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The Michigan Veterinary Medical Association represents the veterinary profession in Michigan, advances the knowledge and standards of its membership, and promotes the science, practice, and value of veterinary medicine for the benefit of animal and human health.

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It’s been just over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began and things have changed drastically. When MVMA’s Board of Directors gathered for a strategic planning retreat in early March of 2020, we had no idea what was on the horizon, how long it would last, and how it would change our organization.

I want to take the opportunity to thank our Board, our staff, and you, our members, for coming together this past year under these circumstances. We know it hasn’t been easy, but better days are ahead.

In the coming months, we will finally have the opportunity to roll out our new strategic plan. The plan has four main components that will be worked on over a three-year period. First, we will work to create a stronger voice for veterinarians through public advocacy; diversity; equity and inclusion; and proactive position statements on issues that matter to you. Second, we will make legislative advocacy a key cornerstone of what we do. We will raise more money for the VET-PAC, increase our visibility with lawmakers, and begin to develop a grassroots infrastructure to strengthen our influence in Lansing. Our third priority goal is to enhance governance and maximize the time our Board has together. Discussions will be more strategic and will help us to widen our reach—bringing more people into our organization. Finally, we will create an emotional connection between MVMA and its members. We can do that by creating a wellness initiative, building a leadership pipeline, and ensuring all our members maximize the value from their MVMA membership. These are aggressive goals that will be enacted over the next three years and will help to create a healthy and sustainable organization well into the future.

We’re also making changes when it comes to staffing at MVMA. We have hired Angel Davis as our Director of Meetings & Events. Angel will be responsible for all the planning and logistics of our conferences, CE events, fundraisers for the foundation and the PAC, and much more. She brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will help to further engage our members and enhance the member experience.

Sheri Fandel is being promoted to Chief Operations Officer. Sheri has been with MVMA for 32 years and is highly respected by members, staff, and industry partners. This new title better reflects her commitment to MVMA and to veterinary medicine. Kara Henrys is now our Director of Learning and Strategic Partnerships. Kara has continued to plan and provide quality CE programming for our members. She has her finger on the pulse of veterinary medicine and constantly delivers exactly what our members need. She will continue to excel in this position. She will also continue developing our relationships with students, sponsors and advertisers, and volunteers.

Samuel Florio continues to expand his role as Director of Communications & Digital Strategy. Sam has done a great job revitalizing our magazine, creating a new weekly e-newsletter, and enhancing the quality of all our communications tools.

We are also incredibly lucky to have Dr. Nancy Frank as our Staff Veterinarian. Nancy is such an asset to our organization and our members in terms of her knowledge and experience. She is highly respected in the field and rounds out our team.

I am excited to get to work on our strategic plan, and to continue to evolve our organization. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the staff or myself for anything you may need. We are your Association, and we are here for you.
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For future owners, here are a few of our listings in the Great Lakes Region…

MI: South East - West of Detroit. Solid, medium practice in a home and clinic. Several faculty treatment. Small support staff expected to stay. Owner is ready to retire and will help with transition. (HHG20)

MI: Central - Excellent, unstaffed, small animal hospital with revenues over $400K. Well-equipped facility with room for growth. Both the practice and real estate are for sale. (HHG22)

MI: Northeast - A Fish, companion animal hospital, with potential for expansion and extremely cash flow. The facility is leased in a great location and is well-equipped. The owner will help with transition. (HHG20)

OH: Northeast - Solid, small animal practice with high adjusted work schedule and excellent location. Opportunity. This well-equipped practice & the real estate is for sale. (DHG50)

OH: Northeast - Companion animal hospital with over 10 years of history in community. Small practice, small equipment and housed in a very strong building. Both practice and real estate are for sale. (DHG20)

NH: Northeast - Solid small animal practice just northwest of Concord. Owner is ready to retire and both the practice and real estate are for sale. (HHG20)

IN: South - Small, established, one doctor, companion animal hospital. The practice is housed in a fire hardened, owned facility that is well maintained and well-equipped. (HHG34)

IN: Western Central - Practice and real estate for Sale!! Solid, small animal practice, well-equipped with healthy revenues and a solid client base. (HHG36)

WI: Southwest - Solid, LA practice. Operates in an attractive, well-equipped, fire hardened building. Both practice and real estate for sale for (HHG80)

NV: Northern - Perfect start for veterinarian! Small Nevada practice. Well equipped and busy practice with room to grow! Practices and RE for sale. (HHG80)

To learn more about any of these opportunities, you can complete the confidentiality agreement at the Schultz & Associates website www.schultzassoc.com

The Power of 10 Leadership Academy is a completely free, real-world, highly interactive program designed to provide 10 recent (<10 years from a college of veterinary medicine) veterinary graduates with transformative experiences that will help empower and educate them on veterinary best practices. The program consists of four leadership development sessions that occur over a one-year period. During each session, MVMA provides an industry expert who covers topics like team building, effective communication and public speaking, personality assessments, generational differences, human resources, impacts of legislation on veterinary medicine, work/life balance and personal wellness.

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To enroll in the next Power of 10 Leadership Academy, complete the Power of 10 Leadership Academy application form that can be found by going to www.michmva.org/POTL. Send all completed forms and required identification to mvma@michvma.org. Completed forms may also be dropped off at the MVMA office during normal business hours. If you have any questions regarding the program, send an email to POTL@mvma.org or call 517.347.4270. Only MVMA members are eligible to participate.

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As veterinarians, you already understand that often collaborative care is the way to provide your patient with the best medicine. We’ve heard members say that veterinary medicine is a small community. COVID-19 has shown a light on the importance of community in ways we never considered before, not just in practice but in our everyday lives. Building a community of progressive and leadership-driven practitioners is the main purpose of MVMA’s Power of 10 Leadership Academy (POTL). If you are interested in becoming a part of an active learning community, this opportunity is for you!

Many of the skills needed to become a successful and fulfilled practitioner aren’t taught in school. Finding a new way to network while getting the chance to discover a better understanding of yourself as a professional and your ability to make critical business decisions is a way the POTL can offer support. Participating in the MVMA POTL will enable you to develop skills—strengthening your ability to effectively communicate with your team, address issues facing your practice and personal development, and incorporate ways to create a thriving work culture. Participants also earn CE credit for all hours completed.

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Kara Henrys is MVMA’s Director of Learning and Strategic Partnerships, and can be reached at henrys@michvma.org or 517.347.4270.
WHEN DO I HAVE TO START KEEPING TRACK OF CE FOR RENEWAL OF MY VETERINARIAN LICENSE?

Look at the expiration date on your veterinarian license. If your license expires on or after December 31, 2022, count back three years from the expiration date. If you renew on your expiration date, that date, three years back, is when you need to start tracking your CE. If you do not like waiting until the last minute to renew your license, just remember your CE must be taken within three years of when you renew, so you can adjust your date to start tracking CE accordingly. For example, let’s say I just renewed my license at the end of 2020 and it now expires on June 14, 2024. Going back three years would be June 14, 2021. If I plan to wait until the last day to renew in 2024, I can start tracking and documenting my CE on June 13, 2021. This means when I attend the 2021 Great Lakes Veterinary Conference this summer, I can get started tracking and documenting my CE.

HOW MUCH CE DO I NEED?

Veterinarians are required to complete 45 hours of approved CE to renew licenses that expire on or after December 31, 2022. The CE must be taken within three years of when you renew. Each CE session can be worth up to 3 credits, or 14 credits for full-day sessions. There are different types of CE sessions, including live and in-person, virtual, and e-learning. Live and in-person CE is preferred, but virtual and e-learning are accepted if they are approved by the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) or other approved providers. A certificate of completion is provided by the provider as proof of attendance. You will need to submit this certificate along with your renewal application.

WHAT DOES LIVE AND IN PERSON MEAN?

According to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), “live” and “in-person” CE requirements are being modified. The new rules state that CE can be taken live and in-person, meaning that the program is presented in real-time and you are present at the program. Pre-recorded webinars or e-learning opportunities do not qualify as “live” and “in-person” CE. Pre-recorded webinars or e-learning opportunities will not be accepted to meet this requirement. This clarification took place at the start of the pandemic with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Epidemic Order(s) in effect to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CE ACTIVITY COUNTS AND WHAT PROOF DO I NEED TO KEEP?

Major CE providers including MVMA, AVMA, Michigan local VMAs, and RACE are all approved providers. There are more approved providers, though, so check the Veterinary Rules and check with the approved providers and for details. The rules also specify activities besides attending lectures that may count as CE. Remember you need at least one hour of CE on medical records and at least one hour that relates to state veterinary law and/or federal or state controlled substance laws. Be careful that you do not claim credit for taking the same program twice or even a program that is “substantially identical” as that is not allowed.

What you need to keep as proof of your CE credits is detailed in the Veterinary Rules. You must keep your CE documentation for four years after you renew your license. You only need to submit your CE to LARA if they request it.

ARE MORE CHANGES COMING?

Yes, we anticipate more changes coming in CE requirements and we expect the changes to be positive. The Veterinary Rules are in the process of being updated. When changes are adopted, we will be sure to let you know.

Sources used for this article can also be found at www.michvma.org/PeoplePetsandPractice

Nancy Frank, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, is MVMA’s Staff Veterinarian, and can be reached at frank@michvma.org or 517.347.4710.

Dr. Nancy Frank is a current member of the Board of Veterinary Medicine. Her viewpoints do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of the Board.
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In this special edition of the Member Spotlight, we will be highlighting the newest member of the Executive Committee (EC), Dr. Dana Tatman-Lilly.

Dr. Tatman-Lilly determined by age 6 that she wanted to pursue a career in medicine. However, it was not until later in her life when she was volunteering at an animal shelter in Ithaca, NY, that a board member there encouraged her to shadow at his clinic. After volunteering at the office, she “fell in love” with veterinary medicine. “In retrospect, it makes sense since I grew up with many different species of animals, and I loved caring for them all,” she recalled. “I just never knew all the things that veterinarians did until I was much older.” In 2008, Dr. Tatman-Lilly graduated from MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine with her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). “I find being a veterinarian rewarding because I get to strengthen the human-animal bond, help sculpt future colleagues, and improve my patient’s quality of life,” said Dr. Tatman-Lilly. “I love solving problems and in veterinary medicine, you will find unique problems to solve.”

Dr. Tatman-Lilly is a long-time member and supporter of the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA). Over the years, she has participated in many MVMA programs serving in various capacities. Dr. Tatman-Lilly graduated from the Power of 10 Leadership Academy, and was part of the inaugural class. She has served on the MVMA Board of Directors for four years as the Mid-State representative. In addition, Dr. Tatman-Lilly has been on various task forces, and serves on the Small Animal Series Committee and Student Committee as chair.

Besides being a member of the MVMA, she also belongs to the Mid-State VMA, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP). With the AAFP, she is active member, participating in two task forces and other volunteer projects. Dr. Tatman-Lilly also enjoys participating in various charitable races whenever time allows.

As Dr. Tatman-Lilly moves into this next chapter as 2nd Vice President, she was asked to share her past experience and aspirations for the future as she continues to serve MVMA members.

What do you hope to contribute while serving on the EC? "This new role and set of responsibilities provide an opportunity for me to contribute the knowledge I have acquired from previous MVMA training programs, such as the Power of 10 Leadership Academy, and other professional experiences. In addition, it will be an honor to work alongside each of the Executive Committee members as we tackle issues facing our members and the profession." Why did you decide to pursue a leadership role with the MVMA EC and how will it help you as a professional? “Over the years, I have had the pleasure of volunteering with the MVMA in a variety of ways. I have been able to serve on task forces, assist with planning continuing education events, and serve on the Board. This unique opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee seemed like a natural next step. It would allow me to use what I have learned from my other volunteer experiences and further contribute to the veterinary profession.

In your journey to becoming the MVMA 2nd VP, what has been the most rewarding aspect and why should others consider volunteering with the MVMA? “My time with the MVMA has given me the ability to work with an amazing group of like-minded professionals who care about the profession and the communities we serve. I have been able to network with veterinarians from across Michigan. We have been able to share ideas and wonderful learning experiences over the years. In addition, new opportunities have become available and I have found myself learning so much professionally from participating in various opportunities that I otherwise would have not been able to do. Volunteering with the MVMA has resulted in so many rewarding experiences and a decision that I’m grateful I made.”

Dana Tatman-Lilly, DVM, MS
Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine

EDUCATION: Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine
CAREER: Associate Veterinarian | Clinical Course Mentor Veterinarian

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Member Spotlight

Dana Tatman-Lilly, DVM, MS
Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine

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OCCUPORTUNITY IN DIFFICULTY

Winston Churchill once said, “A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

I think that we can all agree that we have experienced great difficulties this past year. Many of us have lost friends and family members, experienced illness and recovery, and we have struggled to keep our hospitals running whilst attempting to protect our teams physically and emotionally. We worked to make sense of the changing government regulations and follow rules that did not always make sense to us. Then the public adopted additional pets — oodles of new puppies and kittens — and spent more time noticing problems with their animals as they worked from home. The increased demand for our services has been great for increased business but has added big pressure to an already stressed out profession.

It has been one heck of a difficult year.

Some of the frustrations that we have experienced are beginning to fade with time and with the development of the COVID-19 vaccines, but many challenges will continue to follow us into this second year. As we attempt to get back to “normal” we will need to embrace the lessons that we have learned and overcome pessimism to see our many challenges and difficulties as opportunities for personal and professional growth.

What are the “take-aways” that we will carry into 2021?

We must improve self-care. The pandemic has given us the opportunity to see how poorly we take care of ourselves. We are the profession of long hours, skipped lunches, over scheduling, and even working while we are ill. How many times have you worked while experiencing a cold or flu? I would bet that if you are like me, it has been many times. The pandemic is shining a light on our poor self-care habits. If we are to truly embrace the lessons that we were given by this pandemic, we must set boundaries to care for ourselves and our teams above all else. Business cannot thrive without healthy people and pets cannot be saved without a mentally solid team. We need to take time to eat better, exercise, relax, nurture relationships, and create balance. Take care of yourself first, your family and team second, and the patients and clients third. Only through self-care can we really create a new and better normal for this profession.

We must continue developing better, more efficient communication. The pandemic has offered us the opportunity to practice different communication techniques with clients and our teams. Masks, social distancing, and phone communication has stripped us of many of the non-verbal cues that help us communicate our ideas. We need to practice expressing empathy and sympathy without the benefit of face-to-face interaction and without physical touch. We can continue to learn how to embrace emerging technologies without losing the critical personal connection with our fellow humans.

We must hang on to our optimism. I believe that we are generally a profession of optimists, spending our days with patients that cannot speak or point us toward their area of pain or disease. We have the added challenge of meeting both patient and client needs. Patients that often bite us or lash out attempting to harm us and clients who are often emotional, demanding, and push us to our limits. Only an optimist would enjoy veterinary medicine. We must continue to nurture our strength as a profession through our natural optimism — learning to see the opportunity in each challenge that we face.

The last 12 months have been the most personally and professionally challenging in many of our lives. We will continue to move on and push through by supporting one another. Together we will find the opportunity in our difficulty.

Julie Cappel, DVM, is the director of Warren Woods Veterinary Hospital and a certified life coach. Dr. Cappel can be reached at jacappeldvm@gmail.com or 586.751.3350. Also, join Dr. Cappel weekly on her podcast, “The Veterinary Life Coach Podcast”, available on iTunes and Spotify.
The term “One Health” is being used more and more often in veterinary and human health. It is more of an “approach” than a particular discipline and it is usually used when addressing complicated problems of varying scope. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a reasonable definition:

One Health is “a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach—working at the local, regional, national, and global levels—with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment”.

Most of our health-related agencies at the national (USDA, CDC, and FDA) and global level (WHO, FAO, and OIE) now have One Health offices or agency directives. The jurisdiction of One Health is traditionally described as where human health, animal health and environmental health intersect or overlap.

Veterinarians have long taken the lead in recognizing the need for closer collaboration with our human health partners and pushed for adoption of the One Health approach. As veterinarians, we also recognize the impacts that animals experience due to their environments (secondhand smoke exposure, poor ventilation in a confinement operation), and the impacts animals can have on the health of the environment (local parasites, overgrazing). The role of the environment is especially obvious during times of natural disasters (wildfires, floods) and where wildlife is involved (Bovine TB, Lyme Disease).

From a veterinary perspective, zoonotic diseases are the most obvious issue demanding a One Health approach to prevention and response efforts, as 75% of emerging infectious diseases have originated in animals or animal products. In addition to zoonotic diseases, food safety and antimicrobial resistance top the priority list for veterinarians. However, the list of One Health issues also includes vector-borne disease, food security, agricultural sustainability, water quality, chronic diseases, mental health, and occupational health, to name only a few.

The current COVID-19 pandemic is only the latest in a series of pandemics or outbreaks that make headlines and disrupt lives. These outbreaks are the result of pathogens (jumping species barriers from animals to humans, usually through direct contact or environmental transmission) or new strains of existing pathogens. The benefit of controlling influenza outbreaks in animals to reduce the likelihood of those virus strains acquiring the ability to infect humans became clear along with the value of animals as sentinel animals and the need for sharing surveillance data across agencies. Further, when emerging zoonotic diseases are detected in domestic animal populations, food security may be jeopardized because the approach to control transmission is often rapid depopulation.

Veterinarians have contributed to the current COVID-19 response efforts in numerous capacities. Veterinarians in public health roles are working on COVID-19 testing, surveillance, and contact tracing efforts. Veterinarians are exploring the animal origin of the virus, tracking transmission between people and their pets, people and zoo animals and outbreaks on mink farms. Regulatory veterinarians are assessing the risk of COVID-19 to our animal agriculture and dealing with food safety and animal welfare issues arising from disruption to our animal processing capacity. Our own MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is testing human samples for the virus. Private practitioners have continued to provide excellent care by rapidly adapting to enhanced cleaning and disinfecting regimens and social distancing requirements. We are all responsible for staying up to date on the pandemic and offering educated, scientific, evidence-based advice to our clients and stakeholders.

As MSU College of Veterinary Medicine began its curriculum redesign process, the importance of producing graduates fluent in the One Health approach was recognized by college leaders. There is no national or international consensus on competencies for One Health professionals, but an attempt to consolidate the results of several working groups was made (Ref 1). This consensus list was used as the basis for course development. Any One Health competencies not already covered in the DVM curriculum were incorporated into the One Health Courses, in addition to core topic content. All students now take a series of four One Health courses, one per semester for their first four semesters. The focus of the four courses are: 1. Role of Government (including human, animal, and environmental health), 2. Food Safety and Security, 3. Zoonoses and Disaster Response, and 4. Antimicrobial Resistance and Systems Thinking. USDA’s initial accreditation training is incorporated into these courses and the role of policy is also highlighted. Students are encouraged to become policy advocates.

In so many ways, veterinarians are the ultimate One Health practitioners. Our education is broad. We know multiple species. It is our nature to think within and between species. We are expert interpreters of non-verbal, behavioral communication. Humans are just one more species to us and population health a natural extension of individual health. As the One Health approach to global health becomes widely adopted, be patient with other medical and environmental professionals and encourage them to remember how connected we are all. Only by working together can we tackle the pressing issues we face in our cities, states, country, and especially the complicated “wicked problems” facing our world today.

References:

Melinda Wilkins, DVM, MPH, PhD, is MSU CVM’s Associate Professor of One Health, Public Health, and Global Health Education, and can be reached at wilkinsm@msu.edu.
MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF PROGRESS:

The Importance of the One Health Approach in the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis

By Nora Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM

In these unprecedented times, the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health has become abundantly clear. The shared risks associated with COVID-19 underscore the need for shared knowledge and increased collaboration.

However, while the current pandemic has brought a heightened awareness to the shared vulnerabilities of multiple species, this concept has long been at the center of bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication efforts in Michigan. As part of these efforts, veterinarians play a central role in ensuring the safety and marketability of the state’s beef and dairy products.

CONTEXT:

Bovine TB is one of the oldest diseases known to man, and it is caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium bovis. These bacteria are hardy and can survive on surfaces in the environment for long periods of time, which makes the disease difficult to eradicate.

While this disease is found primarily in cattle, it has also been found in cervids (deer and elk), bison, goats, and carnivores such as coyotes. In fact, any warm-blooded animal, including humans, can be affected by the disease.

People can contract bovine TB by coming into direct or indirect contact with an infected animal, such as field dressing an infected deer, drinking unpasteurized milk from infected cows, or consuming raw or undercooked meat from infected animals.

In Michigan, bovine TB is not a new issue. The disease was frequently found in dairy and beef cattle throughout the mid-20th Century. Today, the disease is known to be present in the free-ranging white-tailed deer population in specific areas of northeastern lower Michigan, and the disease can be transmitted between deer and cattle.

As a result, there are currently two TB zones within the state: a four-county area in northern lower Michigan called the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) and the remainder of the state is referred to as the Accredited Free Zone (AFZ).

Due to the potential impact on public health and on Michigan’s agricultural economy, the adoption of a One Health approach has allowed the United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services and Wildlife Services (USDA APHIS VS and WS), the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), stakeholder groups, local health departments, hunters and cattle producers, and local communities to work in partnership to make steady progress toward the eradication of the disease.

ROLE OF VETERINARIANS:

Within this collaborative network, veterinarians have a vital role in surveillance for the disease. These surveillance efforts take the form of live animal testing and slaughter surveillance for cattle and testing samples from the free-ranging white-tailed deer population. The purpose of this testing is to identify any new cases of the disease, ensure that the level of disease remains stable, and monitor that the disease is not spreading beyond a defined geographical area.

More specifically, for livestock, state, federal, or accredited private veterinarians routinely complete annual whole herd bovine TB testing on all herds located in the four-county MAZ area (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties) and Presque Isle County. This testing includes all cattle and bison 12 months of age and older, all non-natural additions of any age, and privately-owned cervids that are in contact with a herd, which helps to monitor the health of herds.

Also, at these same counties, veterinarians may conduct bovine TB testing on individual animals prior to their movement from their home premises to decrease the possibility of disease transmission.

Further, there is a concerted effort to assess whether bovine TB has spread outside of the MAZ. Therefore, 150 cattle herds from the other counties that immediately surround the MAZ (Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Otsego, and Roscommon) are currently selected at random each year for the same type of whole herd testing.

In addition to the state’s efforts, the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) includes veterinarians who oversee and conduct inspections at slaughter facilities and ensure that animals are healthy prior to their movement into the food chain.

While these surveillance measures are taken for livestock, surveillance is also conducted in wildlife. MDARD and the USDA work in partnership with the DNR to establish surveillance quotas for the MAZ and its buffer counties to detect changes in the occurrence of bovine TB in free-ranging white-tailed deer. Most of these samples are provided by local hunters at the DNR’s deer check stations and drop boxes. Wildlife veterinarians then test these samples for the presence of the disease.

Beyond surveillance, veterinarians at the state level also oversee the activities of the Wildlife Risk Mitigation (WRM) program. This program works with individual producers to create biosecurity plans that aim to protect herds and their feed and water from contact with deer, thus, reducing the likelihood of cattle becoming infected with TB.

Overall, with more than 12,000 cattle producers in the state who maintain more than 1.2 million cattle, the efforts of veterinarians at the local, state, and federal level are crucial in maintaining market access for Michigan cattle, meat, and milk products. However, even with the multifaceted approach that the state is using to monitor and combat the disease, the bacteria that causes bovine TB has proven its resilience throughout the centuries, which necessitates that One Health-based efforts must go even further for the disease to be eradicated.

Currently, veterinarians are highly involved with multi-disciplinary teams that are conducting research aimed at improving testing methods for bovine TB in animals and exploring the possibilities of vaccinating deer and/or cattle herds.

Whether ensuring the safety of today’s marketplace or planning for tomorrow’s possibilities, the open avenues for collaboration and communication that the One Health approach affords are essential in addressing the complex and comprehensive nature of zoonotic diseases. With bovine TB, this approach helps focus the efforts of a diverse collection of individuals to make progress toward eliminating the disease and creating healthy cattle, healthy deer, and healthy communities.

Nora Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM is the State Veterinarian and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development’s Animal Industry Division Director and can be reached at WinelandN@Michigan.gov or 517.284.5689.
PIVOTS TO HUMAN TESTING

By Courtney D. Chapin

Diagnosticians at the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory can test both animal and human samples for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans. The Laboratory began testing samples collected by the MSU Health Care team at on-campus sites in mid-September and provides results within 24 hours or less.

As of mid-February 2021, the VDL has tested more than 12,000 human samples. The Laboratory has the capacity to conduct 1,000 COVID tests per day.

“The Laboratory has proven invaluable to the State of Michigan when we have faced threats to animal health. Now, we can provide support as we face perhaps the greatest human health threat of our lifetimes,” said VDL’s interim director, Dr. James Averill. “We’re here and we’re ready.”

Veterinary medicine might not be the first line of defense against COVID-19, but these healthcare professionals have the skills, knowledge, and competency to make an impact. MSU veterinary medicine experts began monitoring SARS-CoV-2 in late January 2020 and soon developed a test for animals. At the same time, they used protocols upon by our human health colleagues to respond to a human health crisis of this magnitude.

“The Laboratory is well-versed in processing infectious disease samples, including those with potential to infect humans. In fact, the building was designed to facilitate testing for a zoonotic disease outbreak, with enhanced biosafety spaces for safe handling and containment of high-consequence diseases,” said Dr. Steven Bolin, professor and MSU VDL associate director.

Bolin and a team of six laboratory technologists in the VDL’s immunodiagnostics section were responsible for setting up and conducting SARS-CoV-2 testing.

The VDL diagnosticians faced a challenge switching from animal samples to human samples. While the processes, procedures, supplies, and equipment are similar for each, human testing is regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services through the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, or CLIA. Establishing standard operating procedures for human testing and securing supplies were only part of the process.

“One of the strengths of the VDL is our quality program. The commitment to quality is shared across all levels of the laboratory and enables us to stand behind our processes and test results. For us, quality assurance is more than just a requirement for accreditation. It’s a promise to our clients,” said Averill.

The diagnostic team partnered with Dr. John Gerlach, Olin Student Health Center laboratory director and program director of MSU’s Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics program, to oversee testing of human samples at the VDL. Samples are collected by MSU Health Care and transferred to the VDL for testing.

“It was a very short hurdle to have the VDL CLIA ready. The accrediting body they already work under has many of the same goals and similar regulations. It was really a matter of aligning documentation of compliance with Olin’s process. The VDL has a great group of dedicated laboratory professionals,” Gerlach said.

Bolin and others at the Laboratory worked closely with both Gerlach and officials at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, or MDHHS, especially those at the MDHHS laboratory, to ensure that the MSU VDL was prepared to begin testing when needed.

To help the MSU VDL increase potential test capacity from 100 samples per day to 1,000 samples per day by September, MDHHS provided a test kit for the VDL team to adapt and verify a procedure that can run three times more samples than the standard CDC format. MSU President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D., prioritized funding to cover start-up costs for additional resources to achieve capacity goals. Despite supply chain challenges, the new instruments arrived days before the first samples were delivered for testing.

While the MSU VDL can test animals for SARS-CoV-2, this test is not available for routine testing. Appropriate authorization is required. For more information, please visit animalhealth.msu.edu.

The MSU VDL, a service unit in the College of Veterinary Medicine, is a premier, full-service, fully accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory for all species. On average, the lab performs one million tests per year on approximately 200,000 cases for more than 300,000 animals. The MSU VDL is a member of key federal networks charged with protecting human and animal health, and their core diagnostics, innovative solutions, and expert service have earned them clients in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and more than 20 foreign countries. The lab serves approximately 11,000 clients per year.

Courtney D. Chapin, is the Communications Manager for MSU VDL, and can be reached at chapindm@msu.edu or 517.432.5832.
One important aspect of One Health with which we veterinarians are intimately involved is that of animal welfare (AW), regardless of which career path we’ve chosen: private practice or corporate, small, large or mixed animal, shelter, research, zoo/exotic, industry, production, education or government. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all our efforts in enhancing AW, both negatively and positively. My familiarity with the COVID-19 effects is mainly through my work in small animal practice, referrals to specialist and emergency clinics, and with research through the University of Michigan Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

In the early months of 2020, stay-at-home mandates and the uncertainty of the course of the pandemic in Michigan left many practitioners unable to adequately attend to routine care, preventive visits and non-critical surgeries. In my area of Southeast Michigan, emergency and specialist centers were overwhelmed with cases, and general practices were backed up with the inefficiency of curbside care and our efforts to limit human contact to protect our staff, doctors, and clients.

Veterinarians in research have dealt with the challenge of research protocols being delayed or put on hold due to staffing and distancing restrictions, which have affected countless numbers of research animals. Backups have occurred at food animal slaughter and processing facilities and interfered with production cycles. Every aspect of our collective efforts to positively impact AW have been affected.

Once the number of COVID-19 cases began to ease in June, we all began to chip away at backed up routine care and have been very busy ever since. This, of course, has taken both a visible and invisible toll on all of us in the profession. Like most of my colleagues in SE Michigan, I’m sure when we can return to a degree of “normal”. We veterinarians have responded very well to the challenge of adapting our SOPs to maximize our curbside service efficiency while protecting ourselves and our staffs from COVID-19 exposure. However, we must not overlook the negative stress effects on the veterinary community.

One positive effect of COVID-19 is the increased number of families looking to add a pet to the family, many by adoption. On the plus side, many pets that would have spent stressful time in shelters are now in good homes with many family members working from home. On the negative side, I’ve witnessed clients making poor choices in terms of dog breeds for their particular family situation, and I’m wondering how many of these and other pets will experience separation anxiety when their owners start going back to work at the office. Only time will tell how many work-at-home jobs will remain at home.

Another positive has been the increasing familiarity with and usage of teledmedicine, witnessed by the number of commercial offerings for veterinary telemedicine “visit” platforms. Clients concerned with COVID exposure and time/scheduling difficulties getting patients into the office have been somewhat mitigated by telemedicine use. Teledmedicine has been used successfully to evaluate fractious animals for minor problems as well. The continued usefulness of post-pandemic telemedicine for veterinarians will be interesting to follow.

We’ve now moved into the early stages of COVID-19 vaccination. As we now complete a year of dealing with COVID-19, the stressful effects on our profession of avoiding exposure, dealing with the backlog in cases and the numerous other pandemic-driven factors affecting our collective ability to positively affect the AW under our care are still very real. Recognition of the dangers of chronic stress and burnout while maintaining cautious optimism as we navigate 2021 would seem like a wise course.

By John Parker, DVM, MBA, MA
Around the globe, the collective efforts by governmental agencies, non-profits, educational institutions, and other various health-related organizations have played a vital role in researching, informing, and protecting animals and humans against deadly diseases such as COVID-19. Here in Michigan, this is echoed as organizations such as the Michigan Department of Health and Humans Services (MDHHS), Michigan State University (MSU), and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), to name a few, provide essential resources that help keep both animals and humans safe.

The COVID-19 pandemic and past outbreaks around the world have provided strong evidence as to why the One Health approach needs to be further integrated at all levels. We can all hope that this period in history continues to spark important conversations, and Michigan becomes a safer place to live as more collaboration evolves, and institutional barriers to One Health are overcome.

Among others, one Michigan agency participating in this collaborative effort is the MDNR. The MDNR currently operates with eight divisions and two offices, all of which support MDNR’s mission. According to the MDNR website, “The MDNR is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. The MDNR strives to protect natural and cultural resources, ensures sustainable recreation use and enjoyment, enables strong natural resource-based economies, improves and builds strong relationships and partnerships, and fosters effective business practices and good governance.” As an example, the MDNR currently manages about 12% of all the land in the state of Michigan. This includes one of the largest state park systems east of the Mississippi River.

In a recent interview with Dr. Daniel J. O’Brien, the MVMA gained insightful information about MDNR’s response to COVID-19 and examples of how the One Health approach has and continues to protect Michigan’s natural resources for 30 years and takes great pride in contributing to the well-being of Michigan.

“Michigan is my home and I’ve always felt that the natural resources of this state are incredibly valuable,” said Dr. O’Brien. “Ultimately, I care about what happens to this place. I find it rewarding each day to have the opportunity to play a small part in protecting and conserving that home so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.”

As a Veterinary Specialist, Dr. O’Brien has studied and participated in numerous projects involving infectious diseases and invasive species in Michigan. COVID-19 may have taken the spotlight of late, but MDNR also monitors other potential ecological threats. To tackle these threats, the MDNR and Dr. O’Brien have participated in One Health initiatives that have allowed them to collaborate with various federal and state government agencies, universities around the country and abroad, non-governmental organizations, and non-profits. Dr. O’Brien also participates in a One Health monthly call. This call was the brainchild of veterinarian Dr. Kimberly Signs, the zoonotic disease epidemiologist for MDHHS. On these calls, you will find members of the MDHHS, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), MDNR, Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MSU VDL), and three Michigan zoos discussing news and updates relating to COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases currently impacting animals and people in Michigan. Other recent examples of collaborative efforts by MDNR include research on bovine tuberculosis (bovine TB) in white-tailed deer, eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in ruffed grouse, lead poisoning in bald eagles, and others.

Research on bovine TB by MDNR’s Wildlife Disease Laboratory has contributed to a global partnership combating the disease. The efforts by the MDNR and partners such as MDHHS, the Universities of Glasgow and Minnesota, Cornell University and USDA’s National Veterinary Services Laboratory contributed to the acquisition of a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This grant allowed the collaborators to do whole-genome sequencing of all of the isolates of Mycobacterium bovis from Michigan wildlife and livestock to date. This research has now become a resource for the USDA’s TB Eradication Program and allowed the MDNR and partners at MDHHS, local health departments, Beaumont Health and the University of Michigan School of Public Health to attribute at least five human cases of M. bovis to strains of the bacteria that circulate in wild Michigan deer.

Another example is EEE. This disease has affected Michigan’s equine and livestock populations, wildlife, and the health of the public. EEE is vectored by mosquitoes. So, actions were taken by MDHHS last summer to control the spread of disease in high-risk areas. MDNR assisted by being the first wildlife disease laboratory to describe an outbreak of EEE in white-tailed deer. The MDNR also monitors cases in several other species throughout Michigan. Most recently, the MDNR has partnered with the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin to regionally investigate ruffed grouse as a reservoir for EEE and the effect EEE might be having on that population of birds.

“Those are just two examples and I have many more. Both of those diseases stretch broadly across One Health as it relates to wildlife health, domestic livestock health, and human health,” said Dr. O’Brien. “MDNR is committed to its mission and we look forward to future partnerships that will help protect and benefit the natural resources and people of Michigan.”

For those interested in learning more about the MDNR, you may visit them online at www.michigan.gov/dnr or at one of their 13 MDNR Customer Service Centers located throughout Michigan (DNR Customer Service Guide (michigan.gov)).

Daniel J. O’Brien, DVM, PhD, is a Veterinary Specialist for MDNR, and can be reached at obrienjd@michigan.gov.
What do homeland security, law enforcement, pandemics, and veterinary medicine have in common? Detector dogs!

Detector dogs provide a service to mankind in many ways. Dogs and their olfactory capabilities are used to locate the living and deceased in natural and manmade disasters or to sniff out potential explosives. Due to the law enforcement (LE) dogs being trained for patrol and detection, and may be used to find explosives, narcotics, missing persons, firearms, human remains, or forensic evidence. Agricultural detector dogs are used to detect leaking pipelines, veterinary medicine continues to grow!

With increasing threats of international security, the global demand for high-quality, purpose-bred working dogs has grown. At this time, it is estimated that approximately 80% – 90% of dogs used by the United States military and law enforcement agencies come from Europe, resulting in a national shortage of working dogs. Untrained dogs from commercial vendors can command prices of $10 – $15K and often many of these dogs are unfit for work, either due to physical or behavioral reasons. Detector dogs are valuable resource assets. This resource shortage is being addressed at the federal level by a consortium of key players. Two of these are the veterinary schools at Auburn University (Canine Performance Science) and University of Pennsylvania (PennVet Working Dog Center). Both centers have made a major commitment to improving ‘biosensors’ through a better understanding of canine olfaction, genetics, puppy development, training, canine performance, and health. PennVet and the US Armed Services are using dogs to identify the unique odors associated with COVID-19 infections in the human. This novel chemical signature is being used to develop electronic detectors for rapid screening of people. A large early prototype has already been built at UPenn which shows 92% sensitivity and 87% specificity when differentiating between samples from COVID positive and negative people. Although very promising, more work must be done before it can be used in large scale screening.

Probably the most important role that veterinary medicine continues to play is keeping individual detector dogs healthy and working. I experienced this first hand with my human remains detector (HRD) dog K9 Buzz, Buzz and I first met at Auburn University in 2009 and then he became my partner with the St. Joseph County Sheriff’s Department. We spent almost a decade together continuously training, certifying annually with the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA), and most importantly, locating the missing, Buzz and I worked homicides, suicides, drownings, and cold cases in Michigan, midwestern USA, and Ontario. Buzz had my back and I had his – he was truly my partner and was happiest when he was working.

Routine health care through Buzz’s life was provided by Dr. Christopher Rohwer and the staff at Sprinkle Road Veterinary Clinic, Kalamazoo. Although the clinic cared for my other pets, the relationship that Buzz had with the staff seemed different. Buzz would literally drag me in so he could greet everyone at the clinic. In 2016, there was a decline in Buzz’s health and after an extensive investigation by Dr. Kristopher Sharpe (Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners), Buzz was diagnosed with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Under the care of Drs. Sharpe and Rohwer, Buzz was able to return to work, doing what made him happy. In early 2018, Dr. Christine Swanson came into Buzz’s life with a diagnosis of canine lymphoma. At that point, I was devastated, thinking his career and life was over. The staff at Blue Pearl became our extended family with his frequent treatments. Again, under the care of Drs. Swanson and Rohwer, Buzz was able to keep working and loving each day full of life and joy. Until his death in March 2019, Buzz continued to work on case deployments and uplifted the hearts of everyone who came in contact with him.

On Sept. 7, 2019, K9 Buzz was interred at the Michigan War Dog Memorial in South Lyon, MI. In attendance were members from our department, several Michigan police departments, New York City Police Department, Toronto Police Service, family, friends, and many members of Buzz’s health care team. We were honored to know that K9 Buzz was important to so many people. His quantity and quality of life was due to the care and commitment of his medical team – veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and care-staff. For this, I will always be grateful.

K9 Sherill Woody (5-year-old miniature Wirehaired Dachshund in training for HRD) and K9 Maple (5-year-old English Springer Spaniel; forensic evidence detector dogs), partners of the author. (Photo by Cathy Kirbach)

Author with K9 Buzz, St. Joseph County Sheriff’s Department (Feb. 2019).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
- Auburn University Canine Performance Sciences: https://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/research/cps/
- PennVet Working Dog Center: https://www.vet.upenn.edu/research/centers-laboratories/center/penn-vet-working-dog-center

By Susan Stejskal LVT, PhD

MVMA | THE MICHIGAN VETERINARIAN

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SPRING 2021

SPRING 2021
TACKLING CORONAVIRUS
FROM AN UNEXPECTED ANGLE

A March 2020 proposition to possibly sanitize human medical devices, using a decontamination agent common in animal housing facilities, led to unexpected collaborations and creativity during the coronavirus pandemic.

Dr. Claire Hankenson, director of Campus Animal Resources (CAR), University attending veterinarian, and professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, along with the team of supervisors, veterinary, and training staff within CAR, repurposed an empty animal holding building into a regional decontamination center for medical-grade face masks. Typically, the CAR group has responsibility for the oversight of the husbandry, care, and welfare of all biomedical animals at MSU. For this project, they applied their specialty knowledge in collaboration with health care providers from regional hospitals, campus biosafety professionals, and logistics experts at the Broad School of Business to finalize an efficient and safe decontamination protocol.

In brief, vaporized hydrogen peroxide (VHP) is delivered using dedicated portable devices into rooms that hold N95 masks, previously worn as personal protective equipment (PPE) by health care providers during delivery of patient care. After the VHP fog disperses and dwells within the room, it is evacuated actively from the area and biological indicators are collected for culture to confirm the VHP exposure resulted in the eradication of any potential pathogens from the masks.

The protocol was formalized into an application to the FDA for Emergency Use Authorization, which permits the use of this decontamination practice for N95s only during the ongoing pandemic. Between April and July 2020, the CAR team addressed numerous FDA requests for process details, safety procedures, and pilot test outcomes to support the application. N95 masks were the focus of the FDA, as they are the piece of medical equipment most critical for the prevention of exposure to pathogenic airborne particulates. VHP sanitation extends mask life, which is typically permitted as one-time use, for wearing up to 3 additional times by the original frontline worker. The hope was to return N95s back into use during shortages, as well as to mitigate stressors on the health care systems when PPE supply chains were interrupted over the last year.

On July 24, 2020, the MSU VHP Decontamination process was granted exclusive FDA Emergency Use Authorization, as the first and only public institution to date to achieve this approval. “Over the early winter and spring, with a potential surge of COVID-19 cases related to the existing and new variant strains, the MSU VHP decontamination process has capacity to recycle hundreds of PPE devices back into the supply for the state of Michigan,” said Hankenson.

After several months of developing the tracking forms, templates, and communication links within the MSU Office of Regulatory Affairs, all steps intended to comply with the FDA Letter of Authorization, the CAR team was prepared to begin mask decontaminations at the start of the year. Specifically, in partnership with Dr. Aimee Leisure-Martins, Medical Director at the Cristo Rey Family Health Center in Lansing, the MSU VHP decontamination process was initiated in January 2021. This partnership was particularly rewarding given the mission of Cristo Rey, which is to provide high-quality primary care services to people of all ages (newborns, children, teens, adults, and the elderly), regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay for services. Their team, much like the animal care and resources staff at MSU, worked tirelessly throughout the entire pandemic to care for patients, many of whom are among the most vulnerable groups in the diverse Lansing community. “By collaborating with MSU, Cristo Rey staff are able to extend the uses of our N95 masks, keep our staff safe, and keep our doors open to all of our patients, sick or well,” Leisure-Martins shared.

In addition to the Cristo Rey clinic, MSU CAR hopes to partner with clinics that provide hospice care and with locations across the State of Michigan in the overall response to the pandemic. “While we do expect to convert the building back to animal housing in the future,” says Hankenson, “we plan to have the System operational while demand for N95s remains high. Through the months of dedicated effort and teamwork, we now have, essentially, an instruction manual for how to set up the System again should the need arise for a future public health threat.”

Michigan State University leadership provided the support to leverage its resources, including professional veterinary, medical and logistics experts, to fill a gap in the State’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and help to ensure the safety of essential personnel providing direct patient care during this unprecedented time.

F. Claire Hankenson, DVM, MS, DACLAM, is MSU’s Director of Campus Animal Resources and Attending Veterinarian, she also serves on the MVMA Board of Directors, and can be reached at fclaire@msu.edu.
A ferret needing a work-up for a potential exploratory laparotomy, a Toy Fox Terrier needing surgery for a necrotic mammary tumor, a cat with a urinary blockage—these are just some of the treatments the Companion Animal Fund helped pay for over the past year. The fund is part of the Michigan Animal Health Foundation and allows low-income pet owners to get financial assistance for veterinary care.

It’s just some of the good being done by MAHF, and more is on the horizon. I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you a little bit about what we’re doing at MAHF, how we’re helping the veterinary profession, and how you can get involved.

MAHF was founded in 1969 by MVMA as a way to improve animal health. Since 1977, MAHF has provided grants to help fund almost 50 research and educational projects through individuals and institutions to improve the health and welfare of all animals. These grants have improved veterinary care, animal housing, and medical techniques for all species of animals.

For the past few decades, MAHF has mostly focused on awarding grants, until the Companion Animal Fund (CAF) was established in 2017. Beginning this year, we hope to expand our reach even further. We’ll be putting a stronger emphasis on fundraising so we can continue to support grants, low-income pet owners, and help to tackle other issues facing the profession. One of those issues is the growing student debt crisis.

As veterinarians, many of us are or have been saddled with debt at some point. Veterinary school is expensive and oftentimes salaries right out of school are not high enough to make a dent. It’s our hope to be a leader in tackling this problem. With additional funds raised, we can begin to provide scholarships for students in veterinary school, and relief for those just entering the profession.

This spring, we’ll also begin taking applications for research grants. The MAHF considers all types of proposals concerning animal education, animal health, and disease. Those of an applied nature that will rapidly solve problems seen in clinical practice are preferred. This past year, three projects were funded totaling roughly $18,000. We also expect to see an increase in the need for the Companion Animal Fund given the hardships many are facing during the pandemic.

How can MAHF help you and your clients? It’s easy to access the Companion Animal Fund. First, you need to be a member of MVMA in good standing. Next, you need to obtain proof of eligibility from your client, which can fall into one of two categories.

- Individuals whose income is less than the Federal Poverty Level: Client must provide a copy of his or her most recent Federal Form 1040 as proof. Current poverty guidelines can be found at https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines.
- Individuals on Medicaid or WIC (Women Infants & Children): Client must provide a copy of his or her Bridge Card as proof.

The maximum amount of assistance available is $500 per veterinary clinic per year. This grant can be used all on one patient or divided up to use with multiple patients. Over the past three years, the Companion Animal Fund has helped pet owners pay over $20,000 in veterinary services.

MAHF provides us all with an opportunity to give back to the profession that has given us so much. Whether it’s helping a client in need, helping a future colleague with tuition costs, or helping to find new and better ways to treat animals, MAHF is here to support and advance our profession. If you’d like to learn more, visit www.michanimalhealthfoundation.org/.

Jean Hudson, DVM, is the Chair of the Michigan Animal Health Foundation, and can be reached at jhudsondvm@gmail.com.
MVMA announces NEW MULTIPLE EMPLOYER PLAN FOR MEMBERS

Do you have trouble finding and retaining talented employees? Are you interested in offering and benefitting from your retirement plan? Does the cost of offering a retirement plan simply put it out of reach? If you said yes to any of those questions, you are not alone. Many small and mid-sized Michigan employers face significant challenges when it comes to offering a competitive retirement plan to their employees. Nearly 55 million people across the nation, employed by companies with fewer than 100 employees, do not have access to a corporate retirement plan. Well, today that all changes as the MVMA is ready to help you provide a viable retirement solution for you and your employees. The MVMA is proud to announce our newest member benefit, the MVMA Retirement Multiple Employer Plan (MEP).

WHAT IS A MULTIPLE EMPLOYER PLAN (MEP) AND HOW WILL IT BENEFIT ME?

In 2019, the SECURE Act provided a way for more small and medium business owners to set up retirement plans that are less expensive and easier to administer. The Multiple Employer Plan (MEP) was one of those plans. A MEP allows multiple employers with common business interest to join together and receive benefits based on the utilization of their participant volume. Employer benefits include lower fees, reduced fiduciary and legal risk, access to the same low-cost investment funds as larger employers, and the competitive advantage of competing with larger companies in recruiting and retaining employees.

MEET YOUR MEP TEAM

As a member of the MVMA, you are now eligible to participate in this new low cost, more efficient, and lower risk retirement plan option. This is possible because MVMA has negotiated lower rates and is taking on the responsibilities of the Plan Sponsor, thus reducing your financial burden and liability as an employer. The MVMA has partnered with respected industry leaders, such as UBS Financial Services Inc. and Newport Group to help us navigate the future as we get closer to reaching our retirement goals.

MEET YOUR INVESTMENT FIDUCIARY, UBS.

Boeckman Cotter Spitzer Wealth Partners is a UBS Financial Services Inc. provider and part of UBS, one of the world’s largest global wealth managers. Their award-winning, multigenerational advisory retirement team offers over 90 years of combined retirement planning experience. With access to global resources and their comprehensive financial strategies will help you organize your financial life into three key strategies: Liquidity—to help provide cash flow for short-term expenses, Longevity—for longer-term planning experience. With access to global resources and their comprehensive financial strategies will help you organize your financial life into three key strategies: Liquidity—to help provide cash flow for short-term expenses, Longevity—for longer-term planning experience. With access to global resources and their comprehensive financial strategies will help you organize your financial life into three key strategies: Liquidity—to help provide cash flow for short-term expenses, Longevity—for longer-term planning experience. With access to global resources and their comprehensive financial strategies will help you organize your financial life into three key strategies: Liquidity—to help provide cash flow for short-term expenses, Longevity—for longer-term planning experience. With access to global resources and their comprehensive financial strategies will help you organize your financial life into three key strategies: Liquidity—to help provide cash flow for short-term expenses, Longevity—for longer-term planning experience. With access to global resources and their comprehensive financial strategies will help you organize your financial life into three key strategies: Liquidity—to help provide cash flow for short-term expenses, Longevity—for longer-term planning experience. With access to global resources and their comprehensive financial strategies will help you organize your financial life into three key strategies: Liquidity—to help provide cash flow for short-term expenses, Longevity—for longer-term

MEET YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE FIDUCIARY, NEWPORT.

For more than 35 years, Newport Group has helped companies provide a more secure financial future through retirement plans, insurance, and consulting services. The combination of award-winning service and consist of growth has enabled Newport to become a leader in comprehensive plan solutions and consulting expertise to plan sponsors and advisors. Today, Newport has over 120 billion in retirement assets under its administration, securing more than 22,000 plans and 1.4 million plan participants. To learn more about Newport, please visit their website: https://financialservicesinc.ubs.com/team/bcs/

YOUR MEMP TEAM

Brandon Spitzer

As MVMA president in 1983. Upon graduation from veterinary school, he joined Dr. Arnie Hentschl’s practice in Frankenmuth from 1951 to 1996. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps from 1953-1955. He served on the State Board of Veterinary Medicine and was very active in his community and church having served on many local boards and foundations. “Gus” as he was known by to family and friends, received many awards including the MVMA Service Award and the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Award. He is survived by his second wife, Jeanne, and his children. Many of you may know his son, Kim, an equine veterinarian in Bridgeport, MI.

J. Frederick “Fred” Walton DVM, age 83, of Deckerville, MI, passed away on Dec. 17, 2020. He graduated from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1964; he was proud to say he was a member of the second graduating class of Purdue CVM. He was a life member of the MVMA having joined after graduation; he served as MVMA president in 1983. Upon graduation from veterinary school, he joined Dr. Arnie Hentschl’s practice in Harbor Beach, MI. Later he became a partner at Deckerville Veterinary Clinic specializing in large animal medicine until his retirement. He was active in his community having served at the Sanilac Humane Society for several years after his retirement. Dr. Walton is survived by his second wife, Carol, and his children. Ironically, Dr. Walton and Dr. Muir were partners in the Deckerville practice, former married to sisters, and died just a few days apart.

Walter Raymond Harthon, DVM, 85, of Bear Lake passed away peacefully Sunday, July 19, 2020. He was the tenth of 12 children. He earned his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 1958 from MSC (University). “Doc,” as he was referred to in those days, began his career inspecting beef for the USDA. He later opened the Bear Lake Animal Clinic which he operated until 2003. He was a compassionate man and a staple in his community. Dr. Harthon is survived by his two children, Jeffrey and Lisa.

Robert M. Muir, DVM, passed on Dec. 12, 2020 at the age of 95. He graduated from MSC (University) in 1952 and joined the MVMA in 1953; he was a life member of the MVMA having been a member for 68 years. He founded Deckerville Veterinary Clinic in Saginaw growing the practice from one to six veterinarians. He later went on to become Michigan’s Assistant State Veterinarian. He was involved in his community and his church. His genuine caring and friendship will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his second wife, Sharon, and his children. He loved the MSU community and was an avid sports fan.

Richard P. Reid, DVM, passed away on Oct. 5, 2020 at the age of 75. He graduated from MSU CVM in 1968. He practiced veterinary medicine in Grand Lodge and Bay City, and in 1973, started his own practice in Caro where he worked until 2015. He joined the MVMA in 1970 and was a life member. He is survived by his wife, Pam, his daughter, Tamara, and a son Paul.

Harold “Gus” Braeutigam, DVM of Frankenmuth, MI, died on Dec. 9, 2020 at the age of 92. He graduated from MSC (University) in 1951 and joined the MVMA. He was a life member of the MVMA and served as president in 1983. He ran his veterinary practice in Frankenmuth from 1951 to 1996. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps from 1953-1955. He served on the State Board of Veterinary Medicine and was very active in his community and church having served on many local boards and foundations. “Gus” as he was known by to family and friends, received many awards including the MVMA Service Award and the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Award. He is survived by his second wife, Jeanne, and his children. Many of you may know his son, Kim, an equine veterinarian in Bridgeport, MI.

Donald “Don” J. Frederick “Fred” Walton DVM, age 83, of Deckerville, MI, passed away on Dec. 17, 2020. He graduated from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1964; he was proud to say he was a member of the second graduating class of Purdue CVM. He was a life member of the MVMA having joined after graduation; he served as MVMA president in 1983. Upon graduation from veterinary school, he joined Dr. Arnie Hentschl’s practice in Harbor Beach, MI. Later he became a partner at Deckerville Veterinary Clinic specializing in large animal medicine until his retirement. He was active in his community having served at the Sanilac Humane Society for several years after his retirement. Dr. Walton is survived by his second wife, Carol, and his children. Ironically, Dr. Walton and Dr. Muir were partners in the Deckerville practice, former married to sisters, and died just a few days apart.

The MVMA extends its sympathy to the friends and families of departed members. In memory of deceased members, the MVMA contributes $50 to the Michigan Animal Health Foundation. Friends of deceased members may send memorial contributions to the Foundation. When contributions reach $500, the member’s name is entered on a memorial plaque displayed in the MVMA office. The MVMA staff thanks those thoughtful members who take time to notify the office and send obituaries of our recently deceased members.
AVMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPROVES POLICIES, ACTS ON RESOLUTIONS

The AVMA’s Veterinary Leadership Conference (VLC) was held Jan. 7-9 virtually for the first time due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 VLC attracted more than 600 attendees who gathered to expand and hone their leadership skills with a mix of continuing education sessions, AVMA governance meetings, featured speakers, and networking over the course of three days. If you’re interested in seeing what this year’s VLC had to offer, you can still register and view all education sessions on demand through March.

Attendees included the members of the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD), representatives from state and allied veterinary medical associations, veterinarians from across the profession, veterinary students, and AVMA staff members and volunteers. Michigan was represented by Dr. Stephen Steep (Delegate) and Dr. Jill Lynn (Alternate Delegate).

When your HOD gathers twice a year to conduct association business and consider policies, the interests of members drive the conversation, deliberation, and action. A highlight of the HOD’s leadership conference meeting is delegates address issues of concern in the profession. Thank you to the hundreds of members who answered our call for input on the topics addressed during this year’s forum: Veterinary medicine during the COVID-19 pandemic and the timing of canine spay/neuter.

Delegates held constructive discussions on both topics during the full HOD meeting and smaller committee meetings. While no formal action was taken on either topic, delegates were able to share a wide variety of experiences and opinions, which helps the AVMA’s ongoing efforts to ensure that the Association is providing the resources, education, and guidance that AVMA’s more than 97,000 members need and expect.

HOD members also heard updates on many of the AVMA’s member-focused initiatives in 2020. These included the popular digital education platform AVMA Axon; the success of veterinary economics initiatives, including revising the AVMA’s Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals: 2019 Edition; presenting late and failing to receive the necessary waiver of prior notice to be heard before the House of Delegates at this meeting. Discussion for this resolution is expected at the summer meeting of the House of Delegates. This policy seeks to revise the AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals: 2019 Edition. The AVMA is a not-for-profit association representing more than 97,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia, and uniformed services. The AVMA acts as a collective voice for its membership and for the profession.

For sources used in this article and for more information on the AVMA, please visit https://www.michvma.org/AVMA.

Stephen Steep, DVM, is the MVMA’s Delegate to the AVMA, and can be reached at steepdvm@umich.edu or 248.628.3092.

Jill Lynn, DVM, is the MVMA’s Alternate Delegate to the AVMA and can be reached at jill.lynnmd@yahoo.com or 517-331-2009.

The AVMA House of Delegates approved the following policies and acted on the following resolutions.

**POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS**

AVMA House of Delegates Approves Policies, Acts on Resolutions

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**Resolution 1**—Rules for officer election campaigns: The HOD referred the resolution to the House Advisory Committee for clarification of provisions relating to campaigning and endorsements.

**Resolution 2**—Expansion of dues reduction for newer graduates: The HOD referred the resolution to the Board of Directors for consideration by the Strategy Management Committee and the Budget and Financial Review Committee.

**Resolution 3**—AVMA policy on advocating for necessary veterinary medical therapy: The HOD approved this new policy.

**Resolution 4**—AVMA revised policy on exempt biologics: The HOD approved the revised policy.

**Resolution 5**—AVMA revised policy on guidelines for use of autogenous biologics: The HOD approved the revised policy.

**Resolution 6**—AVMA revised policy on veterinary dentistry: The HOD approved the revised policy.

**Resolution 7**—AVMA revised Model Veterinary Practice Act: The HOD approved the revised model practice act.

**Resolution 8**—Reclassifying ventilation shutdown methods: This resolution was presented late and failed to receive the necessary waiver of prior notice to be heard before the House of Delegates at this meeting. Discussion for this resolution is expected at the summer meeting of the House of Delegates. This policy seeks to revise the AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals: 2019 Edition.

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We are looking to add to our growing practice an associate veterinarian. We offer benefits such as 401(k) (with matching), paid vacations, health insurance, dental insurance, and vision insurance. This position will be full time, with rotating Saturday hours, and one day off during the week. No emergency work, salary is negotiable. We are looking for someone that is upbeat and positive! We strive for customer satisfaction and offer a full line of in-house lab work (IDEXX), doggy daycare, and digital radiography. Denney Vet has been in practice for over 30 years with an established customer base. We are locally owned and operated. New graduates of all types welcome and we are a family friendly practice. Vicksburg is a small (grown) town that is just south of Kalamazoo. This historical, friendly town offers a variety of restaurants and bars, as well as a great community support. Please email denneyvets2000@gmail.com.

**NETWORKING EVENTS**

**EASTERN MICHIGAN SMALL ANIMAL ASSOCIATION & RELAYS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSES**

**VETERINARIANS WANTED**

SIGNING BONUS AVAILABLE! Friendship Animal Hospital in Kalamazoo, MI is hiring a full or part-time veterinarian for our busy practice. We are looking for someone committed to providing high quality care while utilizing new technology. Our staff is knowledgeable, compassionate, and hard working. We are an AAHA-accredited hospital in the heart of the shores of Lake Michigan, 30-40 minutes west of Kalamazoo. We are a low-drama, friendly, and technologically advanced small animal medical practice. Companions Animal Hospital is well established in the community, having served their clients for over 40 years. Competitive compensation and benefits package. Experienced Veterinarians as well as new graduates are welcome to apply. Please send your resume to Dr. Gary @ casgohs.com.

Bankert Pet Hospital is hiring at practices throughout Michigan. Are you looking to finish out a residency or obtain your license excite you? Do you want to push yourself, take the lead on growing your career, and have the opportunity to affect change at the hospital and beyond? Start your search now. “you” in any of the above, we want to talk to you today! Whether you’re an experienced doctor looking for your next adventure, a new graduate seeking to find the perfect fit as you begin your career, or you’re anywhere else along your veterinary journey, the opportunity to join our team exists. We have a beautiful state, a highly trained support team, an engaging clinical day, and the support of some of the kindest people around. You will be offered. Please contact dr.hludlam@gmail.com or call 734/673-1569.

**Why did you become a veterinarian? Don’t get stuck in a position that limits you! Practice your dream at King Edward Animal Hospital in Flint, Michigan. We offer flexibility, support, and opportunity. Currently we provide high quality general practice medicine for dogs, cats, and exotic pets. We are here to support you as you embark on your veterinary career and are always looking for the next generation of doctors to continue to grow our practice. Benefits include PTO, health stipend to assist with finding own health insurance, scrub allowance, daycare allowance, SIMPLE IRA with match and discount on personal loans, Loan Forgiveness credit working at a non-profit. The PAWS Clinic. You can also earn Public Service Loan Forgiveness credit working at a non-profit! If you are interested in pursuing a career in animal welfare, in your area or in the animal community, then this could be for you! Please send your resume to kris@thepawsclinic.com or call/text Dr. Steve at 734/663-7665.**

**Veterinarian:** **Recent Graduates Welcome!** Farmington Hills, MI. At Advanced Veterinary Medical Center, we are currently a 2-doctor practice. We see a large amount of exotic patients too! In this position you would be able to perform whatever procedures you are comfortable with. We have digital radiology, ultrasound, complete in-house lab, and full IDEXX in-house lab. Doctors of all experience levels are welcome, especially those with exotic medicine experience. Send your resume to kris@thepawsclinic.com or call/text Dr. Steve at 734/663-7665.**

**Veterinarian:** **Recent Graduates Welcome!** Detroit, MI. At Affiliated Veterinary Care, we are currently a 2-doctor practice. We see a large amount of exotic patients too! In this position you would be able to perform whatever procedures you are comfortable with. We have digital radiology, ultrasound, complete in-house lab, and full IDEXX in-house lab. Doctors of all experience levels are welcome, especially those with exotic medicine experience. Send your resume to kris@thepawsclinic.com or call/text Dr. Steve at 734/663-7665.
Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital is searching for a part-time veterinarian to join our team in Warren, MI. Our hospital is an AAHA-accredited animal hospital dedicated to the health and well-being of pets. We are looking for a full or part-time associate (2.5 days a week with a flexible schedule) to join our team. We offer a competitive salary, benefits, and opportunities for growth.

Requirements:
- DVM or DVM equivalent
- Ability to communicate effectively with clients
- Ability to work as a team player

Contact info: Ty-una Minau 248-248-878 (call or text), ty-minau@gm.com.

Flagstaff borders the southeastern Michigan area, within reach of any lifestyle: city, suburban, country. Good schools, outdoor activities, and safe communities. For COVID-19 we are curbside only, with a double-board certified exotic specialist, and in-hospital lab and imaging (digital radiology, digital dental radiography, ultrasonography, and endoscopy). We routinely work up and treat all other cases. We also offer physical rehabilitation, a double-board-certified exotic specialist, and a locum position for a part-time veterinarian. We pride ourselves on communication and excellent patient care. The clinic offers digital radiography, digital dental radiography, CT, ultrasound, and endoscopy. We could provide additional services such as veterinary acupuncture, chiropractic care, and other alternative medicine services. We are a client-focused practice, looking for a team player who is passionate about providing the best possible medical care to our patients and their owners. Our clinic is located in a suburban community with access to a variety of restaurants and shops. We offer competitive salaries, benefits, and opportunities for growth.

Contact info: Ty-una Minau 248-248-878 (call or text), ty-minau@gm.com.

We are searching for an associate veterinarian (PT or PT) to join our family, owned and AAHA-accredited small animal practice located in Traverse City, MI. The right candidate is a veterinarian that com- plements our part-time veterinarians and demonstrates a positive attitude. We are looking for a veterinarian who wants to be part of the team and who is passionate about providing the best possible medical care to our patients and their owners. Our clinic is located in a suburban community with access to a variety of restaurants and shops. We offer competitive salaries, benefits, and opportunities for growth.

Contact info: Ty-una Minau 248-248-878 (call or text), ty-minau@gm.com.
VETERINARY TECHNICIANS WANTED

Bayne Mobile Veterinary Services: Seeking application for a licensed veterinary technician for a house call veterinary practice in Oakland and Macomb counties. Must have a valid driver’s license to drive in the county. We will provide all necessary equipment. Must have some experience with Give a call to 517-896-9086.

NewVet Veterinary Services: Seeking an experienced veterinary technician for a busy practice in New York. Send a resume to info@newvetserv.com.

REMARKS: Completion of a form is required to place a classified ad in the Michigan Veterinarian. Please contact the VMBA to obtain a copy of the form.

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

The Michigan Veterinarian classifieds are published in March, June, September, and December. The deadline for ad submission is the 15th of the preceding month. Ads must be submitted in writing and will be published online no later than the 22nd of the month of publication. The editors reserve the right to edit copy to conform to Michigan Veterinarian style and space limitations. Advertisers are responsible for the accuracy of their ads. Michigan Veterinarian makes no claim as to the fitness of advertised products.

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EVENT NOTICE:
In an effort to keep our audience, speakers and sponsors safe, MVMA and MSU CVM have made the decision to postpone MVC 2021, originally scheduled for late January, to Dec. 2-5, 2021. Please save these dates on your calendar.

GREAT LAKES VETERINARY CONFERENCE (GLVC)
In-Person at The Meeting Space, 4039 Legacy Pkwy, Lansing, MI 48911.

MVMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 14, 2021 - TBD
Sept. 10, 2021 - Lansing Office

MVMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
June 2, 2021 - Virtual Meeting
Sept. 5, 2021 - MVMA Office
Nov. 17, 2021 - MVMA Office

MICHIGAN VETERINARY CONFERENCE (MVC)

2020-2021 MVMA SMALL ANIMAL SEMINARS

2020 2021

Internal Emergency Medicine¹
Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ
April 14, 2021 | 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
May 12, 2021 | 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
June 9, 2021 | 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Unburdened: Change how you think
Steven Bailey, DVM, DABVP
Mary Beth Spitznagel, PhD
July 15, 2021 | MVMA Office

Acephal: How to approach the management of unwell patients
Dennis Corro, DVM
Aug. 22-24, 2021

MVMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
June 2, 2021 - Virtual Meeting
Sept. 5, 2021 - MVMA Office
Nov. 17, 2021 - MVMA Office

MVMA COMMITTEES
Animal Welfare Committee
(Dr. Marcie Barkey, Chair)
April 8, 2021 - Virtual Meeting
July 15, 2021 - MVMA Office

Legislative Advisory Committee
(Dr. Cathy Anderson, Chair)
June 3, 2021 - Virtual and In-Person Hybrid
Sept. 10, 2021 - Lansing Office

Public Health Committee
(Dr. Joseph Kline, Chair)
June 14, 2021 - Virtual Meeting
Sept. 12, 2021 - MVMA Office

SAGINAW VALLEY VMA
9th Wednesday of each month, February-May and September-October, with occasional additional meetings at 7 p.m.

Public Health Committee
(Dr. Joseph Kline, Chair)
June 14, 2021 - Virtual Meeting
Sept. 12, 2021 - MVMA Office

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN VMA
Information pertaining to SEMVMA and their CE events can be found online at https://www.senvma.vet/.
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

LARA Bureau of Professional Licensing
(517) 241-0199

Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS)
(517) 241-0166

DEA: Detroit office
(313) 234-4000

DEA: toll-free
(800) 230-6844

MDARD State Veterinarian
(800) 292-3939

MI Dept. of Health & Human Services
(517) 241-3740

State of MI Health Certificates
(517) 284-5767

USDA, APHIS, VS-Accreditation & International Health Certificates
(517) 337-4700

ENDORSED INSURANCE PLANS
FOR MVMA MEMBERS

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD
Blue Care Network, Health Savings Accounts, PPO, and HMO

CITIZENS/HANOVER INSURANCE
Business Owners, Worker’s Compensation, Umbrella Professional Liability, Auto, and Homeowners

DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE
Protect yourself and your family. MVMA members are guaranteed association discounts.

DENTAL PLANS & LONG-TERM CARE

(800) 638-1174  WWW.RCWA.NET
PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE MVMA COMMUNITY SINCE 1991

YOUR INSURANCE CONTACTS

Bill Percha
Ext. 140

Todd McKenna
Ext. 167

Dave Palmeri
Ext. 108

Keyonna DeVries
Ext. 101

Jackie Vitale
Ext. 115

Dawn Jardine
Ext. 133

John Kufchock
Ext. 144

Ralph C. Wilson Agency, Inc.
Insurance Excellence
Proudly supporting the MVMA community since 1991