



HSVMA In Action

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW



OUR MISSION: To protect and advocate for animals while providing leadership and service opportunities that support a humane veterinary profession.

SERVICE

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

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Year in Review

Barry N. Kellogg, VMD
HSVMA Senior Veterinary Advisor

The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association was formed as a home for veterinary professionals who want to engage in direct care programs for animals in need, educate the public and others in the profession about animal welfare issues, advance humane alternatives in veterinary education and advocate better public policies for animals. In short, **We Are Animal Welfare** and we are **HSVMA!**

I personally have always been fascinated by the “pyramid” concept of change. We have all seen the reproduction pyramid of two animals leading to a huge pyramid base with a very high number of offspring in their lifetime. Imagine a similar pyramid whereby we train a few individuals who then go out and train more individuals to an ever-enlarging number. HSVMA attempts to take advantage of that same principle in all of its activities. Consider too the **very large** number of animals impacted by some of the legislative changes we have championed and the size that pyramid would be!



Little Guy, a puppy mill rescue who now resides with Dr. Kellogg.
Photo Credit by Barry Kellogg

As you look through this report, you will see details of the progress we've made in 2015. We are very proud of the broad range of topics addressed and the successes we have had. Just remember, they are all thanks to you, our members, and we encourage you to stay or become active with us.

- More than 7,900 animals have been treated, 240 veterinary students trained and 64 professional volunteers engaged. There have been more than 39,000 volunteer hours logged.
- Our advocacy efforts have resulted in more than 1,000 veterinary professionals being activated to support efforts ranging from support for the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act to addressing extreme confinement of farm animals.
- Continuing education webinars have provided CE credits and have been attended by more than 800 veterinary professionals, covering a wide range of topics from pain management and compassion fatigue to a special series on reporting suspected animal abuse with Dr. Melinda Merck.
- HSVMA representatives have given 50 presentations at veterinary schools on topics ranging from puppy mills and early age sterilization to antibiotic resistance and cost of care and brought our message to over 2,000 veterinarians of tomorrow.



Dr. Barry Kellogg and Nick Dodman (an HSVMA Leadership Council member) attended the Humane Lobby Day in Boston.
Photo Credit by HSVMA

- We have expanded our HSVMA State Representative program to now include HSVMA representatives in nine states.
- We sponsored and led a day-long seminar at the University of Wisconsin on animal welfare that was attended by students from five different veterinary schools. It certainly served as a “battery charger” for all of us involved after witnessing the tremendous engagement and enthusiasm of the students during that symposium.

In a new initiative this year, we have expanded our database to include a section on members' interests in responding to an international or national disaster (natural or manmade), writing letters to their elected officials to assist with advocacy issues and helping with other animal welfare related issues.

It was after receiving member requests to find help in response to the Nepal earthquake and the California fires that we responded by developing this change. We are only as good as our members and now can serve as a conduit of information for any organization trying to get help in any type of response.

If you haven't already done so, please log on to hsvma.org/responders and respond accordingly!
Someone out there needs you.

Looking forward to 2016 and beyond, we are working toward the formation of a coalition of appropriate stakeholders that will address the concept and issues around “Access to Veterinary Care,” now recognized as a major emerging problem for the profession and the public. Hopefully, that coalition will look at the causes and come up with some suggested course of action to help address the issue.

Do not forget, our single most rewarding member benefit is the knowledge that we are doing what is right and good for the benefit and care of animals of all species. We, as veterinary professionals, should be taking the lead in addressing animal welfare concerns. Individually, we are limited in our ability to make change, but collectively, we can be very powerful.

In short, We Are Animal Welfare, and we need you and hope you will continue to support and define our collective efforts!

Barry N. Kellogg VMD

Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS)



Skippy returns for his RAVS check-up.
Photo Credit by HSVMA

Every RAVS clinic has its own magic and its own stories. Sometimes it's a dramatic life-saving procedure or a deeply touching moment of connection between a volunteer and a community member. Sometimes it's the simple reward of knowing we've helped keep a pet healthy and at home. And sometimes it's the beauty of seeing a patient like Skippy Johnson trot into our clinic this year on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.

We first met Skippy in 2008 when his family brought him in for his neuter and vaccinations. In 2010, we found an intensely painful and potentially life-threatening cancerous mass on his toe. Outside of their annual visit to our RAVS

clinic, Skippy's family did not have any access to veterinary care. After discussing the potential outcomes for Skippy with his family we all decided amputation of the toe was going to give Skippy the best chance of a good life. From the surgery to the post-op nursing care, our committed team of veterinary professionals and student volunteers gave him and his family our very best. Five days later Skippy went back to his loving family. Five years later, this spunky little guy continues to bring his family such joy. Thanks to his committed family. Thanks to our committed team.

The magic of RAVS happens not just for the animals who receive care and the families who love them. The experience is often life-changing for our volunteers as well. One of our volunteer field cooks, Jory, shared this story from his clinic experience:

"One of the best parts of cooking for RAVS was the opportunity to meet some of our clients. When I burned my arm on a cookie sheet, a retired tribal police officer commiserated by showing me the knife wounds he picked up on the force. One woman had driven over an hour to get to our clinic the day after her brother-in-law committed suicide. She was incredibly stressed and upset, but knew that this was the only chance she'd have this year to get her and her sister's pets spayed and vaccinated. Everyone I talked to, no matter what was going on in their own lives, was grateful for our presence."

Skippy and Jory are just two of thousands of RAVS stories over the years. Animals whose lives were saved. Families whose lives were changed. Students and veterinarians experiencing true community service and the impact that helping those in need can have on ourselves and on the world around us.

RAVS expertise in field medicine and commitment to helping the underserved forms a core set of skills and values that our staff and volunteers take with them to projects all over the country. RAVS veterinarians and technicians teach in shelter medicine and veterinary technician programs. They work with local shelters, rescue groups and spay/neuter clinics and are involved in disaster and animal cruelty response efforts. The impact of RAVS work for communities in need and for the next generation of veterinary professionals continues to grow. 2015 has been incredible, and we look forward to new adventures in the new year!

Bringing Hope and Health to a Community In Crisis: HSVMA-RAVS San Carlos Outreach Project



Dr. Lisa Shriver provides home health visits for animals at the San Carlos Apache Reservation.
Photo Credit by HSVMA

In early 2015, the HSVMA-RAVS team launched a new community outreach project on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in southeastern Arizona. Led by Dr. Lisa Shriver, the project combines RAVS' high-quality field medical and surgical services with community approaches similar to the HSUS Pets for Life urban outreach programs.

In the last decade, San Carlos experienced an epidemic of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF), bringing a number of human deaths and the CDC to this isolated community. Tick control for dogs is critical to controlling the disease and RAVS worked with tribal animal control

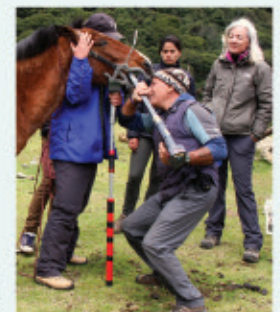
and public health officials as part of a multifaceted attack on the deadly disease. With extremely high rates of deadly infectious diseases, ehrlichiosis, canine distemper and parvovirus, and lacking regular local veterinary services, it was clear a more intensive and comprehensive effort was required to guard the health of the community and its animals.

Working closely with our tribal government partners, the RAVS outreach team has begun to develop a more consistent veterinary presence in San Carlos to address the most critical animal health issues in the community. Using a range of approaches from large-scale field clinics to door-to-door outreach, our teams have provided care to more than 2,100 San Carlos animals this year with plans to continue to grow the project in 2016. We look forward to continuing to build relationships and helping to improve the health and welfare of animals and their people in San Carlos.

HSVMA-RAVS International—Care for Working Equids

Critical transportation, able farm labor, treasured friend; the working horses, donkeys and mules cared for by the HSVMA-RAVS international equine program are all of these and more. In many ways, the health of these remote communities can be measured by the health of their equids. Their work is the economic engine of the community, but they are also faithful companions, so it is a combination of affection and economic need that brings people to seek care for their animals at RAVS field clinics in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru.

In 2015, Dr. David Turoff and his experienced equine field teams treated more than 1,900 animals in challenging rural field conditions. While providing access to much-needed veterinary care, the teams also trained 40 local veterinary students, veterinarians and farriers and educated eager community members in an effort to create locally sustainable veterinary care and enhance animal husbandry to improve the welfare of the animals and their families.



Dentistry and other routine care can be life-saving procedures for working horses in remote communities.
Photo Credit by HSVMA

RAVS Patient Stories From 2015



Friday first saw the RAVS team in 2013 at the White Mountain Apache Reservation when he was neutered and treated for a transmissible venereal tumor. This year he came in for a wellness exam and vaccinations and was given a clean bill of health!

Photo Credit by Laura Polerecky/HSVMA



We met Nutter Butter in February just after his littermate had been euthanized due to neurologic signs of distemper. Nutter Butter was also ill with respiratory signs and mild myoclonus, but his family wanted to give him a chance. With several weeks of supportive care at home, Nutter Butter fought through his illness. This is Nutter Butter two months later after getting his booster shots. He loves his new toy from the RAVS outreach team!

Photo Credit by Laura Polerecky/HSVMA



MJ came into our spring clinic suffering emergency complications related to a recent miscarriage. An experienced RAVS emergency veterinarian was able to stabilize her and two of our team members stayed behind to follow up. The next day she had shown improvement and within a few days MJ had made a full recovery! Here she is, happy as can be, in late June.

Photo Credit by Laura Polerecky/HSVMA



"I left San Carlos a better person, humbled by the experience and by the gratitude of this community. Most importantly, I learned from the community that as a future veterinarian, I will not only be saving animals, I'll be saving people. Whether it's by educating a community at risk for zoonotic disease exposure or by inspiring young people to follow their dreams—especially if their dream is to be a veterinarian—we can all make a difference as veterinary professionals."

— Rayeanne Solano, Class of 2018, *Midwestern University*

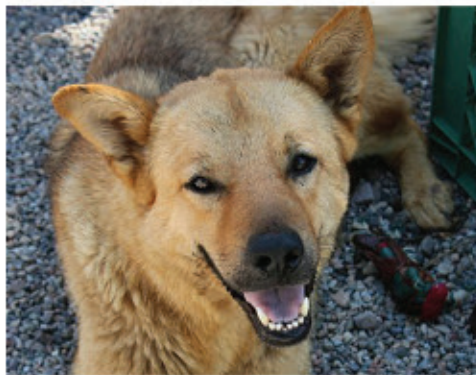
"This trip was one of my favorite experiences to date. Not only did I overcome my lack of confidence, but I met some of the most amazing people and doctors, was part of a group that helped a record-breaking number of animals, and I know I will be a better veterinarian when I graduate. I can't wait to be a part of another RAVS team!"

— Amber Nicole, Class of 2017, *University of Tennessee*



The caretakers of this feline family were first in line for surgery at our June spay/neuter clinic with 10 recently rescued adult cats and five kittens. Many were suffering from severe upper respiratory infections, ringworm and other issues. Those healthy enough were spayed and neutered and the rest went home with treatments which their caretakers diligently administered. Here are a few of the adults just a month after surgery, waiting for dinner!

Photo Credit by Laura Polerecky/HSVMA



Sashi lives in San Carlos, Arizona, where tick-borne illnesses are extremely prevalent. He had been having nose bleeds and not eating well for a several weeks when the RAVS team saw him. He was diagnosed with ehrlichiosis and successfully treated. Sashi's owners told us that a child in the family had recently been sick with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Tick control is a major issue for both animal and human health in the community. Photo credit by Laura Polerecky/HSVMA

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We need you! HSVMA-RAVS' ability to provide quality veterinary care and educational opportunities depends on the many dedicated veterinary professional volunteers who generously share their time and expertise in our field clinics each year. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are now needed for our 2016 clinic season. Applications are currently being accepted. Check our clinic schedule and find more information on how you can get involved at hsvma.org/ravs.

HSVMA-RAVS CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are eligible to receive RACE-approved continuing education credit for their participation in HSVMA-RAVS clinics. Volunteers participating in a field clinic with five or more clinic service days are eligible to receive up to 30 hours of CE credit.

HSVMA Advocates in Action: 2015

Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA
HSVMA Veterinary Advisor

In 2015, more than 1,000 veterinary professionals joined HSVMA in actively advocating for advancements in animal welfare nationwide. Our members—including veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary medical students and veterinary technician students—worked diligently throughout the year to achieve these improved welfare goals.

Federal Legislative Advocacy

(AWARE) Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors Act.

HSVMA supports this legislation, which was introduced in response to a *New York Times* exposé of unethical experimentation conducted on farm animals at a USDA facility in Nebraska, known as the US Meat Animal Research Center. The bill would amend the Animal Welfare Act to finally require humane treatment of farm animals used in agricultural research at federal government facilities. The bill is pending in the U.S. Congress.

(PAST) Prevent All Soring Tactics Act.

The legislation was reintroduced in the US Congress in 2015 by a strong bipartisan group of cosponsors. The PAST Act would strengthen the Horse Protection Act of 1970 and allow for stronger crackdown on the widespread abuse within the highly competitive Tennessee walking horse show world. HSVMA supports this legislation and is activating our members on the issue. The bill is pending.

State and Local Legislative Advocacy

Farm Animal Confinement Ballot Initiative

HSVMA is part of a coalition supporting the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act, a Massachusetts ballot initiative to ban the use of three extreme methods of confined housing for farm animals: pregnant sow gestation crates, veal calf crates and laying-hen battery cages. The initiative also seeks to limit the sale of agricultural products derived from animals subjected to these inhumane practices. As of this publication date, more than 350 veterinary professionals have endorsed the measure.

Veterinary Oversight of Antibiotic Use in Animal Agriculture

HSVMA, represented by Board member Dr. Michael Blackwell, was one of the lead supporting organizations for a California bill that requires veterinary oversight of antibiotics used to treat farm animals and seeks to place limitations on their use for disease prevention. California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the measure, the first state law of its kind, in October.

Gas Chamber Use in Shelters

HSVMA supported efforts to end the use of gas chambers in animal shelters in Kansas and Michigan. The Kansas legislation requiring that chambers be banned by the end of the year passed. The Michigan bill is pending.

Lead Ammunition Use in Sport Hunting

HSVMA supported bans on the use of lead ammunition in sport hunting in Vermont and Rhode Island. The bills did not pass but are likely to be reintroduced.

Animals Used in Research

HSVMA supported a California bill requiring that healthy animals formerly used in research be made available for adoption. This bill was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Bullhook Use in Elephant Handling

HSVMA supported bills to ban the use of the bullhook in handling elephants in the state of California; in Anne Arundel County, Maryland and in the city of Austin, Texas. The California bill passed both Houses, but was vetoed by Gov. Brown. The Anne Arundel County, MD legislation was not passed; the Austin, TX bill was passed.

Elephant Ivory and Rhino Horn Trade

HSVMA supported a California bill that would close an enforcement loophole in the state's decades-old elephant ivory ban, and also prohibit the sale and trade of rhino horn. The bill has been signed into law.

Read more about HSVMA legislative efforts at hsvma.org/advocacy.

Veterinary Teams at Humane Lobby Days Year-Round

MINNESOTA

In February, Dr. Karen Arras (HSVMA MN State Rep) attended Minnesota Humane Lobby Day in Saint Paul. Constituents lobbied in favor of a bill to end the snaring of wild animals and the trapping and baiting of wolves.

WISCONSIN

In April, Dr. Susan Krebsbach (HSVMA Veterinary Advisor) participated in Wisconsin's Humane Lobby Day in Madison. Constituents advocated to restrict private ownership of certain dangerous wild animals and to oppose 'ag-gag' or anti-whistleblower in animal agriculture legislation.

MASSACHUSETTS

In May, Drs. Nick Dodman (HSVMA Leadership Council member and HSVMA MA State Rep) and Barry Kellogg (HSVMA Board member) joined with other constituents at Humane Lobby Day at the State House in Boston. Their focus was on legislation pertaining to puppy mills and pet shops.

MICHIGAN

Also in May, a lobbying team comprised of HSVMA Student Chapter members at the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine traveled to Lansing for a Veterinary Student

Humane Lobby Day. This group advocated on behalf of legislation impacting the use of gas chambers in animal shelters and regulation of large-scale breeding facilities.

CALIFORNIA

In June, Drs. Paula Kislak (HSVMA Board President) and Barbara Hodges (HSVMA Veterinary Advisor); Elisa Martin, RVT; Madison Herrick (Veterinary Student, Western University College of Veterinary Medicine, Class of 2018); and several HSVMA staff members participated in California's Humane Lobby Day in Sacramento, which focused on elephant welfare.

WASHINGTON, DC

In September, Drs. Paula Kislak and Gary Block (both HSVMA Board members), along with Drs. Karen Arras (HSVMA MN State Rep) and Meredith Rives (HSVMA IL State Rep) joined forces on Capitol Hill for a Federal Humane Lobby Day, advocating for legislation addressing horse soring, horse slaughter and animal research issues.

"What a great weekend in Washington! It was wonderful to be in the company of so many like minds and participate in Lobby Day. Overall the whole experience was terrific."

— Meredith Rives, DVM



A group of HSVMA representatives joined representatives from The Humane Society of the United States in lobbying for reforms to protect elephants at the California Humane Lobby Day. Photo Credit by HSVMA

"Participating in Lobby Day on Capitol Hill is a very gratifying experience. As veterinary professionals, we have a lot of credibility and legislators and their staff respect our expertise, listen carefully and ask thoughtful questions. I enjoy advocating for animals who are the most disenfranchised and voiceless members of our society, and I believe it makes a difference for them over time and on a larger scale."

— Paula Kislak, DVM, HSVMA Board President

HSVMA Offers Wide Array of Online CE with Animal Welfare Focus

Lorna Grande, DVM
HSVMA Continuing Education Advisor

Now in its third year, the HSVMA webinar series continues to offer a wide variety of online presentations for veterinary professionals to receive RACE-approved CE with an innovative humane slant.

HSVMA webinars fill this unique niche—focusing on animal welfare topics typically not addressed in other online continuing education offerings—while also serving as a valuable member benefit. HSVMA members have free access to all webinars and, if the timing of a live broadcast is not convenient, the webinars are all archived at hsvma.org/webinars to view later on demand. CE credits are available for participating in either format.

Featured in 2015: Animal Abuse Reporting and Shelter/Private Veterinary Partnerships

New in 2015 was a special three-part series entitled, “Reporting Suspected Abuse: A Roadmap for the Veterinary Community,” presented by veterinary forensics expert Dr. Melinda D. Merck. This series provided a comprehensive overview of the veterinarian’s responsibility in reporting abuse, including recognition and documentation, hospital procedures and their role in the legal case.

HSVMA also partnered with the Association of Shelter Veterinarians this year on the webinar, “Win-Win: The Value of Shelter/Private Veterinary Practitioner Collaboration,” which provided examples of successful community partnerships.

Archived Webinars

All HSVMA webinars are archived and available for viewing on the HSVMA website, including other popular 2015 topics such as:

- “They Are Feeding What? Evaluating the Evidence for Popular Small Animal Diets,” presented by Callin R. Heinze, MS, VMD, DACVN
- “Rethinking Common Small Animal Chronic Pain Issues and Therapies,” with Andrea Looney, DVM, DACVAA, CCRP, DACVSMR

Other previously archived presentations include:

- Stress in the veterinary profession
- Hospice and end-of-life care
- Emergency wildlife care
- Veterinary needs for backyard chickens
- The latest in spay/neuter research
- Creating a cat-friendly practice

Upcoming topics scheduled for 2016 include an introduction to veterinary rehabilitation therapy and welfare issues associated with dog barking prevention methods.

For more information on upcoming and archived webinars, visit hsvma.org/webinars.

HSVMA In-Person CE Events Address Human-Animal Bond, Shelter Medicine and Wildlife Issues

HSVMA also hosted several in-person RACE-approved CE events for veterinary professionals throughout 2015 that focused on critical animal welfare topics.

In January, HSVMA hosted a presentation at NAVC on the topic of “Pets as Fellow Citizens: How Cats and Dogs Became Members of the Family,” with award-winning science writer David Grimm. In March, HSVMA offered a dozen different CE sessions at the Animal Care Expo symposium in New Orleans on topics ranging from shelter medicine to animal behavior and community cat issues. And finally, in October, HSVMA co-sponsored a CE event at the Cape Wildlife Center in Massachusetts on the topic of lead and its negative impact on a variety of species and the environment.

For more information on upcoming HSVMA CE and other events, go to hsvma.org/events.



Photo Credit by iStockphoto

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING:

“I really enjoy these webinars that HSVMA hosts! They are great for the entire clinic team and really aid me in bringing the team together for learning.”

— Mary Kate Lawler, DVM

“This was an excellent seminar on a topic that clients ask about all the time. I was thrilled with the content and the usefulness of the presentation.”

— Sheryl Krohne, DVM

“Very useful—thank you so much for arranging these webinars. These alone make the modest membership fee worth it.”

— Carolyn Naun, DVM

“This was a great lecture; thanks for some awesome webinars on a variety of topics!”

— Lauren D. Sawchyn, DVM

HSVMA Sponsors Veterinary Student Involvement in World Spay Day



Oklahoma



Wisconsin

Clinics Combine Training with Companion Animal Population Control

Oklahoma Photo Credit by Lesa Staubus,
DVM/ Operation Catnip Stillwater

Wisconsin Photo Credit by Susan Krebsbach,
DVM/HSVMA

Susan Krebsbach, DVM **HSVMA Veterinary Advisor**

For the fifth year in a row, HSVMA sponsored World Spay Day events involving veterinary students to promote awareness of the need to spay and neuter companion animals as well as to help provide training opportunities for veterinary students in this life-saving surgical procedure.

World Spay Day is an annual campaign presented by The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International and HSVMA. Launched in 1995, it aims to encourage people to save animals' lives by spaying and neutering companion animals and feral cats. World Spay Day is celebrated annually on the fourth Tuesday in February but events take place throughout the month of February, which is recognized as Spay/Neuter Awareness Month.

HSVMA encourages veterinary students to participate in World Spay Day events because it is a great opportunity to not just help companion animals in their communities, but also to gain some hands-on training in surgical skills. For many students, the events foster a desire to continue to help address companion animal overpopulation during their veterinary school years and beyond.

In 2015, HSVMA sponsored World Spay Day events involving veterinary students from Oklahoma State University, the University of Wisconsin, the University of California Davis and the University of Illinois. These events provided sterilization surgeries for nearly 300 animals and offered hands-on training to dozens of veterinary students in a variety of tasks, ranging from surgical prep and anesthesia monitoring to assisting with surgery. Go to hsvma.org/worldspayday for more information.



Jenny Siess, Western
University College of
Veterinary Medicine

HSVMA Veterinary Student Direct Care Award: **Jenny Siess**

Jenny Siess is the 2015 recipient of the HSVMA Veterinary Student Direct Care Award.

Jenny began her professional veterinary career as a veterinary technician and volunteered for her first Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) trip in 2008. She joined six more RAVS trips, serving a number of remote communities among the Native Nations, before entering the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine. At Western she has been active in the HSVMA student chapter, and has continued to volunteer every summer, including spending five weeks in the field during the summer of 2013 as a RAVS intern.

Though volunteering for 17 RAVS trips is in itself laudatory, it is only the start for Jenny. She has consistently gone above and beyond in her commitment to service and shown great compassion for the hundreds of animals she has cared for and the families who bring them for care. Jenny has touched many lives—and those lives are all the better for it.



Faye Lorenzonn
participates in a feral
cat clinic.
Photo Credit by
Dr. Susan Krebsbach

HSVMA Veterinary Student Advocate of the Year Care Award: **Faye Lorenzonn**

Our fifth annual HSVMA Student Advocacy Award recipient is Faye Lorenzonn, a class of 2017 student at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. This award recognizes students who have promoted humane and respectful treatment of all animals while in veterinary school.

Faye's accomplishments and commitment to animal welfare are numerous. In her first two years in veterinary school, she has served as the HSVMA-RAVS Student Chapter President and organized many welfare-related presentations and practice spay and suture labs. Outside of her involvement at UW, Faye is a longtime wildlife rehabilitation volunteer, provides foster care for pets of domestic abuse victims, and has worked alongside veterinarians in India to treat cattle and dogs suffering from starvation and mange. She is also an avid nature-lover and wilderness advocate and has worked on wildlife preservation legislation, including gray wolf protection in Wisconsin.

HSVMA on Campus in 2015

HSVMA's Student Outreach Program continued to expand in 2015 with an active Speakers Bureau increased representation on campus and new educational programs and veterinary school partnerships that provided direct-care skill development and introduced students to the emerging field of animal welfare.

Student Animal Welfare Symposium

HSVMA held its first Student Animal Welfare Symposium at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine on November 7. Veterinary students traveled from Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri and California to join their peers in Wisconsin, and several veterinary technician students from Madison College attended as well. This year's conference featured a full day of important and timely animal welfare issues, including animal cruelty identification and reporting, commercial dog breeding operations, the impact of cost of care on animal and veterinary well-being, extreme confinement of farm animals, panel discussions and more.

"I feel so privileged to have been able to attend the first ever Animal Welfare Symposium and to see veterinarians and students coming together to discuss the role of our profession in animal advocacy! It was the first time that many of these subjects were openly addressed in my education, so I found it a very thought provoking and inspiring experience. I left feeling renewed enthusiasm and ready to take a more active role in animal welfare. Hopefully this conference becomes a yearly tradition so that other students can find the same support and motivation!"

— Faye Lorenzonn (class of 2017),
HSVMA-RAVS Student Chapter President
at the University of Wisconsin

"After attending this symposium, I would recommend that all veterinary students become actively engaged in the debates over current animal welfare issues to solve some of the most significant dilemmas within the veterinary profession."

— Laura Censi (class of 2019)
HSVMA member at Iowa State University

HSVMA Student Chapter and Student Representative Program

HSVMA reached a major milestone this year by establishing formal representation at all U.S. veterinary schools. HSVMA has nine student chapters and representatives at 22 additional schools. Our chapter members and representatives were active in a number of direct care and advocacy projects this year.

- Organizing HSVMA's first Animal Welfare Symposium
- Participating in a number of community wellness clinics and World Spay Day events
- Lobbying for animal welfare at their state houses
- Working on local ordinances to prohibit the retail sale of companion animals at pet stores
- Demonstrating veterinary support at puppy mill awareness events



Bess arrived at a Philadelphia animal shelter with an orthopedic injury. Her tibial tuberosity avulsion was repaired with pins and wire as part of the University of Pennsylvania's new Saving Lives by Saving Limbs program which is sponsored by HSVMA. Bess was adopted by a fourth-year veterinary student. Photo Credit by David Holt, BVSc

Skills Development Offered by HSVMA

In addition to the RAVS Program, HSVMA promoted animal welfare-friendly skills development for veterinary students through a variety of training opportunities in 2015.

- Suture labs hosted at Western, Wisconsin, Louisiana State, Kansas State and UC-Davis
- World Spay Day events sponsored at Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Illinois and UC-Davis
- Student member participation in the Pets For Life Community Outreach Program in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Chicago
- Veterinary student externships offered at the Cape Wildlife Center and South Florida Wildlife Center

NEW FOR 2015

- 2015 Animal Welfare Symposium hosted by the University of Wisconsin



*Dr. Barry Kipperman addressing students at the first-ever Animal Welfare Symposium at the University of Wisconsin.
Photo Credit by The HSUS*

- Online Animal Welfare Rounds
- Partnership with the University of Pennsylvania's Saving Lives by Saving Limbs—a new surgery program that aims to save shelter animals through orthopedic repair
- Veterinary student externship at Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch
- HSVMA Student Representative Program



HSVMA Board Member Dr. Michael Blackwell speaks with veterinary students at the University of California-Davis after he presented on the growing crisis of antimicrobial resistance.

Photo Credit by Joe Robustelli/HSVMA

HSVMA Presentations on Campus

HSVMA organized and sponsored over 50 presentations on veterinary school campuses in 2015, reaching more students than in years past on topics ranging from malicious poisoning to antimicrobial resistance and opportunities in field medicine with our Rural Area Veterinary Services team.

- Over 25 Speakers Bureau presentations
- Over 25 Rural Area Veterinary Service Program presentations
- Over 2,000 students reached at 29 U.S. veterinary schools as well as St. George's University (Granada), University of Saskatchewan (Canada), University of Glasgow (Scotland) and University of Guelph (Canada).
- New presentations added this year
 - New Opportunities for Veterinarians: The Antimicrobial Resistance Crisis
 - The Impact of Cost of Care on Animal and Veterinarian Well-Being: Are Students Prepared?
 - Exotic Companion Animals: The New Shelter Animal
 - Dare to Do: Across the Globe, in This Country, or Even in Your Backyard—You Can Make a Difference

HSVMA Veterinary Awards



Dr. Melinda Merck

2015 HSVMA Veterinary Advocate of the Year: *Dr. Melinda Merck*

HSVMA is proud to award the HSVMA Veterinary Advocate award to Dr. Melinda Merck for her admirable leadership in creating the field of veterinary forensics, based on more

than two decades of involvement with investigations into animal abuse cases across the United States.

Since her 1988 graduation from Michigan State's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Merck has been involved with shelters and rescue groups, which brought her into contact with animal abuse cases. As her dedication to helping animal victims grew, she found that she had no resources to advise her in the "how-to's" of forensic investigations. As a result, Dr. Merck sought instruction from attorneys, forensic scientists and medical examiners from the human field and soon became identified as the top expert in the field of veterinary forensic science on the national and international level.

One of Dr. Merck's greatest recognitions came from her involvement in the infamous Michael Vick dog fighting case (2009). Her forensic determinations of the deceased and buried dogs formed the solid foundation for the successful prosecution of Vick's crimes. For her contribution to this investigation, she received awards from the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, and U.S. Office of the Inspector General.

Dr. Merck has an exhaustive list of publications to her credit, including two essential texts: *Veterinary Forensics: Animal Cruelty Investigations, 2nd Edition* (2013) and *Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty: A Guide for Veterinarians and Law Enforcement Professionals* (2006). She has lectured on this subject at schools and universities nationally and internationally since 2006, chairing the Veterinary Forensics: Animal CSI track annually at the NAVC Conference. In 2014, she created the online Veterinary Forensics certificate series for NAVC and AAHA's VetFolio. During 2015, Dr. Merck presented a special webinar series for HSVMA on the subject, "Reporting Suspected Abuse: A Roadmap for the Veterinary Community."



Dr. Peggy Larson

2015 HSVMA Veterinary Practitioner of the Year: *Dr. Peggy Larson*

Dr. Peggy Larson is one of HSVMA's most accomplished members and a pioneer in high-volume and pediatric spay/neuter. Her longtime commitment to providing affordable spay and neuter services for companion animals in her home state of Vermont and throughout the Northeastern region is an inspiration to the profession, with more than

78,000 sterilization surgeries completed by her clinic as of her retirement this year. With those services, Dr. Larson and her team substantially improved the health and welfare of animals in her community as well as prevented countless unwanted animals from being born.

In addition to her direct care work, Dr. Larson is also an effective and active advocate for the humane treatment of all animals. For example, working with HSVMA and other animal welfare groups, Dr. Larson has advocated for better treatment of farm animals, including opposing the extreme confinement of calves in veal crates and pushing for more humane slaughter methods. She also has been a vocal opponent of the cruelty inflicted on animals used in rodeos for events such as calf roping, steer tripping and bull riding.

Dr. Larson generously provides her expertise to law enforcement agencies as a regular consultant on animal cruelty investigations throughout Vermont.

HSVMA is proud to recognize Dr. Larson for her outstanding service and advocacy on behalf of the animals during her veterinary career and to present her with the Veterinary Practitioner of the Year Award.

HSVMA Begins State Representative Program

HSVMA State Representatives Dr. Meredith Rives (left) and Dr. Gary Block join Board member Dr. Paula Kislak for national Humane Lobby Day in Washington, DC.
Photo Credit by The HSUS



In October 2014, HSVMA piloted a State Representative Program consisting of active volunteer veterinarian liaisons who conduct outreach on behalf of HSVMA to their respective state veterinary

medical associations and the broader profession, and serving as a resource on animal welfare-related issues for the veterinary community. HSVMA State Reps also help the organization with legislative initiatives, providing expert witness testimony, submitting legislative support letters, writing letters to the editor and offering other forms of outreach, such as speaking at veterinary schools and to other veterinary professional groups.

Our pilot program began with four Reps—in California, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Rhode Island—who accomplished a great deal of successful outreach in a short period of time. The HSVMA State Representative program is now in full swing and this year we expanded with five additional Reps—in Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, New York and New Jersey.

HSVMA in Action During 2015



University of Wisconsin veterinary student Sarah Lottes and HSVMA veterinary advisor Dr. Susan Krebsbach (left) and Cheryl Ward, CVT, participated in a Pets for Life event in Milwaukee.

Photo Credit by Anna Donovan



University of Wisconsin veterinary student Hadar Friedman (left) and HSVMA veterinary member Dr. Audrey Whang participated in a Pets for Life event in Milwaukee.

Photo Credit by Susan Krebsbach, DVM/HSVMA



Michigan State University HSVMA Student Chapter members lobby for increased regulation of large-scale dog breeders and a ban on gas chambers in shelters. Left to Right: Alison Geisser '18, Akshay Verma '18 (President and Co-Founder), Lucille Carter '18, and Chloe Apelgren '18 (Vice President).

Photo credit by Akshay Verma



HSVMA board members Drs. Michael Blackwell and Gary Block speak with attendees at the HSVMA booth during the AVMA Annual Convention in Boston in July 2015.

Photo Credit by HSVMA

HSVMA-RAVS Senior Staff Veterinarian Dr. Paul Breckenridge and HSVMA Member Dr. Adam Bauknecht instruct students on technique at the HSVMA-sponsored suture lab at the University of Wisconsin in March.

Photo Credit by Susan Krebsbach, DVM/HSVMA



HSVMA Member Benefits Updates

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT!

INDIVIDUAL DISABILITY INSURANCE

Protect your most valuable asset, your ability to earn income!

While many people recognize the need to insure their cars, homes and their lives, they often neglect to insure their *most important asset*, their ability to work and earn an income. As a member of HSVMA, you are eligible to receive **premium discounts** of up to 20% on Individual Disability Insurance from the Principal Life Insurance Company. This program is managed by Wells Fargo Insurance Services.



PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association members can take advantage of professional liability insurance coverage through Wells Fargo Insurance Services.

Wells Fargo's exclusive veterinary professional liability insurance program provides access to exceptional, cost-effective proprietary insurance coverage, including:

- Animal bailee
- License defense
- No settlement clause

For more information, visit hsvma.org/insurance.

MEMBER BENEFITS, CONTINUED

Below, we have highlighted a few of the benefits HSVMA will continue to offer to our valued members throughout the coming year:

Continuing education opportunities

Through webinars, lectures and participation in HSVMA-RAVS, HSVMA will continue to offer multiple opportunities for members and non-members to earn CE through our programs. Learn more about these opportunities at hsvma.org/education.

Special discounts on publications and veterinary services

WILEY-BLACKWELL

Current HSVMA members are eligible for a 35% discount* on most Wiley-Blackwell publications. Wiley is a global provider of content-enabled solutions to improve outcomes in research, education and professional practice with online tools, journals, books, databases, reference works and laboratory protocols.

WILEY

ABAXIS

If you work for or with a non-profit animal welfare organization—thanks to our friends at The Humane Society of the United States' Shelter Partner program—you can take advantage of special discounts on Abaxis Veterinary Reference Laboratory Services such as VetScan Rapid Tests, VetScan VSpro Cartridges, handheld analyzers and more.

ABAXIS

If you are a current member, log in to your profile to learn how to take advantage of these discounts at hsvma.org/member_discounts.

If you are not yet a member, join us now at hsvma.org/join.

*35% Wiley-Blackwell discount is not available for German language titles or certain major reference works. For example, *Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook* is only eligible for a 20% discount.

STAY IN THE LOOP

Want to know what HSVMA is doing each month? Make sure you are receiving our Monthly News! If you are not receiving these monthly email updates, let us know at info@hsvma.org.

BE SOCIAL WITH US

 Have you liked us on Facebook or followed us on LinkedIn? See what we're talking about on social media at facebook.com/hsvma and hsvma.org/linkedin!

HSVMA Leadership

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