

HABA President's Message

Newsletter 43, Spring 2018

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, we have officially changed several things about this organization. We have changed the name from the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians to simply the Human Animal Bond Association. To reflect this change, we have changed the logo. This new name is the result of the change in the makeup of the organization. We are not strictly an association of veterinarians and veterinary students, we now include technicians and allied professionals that are involved with the Human Animal Bond. Veterinarians will continue to lead the organization but we want to emphasize the importance of the entire veterinary team in our educational efforts.

The Human Animal Bond Association is continuing to provide educational tracts for the veterinary profession. We have long been associated with the North American Veterinary Conference (now called the VXM) in Orlando and with the AVMA annual meeting at its various locations. New in 2018 we are working with the Western Veterinary Conference (WVC) to provide information at its Las Vegas venue. Presenting at these three important meetings assures that the message is available to a broad section of our profession.

Our speakers at these locations are talking about the Human Animal Bond as it deals with the animals we treat but also about the mental stress veterinary professionals experience in their practices. They are stressing that the emotional fatigue some professionals endure is not rare and that it is important to recognize its signs and obtain help early in the course of the problem.

At this year's Board of Directors meeting at the Western Veterinary Conference we will be announcing the recipient of the 2018 Student Scholarship. In past years the scholarship was presented to a veterinary student that was associated with one of the student Human Animal Bond clubs partially sponsored by our association. Now we allow any veterinary student in Canada and the US to apply for the scholarship. The basic requirement is an involvement with the Bond in school activities. The response this year has been huge.

We, as an association, want to thank our sponsors, without whom we could not continue our efforts in education. Please recognize their support by giving their products the consideration they deserve.

Thanks also to the members of the association who provide membership dues to help the effort. If you are not a member, consider joining us in this worthwhile endeavor. Make your practice team aware of the bond and aware that they may become members of HABA.

The Human Animal Bond is a part of every day life for the veterinary profession. We must recognize and support those caring for animals, large and small and for their owners. The Bond is the reason for the profession.