



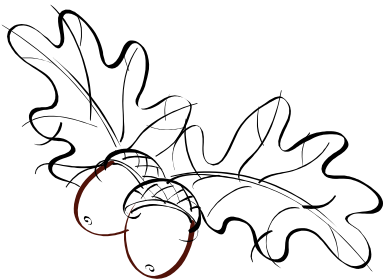
New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association

Newsletter

Fall 2009

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Coming Events

NHVMA Chris Lawson
Memorial Continuing
Education Seminars

Small and Large Animal Programs

Wednesday
November 4, 2009
The Castleton
Windham, NH

From The Top

Dr. Jennifer L. Beaulieu

You know fall is upon us when Labor Day and the Hopkinton State Fair pass us by. What a beautiful time of year we are in! Fall foliage is coming soon, the weather is cooling a bit. Not that we had a super hot summer, but I hope that everyone enjoyed the nice days that we did have. Take the opportunity to get out and enjoy our beautiful state.

The Regional New England Veterinary Medicine Association continuing education meeting was held in Portland, Maine, which included the NEVMA Leadership Meeting, and I hope that you all had a chance to attend and obtain some CE hours if needed. This is usually a very fun meeting. The Fall NHVMA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 for those of you who still need CE hours. The fall meeting will feature Dr. Goldstein lecturing on Infectious Diseases and Dr. Cassotis on Large Animal Ophthalmology.

Speaking of meetings, the NHVMA would like to announce the “newly formed” New Hampshire Forum for Veterinary Practice. This is a monthly group that meets the first Wednesday of each month at Capital Area Veterinary Emergency Services (CAVES) in Concord. Every month there is a different topic of discussion. Dr. Jennifer Edwards of Ponemah Veterinary Hospital has been the fore-leader in getting this group started. Topics of discussion have included Acute Pain Management (August) and Diabetes Mellitus (September). The upcoming October meeting will be on Vomiting and Diarrhea. For more information you may contact Dr. Jennifer Edwards at 603-673-5300.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend Thanks to Dick Bouley, Dr. Stephen Crawford, and Dr. Brad Taylor for all their extra work on legislative issues. One of the Senate Bills that is forthcoming is SB156. This bill is regarding a commission to study the creation of an animal care worker classification to potentially help with the shortage of large animal veterinarians. Another bill the NHVMA has been actively watching and working on is HB 345. This bill would allow physical therapists to practice on animals. Finally HB 247 relative to the assistance of the state veterinarian with investigation and enforcement of animal abuse laws was signed by the Governor. It states that initially all complaints must go to the local law enforcement agency, animal control office, state police or sheriff that has jurisdiction over where the animal is located or kept.

On a final note, I would like to send a very special Thank You to JoAnn Poole who retired this summer after serving as the Executive Director of the NHVMA for the past 21 years. JoAnn, though officially retired, has been helping Sally Smith, our new executive director, with the transition into her new position. For those of you who have not met Sally, she took over the NHVMA Executive Director position July 1, and comes to us from New Hampton School. If any of you need to contact Sally, the new NHVMA e-mail address is NHVMA@metrocast.net, the new phone number is 603-250-8021 and fax is 603-250-8022. Sally is hoping to start working on making the NHVMA website more interactive and giving it an overhaul in general. If any one has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Sally or myself. Or better yet, please join us for a NHVMA meeting! We meet the first Monday of every month at the office of Dennehy and Bouley, 6 Hills Avenue, Concord, NH. Meetings are called to order at 7:30 pm and usually adjourn by 9:30 pm. All are welcome!



Executive Director

Ms. Sally Smith

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as your new Executive Director. As a New Hampshire native, raised on a dairy farm, I have deep connections to the state, its people and resources. With nearly twenty years in education, counseling and administration, I find that the work of the association to be consistent with my interests and skills.

Throughout my transition, I have benefited from the guidance of my predecessor, JoAnn Poole. It is clear that through her leadership, she has set the standard for excellent service and professionalism. I strive to continue to respond to the membership with the utmost in these areas as well as continue to develop the positive relationships for which JoAnn is so well recognized.

An initial goal beyond the service you have come to expect is to advance the systems of the NHVMA to include a more updated website that can be used more interactively by the membership. I welcome your suggestions and remain open to how I can best serve the association. Please feel free to contact me by email nhvma@metrocast.net, phone 603-250-8021, or fax 603 250-8022. I look forward to meeting you at the upcoming fall CE meeting or the Annual Meeting January 26 and 27, 2010.

Dear NHVMA Members,

Sally is a delightful person and she is very enthusiastic about working with veterinarians. I am sure you will all give her the same help and support that you have given me over all these years.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU for all of your help, encouragement, and the support you have given me over the last 21 years. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to work with you. There is a reason why veterinarians are well thought of – you are great people!

I don't have the words to let you know how grateful I am to have met so many of you and to have formed friendships that will last forever.

*Thank you,
JoAnn*



The NHVMA Newsletter is published quarterly as a service to its members. Since the publication is a means of disseminating regulatory and other information of importance to all veterinarians practicing in New Hampshire, the Association sends copies of the newsletter to non-members as well.

Editors: Cynthia Lewis
Betsy Renshaw

Editorial board: Craig Kelleher

For membership application, call Sally Smith at 603-250-8021. If you would like to submit information for the Winter issue (deadline December 15), contact:

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State Veterinarian

Dr. Stephen Crawford

Fall is finally here – just in time for the leaves to change. Hoping to use the 10 hops cones that I grew this summer for some winter brew – not quite a green thumb, but production should improve next year.

Animal Population Control Program

You need to be aware of a significant change that will take place on January 1, 2010. As of that date, owner participation in the APCP will be entirely based on means testing (former Plan B). Owners will still be eligible for rabies vaccination and physical examination fee coverage, and they will still be responsible for the \$25 co-pay.

Please remember that the APCP is not designed as a practice builder, rather it is one way to perform a community service. Specifically, the goal is to surgically sterilize and rabies vaccinate animals that statistics show would be otherwise unlikely to ever see a veterinarian. The public health and animal control benefits to this system are apparent, and as I appreciate that there are many competing opportunities for you to do community service, I want thank you for your continued support of the APCP.

Rabies

Please keep rabies on your rule-out list for unusual behavior and other CNS signs in livestock as well as dogs and cats. Two rabid goats recently led to the post-exposure prophylaxis of an entire scout group.

I talked at the NH City and Town Clerks annual meeting last week and received a lot of requests to remind veterinarians about timely submission of rabies certificates. I know that there is a lot of administrative work to this, but please remember that statute RSA 436:102 requires that you submit rabies certificates to the town clerk. There were also specific comments about the required contents which were alleged to be missing in some cases: owner's name and address, description of dog, cat, or ferret (breed, sex, markings, age, name), date of vaccination, rabies vaccination tag number, type of rabies vaccine administered, manufacturer's serial number of vaccine, and the expiration date of the vaccination.

Pharmaceutical issues – resistance; disposal; and DEA registration

Recently, there has been a great deal of attention paid to the use of antibiotics and other medications, and particularly their potential impacts on human health, animal health, and the environment. Two areas of focus relevant to the veterinary community have been the manner of antibiotic use in livestock and the method of disposal of expired, excess, or otherwise unused products.

Opinions vary on antibiotic use in livestock, but this is an issue critical to veterinary medicine. I wrote a letter regarding recent federal legislation that is too long to include here, but that I will be happy to share with any who are interested. Let me know.

Another area of interest, and potential future regulation, is disposal of veterinary pharmaceuticals. There is growing concern over the unknown volume of medication that is flushed down toilets or otherwise finds its way into water bodies and the rest of the environment. The AVMA has put together *Best Management Practices for Pharmaceutical Disposal* which provides a good outline of how to proceed. You can find it at http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/pharmaceutical_disposal.asp. Take a look.

Finally, it has recently come to my attention that there may be a looming issue with veterinary DEA registration. Per DEA's Office of Diversion Control, "The Controlled Substances Act (CSA) requires a separate registration for each principal place of business or professional practice where controlled substances are manufactured, distributed, or dispensed." This means for those vets that travel and use controlled drugs as part of their practices, that you must have a separate DEA license for each physical facility. There is a current exemption for veterinarians practicing at more than one location "within the same state" if use at the secondary facility is limited to prescribing from that location. An additional concern is for those veterinarians practicing across state lines without a physical facility in each state (e.g. large animal practitioners operating out of a vehicle, etc.). Without a physical facility, although the state's pharmaceutical regulatory agency may have issued a license there may still be a violation of the federal CSA. There are several groups writing to the DEA, AVMA and the Rhode Island VMA among them, requesting a more broad exemption for these types of veterinary practice. This could be the first layer of the onion, so I will try to keep you updated.

Enough for now. Enjoy the fall.

Steve

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus is a Select Agent

Dr. Richard French, NHVDL

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is on the High Consequence Livestock Pathogens and Toxins/Select Agents List (USDA/HHS Overlap Agents) and the OIE list of potential biothreat agents. This creates interesting dilemmas for us all. Added challenges for the New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (NHVDL) during EEE season are the regulations requiring that animal carcasses or tissues, infected with the EEE virus, be handled as a select agent. According to the select agent rules, any material containing a select agent must be destroyed on-site before it can be shipped. Currently our routine necropsy remains are handled as regulated medical waste and shipped out in infectious waste boxes to a contracting company for incineration. For routine necropsy waste, several options are employed by other laboratories. Rendering is one of the main ways of disposal, since it can accommodate a large volume of material and is economical. However, recently rendering has become more regulated and restricted, primarily due to concerns over bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

The NHVDL does not use a rendering service, is not equipped with a digester, incinerator or other means for large animal disposal. As the costs for disposal of necropsy waste continues to rise and the NHVDL investigates new disposal options, the ability for an approved method of on-site destruction of a select agent needs to be considered. Luckily the head of a horse fits in our autoclave.

We have seen EEE in the northeast for years, decades, and the more recent epidemic of West Nile virus has helped to bring this forward again. We certainly have issues with the vector borne diseases in the northeast. EEE cases have been unprecedented this year. The NHVDL has been integral in diagnosing and managing the cases in New Hampshire. The first case in the 2008 season was diagnosed at the NHVDL in collaboration with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This was a case in an emu from Center Barnstead, NH diagnosed on September 2, 2008. In the 2009 season the first case was again a “veterinary” case. An alpaca was the first case reported in NH on August 12, 2009. Since that initial case the NH DHHS has reported numerous isolates from 68 mosquito pools. The NHVDL has performed postmortem examinations on a number of cases which have included llamas, horses, canaries and an emu. The table below includes those postmortem examinations and additional submissions to the Public Health Services.

Town/City	Onset Date	Species
Candia	8/09/9	Alpaca
Bow	8/29/9	Horse
Candia	8/29/9	Llama
Henniker	9/10/9	Equine
Rochester	9/11/9	Canaries (5)
Alstead	9/21/9	Emu
Greenfield	9/21/9	Alpaca

In September, eastern equine encephalitis killed 14 horses in the state of Maine. Seven of the horses died in Waldo County and four have died in Kennebec and Penobscot counties.

We should note that not all veterinary cases are necessarily mosquito borne cases. The vertical transmission of EEE, as with WNV, is reported in animals and birds that are cannibalistic or carnivorous. This is clear in birds of prey and is likely the case in a farm in South Berwick, ME that lost over 150 pheasants to EEE this year.

The enzootic (animal-based) transmission cycle is most common to coastal areas and freshwater swamps. Human cases occur relatively infrequently, largely because the primary transmission cycle takes place in swampy areas where populations tend to be limited. Both humans and horses are dead-end hosts for EEE. Unless, you feed that horse to an alligator or racing greyhounds.

There is a killed vaccine against EEE available for horses, other equids, and some birds and there are a number of publications and reports of off-label use. In unvaccinated adult horses, an initial vaccination is given before mosquito season with a booster dose given 4-6 weeks later. For previously vaccinated pregnant mares, a booster dose 3-4 weeks prepartum is recommended. For foals a series of 4 vaccinations is recommended starting at 3-4 months of age with the initial 3 vaccines given at 4 week intervals and the fourth dose at 10-12 months of age. After the initial series, vaccination is usually annually or biannually depending on the horse’s exposure risk.

Potential as Biothreat Agent in Humans/Animals: Reporting Requirements

- **Any person who makes a laboratory confirmation of Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE) in an animal shall report it by the close of the next business day to the State Veterinarian’s office.**

- A clinical diagnosis or laboratory confirmation of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in humans is immediately reportable to the State Department of Health and Human Services, Notifiable Disease.

Any suspect case of Encephalomyelitis (EEE) in an animal should be reported to the State Veterinarian's office. The NHVDL can assist in clinical or postmortem examination and sample procurement. The veterinary community has been integral in the surveillance of EEE and other high consequence diseases in the northeast and we should work to continue this tradition and oath to "the promotion of public health."

H1N1 – Swine Influenza Surveillance: The Veterinary Practice Role

Dr. Richard French, NHVDL

Influenza affects many animal species of veterinary and public health significance. We should be familiar with these diseases. The veterinary community is seen as experts in this field and often the layperson relies on the veterinary profession even for human health concern issues.

Below is a summary of the types reported in animals (Figure 1). Note, cats historically have never been reported to contract influenza but the new H5N1 (Avian Flu) has been reported in large cats and the domestic cat. The exact host range of the new H1N1 (Swine Flu) is to date not known. It is known the disease is transmissible between humans and swine. We need to be vigilant in the monitoring and surveillance of this disease and any other suspected influenza cases in dogs, horses, birds and other species. Realizing this indicates the diagnosis of nearly any respiratory disease or systemic disease of unknown cause or, which is nonresponsive to treatment. The New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (NHVDL) is equipped to perform rapid testing to rule out Influenza A and to work with the State Veterinarian, Federal Veterinarian and the public health sectors. The NHVDL is also available to work with practitioners to acquire definitive diagnoses on clinical cases and post-mortem cases. Feel free to contact the NHVDL at 603-862-2726 to discuss these cases and other issues of diagnostic medicine.

The following links will help you in gaining further information on this topic to benefit your practice and clientele – the public. The USDA link is most relevant to your interests.

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU/>
<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>
http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm
<http://www.fao.org/AG/AGAInfo/programmes/en/empres/AH1N1/Background.html>
http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA_H1N1

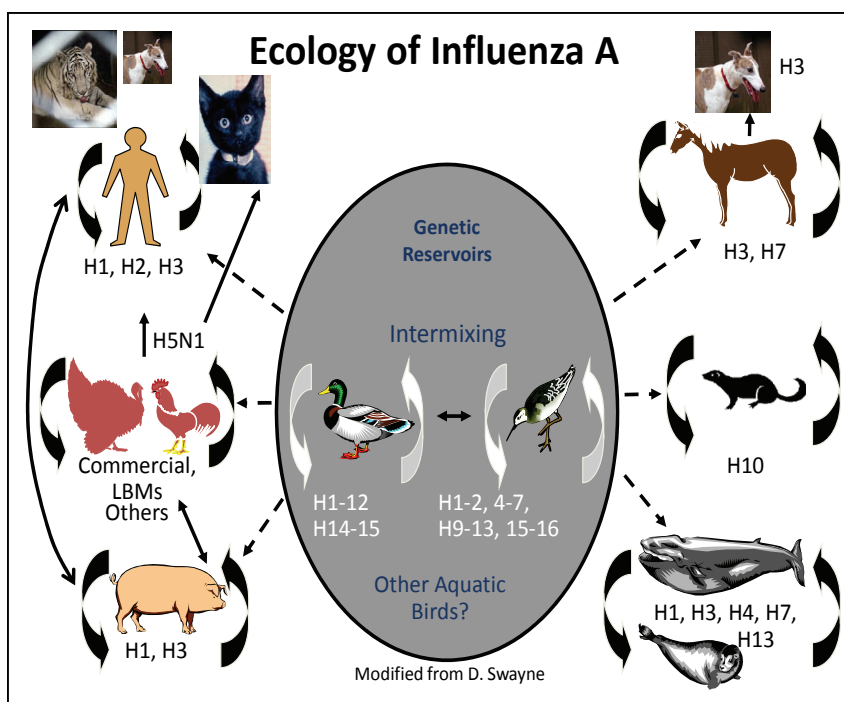


Figure 1. Ecology of Influenza A

If you are not already linked to ProMed, this is an excellent means of keeping abreast of the disease events occurring worldwide. The link below automatically sends emails and summaries and are very timely, accurate and will link you to relevant CDC, WHO, USDA and OIE reports.

<http://www.promedmail.org/pls/otn/f?p=2400:1000:>

Potential as Influenza in Animals:

- A clinical diagnosis or laboratory confirmation of influenza in swine is immediately reportable to the State Veterinarian and the State Department of Health and Human Services, Notifiable Disease.

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Dr. Wayne Zeilenga
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- **All final diagnoses and reporting of the influenza type are through the USDA, NVSL.**
- **Any suspect case of influenza in an animal should be reported** to the State Veterinarian's office. The NHVDL can assist in clinical or postmortem examination and sample procurement.

Following with the "One Health Initiative" the veterinary community plays an important role in the surveillance of influenza and other high consequence diseases in the northeast. Your role in clinical practice is very significant in monitoring these diseases.

In Memoriam

Edward J. Meehan, 60, died June 5, 2009 at home following a 10 year bout with leukemia, which had recently developed into lymphoma.

Ed graduated from UNH in 1970 and graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1973.

In 1973, Ed called me and was needing large animal employment and I needed an associate. So, from a barn in Northwood on the phone, we both decided to go for the deal. Ed and wife Kathryn with infant Jeffrey came to Pembroke. After 5 years, he decided he wanted to be on his own, so we split the practice, still working together, to cover out-of-hours calls.

He served his community of Chichester well, acting as health officer for many years and served on the board of adjustments. He also worked with the scouts, coached baseball and basketball, refereed and umpired Chichesters' kids.

Ed grew a mosaic garden, barefoot, every summer and inundated all of his friends with massive bags of vegetables; raised his own beef, had chickens and 8-10 dogs at any given time. A dog or two always went on call with him.

Ed was a diehard Red Sox and Patriots fan. Also, a democrat who loved to argue the good and bad of politicians. We talked on the phone 3 or 4 times a week and sometimes more. We talked of dying and Ed was sorry we did not give his wife her last ride with the horses. He said he would like his last ride to be with the horses. I said sure, but if I "kick the bucket" first, I did not want a ride in his atrocious practice van. He said ok.

Ed and Kathryn were married 31 years when she died in 2002. They had 4 children, Jeffrey of Boston, Andrew of Barnstead, Elizabeth of Dover and Victoria, who is going to veterinary school in Mississippi and is in her third year.

Ed was cremated with his ashes being placed with Kathryn and one of their dogs.

Instead of flowers, donations may be made to the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, the New Ipswich Children's Fair, or any no-kill animal shelter.

With Dr. Meehan treating all species, and as many as 5 or 6 in one day, it can be said that he was New Hampshire's James Herriott. Rest in peace old friend.

Clifford McGinnis

Messages from the Board

Wellness Committee

George Messenger, DVM

Well, I'm back!!! Dr. Jen has asked me to head this committee and I have decided to take it on after a several year hiatus. Actually it was called the Impairment Committee back then. I took the job originally because I thought maybe I could help New Hampshire veterinary professionals, and that's why I'm taking it again. I am a recovering alcoholic, and it helps me to help others (Step 12 in AA involves helping others).

I have reviewed the job description for the Wellness Committee chairperson, and I plan to do everything that I'm supposed to. First of all, I need to offer my services to anyone that needs them. Anyone who gets this newsletter can call me any time and ask me anything. If you feel like you might need help, or you know someone who does, or you have a relative or employee that needs help, then please call. I will handle all calls with the utmost of confidentiality and gentleness. This can be serious business sometimes and I will take the job seriously. Probably at least 15% of us are alcoholics or drug addicts or suffer from some sort of addiction. It isn't easy getting better. I can tell you I've been through a lot of rough times over the past 10 years...well, maybe longer. My disease has gotten me into a lot of trouble, including a divorce, losing my driver's license for awhile, lawsuits, etc. My first sobriety date was January 25, 1989. I stopped drinking for almost 11 years, and then I relapsed for a few months and have had several short relapses since then. I'm not a poster child for sobriety, that's for sure.

The bottle is just a symptom for me. It's my thinking that causes all of my problems – my reaction to life. I tend to be restless, irritable and discontented – uncomfortable in my own skin sometimes, I suffer from chronic dissatisfaction and maladjustment to life. And I also have a very busy mind – it gets me into trouble all the time and tells me a lot of lies (like that I could drink in safety and that I could have lots of fun. Why not – lots of other people can do that). Of course, I'd rather not feel this way, which is what sobriety is all about – feeling better; being comfortable with myself and happy with my life, no matter what is happening around me. With most alcoholics the problem is the result of selfishness and fear basically; if I am working my program and working on those issues, then I don't need to drink in order to feel better. Does this sound familiar to anyone out there? If so, then give me a call – it's painless.

It will take me a while to get up to speed on this committee; I hope to do a good job and I hope to hear from some of you.

George Messenger

Fisherville Animal Hospital & Bird Clinic
108 Fisherville Road
Concord, NH 03303
Work: 603-229-0674
Cell: 603-344-1038

NHVMA Scholarship Committee

Dr. Kendra Champlin Pinard

The NHVMA Scholarship Committee has awarded scholarships to fourteen NH veterinary students for the 2009-2010 school year. Awards are based on academic achievement, work experience, and personal references. Congratulations to the following students:

Class of 2013

Sara Center (Plaistow, NH)- UPenn
Jennifer Chase (Rochester, NH)- Atlantic/PEI
Philip Hyde (Derry, NH)- Missouri
Lindsay Lord (West Ossipee, NH)- Ross University

Class of 2012

Chara Batchelder (Derry, NH)- Virginia-Maryland
Breanna Brash (Hollis, NH)- Purdue
Megan Connolly (Nashua, NH)- St. George University
Sean Greenlaw (Manchester, NH)- Mississippi

Class of 2011

Kaleena Ann Bysko (Merrimack, NH)- Western University
Patrick Connor (South Newbury, NH)- Florida
Kristen Hughes (Hooksett, NH)- Tennessee
Victoria Meehan (Chichester, NH)- Mississippi

Class of 2010

Anna Barndollar (Portsmouth, NH)- Atlantic/PEI
Krista Gazzola (Deerfield, NH)- Mississippi

Note From the Board of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Eileen Peterson, President

Just a note to inform you of changes in license renewal this year. License renewal notification will be very different for 2010. You will be receiving a postcard only. On it are instructions for renewing online or by US postal service. Regardless of how you renew, you will be responsible for mailing or emailing copies of your certificates of attendance to approved CE meetings to the board. You are also responsible for renewing by December 31st. The penalties for not renewing on time can be substantial, so PLEASE take care and renew in a timely manner!



NHVMA Newsletter is now available on-line. Visit nhvma.unh.edu.

Continuing Education

Dr. Linda Luther

The NHVMA Chris Lawson Continuing Education Seminar will be held on Wednesday, November 4 at the Castleton in Windham. Our large animal program speaker is Dr. Nicholas Cassotis and will speak on equine ophthalmology. Dr. Cassotis is board certified in Veterinary Ophthalmology and has practiced in his home state of NH since his residency. The small animal program topic is on infectious diseases and our speaker, Dr. Richard Goldstein is board certified in Small Animal Internal Medicine. He is currently an Associate Professor of Small Animal Internal Medicine at Cornell.

A spring small animal veterinarian session is planned in April 2010 and will feature Dr. Paul Bloom. Dr. Bloom's topic will be dermatology and we welcome back Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld who will present a veterinary technician session on wellness.

For more information, or to register, please call Cynthia Lewis at the NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, (603-862-2726).

Special thanks to the Exhibitors from the Spring meeting who we are very grateful to for their loyalty and support of the NHVMA.

VSTONE

Dr. J. Clyde Johnson, Trustee

The Veterinary Scholarship Trust of New England (VSTONE) again awarded over \$100,000 to 100+ veterinary students with New England "roots" this spring. They are attending schools in the US and Canada, and even though the dollar amount isn't large, they all are **very appreciative** judging from the "thank you letters" we receive.

At the New England Regional Veterinary Conference in Portland the NEVMA graciously allowed us to have a silent auction that was well supported by the attendees. We raised over \$7000 for our scholarship fund---thank you all who donated and all of you who won the bids!

Relief Veterinarians

For a complete list of relief veterinarians, please visit the NHVMA website at www.nhvma.unh.edu

Diagnostic Lab News

Veterinary Pathologist

Along with other institutions, the University of New Hampshire has been faced with financial challenges that led to salary and position freezes. However, the case was made that our mission of service and increased teaching, research and outreach obligations could not be met without another diagnostic pathologist.

The NHVDL was given approval to hire a fourth pathologist and a search committee was formed. Twenty applicants had expressed interest and four candidates were selected to interview.

We are pleased with the quality of the candidates selected and are sure the finalist will meet all our expectations. We hope to have the position filled by January 2010.

Electronic EIA Certificates

The New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (NHVDL) has partnered with Global Vet Link (GVL) to offer electronic submission and reporting of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing. Test requests made through this online web based platform connects all state animal health and regulatory officials with veterinarian subscribers. This service eliminates paper submittals and allows the accredited veterinarian to include digital photos, visual tags, and electronic IDs with automatic uploads of IDs.

If you are interested in participating, please visit the GVL website at www.GlobalVetLink.com for more information on how to sign up.

The NHVDL is accredited by the USDA to perform EIA tests and currently offers routine AGID (Coggin's test) for \$5.00 per sample and the ELISA tests for \$20.00 per sample. Please call the NHVDL office at 603-862-2726 if you have questions about EIA testing or electronic submissions.

Welcome New Members

Dr. Christina Marie Barnett
Rockingham Emergency Veterinary Hospital
Windham, NH

Dr. Masuma Barrett
Milford, NH

Dr. Alison Darby
Webster, NH

Dr. Allison Nagel
Henniker Veterinary Hospital
Henniker, NH

Newly Established NHVDL Advisory Board

THANK YOU to the members of the NHVDL Advisory Board for participating in the first meeting held on June 23, 2009 at the UNH campus in Durham.

This Advisory Board was formed after a joint meeting between the Commissioner of Agriculture, the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, the NH Veterinary Medical Association, the University of New Hampshire, College of Life Sciences and Agriculture and the NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (NHVDL) this spring. It was established to provide policy advice, assess potential service and testing opportunities for the diagnosis and monitoring of animal diseases, identify and evaluate service feasibility, recommend facility enhancements and provide a forum for discussion of the challenges and concerns of the animal industry.

Members of the diverse group represent large, small and exotic animal practitioners, industry veterinarians, extension educators, state and federal officials, UNH Agriculture Experiment Station and academic and research components.

A sincere thank you to:

Dr. Amy Bright (Daniel Webster Animal Hospital, Bedford, NH)
Dr. Richard Cote (Molecular, Cellular & Biomedical Sciences, UNH, Durham, NH)
Dr. Stephen Crawford (NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Concord, NH)
Dr. Michael Dutton (Weare Animal Hospital, Weare, NH)
Dr. Richard French (NHVDL Director, Durham, NH)
Mr. John Porter (Extension Professor/Emeritus, Boscawen, NH)
Dr. Chris Rossiter (Poulin Grains, Newport, VT)
Dr. Jon Wraith (Agricultural Experiment Station, UNH, Durham, NH)
Dr. Wayne Zeilenga (USDA Veterinary Services, Concord, NH)

The NHVDL Advisory Board welcomes your comments, suggestions and/or concerns. Please feel free to contact Dr. Richard French at richard.french@unh.edu or Cynthia Lewis at cynthia.lewis@unh.edu or call 603-862-2726.

AVMA Invitation to Veterinarians Who Have Received Their Degree Within the Past Seven Years

The AVMA holds a leadership meeting in January of each year. The meeting is usually held in Chicago or Schaumburg. In 2010 the dates are January 8 – 10. The AVMA Delegate and Alternate Delegate from each state attend and the President, President-Elect, Executive Director, and Public Relations person from each association are encouraged to attend the meetings and workshops. These workshops cover current affairs and issues similar to all states.

The AVMA INVITES AND PAYS EXPENSES for “Future Leaders” to attend these meetings. The meetings present a great opportunity to learn about organized veterinary medicine as well as how the AVMA operates, including the legislative branch of the AVMA in Washington, DC, and the services it provides to all veterinarians.

If you would like more information about the Leadership Meeting, please contact Dr. Jennifer Beaulieu, NHVMA President, Lake Side Animal Hospital of Tilton, 552 Laconia Rd, Tilton, NH 03276; (603) 524-2553 or email: LSAH@metrocast.net.

NH Native Featured on the Cover of DVM Newsmagazine

Roberta Lillic, DVM, is a NH native and a UNH graduate who obtained her DVM from the Ohio State University. A Lakes Region Kennel Club Scholarship recipient, Roberta is the current President of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and is the first president whose practice is not limited to feline patients.

Roberta is a co-owner of a six veterinarian mixed animal practice in Kansas where her main emphasis is companion animals, with an obvious interest in cats. In addition to her duties with the AAFP, Fort Dodge has sponsored Roberta as spokesperson for feline practice seminars for veterinarians across the country. On June 10, 2009, Roberta spoke to a group of 60 NH and MA practitioners in Manchester on *Current Issues in Feline Medicine*. She is featured on the cover of DVM Newsmagazine for the April 2009 issue.

Keeping Pets Healthy When the Water Turns Green

Summer can cause many health-related issues for dogs and other animals such as heat stroke and exhaustion, dehydration, and Lyme disease. Swimming or drinking from surface waters may also expose animals to another potential health threat, toxicity related illnesses from the presence of cyanobacteria.

Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms. Formerly known as blue-green algae, they are photosynthetic bacteria that exist in freshwater lakes, ponds, and rivers worldwide. While cyanobacteria occur naturally, excess nutrients in the water can create increased cell production known as a bloom or scum. Blooms are visible on the surface or in the water column and appear as different shades of green. Elevated levels of cyanobacteria pose the greatest health risk to humans and pets.

There are more than 150 different types of cyanobacteria and thousands of species, about 50 of which produce toxins (collectively referred to as "cyanotoxins" or "algal toxins") that are harmful to vertebrates. The most common types of toxin-producing cyanobacteria in New Hampshire are *Anabaena*, *Aphanizomenon*, *Microcystis*, and *Oscillatoria*. Cyanotoxins are typically contained within the cell but may be released into the water when the cell ruptures. These toxins can acutely or chronically impact domesticated animals and livestock via direct water consumption. Cell intake can occur from swimming, wading, drinking or transferred from the animal fur to the mouth from pet cleaning activities. If cell toxicity and concentration is high in these waters, animals may experience neurological, gastrointestinal tract, liver and kidney problems as well as skin rashes.

Cyanobacteria can contain several types of toxins, including dermatotoxins, neurotoxins and hepatotoxins. Anatoxin-a and ornatocin-a (s) are the two neurotoxins most deadly to pets. While these toxins do not cause a great threat to humans they have been known to kill dogs within minutes of consumption (Wallace, 1996). Cyanobacteria generate an attractive odor to dogs which makes them more likely to ingest these cells and toxins. Symptoms created by neurotoxin poisoning include muscle tremors, excessive salivation, incoordination, diarrhea, paralysis, cyanosis, and death. Since lesions do not appear as a result of poisoning, diagnosis must be reached through; visible symptoms, history of exposure to cyanobacteria, and possibly the discovery of cyanobacteria in the intestinal tract. Treatment is usually not successful. Hepatotoxins are also found in cyanobacteria and can be hazardous to animals. The most common hepatotoxin generated by cyanobacteria blooms is microcystin. Microcystin is toxic to humans and animals, creating gastrointestinal problems and liver damage or failure in both. Signs of exposure can be vomiting, diarrhea, and weakness. In the liver, cell necrosis often causes hemorrhaging that can lead to shock and death. Clinical signs as well as lesions in the liver can aid in diagnosis.

Dog deaths have been reported across the country and around the world due to cyanotoxins. In 1999, three dogs died within a few hours after being exposed to a cyanobacteria bloom in Lake Champlain in Vermont (Rosen, 2002). No dog deaths have been attributed to cyanotoxin consumption in New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service's Beach Program provides a cyanobacteria monitoring program and conducts analyses on suspected cyanobacteria blooms. Microscopic analyses that reveal a total cell concentration of greater than 50% is an exceedence of state standards for Designated Public Beaches and require the posting of an advisory. Lake warnings may be issued to warn lake property owners and those who may recreate on the lake of the potential health issues. NH DES analyzes microcystin concentration on each cyanobacteria sample that exceeds the standard but cell identification remains the quickest method to alert the public to possible health related events.

Animal owners who suspect a bloom should not allow them to contact the water. Posted advisories and warnings can be found on the DES website. If a veterinarian suspects that any animal has come in contact with a cyanobacteria bloom or scum, please notify DES. Information is being collected regarding possible cyanotoxin-related illnesses and forms are available on-line. Please visit the DES webpage, print and fill out the form and send it to DES. http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/documents/cyano_illness_pets.pdf

Finally, please call the NH DES Cyanobacteria hotline (603) 419-9229 to report a bloom or related illness.

Sources:

Hoff, Brent, Puschner, Birgit, Tor, Elizabeth R. "Diagnosis of anatoxin-a poisoning in dogs from North America". Brief Communications. J Vet Diagn Invest 20:89-92 (2008).

Rosen, Ph. D. Barry H. "Evaluation of Potential Blue-Green Algal Toxins In Lake Champlain Summer 2000 for the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention". LCBP-BGA, November 22, 2002.

Wallace, Scott. "Blue-Green Algae Poisoning in Animals" Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Fall 1996 newsletter www.addl.purdue.edu/newsletters/1996/fall/bluegreenalgae.shtml.

Opportunities

Veterinarians Wanted

Associate veterinarian needed for well-equipped emergency clinic near Bangor. We are seeking a 4th veterinarian to add to our enthusiastic staff, dedicated to providing high quality emergency and critical care medicine for the surrounding area. Flexible schedule allows time to explore Maine coast and mountains. Please call Jenny Rees, DVM at 207-422-9999 or for more information email Schoodicanimalhospital@MyFairpoint.net

F/T Associate Veterinarian needed for growing two and a half doctor small animal practice in southern NH. Centrally located to Boston, White Mountains and seacoast. Experienced and new graduates considered, salary commensurate to experience, C.E., medical. No emergency hours required. Contact Dr. Richard Kaas, Mercy Animal Hospital, 81 DW Hwy, Merrimack, NH 03054; 603-882-0087; fax 603-889-6603.

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For Sale

Ultrasound for sale—Aloka Prosound SSD-3500 Color Ultrasound, 7.5 probe, cardiac table, padded V cushion to position your patient. Covered key with light, Sony video graphic printer. Hardly used, 3.5 years old. Paid \$32K, best offer. Contact Roger T. Larsen, VMD at 978-462-7953 or k9drl37@aol.com.

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Other Listings Available in: Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Texas. Contact: PS Broker, Inc. Phone: 1-800-636-4740, www.psbroker.com, info@psbroker.com.

Meetings

NHVMA Chris Lawson Memorial Continuing Education Seminar, November 4, 2009, The Castleton, Windham, NH. Contact Cynthia Lewis, NHVMA CE c/o NH Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, 129 Main Street, Kendall Hall, Durham, NH 03824, 603-862-2726.

Intown Veterinary Group CE seminars. For more information visit www.intownvet.com/intown/seminars.html. Lectures are approved for 2 CE credits unless otherwise noted. Participation is free to doctors.

Massachusetts Veterinary Referral Hospital, Woburn, MA

Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7 pm—Hypoadrenal Disorders

Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital, Portsmouth, NH

Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:30 pm-8:30 pm— Radiology Rounds: The Hind Limbs (1 cr)

Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 7 pm—Small Animal Uveal Disorders

For information on the following events, contact: Continuing Education Dept. 508-887-4723; vetCEinfo@tufts.edu or visit their website at www.tufts.edu/vet/ce

Tuesdays at Tufts - Answering Owners' Questions about Pet Foods; November 17, 2009, 7 pm-9 pm; Speaker: Dr. Lisa Freeman, DACVN.

11th Annual Timely Topics in Internal Medicine; Sunday, December 6, 2009 with Tufts in North Grafton, MA; Course Director Dr. Linda Ross.

Tuesdays at Tufts - Frustrating Urinary Tract Cases: Recurrent Stones, Incontinence and More; December 15, 2009, 7 pm-9 pm; Speaker: Dr. Linda Ross, DACVIM (SAIM).

Small Animal Neurology; January 10, 2010 with Tufts in North Grafton, MA; Course Director Dr. Dominik Faissler.

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