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NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND VETERINARIANS



Update from the President: One Health Dr. Emilia Wong Gordon, DVM

Greetings! I began my work as President only three months ago, and am already deeply inspired by the many colleagues I have met (in person and virtually) and their contributions supporting the human-animal bond. AAH-ABV is truly a group that reminds us all why we became veterinarians.

Education is a major focus for AAH-ABV. Our Mission is to advance the role of the veterinary medical community in nurturing positive human-animal interactions in society. Human-animal interactions provide opportunities for motivation, education and recreation while enhancing quality of life. We are proud to sponsor a track at NAVC in Orlando, FL on Monday, January 21, 2013. Dr. John Wright organized a great program focused on models for providing veterinary care to pets with financially challenged owners. Drs. Gary Block, Brian Forsgren, Natalie Isaza, and Jeanette O’Quin- leaders in the field- will speak during the day and then participate in a panel discussion. Please take a look inside this Newsletter for a full list of speakers and topics.

As a private practitioner whose career has also included shelter work and over a decade volunteering with nonprofit clinics serving homeless pet owners, I know that the challenges posed by owners who are unable to access or pay for care affect every community and every practitioner. While there is no quick fix for this

problem, the only path to a solution will be collaborative and involve all stakeholders working together.

Speaking of collaboration, you will notice that the theme of this Newsletter is One Health. Our Guest Editor, Dr. Rebecca Johnson, President of the International Association of Human-Animal Interactions (IAHAIO), has produced a fascinating collection of writings focused on the positive aspects of human-animal interactions and their applications to One Health. IAHAIO has also collaborated with AVMA and AAH-ABV to design an innovative human-animal bond track for AVMA 2013 (more information at <http://iahaio.org/pages/conferences/chicago2013.php>).

We have many other exciting projects in the works, with a newly expanded Board of Directors driving our progress. These dedicated leaders are listed on the last page of the Newsletter and include 2013 Bustad Award Winner (and AAH-ABV Charter Member) Dr. Tom Catanzaro. You will likely be hearing from some of them in the near future as we recruit members to help with various projects. We’ll be setting up a book review committee, working on getting students more involved, and expanding our online presence. Please consider helping out!

In the meantime, thank you for being a member of AAH-ABV. YOU make our



Dr. Wong with Solo.

work possible! Please visit our website at www.aah-abv.org and our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/aahabv for updates. Please share our contact information with your colleagues and encourage them to join as an AAH-ABV Member. Building a vibrant and engaged membership is vital to our success.

We always want to hear from our members; e-mail us anytime at connect@aahabv.org. You can also reach individual Members using the directory on our main website. Last, keep your eyes peeled for new membership benefits to be announced in the next six months!

Happy Holidays!



NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY CONFERENCE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND VETERINARIANS

Monday, January 21, 2013

Gaylord Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, Florida

Theme: Models of How the Veterinary Profession Can Provide Care to Pets Whose Owner Can't Afford the Cost of Care

Moderator: John S. Wright, DVM

SESSION / TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC / TITLE
SESSION #1 8:00 am – 9:15 am	Dr. Brian Forsgren, DVM Dr. Gary Block, MS, DVM, DACVIM	Models of How the Veterinary Profession Can Provide Care to Pets who's Owner Can't Afford the Cost of Care. What are the issues???
9:15 am – 9:55am	Break	Break
SESSION #2 9:55 am – 10:45 am	Dr. Brian Forsgren, DVM	Providing Access to Care in Difficult Financial times
SESSION #3 10:55 am – 11:45 am	Dr. Natalie Isaza, DVM	Providing veterinary care to the pets of under served members of the community.
11:45 am – 1:45 pm	Lunch	Lunch
SESSION #4 1:45 pm – 2:35 pm	Dr. Gary Block, MS, DVM, DACVIM	An Alternative Model by a State VMA Foundation
SESSION #5 2:45 pm – 3:35 pm	Dr. Jeanette OQuin, DVM, MPH	A Veterinary Outreach Program at The Ohio State University
3:35 pm – 3:55 pm	Break	Break
SESSION #6, 7, 8 3:55 pm – 4:50 pm	Dr. Brian Forsgren, DVM Dr. Gary Block, MS, DVM, DACVIM Dr. Natalie Isaza, DVM Dr. Jeanette OQuin, DVM, MPH	Panel Discussion: Models of How the Veterinary Profession Can Provide Care to Pets who's Owner Can't Afford the Cost of Care

Introduction to the Editor-In-Chief of AAH-ABV



Laura Baltodano

Fellow colleagues, I would like to introduce myself as the new Editor-In-Chief of the AAH-ABV newsletter. I am thrilled to have been accepted into this role. As a senior veterinary student, I formally became acquainted with the concept of the human-animal bond through a Pet Loss & Human Bereavement course offered at Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Through my years of work with the WSU Pet Loss Hotline, I became keenly aware of the importance of understanding the HAB and its relevance to the veterinary profession. My goal as Editor-In-Chief and member of the Board of Directors are to find creative ways to provide awareness concerning the HAB and, to explore the evolution of this concept. I welcome ideas and articles that will aid in advancing our mission of promoting awareness of the positive influence of human-animal interactions within our society.

Greetings from Guest Editor:

AAH-ABV's many collaborative ventures

It is indeed an honor to serve as guest editor of this issue of the AAH-ABV Newsletter! As you know, we are embarking on a very exciting collaboration at the upcoming 150th AVMA Convention in Chicago, IL.

In this newsletter, you will find a brief introduction to IAHAIO. While the name of our association is rather hard to get one's tongue around (some say the acronym sounds like the state of Ohio, or some sort of secret password!), our mission is "to provide international leadership in advancing the field of Human Animal Interaction (HAI). This is accomplished through research, education, and collaboration among our membership, policy makers, clinical practitioners, other human animal interaction organizations and the general public. This wonderful organization is the global umbrella of over 40 HAI organizations doing a myriad of work in HAI. Our triennial conferences provide exchange of information, ideas, and great opportunities for networking. We are especially pleased to be collaborating

with AAH-ABV and AVMA in 2013, our first conference to be held in the U.S. We wanted the One Health theme to be particularly strong in next year's conference, and are delighted with the abstracts submitted for peer review for presentations. There will be a sneak peek available in the next newsletter.

Along the lines of One Health, you will find a stimulating article on the subject written by Dr. Roger Mahr, the stellar leader of the One Health Commission. Additionally, we pay tribute to Dr. R.K. Anderson for his many contributions to the HAB, written by his long-time friend Dr. William F. McCulloch. I am also thrilled to share with you some of the work in One Health related to the HAB that is taking place in the Center that I have the privilege of directing here at University of Missouri.

As you will read, we have many "firsts" in our collaborative venture. They are coming at a time when perhaps people and animals need the bond that they feel for each other in unprecedented ways during especially challenging times. So our work is incredibly



Dr. Rebecca Johnson

relevant, and we can all feel especially honored to be able to contribute to helping people and animals through the bond.

Rebecca A. Johnson, PhD, RN, FAAN
President, International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO)
Professor & Director, Research Center for Human Animal Interaction
University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine



ONE HEALTH AND THE HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION: **Our Collaborative Responsibility**

Roger K. Mahr, DVM, CEO, *One Health Commission*

A changing environment populated by interconnected animal and human contact creates integrated challenges. These challenges require integrated solutions and call for collaborative leadership. It is this scenario that underscores the One Health concept and provides the overarching focus for the convergence of people, domestic animals, wildlife, plants, and the environment. At the center of this scenario is the human-animal interaction, and further embedded and permeating throughout this interaction is the human-animal bond.



One Health is the collaborative effort of multiple health science professions, together with their related disciplines and institutions, working locally, nationally and globally, to attain optimal health for people, animals, plants, and our environment.

My first commitment towards One Health began when my

colleagues and I entered the veterinary profession as we repeated these words found in the veterinarian's oath, "I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society." With those words, we had just received the value of a lifetime, the value of our veterinary diploma. With that value, came responsibility.

As I prepared for the presidency of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), I focused on the AVMA mission, "Improving animal and human health, and advancing the veterinary medical profession." This focus clearly brought together my value and responsibility as a veterinarian in concert with my recognition and respect for the value of animals. It was my belief that no other profession has a comparable value to society, and that no other profession has a greater impact on the health of both animals

and people. I also recognized that achieving the AVMA mission would require a call for collaborative leadership across the health science-related professions. It was with a sense of responsibility to meet that call for collaborative leadership that I revealed my vision for a One Health initiative in July of 2006 as I assumed the AVMA presidency.

Also during that time, recommendations from various studies were calling for improved communication, coordination, and collaboration among professional associations, academia, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry to address the integrated health challenges created by the convergence of human, animal, and ecosystem health. Many of these health challenges related to emerging zoonotic diseases, food and water safety and security, environmental agents, disaster preparedness and response, and chronic diseases common to both animals and people, including cancer, obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

Certainly the One Health concept is not new, however, a new professional imperative calling for collaborative leadership has emerged. Consistently threaded throughout the One Health approach is the importance and value of the human-animal bond as it beneficially impacts the health of people, animals, and the environment. The human-animal bond often provides a significant influence in forging collaboration among health professionals and their related disciplines.

During my term as AVMA president, I had the opportunity to work in partnership with the late Dr. Ronald Davis, who served concurrently as president of the American Medical Association (AMA). Through our respective leadership roles, Dr. Davis and I were able to achieve a collaborative relationship between the AVMA and AMA. It was this initial collaborative leadership that led to the establishment of the One Health Commission www.onehealthcommission.org in June of 2009. Through a strategic alliance with Iowa State University (ISU), the Commission is now headquartered at the ISU Research Park.

It is heartening to recognize the importance and value of the human-animal bond as it transcends throughout the One Health

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OPERATIONALIZING ONE HEALTH THROUGH HUMAN ANIMAL INTERACTION AT UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Research Center for Human Animal Interaction (ReCHAI)

Rebecca A. Johnson, PhD, RN, FAAN, *Professor & Director*

ReCHAI is a collaborative venture between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Sinclair School of Nursing and was founded in 2005 with the mission of "studying & promoting the health benefits of human-animal interaction (HAI)." Inherent in our mission are the notions that the health of people and animals is inextricably linked, that health is more than simply the absence of disease, and that we can facilitate trans-species health through innovative interactions between them.

We conduct a wide range of research projects, community programs, and provide education opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of academic majors. Since 2005, ReCHAI has conducted 13 studies including five which are currently underway. The center is a research training site for doctoral students across disciplines as well as professional veterinary medical students and undergraduate students completing capstone or practicum experiences. Our research is investigating topics ranging from alleviating U.S. military veterans' post traumatic stress through shelter dog obedience training (while studying dog adoption success as a result of the training), relieving anxiety of abused children during forensic interviews by placing a trained service dog with them during the interview, exploring the role of the family dog in families with children who have autism (and the issues for welfare of the dog), and identifying the effect of training shelter dogs in basic obedience on prison inmates' rehabilitation. The studies are funded by grants from external sources including the National Institutes of Health, Missouri Foundation for Health, and several foundations.

Our community programs include Reading to Rover among inner-city children in which children practice their reading skills by reading to therapy dogs, the weekly Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound shelter dog walking program in which people go to the shelter and help a dog get needed exercise, and perhaps the most recognized, TigerPlace Pet Initiative (TiPPI).



TiPPI began in 2004 and in this program we are facilitating and enhancing pet ownership among older adults who live at TigerPlace, an aging-in-place retirement residence originated by the Sinclair School of Nursing. ReCHAI provides older adults with support needed to keep their pets via a pet care assistant who visits pet owners at least three times each week to walk dogs for those who are unable to do this, clean cat litter boxes, and provide other assistance as needed (e.g. administering medications to pets). We maintain an on-site veterinary medical exam room which is used by our faculty veterinarian who makes monthly house calls on the pets and also gives presentations for the older adults and facility staff on matters pertaining to pet health. The program includes a fund to provide foster care for pets whose owners pre-decease them until the animal can be adopted. TiPPI facilitates One Health in that older adults who own pets are happier given support to help them keep their pets and benefit from the known positive outcomes of pet ownership; early detection of health problems in the pets enables prompt intervention, facilitating health of the animals.

Student education opportunities include mentoring Veterinary Research Scholars each summer, the Human Companion Animal Interaction course taught by me to 100 students from 20 different academic majors annually, and inclusion of undergraduate and graduate students from across the university in implementation of our research and programs. Students universally leave us with a strong awareness of and commitment to the importance of HAI for the health of people and animals. Many go on to apply this in their chosen career paths, so ReCHAI is making a difference through them in the longer-term and bigger picture in society. We continue to identify exciting ways in which ReCHAI can impact and facilitate One Health through human animal interaction. It is as much a vocation as an educational and scientific venture!



IN MEMORY

ROBERT "RK" ANDERSON, DVM, MPH

Dipl. ACVPM, Dipl. ACVB

1922-2012

By William F. McCulloch, DVM, MPH, *Beaverton, Oregon*

We lost a One Health giant when RK Anderson, DVM, MPH, passed away at age 90 in October, 2012. For over 50 years this creative and gentle man was my graduate professor, mentor, co-author, colleague and friend.

Dr. Robert "RK" Anderson sought solutions in public health through interdisciplinary efforts. His remarkable contributions embody the One Health Movement. This concept was reenergized by Dr. Roger Mahr, Past President of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2007, when he initiated the One Health Task Force in cooperation with the American Medical Association.

I first indirectly met RK in the summer of 1955 when I was a veterinary student. Dr. Anderson was the Denver Public Health veterinarian and was already leaving his footprints within the profession. He had recently initiated an effective animal control program with a leash law that was in effect 24 hours a day. Five years later, after small animal practice and two years in the US Army Veterinary Corps, I became one of his MPH students. Throughout my career, he was most supportive, giving me opportunities for publications on comparative medicine, zoonotic diseases and human-animal interactions, one of

which we co-authored about the human-animal bond in a 1986 special issue of Phi Kappa Phi journal.

In the early 1970's, Dr. Anderson led a federally sponsored project about the human health contributions of veterinarians. It was during this time that the concept of the original Delta Foundation was conceived and became a reality as a non-profit based in Portland, Oregon in 1977 with Michael McCulloch, MD as its first President. The Delta Foundation eventually became the Delta Society in 1981 after joining forces with our colleague, Leo Bustad, DVM, as the new President. Dr. Anderson published many articles on the human-animal bond and was part of a conference in 1984 that established the first refereed Journal of the Delta Society called Anthrozoos.

Dr. Anderson was an avid learner, was very creative, and always had the interest of others at heart. He used his insight from his farm days in Colorado to develop the concept of training animals. He revolutionized the animal behavior and psychology field with two co-inventions, The Gentle Leader and Easy Walk harness for dogs, in collaboration with Ruth Foster, a leader in the National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors. Behavior problems are one major cause of the "broken" bond.



Dr. William McCulloch and Dr. RK Anderson

Animals with behavior problems ultimately end up in animal shelters and many of them are needlessly euthanized. Dr. Anderson's efforts have undoubtedly saved thousands of animals from a premature death and healed the human-animal bond for some pet owners.

My last in-person contact with Dr. Anderson was in January of 2012 when we had lunch during his visit to Portland, a memory that I will always hold dear. Dr. Anderson was a man that I admired greatly and whom I will always cherish.

For over 60 years, RK Anderson was a role model for those with whom he had contact. His passion, professionalism and perseverance are his legacy and all who knew him will miss this special human being. Over his life, Dr. Anderson made an impact in the lives of over 200 graduate students; I miss him already.

Dr. McCulloch is a co-founder of Delta Society (now Pet Partners), a charter member of AAHABV and Bustad Award winner in 1986.



International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO):

A global source for collaboration and support between researchers and practitioners in the Human Animal Interaction Field

What is IAHAIO?

IAHAIO began when after having working together for some years, representatives from European, American, Australian and Canadian Human Animal Interaction Organizations (AFIRAC, the Delta Society, Delta Australia, HABAC, IEMT and SCAS) decided in 1990 to turn their long standing working relationship into a formal Association. A seventh organization, The Human Animal Contact Study Group from South Africa supported the initiative. Dr. Sam Ahmedzai (SCAS, UK), was the first President, and Linda Hines, director of the Delta Society (USA), was elected Secretary of IAHAIO. The organization was finally incorporated as a not-for-profit NGO in the State of Washington, USA in 1992.

From 1992, IAHAIO Conferences were held in Montreal (1992), Geneva (1995) and Prague (1998), Rio (2001), Glasgow (2004), Tokyo (2007) and Stockholm (2010). Since 1992 many organizations from all parts of the world have joined IAHAIO. We are growing steadily (last year 12 new organizations joined us) and opportunities to share ideas, information and to build collaborations between members are created continuously.

What are IAHAIO's aims?

IAHAIO aims to provide international leadership in advancing the field of Human Animal Interaction (HAI) and promotes research, education and practice development. IAHAIO communicates!

In our annual meetings and triennial conferences members from all over the world meet and share new insights, concerns, challenges and ideas. Researchers as well as practitioners are working together to further the field. This collaboration is needed to facilitate new developments in the HAI field. Furthermore, IAHAIO engages in influencing and educating policy and decision makers at national and international levels about the benefits of human-animal interactions and animal-assisted interventions. This is a very important issue, because in many countries animal assisted interventions are not financially covered by insurance companies or health care organizations or even recognized as important for facilitating health in people.

What Does IAHAIO Mean to Me?

As the founder of a Dutch Organization named Animal Assisted Interventions in Care, Education and Research (AAIZOO), IAHAIO gives me a framework, theoretical as well as practical. It gives our organization a 'home.' In collaboration with other member organizations, AAIZOO has undertaken many initiatives, e.g. to work on standards of animal assisted activity, and to work on well elaborated, internationally accepted definitions of HAI activities, to work on new research projects, and develop new programs. Moreover, IAHAIO helped me to know the HAI world much better, to meet wonderful colleagues with a wide range of knowledge and expertise. IAHAIO helps us not to reinvent the wheel, but to share with each other and to help each other because it is a supportive organization.

The Near Future.

Our upcoming IAHAIO Triennial Conference will be held in 2013 in Chicago, in collaboration with the 150th convention of the AVMA as the Human Animal Bond track of the AAH-ABV. I am looking forward to "the Chicago experience." It will be a great occasion to meet colleagues from more than 26 countries around the world. Famous and beginning scientists will present their groundbreaking work and of course will inspire us. I am looking forward to the presentations of our hard working HAI practitioners and to learn about their moving experiences in our field. I am looking forward to the presentations of most interesting research topics, brand new work from younger and older scientists who will be proud to present their new insights. And, of course, I am looking forward to meeting a new group of people who are AVMA members that share the same passion: the human animal bond!

Surely we will meet each other there.

Dr.M.J.Enders-Slegers
IAHAIO Vice President for Conferences

Thank You to
Our Sponsors:



ONE HEALTH AND THE HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION

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approach. This value may be achieved through health benefits provided by animals for people through needed services related to disabilities, assisted activities and therapy, and general companionship with its positive impact on a person's physical, mental, emotional, and social state. The unique reciprocal relationship between people and their animals being able to "give" as well as "receive" from each other can be emotionally, as well as physically, beneficial for both animals and people.

As health science professionals directly involved with the human-animal interaction, and recognizing the value of the human-animal bond, it is my fervent hope and

vision that we will assume our collaborative responsibility to protect and promote our immeasurable value, to utilize that value to its fullest, and to make sure that our future is a promising future, a future of even greater value.

By working together we can convert our 21st century challenges into opportunities. We can improve the lives of our patients, our clients, and our public in general, truly fulfilling all of our professional oaths by using our knowledge and skills for the benefit of society. One Health – World Health Through Collaboration... This professional imperative translates to value and responsibility.

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

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

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BUILDING THE BOND THROUGH RESIDENCY TRAINING Zenithson Ng

Where do I go from here? That's the million dollar question I was asking myself almost 3 years ago. As a veterinarian, I always knew I wanted to do more in this abstract world of the human-animal bond (HAB) but didn't really know how to go about it. I was contemplating going back to school for a degree social work or psychology, but recognized that such a commitment could delay my growth as a budding veterinarian. Serendipitously, the opportunity of my dreams opened in Blacksburg, Virginia, where I was granted the privilege to enter the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP canine/feline) residency combined with a master's degree in human-animal bond studies at Virginia Tech. This one of a kind training program was made possible through CENTAUR (Center for Animal-Human Relationships), the College of Veterinary Medicine's organization committed to education, community service, and research championing the human-animal bond. As the first participant of this program, I am so proud and grateful to have been a part of this wonderful experience.

The clinical residency portion of the program has been invaluable. With an emphasis on compassion and empathy, I have been able to teach the non-clinical skills to help them succeed in practice, preventing relinquishment, and coping with euthanasia and grief. While ABVP certification requires a high degree of clinical acumen, this residency has given me the opportunity to additionally cultivate the skills to attain the paradigm of the well-rounded family practitioner.

The master's portion of the program has been an eye-opening experience in the vast field of the human-animal bond. For the past 2 years, I have been challenged in all the right ways, from advancing my clinical veterinary skills to exploring the human side of the human-animal bond. CENTAUR has served as the public platform to have people recognize the human-animal bond and the initiatives we are taking to move forward in this domain, such as the establishment of the college's animal-assisted activities program and the institution of the Human-Animal Bond Symposium and Service Award Dinner in May 2013.

As my appointment comes to a close, the program is in search of its next resident to start in July 2013. This is a truly unique opportunity for a veterinarian at any stage of his or her career to embark on the study of the human-animal bond.

Applicants must have completed a 1-year rotating internship or equivalent practice experience. Starting salary is \$31,644. Interested applicants should submit a statement of intent, curriculum vitae, veterinary school transcripts, 3 letters of reference, and indicate desired training program to ABVP Residency Coordinator, Dept of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Duck Pond Dr, Phase II (0442), Blacksburg, VA 24061. Review of applications will start on Feb 1, 2013 and will continue until a suitable candidate is found. For additional information about this program, please visit vetmed.vt.edu (Residency and Internship) or contact Bess Pierce, DVM, MZS, DABVP, DACVIM at bpierce@vt.edu.