AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF
HUMAN ANIMAL BOND
VETERINARIANS

AAHABV ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians will be held Tuesday evening, July 23, 1996 in Louisville, Kentucky as part of the American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Meeting. Please consult your conference on-site schedule for the time and meeting room (it will precede the alumni receptions). The agenda includes election of officers.

MR. PRESIDENT-ELECT
(MAJOR PRESIDENT?)

One feature of this newsletter that I am trying to begin is a brief introduction to some of the officers and workers of the AAHABV so that we can all get to know them better. To this end, I have asked several officers to submit a brief introduction to themselves. First come, first featured, so here is a brief “bio” of Dr./Major President-elect Jim Elliott of Texas.

“As you may or may not remember, my name is Jim Elliott. I was the previous editor and secretary for the first two years of this organization. I am a ’79 CSU graduate and am bored in Laboratory Animal Medicine, but my “real job” is as a Major in the US Army. I think that’s more than enough “bio” stuff than anyone needs. A lot of people I run into question what a laboratory animal veterinarian has to do with human animal bond. After all “we’re just a bunch of rat doctors who don’t get attached to anything.” I was in practice for about 7 years before joining the Army, and can safely say that I see as much attachment to the animals in the laboratory personnel as I did in practice. I have not been to a lab that does not

DUES $$$$$$$$$$$$

Have you paid your dues yet? If not please remember to mail them to Treasurer Tom Lane, DVM, University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 100136, Gainesville, FL 3261C. Dues are due by July 1, 1996 in order to be able to vote at the annual meeting.
have some kind of mascot, from mice to pigs. The majority of lab workers have pets, and these are often the same species that are used in the laboratories (mice, rats, guinea pigs). Although the type of medicine has to be one of herd health, the best caretakers and technicians are those that develop a rapport with the animals under study and really care about their welfare. This obviously creates a dilemma when those animals die or are euthanized. All you need to do is review the literature, attend some meetings or participate in COMPED on the Internet to come to the realization that the HAB plays as big a role in the laboratory as it does in other areas.

We are the advocate the animals in the research setting. We must constantly strive to provide the best possible care to the animals in our facilities and develop innovative ways to improve their situation. Environmental enrichment programs for nonhuman primates, dogs and cats have improved not only the quality of life for the animals but also the human staff. For example, a number of institutes have developed adoption programs for dogs and cats which have finished protocols. The programs recognize the fact that laboratory personnel will bond with the animals and allows them to find homes for some animals which otherwise would have been euthanized. These programs are not without risk or controversy and take a dedicated staff to make them work well.

The dilemma we face is that we need compassionate, caring people in our facilities to provide the best possible care for our animals, but it is this same compassionate attitude which causes emotional attachments and creates a stressful environment when those animals die."

**AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

The Citizen Ambassador Program of People to People International is developing a delegation focused on assistance dog services to visit the People’s Republic of China this October. Delegates will be given the opportunity to share one-on-one with their counterparts. Some of the topics that may be discussed include: a general overview of guide dogs, service dogs, and hearing dogs; selection; breeding and rescue; training techniques utilized, adaptive equipment; client training; veterinary and other supplemental assistance; and benefits provided by assistance dogs. Stops are planned in several major Chinese cities where participants will be able to interact with Chinese counterparts.

The Citizen Ambassador Program promotes friendly relations among all countries through the medium of scientific, professional and technical exchange. The informal exchange of ideas that is characteristic of such meetings enables counterpart professionals to bridge political and cultural differences and gain an understanding of each other’s perspectives. The program focuses on specialized disciplines within many fields, the majority of which are science related.

The roots of the program reach back to 1956 when President Eisenhower founded People to People. Eisenhower believed that private citizens reaching out in friendship to the people of other nations could make a significant contribution to world peace. Although it became a private non-profit organization in 1961, most of the Presidents of the United States have continued to be honorary chairmen, however, the work is accomplished by private citizens. For further information, contact Dr. Tom Lane: 352/392-4700 x 4024.
SERVICE DOG RESEARCH

The JAMA April 3, 1996 Col. 275, No. 13 had a wonderful article on “The Value of Service Dogs for People With Severe Ambulatory Disabilities.” It was written by Dr. Karen Allen, PhD (reprints Karen Allen, PhD, Dept. of Medicine, Millard Fillmore Hospital, 3 Gates Circle, Buffalo, NY 14209) and Dr. Jim Blascovich, PhD.

They studied ‘Fifty-eight individuals with severe and chronic ambulatory disabilities requiring the use of wheelchairs who were recruited from advocacy and support groups for persons with muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, and spinal cord injury. Participants were matched on age, sex, marital status, race, nature and severity of the disability in order to create 24 pairs. Within each pair, participants were randomly assigned to either the experimental group or the wait-list group. Experimental group members received trained service dogs one month after the study began and the subjects in the wait-list group received dogs in the 13 month study.”

When the “dependent variables evaluated were self-reported assessments of psychological well-being, internal locus of control, community integration, school attendance, part-time work status, self-esteem, marital status, living arrangements, and number biweekly paid and unpaid assistance hour. Data collection occurred every 6 months over a two year period, resulting in five data collection points for all subjects. Significant positive changes in all but two dependent measures were associated with the presence of a service dog both between and within groups (P < .001). Psychologically, all participants showed substantial improvements in self-esteem, internal locus of control, and psychological well-being within six months after receiving their service dog. Socially, all participants showed similar improvements in community integration. Demographically, all participants showed increases in school attendance and/or part-time employment. Economically, all participants showed dramatic decreases in the number of both paid and unpaid assistance hours.”

The conclusion was “trained service dogs can be highly beneficial and potentially cost-effective components of independent living for people with physical disabilities.”

TUSKEGEE TIDBITS

“Pets for people with HIV/AIDS” The companionship of a pet can be very important for people affected with HIV or AIDS, yet these individuals may often be discouraged from owning a pet because of the possible spread of infection from a sick pet to a compromised owner. A booklet is now available that answers the key questions on this topic, such as when a pet might be a danger, what precautions and HIV-positive or AIDS-infected person should take when owning a pet and what diseases might be transmitted from a pet and the probable risk of transmission. To obtain a copy of the booklet HIV/AIDS and Pet Ownership, send a self-addressed stamped legal-sized envelope to Dr. Caroline B. Schaffer, School of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088. Veterinary Technician, February, 1996.
PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTS BY OUR GREAT LEADER, DR. EARL STRIPLE

Dr. Earl Strimple, our current president is another of those in our field who wears many hats. In addition to being a small animal practitioner in Washington, DC, he is active in Delta Society, helped develop a human-animal bond program at a regional prison, is president of PAL (PEOPLE.ANIMALS.LOVE) and has been a newsletter boon for his regular and on-time submission of articles. Thanks Earl! Keep up the good work.

"I would like to report to you some interesting news from Washington, DC. The last vacant site on the mall has been designed by Congress to be a medical museum, I am sure many people do not remember the old medical museum located there previously. It was torn down in 1968 to make room for the Hirshhorn Art Museum. Before being disassembled and moved to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (on the campus of Walter Reed Army Medical Center), there were over 800,000 visitors to the museum. For a point of reference, the Air and Space Museum is the most popular visiting site in Washington and it has 1.2 million visitors annually. A foundation was established and Dr. C. Evert Koop has been appointed Chair of the Board of Directors. A veterinarian will be appointed to the Foundation Board. This museum is called the National Museum of Health and Medicine (NMHM). It will take the next step in its history as a unique resource in medical education and research. Formed in 1862 as the Army Medical Museum, the facility has served as the primary federal medical research institution for decades and has maintained the artifacts, specimens, and documents that represent its work. Today, these objects form the core collections of a museum dedicated to a three-fold focus: promoting leaning in and about the life sciences, encouraging young people to consider careers in medical and allied health fields, and encouraging healthy life styles. In making their plans, NMHM was eager for veterinary medicine to become involved in planning the new museum. Though veterinary medicine has always been important to the health of our nation, our profession has not been well understood by the public.

At the annual meeting of the AVMA in Pittsburgh in 1995, the executive board approved the establishment of a committee to recommend ways veterinary medicine can be represented in the NMHM and to identify potential sources of funding. A committee representing different facets of veterinary medicine was selected and Bernadette Dunham, DVM, PhD, from the Government Relations Division of the AVMA, was appointed chair. My role on the committee is to represent the human-animal bond which will be featured in the future.

The US Congress has supported bringing the NMHM back to the mall. In 1995, public law 103-337 guaranteed the museum a site at the foot of Capitol Hill next to the Hubert Humphrey Building and across the street from the Botanical Gardens. Though Congress did not appropriate funds for the structure, a capital campaign has been organized to raise private funds. The proposed building will consist of five stories, approximately 27,000 square feet per floor, and the estimated cost for the building is $45 million dollars with $15 additional million for exhibits.

Our prototype exhibit will be "Emerging and Re-emergent Disease." The focus of this display will be to highlight veterinary medicine, to promote veterinarians as key members to a health care team, and attract support for the traveling exhibit. The display module will consist of four panels, free standing and measuring 10 feet by 8 feet. Depending on who will be using the display,
we will be able to adapt the information for their special interest. The exhibit will encourage interest in diseases by making it an interactive display, i.e., a detective type approach in solving the mystery of disease.

To capture attention, the first panel will be the “Hot Zone” revisited. This will feature viruses, bacteria, and parasites that the public is aware of through the media. The Ebola and Influenzavirus, E. coli 0157:H7, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Borrelia burgdorferi, and Cryptosporidium and the Plasmodium species will be some of the pathogens featured. Special equipment worn by the Ebola virus investigators will be available. The second panel will provide additional informational bullets on each of the above topics. History of the NMHM will be presented on the third panel. The fourth panel will focus on veterinary medicine and the wealth of our profession. Brochures will be available to answer questions about diseases and to promote the National Museum of Health and Medicine. This display will make its debut at the AVMA annual meeting in Louisville this summer.

As veterinarians, we welcome the opportunity to participate in developing this museum. The NMHM is recognized as the health information resource center and we have a responsibility to show our role in global health.”

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**PETS AND PEOPLE BLOOD DRIVE**

Here’s a great idea from Dr. Anne Hale, a board-eligible internal medicine specialist from Midwest Animal Blood Services of Stockbridge, Michigan. They teamed up with the local American Red Cross Chapter in Ann Arbor for a First Annual People and Pets Blood Drive. Local veterinarians and technicians donated their time to do a physical exam and take a blood sample for testing for potential canine donors while their owners donated their blood to the American Red Cross. Cat owners were also welcome but their screening was done individually at a later date. People and Pets got a treat (no the dogs didn’t need orange juice) and both the Red Cross and Midwest Animal Blood Services developed a new pool of donors.

GREAT IDEA!

If you see a unique program in your community that promotes the human-animal bond, please let the newsletter editor Betty Jean Harper know at 313/655-7260 or 2862 Kimberly St., Ann Arbor, Mich., 48104 and we’ll share it with the rest of the group.

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**PICKED UP ALONG THE WAY**

by T.J. LANE

Ten Reasons Why Chocolate is Better Than Love
1. You can get chocolate.
2. Chocolate is always satisfying.
3. You can safely have chocolate while you drive.
4. You can make chocolate last as long as you want it to.
5. The work “commitment” doesn’t scare off chocolate.
6. You can have chocolate at work.
7. You can ask a stranger for chocolate.
8. Good chocolate is easy to find.
9. You can have chocolate with all your friends at once.
10. With chocolate, there’s never a need to fake anything.