



Celebrating 250 Years of World Veterinary Medicine



**AB.VMA**

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

**AN EVOLUTION**

2011  
ANNUAL REPORT

# **AB.VMA Vision Statement**

Serving society by regulating, enhancing and providing leadership in the practice of the profession of veterinary medicine.

## **Our Vision**

Together, we are a dynamic, responsive community of veterinarians, creating an environment that fosters excellence in our profession.

## **Our Mission**

The ABVMA is a professional, self-governing association of veterinarians. In an open and positive environment, we serve our members, the public and promote the well-being of animals. We encourage advancement in the art and science of veterinary medicine.



## **Contact Us**

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association  
950, Weber Centre, 5555 Calgary Trail NW  
Edmonton, AB T6H 5P9  
Phone: 780-489-5007  
Toll-Free: 1-800-404-2862  
Fax: 780-484-8311  
Website: [www.abvma.ca](http://www.abvma.ca)

## **Canadian Veterinary Oath**

As a member of the veterinary medical profession, I solemnly swear that I will use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society.

I will strive to promote animal health and welfare, relieve animal suffering, protect the health of the public and environment, and advance comparative medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principals of veterinary medical ethics.

I will strive continuously to improve my professional knowledge and competence and to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards for myself and the profession.



## 2011 AB.VMA Council

2



### **Back Row, left to right:**

Mrs. Nichole Boutilier	AAAHT Representative
Dr. Gerald Hauer	Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development Representative
Dr. Lloyd Keddie	Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Dr. James Marshall	North Region
Dr. Egan Brockhoff	Central Region
Dr. Ken Keeler	Edmonton Region
Mr. Alvin Kumlin	Public Member
Dr. Duane Landals	Secretary / Treasurer
Dr. Natalie Bragg	Edmonton Region

### **Front Row, left to right:**

Dr. Katie Van Sluys	Calgary Region
Dr. Troy Bourque	Past President
Dr. Jen Willans	Vice President
Dr. Annabelle Denson	President
Dr. Alastair Cribb	UCVM Representative
Dr. Caroline Heffernan	Central Region
Dr. Krista Howden	Canadian Food Inspection Agency Representative

### **Missing from Photo:**

Dr. Douglas Freeman	WCVM Representative
---------------------	---------------------

**AN EVOLUTION**  
**ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



# Table of Contents

3

ABVMA Council .....	2
President's Report .....	4 - 5
Registrar's Report .....	6 - 9
Deputy Registrar's Report .....	10 - 12
Complaints Director's Report .....	13 - 17
Public Members' Report .....	18
Communication Manager's Report .....	19 - 25
Practice Review Board Report .....	26
Practice Inspection and Practice Standards Committee Report .....	27
Registration Committee Report .....	28
Foreign Credential / Qualification Recognition .....	28 - 30
Foreign Qualification Recognition Plan for Alberta .....	31 - 32
Animal Welfare Committee Report .....	33
Companion Animal Committee Report .....	33 - 34
Equine Committee Report .....	35
Food Animal Committee Report.....	36
Alternate Livestock and Wildlife Committee Report .....	37
Veterinary Medicine in the Twenty First Century Committee Report .....	37 - 38
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Report .....	39 - 41
University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Report .....	42 - 44
Western College of Veterinary Medicine Report .....	45 - 47
ABVMA Historical Advisory Group Report .....	47
Financial Reports .....	48 - 65
2011 ABVMA Staff .....	66
2011 Ex-Officio Members of Council .....	67
2011 Legislated Standing Committees of Council .....	68 - 69
2011 Non-Legislated Professional Development Committees .....	70
2011 Advisory Groups .....	71



## President's Report

4

### Dr. Annabelle Denson - President

Alberta continues to be a leader in regulated veterinary medicine, and a resource to other Canadian veterinary jurisdictions. I have had the opportunity to visit with many practitioners this year, and I continue to be impressed with the quality of practice in the far reaches of our province. The high level of patient care delivered by veterinarians and animal health technologists is not dictated only by location. The recognition of rural community practice as a unique practice type, has been good for the public and the profession.

Gradually, we have all come to recognize that our association has a different face. As registered members of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA), Alberta's animal health technologists change our demographic, and while this is taking some time to become entrenched in our culture, the good news is that on both sides of the relationship, we are settling into a harmonious, mutually beneficial relationship. The two registration days that we now routinely hold - one in June and one in September- were attended by in numbers well in excess of 200 new ABVMA members; a remarkable annual growth in our membership.



This year Council struck a Governance Task Force to look at organizational changes to the structure of our committees and resolution processes, with the goal of making the ABVMA a more transparent and approachable beast. We continue to increase our utilization of web based discussion boards to gain member input into issues of concern to the profession and our membership. The Task Force is chaired by past president Dr. Troy Bourque, and is composed of interested members and councillors. The process of change is slow, but significant. If you want to get involved, Council would like to hear from you.

Dr. Phil Buote has ably assumed the role of Complaints Director for the association. I would personally like to congratulate Phil on the outstanding job he has done to become fully conversant with our act, bylaws and council guidelines, and for the sage advice he delivers to our legislated committees and Council. Dr. Buote has taken on a role that most people would not want, and handles difficult situations with tact and diplomacy. Thank you Phil!

The Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP) has caused us all some heart ache and headaches, but Council remains convinced that practitioner participation in this program is the right professional direction for our association and members. Sitting at the table with the pharmacists, dentists, and physicians who also prescribe indicates our intention to be socially responsible for narcotic, controlled, and other targeted substances we handle every day. Increasingly, the veterinary profession is under the microscope of public scrutiny, and it is important that we are seen as participants in problem solving and that we are at the table to accurately represent our profession. Our continued ability to prescribe these substances depends on it.

**AN EVOLUTION**  
**ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



This year Council continued its June outreach meetings by taking the show on the road; we covered West Central Alberta, visiting 16 clinics and meeting colleagues and AHT students from Olds College. Council outreach continues to be met with enthusiasm by our members and is a good opportunity for staff and Council to get out and see how veterinary medicine is practiced around the province.

This year saw our biosecurity project come to fruition. The CanWest Conference in October was an opportunity to showcase the resource manual - Biosecurity in Practice, for veterinary practices. Nicole Boutilier who spearheaded this project deserves a huge pat on the back. In working with 11 commodity groups, and Alberta Agriculture, she managed to bring together widely disparate groups to produce usable tools and produce a tremendous resource for Canadian veterinarians. We continue our partnership with UCVM in the Foreign Qualification Recognition (FQR) program, holding a Clinical Proficiency Exam at UCVM in May with another slated for December. A spin off of this initiative is an online assessment tool for Foreign Trained Veterinarians to determine their readiness to successfully complete the CPE.

The CanWest Veterinary Conference continues to be a successful continuing education event. With over 700 attendees at the October conference, CanWest is considered one of the premier veterinary continuing education forums in Canada, and something we can be very proud of. The ABVMA will continue to organize this event in Banff, with the Banff Springs Conference Centre booked for 2012 and 2013. A huge thank you goes to our Manager of Communications & Member Services, Midge Landals, who has been instrumental in the success of CanWest, year after year.

I would like to thank my colleagues on Council, the staff of the ABVMA office, committee members and fellow colleagues and friends that have provided support and guidance throughout this year. You, the ABVMA members, are very well represented by your councillors and your new public members, Mr. Brian Travers and Mr. Alvin Kumlin. The dedication and professionalism of this group has been an inspiration. It has been my pleasure to serve with them in the last year.

# Registrar's Report

## Dr. Duane Landals – Registrar Secretary Treasurer

The year 2011 has been a land mark year for the veterinary profession globally and certainly has been a busy year for the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) locally.

The year has been recognised as "World Veterinary Year." This designation was promoted by an international committee, called Vet 2011. The ABVMA, along with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), has participated in this body. The Vet 2011 celebration has focused on 250 years of formal, science based, veterinary education. The first recognised veterinary educational program was established in Lyon, France in 1764. The process of educating veterinary professionals spread rapidly throughout the world after this time. The key message of the World Veterinary Year campaign is that the modern veterinarian is not only an animal doctor and animal welfare advocate but also serves key public health stakeholders by playing crucial roles in: reducing global hunger, controlling zoonoses, monitoring food quality and safety, biomedical research and protecting the environment and biodiversity.



This message was communicated around the world through a wide variety of activities. At the same time, it provided an excellent opportunity for the ABVMA as a veterinary statutory body to pause and reflect on how our activities in regards to protection of the public, meet the wider goals of the veterinary profession globally. While our jurisdiction ends at provincial boundaries, our obligation for service to humanity needs to be met in consideration of a wider global expectation.

The individual reports presented throughout this document identify the wide range of activities and projects that the ABVMA, through its volunteer members and staff have accomplished. The commitment of Council, committee members, and the employees of the ABVMA is worthy of recognition, and greatly appreciated. The outcomes of their efforts documented in this report identify our commitment, not only to protection of the public, but also a wider support of the public interest through the delivery of qualified and regulated veterinary services.

### COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Council has recognised three major areas of priority for the association to be dealt with over the coming years.

#### 1. Antimicrobial Use

Recognising that veterinary practice and animal agriculture depend on the resource of antimicrobial drugs to properly do their job, and recognising that the use of these products comes with certain risks; council believes it imperative that we review all our practices and



policies in regards to their use in order to safe guard their availability for the future. In addition to internally reviewing the policies of the veterinary profession, there is a need to communicate with all other stakeholders in this regard. These include: animal owners, livestock producers, human health officials and practitioners, manufacturers, pharmacists, distributors, whole sale operations and others.

To this end, the ABVMA, working with the Alberta Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Steering Committee has developed a discussion paper called Alberta Platform for Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (APRUMA). This document is adapted, with permission, from the European document on the same topic. The objective is to use this booklet as a stimulus for discussion among various stake holders so that they all may review their policies and practices with a goal to ensuring prudent use of antimicrobials by all sectors. In addition to this document we are developing a web based communication tool to effectively distribute relevant information regarding the realities of antimicrobial use. As this information is distributed to interested stakeholders, the ABVMA is making representation to these organizations to help develop consistent messaging.

It is evident that clarity will need to be added to this area to Council Guidelines and the Practice Inspection Practice Standards Bylaw in regards to prescribing and dispensing activities. There is also a plan to make the subject of antimicrobial stewardship a general theme for the 2012 CanWest Veterinary Conference.

## **2. Medical Records**

Given the ongoing concern from the various committees and the increasing significance of medical records in discipline investigations, council has identified this as a specific area of focus. In order that members may be better informed about proper record keeping and that a process may be in place to retrain members found lacking in this area, council has directed staff to begin development of an appropriate medical records training module. This topic will be discussed at length at the upcoming ABVMA Leadership Weekend.

## **3. Governance**

Following the discussions at last year's Leadership Weekend and Annual General Meeting, council has established a task force on governance. At present, the mandate of this group is very broad and they will be looking into a variety of areas where the association can potentially integrate a wider range of members into the policy development process of the organization. Issues surrounding how resolutions come to the AGM, regional representation on Council, involvement of AHT members in governance are a few of the topics being explored.

## OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Once again the ABVMA has had an opportunity to expand our office space. The vacant office next door to the ABVMA has been leased and integrated into our facility. This space became available during the economic down turn and its acquisition provides for long term security of our present location. A portion of the new space is taken up with offices and storage of materials previously situated off site. In addition a larger meeting room is being developed to accommodate various member and organization activities. Council has approved the establishment of a video conference center in this room. It is expected that this center will allow greater member access to council and committees in a cost effective manner. It is also anticipated that this venue will be used to accommodate continuing education events to facilitate access by members in more remote areas.

The last year has seen some staffing changes at the ABVMA office. We are pleased to welcome both Ms Chris Galenza and Mrs Carmen Luca to our team. At the same time, we bid farewell to Mrs. Carey Wolchansky.

## REPRESENTATION AND DELEGATION

One of the important activities of the association is to interact with other organizations having similar objectives as our own. This activity requires a great deal of time commitment for the staff and volunteers of the association. This is time well spent in that it allows us to participate in policy development at a variety of levels and ensures we have some input into where the future will take us.

- **Educational Delegation**

We formally make representation at the advisory bodies of; Alberta's four Animal Health Technology Diploma programs, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (University of Calgary), as well as three Veterinary Medical Assistant/Receptionist Certificate Programs. Along with participating on these advisory boards, presentations are made to students regarding ethics and professional development at all these institutions as well as the Animal Health Science students at the University of Alberta. The ABVMA also hosts a student dinner at each of the western Canadian veterinary colleges and in partnership with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and other western provinces participate in a White Coat Welcome Celebration for new students.

- **Organizational Delegation**

*Local:* The association participates on a regular basis on the boards of several organizations. These include: Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists, Alberta Farm Animal Care (including Livestock Care Conference), Alberta Equestrian Federation, Alberta Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Steering Committee (and its various priority action groups) Triplicate Prescription Program Steering Committee, Alberta Animal Rescue Coalition and many others. Additionally we periodically attend specific meetings of many other organizations at their request.

*National:* On an annual basis, the ABVMA participates in the leadership activities of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Annual Convention. These include the Veterinary Summit, National Registrars Meeting, National Veterinary Association Presidents Meeting and the Meeting of National Communication Managers. This year's CVMA conference was notable in that we saw the investiture of ABVMA past president, Dr. Lloyd Keddie as the new CVMA president.

*Annually:* ABVMA president and staff meet with their counter parts from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia at the Western Assembly of Veterinary Associations (WAVA) meeting and our president or delegate is present at each of these organizations annual meetings.

*International:* ABVMA vice president and our Young Veterinarian of the Year recipient attend the American Veterinary Medical Association Leadership Weekend and the President and Registrar attend the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) annual conference and meeting.

As vice president of the World Veterinary Association, I have also had the opportunity to participate in a number of important policy development meetings in the past year. These include: OIE Conference on Veterinary Legislation (Djerba, Tunisia), OIE Workshop on Veterinary Statutory Bodies (Bamako, Mali), Common Wealth Veterinary Association Conference and Animal Welfare Workshop (Accra, Ghana), World Veterinary Conference and Summit on Antimicrobial Use (Cape Town, South Africa), OIE 2011 General Assembly (Paris, France), Global Conference on Veterinary Education (Lyon, France) Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference (Toronto, Canada).

The slogan of our association is; "Serving society by regulating, enhancing and providing leadership in the practice of the profession of veterinary medicine." This annual report of the ABVMA provides a snap shot in time of the many activities the association engages in to reach this goal. There is a common thread of activity through out the reports and this is a significant indication of how the veterinary profession in Alberta is committed to moving forward in team work fashion.



## Deputy Registrar's Report

10

### Dr. Darrell Dalton - Deputy Registrar

Another busy year has passed in the office of the Deputy Registrar. Projects remain a major focus within the office, and a number of large ones wrapped up this year. The Foreign Qualifications Recognition project should be through its planning phase by the time this report is published, with implementation and delivery of the program beginning in 2012. There will be an online self-evaluation assessment available to veterinarians from non-accredited schools looking to move to Alberta, and who are looking to enter the examination process with the National Examining Board. This assessment is meant to give the potential candidates an indication of the knowledge and skills that they will require to be successful within the exam process. Candidates may identify areas of weaknesses, and will be able to enrol in short concentrated improvement courses through the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. These courses will provide both didactic and clinical experience learning opportunities for candidates where applicable. The overall goal of this project is to increase the success level of candidates challenging the Clinical Proficiency Exam, with a shorter interval from application to full licensure with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA).



The biosecurity manual project concluded in 2011 as well. An impressive "Biosecurity in Practice" manual was written, published, and launched at the CanWest Veterinary Conference. This was accomplished through the efforts of Ms. Nichole Boutilier, RAHT, and Dr. Ron Clarke, who were contracted to produce this document for the ABVMA. The manual is a useful reference tool for animal health technologists (AHTs) and veterinarians to use within their everyday practice. A supplemental collection of documents to the manual is also available on the ABVMA website. Biosecurity was the theme for the CanWest conference, and for the first time, a one-day Student Symposium was held that focused on biosecurity. Both were a great success, and certainly brought the topic to the forefront for the profession.

A new biosecurity project that began in 2011, and will conclude in 2012, deals with the biosecurity issues of unregulated poultry within the province. There are a large number of non-commercial flocks of poultry within the province that may potentially pose a biosecurity risk to other producers and owners. Currently, there is no method of identifying or contacting this group. This project is intended to make contact with this large group of people, provide relevant information to them to promote keeping their birds healthy, and to recognize and prevent the spread of any disease that they may encounter.

Last year I reported that the project involving the development of a euthanasia manual had experienced a minor delay. This past year saw this project move forward again. Dr. Ron Clarke was contracted to perform the rewrite of the manual, and by the end of 2011, the document was in its final stages of editing. The project was also expanded to include the purchase of twenty five Cash Dispatch Kits, which are a euthanasia system

**AN EVOLUTION**  
**ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



capable of euthanizing a large range of animals of different sizes. The ABVMA's goal is to have these kits distributed around the province within rural practices to a group of veterinarians trained in their proper use and maintenance. These veterinarians will have the Cash units available for use in their practices, as well as having them available in situations where a large number of animals need to be euthanized for humane or disease control reasons. Our hope is that there will be a reserve of trained and equipped veterinarians available for the province to call upon in times of emergency.

Parallel to the previous project, the ABVMA continues to support Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC), and continues to be involved with the Livestock Care Response Veterinarian program. This program provides a reserve of veterinarians that AFAC can call upon in circumstances where they require a veterinary consultation during a welfare investigation through the ALERT line. The ABVMA plans to develop a larger pool of veterinarians in 2012, and that these members will also be involved as the veterinarians in possession of the Cash Dispatch Kits. This group meets twice a year, with continuing education provided at each meeting. The ABVMA will also be involved in the annual Livestock Care Conference delivered by AFAC to a larger extent than in the past, and we hope for a large DVM and AHT presence at this and future conferences.

I continue to oversee the administration of the ABVMA Wellness program. There is an ongoing number of members that utilize this valuable program. We have also been able to assist some members to receive more involved treatment. Remember that any member (veterinarian or RAHT) experiencing personal or professional problems is eligible for three, one hour sessions with a Wellness Program psychologist to aid in resolving these problems. These sessions are funded through donations from members to the ABVMA Wellness Program. Member's involvement in the program is totally anonymous.

I also continue the staff administration of the Practice Review Board (PRB). One of the PRB functions is dealing with incapacitated members and assisting in getting them help through the Wellness Program. It is not a situation that anyone plans to be in, but it is reassuring to know that a safety net does exist for our members. We must remember that veterinarians are not immune to addictions, and probably have higher access to controlled substances than other health care professionals. We must remain vigilant for proper medication use and protect our privilege to prescribe and dispense these medications. As part of this protection process, Dr. Landals and myself are regular members of the Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP) Steering Committee. Through our participation in this committee we are able to put forward the viewpoints and requirements of the ABVMA in our involvement in this important program.

We completed our overhaul of the ABVMA website in 2011, and continue to improve it on a daily basis. We strive to find new ways to improve communication of information to our members. We utilize the website as one of our primary methods. Information relevant to members about the veterinary profession is available here. Committees also use the website to discuss issues on the individual discussion boards pertinent to their committee's activities. Upcoming continuing education and classified ads are also published here.



A second registration day was added to our annual calendar in 2011. With the addition of AHTs to our membership, it has doubled the number of members attending a registration day in the year. Most of the staff is involved in each Registration Day, with the second day occurring in Calgary in September.

I remain the delegate from the ABVMA to the UCVM Honour Code Committee, the Alberta Equestrian Federation, and the Biosecurity Champions. I also have been attending the AAAHT Board of Directors meetings as staff liaison from the ABVMA. Work continues with this Board towards involving AHTs in the governance as well as the development of a parallel discipline process for Technologists.

I also work closely with the Practice Inspection Practice Standards (PIPS) Committee. The routine work of this committee keeps us very busy on a daily basis. We are working towards a new PIPS bylaw to be distributed for review early in 2012. We also continue to work towards simplification of the Quality Assurance Self Verification Guide for clinics, and a possible future electronic version that could be completed online.

The future of the veterinary profession in Alberta is certainly bright, and I would like to think it as the result of the hard work of Council and staff of the ABVMA, as well as the dozens of committee members and general members that volunteer their time to make this association the best in the country. I remain proud to be associated with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

AN EVOLUTION  
**ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

# Complaints Director's Report

## Dr. Phil Buote – Complaints Director

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is the professional regulatory organization responsible for regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in Alberta. The ABVMA exists and acts under authority of the Veterinary Profession Act (VPA). The discipline process is described in Part 5, Division 1 of the Act, and allows for a member of the public to submit a letter of complaint against a veterinarian. The Complaints Director is responsible for ensuring the complaints process is followed in every case, upholding fairness to the complainant and the investigated member.



The Complaints Director will deal with many informal complaints received by phone, email or fax. The resolution of client concerns outside of the formal process requires cooperation between the complainant and the member. The discipline committees have directed the Complaints Director that matters of communication or fees are best resolved in this manner. Initiating communication between the two parties is often all that is required to achieve a resolution.

A formal complaint is deemed to have been received when a written, signed letter of complaint is received by the Complaints Director. The investigated member is sent a copy of the letter of complaint and is required to submit their response along with their medical record. An investigator is appointed and undertakes an investigation which includes conducting interviews, collection of medical records, and obtaining expert opinions. The investigator's report is submitted to the Complaint Review Committee (CRC).

### Resolving Formal Complaints

During the calendar year 2011, and up to the date of this writing, there were twenty-four (24) formal complaints received by the Complaints Director. Of the 24 formal complaints received, five (5) were resolved pursuant to s. 28(2)(b) of the Veterinary Profession Act which states:

#### *Complaints Director*

- (b) May, with the consent of the complainant and the investigated member, attempt to resolve the complaint.

The key in these cases is to ensure that the public is protected. The member and the complainant may arrive at a resolution, but the ABVMA must be satisfied that there is no ongoing risk to the public with regards to the skill or conduct of the member.

The subject matter of the 5 cases resolved in this manner were: communication (2 cases), fees, the wait time in a clinic where the owner left without having the animal examined, and the complainant left the country and withdrew the complaint. In all cases it was deemed to be appropriate to resolve the complaint and not carry on with investigation and review by the Complaint Review Committee.

## Investigators

An investigator is appointed by the Complaints Director to conduct an investigation into a complaint received from a member of the public regarding a member of the ABVMA. The investigators are veterinarians and animal health technologists that have experience and training in conducting investigations. Their job is to produce a report that is complete, unbiased, and provides the CRC with sufficient information upon which they may make a decision.

An investigator training session was held at the ABVMA office on April 5, 2011. The session allowed the investigators to discuss interview process, report writing, and share ideas and approaches in conducting investigations.

In 2011, 17 investigations into complaints were initiated and as of this writing there are 6 complaints under investigation.

## Complaint Review Committee (CRC)

The Complaint Review Committee (CRC) is composed of 6 veterinarians and 2 members of the public that are appointed by the minister. The CRC is a group of veterinarians with varied experience and backgrounds. The CRC members will consider each investigator's report and make a decision according to "What would a reasonable veterinarian do in a similar circumstance?" Once referred to them, the CRC must decide if the case is to be: (1) dismissed, due to a lack of, or no evidence of unprofessional conduct; (2) dismissed because the complaint is trivial or vexatious; or (3) referred for a hearing.

Two of the complaints referred to the CRC for review were referred pursuant to section 28(2)(h) of the VPA, which states that:

### *The Complaints Director*

(h) if satisfied that there is insufficient or no evidence of unprofessional conduct, may refer the complaint to the Complaint Review Committee.

These 2 complaints were regarding the same case as 4 previous complaints submitted by the same complainant. The 4 previous complaints were dismissed by the CRC and under review by the Committee of Council (COC). There was ample information available to the Complaints Director from which to determine there was no evidence of unprofessional conduct. This information was presented to the CRC without an investigation. The CRC made the decision to dismiss both cases due to no evidence of unprofessional conduct, pursuant to section 28(4) of the VPA. This provision in the Act allows for the Complaints Director to exercise judgment in sending a case directly to the CRC without investigation. The complaint is still reviewed by the CRC and they could potentially direct that an investigation be conducted.



A training session was held at the ABVMA office on January 19 to review the function, roles and responsibilities of the CRC members, for the benefit of the new committee members (including two new public members). Emphasis was placed on writing reasons for decisions, use of the members' website for communication, and the CRC members' role in consent discussions.

The CRC is a very busy legislated committee. Teleconferences are called as required to review cases. In 2011 the CRC reviewed 23 cases including 13 formal complaints received in 2011 and 10 complaints received in 2010.

Of the 23 cases that were reviewed by the CRC in 2011, 6 cases were referred to the Hearings Director for a hearing.

### **Hearings**

In cases where the CRC refers a complaint to the Hearings Director for a hearing, the investigated member will receive a Notice of Hearing. This document sets the date, time and location of the hearing and clearly states the allegations of unprofessional conduct that the Association intends to prove against the investigated member.

Hearings are normally held in a boardroom at the offices of the ABVMA's legal counsel. The investigated member is strongly encouraged to have representation by their own legal counsel. The ABVMA lawyer acts as the prosecuting attorney, whose job it is to bring forward and prove the specific allegations of unprofessional conduct. The Hearing Tribunal, which is the panel of judges, is composed of 3 veterinarians and 1 member of the public appointed by the minister. It is the Hearing Tribunal that will receive evidence, hear sworn testimony, question witnesses, and arrive at the decision of guilty or not guilty on each of the specific allegations of unprofessional conduct. The Hearing Tribunal will order sanctions if there is a guilty finding.

Nine hearings were held in 2011, including 4 cases referred by CRC from 2010, and 5 cases from 2011. There is currently 1 case referred for a hearing by the CRC that has not been held as of this writing.

### **Consent Orders**

The Veterinary Profession Act of Alberta, section 35.1, provides that a member may submit a written admission of unprofessional conduct to the Hearings Director at any time after a complaint has been made, but before the Hearing Tribunal has made a decision. In all complaints that are referred for a hearing, the investigated member is informed of the option to enter into consent discussions. The objective is to arrive at a consent order that is then accepted by the Hearing Tribunal.

An investigated member that considers a consent order must accept there will be a finding of unprofessional conduct. Consent discussions are held without prejudice and normally take place between the investigated



member and a committee of the CRC. Discussions focus on clarifying the details of the case and arriving at sanctions that are acceptable to all parties including the ABVMA. The investigated member must then appear in front of the Hearing Tribunal to have the consent order accepted. A full hearing with witnesses does not occur, reducing costs that could be assessed to the member.

In 2011, of the 9 cases that CRC referred to a hearing, 6 of the investigated members entered into consent discussions which were successful in arriving at consent orders and sanctions accepted by the Hearing Tribunal.

### **Committee of Council (COC) Review of CRC Decisions to Dismiss**

Council acts as the appeal body for the discipline process. Section 34.1(1) of the Veterinary Profession Act describes the Review of a Dismissal of a Complaint. This process provides a means for the complainant to appeal a CRC decision to dismiss. The ability to request a review is a necessary step for the public, however there is a fine line between protection of the public and fairness to the investigated member.

It is important to remember that the CRC and COC review are preliminary steps in the discipline process. The process is not static and the ABVMA has demonstrated their commitment to adapting the process to balance protection of the public and fairness to members.

Seventeen of the 23 cases that were reviewed by the CRC in 2011 were dismissed. In 6 of these 17 cases, the complainant applied in writing with reasons to the Hearings Director for a review of a dismissal of the complaint. The COC also reviewed 1 case from 2010 and 1 from 2008. The COC decision in 3 cases was to dismiss the complaint. A decision with respect to 5 cases has not been made as of this writing.

### **Dismissed Cases**

The 11 cases dismissed by the CRC that were not reviewed by the COC are considered closed cases. There is no record of these cases that remains associated with the members' registration or standing with the association.

All investigated members have an obligation to cooperate with the investigation and respond to the letter of complaint. Members are advised to consider that submitting oneself to a peer reviewed discipline process is a requirement of registration with a self regulating profession. This discipline process is an obligation no different than registration, mandatory continuing education, and practice inspections.

### **Hearings Director**

I would like to extend my appreciation to Dr. Nick Nation who is appointed by Council as the ABVMA Hearings Director. Dr. Nation plays an important role in the function of the discipline process and is always readily available to act in this capacity when called upon.

### Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Dr. Duane Landals and Dr. Darrell Dalton, my colleagues in the office of the ABVMA for their support in my role as Complaints Director. I would also take the opportunity to acknowledge the entire staff at the ABVMA office. They all work to serve our members and fulfill the mandate of protection of the public and advancing the veterinary profession in Alberta.

Thank you to our public members, Ms. Leanne Binetruy, Ms. Deborah Bresee, Ms. Donna von Hauff, Mr. Dwayne Rawson, Mr. John de Jong, Mr. Alvin Kumlin and Mr. Brian Travers who take time out of their lives to sit on committees and bring essential public oversight to our discipline process.

Members of the CRC and Hearing Tribunal are volunteers who have let themselves sit in the most uncomfortable position of acting as judge of your peers. Thank you for your time and attention to these important roles.

I also offer a sincere thank you to Ms. Karen Smith, legal counsel who is readily available to consult when needed.



## Public Member's Report

18

### Mr. Alvin Kumlin and Mr. Brian Travers – Public Members on Council

As newly appointed members, Alvin in November 2010 and Brian in September 2011, the learning curve for both of us has been steep and challenging, but most of all enjoyable. Early into our term, the immediate challenge was to educate ourselves as to the veterinarian acronyms used freely and extensively for all things verbal or written. The delay in receiving the cheat sheet referencing these terms has become our self-learning motivation. From our first council meetings until now, the council members and staff of ABVMA have welcomed us aboard, encouraged and valued our input for all matters concerning the veterinary profession.



We have had the opportunity to visit both colleges of Veterinary Medicine at Saskatoon and Calgary and know that our Alberta students have some of, if not the best, educational facilities and instructors offered anywhere in North America. The leadership weekend and annual general meeting held in February was an opportunity to meet and mingle with other public members and the membership at large. The ABVMA staff is to be commended on the format, strength and value of guest speakers and member workshops hosted by committees. Our annual meeting was not unlike others that we have attended, involving active and sometimes disjointed discussion but concluding with positive outcomes. The hot buttons for this year appeared to be cosmetic surgery, the triplicate prescription program, and companion animal dentistry. If we believe history will repeat itself, the 2011 resolutions will make the above pale by comparison. The 2011 Can West Conference was the “be there event of the season” and again a tribute to the staff who coordinated its success.



Despite our limited exposure, we can easily say that ABVMA would be the “poster boy” of professional associations. This association represents all parties, veterinarians and animal health technologists, involved in the care of animals. Second to none is the ability to set your own standards, enforce your own requirements and the privilege of being self-regulating. As public members, we look forward to becoming part of the decision process that uniquely defines ABVMA.

AN EVOLUTION  
**ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



# Communications Manager's Report

19

## Mrs. Midge Landals – Manager, Communications and Member Services

### Leadership Weekend and Annual General Meeting

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) Leadership Weekend was held in Calgary on February 25 to 27, 2011. This year's theme was "Getting the Message Out". Two keynote speakers were highlighted: Mr. Bruce Vincent emphasised the importance of using every opportunity possible to deliver a clear and accurate message to the public about our goals, values, and objectives. This is a job we need to do ourselves. Without proper and accurate information the public will draw its own conclusion, which in the face of false information, may not be accurate. Mr. Jim Brown, author of "The Imperfect Board Member" delivered an interactive session about board governance. He taught us the "secret formula for organizational effectiveness" and how to overcome board complexities with "the power of simple principles".



A mock hearing was staged for the ABVMA Professional Conduct Committees as part of the discipline training process and this proved to be a very popular event.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the cornerstone of the association's activities and it has been the concluding event of the Leadership Weekend for several years now. This approach has been successful in ensuring that a significant proportion of the membership is in attendance. Participation in the meeting included: 123 voting members, 20 non-voting Animal Health Technologist (AHT) members, 18 non-voting guests and 7 non-voting ABVMA staff. In addition there were 51 proxy votes brought to the meeting. The membership was also represented by 114 committee members participating in the overall weekend activities, with an additional 40 members registering for the training session on Saturday and a total of 268 guests at the Member Recognition Awards Banquet. This constituted a very satisfactory representation.

The Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists award presentations were integrated into the ABVMA Member Recognition Awards Banquet this year. For the first time, Registered AHT members attended the ABVMA AGM and Recognition Banquet as participating members of the ABVMA. This is quite a milestone with Alberta being the first provincial veterinary organization to include AHT's in their membership.

### Registration Day

Two registration days were hosted again this year. One event took place in Edmonton in early June and the second one was hosted in Calgary in mid September. A combined total of 111 veterinarians and 153 registered AHT's became members of the Association in 2011.

2011  
ANNUAL REPORT



### **Triplicate Prescription Program**

Last year the ABVMA introduced mandatory participation in the Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP) for members prescribing narcotics, controlled, targeted or listed substances. The office has since received numerous enquiries from members regarding the program which prompted more extensive communication of information to members. A member resolution directing Council to withdraw from the TPP was presented at the AGM. This resolution was defeated by a significant majority. The ABVMA remains fully committed to the TPP and the Association continues to work towards ensuring that the veterinary component of the program meets the needs of society and the members in the best possible manner. On Council's direction, "Frequently asked questions regarding Dispensing Veterinary Drugs" has been introduced as a regular feature in the E-news.

### **Biosecurity...the buzz word around the office this year!**

An ABVMA "Biosecurity in Practice" manual, outlining many useful "how to's", principles, practices and background resources related to biosecurity, and a companion webpage were developed throughout the year. The overall goal was to increase awareness about the importance of biosecurity and to provide tools to assist in the review and update of biosecurity measures that are already in place in Alberta practices. Short abstracts were published in the E-News and Member's Magazine on a regular basis as a means of promoting the CanWest Biosecurity in Action program. The manual has now been widely distributed to ABVMA members and CanWest conference participants. It will also have been distributed to ABVMA clinics, DVM and AHT students, the CVMA and other Veterinary Medical Associations by the time this report is published.

### **Quality Assurance**

Four Hundred and fifty-two Quality Assurance (QA) Guides were mailed out to veterinary practices in Alberta, along with the annual Practice Inspection Practice Standards (PIPS)/Radiation renewal invoices. There were some minor changes made to the QA Guide this year, primarily under the diagnostic imaging and pharmacy sections.

The QA/Radiation Program plaques have been replaced by newly designed certificates in reusable frames and were mailed to all veterinary practices in February. Each year a new certificate will be distributed to practices upon completion of the QA Guide and receipt of the annual renewal fee.

**AN EVOLUTION**  
**ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



## Annual Publications

- ***Annual Report***

The report will be distributed to members with the AGM package in January 2012 and it is also available on the ABVMA website.

- ***Members' Magazine and E-News***

The magazine is distributed to members six times a year and the E-News is circulated periodically on Friday's to provide members with timely information. A new tab format was introduced in the May – June issue of the magazine providing easy access to articles related to Governance, Professional Enhancement, Education, AAAHT News, Classified Ads and Educational Opportunities.

- ***Directory***

A hard copy directory was distributed to members in early July and an electronic version is updated daily and is available on the website. Work on a more user friendly downloadable website version is close to completion and will be launched in early 2012.

- ***Economic Report and Suggested Fee Guide***

We continue to work closely with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Business Management Program to provide surveys, reminder notices, and final reports to ABVMA members on a timely basis. The most recent Suggested Fee Guide, Economic Report, Compensation and Benefits Report for Associate Veterinarians, Associate DVM Wage Report and Non-DVM Wage Reports are made available to members on the ABVMA Members website and members are informed of all postings via our weekly E-News.

## Website

A revised public website at [www.abvma.ca](http://www.abvma.ca) was launched at the Leadership Weekend in February and upgrades continue on this and the member's site an ongoing basis. The member discussion board on the members' website is open and members are informed via the E-News when round table discussions are available.

## Marketing Activity Guidelines and Continuing Education Guidelines

The ABVMA Marketing Activity Guidelines and Continuing Education Guidelines were reviewed by Council this year and a final document will be presented to the membership at the upcoming AGM in February.

## Council Outreach Program

This year's Council Outreach Program consisted of visits to a number of veterinary facilities in the West-Central region of the province with stops in Devon, Drayton Valley, Rocky Mountain House, Olds, Rimbev and Ponoka. A Council meeting took place in Olds and a community barbecue and tour of Olds College was hosted by the ABVMA at the College.

## AB.VMA History Book, Second Edition, 1991 - 2010

Work continues on the second edition of the history book with a deadline date for receipt of material set for February 12, 2012.

## CanWest Veterinary Conference

"Biosecurity in Action" was the underlying theme of the ABVMA biosecurity project that was launched at the CanWest Conference in October. The event took place on October 15th to 18th at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. Over 700 registrants attended the conference overall with 435 participants from Alberta, 87 from British Columbia, 193 from other Canadian provinces and 28 International visitors.

Four consecutive continuing education tracks in Companion Animal, Equine, Food Animal and Veterinary Team were offered on a daily basis with a Puppy Behaviour Wet Lab included in the Veterinary Team track. A Student Symposium was introduced for the first time with the intent to provide an educational component for veterinary and animal health students, and introduce them to the CanWest Conference experience. This year's Symposium focused on the relevant and timely issues related to biosecurity including practice applications and international considerations. The Student Symposium will be offered on an annual basis.

Members are encouraged to attend the upcoming CanWest conference at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel on October 13 – 16, 2012.

## CE Sponsored by the AB.VMA

The Association continues to be represented in an educational capacity by member volunteers at the Horse Breeders and Owners Conference as well as at many Career Day Fairs and Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) presentations throughout the year.

- ***Substance Abuse and Addiction in the Workplace***

The ABVMA partnered with the University Of Calgary Faculty Of Veterinary Medicine to host this session on March 18th. Veterinarians and their staff were invited to spend the evening learning about a topic that most of us know very little about. Speakers included: Dr. Gregory Skipper, MD, Medical Director, Alabama Physician health program and Fellow of the American



Society of Addiction Medicine; and Dr. John Jacobson, DVM, MS, Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student, University of Missouri. Drs. Clay Gellhaus and Jack Wilson represented the ABVMA Professional Wellness Program.

- ***Alberta Farm Animal Care - Animal Livestock Care Conference***

The ABVMA partnered with Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) to host the AFAC Embracing Changes in Animal Welfare Conference in Red Deer on April 6 – 7, 2011. The ABVMA will take on a more active role by administrating the registration process for the Livestock Care Conference in 2012.

The ABVMA fosters a close working relationship with AFAC and provides two training sessions per year for veterinarians who volunteer for the AFAC Livestock Care Response Team. The training sessions took place on April 6th and October 19th.

- ***ABVMA Mentor Training Program***

An interactive mentor training workshop was held at the ABVMA office in June. This was a pilot project intended to support ABVMA members in the development of their mentoring skills.

### **Vet 2011 World Veterinary Year**

The ABVMA registered and participated in the Vet 2011 Organizing Committee as a corresponding member. "An Evolution - Celebrating 250 years of World Veterinary Medicine" was the ABVMA's theme for the year and the event was promoted by incorporating the Vet 2011 World Veterinary Year logo into ABVMA production material.

### **Slave Lake Fire Disaster**

The Edmonton Humane Society (EHS) was called in to assist with animals that became lost or separated from their owners due to the devastating Slave Lake wildfire incident in May. The ABVMA instantly communicated with the EHS to see how we could help and at their request, a call was put out to our members, asking if they would be willing and able to assist in situations of injured animals or help owners who may have lost their pet's prescriptions and medical records when their homes were destroyed. Over twenty veterinary practices immediately responded and offered their facilities, inventory, and expertise on a gratis basis to help fellow Albertans and their animals.

### **Classroom Agriculture Program**

Three hundred and seventy eight schools registered for the program and presentations were delivered to approximately 13,937 students in 641 classes. This is an increase of 655 students and 37 volunteers over



last year. Work on the CAP website was completed and [www.classroomagriculture.com](http://www.classroomagriculture.com) was launched in the fall allowing for promotion of CAP, program registration, volunteer registration and the submission of evaluations and feedback. CAP continues its core effort of reaching out to grade four students across the province to enhance the understanding of agriculture and where the food they eat comes from.

### **Student Members**

Council once again hosted an ABVMA Student Member Welcome Dinner at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) and the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) this year. The stethoscope and white coat ceremony for the UCVM Class of 2015 was hosted by the ABVMA and CVMA in conjunction with the dinner event in September. A similar ceremony was jointly hosted by CVMA and the western provinces in conjunction with the WCVM Awards Ceremony which also took place in September.

Communication is fostered with the students at both veterinary schools through the ABVMA Student Representatives and the regular Student Corner publications in the Members' Magazine. The representatives attended the Leadership Weekend in a learning capacity and they also delivered a short report and greetings from the students at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Canadian Veterinary Reserve**

Our Alberta Canadian Veterinary Reserve Champion, Dr. Randy Killeen keeps members informed about this program through regular updates in the Members' Magazine.

### **CVMA Emerging Leaders Program**

Eight applications were received by the ABVMA for the 2011 CVMA Emerging Leaders Program. These were carefully reviewed by Council and Drs. Lucas Yuricek and Anna Sangster were selected and attended "The need to Lead" Emerging Leaders Workshop in Halifax in July.

### **Public Relations**

- ***For The Love of Animals - Careers in Veterinary Medicine***

Production of the ABVMA's Veterinary/AHT Career Recruitment video was completed and launched at the Leadership Weekend in February. The disk includes 3 videos, one is intended for younger children, one is geared towards high school and university students, and the third is a short 3 minute teaser intended for use at trade fairs. The footage covers the many diverse fields of veterinary medicine and animal health technology.

The DVD has been distributed to ABVMA facilities and is available on the ABVMA website for members to use at career days and other events. It has also been distributed to the councillors of approximately 2,300 junior high and high schools in Alberta.

- ***Winter Radio Campaign***

The ABVMA joined forces with Alberta Farm Animal Care to air a series of approximately 30 news line stories on radio stations across the province during the winter months. The news lines included the key message that "Animal Care is Everyone's Responsibility", information about a variety of winter livestock care topics, and the Alberta Livestock Care Emergency Resource Team contact information.

- ***Pet Talk Show***

The Pet Talk Show continues to be hosted by ABVMA members and is aired on 630 CHED radio every Sunday morning from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

2011 was another busy and productive year at the ABVMA office. It has been a great pleasure working with Council, committee members, my colleagues on staff, and the many members who have so graciously invested their time in the association over the past year. Thank you to all of you.



## Practice Review Board

26

### Dr. Jarrett Ferrier - Chair

The Practice Review Board (PRB) is a legislated standing committee of Alberta veterinarians, one public member and one council member. In the Veterinary Profession Act, the objectives of the Practice Review Board are to inquire into:

1. "assessment of existing educational standards and experience requirements that are conditions to obtaining and continuing registration under the Veterinary Profession Act"
2. "the evaluation of desirable standards of competence of registered veterinarians and permit holders"
3. "the practice of veterinary medicine by registered veterinarians in general"
4. "any other matter that Council deems appropriate or necessary"

In general, the PRB is concerned with the standards of competency for practicing members and permit holders of the ABVMA. In doing so, we hope to ensure a high standard of veterinary medicine in Alberta.

During the last year, the PRB has been called upon when concerns were raised over veterinarians being incapacitated. These cases were reviewed and actions taken to protect the public and help the veterinarians involved. Cases from previous years were also reviewed to assess the outcome of PRB orders. We have seen both successes and failures. It is very rewarding to see clinics or individuals succeed in their improvements or treatments. Failures are re-examined and appropriate actions taken to encourage the individual or clinic while protecting the public.

The ABVMA is a very progressive and responsible association and needs to be aware of the increasing risks of stress and addiction. It is the responsibility of the ABVMA to continue with monitoring programs such as drug logs and triplicate forms to identify veterinarians with addictions and protect the public at risk.

AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



## Practice Inspection Practice Standards Committee

27

### Dr. Kate Kewish – Chair

The Practice Inspection and Practice Standards (PIPS) committee has again been very active over the past twelve months. So far (in the spring and fall audit process), 170 active Veterinary Practice Entities (VPEs) across Alberta have been processed. The auditors have been focusing on following a prescription from start to finish, and the triplicate prescription program. Thirteen VPEs from the spring audit and 9 VPEs from the fall audit were found to be deficient or otherwise non-compliant with the existing PIPS bylaws and thus were reviewed by the entire committee. Most inadequacies were fairly minor, and are being addressed with a request for proof of compliance, in the form of a registered “30 day letter”. Two cases from the spring review are still pending. Unfortunately, 2 VPEs did not return the completed QA Guide or pay the PIPS fees for this year. These VPEs will be reviewed by the committee and are therefore due for a full inspection, at a cost of \$1000 each.

The PIPS committee continued to focus on refinement of the Quality Assurance Self-Verification Guide for Veterinary Practices. Following the 2011 leadership weekend, the committee broke into small groups to “tweak” the Self-Verification Guide, integrating changes with those proposed for potential bylaw review. We thank Dr. Colleen Pratt and Mrs. Smokey Walters for their diligence in compiling comments and errors from the Self-Verification Guide; these will be reviewed at the PIPS committee meeting during the 2012 leadership weekend.

Veterinary medicine is an ever evolving science, and as such practice standards will also evolve. The PIPS committee looks forward to engaging the members of the non-legislated committees (i.e. companion animal, equine, livestock, welfare) to provide input and interpretation into the standards and expectations of particular practice types. In particular, the evolution of small animal dentistry standards is under review and there has been much discussion within the PIPS and other ABVMA committees. Hopefully resolution may occur within the upcoming year.

It has been a pleasure to be the chair of the PIPS committee for the last year; I look forward to the challenges ahead.

# Registration Committee Report

## Dr. Margitta Dziwenka – Chair

The Registration Committee of the ABVMA met in February 2011 at the annual ABVMA leadership weekend in Calgary. In addition to this meeting, there were two Registration Days held, one in June in Edmonton and a second in September in Calgary. A total of 111 veterinarians and 153 RAHT's joined the ABVMA in 2011. The format for both registration days was the same and included an overview of the ABVMA followed by a presentation outlining the information which can be accessed through the ABVMA website. After lunch, there was a review of the discipline process which was followed by some case scenarios and group discussion. Presentations of the ABVMA membership certificates by ABVMA President, Dr. Annabelle Denson concluded both days.

Any DVM or RAHT member who is new to Alberta is required to attend a Registration Day and the ABVMA will continue to offer two Registration Days, one in Edmonton and one in Calgary to facilitate attendance by all new members. In the upcoming year the Registration committee will again continue to review the Licensure categories to ensure they are in line with the new dynamics seen in the Veterinary and RAHT community. The labour mobility legislation will also be a continuing topic of discussion and the committee will continue discussing the structure of the RAHT discipline process.

## Foreign Credential/Qualification Recognition

International Veterinary Graduates have always played an integral role in filling Canada's need for veterinary practitioners. For several decades it has been recognised that they constitute between 20 and 25 percent of the individuals receiving registration and licensure as veterinarians across the country each year. Recent years have seen an expansion of the Canadian economy and have witnessed an increased need for us to meet our human resource needs with professionals educated outside of Canada.

The role of the modern veterinarian goes far beyond the traditional role as an animal doctor, tending to the health and welfare needs of sick or injured animals. Veterinary practitioners play a fundamental role in; food safety and security, public health protection, preservation of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, control of zoonotic disease and comparative biomedical research. Protection of the public and advancement of our society, both locally and globally, demands that the individuals engaging in all these important areas be appropriately qualified to do so.



The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is the professional regulatory organization, empowered by the Veterinary Profession Act of Alberta to undertake this responsibility on behalf of the people of the province.

To be granted registration to practice, a person must be able to document the necessary credentials and qualification. Through a well established process of accreditation of educational institutions we can be assured that their graduates possess the necessary credentials to enter the field. This accreditation has been achieved by all the veterinary schools in North America as well as a small number of foreign schools. We are aware, however, that there is well in excess of 600 organizations around the world that grant a degree or certificate that is considered a veterinary degree in the country in which it is granted. We also know that the depth and scope of education provided by these organizations varies greatly. Some of the programs span as little as a few months, some may be one or two years and others reach the full six years of training that is considered necessary in North America. Additionally, some of the programs offer the full range of comparative biomedical fields taught in North America while others may limit their instruction to a specific species or practice discipline.

Canada has a well developed system of evaluation that may be accessed by a veterinary graduate from a foreign school that allows them to demonstrate that the sum of their training and experience has provided them with the necessary qualification to practice as well as an entry level practitioner who has graduated from an accredited program in North America. This process allows us to assure the public that every individual registered as a veterinarian has the qualifications to practice their profession in the public interest and at a level that the public expects.

The fact that we have a national system of qualification assessment and that it is used by every licensing jurisdiction in Canada has provided for the seamless integration of labour mobility between all provinces under all inter-provincial trade agreements. Any effort by any jurisdiction to reduce the standard of registration, in effect, reduces the standard for all jurisdictions. With this in mind, we support the national examination sequence provided by the National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

Despite an excellent existing system, it is evident that steps must be taken to facilitate the timely and appropriate integration of foreign veterinary graduates into our work place. With the assistance of the Foreign Qualification Recognition Program, and in partnership with the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), the ABVMA was able to see the establishment of an examining site for the Clinical Proficiency Exam (CPE) in Alberta. The ongoing delivery of the CPE means candidates no longer have to leave the province in order to complete this final step in their examination sequence. They can complete the entire process without the need to travel extensively.



The process of developing this examination opportunity has caused us to identify and focus on other necessary steps to assist international graduates to obtain registration in a timely manner. The preliminary step is the process of adaptation to Canadian culture in regards to animal ownership, husbandry and management. This includes development of linguistic skills in the use of the English language as it applies to veterinary practice locally. The secondary step is to provide educational opportunities to fill in the gaps in knowledge that may exist because of the quality, quantity or scope of education obtained. The ABVMA believes it is inappropriate and inefficient to provide this qualification enhancement through a process of repetitious participation in exams. Rather, we believe that the necessary training and experience should be gained prior to challenging the examination. A high rate of passing the examinations on the first attempt is beneficial to the candidates and helps insure the process remains efficient.

In support of this belief, the ABVMA has developed a process of "Limited Registration" to supplement our existing, restricted "Temporary Registration". These registrations allow a candidate to engage in a limited scope of veterinary practice, under appropriate supervision. This allows the person to obtain an entry level of employment for the purpose of instruction and at the same time ensures the protection of the public through the general registration of the supervising and instructing veterinarian.

We are currently pursuing options to provide both the primary and secondary enhancement needs. To this end we will continue our support of organizations that provide basic introduction for foreign graduates. In addition, we are working to establish a training process to make sure individuals supervising limited and restricted veterinarians clearly understand their role as both supervisor and instructor. This is essential to protect the interests of both the candidate and the public. The ultimate goal is to develop a training program to help supervisors learn the skills necessary to mentor and nurture foreign graduates and to make participation mandatory before a supervisory role will be granted. An opportunity also exists, through the UCVM distributed veterinary teaching hospital to offer specific clinical instruction in a variety of areas. It is desirable to develop this potential, on a fee for service basis. An opportunity for specific instruction in identified areas of deficiency is desirable at a stage before participation in the examination sequence and is being developed.

The ABVMA is committed to our role in protecting the public interest in the delivery of veterinary services. We firmly believe our efforts to assist foreign veterinary graduates to enter practice in Alberta is a reflection of this commitment.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Duane Landals B. Sc. Ag. DVM  
Registrar, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association



# Foreign Qualification Recognition Plan for Alberta Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

31

The following report is submitted as a requirement of the Government of Alberta under the Foreign Qualification Recognition (FQR) Plan.

**Reporting Period: November 1, 2010 to October 31, 2011**

## Total Veterinary Applications

General Practice License	80
Limited License	10
Temporary License	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>

## Educational Background

License Type	Accredited Veterinary Program	Non-Accredited Veterinary Program
General	61	19
Limited	1	9
Temporary	0	19

The normal sequence for non-accredited program graduates is to progress from Limited License to Temporary License and then to General License once all examinations are completed. For individuals progressing from Temporary License to General License during this reporting period, the average time required was 8 months (from first receipt of a Temporary License to receipt of a General License) as only one of the Temporary licensees from this application period moved licensure category.

- 1 out of 19 Temporary Members was previously a Limited Member for 23 months
- 2 Previous Limited Members moved to Active General with an average of 11 months (3.8 terms)
- 5 Previous Temporary Members moved to Active General with an average of 14.6 months (4.8 terms)

*Not with standing the time for progression of licensure all of these individuals were eligible for employment as a veterinarian at all times.*

## Disposition of Foreign Qualified Applicants

# New Applicants	# Processed to Licensing	# Meeting All Requirements for General Licensure	# Not Meeting All Requirements for General Licensure
109	109	81	28

- There were no incomplete applications received.
- The 28 applicants who did not meet all licensing requirements were accommodated through an alternate licensing process (Limited or Temporary).
- No applications were held up because of language requirements as this standard is assessed by the National Examining Board before application is received by the ABVMA.

- The ABVMA does not require work or clinical experience for licensure and the pass-fail statistics on licensing exams are maintained by the National Examining Board.
- Generally, once a fully completed application for registration is received by the ABVMA it takes less than two weeks to process and receive approval into an appropriate license category.
- The ABVMA has no ability to assess the time it takes from the arrival into Canada by the foreign trained veterinarian until they submit a fully completed application to the ABVMA.

#### **Country of Origin for All Licensees**

<b>Country</b>	<b>General License</b>	<b>Limited License</b>	<b>Temporary License</b>
Australia	3	1	0
Brazil	0	0	1
British West Indies	2	0	2
Bulgaria	2	0	1
Chile	0	0	1
Denmark	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	1
Germany	1	1	0
India	11	1	7
Iran	0	0	1
Ireland	1	1	0
Korea	0	1	0
Mexico	0	0	1
Pakistan	0	0	3
Philippines	1	0	0
Romania	1	1	1
Scotland	1	0	0
Spain	1	1	0
UK	2	1	0
USA	7	0	0
Canada	47	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>

#### **Registered Animal Health Technologists**

From November 1st, 2010 to October 31st, 2011 a total of 111 Animal Health Technologists applied and were granted registration with the ABVMA.

Out of the 111 AHTs, 24 were granted a Provisional Registration.



## Animal Welfare Committee

33

### Dr. Natalie Bragg – Chair

It has been a relatively quiet year for the ABVMA animal welfare committee. The committee met during the 2011 annual leadership weekend. Agenda items discussed were euthanasia of non-domestic species (specifically raptors and other birds), cosmetic surgery, the CVMA position statement on cosmetic dentistry, use of local anesthetic in food animal practice, and animal abuse reporting.

The animal welfare committee will continue to reinforce the strategic priorities of the ABVMA and strive to remain a leader in animal welfare. The animal welfare committee has a desire to remain leaders and wants to foster and encourage a proactive approach to animal welfare in the province of Alberta. The animal welfare committee will continue to collaborate with other ABVMA committees on topics which jointly affect both committees.

The committee wishes all ABVMA members much success and happiness in 2012.



## Companion Animal Committee

### Dr. Leslie-Anne Smith – Chair

The companion animal committee deliberated on a number of issues this year, both old and new.

The committee continued exploring the many facets of pain management which consisted of researching different medications including local anaesthetic medications and systemic pain medications, toxic doses, surgical techniques that reduce the amount of potential pain, pain scoring charts, etc. The companion animal committee is committed to compiling accurate and constructive information on pain management to better inform the members on employing these principles.

New subject matters that arose included:

- Review and discussion of the Policy of Reporting Animal Abuse or Welfare Infractions. The Animal Protection Act and the General Regulation of the Alberta Veterinary Profession Act allows the veterinarian to take appropriate actions in cases of animal abuse or welfare infractions and not be held professionally accountable when following this directive in good faith. It was agreed that educating the offender is the first step, however we should also provide a time frame for the



infraction(s) to be rectified and follow-up as necessary to ensure the animal(s) are being cared for adequately.

- The CVMA's revised position statement on dentistry was reviewed and it was recommended to add RAHT's to the position statement so they are able to perform dental procedures under the direct supervision of a registered veterinarian (i.e. dental scaling/polishing).
- There was discussion of the Prevent Another Litter (PAL) program concerning the mediocre outcome and the difficulties that arose within the program. The committee passed a motion to recommend the ABVMA take the lead and institute a PAL-like program to control the province-wide cat overpopulation. The program should have two functions – to educate the public on the necessity of population control and to aid in control of cat overpopulation.
- The marketing activity guidelines for the ABVMA members was reviewed and discussed.
- There was brainstorming of various ideas to continue to improve and cultivate public relations and for future Member Magazine articles.
- The committee was asked to comment on a tail docking brochure that Council adapted with permission from the South African Veterinary Association. Constructive remarks were put forth by the committee members via the discussion board on the website.
- A novel subject, pertaining to unregulated poultry producers, was brought forward to be discussed in conjunction with the food animal committee. This is an exciting and complex venture focused primarily on promoting awareness and education.

The companion animal committee continues to explore both past and current issues that arise within the association. As always, member feedback is welcome and encouraged.

### Dr. Dave Bell - Chair

The equine committee met in person at the leadership weekend in Calgary. At that meeting, the committee discussed the need for public awareness regarding some of the specific topics facing our association. This would include prudent use of antimicrobials, application of proper pain management, and promotion of the current awareness programs of the ABVMA. Discussions also revolved around laboratory testing of horses for export to the United States, and some of the difficulties surrounding this testing. The committee unanimously supported the proposed amendments to the requirements for animal abuse reporting as well as the CVMA position statement on dentistry. The committee strongly believes that a proper dental examination involves either sedation or anesthesia, which can only be administered and monitored by a veterinary professional. The committee also supports taking a more active roll to support the welfare issues of horse transport, and the issue of the unwanted horse.

Numerous Alberta equine practitioners, including ABVMA equine committee members and staff were involved in the neurotropic equine herpes virus outbreak that occurred in May, 2011. This outbreak was traced back to a cutting horse show in Utah, with a number of farms subsequently involved here. The horse owning public was rapidly informed through the social media, and unfortunately some of the information was incorrect. By late June, the problem appeared to be resolved in Alberta, and was an excellent example of the outstanding cooperation between the equine practitioners, provincial, and CFIA veterinarians.

Members of the equine committee volunteered to be present at the ABVMA booth at the Horse Owners and Breeders Conference held in Red Deer each January. The theme for the booth this year was Equine Biosecurity. This was a perfect segue to the biosecurity brochure published later in the year in cooperation with the Alberta Equestrian Federation. This document is currently available on the ABVMA website.

No other meetings were held by the committee.

## Food Animal Committee Report

### Dr. Egan Brockhoff - Chair

The ABVMA has worked closely with issues related to food animal practice and the industries that our food animal veterinarians work within. At the forefront of these issues has been those related to biosecurity, prescribing, dispensing, prudent use of antimicrobials, and the maintenance of medical records within population based medicine models. With increased and increasing scrutiny being placed on food animal production and its parallel industries, including veterinary practice, the importance of veterinary leadership and cooperation with the various livestock industries will come to be ever more important.

Within society Doctors of Veterinary Medicine hold special privilege with respect to prescribing and dispensing of pharmaceuticals intended for use in food animals and food animal populations. The veterinarian's right to prescribe pharmaceuticals is made possible through the maintenance of medical records that demonstrate a medical recommendation based on an indication for a known health concern. Increasingly, society is placing greater restrictions and pressures upon the veterinary profession and agricultural commodity groups to judiciously and prudently utilize antibiotics within food animal populations. The social license to market food animals is based largely on public confidence. Food Animal Veterinarians are the professionals best positioned and qualified to moderate the discussion on prudent use of antimicrobials and the social dialogue between the various stakeholders. With that in mind a document on prudent use of antimicrobials has been adapted by the ABVMA for use within the framework of this discussion. This document is intended to be a stakeholder guidepost and underscores general principles and philosophies as they relate to prudent usage.

At the CanWest Veterinary Conference in October of 2011 biosecurity in action was the theme. The ABVMA has worked diligently on a diverse range of biosecurity related initiatives for many of the commodity groups within Alberta. These documents are intended to provide veterinarians and the public insight and direction into the various aspects of biosecurity as they relate to bioexclusion, biomanagement and biocontainment. The importance of protecting the high health status that we have in Alberta and Canada is of great significance - education and implementation of biosecurity standards can only serve to better our future opportunities.

The council guidelines on prescribing, dispensing and compounding have continued to evolve to better meet the ever changing needs of our membership and the public. As we move into 2012 the elements that have been underscored in this report will continue to evolve for our membership. The importance of creating sustainable practical tools for veterinarians to better manage food animal medical records will become increasingly more valuable and necessary. In accordance with the need for these better tools we will also need to focus on education and the importance of follow-through tools within our practices that provide value around the activities of prescribing and dispensing. Within our weekly E-news mail-out you have seen a steady address on these issues designed as an awareness campaign to better inform our membership of the current guidelines within our profession.

### Dr. Doug Whiteside – Chair

The Wildlife and Alternate Livestock Committee did not have to address any significant issues during the past year. The members of the committee had a productive meeting in February 2011 with very good discussions on appropriate euthanasia methods for wildlife species and on implementation of biosecurity measures for alternate livestock farming.

The committee would like to continue to act as a resource as needed for other committees of the ABVMA, to various wildlife and alternative livestock groups, and to take a veterinary based stand on ecosystem health issues. Where appropriate, the collective broad expertise on the committee can promote and effectively contribute to the welfare, appropriate husbandry, and care of wildlife and alternative livestock species. As always, the committee welcomes and encourages the input of all members of the ABVMA on identifying and resolving issues regarding wildlife and alternate livestock.



## Vet Med 21 Committee

### Dr. Terry D. Hunt – Acting Interim Chair

In 2011, the Vet Met 21 committee met in person over the two days of the Leadership Weekend and then communicated on a variety of issues utilizing the ABVMA website committee discussion board.

#### Discussed Agenda Items

1. Graduated Licensure
2. Feasibility & implementation of a Mentorship program
3. AHT management training
4. Updates from council
  - a. Foreign veterinary qualification
  - b. Use of website discussion boards
  - c. Changes to the BCVMA
  - d. Resolutions to be presented at AGM
5. Mandate of Vet Med 21

### **Graduated/Limited Licensure**

It would have a fit with internship programs and mentorship but at this time there is no mechanism to regulate/define graduate licensure (new graduates...what about transfers between provinces). Limited licensure is a valid concept but the mechanics of it would need considerable work. Limited licensure should not be confused with specialization.

### **Mentorship Program**

A great deal of committee discussion was dedicated to moving forward on the mentorship question. UCVM offers a mentorship program to its interns. It also has a mentor program for under graduates (faculty & community based veterinarians). This would not be part of the ABVMA mentorship program but it was hoped that UCVM graduates would continue to be involved in mentoring post-graduation. The Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP) supports a mentorship program delivered by Bernie Vincent.

As a first step towards the establishment of a mentorship program, the committee requested council to arrange for Bernie Vincent to deliver his mentorship presentation to the committee and council. The one-day seminar was held in June at the ABVMA office with about half the committee members in attendance. Prior to this, the committee had lively discussions on the ABVMA website discussion board.

### **AHT Management Training**

As a follow-up to a previous committee discussion, the shortage of qualified veterinary hospital managers was discussed. At this time, this discussion was more for information. Is it the job of the committee to identify areas of concern or to offer possible solutions to identified problems?

### **Mandate of Vet Med 21**

There was a discussion on whether the committee should be "brain-storming" on future issues of concern for the profession or whether it should concentrate on "how" to advance and champion identified issues of concern (for example mentorship). The committee seems to be "issue driven" so how do we ensure we are responding to the concerns of our membership (how to engage membership)?

Has the committee fulfilled its initial purpose for being struck?

We would encourage members to bring forward issues/concerns to the committee and welcome new members to committee. I believe the committee discussion boards on the website are for committee communication but there should be a way that the membership at large would have input into the discussion.



## Dr. Troy Bourque – ABVMA Representative to the CVMA

As Canada's national multi-species organization, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) proudly represents the profession nationally and internationally. The following are just a few examples of how the CVMA worked on behalf of the veterinary profession in 2011:

In January, British Columbia veterinarians were informed that the CVMA and the new member services organization for BC veterinarians – the Society of British Columbia Veterinarians (SBCV) – had joined forces to create the CVMA-SBCV Chapter to serve the needs of the veterinarians of BC through the delivery of valuable and pertinent national and provincial services and programs.



Through the Vet 2011: World Veterinary Year campaign, the veterinary profession celebrated its 250th birthday throughout the year. Vet 2011 activities raised the profile of the veterinary profession and connected veterinarians with other colleagues from around the world. CVMA was a member of the international Vet 2011 Executive Committee.

Position Statements were reviewed on issues such as Veterinary Dentistry, and Onychectomy of Domestic Felids. Newly approved position statements were issued on topics such as Keeping Native or Exotic Wild Animals as Pets, Animal Abuse, Ownership and Selection of a Pet and Transportation of Pets in Motor Vehicles.

Work continued on the development of CVMA Companion Animal Antimicrobial Prudent Use Guidelines, to guide companion animal (canine and feline) practitioners with judicious antimicrobial use.

As a member of the National Farm Animal Care Council, CVMA continues to contribute to the development of Codes of Practice for Beef, Pork, Sheep, Equine and Mink/Fox production. These codes, which establish national guidelines for the care and handling of each species, are to be used as an educational tool in the promotion of acceptable management and welfare practices.

CVMA continued to oversee the National Examining Board, which administers the three-part Canadian veterinary licensing examination process and works as a full joint partner of the veterinary accreditation program operated by the Code of Education (COE) of the AVMA.

CVMA's Business Management Program produced Provincial Economic Reports, Non-DVM Wage Reports, Reports on Compensation & Benefits for Associates and Provincial Suggested Fee Guides for members. Local outreach sessions were held in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario.



The 2011 CVMA Convention took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 6-9. Led by Alberta veterinarian, Dr. Melodie Chan, the second CVMA Emerging Leaders Workshop was held during the convention with great success. A group of top veterinary health professionals gathered at the Summit of Canadian Veterinary Leaders to discuss a variety of issues surrounding ecosystem health. Dr. Lloyd Keddie from Fairview, Alberta was appointed 2011-12 CVMA President during the 2011 Annual General Meeting and five veterinarians were honoured with CVMA Awards.

Animal Health and Wellness in Canadian Communities was the focus of the 2011 National Summit for Urban Animal Strategies, which CVMA's Executive Committee attended to represent the profession in Montebello, Quebec.

As part of the Vet 2011 celebrations here in Canada, the CVMA's 2011 Animal Health Week campaign "Protecting the Health of All Species" (October 2-8, 2011) helped promote the 'one health' message and the many different areas of health protection in which veterinarians are involved.

The University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine hosted student veterinarians from across the country for the Students of the CVMA Symposium in January 2011. The 2011 CVMA Animal Welfare Lecture Tour visited each of the five Canadian veterinary colleges during the fall 2011 semester, providing student veterinarians with an opportunity to learn about the role of the veterinarian in an animal cruelty investigation.

A select group of veterinarians and pet owners from across Canada were surveyed by Ipsos Forward Research to gather information for Canada's Pet Wellness Report. This report, published in June 2011, by the CVMA, in partnership with Hill's Pet Nutrition, provides a "snapshot" of the current state of pet health in Canada.

On behalf of all of its members and the profession, the CVMA has been seeking improvements to Canada's retirement income system. To attain this objective, the CVMA joined the Retirement Income Improvement Coalition, which consists of 10 national associations. At the end of March 2011, the Coalition initiated correspondence with the Honourable James M. Flaherty to explain the concerns and suggestions of the Coalition.

The Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR) launched its online orientation training for CVR Members and hosted the CVR All-Hazards Basic Training Session (March 7-11, 2011) at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Fallowfield Laboratory in Ottawa. CVR basic training was focused on the roles that CVR veterinarians would perform in assisting governments to respond to foreign animal disease outbreaks and large-scale man-made and natural disasters involving animals.



Canadian veterinarians were represented at several international meetings, including that of the British Veterinary Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, World Veterinary Association, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) General Assembly, the International Veterinary Officers Council Meeting (with leaders from the British, American, Australian, New Zealand, South African and Canadian national veterinary organizations) and the Veterinary Companion Animal Nutritional Consortium. The Consortium, created by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), exists to 'promote the importance of nutrition as an integral and essential component of providing optimal health care for healthy, sick and injured pets'.

In partnership with the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the Atlantic Veterinary College, the CVMA Animal Welfare Committee updated the popular "Examples of Anaesthetic and Pain Management Protocols for Healthy Cats and Dogs" poster, which was delivered to members with the October 2011 issue of The Canadian Veterinary Journal.

Throughout the year, CVMA's National Issues Committee collaborated with Health Canada's Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency to address veterinarians' concerns regarding the adverse effects encountered with the misuse of 'over-the-counter' flea and tick products, in particular when permethrin products intended for dogs are used on cats.

The CVMA was a member of the Antimicrobial Stewardship in Canadian Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Conference organizing committee. Held Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, 2011 in Toronto, this conference brought together all stakeholders who use antimicrobials in animals to promote a 'culture of stewardship' to ensure long-term sustainability of antimicrobials and guard against antimicrobial resistance. The goal of the conference was to identify the obstacles to good stewardship and to shed light on what needs to change.



# University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Report

42

## Dr. Alastair Cribb - Dean

The last five years have seen tremendous growth at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). This growth has only been possible with the support of the veterinary community, the university, and the provincial government. Faculty, staff, DVM and graduate student numbers have all expanded. The first phase of infrastructure for the Faculty is nearing completion. The next accreditation visit, during which UCVM will be eligible for a full 7 year accreditation, is scheduled for March 2012. UCVM is currently preparing its Strategic Directions for 2012-2017 and will launch its next five year plan on July 1, 2012. The following report will highlight the key achievements of UCVM in 2011.



### DVM Program

September 2011 saw the arrival of the Class of 2015, signalling for the first time a complete DVM student body with students enrolled in all four years. There are now 125 DVM students enrolled at UCVM. This year saw a 20% increase in eligible applicants to the program. Each year, UCVM interviews approximately 128 students for the program, using a multiple mini-interview process. This year, we were unable to interview approximately 20 qualified applicants for the 32 available seats. UCVM only accepts applications from students who are Alberta residents and meet specific academic criteria.

In May 2012, the first class will be graduating from UCVM. For the last ten months, the fourth year students have been completing rotations in the Distributed Veterinary Teaching Hospital (DVTH), comprised of approximately 60 private practices across Alberta. The practicum rotation coordinators are appointed as adjunct clinical instructors at the university. In many practices, UCVM faculty are also engaged in clinical activity and help deliver rotations. Other rotations are solely delivered by DVTH partners, following criteria established by UCVM. To date, the program has been very successful, with students having the opportunity to participate in a large number of primary care cases and observe multiple practice scenarios. All students must complete a four week Rural Community Practice externship as part of the program and complete 16 mandatory rotations that cover food animal, equine, and small animal medicine and surgery. An additional 10 weeks of rotations in one of our Areas of Emphasis (Production Animal Health, Equine Health, Ecosystem and Public Health or Investigative Medicine) and ten weeks of open electives are required. Details of the fourth year program can be found on our website - [www.vet.ucalgary.ca](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca).

### CUSP: A Community Partnership

In keeping with our commitment to partnership with the veterinary community, we have established a Community-UVCM Spay/ Neuter Program (CUSP) to provide low-cost spays to the community and support

AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



the teaching program by providing dogs and cats for student laboratories. This program was brought online this spring and has been a great success. Veterinary practices identify clients in their practice who are financially challenged to pay for the spay/neuter of their pet. Once the client is identified, they are offered the opportunity to participate in CUSP by their veterinarian. The client pays their regular veterinarian a \$100 fee to cover the cost to the clinic of assisting with the arrangements for the spay/neuter and the cost of providing follow-up after the spay/neuter. The owners are instructed to return to their own veterinarian for any follow-up care or other problems. UCVM does not receive any payment from the practice or the client. We only work with clients who have an established relationship with a veterinarian. While we continue to work with rescue societies to spay/neuter animals, individual animals can only enter the program through their veterinarian. This helps to ensure that animals in the program will have appropriate veterinary care on an on-going basis.

### **SCVMA Student Symposium**

UCVM was proud to host the SCVMA Student Symposium in 2011. One-hundred and seventy-two students attended the event, which was held in the newly completed Clinical Skills Building at the Spy Hill Campus. Students participated in labs from cat handling clinics, bone aspirations, horse dentistry, to anaesthetizing fish. The students also had a day to experience the Rocky Mountains and Calgary. Some enjoyed a day skiing at Sunshine Village while others hiked the Johnson Canyon and toured the Calgary Zoo and Spruce Meadows.

### **Graduate Education**

UCVM faculty have been supervising graduate students in a variety of programs at the University of Calgary since 2006. In 2010, we started accepting students into a new Veterinary Medical Sciences Graduate Program. The program was officially approved by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, on the recommendation of the Campus Alberta Quality Council, in February 2011. The program currently has approximately 60 students enrolled. UCVM faculty are supervising over 90 graduate students in a variety of graduate programs at the University.

UCVM continues to support internships in partnership with several private practices in the Calgary area. We are in the process of evaluating residency program opportunities.

### **Research**

UCVM continues to expand its research programs. In 2010, annual research operating grants exceeded \$10 million. Figures for 2011 are not yet available. Five faculty members hold external salary awards. We now have over 125,000 sq. ft. of laboratory and support space dedicated to research.

UCVM has identified a number of strategic research priorities where we are seeking to expand our research capacity and activities. Within our over-arching areas of emphasis in investigative medicine, production



animal health, equine health and ecosystem and public health, we are pursuing: a cattle health research initiative, focusing on infectious disease and health management; pain and animal welfare; disease ecology, food and water safety; performance horse health; infectious disease (including zoonotic disease); reproduction and regenerative medicine; and veterinary education.

### **Faculty**

UCVM currently has approximately 57 core faculty members and is seeking to recruit an additional 12 over the next year. This will bring us to the initial target complement of faculty required to deliver the program. In addition to core faculty members, the program is supported by approximately 8 sessional instructors from the community, four joint appointments within the university, a number of adjunct appointments, and many community participants. In the fourth year, approximately 60 clinical instructors support the practicum rotations.

### **Summary**

The last five years have seen rapid growth at UCVM. The University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was established based on a partnership model with the veterinary community. UCVM has continued to operate based on this model and is now successfully delivering the fourth year program based on a distributed teaching model.

UCVM also continues to work closely with the ABVMA and the CVMA. Through a partnership with the ABVMA, UCVM is now hosting the clinical proficiency examination for foreign-trained veterinarians on a regular basis and in 2012 will host continuing education programs for foreign-trained veterinarians.

UCVM was also established with the goal of being a research-intensive faculty that collaborated extensively with other Faculties at the U of C. The establishment of the Veterinary Medical Sciences Graduate program will help move this vision forward. The completion of our initial recruitment plan will greatly enhance our research capacity and will significantly increase our research activities in the priority areas identified. Completion of research infrastructure in 2011 has been instrumental in supporting research activities. Throughout 2012, additional space will be completed. UCVM faculty members hold numerous joint and team grants with faculty members in the Faculty of Medicine and other units.

UCVM is committed to delivering an evidence-based educational program. Towards this end, we are investing in educational research to evaluate our programs. We are currently establishing the criteria by which we will measure our success five years after the graduation of our first class.



# Western College of Veterinary Medicine Report

45

## Dr. Douglas Freeman - Dean

It's been an exceptional year at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) with some exciting developments that will provide long-term benefits for our education, clinical service and research programs. Following are some of the highlights.

**AVMA Accreditation:** In March 2011, the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education granted full accreditation status to the WCVM for the maximum of seven years.

Members of the accreditation site visit team were particularly impressed with the results of the WCVM's major infrastructure project that significantly improved the college's clinical, teaching and research areas. The team listed other strengths such as the quality of WCVM students, faculty and staff, its revised curriculum, and the impressive growth of its research enterprise.



**Future Technologies:** In March 2011, the University of Saskatchewan announced that it will become home to a cyclotron that produces radioactive medical isotopes used in the operation of PET-CT scanners. The cyclotron will be part of the university's new \$30-million centre of excellence in nuclear studies.

While funding is in place to purchase one PET-CT scanner for humans, the WCVM is involved in plans to obtain another PET-CT scanner for veterinary clinical services and biomedical research initiatives.

Access to this technology will benefit the college's oncology research program that received another boost this year. In February 2011, the WCVM finalized an agreement with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to purchase its existing 6MV linear accelerator. This machine will be a means for improving the quality of health care and for expanding the WCVM's contributions to the field of oncology during the next decade. It will be installed and commissioned in our pet radiation therapy centre in 2012.

Besides its importance for our radiation oncology program, the linear accelerator will reinforce our partnerships with human health researchers. It will also open the door to more studies involving animal cancers as comparative models for human patients. As well, it will enhance education and training for students enrolled in veterinary, biomedical and medical programs.

These activities are in sync with the university's efforts to strengthen interprofessional connections between its health science colleges on campus. Our university brings the One Health concept to life, positioning us to address global health issues that affect animals, people and the environment.

2011  
ANNUAL REPORT

**Hospital Name Change:** The U of S recently approved the name change of the WCVM Veterinary Teaching Hospital to the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC). The new name better reflects the facility's multiple roles to the public. While the hospital continues to play an integral role in educating future veterinarians and specialists, it's also a dynamic centre for primary animal health care, specialized veterinary services, health care research that benefits animals and humans, and community outreach.

**Diagnostics Complex:** The WCVM expansion's final phase wrapped up in November 2011 with the completion of Western Canada's most comprehensive, biosecure laboratory complex for all animal species. Supported by the federal and provincial governments through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP), this advanced facility allows veterinarians to rapidly diagnose high-risk cases of animal disease and infectious pathogens. It also provides biosecure space for researchers to study diseases such as BSE and chronic wasting disease.

To mark the completion of the diagnostics complex, the WCVM hosted a special celebration on November 18. The event was held in the college's new pathology demonstration area that's equipped with bleacher seating, digital audio-visual equipment and a giant screen. The new facility provides students, faculty and staff with exceptional views of specimens during pathology courses, disease investigations and graduate student presentations.

**Equine Performance Centre Expansion:** The 1,000-square-metre expansion of our equine performance centre is scheduled for completion in January 2012. We look forward to using the facilities and resources — including a standing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit — for the College's clinical, education and research programs. Once the upgraded centre is open, clinicians can offer MRI, computed tomography (CT) and nuclear scintigraphy to equine patients. The WCVM centre will be among a small group of equine hospitals that can provide this full range of diagnostic imaging.

**WCVM Award Recipients :** A number of WCVM students, faculty, staff and alumni have been recognized for their accomplishments in the past year. Here are some highlights:

- Fourth-year veterinary student **Kelsey Brandon** of Carbon, Alta., was among 16 recipients of a Cattlemen's Young Leaders (CYL) mentorship opportunity organized by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.
- **Dr. Kristyna Musil** of Winnipeg, MB, was the 2011 WCVM Faculty Gold Medal recipient at this year's U of S Convocation.
- **Dr. Vikram Misra** was the WCVM's 2011 recipient of the University of Saskatchewan Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching.

- WCVM instructors earned four of this year's Teaching Excellence Awards from the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU). The WCVM award recipients were **Drs. Rhonda Shewfelt, Cindy Shmon, Susan Taylor and Barry Blakley**.
- **Dr. Trisha Dowling** was named a Teaching Scholar of the Centre for Discovery in Learning by the U of S Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness.
- **Dr. Cheryl Waldner** received the 2011 Intervet/Schering-Plough Award during the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's annual conference.
- **Dr. Lydden Polley** received the World Association for the Advancement of Parasitology's Bayer Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- **Dr. David Chalack** (WCVM '75) of Calgary, AB, was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame on November 6, 2011.
- **Dr. Carol Morgan** (WCVM '88) of Victoria, B.C. was the 2011 recipient of the Frederic Award for Excellence in Animal Welfare. The award is annually presented by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies.

In conclusion, I wish to point out that the veterinary college is finalizing its "blueprint" for the next four years as part of the university's integrated planning process. Now that our seven-year infrastructure project is finally complete, our future plans include a greater focus on developing and enhancing the college's programs for education, clinical services and research.

It will be an exciting year as we begin to initiate some of these plans — stay tuned for more information in my regular updates to the ABVMA.

## Historical Advisory Group

### Dr. Don W. MacDonald

The Historical Advisory group and a number of ABVMA members are writing a history book which will cover the years 1991 – 2010. Dr. Ron Clarke provided valuable editorial assistance in the production of this book.

The Historical Advisory Group continues to publish autobiographies of ABVMA members in the ABVMA Member's Magazine.



# 2011 Financial Report

48

## Unaudited

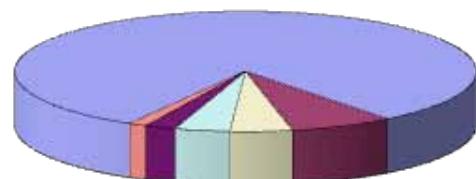
### INCOME

	2011 Performance	2011 Budget	Performance as % of Budget	2012 Budget
4600 · Total ABVMA registration	1,756,525.33	1,587,956.5	110.62%	1,825,762.00
4200 · Communications revenue	156,981.43	171,409.07	91.58%	150,000.00
4400 · Regulatory	93,756.68	50,000.00	187.51%	50,000.00
4352 · Practice Inspection Fees	83,636.81	91,546.46	91.36%	92,000.00
4010 · Interest income on investments	46,335.00	40,600.00	114.13%	41,000.00
4610 · Programs revenue	27,174.26			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,164,409.51</b>	<b>1,941,512.1</b>	<b>111.48%</b>	<b>2,158,762.00</b>

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

ABVMA Registration	Administration Fee, Permits to Practice/Incorp Perm, Other Income, Student Members, AHT Registration, DVM Registration
Communications:	Magazine and Directory Advertising
Regulatory	Practice Review Board; Discipline/Complaints Program
Practice Inspection fees	Practice Fee
Interest income on investment	Interest
Programs Revenue	Member Wellness, General Donations,

■ 4600 · Total ABVMA registration	81%
■ 4200 · Communications revenue	7%
■ 4400 · Regulatory	5%
■ 4352 · Practice Inspection Fees	4%
■ 4010 · Interest income on investments	2%
■ 4610 · Programs revenue	1%



AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



## Unaudited

### EXPENSE

	2011 Performance	2011 Budget	Performance as % of Budget	2012 Budget
6000 · Administration	1,399,755.61	1,325,085.06	105.64%	1,432,381.00
6300 · Governance & Delegation	318,878.86	300,368.45	106.16%	333,227.00
6225 · Communications	190,842.45	188,141.55	101.44%	199,427.00
6456 · Regulatory Expenses	151,710.56	102,442.00	148.09%	100,000.00
6301 · Programs Expenses	149,643.96	101,559.46	147.35%	102,000.00
Total Income	\$ 2,210,831.44	\$ 2,017,596.52	\$ 109.58%	\$ 2,167,035.00

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

#### Administration

Office supplies, Copy charges, Travel expenses, Repairs and maintenance, Telephone, Insurance, Depreciation, Postage and courier, Office rent and upkeep, Wages and benefits, Legal fees, Bank and credit card charges, Professional fees

#### Governance and Delegation

Council meetings, Legislated and professional development committees, Annual General Meeting, Council and committee training, Representation /delegation

#### Communications

Public relations and awards, Student Programs, Publications and website

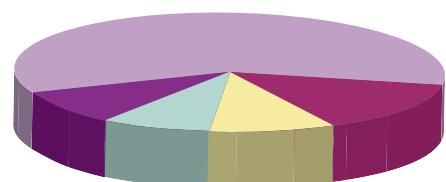
#### Regulatory Expenses

Discipline and Complaints program (legal hearings and investigation), Practice review board

#### Programs Expenses

PIPS inspection, Professional wellness expense, Radio campaign expenses, Conventions and seminars, PIPS other expenses

[purple square]	6000 · Administration	63%
[dark purple square]	6300 · Governance & Delegation	14%
[yellow square]	6225 · Communications	9%
[teal square]	6456 · Regulatory Expenses	7%
[dark purple square]	6301 · Programs Expenses	7%



# Deloitte.

### To the Members of Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, which comprise the statement of financial position as at October 31, 2011, and the statements of unappropriated members' deficit, revenues and expenditures and cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### **Management's responsibility for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

#### **Basis for qualified opinion**

As explained in Note 9 to the financial statements, the CanWest Veterinary Conference hosted by the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia during 2010 had not been recorded in the October 31, 2010 financial

**AN EVOLUTION**  
**ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



statements. The effect of this departure from Canadian generally accepted accounting principles on the October 31, 2010 financial statements, and the opening members' equity balance and assets and liabilities for the year ended October 31, 2011, cannot be determined.

#### **Qualified opinion**

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Veterinary Medical Association as at October 31, 2011, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

"Original signed Deloitte & Touche LLP"

Chartered Accountants

December 7, 2011



# Statement of Financial Position

52

October 31, 2011

	<u>2011</u>	2010
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 179,469	\$ 190,514
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	184,470	229,919
Investments due within one year (Note 4)	301,266	717,711
Prepaid expenses	14,899	33,221
	680,104	1,171,365
INVESTMENTS (Note 4)	1,197,811	779,786
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	59,314	50,067
INTANGIBLE ASSET (Note 6)	14,012	24,237
	\$ 1,951,241	\$ 2,025,455
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 122,192	\$ 164,603
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	637,311	677,377
	759,503	841,980
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Note 9)		
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
Unappropriated members' deficit	(190,640)	(112,223)
Operating reserve	994,850	959,271
Program reserve	221,078	168,171
Professional wellness reserve	93,124	93,952
Investment in capital assets	59,314	50,067
Investment in intangible asset	14,012	24,237
	1,191,738	1,183,475
	\$ 1,951,241	\$ 2,025,455

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Signed Dr. Annabelle Denson, Director

Signed Dr. Duane Landals, Director

The accompanying notes and schedule are an integral part of the financial statements.

**AN EVOLUTION**  
**ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



# Statement of Unappropriated Members' Deficit

53

Year ended October 31, 2011

	<u>2011</u>	2010
UNAPPROPRIATED MEMBERS' DEFICIT, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ (112,223)	\$ (61,570)
TRANSFER TO EQUITY IN CAPITAL ASSETS AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS*	978	10,421
TRANSFER TO OPERATING RESERVE	(35,579)	(132,095)
ADJUSTMENT TO MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS, END OF YEAR	(15,319)	(28,018)
TRANSFER TO PROGRAM RESERVE	(52,907)	(58,407)
TRANSFER FROM PROGRAM RESERVE	-	45,000
TRANSFER FROM (TO) PROFESSIONAL WELLNESS RESERVE	828	(15,106)
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	23,582	127,552
UNAPPROPRIATED MEMBERS' DEFICIT, END OF YEAR	\$ (190,640)	\$ (112,223)

\*COMPRISED OF:

Depreciation and amortization	\$ 28,984	\$ 24,313
Purchase of capital and intangible assets	(28,006)	(13,892)
	\$ 978	\$ 10,421

The accompanying notes and schedule are an integral part of the financial statements.

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



# Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

54

Year ended October 31, 2011

2011 Budget (unaudited - Note 11)	2011	2010
---	------	------

## REVENUES

Registration			
ABVMA memberships	\$ 1,380,160	\$ 1,480,736	\$ 1,368,333
Incorporation permits	48,299	104,602	47,989
Licensing fees	33,938	114,496	37,601
AHT memberships	125,560	111,867	107,587
Communications - newsletter/magazine/roster	171,409	156,981	175,212
Programs - Schedule	29,232	878,349	134,616
Practice inspections	91,546	28,461	81,292
Professional wellness			
General	-	20,452	22,187
Recovery	-	6,722	67,663
Investment interest	40,600	46,335	50,606
Regulatory			
Discipline/complaints program	50,000	93,757	150,029
	<b>1,970,744</b>	<b>3,042,758</b>	<b>2,243,115</b>

## EXPENDITURES

Governance			
Leadership weekend	115,000	150,161	83,846
Representation/delegation	101,783	70,003	44,460
Council and other committee meetings	83,585	99,764	123,612
Communications			
Publication and website	124,070	126,639	122,735
Public relations and awards	41,764	44,643	47,521
Student programs	22,308	19,883	23,382
Programs - Schedule	92,800	809,266	134,616
Professional wellness	-	28,002	74,743

AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Practice inspections	<b>95,000</b>	<b>101,191</b>	84,664
Economic survey	<b>11,604</b>	<b>4,169</b>	10,470
Career development video	-	<b>16,244</b>	20,881
Radio winter campaign	-	<b>37</b>	10,000
Administration			
Wages and benefits	<b>755,406</b>	<b>761,233</b>	781,974
Office rent	<b>162,523</b>	<b>238,023</b>	162,493
Professional services	<b>71,224</b>	<b>101,823</b>	71,788
Office operations	<b>81,036</b>	<b>120,653</b>	74,666
General legal fees	<b>49,828</b>	<b>98,278</b>	50,938
Credit cards	<b>38,011</b>	<b>49,475</b>	34,565
Postage and courier	<b>17,057</b>	<b>29,342</b>	12,286
Regulatory			
Discipline/complaints program	<b>152,442</b>	<b>150,347</b>	145,923
	<b>2,015,441</b>	<b>3,019,176</b>	2,115,563
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ <b>(44,697)</b>	<b>23,582</b>	127,552
MEMBERS' EQUITY, BEGINNING OF YEAR		<b>1,183,475</b>	1,083,941
FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS		<b>(15,319)</b>	(28,018)
MEMBERS' EQUITY, END OF YEAR		<b>\$ 1,191,738</b>	\$ 1,183,475

The accompanying notes and schedule are an integral part of the financial statements.



## Statement of Cash Flow

56

Year ended October 31, 2011

	<u>2011</u>	2010
<b>NET INFLOW (OUTFLOW) OF CASH RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES</b>		
OPERATING		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 23,582	\$ 127,552
Item not affecting cash		
Depreciation and amortization	28,984	24,313
	<b>52,566</b>	151,865
Changes in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	45,449	(95,805)
Prepaid expenses	18,322	(1,989)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(42,411)	(152,254)
Deferred revenue	(40,066)	399,936
	<b>33,860</b>	301,753
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital and intangible assets	(28,006)	(13,892)
Redemption of investments	710,101	349,859
Purchase of investments	(727,000)	(625,000)
	<b>(44,905)</b>	(289,033)
<b>NET CASH (OUTFLOW) INFLOW</b>	<b>(11,045)</b>	12,720
<b>CASH POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>190,514</b>	177,794
<b>CASH POSITION, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 179,469</b>	\$ 190,514

The accompanying notes and schedule are an integral part of the financial statements.

AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Year ended October 31, 2011

## 1. PURPOSE OF ASSOCIATION

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (the "Association") is the official body in which all veterinarians practicing their profession in Alberta must maintain membership. The Association serves the public through self-governance in accordance with the Veterinary Profession Act. This includes licensing, discipline and the setting and maintenance of high levels of practice standards. The Association is a not-for-profit medical organization under the Canadian Income Tax Act and, as such, is not subject to income tax.

## 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") using the deferral method of recognizing revenues and they reflect the following significant accounting policies:

### ***Cash***

Cash consists of cash on hand and cash on deposit in bank accounts. Included in cash is \$31,635 (2010 - \$30,619) related to the Radiation Protection Program.

### ***Capital assets***

Capital assets are stated at cost and depreciated at rates disclosed in Note 5.

### ***Intangible assets***

Intangible assets are assets that lack physical substance. Intangible assets with a definite useful life are amortized over their estimated useful life in accordance with the rates disclosed in Note 6.

### ***Long-lived assets***

When a long-lived asset no longer has any service potential to the Association, an impairment loss is recognized. The amount of the impairment loss is determined as the excess of the carrying value of the asset over its residual value.

### ***Revenue recognition***

Membership fees are levied by the Association to its members on a calendar year basis and are recorded as income on a straight-line basis over the 12-month period to which they relate.

### ***Financial instruments***

The Association's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, investments and accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The Association has classified cash as held-for-trading. The Association has classified its accounts receivable as loans and receivables and classified its accounts payable and accrued liabilities as other financial liabilities. The Association has classified all of its investments as available-for-sale. These investments are subject to a regular review for losses that are other than temporary. Available-for-sale investments are written down to fair value through the statement of revenues over expenditures whenever it is necessary to reflect an other-than-temporary impairment. The fair value of investments is determined from quoted market prices.

The Association accounts for the purchase and sale of investments using settlement date accounting. Transaction costs related to the Association's available-for-sale investments are included in their carrying values, and are then recognized over the life of the instrument using the effective interest method.

The Association has applied Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA") Handbook Section 3861, Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Presentation, in place of Section 3862, Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Section 3863, Financial Instruments – Presentation.

#### ***Fair value of financial instruments***

The fair value of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities is approximately equal to their carrying value due to their short-term maturity. Fair value of investments is disclosed in Note 4.

#### ***Credit risk***

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counterparty will fail to perform its obligations. The Association is exposed to credit risk through the many sources of revenue which is mitigated by the large number of members and other customers.

#### ***Market price and interest rate risk***

The Association is exposed to fluctuations in the market prices of its investments. This risk is managed by the Association's investment policies which prescribe limitations regarding the type of investments. In addition, the Association is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to the amount of interest earned on term deposits.

#### ***Use of estimates***

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with Canadian GAAP, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Due to the inherent uncertainty involved in making such estimates, actual results could differ from these estimates. Significant areas



that require the use of management's estimates include the collectible amounts of accounts receivable, the useful lives of capital assets and intangible assets and the corresponding rates of amortization, the amount of accrued liabilities and the fair value of financial instruments.

### ***Members' equity***

The Association relies mainly on the members subscriptions to finance its operations. The funds available are allocated to the various programs based on the priorities identified by the Council. The objective is to set aside at least 45% of annual income as reserve for operations and up to 10% of annual income as reserve for programs.

The members' equity of the Association consists of the unappropriated members' deficit, equity in capital assets and intangible assets, and operating, program and professional wellness reserves.

Transfers from equity in capital and intangible assets consist of additions funded through operations and depreciation.

In 2011, the Association's Council approved the use of \$50,000 from the program reserve to fund the development of a video conferencing system. The amount will be transferred in the year costs are incurred. In 2010, a transfer of \$45,000 was approved and made to unappropriated members' equity from the program reserve. These internally restricted amounts are not available for general operations without approval of the Council.

### ***Contributed services***

Volunteers contribute time each year to ensure certain programs are delivered. Because of the difficulty of compiling these hours and the fact that these services are not otherwise purchased, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

### ***Future accounting changes***

On December 1, 2010, the CICA released the new accounting framework applicable to Canadian not-for-profit organizations, which is effective for fiscal years beginning January 1, 2012. Not-for-profit organizations will have to choose between International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (NFPOs), whichever suits them best. Early adoption of these standards is permitted. The Association has not yet determined which framework it will adopt.

### 3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Accrued interest	\$ 10,057	\$ 8,385
Goods and services tax	20,547	10,988
Other receivables, including dues	153,866	210,546
	<b>\$ 184,470</b>	<b>\$ 229,919</b>

### 4. INVESTMENTS

	<u>2011</u>	
	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Cost</u>
\$139,000, 4.9% Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation due December 1, 2013	\$ 152,503	\$ 147,328
\$81,000, 5% Province of Ontario series non-callable due March 8, 2014	88,432	89,130
\$188,000, 4.75% Province of Ontario Note due June 2, 2013	202,209	195,631
\$99,000, 4.4% Province of Ontario Note due December 2, 2011	101,064	100,939
\$25,000, 3.3% Alberta Capital Bonds due March 15, 2015	25,520	25,000
\$200,000, 2.05% Bank of Nova Scotia Guaranteed Investment Certificates due October 13, 2012	200,202	200,000
\$200,000, 2.35% Bank of Nova Scotia Guaranteed Investment Certificates compounded due June 30, 2014	201,584	200,000
\$227,000, 1.75% BMO Advisors Advan. Guaranteed Investment certificates compounded due September 15, 2014	227,501	227,000
\$300,000, 2.5% BMO Advisors Advan. Guaranteed Investment certificates due October 28, 2015	300,062	300,000
	<b>1,499,077</b>	<b>1,485,028</b>
Investments due within one year	301,266	300,939
	<b>\$ 1,197,811</b>	<b>\$ 1,184,089</b>

	<u>2010</u>	
	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Cost</u>
\$139,000, 4.9% Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation due December 1, 2013	\$ 154,662	\$ 147,328

\$98,000, 3.75% Farm Credit Canada due June 15, 2011	100,820	99,162
\$211,000 3.75% Government of Canada Bond due September 1, 2011	216,790	210,939
\$81,000, 5% Province of Ontario series non-callable due March 8, 2014	89,501	89,130
\$188,000, 4.75% Province of Ontario Note due June 2, 2013	205,883	195,631
\$99,000, 4.4% Province of Ontario Note due December 2, 2011	104,045	100,939
\$25,000, 3.3% Alberta Capital Bonds due March 15, 2015	25,515	25,000
\$400,000, 1.15% RBC 30 day Cashable Guaranteed Investment certificates due October 21, 2011	400,101	400,000
\$200,000, 2.05% Bank of Nova Scotia Guaranteed Investment certificates due October 13, 2012	200,180	200,000
	1,497,497	1,468,129
Investments due within one year	717,711	710,101
	\$ 779,786	\$ 758,028

## 5. CAPITAL ASSETS

		2011			2010	
	Rates	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value	Net Book Value	
Furniture and fixtures	20%	\$ 104,023	\$ 60,230	\$ 43,793	\$ 39,207	
Computer hardware	3 years	34,612	19,734	14,878	10,090	
Computer software	100%	12,757	12,114	643	770	
Leasehold improvements	5 years	980	980	-	-	
		\$ 152,372	\$ 93,058	\$ 59,314	\$ 50,067	

## 6. INTANGIBLE ASSET

		2011			2010	
	Rates	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value	
Website	5 years	\$ 51,125	\$ 37,113	\$ 14,012	\$ 24,237	



## 7. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue represents consists of funds received that are restricted for specific purposes or relate to future periods, as follows:

	2011	2010
Memberships	\$ 240,242	\$ 227,429
Practice inspection renewals	60,066	55,175
Radiation Protection Program	27,966	27,647
Biosecurity awareness initiative	34,234	114,344
Biosecurity standards guide	10,210	125,001
Biosecurity	49,233	-
Foreign qualification recognition	85,804	109,379
John Waters workshop	9,494	18,402
Euthanasia program	120,062	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 637,311	\$ 677,377

## 8. CANWEST VETERINARY CONFERENCE

The CanWest Veterinary Conference (the "Conference") was hosted by the Association (2010 - jointly hosted by the Association and the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia ("CVBC"). In 2011, revenues of \$404,811 and expenses of \$377,497 were recorded. As the Conference is held near year-end, not all information regarding 2011 expenses was received. Financial information related to the 2010 Conference hosted by CVBC was not available to the Association.

## 9. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Association is committed to aggregate minimum annual rentals in the next three years for office premises and equipment rental as follows:

2012	\$ 98,458
2013	103,274
2014	45,944

The Association has committed to annually contribute \$3,000 to the Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Symposium to support a student member of the Association.



## 10. BUDGET

The Council approved this budget on October 21, 2010.

## 11. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Association defines capital as the sum of unappropriated members' deficit, internally restricted reserves and investment in capital and intangible assets. The Association is not subject to external restrictions. Internal restrictions are disclosed in Note 3.

Policies have been established to preserve the financial condition of the Association and financial reports are reviewed regularly by management and the Council members.

There have been no changes to the capital management objectives, policies and procedures since the preceding year.

## 12. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.



# Schedule of Restricted Program Activity

64

Year ended October 31, 2011

2011

	CanWest	Foreign Qualification Recognition	Biosecurity Standards Guide	Biosecurity Awareness Initiative
Opening deferred revenue	\$ -	\$ 109,379	\$ 125,001	\$ 114,344
Add: Program funding received	404,811	-	-	-
Less: Revenue recognized	404,811	23,575	114,791	80,110
Ending deferred revenue	\$ -	\$ 85,804	\$ 10,210	\$ 34,234
Expenses	\$ 331,732	\$ 23,575	\$ 114,791	\$ 80,110

2010

	CanWest	Foreign Qualification Recognition	Biosecurity Standards Guide	Biosecurity Awareness Initiative
Opening deferred revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Add: Program funding received	1,054	139,500	159,500	137,500
Less: Revenue recognized	1,054	30,121	34,499	23,156
Ending deferred revenue	\$ -	\$ 109,379	\$ 125,001	\$ 114,344
Expenses	\$ 1,054	\$ 30,121	\$ 34,499	\$ 23,156

AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



2011

Biosecurity	Radiation Program	John Waters Workshop	Euthanasia	Alberta Veterinary Surveillance	Total
\$ -	\$ 27,647	\$ 18,402	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 394,773
158,000	30,343	3,581	207,500		820,579
108,767	30,024	12,489	87,438	16,344	878,349
\$ 49,233	\$ 27,966	\$ 9,494	\$ 120,062	\$ -	\$ 337,003
<b>\$ 108,767</b>	<b>\$ 30,024</b>	<b>\$ 12,489</b>	<b>\$ 87,438</b>	<b>\$ 20,340</b>	<b>\$ 809,266</b>

2010

Biosecurity	Radiation Program	John Waters Workshop	Euthanasia	Alberta Veterinary Surveillance	Total
\$ -	\$ 16,542	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,542
-	29,139	18,568	-	27,586	512,847
-	18,034	166	-	27,586	134,616
\$ -	\$ 27,647	\$ 18,402	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 394,773
\$ -	\$ 18,034	\$ 166	\$ -	\$ 27,586	\$ 134,616

# 2011 ABVMA Staff

## Management:

**Dr. Duane Landals**, *Registrar / Secretary-Treasurer*

[duane.landals@abvma.ca](mailto:duane.landals@abvma.ca)

Dr. Darrell Dalton, *Deputy Registrar*

[darrell.dalton@abvma.ca](mailto:darrell.dalton@abvma.ca)

**Dr. Phil Buote**, *Complaints Director*

[phil.buote@abvma.ca](mailto:phil.buote@abvma.ca)

**Mrs. Midge Landals**, *Manager Communications and Member Services*

[midge.landals@abvma.ca](mailto:midge.landals@abvma.ca)

## Support:

**Ms. Lisa Barry**, *Administrative Assistant*

[lisa.barry@abvma.ca](mailto:lisa.barry@abvma.ca)

**Mrs. Brenda Betnar**, *Receptionist / Administrative Assistant*

[brenda.betnar@abvma.ca](mailto:brenda.betnar@abvma.ca)

**Ms. Chris Galenza**, *Administrative Assistant*

[christin.galenza@abvma.ca](mailto:christin.galenza@abvma.ca)

**Mrs. Carmen Luca**, *Accounts Administrator*

[carmen.luca@abvma.ca](mailto:carmen.luca@abvma.ca)

**Ms. Janeen McPhee**, *Administrator – PIPS & Radiation Programs*

[janeen.mcphee@abvma.ca](mailto:janeen.mcphee@abvma.ca)

**Mrs. Kathy Mosmann**, *Executive Assistant – Member Services*

[kathy.mosmann@abvma.ca](mailto:kathy.mosmann@abvma.ca)

AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



## 2011 Ex-Officio Members of Council

67

**Mrs. Nichole Boutilier, RAHT**

Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists

**Dr. Alastair Cribb**

University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

**Dr. Gerald Hauer**

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

**Dr. Krista Howden**

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

**Dr. Troy Bourque**

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

**Dr. Douglas Freeman**

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

2011  
ANNUAL REPORT

# 2011 LEGISLATED STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

## DISCIPLINE

### *Hearing Tribunal*

	Dr. Rod McFarlane
	Dr. Greg McFetridge
	Dr. Danny Joffe
	Dr. Jim Lawrence
	Dr. Lloyd Keddie
	Dr. Calvin Booker
	Dr. Bob Ruckman
	Dr. Brent Jackson
	Dr. Dan Schlesinger
	Dr. Carol Poland
	Dr. Tim Keogan
	Dr. Sylvia Checkley
Hearings Director	Dr. Nick Nation
Public Member	Mr. John DeJong
Public Member	Mr. Dwayne Rawson
Public Member	Ms. Susie Coen
Ex-Officio, AHT	Mrs. Cindy Beecher

### *Complaint Review*

Chair	Dr. Robert Coppock
Vice Chair	Dr. Randy Killeen
	Dr. Louis Kwantes
	Dr. Lisa Lomsnes
	Dr. Stephen Chandler
	Dr. Pat Burrage
Public Member	Deborah Bresee
Public Member	Leanne Binetruy
Ex-Officio, AHT	Alahna Hunter, RAHT

## PRACTICE INSPECTION & PRACTICE STANDARDS

Chair	Dr. Kate Kewish
Vice Chair	Dr. Colleen Pratt
	Dr. Greg Parks
	Dr. Christina Jones
	Dr. Kevin MacAulay
	Dr. Nick Nation
	Dr. Roxy Bell
	Dr. Darlene Donszelmann
	Dr. Chris Belan
	Dr. Nancy Bruyere
	Dr. Peter Claffey
	Dr. Deb Muirhead
	Dr. Jenifer Parks
	Dr. Jen Willans
	Smokey Walters, RAHT

## REGISTRATION

Chair	Dr. Margitta Dziwenka
Vice Chair	Dr. Jane Mahon
	Dr. Jacob Adserballe
	Dr. Jocelyn Forseille
	Dr. Gordon Strick
	Dr. Katie Van Sluys
	Becky Taylor, RAHT

## PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD

Chair	Dr. Jarrett Ferrier
Vice Chair	Dr. Tom Picherack
	Dr. Cary Hashizume
	Dr. Dianna Smith
	Dr. Rodney Gale
	Dr. Shawn Mattson
	Dr. Jagdeesh Tuli
	Dr. Jennifer Scott
	Dr. Annabelle Denson
Public Member	Ms. Donna von Hauff
Ex-Officio, AHT	Andrea Edwards



# 2011 NON-LEGISLATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

70

## ALTERNATE LIVESTOCK & WILDLIFE

Chair	Dr. Doug Whiteside
Vice Chair	Dr. Milton Ness
	Dr. James Marshall
	Dr. Amanda Emery
	Dr. Susan Cork

Dr. Mandi Maclean  
Dr. Deb Harrison-Steele  
Dr. Caroline Heffernan  
Dr. Samantha Crosdale  
Val Beauliu, RAHT

## ANIMAL WELFARE

Chair	Dr. Natalie Bragg
Vice Chair	Dr. Ross Foulston
	Dr. Kirsten Aarbo
	Dr. Charanjit Talwar
	Dr. Kristi Volk
	Dr. Craig Wilkinson
	Dr. Darren Ludbrook
	Dr. Nigel Caulkett
	Dr. Ernie Miciak
	Dr. Kent Fenton
	Dr. Robert Coppock
	Brianne Bellwood, RAHT

## FOOD ANIMAL

Chair	Dr. Egan Brockhoff
Vice Chair	Dr. Jan Bystrom
	Dr. Alan Bergen
	Dr. Ron Clarke
	Dr. Brian Edge
	Dr. Tom Inglis
	Dr. Dawn Magrath
	Dr. Anne-Marie Malard-Russ
	Dr. Colleen Annett
	Dr. John Berezowski
	Darcie Steffler, RAHT

## VET MED 21

Acting Chair

Dr. Terry Hunt  
Dr. Toni Bayans  
Dr. Bonnie Buntain  
Dr. Jocelyn Forseille  
Dr. David Hall  
Dr. Kenneth Hubbard  
Dr. Jeff Person  
Dr. Bob Ruckman  
Dr. Troy Bourque  
Dr. Lucas Yuricek  
Elizabeth Zabori, RAH

## COMPANION ANIMAL

Chair	Dr. Leslie Anne Smith
Vice Chair	Dr. G. Neal Mauldin
	Dr. Gerald Burant
	Dr. Pradeep Budihal
	Dr. Jennifer Heddema
	Dr. Catherine Dick
	Dr. Ken Keeler
	Vanessa Christensen, RAHT

## EQUINE

Chair	Dr. David Bell
Vice Chair	Dr. Brian Heide
	Dr. Chris Berezowski

AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



## 2011 Advisory Groups

71

### Historical Advisory Group

Dr. Duane Landals

Dr. Donald MacDonald

Dr. Nick Nation

2011  
ANNUAL REPORT



## A Year at a Glance

72



AN EVOLUTION  
ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



# A Year at a Glance



2011  
ANNUAL REPORT



# **AB.VMA**

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

**#950, Weber Centre, 5555 Calgary Trail NW**

**Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5P9**

**Tel: 780-489-5007**

**Toll Free: 1-800-404-2862**

**Facsimile: 780-484-8311**

**Website: [www.abvma.ca](http://www.abvma.ca)**