



SVME Newsletter

Newsletter of the Society for
Veterinary Medical Ethics

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President's Message Spring 2007

Dear SVME Members:

The SVME Executive Board has met by phone several times to continue the business for the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics. Gary Block has done an exemplary job as Secretary which comes with the task of putting out the Newsletter. A big thank you goes to Sylvie Coultie for her work on the web site and maintaining the listserve. John Wright continues to take on the responsibility of being Treasurer as well as outreach ambassador for the SVME. He travels seemingly everywhere touting the benefits of being a member. As with most organizations it is a small group of folks who keep it running and I thank all of the Executive Board for their dedication and support. The Society is important to our profession as we delve into issues of Ethics. We need more interested members to participate so if you have an interest in helping please contact us. We are looking for Officers.

The Newsletter continues to be distributed to members and veterinary schools but we are also sharing it with human medical school libraries, Vet tech programs and Animal and Ethics programs. There is discussion to shining it up and putting it in color to make it more readable. We are interested in feedback if it were to be only offered online. It's easy to retrieve via the website http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/org_SVME.

The Student Essay contest is drawing much more interest and with it we have accepted sponsorship from Waltham for \$2500 starting in 2008 to help the student travel to our meeting and receive a \$1000 cash prize.

We want to pull students into the Society and into our listserve discussions. We have extended free membership to the students to be part of the listserve and it's a very reasonable \$5.00 membership fee to be a member. Sign up a student today!

Our Ethics Track at the AVMA Convention on July 15th, 2007 is going to be an interesting and controversial day as Gary Block and I tackle conflicts arising between primary care veterinarians and specialists. Our profession is changing to include an increasing number of specialists and we need to learn to adapt to new standards of patient care and collegiality. We will have case studies and an interactive discussion, plus we will present the recently completed AAHA Referral Guidelines. Franklin McMilian, Alice Villabos and James Serpell will add discussion on the ethics of over-treatment of patients with a poor prognosis or cancer. It should be a good day. We will look forward to having you there.

I welcome any questions or thoughts you may have. Feel free to contact me directly at annavet@comcast.net

Anna E Worth VMD
President SVME

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SVME Reaches Out to Veterinary Students

Dr. John Wright, SVME Treasurer, attended the March, 2007 Student AVMA (SAVMA) meeting in Raleigh North Carolina. The booth was staffed as a collaborative effort between the SVME and the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians. Dr. Wright states "I was pleased to see the profound interest that students displayed toward the area of ethics, as well as the human-animal bond in veterinary medicine. It was a very rewarding experience for me." SVME members interested in attending upcoming SAVMA conferences may contact Dr. Wright. at: wrigh008@umn.edu

Student Essay Contest



Christine M. Ehlers from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine is the winner of the second annual SVME student essay contest. This year's essay question was "Should veterinarians be required to report known or suspected cases of animal cruelty? What are the ethical, legal and practical issues surrounding this question"? Over 30 essays were submitted to the SVME from veterinary schools in the United States. Ms. Ehlers will receive \$500 from the SVME for her winning essay.

In order to increase awareness and publicity of the SVME essay contest, the SVME has partnered with The WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition and heretofore will be referred to as the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics WALTHAM Student Essay award. This generous financial support from WALTHAM will allow for \$1000 for the essay contest winner and up to \$1000 for travel and hotel expenses for this student to attend the AVMA conference and SVME plenary session.

The WALTHAM sponsorship will begin with the 2008 award and this year's question will be "The Veterinary Practitioners Role in Animal Cloning". The cloning of food producing animals has been readily available for a number of years and recently, the banking of tissues of companion animals has been marketed to pet owners. How should a veterinary practitioner respond to client requests for tissue collection for the purposes of cloning?

Information regarding the essay submission can be found on the SVME website.

SVME Board Member Update

Due to a personal health problem, long-time member and President-elect of the SVME, Dr. Carol Morgan will be unable to assume her elected position. A special election as dictated by the SVME bylaws will take place at the SVME annual business meeting to take place at the 2007 AVMA convention.

Any SVME member interested in making a nomination for President-elect should contact SVME secretary, Dr. Gary Block at GBYLC@AOL.com.



In The News

State Pharmacy Board Oversight

The Missouri Supreme Court ruled that the state pharmacy board does not have any oversight jurisdiction or authority to regulate the distribution or sale of veterinary drugs. Because there was nothing explicit in the Missouri Pharmacy Act regarding the sale of veterinary prescription drugs, the court exempted the pharmacy board from oversight of these medications.

Pet Insurance and Managed Care

For the first time, a pet health insurer is offering coverage modeled after the United States human health care model. The USA Pet Health Network would charge an annual fee to pet owners and then participating veterinarians would charge members for services according to network rates.

Suicide in Veterinarians

A 2005 study in *Veterinary Record* (157:415-417) found the suicide rate in veterinarians to be among the highest of all the professions studied. Occupational Stress, reluctance to obtain mental health care, and ease of access to lethal drugs were considered factors in the high suicide rate.

Alternatives to the Harmful Use of Animals in Biomedical Education Examined

The January 1st 2007 *JAVMA* article entitled "Systematic review of comparative studies examining alternatives to the harmful use of animals in biomedical education" found that of the 17 controlled studies evaluated, alternative teaching methods were found to be equal or superior to traditional animal-use methods.

Challenge to Trap-Neuter-Release

A 2006 paper in the *Journal of Preventative Veterinary Medicine* (77:180-185) evaluating a TNR program in Italy involving over 100 cat colonies found that over a 10 year period, TNR reduced total cat population between 16-32% but this was offset by new arrivals to the colonies of 21% as a result of abandonment and spontaneous arrivals. The authors conclude that population reduction was less than expected and not cost-effective unless public education and more aggressive spay-neuter programs were concurrently undertaken.

Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Verdict

A court awarded the plaintiff \$135,000 after it was determined that a neighbor, using antifreeze and slug bait, poisoned 4 of their dogs over a 5 year period. The judgment included \$100,000 for emotional distress damages. The award is considered the largest of its kind in the history of animal law.

Protect the Pets

An interview was conducted by SVME Secretary, Dr. Gary Block, with Dr. John Robb, founder of a fledgling organization called "Protect the Pets" whose members agree to abide by a code of ethics that includes "I will never put money before the life or health of an animal" and "I will treat wildlife and stray animals with the same level of care as paying customers". Dr Robb practices in Connecticut and can be reached through his website, www.protectthepets.com. The views expressed by Dr. Robb do not necessarily represent those of the SVME.

What prompted you to start the Protect the Pets organization?

I was disillusioned for many years with the lack of integrity in our profession and the competition between vets for clients rather than camaraderie. Also I could not understand how a veterinarian could look into the eyes of an animal, either wildlife or a pet that was suffering, have the ability to help that animal and yet walk away. In addition I see so many decisions being made on the part of a pet and their owner by the veterinarian that are truly not in the best interests of the pet. I found myself beginning to do the same things as the "old boys". I had begun to "sell my soul". I took a good look at my life and did not like what I saw. – a person who had been selfish and took advantage of other people. This prompted me to live a life of integrity regardless of who came against me. The amazing thing that happened is I began to have vision and energy to accomplish things at a level as never before. My practice grew both financially and with new clientele. My gross went from 600,000 to 1.2 million dollars in just 2.5 years. People around me were living their passion and together we accomplished what we could never do alone. My life became all about trust and integrity and I was fulfilled.

There of course are many caring people in all walks of life doing the best they can and for the right reasons. But what I am saying is the major theme I was seeing in veterinary medicine was a whole lot of money coming into the profession and corrupting many. It was at that moment in time when my purpose and calling became clear – to lead a national movement called Protect the Pets to transform veterinary medicine.

How long has your organization been in existence?

The organization has been in existence for one year.

How many vets have signed on?

Thirty-six vets have signed on.

How does your organization's philosophy differ from that of the AVMA?

I believe the AVMA is more vested in protecting the image of the veterinarian than living that image. We are called Protect the Pets, I believe they could be called Protect the Vets.

You state on your website that you think "pets are in peril". What leads you to conclude this?

Historically veterinary schools were formed for agricultural reasons. Food animal medicine and equine medicine being the focus. As the human-animal bond has grown the focus has shifted to companion animal medicine. In addition there have been great advancements in medicine not only in the knowledge base but also in the equipment used to help diagnose disease. These advancements are well appreciated in human medicine and I believe the general public believes they are also advancing in veterinary medicine. However this is not completely the case. I believe the level of medicine in the veterinary field is significantly lower than the human field. In addition I believe the laws in this country have not kept up with the recognition of the role pets are playing in our society.

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Pets ... continued from previous page

In addition the status of pets as property denies a pet owner the ability to hold veterinarians accountable financially in cases of malpractice. Most veterinarians got into the profession because of a profound love for animals. Traditionally vets sought to own their own practice or partner in ownership to live their passion and do the best financially. However the advancements in technology and medicine have changed things. Running a profitable veterinary practice is much more challenging. In the end, some veterinarians often make decisions to “save owners money” when in actuality they are practicing poor medicine and putting the pets in peril. Now we see corporations coming into the equation at an increasing rate buying up veterinary hospitals. Unfortunately many of these corporations are looking for a product to make a profit on. When pets are viewed this way decisions are often made to put profits over pets.

Specifically, you list answering machines and on-hold marketing as “red flags” in evaluating a veterinary hospital. What makes you conclude this and how do you respond to the practice consultants who suggest these as ways to increase efficiency, increase revenue and better educate the public regarding your services?

Life is all about relationships. When you have a relationship you have an exchange of emotions and feelings between two human beings – compassion being the greatest of these. The reason there are answering machines and on hold messages is rather than being staffed well on the phones with live people, money is “saved” with these devices. I say it does not increase efficiency; it does not increase revenue and does not better educate the public regarding services. What it does do is erodes trust. It’s actually saying to the customer “your time is not as important as my time and so you are not that important”. There’s tremendous value in having a highly educated staff with enough people to answer every phone within 3 rings and not put people on hold. This builds relationships and shows people they are important. During these conversations the needs of the owner and pet can be quickly addressed which is why they are calling to begin with.

How has the response been from local veterinarians?

It’s been rather negative. Some local vets don’t like my vision on the issues. We still don’t have certification of techs as a requirement in Connecticut and some veterinarians complain to me about my stance on this issue. They can only see they would have to pay them more instead of realizing the benefits to the pets and themselves.

Some have even said directly to me, “If you take your website down we will send you our emergencies”. It’s a clear example of putting the pet at risk for personal motives. In general I feel many vets want me to keep these issues in house instead of going to the public. However my feeling is we are more vested in keeping our good image rather than living it and we have difficulty changing ourselves. Therefore the public must be made aware so they can drive the changes necessary in our profession to Protect the Pets – regardless of how I am perceived by the local vets.

Is there any criticism that you are setting somewhat arbitrary standards of care for veterinarians such as routinely recommending bicavity ultrasound exams for older pets?

What I have been getting some complaints on is my code of conduct. Then again that very same code of conduct is why the 36 vets said they joined. In general veterinarians are not very good business people and don’t understand how they can live the code of conduct and survive financially. The truth is by living the code of conduct they would gain public trust and do better financially.

What do you hope the public becomes aware of as a result of your organization?

- 1) That they need to be educated consumers and so avoid the tragic loss that can occur in some veterinary hospitals when they go in with blind trust.
- 2) That they need to drive the change necessary to enact new legislation to bring a higher level of accountability and transform veterinary medicine.

EQUINE SLAUGHTER DEBATE

Controversial equine slaughter bills have once again been introduced in Congress. Companion bills (S. 311, H.R. 503) would ban horse slaughter for human consumption. The bills would prohibit the shipping, transporting, donating or selling of any horse for human consumption. Last year's bill passed the House by a wide margin but Senate passage failed prior to congress adjourning. In an effort to shed light on this issue, the SVME presented a Q&A to Dr. Tom Lenz, Past President of the AAEP and current chair of the Associations' Equine Welfare Committee and Dr. Gail Golab Associate Director of Animal Welfare of the AVMA both of whom are critical of the bill and Dr. Nicholas Dodman from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine who represents Veterinarians for Equine Welfare, whose group supports the bills.

AAEP/AVMA Response

Briefly, can you summarize your position on the equine slaughter controversy?

The AAEP is not pro-slaughter. However, we feel that until the horse industry develops a viable plan to deal with horses that are no longer wanted by their current owners, euthanasia at a processing plant is an acceptable alternative to a life of potential abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

What makes equine slaughter for meat consumption any different than cow, pig or chicken slaughter for identical purposes?

Eating or not eating horsemeat is a societal, or cultural, issue and the AAEP does not have a position on it. Our focus is to ensure that horses are treated humanely and with dignity during the transportation process and that they are also euthanized in a humane manner.

Following up on this ethical consistency question, how do you respond to the argument that we should no more condone horse slaughter for human consumption than we would cat or dog slaughter for export for human consumption?

Again, various cultures and religions permit or forbid the use of a number of different animals for food. This is a cultural issue. The AAEP is focused on the health and welfare of the horse.

Is it misguided to support a bill banning equine slaughter without providing any financial support to house, care for or humanely euthanize unwanted horses?

Our main opposition to the current legislation has always been that it does not provide an infrastructure, funding or an enforcement agency to deal with the large number of horses that can no longer be removed from the lowest economic level of the horse industry. These horses will not magically disappear and will need to be cared for.

Will the welfare of horses be adversely affected by legally prohibiting equine slaughter in the United States?

Yes, we believe that when people are no longer able to sell or send their horses to processing plants to be euthanized, there is a much greater risk for neglect and/or abandonment. Additionally, we are concerned that many of these horses will be transported across the borders for processing without the benefit of USDA oversight.

What about concerns that prohibiting equine slaughter in the U.S. will dramatically increase the number of abandoned, neglected or improperly euthanized horses?

We believe that will be a reality. It is our estimate that current rescue/retirement facilities will be able to house no more than 6,000 horses annually. That is far short of the roughly 90,000 that are removed from the horse population each year through euthanasia at a processing plant.

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Veterinarians for Equine Welfare

Briefly, can you summarize your position on the equine slaughter controversy?

In the United States, horses are companion animals and are part of our national heritage. Some parts of the United States are lucky enough to have horses running wild and free but most are bred and raised and bought and sold for our pleasure and entertainment. Whether they are race horses, show horses, or riding horses, they are owned by people who pay a considerable amount of money for them plus hundreds, if not thousands of dollars a month to keep them. At the end of their useful working lives the best arrangement would be for horses to be retired and literally put out to grass but a second and sometimes necessary option is to have them humanely destroyed through a process termed euthanasia. Euthanasia literally means good death and should involve something akin to falling asleep and then simply passing away. This is, in my opinion, best achieved by lethal injection of an overdose of barbiturates. This is the least that an owner can do for a faithful companion animal that has served its master throughout its lifetime. For such an animal to be openly or covertly spirited away by a killer buyer, transported hundreds, if not thousands, of miles, terrified, in overcrowded and inhumane conditions to a feed lot, subsequently to a slaughter plant to be shot and butchered for the gastronomic pleasure of people in another country is an abomination that is beyond my comprehension. I cannot understand why anybody would condone such a practice.

Why do you take issue with the AVMA'S position on this issue?

Knowing that the whole process of horse slaughter is inhumane, I could barely believe my eyes when I read the AVMA's position that they were pro-slaughter. Their argument was it is the less inhumane of two inhumane options for horses at the end of their tether. One option is slaughter and the other is neglect and abuse. Instead of opting for either of these unacceptable options, I would like to have seen my parent body, the AVMA, stand up for what I see is a third option, that is, humane treatment of horses under all circumstances and in all situations. I think the advice the AVMA has received from their euthanasia committee and its "experts" has been poor, to say the least. They have also been influenced by companies who stand to gain financially from the horse slaughter. These unconscionable people have managed to pull the wool over the AVMA's eyes by hiding the truth, arranging and orchestrating and staged demonstrations of slaughterhouse practice, and frightening the AVMA with unsubstantiated warnings of equine abuse and neglect that they say would occur if slaughter was banned.

What makes equine slaughter for meat consumption any different than cow, pig or chicken slaughter for identical purposes?

As I mentioned, horses are companion animals not food animals, at least not in the United States (or Great Britain for that matter). We do not slaughter and export our dogs or our cats for consumption and it's my considered opinion that we should not slaughter and export horse flesh either. Horses, like cats and dogs, have been raised as companions. They are interacted with, socialized, named and brought into our families thus adding to their suffering when they are sent to slaughter. Because horses are not food animals, they can be and are treated with medications that are not approved for use in food animals and this constitutes a health hazard for the consumer as consumption of food animals treated with these drugs would not be permitted in the United States. But the FDA does not control the consumption of tainted meat in foreign countries and the AVMA doesn't seem to care so it is a case of (foreign) "consumer beware". Furthermore, since the United States is not geared up for horse slaughter, neither the transportation nor slaughter processes itself are humane. Horses are temperamentally completely different from cattle, should not be transported in the same way, and should not be slaughtered in the same way.

Following up on this ethical consistency question, how do you respond to the argument that we should no more condone horse slaughter for human consumption than we would cat or dog slaughter for export for human consumption?

I absolutely agree with this point as mentioned previously that horses are pet animals and companion animals, like dogs and cats, and should not be slaughtered and eaten or exported for human consumption. This is not simply an ethical question it is also a safety question because of the medications that are used to treat non-food animals.

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Will prohibiting this practice in the U.S. simply divert many of these horses to Mexican slaughterhouses where monitoring, handling and euthanasia of these animals may not meet USDA standards?

We do believe that many horses will be transported to Mexico or Canada without the benefit of USDA oversight. Currently the Transport to Slaughter regulations govern how horses are transported to processing plants. If slaughter is made illegal in this country, the horses will be shipped out of the country. Current proposed legislation will prohibit transporting horses to slaughter anywhere, but it will be impossible to determine if horses are being exported for sale or an event only to eventually end up in a foreign processing plant.

Do the AAEP and AVMA take into account the role horses have played in our country's history and their current status in somewhat of a "grey zone" between pet and working animal, when they crafted their position on equine slaughter?

It is true that many horses have become companion animals to some horse owners. However, the vast majority are still used commercially as ranch horses, pack horses, racehorses, and even show horses where the owner reaps a financial benefit through their use or sale of them. The federal government via the USDA considers them livestock. The AAEP and many within the horse industry support this classification, because the livestock classification allows tax incentives, disaster relief, and funding for research. Horse owners always have the option of retiring their horses, finding an alternative career for them, or euthanizing them. Those are still options, especially for those that consider their horses pets.

Does the AAEP believe that a majority of its members support its position on equine slaughter?

The AAEP has surveyed its membership twice on the subject and both times there was overwhelming support for the association's position.

What, if any, impact do you think the AAEP and AVMA's outspoken criticism of bills banning equine slaughter will have as a PR issue for the public as well as AAEP and AVMA members?

This issue is perhaps the most polarizing issue ever faced by the equine industry in the U.S. For those who react to this issue on an emotional level, it is very hard for those individuals to understand the AAEP's practical, scientific approach to evaluating what is in the best interest of the horse. However, the majority of our members understand the association's position and are able to discuss the issue with their clients. At the moment, the AAEP may be at opposition on this issue with some other groups within the industry, but we believe that in the long-term we will continue to enjoy positive relationships with these groups as we work on other issues that impact the health and welfare of the horse.

How do the AAEP and AVMA respond to charges that condoning equine slaughter is inconsistent with its stated mission of protecting the welfare of animals?

Opposing the poorly written legislation *is* protecting the welfare of the horse. We are working hard through the Unwanted Horse Coalition to find ways to decrease the number of unwanted horses and to promote responsible horse ownership. With time, this strategy will solve or certainly improve the unwanted horses issue.

Please help to recruit new members! If you need brochures, or other membership information please contact Dr. John Wright at: wright008@umn.edu or Dr. Gary Block at GBYLC@AOL.com



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Is it reckless to support a bill banning equine slaughter without providing any financial support to house, care for or humanely euthanize unwanted horses?

I don't believe that it is reckless to support a bill banning equine slaughter because there is already an acceptable alternative to horse slaughter. It is euthanasia by lethal injection with barbiturates. People who can afford to buy and keep horses can certainly afford for the final coup de grâce and should not be permitted to avoid this final relatively small expense by being permitted to make a small amount of money from permitting their animal to be inhumanely treated and dispatched.

Over 99% of the horses that die each year in the US are from natural causes or euthanasia. The pro-horse slaughter side wants everyone to believe that horse slaughter is a vital part of the horse industry when, in reality, slaughter probably contributes little to the overall situation.

All of the groups supporting an end to horse slaughter including the Thoroughbred industry and humane community are spending large sums of money to educate horse owners on responsible ownership and humane alternatives. I find it ironic that the groups opposed to a ban on horse slaughter spend nothing on assisting equine rescues. This is where we should come together, but only one side is being responsible.

Will the welfare of horses be adversely affected by legally prohibiting equine slaughter in the United States?

There is no evidence that the welfare of horses will be adversely affected by prohibiting equine slaughter in the United States. A lot of the supposed evidence that banning slaughter will increase abandonment and neglect is trumped up scare tactics by cattlemen and slaughter house aficionados who stand to benefit financially from continuing this malpractice.

California, the largest state and second in horse population banned horse slaughter in 1998 amid the same "sky is falling" predictions, but none of them turned out to be true. Horse theft dropped dramatically while there has been no increase in cruelty, neglect or abandonment cases.

What about concerns that prohibiting equine slaughter in the U.S. will dramatically increase the number of abandoned, neglected or improperly euthanized horses?

When the Texas plants were closed, pro-slaughter folk claimed that there had been a sudden increase in the number of abandoned horses in West Kentucky. This proved to be fiction. They also talked about horses being left tied to trees to die but when this was checked out by the foresters on orders of a senator, it was found to be patently untrue. In fact, in Texas, when the slaughter plants were operating, equine abuse and neglect was higher in that state than in any other. Also, when the Cavel plant closed following a fire, equine abuse and neglect in Illinois actually fell slightly.

It is illegal to abandon and neglect animals in the US. We should work to enforce those laws and not reward individuals we know will be abusing animals.

Will prohibiting this practice in the U.S. simply divert many of these horses to Mexican slaughterhouses where monitoring, handling and euthanasia of these animals may not meet USDA standards?

This will happen if it is not prohibited by law. Sadly, the AVMA and others opposing the bill show their complete misunderstanding of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503/S. 311). There is clear language to prevent the export of live horses for slaughter as well in the existing legislation. The horse slaughter industry is completely export driven so this was important for the bills sponsors. Now that the U.S. slaughter plants for horses have been closed, the pro-slaughter people, opportunists that they are, will transport horses across borders to resurrect their failing industry as long as this is permitted. Ironically, the pro-horse slaughter advocates, working with the slaughterhouses, are contributing to this. Beltex, one of the three remaining US-based horse slaughterhouses continues to buy large numbers of horses in the US for shipment to a Beltex owned plant in Mexico. It is

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extremely important that this loophole is closed.

Does the AVMA take into account the role horses have played in our country's history and their current status in somewhat of a "grey zone" between pet and working animal, when they crafted their position on equine slaughter?

I think the AVMA should take into account the role that horses have played in the country's history and should recognize horses as pet and companion animals. But, instead, they seem to have adopted an automatonish approach that fails to address the relationships that Americans have with their horses. The AVMA has been badly advised by the committee on euthanasia, has listened to the wrong experts, has formulated opinions that seem more political than humanitarian, and now refuse to change their position.

Does the AVMA believe that a majority of its members support their position on equine slaughter?

I do not know what the AVMA believes regarding the views of its membership but it should be their job as leaders of the veterinary profession to guide us members to make the right decisions regarding the humane treatment of animals - not the other way around.

What if any impact do you think the AVMA's outspoken criticism of bills banning equine slaughter will have as a PR issue for the public as well as AVMA members?

I and many of my colleagues, both veterinary and otherwise, are stunned at the AVMA's heartless position on horse slaughter. To others it has come as no surprise since the AVMA has, by them, been regarded for many years as merely the political wing of the veterinary profession as opposed to a group having any genuine concern about equine welfare or other humanitarian issues. The AVMA already supports intensive factory farming practices so this appears to be nothing new.

How does the AVMA respond to charges that condoning equine slaughter is inconsistent with its stated mission of protecting the welfare of animals?

It is hard to see how they justify their position on horse slaughter but I believe they must have convinced themselves about the fallacious argument of horses accumulated in massive numbers and suffering abuse and neglect if horse slaughter is not permitted to continue. They should really have studied the data more carefully before coming to their current ill-advised position.

Treasurer's Report October 23, 2006

As of April 19, 2007 the SVME checking account balance was \$2,044.45. The savings account balance was \$11,457.43. We also hold a \$10,000.00 Certificate of Deposit that will mature May 26, 2007 at \$10, 338.74.

SVME membership dues notices will be sent in July – August, 2007 for the 2007 – 2008 SVME fiscal year which runs from July – July.

John S. Wright, DVM

2007 Meeting Agenda

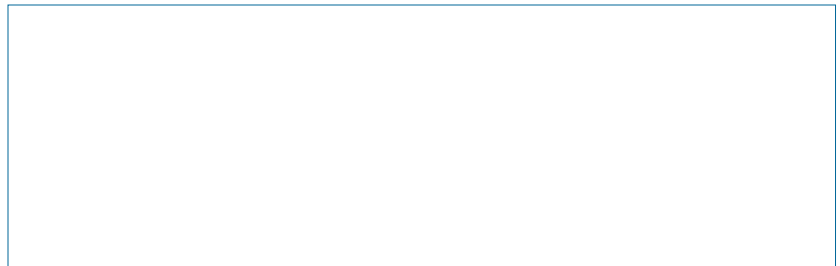
The SVME has organized an interesting and provocative plenary session scheduled to take place on July 15th, 2007 at the AVMA's 2007 Convention in Washington, DC. The morning session will revolve around "ethical conflicts between general practitioners and specialists" whereas the afternoon session will attempt to shed light on the issue of over treatment of animals and the concept of ethical decision-making at times of veterinarian-owner conflict.

Speakers from general practice, academia, and referral practice will provide a forum for constructive discussion and debate on these issues.

Session	Time	Speaker	Title/Topic
1	8:00-8:45	Gary Block DVM, MS DACVIM	Ethical Conflicts Between General Practitioners & Specialists: Case studies
2	8:45-9:30	Gary Block DVM, MS DACVIM, audience	Ethical Conflicts Between General Practitioners & Specialists: Discussion and Debate
Break			
3	10:00-10:45	Anna Worth DVM	Ethical Conflicts Between General Practitioners & Specialists: Protocols and Guidelines for Resolution
4	10:45-11:00	Worth, Block F. McMillan DVM, DACVIM audience	Ethical Conflicts Between General Practitioners & Specialists: Panel Discussion
Lunch			
5	1:00-1:45	Franklin McMillan DVM, DACVIM	Ethical Conundrums Arising from Over Treatment of Animals with Poor Prognoses
6	1:45-2:30	James Serpell, PhD	Cases of Ethical Consternation at a Veterinary Referral Hospital
Break			
7	3:00-3:45	Alice Villabos DVM	Preventing Over Treatment at a Veterinary Cancer Referral Clinic
8	3:45-4:30	Villabos, McMillan, Serpell, Block, audience	Ethical Decision Making at Times of Owner-Veterinarian Conflict: Panel Discussion



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SVME Mission Statement

The SVME was founded over 10 years ago to promote discussion and debate about ethical issues arising in and relevant to veterinary medicine. The SVME publishes a newsletter, provides a listserv, holds an annual meeting at the AVMA convention, sponsors an annual student essay contest and honors an individual annually with the Shomer Award for outstanding contributions to veterinary medical ethics.

Individuals interested in information or in joining the SVME can contact Dr. Gary Block (401) 886-6787 or visit the SVME website

www.vetmed.wsu.edu/org_svme/

to learn more about the organization.

