velletri). To accompany meat dishes, choose a full-bodied dry red from the regions of Tuscany or Romagna. If you like, do as the Romans do: Order a carafe of house wine (*vino della casa*), which is usually decent and reasonably priced.

After the meal (or between meals, if you like), you should not miss out on Italian coffee. Even those who are not fond of the strong flavour of espresso may find the genuine version far more palatable. In addition to the basic espresso, there are more than 100 variations. Take note, however: Despite the image of Romans constantly sipping cappuccino, Italians drink cappuccino only for breakfast—never at night or after meals. Gelato, the heavenly Italian ice cream, is a treat any time of the day.

Concerning the timing of meals, modern life has trimmed the traditional Italian-Mediterranean model of five meals a day down to just three. Breakfast is a nearly vaporous meal in the morning—usually cappuccino with a sugar-glazed croissant or a cream-filled pastry. Lunch, around 1 pm, can consist of one course or several (restaurants close from 3 pm until dinner time, so don't wait). Dinner can be either a leisurely affair with several courses or just pizza and beer. Gelato (ice cream) has a long tradition in Italy, and it's still made in much the same way it was when Michelangelo and Bernini licked away. A *gelateria* that calls its product *artigianale* makes its gelato

in-house. Whether you take your gelato after a long walk in the blazing heat, after dinner or at 2 am between visits to bars, there's no better way to satisfy a sweet tooth.

Bars:

Bars usually (but not always) charge extra for sitting down, sometimes per table and sometimes per person.

Note that Romans don't queue for anything. You may have to fight to get served standing at the counter, however, most experienced bar-servers have developed a sixth sense for knowing who's next to be served, they're pretty slick operators, and fascinating to watch at work. If you order standing at the counter, it's usual to pay first for what you want and then go choose it. But if the bar is not busy, you can sometimes choose what you want and order your drinks first, and then walk across to the person at the cash register, tell them you've just ordered a *caffè* and show them the pastry in your hand that the bar guy already gave you.

The easiest way to handle a bar is to just sit down at one of the tables (inside or outside). Pretty soon a waiter will appear, and he may start telling you that you're not allowed to sit there without paying extra. Most waiters in most of the busier central Rome bars speak a little bit of English, and if you can manage just a bit of Italian, and smile, you'll get by okay and everyone will be happy. No

need to get confrontational or impatient. Everything goes slowly in Italy (apart from road traffic), so just chill. The waiter will probably (though not often) have a menu card for you to look at and, when your order finally arrives, even it's only a couple of drinks, it is usually served very elegantly, and while perhaps being rather small in portion, not so good value for money quantity-wise, it will nevertheless look good and, be an enjoyable experience, especially if you can get an outdoor table. Try to get one in the shade though, as in summer it's already incredibly hot in full Roman sunlight.

WATCH OUT for pickpockets snatching or rummaging through your unattended bags hanging over your chairbacks or on the sidewalk. Try to keep your bags on you, or at least in clear view at all times. Gypsy children may come and beg off you while you are seated outside. This is just a diversion - their accomplices will be rifling or running off with your other stuff while the 'frontmen' have your attention.

You can also pay your bar bill while you're still sitting down. The bar waiter may bring you a written bill or he may more usually just tell you verbally what the charge is. Sometimes he'll want the money in advance, when you order, sometimes he'll want it when he brings the stuff, and sometimes when you've finished and are ready to leave. If you have a quick standing-up drink at the bar-counter, it's customary to just leave about 5 cents tip on the counter for the barman. Many bars in the more fashionable areas of central Rome charge as much as 80 Eurocents or even 1 Euro for an espresso, but if you are in a bar where the price of a basic *caffè* is only around 40 or 50 cents, it's customary to leave a tip.

Ultimately, if you do buy anything in the bars (*tabacchi* or other little stores), you should check the total and the change immediately.

Call for Student Travel Award Applications

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 May 2008. The awards are intended to defray the cost of travel to the May 10-14, 2008 conference in Rome, Italy in order 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. An 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 judgment 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 complete application packets will be February 25, 2008.**** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Recipients will be contacted by March 25, 2008. **Students submitting abstracts for the travel award competition must still separately submit their presentation for acceptance into the conference proceedings.** The Treasurer of the IAAAM will be notified and will send checks to the successful applicants.

****This year, emailed applications will be accepted and are encouraged, though portions, such as letters of recommendation, may still be submitted to Dr. Murphy by regular mail.**** Emailed applications should be sent to: studenttravel@iaaam.org

Candidates mailing their travel award application materials should send them to the following address:

Lisa A. Murphy, VMD, DABT
Assistant Professor of Toxicology
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
New Bolton Center – Toxicology Laboratory
382 W. Street Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-925-6217
Fax: 610-925-8117
Email (for questions not application materials): murphyLP@vet.upenn.edu

****Regardless of how they are sent, all application materials are due by February 25, 2008****

The following judgment criteria will be used to evaluate applications submitted for the 2006 IAAAM student awards:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Abstract (500 words or less)</u>		50
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	
<u>Cover Letter</u>		15
Definition of long term goals	15	
<u>Curriculum Vitae</u>		15
Commitment to aquatic animal medicine	15	
<u>Letters of Recommendation</u>		15
<u>Budget</u>		5
Realistic and justified	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100

The Student Liaison Committee and the IAAAM Executive Board welcome this opportunity to assist deserving students.

Congratulations to New ACZM Diplomates!

Thirteen new diplomates were welcomed into the American College of Zoological Medicine after successful completion of the certification examination on 12 - 14 October 2007, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Eric J. Baitchman, Boston, MA
Ellen Bronson, Baltimore, MD
Rob L. Coke, San Antonio, TX
Jennifer Jo D'Agostino, Oklahoma City, OK
*Lauri J. Gage, Napa, CA
*Pamela Dorene Govett, Pomona, CA
*Leah L. Greer, Los Angeles, CA
Jean-Michel Hatt, Zurich, Switzerland
*Martin Haulena, Vancouver, BC, Canada
*Jan Carol Ramer, Indianapolis, IN
*Jessica L. Siegal-Willott, Orlando, FL
John Madison Sykes IV, Van Nuys, CA
Douglas P. Whiteside, Calgary, AB, Canada

*IAAAM Member.

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Environmental Issues (CEI) Report to IAAAM Members Cindy Driscoll

The Committee on Environmental Issues (CEI) was established in its present form by the AVMA Executive Board in April 2001.

The charge/ objectives of the CEI:

1. To address the veterinarian's role in environmental matters
2. To address the effects of environmental quality on animal health, public health, and the veterinary profession
3. To contribute to the development of AVMA position statements on environmental issues that affect the veterinary profession
4. Identify means to encourage and support science-based practical solutions to environmental challenges that affect the profession
5. Identify and prioritize legislation, regulation, and public policy relating to environmental issues that have an impact on the profession
6. Identify specific areas in which the AVMA needs to call upon its resources, influence, and alliances to cause needed actions. Such actions might include (legislative efforts, public relations efforts, and continuing education efforts.
7. Identify veterinarians and other professionals with needed expertise for program presentation and other forums that help the profession address environmental issues.
8. Provide information to the membership to enable informed decisions about environmental issues in their communities
9. Raise awareness about environmental career opportunities in veterinary medicine.
10. In conjunction with allied groups, agencies and other entities, address established and emerging environmental issues that affect wildlife and ecosystem health.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES – 2007 Notes

1. AVMA Committee meetings

In an attempt to reduce costs for the AVMA, the Governing Performance Review Committee (GPRC) decided to reduce the number of meetings for several committees from two to one meeting per year. Suggested alternative saving measures from existing Committees to the GPRC included conducting video and phone conferencing. Additionally – some committees are being asked to reduce the number of committee members. Currently, CEI meets once each year at AVMA headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois and does much of its business on email.

2. Policy statements addressed

The following list reflects policy actions addressed by CEI during the past year. Most are revisions or updates to current policies or suggestions to other AVMA committees for revisions to policies:

- Revised the Toxics policy
- Revised the Environmental Responsibility policy
- Revised the Veterinary Waste policy
- Sent CEI revisions to the Animal Welfare Committee on the Trapping policy
- Approved a memo to be sent to the Executive Board through other committees – on the Big Horn Sheep/Domestic Sheep disease interactions issue

3. Other business conducted throughout the year includes a discussion of the 2008 AVMA Convention Program – and what topics were to be addressed by CEI as a group/ symposium on environmental issues.

4. Legislation presented for review included the following:

- 2007 Farm Bill Re-authorization
- Agriculture Protection & Prosperity Act
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
- Conservation/ Reserve Program

5. Other topics presented to CEI for information and potential future actions included the following:

- Global warming
- Disposal of medications
- 2008 National Poison Prevention Week
- Great Cats Conservation Act of 2007

Upcoming Meetings and Education Opportunities

10 – 14 May 2008 IAAAM 39th Annual Conference, Rome, Italy. Abstract deadline: 25 February, 2008

IAAAM 40th Annual Conference, San Antonio, Texas, 2009

IAAAM 41st Annual Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 2010

1-4 December 2007 Endoscopy in Marine Mammals, 9th Marine Mammal Medical Workshop, L'Oceanografic, Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, Valencia, Spain
(www.cac.es)

21-23 January 2008 Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska (<http://www.nprb.org/>)

- 22 – 24 February 2008 Shark Reef 3rd Annual Aquatic Medicine Seminar, Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, Nevada (JJewell@mandalaybay.com)
- 31 March-4 April 2008 Eastern Fish Health Workshop, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, including a special session on VHS. Abstracts and early registration due 1 February. (rcipriano@usgs.gov)
- 9 – 11 April 2008 Davis Foundation Diagnostic Pathology of Aerial, Terrestrial, and Aquatic Wildlife Course, Madison, WI. (<http://www.cldavis.org/courses/upcoming.html#66>)
- 22 – 25 April 2008 Florida Marine Mammal Health Conference III, Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, Marineland, Florida and St. Augustine Beach, Florida. (<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/marinemammal>)
- 18 – 22 May 2008 XXXI International meeting for the Study of Marine Mammals, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. (<http://www.somemma.org/>)
- 18 May – 14 June 2008 AQUAVET® Courses I and II (<http://www.aquavet.info>)

Veterinary Medical Externship, US Navy Marine Mammal Program, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, San Diego, CA. Contact: Erika Putman, Coordinator of Volunteer Opportunities, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Code 71510, 53560 Hull Street, San Diego, California 92152, (619) 767-4100, nmmp_intern@spawar.navy.mil. For additional information on the Navy Marine Mammal Program go to: www.spawar.navy.mil/sandiego/technology/mammals.

Veterinary Internship/Research Opportunities in Aquatic Animal Medicine at Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, CT. 1 June 2008 – 15 June 2009, with option for renewal. Application deadline 1 January 2008. Contact: Dr. Allison D. Tuttle, Staff Veterinarian, Mystic Aquarium, 55 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, CT 06355, 860-572-5955, Atuttle@MYSTICAQUARIUM.ORG. A general orientation to the Mystic Aquarium facility and programs can be obtained at <http://www.mysticaquarium.org>.

Genomic Enablement of Aquaculture, an Interdisciplinary PhD Program to Improve Aquaculture Through Genomic Sciences: Molecular Mechanisms of Immunity to Disease, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. Research will be focused on molecular mechanisms of immunity to fish pathogens. For details on the research focus, see www.cvm.ncsu.edu/cbs/noga_ed.htm. Application review begins 15 December 2007 and remains open until filled. Starting date no later than 15 May 2008. Send applications to the Department of Zoology graduate program (<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/zoology/graduate.html>). Address all enquiries to Edward J. Noga, Professor of Aquatic Medicine, Department of Clinical Sciences, 4700 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27606 (ed_noga@ncsu.edu).

Aquaculture and Fisheries Scholars Program, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, offers early acceptance to veterinary college to top NCSU undergraduate fisheries majors interested in fish health careers. For more information, see <http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/fishwild/FisheriesScholarsProgram.html>.

IAAAM Membership Information

<http://www.iaaam.org/memberinfo.htm>

Complete membership information is available at the link above, which includes downloadable new membership/renewal forms to accompany payment.

Membership is available in the following categories:

FULL MEMBER – Persons contributing to the advancement of, or devoting a portion of their professional activities to, aquatic animal medicine practice, research, teaching or management. \$50.00/year, discounted to 40.00/year if paid by 1 July.

STUDENT MEMBER – Students having an interest in veterinary practice, research, husbandry, management or conservation of aquatic animals. Student membership is open to all full-time undergraduate, graduate, veterinary and postdoctoral students enrolled in formal programs at academic and comparable institutions as well as individuals enrolled in full time internships and residencies. \$30.00/year, discounted to 25.00/year if paid by 1 July.

SUSTAINING MEMBER/ ASSOCIATION – Individuals, institutions or associations which make significant financial contributions (\$250 or more) to sustain the IAAAM. (Contact Treasurer for additional information).

LIBRARY/INSTITUTION SUBSCRIPTION - Libraries and institutions wishing to receive our meeting proceedings. \$70.00/year, discounted to 60.00/year if paid by 1 July.

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.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER - Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of aquatic animal medical science and the objectives of the Association.

Payment is due by July 1st, each year. March 1st is the last day to pay and still get the member conference registration rate. If paying by check, be sure to make your check payable to “**IAAAM.**” Please send your completed membership form and payment to:

Judy St. Leger, DVM
SeaWorld of California
500 SeaWorld Drive
San Diego, California 92109

The Newsletter of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is published four times a year (usually in January, April, August, and November). An annual conference is held every year in the spring and electronic 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 RTF (Rich Text Format), or WORD, without complex formatting. For submissions contact Craig Harms, Newsletter Editor, at NCSU CMAST, 303 College Circle, Morehead City, NC 28557, or by phone at 252-222-6339, or by email (Newsletter@iaaam.org).

For membership information, including dues payment, and address changes contact Judy St. Leger, 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego, CA 92109 7904 or by phone at 619-225-4259 or by email (Membersrship@iaaam.org).

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Deke Beusse
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Ted Hammond
Sam Ridgway

Jesse White†

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