



Newsletter

The American Association of
Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians

VOLUME 28 • SUMMER 2011

AAH-ABV web page: www.aah-abv.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Message From the President
Robin Downing, DVM, CVA,
CVC, CPE, CCRP
Diplomate, American Academy
of Pain Management
Hospital Director:
The Downing Center for Animal Pain
Management, LLC
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**It is an exciting time for the
Human-Animal Bond and for
the AAH-ABV!**

I had the privilege of participating in an article highlighting the role of animals in their humans lives for a Medical & Wellness issue from Style Media here in Colorado. Here's the link to the online issue:
http://issuu.com/lydiasstyle/docs/2011-03_northern_colorado_medical_wellness

It was great fun to speak on behalf of animals and the people who love them. As we all know, education is the key to a successful relationship with our clients and successful relationships between our clients and their pets.

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AVMA Convention in St. Louis Missouri on Sunday July 17th!

By Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP



AVMA 2011

Join the AAH-ABV during the Human-Animal Bond tracks at this year's AVMA Convention in St. Louis Missouri on Sunday July 17th.

Dr. Ken Gorczyca will open the day at 8:00 AM.
Dr. Gorczyca is the 2010 Leo K. Bustad Award winner.

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**Letter from the President:
Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP**

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This year has brought several important sponsors to the AAH-ABV. Nordic Naturals, makers of high-quality supplements for people and for pets (www.nordicnaturals.com) is our most recent addition to the sponsorship roster. Please take time to visit our website and use the links on the sponsorship page to visit these companies and see what they have to offer pets and veterinary healthcare teams. Thank your account representatives for their commitment to assisting the AAH-ABV in our mission.

Sponsorship provides us with the resources with which to function as an organization and to educate, educate, educate! At this time, we have a recurring presence at the annual convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association. This meeting is scheduled in July each year at a different location each year. The AAH-ABV provides speakers and content for the Human-Animal Bond track. This year's meeting is in St. Louis. The opening lecture each year is, by tradition, provided by the Leo K. Bustad Award winner from the previous year. This year, we will have the pleasure of listening to Dr. Ken Gorczyca, co-founder of Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) in San Francisco. PAWS was created to provide supplies and care for pets belonging to low-income people who have HIV/AIDS or other disabling illnesses and to senior citizens. The remainder of this year's program will focus on veterinary care from "womb to tomb", and I am delighted to deliver information designed to help veterinary healthcare teams do the right things for the right reasons as our patients live their lives from cradle to grave.

Please see details of the AVMA HAB track elsewhere in this newsletter.

It's not too early to look forward to next year's AVMA program. Next year's meeting will be in San Diego. The Human-Animal Bond track theme will be "The Human-Animal Bond: From its Best to Broken". Ms. Toni Eames, co-founder of the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) will address the Bond at its very best - - that bond between assistance dogs and their human partners. She will articulate special concerns that veterinary healthcare teams must address - - all from the perspective of someone who absolutely depends upon an assistance dog (in this case a dog-guide) for access to everyday life.

Dr. Deb Horwitz, internationally renowned behaviorist, will provide insights into canine behavior gaffes, feline behavior gaffes, and into ways to fix the bond before it's broken. Dr. Horwitz is truly gifted at delivering Bond-building tools for veterinary healthcare teams to share with their clients.

The remainder of the 2012 AVMA program will be provided

by Dr. Gary Patronek who will speak specifically about animal hoarding, intervention, and the role of the veterinarian and the veterinary healthcare team. I am very grateful to these top-notch educators for accepting the AAH-ABV invitation to present. And I am equally grateful to our sponsors for providing us the means with which to bring these terrific programs to our fellow professionals.

Dr. John Wright from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine has agreed to serve the AAH-ABV as the continuing education coordinator. Please send to Dr. Wright any and all recommendations you have for CE that the AAH-ABV should consider offering. If you hear a speaker at a meeting (it doesn't have to be at a veterinary meeting) or meet someone in your travels who would be someone we should consider as a presenter, please provide that information to Dr. Wright. Dr. Wright's email address is: wright008@umn.edu

We have Dr. Wright to thank for a stellar CE line-up at the 2012 NAVC. The NAVC is a second national veterinary educational venue that has offered the AAH-ABV a recurring role. Please see details of the upcoming 2012 AAH-ABV program elsewhere in the newsletter.

Many thanks to President-Elect Dr. Emilia Gordon, the AAH-ABV now has a Facebook page. Please take a minute to head there and see all the great info that's there! And, don't forget to "like" the page! Please do the organization one additional favor and invite your Facebook friends also to "like" our page. This is one important way for us to build our visibility.

<http://www.facebook.com/aahabv>

Finally, we are closing in on our 501(c)3 status with the IRS! This is very exciting for it gives us with the opportunity to provide a "quid pro quo" of a tax benefit to anyone who makes a charitable contribution to the organization. This is an important piece in the face of the economic downturn we have all faced in recent years.

I hope this finds you all enjoying the opening of the summer season. The Human-Animal Bond is on the minds of many, with new books published nearly daily to honor that unique kinship we feel. Be well, and please plan to participate at our meeting in July in St. Louis!

**Visit the AAH-ABV
www.aah-abv.org**

AVMA 2011 Continued
Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP

Continued from Page One

Beginning at 9AM, AAH-ABV President Dr. Robin Downing will speak for the remainder of the day. The program will focus on veterinary healthcare from “womb to tomb”.

**The Other Family Doctor:
 Laying the Foundation for
 a Lifetime of Care**



The veterinarian is like the neonatologist, the pediatrician, the general practitioner, and the gerontologist all in one as s/he provides care for animal family members from cradle to grave. Our success relies on the foundation we build. With pet owner visits on the decline, the focus on womb to tomb care is more important than ever!

**Training Your Team:
 Providing Lifelong Care**



Unless the veterinary healthcare team is leveraged to their best performance, the veterinarian cannot lead the practice to provide what is best for the pet consistently and accurately. Are you training your team to do all they can and should do on behalf of patients?

**The Working Bond:
 Our Special Role in the
 Lives of Service Animals**



Service animals come in many sizes and shapes, but their role in the lives of their human partners is amazingly similar. The veterinary healthcare team accepts some unique responsibilities when working with service animals. This hour will focus on our obligation to working dogs.

12:00 PM - 12:50 PM
Inside the Issues
Panel Dialogue:
Palliative & Hospice
Care Obligation

**Panel: Dr. Tina Ellenbogen,
 Dr. Amir Shanan and RVT's, Val
 Hajek Adams & Ann McClenaghan
 Mr. Steve Dale of PetWorld PetCast**

Special Pets, Special Bonds: Advocating on Behalf of Special Needs Pets



Special needs pets require special human parents. But special needs pets can provide extremely meaningful relationship if we remain open-minded. Assist your clients who have special needs pets by advocating what is the right thing for those animals.

Transcending the End of Life: The Bond Beyond



Pet loss and grief are profound experiences that defy the imagination in their intensity. On the other hand, end-of-life care and euthanasia provide an unsurpassed opportunity for practice-building. Learn strategies for empowering veterinary healthcare team members to assist clients along their grief journey.

Cancer and Terminal Disease: The Bond in Crisis



Cancer and other terminal conditions provide a crisis scenario for the human-animal bond. Learn how you and your healthcare team can take a pro-active role to meet the challenges presented to your clients by a terminal diagnosis.

Putting it All Together for the Patient and Family



We may be brilliant veterinary healthcare teams, but if our clients do not understand what needs to be done (and then carry that out), we will have failed in our prime directive of advocating on behalf of beings who cannot advocate for themselves. Learn how to "git 'er done"!

5:00 – 7:30 PM: General membership meeting of the AAH-ABV

The AAH-ABV Meeting Will be held at:
Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel
800 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Pershing/Lindell Room

Be sure to join your colleagues for a face-to-face meet and greet!

AAH-ABV Program NAVC 2012

Looking ahead, The AAH-ABV has a bang-up program planned for January 2012!

Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, DACVIM
Dr. McMillan is a veterinarian in private practice and an adjunct clinical faculty member at Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. McMillan has written and lectured extensively on animal feelings and emotions, mind-body medicine, and quality of life, and is the editor and co-author of *Mental Health and Well-being in Animals*.



8:00 AM:
The Psychological Aspects of Abuse and Neglect in Animals

9:15 AM:
Physical and Mental Issues in Animals Rescued From Hoarding Situations

Charlotte LaCroix, DVM, JD
Dr. LaCroix is the founder of Veterinary Business Advisors and provides a wide range of practical business and legal services to the veterinary profession.

11:10 AM:
Legal Aspects of Emotions; Abuse of Animals

Bernard Rollin, PhD
Dr. Rollin is an American philosopher who specializes in animal rights and animal consciousness. He is a professor of philosophy, animal sciences, and biomedical sciences at Colorado State University. He is the author of many books including *Animal Rights and Human Morality* and *Science and Ethics*.

1:45 PM:
Why Physical Pain is Insufficient as a Basis for Animal Ethics and Law

3:35 PM:
Euthanasia, Moral Stress, and Chronic Illness in Veterinary Medicine

3:55 – 4:50 PM:
Panel Discussion – all speakers
Clinical, Emotional, Legal, and Ethical Aspects of Emotional and Physical Abuse of Animals

Human-Animal Bond Lecture Schedule, AVMA 2011

Americas Center Room #140 St. Louis, Missouri

Time	Topic / Title	Speaker
8:00 AM	Leo K. Bustad Award Winner	Dr. Ken Gorczyca
9:00 AM	The Other Family Doctor: Laying the Foundation for a Lifetime of Care	Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP
10:00 AM	Training Your Team to Provide Lifelong Care	Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP
11:00 AM	The Working Bond: Our Special Role in the Lives of Service Animals	Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP
12:00 PM	Inside the Issues: Panel Dialogue Palliative and Hospice Care	Dr. Alice Villalobos, DVM, and Panel Members
2:00 PM	Special Pets, Special Bonds: Advocating on Behalf of Special Needs Pets	Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP
3:00 PM	Cancer and Terminal Disease: The Bond in Crisis	Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP
4:00 PM	Transcending the End of Life: The Bond Beyond	Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP
5:00 PM	Putting it All Together for the Patient and Family	Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP
5:30-7:30 PM	General membership meeting of the AAH-ABV	AAH-ABV Members

Looking Ahead: AAH-ABV Program, NAVC, January 2012

Time	Topic / Title	Speaker
8:00 AM	The Psychological Aspects of Abuse and Neglect in Animals	Dr. Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, DACVIM
9:15 AM	Physical and Mental Issues in Animals Rescued From Hoarding Situations	Dr. Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, DACVIM
11:00 AM	Legal Aspects of Emotional; Abuse of Animals	Dr. Charlotte LaCroix, DVM, JD
1:45 PM	Why Physical Pain is Insufficient as a Basis for Animal Ethics and Law	Dr. Bernard Rollin, PhD
3:35 PM:	Euthanasia, Moral Stress, and Chronic Illness in Veterinary Medicine	Dr. Bernard Rollin, PhD
3:55 – 4:50 PM	Panel Discussion: Clinical, Emotional, Legal, and Ethical Aspects of Emotional and Physical Abuse of Animals	All Speakers

2010-2011 Board of Directors

President Dr. Robin Downing, DVM, CVA, CVC, CPE, CCRP Windsor, CO	President Elect Dr. Emilia Wong Gordon, DVM Berkeley, CA
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Universal Human-Animal Bond Scale

Devotion, Value, Concern & Responsibility

The Human-Animal Bond (HAB) can be defined as the relationship between people, animals and their environment. When the HAB is expanded beyond companion animals to include all animals, a vast range of considerations unfold causing confusion. This proposed HAB Scale provides an overview of how the animal kingdom is regarded based on attachment, devotion, value, concern and responsibility. The HAB Scale is a support tool to help stakeholders deal with intrinsic considerations, decision making, analysis and discussion regarding all creatures great and small. See Table 1 or the HAB Scale insert. The power of the companion HAB evolved veterinary medicine into high tech facilities, specialties and procedures that parallel the pediatric model. In bleak contrast, veterinarians face the nonchalant attitude of those who view their animals or their environment as disposable property. Encroachment, extinction, global animal welfare, oceanography, ecosystem support, conservation, pollution control, public health, disaster response and disease control are all societal responsibilities involving the expertise of veterinarians in the One Medicine model. The HAB scale reminds society that responsibility for animals and their environment is either direct or indirect to sustain life for future generations. *(See Universal HAB Scale)*

**Join the AAH-ABV online at www.aahabv.org,
or fill out the form below:**

Name _____

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Specialty Board Certification _____

Alma Mater _____ Year Graduated _____

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Dues (check one)

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Student Applicant (\$10)

(Please have a faculty member sign below to certify that you are a member
of the class of _____ at _____

Faculty Signature _____ Date _____

Mission Statement

- To further 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

*** Remit Checks To: American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians, 618 Church St, Suite 220, Nashville, TN 37219**