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NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND VETERINARIANS



President's Message AAH-ABV Dr. Robin Downing

Greetings, all - -

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the change of season. The AAH-ABV is alive and well. Our paperwork is (finally!) complete with the Internal Revenue Service, providing the AAH-ABV with our long-awaited formal non-profit status. Many thanks to Kitty Peterson, CPA, who was willing to provide the necessary expertise to the AAH-ABV at no charge and to Terry Applegate (XMi Association Management) who sorted through years of data to furnish the info requested by the feds. Thank you, ladies!

Achieving 501(c)3 status formally provides our benefactors with the opportunity for tax benefits. We are fiscally healthy at this time and have commitments from most of this year's supporters for follow-up sponsorship in 2012. Our sponsors help the AAH-ABV to create high-quality continuing education and information dissemination on the Human-Animal Bond.

The next set of CE tracks organized by the AAH-ABV is scheduled for delivery at the North American Veterinary Conference on Monday, January 16th 2012. Thanks go to Dr. John Wright, the AAH-ABV Speaker Coordinator, who created an impressive program. We thank Elanco for sponsoring our NAVC 2012 tracks. While you are at NAVC, be sure to attend the WSAVA-Waltham Animal Wellness/Welfare

Symposium on Saturday January 14th for their excellent program.

Dr. John Wright, who is also a founding member of the AAH-ABV, is seeking more speakers and experts who can provide relevant human-animal bond education. If you have a candidate, please contact Dr. Wright at [wrigh008@umn.edu] or Sharon Barkmeier [sbarkmeier@xmi-amc.com].

Our management partners, XMi and XMi Studio have worked to create a new infrastructure and website for the AAH-ABV. Please visit [aah-abv.org] to view our corporate sponsors/partners. Take the time to "click" their website logos to see how they enhance animal health and wellness, and to reinforce the precious family-pet relationship. There are HAB-related materials on our website for your education and use. Send relevant articles (or links to them) to Sharon at XMi so that they may post such things (or link to them) for everyone's access and enjoyment.

Our next membership meeting will be held at AVMA in San Diego, August 4-7, 2012. Our HAB tracks are scheduled for Sunday, August 5th. Our educational tracks include: Keynote address – Dr. Nancy Kay, the 2011 Bustad Award winner, Ms. Toni Eames – The Special Relationship with Service Dogs, Dr. Deb Horwitz – The Strain on the Bond of Behavior Issues and Dr. Gary Patronek – The Broken Bond in Hoarding

I want to take this opportunity to introduce the AAH-ABV President-Elect, Dr. Emilia Wong Gordon. Dr. Gordon has



Our President-Elect, Dr. Emilia Gordon, with Solo, a service dog puppy-in-training being raised by a coworkier at Arbutus West Animal Clinic, Vancouver, Canada.

been the force behind our Facebook page! It is possible that I will have a scheduling conflict with the 2012 AVMA coinciding with the start of my MS in Bioethics at Union Graduate College in New York. For that reason, I am asking Dr. Gordon to conduct our membership meeting as she assumes the role of President of the AAH-ABV. She will be involved, along with Dr. Wright, in planning the AAH-ABV CE programs at the 2013 and 2014 AVMA annual conferences. If you have specific speakers in mind for these upcoming CE offerings, please contact Dr. Gordon directly [emugordon@gmail.com].

I wish you all continued success in these particularly challenging times.

The 2011 Bustad Award Winner is Nancy Kay, DVM, ACVIM

The 2011 Leo Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award was given to Dr. Nancy Kay, ACVIM for the success of her popular book, *Speaking for Spot*. Dr. Kay is a graduate of Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine and completed her residency at UC Davis. She is in private specialty practice at VCA Animal Care Center in Rohnert Park, CA. She founded and operates its Pet Support Group which provides emotional support for pet owners. In 2009, the AAHA bestowed her with the Hills Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics Award. She is heroically devoted to helping pet owners learn more about the health care and well being of their companion animals. Dr. Kay encourages pet owners to turn the pages of her book to become knowledgeable so they can be their dog's best advocate for a happy, healthy and longer life. Her well illustrated book achieves in communicating the essence of canine health issues. Dr. Kay is not only "Speaking for Spot," she is speaking for the entire profession! [speakingforspot.com]

Congratulations, Dr. Kay!

The prestigious Bustad Award is generously sponsored by The Delta Society, AVMA & Hill's Pet Nutrition. The Bustad Award winner has the honor of opening the annual AVMA Human-Animal Bond Sessions with the Bustad Memorial Lecture in the following year. This is an official celebration of Bustad's leadership in establishing the Delta Society and the AAH-ABV.

The 2011 AVMA HAB sessions opened with Dr. Kenneth Gorczyca, the 2010 Bustad Award winner. Dr. Gorczyca delivered the Bustad Memorial Lecture describing his career and his work with *Pets Are Wonderful Support* in San Francisco [www.pawssf.org]. PAWS helps patients suffering from AIDS, and other life limiting conditions, to keep their pets at home during illness and end of life care. PAWS also advocates for pet owners who are disabled, older and less fortunate. The remarkable Dr. Downing led the HAB Session attendees on a fascinating bond-oriented journey of



Dr. Nancy Kay, ACVIM was honored with the 2011 Bustad Award. Dr. Kay (L. to R.) is pictured with Drs. Kenneth Gorczyca, the 2010 Bustad winner, and Dr. Robin Downing, President of the AAH-ABV, shortly after Gorczyca delivered the Bustad Memorial Lecture which traditionally opens the Human-Animal Bond Sessions at all AVMA Conventions.

providing medical care for patients "From Womb to Tomb." Her excellent notes are accessible in the 2011 AVMA Proceedings.

Dr. Kay will present the Bustad Memorial Keynote Lecture to kick off the HAB Sessions organized by Dr. Robin Downing, President of AAH-ABV, at the 2011 annual AVMA Convention to be held in San Diego.

Book Reviews:

by Alice Villalobos DVM, DPNAP, Editor-in-Chief

THE ANIMAL CONNECTION: A New Perspective on What Makes Us Human

by Pat L. Shipman, W.W. Norton & Co., NY, NY, July 2011

Pat Shipman, a paleoanthropologist at Penn State University, hypothesizes that man's connection with animals from prehistoric times helped to evolve and differentiate how people think, feel and behave. She proposes that the urge to care for and connect with other species is a universal human trait or a rare "behavioral universal" which spans

historical, geographical, racial, cultural, social and economic diversity. Shipman presents evidence that animals played a big role in each of the three big advances in human adaptive behavioral evolution; starting with tool making 2.6 million years ago, to the development of language and symbolic behavior, to the skills needed for domestication of animals.



Shipman proposes that the human-animal connection is deeply intertwined in the development of mankind because early man was living and thinking intimately with animals. She states that the obvious

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Book Reviews: . . . continued

THE ANIMAL CONNECTION: A New Perspective on What Makes Us Human

may have been ignored and that it is obvious that living with animals is a defining human characteristic that is very old and profoundly important. She proposes that the benefits of the animal connection motivated or impacted how the human race adapted, survived, civilized, diversified and conquered one another until recently.

Shipman points out that fascination, appreciation, affinity and respect and empathy for animals are natural feelings

passed on to most modern people. Shipman asks many questions about sustaining humanity's natural craving and need for animal contact. She reminds today's urbanized society to avoid a post-animal existence by staying involved with animals.

I agree with Shipman's hypothesis that the animal connection is an obvious yet overlooked universal behavioral trait. However, she might be stretching the

role animals played in the development of language. The animal connection is ingrained in human evolution and progress and explains why we are naturally attached to our companion animals, care for our domestic animals and have great concern for the animal kingdom and the environment. AV

Made for Each Other: The Biology of the Human-Animal Bond

by Meg Daley Olmert, Da Capo Press, Philadelphia, PA, 2009

The author chronicles the roots of the human-animal bond as originating deep in the dawn of history. When early man watched and studied animals they knew animals not just as a predator or prey species but as individuals or close neighbors. Daley Olmert proposes that the biochemistry of oxytocin secretion, which regulates feelings of attraction, attachment and contentment, is the two way biological trigger responsible for early relationships between man and animals. She credits oxytocin as the physiologic driver of ancient chemical forces that forged the human-animal bond "that transformed wolves into dogs and skittish horses into valiant comrades."

The author provides many scientific examples of the neurobiology of oxytocin in social bonding and domestication of the 14 of 20 species of animals that were calm and cooperative enough to be willing to accept human touch and nurture. She speculates whether red deer and social dolphins are the next species to be domesticated.

Daley Olmert states that great animal

insights transformed humans into hunters, artists and philosophers; then later into farmers, herders and citizens. She speculates about the next transformation after scientists gain more animal insight by bridging the cognitive gap that separates humans from animals. She suggests that thousands of years of bonding with animals infused mankind with a biology "that shaped hearts and minds" with empathy toward animals.

In the final parts of her book, Daley Olmert asks and investigates consequences associated with deprivation of the human-animal bond. She concludes that loss of animal-reliant life and interspecies relationships and the pressures and technology of modern living causes a deprivation of oxytocin.

She associates low oxytocin levels with an increase in depression, anxiety, annoyance, loneliness and many other emotional and behavioral problems including autism. After citing studies of health and social benefits of the human-animal bond, she recommends keeping

pets, friends and family closer in lieu of waiting for an oxytocin pill.

I think this book is a great companion to Shipman's book. Although Daley Olmert exclusively credits the biochemistry of oxytocin for bonding, both authors describe the human-animal bond as an essential evolutionary trait that is intertwined with the best aspects of human behavior and ultimately the best chance to save the animal kingdom from extinction. AV

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Book Reviews: . . . continued

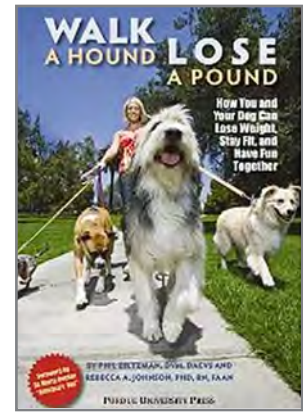
Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound

by Phil Zeltzman, DVM, DACVS and Rebecca A. Johnson, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Perdue University Press, West Lafayette, Indiana, 2011 [www.thepress.purdue.edu]

This timely book hits at the dual epidemic of human and pet obesity. Since 35% of adult pets are overweight and are getting fatter as they age (50%) and since over 35% of Americans are overweight or obese, regular walking will benefit both ends of the leash. Zeltzman & Johnson blend their expertise and concern for the overall health of people and animals by embracing the One Health philosophy. Each chapter approaches dog walking from a different perspective. The authors pack knowledge, body index numbers, risk factors, health figures and web sites to direct readers for more information into their pages without making readers feel guilty. The general theme is grab the leash and walk the dog or your neighbor's dog or a shelter dog or a foster dog. One chapter helps people train their dogs, another chapter helps people to eat right and feed their pet right and another chapter helps people modify their

personal couch potato behavior to think more about exercising their dog and less about food fetishes.

Zeltzman & Johnson have successfully integrated mind changing suggestions for people to help themselves as they altruistically help their dogs have more fun. They suggest ways to easily change food-centered relationships with dogs to much healthier and more meaningful companionship and walk-centered relationships. They suggest playing with your dog while at dog park instead of sitting on a bench. They also suggest to checking into dog boot camps designed for vacationing and exercising with dogs even borrowed dogs. The last chapters encourages people to make contracts with themselves, make plans, track progress to join or create dog walking and weight loss groups using social networks such as [meetup.com].



Of course this book will never put an end to dog parks because I think the same people who take their dogs to dog parks are also vigorously walking with them as well! I was touched by the many testimonials by dog walkers that are presented throughout the book in boxed format. Women of the Woods, a 15 year walking group, provided several excellent stories. Dog walking friends supported each other through the difficult days of pet loss. They celebrated the value of their good health, supportive friendships and what the human-animal bond meant to them over the years. AV

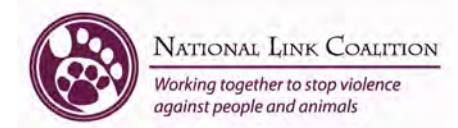
National Link Coalition Addressing “The Dark Side” of the Human-Animal Bond

By PHIL ARKOW, AAH-ABV Board Member, Coordinator, National Link Coalition

Not all veterinarians are aware of the “dark side” of the bond – the abuse of animals by humans. Animal abuse, long considered a simple, single phenomenon, is now known to be a much more complex continuum of cascading events, often occurring in what is called “The Link” – the areas where animal abuse intersects with child maltreatment, domestic violence and elder abuse. An increasing body of research is substantiating anecdotal reports of companion animals and livestock being abused in violent households. Practitioners frequently find themselves on the front lines

of family crises and dysfunctions in which animals are caught in the crossfire.

The Link affects a wide range of professions, from social workers and law enforcement agencies to animal control officers and physicians, from judges to psychologists, from teachers to veterinarians. The Link necessitates training professionals in all these areas to consider the possibility that other forms of family violence might be occurring, to establish protocols to make referrals or reports to other community agencies where necessary, and to be prepared to offer



non-traditional, preventative solutions for problematic cases.

The growing interest in The Link prompted the formation of the National Link Coalition (NLC) in 2008. Led by a steering committee of 11 internationally-renowned animal welfare and human services authorities, the National Link Coalition launched a new website at [nationallinkcoalition.org]. The site includes extensive resources of articles, research reports, bibliographies, links to other organizations, and videos.

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Trakr was my Ground Zero Hero

I remember the honor of taking care of Trakr as he aged. He was a stately German shepherd dog referred for longevity consultation services. We helped Trakr live pain free in good health until osteoarthritis and degenerative myelopathy compromised his quality of life at the ripe old age of 16. Trakr was my Ground Zero Hero. I learned that he was the first K-9 Search and Rescue Dog admitted to work at Ground Zero, only 14 hours after the towers fell. Trakr was there and gone before most of the other S&R dogs were deployed.

Trakr was rushed from Nova Scotia to NYC by his partner, Constable James Symmington, of the Halifax Police Dept. in Canada, and a Police Dog specialist friend from Palos Verdes in Southern California. They drove 14 hours straight from Nova Scotia, where Symmington and his friend were vacationing with their wives, to NYC.

Constable Symmington was on a leave of absence over demotion and work harassment after upturning department policy to euthanize K-9 dogs upon retirement. When the families saw the shocking news on 9-11-2001, the officers grabbed their gear and put Trakr (prematurely retired from work) in the truck and drove straight to Ground Zero.

Trakr was handled by a tag team of these two brave officers as he tirelessly searched the horrendous smoking wreckage at Ground Zero for 72 hours with only brief breaks. Seven year-old Trakr alerted rescuers to the spot where they dug through 23 feet of rubble and recovered the last living survivor on the morning before he collapsed from exhaustion. By this time other search and rescue teams began to arrive and a veterinary team from the Animal Medical Center was set up. They administered IV fluids to Trakr and treated

his sore paws and cleaned his fur. Trakr and Constable James Symmington and his California friend were there at Ground Zero and returned to Nova Scotia before Bush and most of the other S&R dogs arrived.

Where were the other dog teams? That is a story not often spoken of. Apparently there was a turf battle on the morning that the twin towers fell. The NY Fire Dept. felt it was their jurisdiction since the buildings were on fire. The NY Police Dept. felt it was their jurisdiction because it was a terrorist attack. The dispute resulted in the NY Police Dept.'s refusal to deploy their K-9 Search and Rescue teams at the beginning. That is why NYC fire fighters were thankful to see Constable Symmington with Trakr and his California friend. Another team that drove from St. Louis also arrived early and worked at Ground Zero in those early hours. The rest is history. Although Trakr saved the last living survivor, I have often felt that Trakr was truly the most unsung Ground Zero K9 Hero.

On October 1, 2011, The American Humane Association held its first Hero Dog Awards in Beverly Hills, CA. Dr. Patty Olson of AHA invited my husband, Ira, and me as her VIP guests. We were delighted to see James and Angeline Symmington there as well as radio host, Steve Dale, from Chicago. During the spectacular evening devoted to the human-animal bond, Trakr was remembered and honored in a touching 911 Hero Dog video as James Symmington recollected the ordeal of his search and rescue work with his noble Trakr. James and his wife, Angeline, and volunteer friends are now training five of Trakr's pups for first responder search and rescue work.

Visit them at [\[www.TeamTrakr.com\]](http://www.TeamTrakr.com). AV



(L - R) Mr. Steve Dale of PetWorld, Dr. Alice Villalobos and James and Angeline Symmington of TeamTrakr and share a glorious tribute to the HAB at the American Humane Association's first Hero Dog Awards in Beverly Hills, CA on Oct. 1, 2011.



Dr. Patty Olson of American Humane Association stands with Michael Hingson who was saved by his late guide dog, Rozelle. On the right are Patty's husband, Dr. Jerry Olson and Dr. Alice Villalobos at the Hero Dog Awards. Although Rozelle died last June, she won the 2011 Hero Dog Award. She guided Michael along with many others to safety from the 87th floor of the burning North Tower. Michael's new guide dog, Africa, is peaking at the bottom of this picture.

The American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards will air on on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11th on the Hallmark Channel at 8/7c. Learn more:

<http://www.americanhumane.org/about-us/newsroom/news-releases/dog-who-saved-owners-life.html>

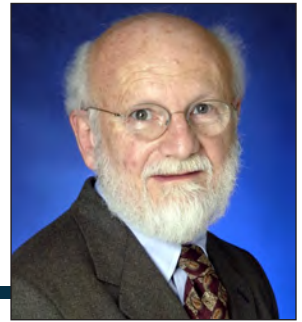
A 911 Hero Dogs Video on U Tube left out Trakr and Constable James Symmington who were there and gone before most of the teams arrived at ground zero. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D91GQRX3YdY&feature=youtu.be>



HAB TRACK – NAVC Monday, January 16th, 2012

Theme: Clinical, Emotional, Legal, & Ethical Aspects of Emotional and Physical Abuse of Animals

Organizer & Moderator: John S. Wright, DVM



SESSION/TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC / TITLE
SESSION #1 8:00 am – 8:50 am	Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, DAVIM	The Psychological Aspects of Abuse and Neglect in Animals
SESSION #2 9:15 am – 10:30 am	Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, DAVIM	Physical and Mental Health Issues in Animals Rescued From Hoarding Situations
SESSION #3 11:10 am – 12:00 pm	Charlotte LaCroix, DVM, JD	Legal Aspects of Emotional Abuse of Animals
Lunch 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
SESSION #4 1:45 pm – 2:35 pm	Bernard Rollin, PhD	Why Physical Pain is Insufficient as a Basis for Animal Ethics and Law
SESSION #5 2:45 pm – 3:35 pm	Bernard Rollin, PhD	Euthanasia, Moral Stress and Chronic Illness in Veterinary Medicine
SESSIONS #6, #7, #8 3:55 pm – 4:50 pm	Franklin D. McMillan DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, Charlotte LaCroix, DVM, JD, Bernard Rollin, PhD	Panel Discussion: Clinical, Emotional, Legal, & Ethical Aspects of Emotional and Physical Abuse of Animals

NAVC HAB Abstract

Euthanasia, Moral Stress and Chronic Illness in Veterinary Medicine

Bernard Rollin, PhD, Distinguished Professor Bioethics, CSU

More than 30 years ago, I realized the total inadequacy of the anti-cruelty laws for providing a conceptual basis for a comprehensive societal consensus ethic for animal treatment. Most importantly, the anti-cruelty laws apply to only a miniscule fraction of the suffering that animals experience at human hands. The cruelty laws are intended to apply to deviant, deliberate, sadistic, purposeless, extraordinary infliction of pain and suffering on animals, and thereby to identify sadists and psychopaths who begin with animals and “graduate” to people. I realized also that the vast majority of animal suffering did not come from sadists and psychopaths, but rather from perfectly normal, decent, socially accepted uses of animals such as scientific research studying causes of and cure for disease, production of cheap and plentiful food, and testing substances in common use for toxicity. I thus predicted

that animal ethics would expand in the direction of legislated protections for animals used in such activities. I contributed to that effort by helping to draft and defend before Congress laws protecting animals in research, most notably, requiring the control of pain and suffering engendered by the research process. The results of this law have been gratifying; from zero papers on analgesia revealed by the literature search in 1982, one can now find over 11,600 such papers, reflecting a major increase in use.

More recently, I’ve come to realize that the anti-cruelty laws are grossly inadequate even for the purposes they were developed to accomplish. Specifically, I was consulted on two cruelty cases that did not involve physical harm to the animals, but rather, in one case psychological harm, and in the other, training of the animal in a way that rendered it unadoptable. After a study of

the way the anti-cruelty laws are actually used in the legal system, I learned that it is virtually impossible to prosecute a person for cruelty to animals, unless the act results in some obvious physical wound or damage. Even the most animal welfare oriented prosecutor. I know, a person who spearheaded legislation making veterinarians mandatory reporters of suspected cruelty in Colorado, would not conceptually countenance cruelty not resulting in a physical lesion.

In my talk today, I hope to provide you with a much-expanded view of animal abuse that should be covered by the anti-cruelty laws. By the same token, I hope to explicate a full range of ways in which we can harm and help animals that goes well beyond the concepts of pleasure and pain, which have served as the basis for anti-cruelty, as well as for developing social ethics for animals.

NAVC HAB Abstract

Why Physical Pain is Insufficient as a Basis for Animal Ethics and Law

Bernard Rollin, PhD, Distinguished Professor Bioethics, CSU

A recent study published in England confirms what has been widely believed on the basis of anecdotal evidence over a long period of time, namely that suicide among veterinarians is higher than in any other profession. In the 1980s, I identified a problem that is pervasive among humane society and animal shelter workers, laboratory animal personnel, and veterinarians, and called it "moral stress." Moral stress is a unique and insidious form of stress that cannot be alleviated by normal approaches to stress management. It arises among the people identified above, whose life work is aimed at promoting the well-being of animals. There is little doubt that people who volunteer or work in animal shelters are there out of concern for animals. Yet in far too many cases, their major activity turns out to be killing unwanted dogs and cats. Equally certain is the fact that the vast majority of veterinarians enter the field in order to treat disease, alleviate pain and suffering, and provide high-quality of life for the animals to whom they minister. Yet historically, veterinarians, like Humane Society workers, have been

called upon to kill unwanted animals for appalling reasons, what has been called "convenience euthanasia."

This state of affairs creates "moral stress" in the groups identified above. This kind of stress grows out of the radical conflict between one's reasons for entering the field of animal work, and what one in fact ends up doing. Furthermore, normal avenues for alleviating stress are not available in this area. Whereas if one is stressed by normal stressors, standard stress management vehicles are quite helpful, for example relaxation techniques or talking it out with peers and family, these modalities are not available for moral stress. As one woman who worked in a shelter told me, "I tried to explain to my husband at dinner that I had killed the nicest dog earlier in the day. He responded by clapping his hands over his ears and telling me he did not want to hear about it." The eventual effect of such long-term, unalleviated stress is likely to be deterioration of physical and mental health and well-being, substance abuse, divorce, and even, as I encountered on a number of occasions, suicide.

Of late, this problem has been compounded by an opposite phenomenon—clients unwilling to euthanize animals even in the face of great suffering, keeping the animal alive and desperately seeking any treatment to do so. Not being able to assure good quality of life for the animal thus becomes a new source of moral stress for conscientious veterinarians.

In sum, euthanasia is a double-edged sword in veterinary medicine. It is a powerful and ultimately the most powerful tool for ending the pain and suffering that may well be an animal's entire life. Demand for its use for client convenience is morally reprehensible and creates major moral stress for ethically conscious practitioners, and goes against the very essence of a veterinarian's goal to alleviate pain and maximize animal health and quality of life. But equally reprehensible and stressful to veterinarians is the failure to use it when an animal faces only misery, pain, distress, and suffering. Finding the correct path through this minefield may well be the most important ethical task facing the conscientious veterinarian.

Join the AAH-ABV online at aah-abv.org

- OR - fill out this form and mail in:

Name _____
Home Address _____
Business Phone _____ Fax _____
E-Mail Address _____

Specialty Board Certification _____
Alma Mater _____ Year Graduated _____
AVMA Member ____ Yes ____ No Other Associations _____
Your Interest Areas _____

**All AAH-ABV members will be listed in the directory unless the member specifies otherwise.*

Dues (check one)

- Member Veterinarian (\$35)
 Associate Member Non Veterinarian (\$35)
 Student Applicant (\$10)

Students, please have a faculty member sign below to certify that you are a member of the class of ____ at _____

Faculty Signature _____
Date _____

Please write check to AAH-ABV and send to:

AAH-ABV
618 Church Street, Suite 220
Nashville, TN 37219



WALTHAM WSAVA Track at NAVC

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association and Waltham have teamed up to deliver a lecture stream at the upcoming NAVC in Orlando. The topic is Animal Wellness and Welfare. The Program will be presented at the Gaylord Hotel on the first day of the conference, Saturday, January 14th. The topics will be of interest to all members of the AAH-ABV. This program dovetails very nicely with the AAH-ABV Sessions being presented on Monday, January 16th.

Rebecca Johnson, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director, Research Center for Human Animal Interaction MU College of Veterinary Medicine

Mutual Enrichment: Helping to Heal War Veterans and Find Homes for Shelter Dogs

This presentation will highlight the issues associated with military deployment to combat theaters and the challenges of re-homing dogs who have been relinquished. A unique program will be discussed which aims to help returned military service members reintegrate into the community and to enhance adoptability of shelter dogs. Data will be presented from the first cohort of soldiers and dogs in the study. For the military service members, post traumatic stress, social support, family readjustment and mental and physical health will be described. For the dogs, acquisition of basic obedience skills will be reported together with adoption rates. The scalability of the project for application to other communities will be discussed as will the potential for such a program to enhance the visibility of the veterinarian in the community.

Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound - Developing Healthy Pet and People Communities

The nationwide human and dog obesity epidemic will be described. The theoretical basis for dog walking as a means to address this epidemic will be discussed. A community dog walking research program will be presented in which the elderly, public housing residents, and the public have benefitted from dog walking for functional ability, weight loss, and community service. Particular emphasis will be placed on the applicability of such dog walking programs for veterinary medical practices to offer

specific recommendations to clients for increasing physical activity with their dogs.

Help or Hindrance - Should Owners be in the ICU?

There is wide variation in belief and practice regarding the possible benefits or detriments associated with owners visiting their hospitalized dogs. This presentation will describe findings from three studies that investigated policies of veterinary medical teaching hospitals regarding owner visitation, owner's perceptions of the visitation experience, and clinical outcomes (blood pressure, heart rate and pain levels) in dogs having an owner visit.

Sandra McCune V.N., B.A.(Mod), PhD WALTHAM® Centre for Pet Nutrition Freeby Lane, Waltham-on-the-Wolds, Melton Mowbray, Leics. LE14 4RT, U.K.

Using the Bond to Promote Healing in Cats

Cats are relatively asocial animals compared to dogs. But increasingly they live in households where two or more cats share the same space. This talk introduces some of the challenges of several cats sharing the same living space, how we can recognise stress and what we can do to relieve problems by improving integration or managing the shared space so that all cats have their needs met.

Reducing Stress in Multi-Cat Households

Cats are relatively asocial animals compared to dogs. But increasingly they live in households where two or more cats share the same space. This talk introduces some of the challenges of several cats sharing the same living space,

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WSAVA-WALTHAM ANIMAL WELLNESS/ WELFARE SYMPOSIUM



Mutual Enrichment— Helping to Heal War Veterans and Find Homes for Shelter Dogs

R. Johnson

Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound—Developing Healthy Pet and People Communities

R. Johnson

Using the Bond to Promote Healing in Cats

S. McCune

Owner Perceptions of Animal Welfare, Facts and Emotions

N. Enderburg

Animal Welfare and P4 Veterinary Medicine (Predictive, Preventative, Personalized and Participatory)

P. Olsen

Pets in the Family Life Cycle

K. Hodgson

Help or Hindrance— Should Owners Be in the ICU?

R. Johnson

Reducing Stress in Multi-Cat Households

S. McCune

Pets in the Family Genogram: Case Study

K. Hodgson

WALTHAM WSAVA Track at NAVC . . . continued

Reducing Stress in Multi-Cat

Households - how we can recognise stress and what we can do to relieve problems by improving integration or managing the shared space so that all cats have their needs met.

Patricia N. Olson, DVM, PhD, DACT,
Chief Veterinary Advisor,
American Humane Association
**Animal Welfare and P4
Veterinary Medicine (Predictive,
Preventative, Personalized and
Participatory)**

The future of veterinary medicine will certainly be exciting, with new techniques and tools rapidly being developed to predict and treat disease. Genetic advancements will provide veterinarians with tools to predict genetic disorders, to select personalized medications, and to develop strategies to reduce the risk of specific diseases. Such intervention strategies could include dietary changes, minimizing environmental risks, increasing exercise or increasing routine screening for serious diseases. Scientists are already reporting that individual dogs within a single breed may have different genetic patterns for similar diseases – suggesting that the veterinary profession will have new opportunities to become directly involved in genetic counseling for owners of both mixed breed and purebred animals.

In addition to the role of veterinarians and scientists, the owner will also become directly involved in future research activities. Through precise phenotypic information and careful recording of nutritional and environmental exposures, a profile of risk factors can be ascertained. The future will certainly include a diverse team of individuals with a similar goal - improving the health of our companion animals. The American Humane Association will be taking a proactive stance to advance this area of participatory science with the launching of a new Animal Welfare Research Institute.

National Link Coalition Addressing “The Dark Side” of the Human-Animal Bond

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A primary focus for the NLC is to assist community groups trying to form their own inter-agency coalitions on the local level. These local Link coalitions are already in place, literally from Portland, ME to Portland, OR. In between are coalitions in such places as Albuquerque, Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, Denver, New York, Orlando, Phoenix, St. Paul, San Antonio, Sarasota, Tucson, Berkshire County, MA, Columbus, OH, Concord, NH, Hillsboro, OR, Klamath Falls, OR, Leavenworth, KS, and Springfield, IL. Internationally, Link groups are organizing in Canada, The Netherlands, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

A dozen surveys in several countries have reported that as many as 71% of battered women state that their pets have been killed, harmed or threatened by their abusers. As a result, between 15% and 45% of battered women are afraid to leave their abusive relationship: “I can’t leave because he says he’ll kill the dog” is an all-too-common condition. Perpetrating pet abuse is one of the top four indicators of who is at risk of becoming a batterer. Animal abuse is frequently done to punish or intimidate human victims. It often occurs in the presence of children, who may experience lifelong emotional consequences or repeat the intergenerational cycle of violence by committing animal cruelty themselves.

Animal abuse and child maltreatment are frequently linked. A New Jersey study reported that 60% of pet-owning families under investigation for child abuse – and 88% of families being investigated for physical child abuse – also had incidents of animal cruelty. This study reported a 1,100% increase in the incidence of dog bites, and

that abusive families sought veterinary care for their pets at rates comparable to non-abusive households. Children who hurt or kill animals are suspected of being at increased risk for committing interpersonal violence, either during childhood (50% of school shooters) or in adulthood (serial killers and psychopaths).



The Link has also been found to affect at-risk seniors. Cases have been reported of pets being harmed, threatened, or even kidnapped and held as ransom or to blackmail older pet owners. It is also documented that most animal hoarders are elderly persons. Overall, animal cruelty is part of a complex constellation of individual and family behaviors, stemming from a complicated series of psychological motivations, into which veterinarians often find themselves unwittingly thrust.

The NLC publishes a monthly e-newsletter, the Link-Letter. NLC has experts available for professional training, conference presentations, and local coalition-building. By clicking on the hyperlinks in the PDF, you connect with individuals and organizations in the Link world. AAH-ABV members who would like to receive the LINK-Letter may contact Phil Arkow at [\[arkowpets@snip.net\]](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net) or visit [\[nationallinkcoalition.org\]](http://nationallinkcoalition.org)



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The First Reception for Bustad Award Winners



The First Reception for Bustad Award Winners took place during the 2009 AVMA Convention in Seattle. Dr. William McCulloch organized the event which was hosted by the Delta Society. No other single event in veterinary history has attracted as many Bustad Award recipients into one room. This was also the year that the AAH-ABV Board of Directors held its first Strategic Planning Retreat.

Bustad Winners Pictured from left to right are: Drs. Jane Shaw from the Argus Center at CSU, James Harris from Tasmania, Brian Forsgren (2009 recipient) from Cleveland, Caroline Shaffer from Tuskegee, Marv Samuleson with VARL, Alice Villalobos from Hermosa Beach, Bill McCulloch from Washington, Gen Kato from Japan and Marie McCabe from Arkansas.



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Editor-In-Chief, Alice Villalobos, DVM and her dog NEO.