Our Deepest Sympathy

It was with great sadness that we announce the news of Dr. Loren Will’s death on June 12th, 1998. We were privileged to have him on the AAHABV Board. AVMA said that the cause of death was pulmonary embolism. He is survived by his wife Heather and several children and condolences can be sent to 1910 George Allen Avenue, Ames, IA 50010.

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SEE YOU IN BALTIMORE

We’re looking forward to seeing all of you in Beautiful and Historic Baltimore, Maryland the end of July. As you know, we will be holding our Annual Meeting of AAHABV in conjunction with the Annual meeting of the AVMA. As usual, we will have some superb speakers on HAB subjects as well as our annual business meeting.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held Tuesday, July 28, 1998, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the Renaissance Harbor Place Hotel, in the Pride of Baltimore Room on the 6th floor.

The AAHABV sponsored scientific program will be held on Saturday, July 25, 1998, 1:00 – 4:45 p.m. and has been designated as a “Client Appreciation Day” by AVMA whereby practitioners may bring special clients to a session that they are very likely to enjoy. Obviously this is intended primarily for the local practitioners but if clients from out of town can get to Baltimore, they are welcome if identified by you as a client. The program is as follows:

1:00 - 1:45 “Human-Animal Bond, Past, Present, & Future” (Dr. Tom Lane);
1:45 - 2:30 p.m. “Veterinarians and the Human Clients” (Judith Studds);
2:30 - 3:15 p.m. (Break)
3:15 – 4:45 p.m. “Epidemiology & Prevention of Dog & Cat Bites (Dr. Michael Cornwell).
This coming year should be our best yet and we expect to have some major accomplishments. As always, we need your help and if it is at all possible, we will welcome your attendance at this meeting where we will be discussing the upcoming year and receiving input from those in attendance. Y'all please come!

**Treasures of the Chesapeake**

135th Annual AVMA Meeting
July 25-29

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**REMINDER.......**

Please note the mailing label on the front of this newsletter and check out the date on the lower right corner. If it says 1/99 you are good to go 😊😊😊! If it says 1/98 please send in your membership dues as soon as possible to Sally Walshaw, Secretary/Treasurer at the return address, also on the front of this newsletter. The annual dues are $25 dollars for veterinary members and non-veterinary associate members; $5 for student membership. Your membership is very important to us and the our growing efforts in the Human-Animal Bond field. Thank you!!

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**PET THERAPY ENHANCES RESIDENTS' LIVES**

By Sabrina Kirby (reprinted by permission from the Winter 1998 Newsletter of the St. Simeon's Episcopal Home, Tulsa, Oklahoma.)

**NOTE:** Dr. Ralph Altor, an AAHABV member, sent us this article about St. Simeon's Episcopal Home, a non-profit nursing home in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Dru, donated the Golden Retriever therapy dog, Simone. Steve was also the design architect for the home. Thanks Ralph, Steve and Dru for your great work and for sharing it with us.

St. Simeon's newest resident, Simone, is a five month old Golden Retriever. She arrives at St. Simeon's on Wednesday mornings, and eagerly begins her day by heading for the Alzheimer's Unit. She greets residents as they approach her, receiving smiles, pats, and treats. Residents in each Home in the Unit look forward to their day to host Simone. During most activities, she walks from resident to resident until she chooses one and lies at their feet. Later in the afternoon, Simone heads to the Health Care Center. She visits with residents in their rooms or joins in one of the scheduled activities.

On Thursday evenings, Simone attends Puppy Kindergarten at the Tulsa Dog Training Club, accompanied by Alzheimer's Unit Activity Aide, Brenda Reyman. This is just the beginning of her education. After puppy training, she will attend three additional obedience courses. Once Simone has completed these courses, she will be certified as a social dog. Then, in a few months, she will make her home in the Alzheimer's Unit. She will also visit resident in other areas of the home.

AAHABV Newsletter – June 1998 – Page # 2
Using pets as therapy for residents at St. Simeon's has been a subject the staff and the Board of Trustees have discussed for several years. The decision to have a resident dog was not made lightly. Some of the goals we have for using Simone as a therapy dog with the residents are: To enliven and normalize the environment – To provide a non-threatening opportunity for expressions of caring and nurturing for our residents, who are mainly recipients of care – To encourage socialization by providing a familiar and common topic of discussion, as well as speaking to the animal – To encourage movement, as in reaching to pet, ccmb, or play with the animal and walking and caring for them – To provide an (memorable) experience – To provide sensory stimulation. The soft texture of Simone’s fur and her movement and sound responses are all wonderful sources of sensory stimulation – To encourage reminiscence. Many residents have fond memories of their own pets – To provide an opportunity for nonverbal communication. Physical communication, through petting and holding the animal, can be very rewarding for individuals with difficulties in verbal communication.

Through the interactions that Simone will have with our residents, she will enhance their lives on a daily basis.

Jim was a 3 year old male Weimeraner, owned by a nice middle-aged couple from a rural area near the veterinary college hospital. The owners brought him to the hospital as an emergency on a warm summer Sunday afternoon. They carried him into the hospital and told us that he had collapsed after repeatedly vomiting. He had eaten part of the owner's shirt the day before.

Radiographs revealed a gastric foreign body. Jim was started on i.v. fluids and taken to surgery. The shirt sleeve extended through the pylorus and was removed and Jim was placed in ICU for continued fluid administration. The next day Jim was very weak and did not try to stand. We thought Jim was just recovering slowly. The following day Jim would eat food that was placed right in front of him, but we discovered that he was very weak and unable to stand on his own. Discussions with the owner indicated no history of trauma, and radiographs revealed a normal spinal column. The veterinary neurologist recommended some additional tests, including one for canine distemper even though Jim had been vaccinated regularly.

Jim was a friendly, good-natured dog who ate readily when food was placed in his mouth and wagged his tail through all the nursing care that a paralyzed dog has to endure. The positive result of the canine distemper test shocked me even though it is well-known that vaccinations are not 100% effective. With a heavy heart, I called Jim’s owners, explained the diagnosis, and gently told them the prognosis from the neurologist -- that Jim’s chance of ever walking again was zero. The owners were calm and said

**The Human-Animal Bond In Action & at its Best**

by Sally Walshaw
they wanted to take Jim home for a few weeks and try to provide the extensive nursing care he needed.

When the owners arrived to take Jim home, they brought a tape recorder so they could have all the details of the specialized nursing care. It was a long session to explain and demonstrate the details of how to turn Jim from one side to another, how to help him eliminate, how to watch for signs of lung congestion and other problems. I told them that I was amazed that they were willing to undertake all these tasks for such a large dog. They said that Jim was the special pet of their 18 year old son who had been a quadriplegic since birth and that they had a lot of experience in caring for paralyzed patients.

Two weeks after Jim went home, the owners called the veterinary hospital. Jim was walking! Three weeks later Jim was running and playing ball and they invited me to their farm to make a movie of Jim and to spend the day with them.

The neurologists speculated that Jim might have had Guillain-Barre syndrome, a temporary paralysis, after exposure to the raccoon distemper virus on the farm. For me, Jim’s recovery will always be a miracle and an incredible tribute to the many dimensions of the human-animal bond.

Sally Walshaw

FREE: Dog Bite Prevention materials available

1) Brochure for adults,
2) Coloring/activity book for children (grades K-2)

To order, call Toll-Free: 877-254-3436

NOTE: I ordered 1000 copies and they arrived in 1 week. They are excellent. I have made arrangements to distribute them to local elementary schools. Hopefully the local hospitals can be persuaded to include them in the packet of materials that go home from the hospitals with new parents.

Sally Walshaw

AIM HI SERVICE DOG TRAINING CENTER GRADUATION

The second AIM HI (Animals in the Military Helping Individuals) Service Dog Graduation ceremony occurred 19 June, 1998 at Fort Knox, Ky. Four veterans graduated with service dogs to help them retrieve articles, open doors, and turning on/off lights. Another hearing-impaired veteran graduated with an “alert (hearing) dog” to tell her when sounds were coming from certain objects. Two “Social therapy” dogs graduated to help Exceptional Family Members of active duty military families
to stimulate their physical and mental development. Guest speakers included Brigadier General Robert Wilson, Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Armor School, Fort Knox and Colonel Paul Barrows, Veterinary Corps Chief. Major Perry R. Chumley, Director of the AIM HI SDTC and Chief, Fort Knox Branch, hosted the event.

The first of its kind in the Department of Defense, this unique program teaches inmates of the Fort Knox Regional Corrections Facility to train selected stray animals to assist physically disabled Exceptional Family Members and veterans. Through the combined efforts of Medical Command, Veterinary Command, and Fort Knox, this is the only program that provides service and alert dogs for the military community. This stems directly from the United States Army Forces Command's goals to attract and retain high quality people for the Department of Defense by taking care of its soldiers and their families.

Currently, the SDTC has 9 inmates and 20 animals at various stages of training development. The center plans to graduate 6 to 10 service dogs every six months.

Tuskegee University establishing multidisciplinary Center to study human-animal interdependency

The new Center for the Study of Human-Animal Interdependent Relationships at Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health in Tuskegee, Alabama, represents a dream from the past and a vision for the future. The dream started more than 30 years ago. Back in the 1970s, both Dean W. C. Bowie and Associate Dean Eugene Adams of Tuskegee University's School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) were excited about the growing interest by some physicians in the physical, psychological, emotional, and social benefits people receive from animals.

In April 1976 the School cosponsored a symposium with the local Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital that focused on these benefits. Dr. Leo Bustad, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Samuel Corson, a professor of psychiatry and biophysics in the College of Medicine at The Ohio State University. Dr. Corson described his landmark work in pet-facilitated psychotherapy.

Dr. Bustad, in his 1990 book, Compassion, Our Last Great Hope, later reflected on his visit to Tuskegee and its attempt to initiate an animal program with the VA Hospital. He wrote, "... It appears, at least from my vantage point, that a pet may be far superior to a whole passel of pills in many situations. Used
together, they may be superior to either
alone."

Now, through a grant under the
Excellence in Minority Medical
Education Program of the Health
Resources and Services Administration
of the U.S. Public Health Service,
Tuskegee University’s SVM has the
funding it needs to make its early
dreams come true.

Its new Center represents Tuskegee’s
vision to use the expertise of individuals
in diverse fields to learn what makes
animals good for people and people
good for animals. The vision is to go
beyond anecdotes to carefully planned,
scientific research. Through a
multidisciplinary approach, Tuskegee
University expects to not only learn
more about the interdependent
relationships, but to also develop
programs and therapeutic interventions
that are mutually beneficial to people
and animals.

To achieve its vision, the Center will be
housed within the School of Veterinary
Medicine, but it will be staffed initially by
a psychologist and a human health care
professional as well as a veterinarian.
Dr. Caroline B., a veterinarian, has been
selected as director. A search is now
underway for the other two staff
members.

Both the behavioral psychologist or
behavioral-social psychologist and the
human health care professional
(perhaps a nurse, occupational
therapist, or social worker) will have
responsibilities in service, research, and
teaching. They will be expected to use
a team approach to the development of
a strong program that contributes new
knowledge about the benefits people
and animals derive from one another.
Anticipated research will be in stress
reduction and neurophysiological or
psychosocial aspects of biosocial,
cognitive, and emotional social
behaviors.

Anyone wishing a position
announcement or wishing to share
comments or suggestions is encouraged
to contact Dr. Schaffer at the School of
Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee
University, Tuskegee, AL 36088, (email:
Schaffer@acd.tuske.edu and voice mail:
334-727-8122).

Applicants should send their letter of
intent, curriculum vitae, and three letters
of recommendation to Alfonza Atkinson,
D.V.M., Ph.D.; Associate Dean; School
of Veterinary Medicine; College of
Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied
Health; Tuskegee University; Tuskegee,
AL 36088.

Those wishing to make a tax-deductible,
charitable contribution to help sustain
the non-profit Center are also
encouraged to contact Dr. Schaffer.


Assistance Dog Partnerships Give People With Disabilities A New Leash On Life!

A TRUE BEST FRIEND AND WORKING COMPANION

Love and working together combine to make one of the most capable partnerships known. Dogs and people with disabilities can and do far more than either could do alone. Guide dogs, service dogs, hearing dogs, and social/therapy dogs team up with individuals who have diabetes, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, quadriplegia, multiple sclerosis, hearing impairments, Alzheimer's, epilepsy and numerous other disabilities to help overcome their disabling effects. Assistance dogs also act as ice breakers, bringing their disabled partners in contact with the general public in a warm and positive way.

Social/therapy Dogs
Social and therapeutic facilitators for individuals who are elderly or developmentally disabled, visiting convalescent hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and institutions.

Guide Dogs
The eyes for blind and visually impaired individuals, guiding them through town, around obstacles, and across busy intersections.

Service Dogs
The arms and legs of physically disabled individuals, picking up dropped or needed items, pulling wheelchairs, turning lights on and off, and opening doors.

Hearing Dogs
The ears for deaf and hearing impaired individuals, alerting them to doorbells, baby's cry, telephones, & kitchen timers.

ASSISTANCE DOGS - IN SERVICE TO HELP MANKIND

The Assistance Dog Institute
PO Box 2334
Rohnert Park, CA 94927-2334

AAHABV Newsletter — June 1998 — Page # 7
Established in July 1993, the objectives of AAHABV are:

- To further veterinary awareness of the human-animal bond
- To further scientific progress in the area of the human-animal bond
- To further educational opportunities in the area of the human-animal bond
- To encourage veterinary participation in human-animal bond activities with related organizations and disciplines
- To explore the potential for establishing a veterinary specialty in the area of the human-animal bond