OUR MISSION: To protect and advocate for animals while providing leadership and service opportunities that support a humane veterinary profession.

SERVICE  ADVOCACY  EDUCATION
President’s Message

Gary Block, DVM, MS, DACVIM
HSVMA Board President

Like many of you, I have been involved in the animal protection movement for many years. And like many of you, I am often frustrated with the slow pace of change when it comes to how we treat animals in this country and throughout the world. We sometimes forget, though, where we’ve been and become blinded by where we want to be.

In veterinary school, I could not understand how an enlightened university could serve veal in the cafeteria, and I was dumbfounded when I showed up for class one day to find many of my male classmates absent because it was the first day of hunting season. Declawing and tail docking were routine parts of our veterinary surgical training, and survival surgeries where a single animal was operated on multiple times over weeks was the norm.

To say things have improved over the last few decades would be an understatement. This is not only true for veterinary education but in a wide range of businesses and industries that involve animals. Factory farming methods, long focused on defining success by pounds of beef, chicken, eggs or pork produced, have responded to public pressure and scientific evidence by (incrementally and begrudgingly) modifying some of their more egregious intensive confinement methods. Whether it’s giving pigs room to turn around or chickens enough space to exhibit some of their basic behaviors, we are seeing a shift toward more humane housing for these animals. Who could have predicted a few years ago that circuses using elephants and other wild animals would shutter or that breeding Killer whales about which we share the earth. We all know there’s still a long way to go, but let’s not lose sight of where we’ve been and all that we’ve accomplished.

Massive use of antibiotics as growth promoters and to compensate for deficient husbandry has become recognized as a human and animal health issue, and veterinarians, farmers and the government are recognizing their responsibility to address this serious issue. Puppy mills, long flying under the public’s radar, have been outed as serial animal abusers, and many municipalities and some states have started to crack down on these businesses or forbid the sale of animals sourced from these facilities.

What all of the aforementioned issues have in common is that the HSVMA and its members have played a role in advancing this pro-animal welfare agenda. Whether it’s testifying at statehouses, providing CE to our colleagues, serving as resources on animal welfare related issues for the veterinary community, writing letters to the editor or publishing articles in professional journals, our members have continued to play a critical role as articulate, passionate and well-educated advocates for animals.

And while the advocacy work continues, HSVMA can also be proud of the role that so many of our members play in providing direct care to animals in need. Whether it’s volunteering for the Rural Area Veterinary Service (RAVS) or Pets for Life programs to help those without access to veterinary care, or assisting local animal rescue groups, shelters and sanctuaries in your home communities, the compassion and commitment of our members serves as an inspiration to the profession and the animal protection movement as a whole that we are living in a more humane world.

Progress for animals often comes in fits and starts, and one can become disillusioned by the slow pace and occasional setbacks we suffer. I know our efforts on behalf of animals are not all rainbow and unicorns. As a younger activist, I would often let the perfect become the enemy of the good. But let’s not forget how much has improved over the last 20 years and how much the pendulum has swung toward improving the welfare of animals with which we share the earth. We all know there’s still a lot to be done for animals, but let’s not lose sight of where we’ve been and all that we’ve accomplished.

Gary Block, DVM, MS, DACVIM
HSVMA Board President

P.S. You may have noticed that the timing of our Year in Review has changed. We are now covering the academic year as opposed to the calendar year.
HSVMA Advocacy in Action: 2017

Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA
HSVMA Veterinary Advisor

During 2017, more than 1,000 veterinary professionals joined HSVMA in actively advocating for advancements in animal welfare nationwide. Our members—including veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary medical students and veterinary technician students—in concert with our leaders, our State Representatives, our veterinary advisors, our staff, and, at times, with other like-minded stakeholder groups, worked diligently throughout the year to achieve our welfare goals. Legislatively we advocated on the local, state and federal levels, reaching out within the veterinary profession and to elected representatives—a number of whom are veterinarians themselves.

Federal, State and Local Advocacy

This year we focused our legislative efforts in four priority areas: (1) supporting mandatory veterinary reporting of animal cruelty, (2) ending extreme confinement of farm animals, (3) eliminating the pipelines from animal ‘mills’ to pet stores, and (4) protecting wildlife from harm and inhumane methods of hunting and trapping.

Mandatory Veterinary Reporting of Suspected Animal Cruelty, Abuse, Neglect and Fighting

One of HSVMA’s key legislative victories for the year was a new Maryland law that requires that veterinarians report suspected animal abuse and fighting. In exchange for their reports, veterinarians will be granted immunity from liability. HSVMA helped move this bill forward by submitting a support letter, collecting veterinary endorsements and having our Maryland State Representative, Dr. Rhonda Smetana, testify in support of the bill at a Senate committee hearing. The bill was approved by the Maryland legislature in May and was swiftly signed by the Governor. It takes effect in October 2017.

In New York, HSVMA supported similar legislation, submitting a support letter and gathering veterinary endorsements. Although the legislation was not passed, momentum was built for this reform, and there are plans to amend the bill and reintroduce it during the 2018 session.

Farm Animal Protections: Ending Extreme Confinement, Improving Welfare

In Rhode Island, HSVMA supported legislation to end the battery cage confinement of laying hens. The state had already banned pregnant sow gestation crates and veal calf crates in 2012. This bill would have also ended the sale of agricultural products derived from animals subjected to these inhumane practices. HSVMA submitted a support letter and gathered veterinary endorsements from nearly 25% of the veterinarians in the state. HSVMA also had representatives speak with the legislature and the media in support of the legislation. Although the legislation did not move forward this session, the effort did generate significant public awareness as well as support for this reform, and plans are underway to introduce the bill again in 2018.

Companion Animal Protections: Eliminating Puppy-Mill-to-Pet-Store Pipelines

In California, HSVMA supported a bill to require that pet stores source dogs, cats and rabbits exclusively from shelters and rescue organizations. We submitted a support letter and an HSVMA lobbying team spent a full day meeting with legislators and staff at the state capitol in Sacramento providing veterinary expertise on the welfare issues associated with puppy mills and pet store sales. The bill was approved by the California Legislature and was pending signature by Governor Jerry Brown in October 2017.

In New Jersey, HSVMA supported a bill to better regulate puppy mills and pet shops. This bill was passed by the New Jersey Legislature, but unfortunately it was vetoed by Governor Christie.

Wildlife Protections: Ending Inhumane Hunting, Trapping and Predator Control Methods

HSVMA was joined by veterinary members in 10 key states in opposing an effort to overturn recently implemented protections of native Alaska wildlife from extreme forms of trapping and hunting on National Wildlife Refuges. Unfortunately, the protections were overturned by the federal government.

In Massachusetts, HSVMA supported new anti-poaching and hunting regulations with HSVMA member Dr. Jennifer Maas traveling to the Statehouse in Boston to testify in support. These bills are still moving through the Legislature during 2017.

In New York, we opposed a bill that aimed to overturn a ban on the use of cruel snare traps. Unfortunately, it has passed both Houses and is awaiting Governor Cuomo’s signature.

In Oregon, HSVMA supported a bill that would improve trapping regulations with a support letter written by HSVMA State Representative, Dr. Katie Bahr, published in The Bend Bulletin. The bill was in a Senate committee when the Legislature adjourned.

In California, HSVMA submitted a letter supporting reductions in the use of certain rodenticides and pesticides because of their negative secondary effects on wildlife. This legislation is in the committee process.

We also supported California legislation allowing for the use of non-lethal alternatives by the state Department of Fish & Wildlife when conducting mountain lion depredation. This bill is moving through the committee process.

In Connecticut, HSVMA State Representative Dr. Melissa Shapiro worked on the local level to encourage the use of non-lethal methods of predator control for coyotes in her community.

Additional Legislative Welfare Advocacy

Other legislation HSVMA supported included anti-bestiality bills in Texas, West Virginia and Vermont; bills to ban traveling animal acts in Maine, Hawaii and New York City; bills to ban exotic pets in Kansas and Texas; a Massachusetts bill to require that animals used in research have the chance for adoption; and elephant protection legislation in New York.

On the federal level, HSVMA supported restoration of public access to all USDA database records related to the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act, and expressed support for all animal welfare laws enforced by the USDA. We also opposed the re-opening of any horse slaughter plants in the United States.
**HSVMA State Rep Network Continues US Expansion**

**Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA**
**HSVMA Veterinary Advisor**

What began in 2014 as a pilot program consisting of four HSVMA State Representatives has grown to a talented team of 18 Reps. We now have representatives across all regions of the United States (see right) and we are looking forward to adding additional states as the program grows and expands our outreach efforts.

The HSVMA State Rep team consists of active volunteer veterinarian liaisons who conduct outreach to their state VMAs and within the broader profession. They help our organization with advocacy on legislative initiatives, provide expert witness testimony, submit opinion pieces to media outlets and publish articles in professional journals. They also join with us in membership outreach at veterinary conferences, give talks at veterinary medical colleges and provide us with vital first-hand field perspectives from their respective states.

There is no typical background required of an HSVMA State Rep, except a strong commitment to working from within the veterinary community to help advance the health and welfare of animals in their state. In fact, we celebrate the diverse backgrounds of our team members.

Among our Reps are small animal practitioners, mixed-animal practitioners, house call veterinarians, practice owners, shelter veterinarians, a teacher of veterinary workshops for kids, board-certified internists and other specialists, academics, a public health consultant, a veterinarian journalist, veterinarians with advanced training in veterinary forensics, animal welfare, public policy, business administration and epidemiology, a founder of non-profit free clinics for pets of the homeless, a provider of MASH-style veterinary clinic services at Native American reservations, and even a couple of veterinarians who are also attorneys.

If you are interested in representing HSVMA within your state, we would be glad to speak with you about that possibility. Please contact us at advocacy@hsvma.org or visit www.hsvma.org/statereps to learn more about the program.

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**HSVMA STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

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<td>CALIFORNIA</td>
<td>Barry Kipperman, DVM, DACVIM</td>
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<td>LOUISIANA</td>
<td>Kate Maher, DVM</td>
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<td>MARYLAND</td>
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<td>TEXAS</td>
<td>Carrie Waters, DVM, MS, PhD, JD, DACVIM</td>
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**HUMANE LOBBY DAYS**

HSVMA members participate in Humane Lobby Days, alongside other animal advocates, to support animal welfare legislation in their state legislatures. In this photo, HSVMA NY State Representative Dr. Eileen Jefferson joined HSUS NY State Director Brian Shapiro and HSVMA Leadership Council member Dr. Holly Cheever at the New York Humane Lobby Day. If you are interested in participating in a Humane Lobby Day in your state, please email advocacy@hsvma.org. Photo credit: HSUS

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**Colorado State Rep Dr. Jon Geller (back row, center) organizes Street Dog Coalition events to provide care to animals of the homeless. This group volunteered for a clinic in Las Vegas during the Western Veterinary Conference.**

**Louisiana State Rep Dr. Kate Maher is working in conjunction with Acadia Animal Aid and Wings of Rescue to transport over 100 homeless dogs and cats from Louisiana to the Pacific Northwest. In the photo, Dr. Maher is completing a physical exam for a health certificate on this handsome Golden Retriever.**

**Oregon State Rep Dr. Katie Bahr does sterilization surgeries at monthly MASH clinics at the Warm Springs Reservation.**
For the eighth year in a row, HSVMA hosted an evening session at NAVC on a critical animal welfare topic. This year’s presentation featured Phil Bushby, DVM, MS, DACVS, and Nancy Kay, DVM, DACVIM, discussing the latest in spay/neuter research and tips on how to counsel clients on the issue. The presentation was a standing room only event showing there is obvious significant interest in this topic. More on the presentation, including a copy of Dr. Bushby’s review of recent research, can be found at www.hsvm.org/spayneuter.

Also during 2017, HSVMA sponsored a series of in-person RACE-approved CE sessions at the Animal Care Expo 2017 in Fort Lauderdale, FL, on a variety of shelter medicine-related topics. Those included workshops on how to operate an effective veterinary field clinic, behavioral and environmental enrichment in a shelter environment, providing access to veterinary care, best practices for shelter medicine, community cat return-to-field programs, community medicine programs and more.

In October, HSVMA hosted a special CE session for Maryland veterinarians on the subject of how to recognize and report animal abuse. This session, which was presented by Dr. Melinda Merck, an expert in the field of veterinary forensics, was set up as a result of the new Maryland law requiring veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty and fighting to their local law enforcement. HSVMA was involved in passing this legislation and offered the training to help veterinarians understand when and how to report suspected cruelty. HSVMA also offers an online RACE-approved webinar series with Dr. Merck on the same subject which is available free to all HSVMA members. Go to www.hsma.org/webinars for more information.

For more information on all HSVMA CE sessions and other events, go to www.hsma.org/events.
VOLUNTEERING WITH RAVS:
Bringing Essential Veterinary Care to Rural Communities in Need

Windi Wojdak, RVT
Director, RAVS

HSVMA PARTNERS WITH THE RURAL AREA VETERINARY SERVICES (RAVS) program to provide volunteer opportunities, for both veterinary students and veterinary professionals, to help underserved rural communities throughout the United States.

RAVS teams work primarily with Native American communities to set up MASH-style mobile field clinics where they provide a range of services, including spay/neuter, preventive wellness and emergency care. These clinics provide essential veterinary services for more than 8,000 animals every year, helping to keep pets in these underserved communities healthy and with their families. The clinics also offer educational and rewarding experiences for hundreds of veterinary students and professional volunteers every year.

For Veterinary Students:
The RAVS veterinary student training program fosters both clinical development and a dedication to service through intensive hands-on experience and supportive mentorship. Approximately 200 veterinary students participate in the RAVS program every year, representing veterinary schools throughout the United States and Canada. Working one-on-one in the field with experienced veterinarians and technicians, students gain skills, confidence and a unique understanding of the issues facing underresourced communities.

For Veterinary Professionals:
At the heart of the RAVS program are the dedicated professional volunteers who generously share their time and expertise every year to provide high-quality care for animals in desperate need while also helping to train future veterinarians. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians who participate in RAVS surgical teaching clinics are eligible to receive up to 30 hours of RACE-approved continuing education credit.

Since 2003 RAVS has:
- Provided essential care for more than 118,000 animals in need.
- Trained over 5,000 veterinary students from 30 veterinary schools in field medicine, surgery and community outreach.
- Treated and improved care for animals on more than 42 Native American reservations, 35 non-native rural communities and 18 countries around the world.
- Trained over 1,000 local veterinarians and caretakers in developing countries around the world.
- Provided over $24 million worth of free veterinary services.
- Engaged more than 2,000 professional volunteers in meaningful service and mentorship opportunities.

Special Opportunity:
The RAVS San Carlos Outreach Project in Arizona is an intensive community development project using a range of approaches from large scale field clinics to door-to-door outreach to address the most critical animal health and welfare issues in a high-risk focus community. Our Outreach Team provides care to approximately 2,000 animals every year on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, and a variety of volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

RAVS ability to provide quality veterinary care depends on the many dedicated veterinary professional volunteers who generously share their time and expertise in our field clinics each year as well as the many veterinary students who participate in the program. Check our clinic schedule, find more information on how you can get involved and fill out an application at hsvma.org/ravs.

The RAVS program is supported by a generous contribution from the Alex & Elisabeth Lewyt Charitable Trust.
Veterinary professionals have the skills and expertise to fill so many crucial volunteer roles in the animal protection arena, which means there are also lots of opportunities to pick the volunteer experience(s) most rewarding to you.

Whether it’s performing sterilization surgeries at the local community cat clinic, providing medical care to a senior dog rescue group, helping at a sanctuary with lions, tigers and bears, or caring for injured and orphaned wildlife, HSVM A members are volunteering in ways that are personally fulfilling to them while also providing essential care to animals in need. Here are just a few volunteer opportunities available through the Humane Society of United States’ (HSUS) programs and sanctuaries.

**PETS FOR LIFE, MULTIPLE US LOCATIONS**

The HSUS Pets for Life program extends the reach of animal services and resources in underserved urban areas in the United States. That includes providing basic wellness services and vaccination clinics in communities where there are no veterinary facilities. Veterinary professional volunteers are always needed for these events. Pets for Life operates in Los Angeles and Philadelphia as well as more than 30 other cities through its mentorship program. You can find out more at [www.petsforlife.org](http://www.petsforlife.org).

**CLEVELAND AMORY BLACK BEAUTY RANCH, MURCHISON, TEXAS**

Located about 90 miles southeast of Dallas, the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch is home to around 1,000 rescued animals, including bison, cattle, horses, burros, antelope, apes, reptiles and tigers. With over 40 species and 1,400 acres, it is America’s largest and most diverse animal sanctuary.

The ranch has a newly constructed modern veterinary hospital able to accommodate all the sanctuary’s species for medical or surgical care. They also recently finished a new equine handling facility designed by Temple Grandin, complete with indoor treatment facilities, and built around two humane hydraulic handling chutes. The ranch offers externship opportunities for veterinary students as well as volunteer opportunities for veterinary professionals. For more information, go to [www.fundforanimals.org/blackbeauty](http://www.fundforanimals.org/blackbeauty).

**SOUTH FLORIDA WILDLIFE CENTER, FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA**

The South Florida Wildlife Center rescues more than 12,000 animals a year, most of whom are native species such as alligators, egrets, opossums, pelicans, turtles and otters. The center rescues and rehabilitates injured, abused and orphaned animals until they can be returned to the wild.

The center offers an externship for fourth-year veterinary students in triage, surgery and treatment of a variety of species, as well as volunteer opportunities for veterinary professionals. Find out more at [www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org](http://www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org).

**FUND FOR ANIMALS WILDLIFE CENTER, RAMONA, CALIFORNIA**

The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center rehabilitates about 400 animals every year. Coyotes, bobcats, cougars, hawks, owls and eagles are the most frequent patients, receiving expert care until they can be returned to their natural habitats. Nearly 50 animals rescued from the exotic pet trade and cruelty cases have also found permanent homes at the center. Samson the lion, Hannah the pygmy hippo, and Sheba the cougar once suffered in the hands of private owners. To find out about volunteer opportunities, go to [www.humanesociety.org/ffawildlifecenter](http://www.humanesociety.org/ffawildlifecenter).

**DUCHESS SANCTUARY, OAKLAND, OREGON**

The 1,120-acre Duchess Sanctuary, south of Eugene, Oregon, was established in 2008 as a safe haven for 200 abused or abandoned horses, including mares saved from Canadian farms that collect urine from pregnant horses to sell to pharmaceutical companies for use in estrogen-replacement drugs. For more information on volunteering, go to [www.humanesociety.org/duchess](http://www.humanesociety.org/duchess).

**YOUR LOCAL SHELTER, RESCUE GROUP, WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

If you’re looking for volunteer opportunities closer to home, remember that your local animal shelter, rescue group or wildlife sanctuary can always use the assistance of veterinary professional volunteers. Even if you can spare just a few hours a month, your veterinary expertise will be much appreciated. And it can be a great opportunity to learn a new skill, meet other welfare-oriented advocates and feel good while giving back.
HSVMA on Campus in 2017

HSVMA’s Student Outreach Program continued to provide veterinary students with ways to advocate and advance animal welfare during 2017. Whether it was with educational talks on welfare topics through our Speaker’s Bureau, opportunities to represent HSVMA with the student chapter and representative program on veterinary campuses, or hands-on care through programs such as RAVS and Pets for Life, students continued to learn and educate others throughout the year.

Education in Animal Welfare Topics

SPEAKERS BUREAU
In 2017, HSVMA hosted presentations on a variety of animal welfare-related topics at veterinary school campuses across the country. Students heard experts present on topics such as public health, wildlife medicine, access to veterinary care issues, animal cruelty and commercial dog breeding. Suture labs were also organized at several schools in order to bring an overview of the RAVS program to students interested in taking advantage of this field service program.

WEBINAR SCREENINGS
Several HSVMA student chapters and representatives hosted screenings of one of our popular archived webinars on their campuses during 2017. Topics featured in campus screenings included cost of veterinary care, farm animal welfare and the veterinarian’s role in reporting animal cruelty.

Skills Development Opportunities Offered by HSVMA

HSVMA promotes skills development opportunities devoted to animal care and welfare. Some of the 2017 training opportunities included:

- HSVMA-RAVS clinics held on Native American reservations across the western United States
- Suture labs offered at University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Veterinary student externships at Cleveland Armory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas, and South Florida Wildlife Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
- Volunteer opportunities to participate in Pets for Life wellness clinics

For more information on the HSVMA STUDENT CHAPTER AND REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM, go to hsvma.org/students.
**HSVMA Promotes Veterinary Student Involvement in World Spay Day**

For the seventh year in a row, HSVMA sponsored World Spay Day events to promote the spaying/neutering of companion animals and provide training opportunities for veterinary students who are learning these life-saving procedures.

**WORLD SPAY DAY** is an annual campaign presented by The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International and HSVMA. Launched in 1995, it aims to encourage people to save animal lives by spaying and neutering companion animals and feral cats. World Spay Day is celebrated annually on the fourth Tuesday in February, but events take place throughout the month of February, which is recognized as Spay/Neuter Awareness Month.

HSVMA encourages veterinary students to participate in World Spay Day events because it is a great opportunity to help companion animals in their communities while also gaining some hands-on training in surgical skills. For many students, the events foster a desire to continue to help address companion animal overpopulation during their veterinary school years and beyond.

In 2017, HSVMA sponsored World Spay Day events involving veterinary students from Western University of Health Sciences and Louisiana State University. These events provided sterilization surgeries to more than 75 animals in need as well as offering hands-on training to dozens of veterinary students in a variety of tasks, ranging from surgical prep and anesthesia monitoring to assisting with surgery.

These events provided sterilization surgeries to more than 75 animals in need.

At Western University, the HSVMA Student Chapter partnered with the student chapters of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and the American Association of Feline Practitioners to trap and sterilize feral cats from the community for the World Spay Day clinic. At LSU, the students worked with faculty to host a World Spay Day clinic for cats and dogs at a local animal shelter where veterinary services are extremely limited.

In addition to the veterinary school event sponsorships, HSVMA also promotes participation in World Spay Day by all veterinary professionals as a way to address animal overpopulation. HSVMA annually awards World Spay Day Certificates of Appreciation to veterinary professionals who participate in an event. For ideas on getting involved in World Spay Day and to request a certificate of appreciation, go to hsvm.org/worldspayday.
2017 Winners for Second Annual H SVM A/O SVS COMPASSIONATE CARE SCHOLARSHIP!

H SVM A is proud to announce the winners of the second annual H SVM A/O SVS Compassionate Care Scholarship for veterinary students. H SVM A launched the award last year, in partnership with Dr. Gary Block, co-owner of Ocean State Veterinary Specialists in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, and H SVM A board member, to offer three scholarships to veterinary students who have excelled not only in their veterinary curriculum, but in their dedication to animal welfare, as well. Dr. Barry Kipperman, H SVM A California State Representative and board member, is also supporting the scholarship program to help us identify three outstanding veterinary students who deserve recognition for their herculean efforts in the animal welfare arena.

**FIRST PLACE**

**ADRIAN DANNIS**

*Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, class of 2020*

Like many veterinary students, Adrian had a special bond with her pets growing up. It wasn’t until she was working with a free clinic for the homeless that she understood the strength of that bond. “As a volunteer at the Portland Animal Welfare Team, a free clinic for the companion animals of houseless people, I interacted with clients that seemingly had nothing but would give everything for their companion animal.” The power of the human-animal bond led her to volunteer at her first RAVS clinic in San Carlos, Arizona. During the clinic, she witnessed the strong human-animal bond again, and realized that she wanted to make a difference in the lives of people by nurturing that bond through her work as a veterinarian. She has since participated in two more RAVS clinics and we hope to have her come back as a volunteer veterinarian.

Adrian’s desire to advocate not only for the human-animal bond, but also for those animals with no voice, has led her to pursue shelter medicine. According to Dr. Emily McCobb, Clinical Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at the Cummings School and Director of the Shelter Medicine Program, Adrian’s work at the Luke and Lily Lerner Spay Neuter Clinic “has been one example of how she continues to engage with her passion to help shelter animals.” She also serves as the co-president of the Shelter Medicine Club and is a student representative of the H SVM A.

Wildlife care has also been a passion of Adrian’s. As an animal care intern at the California Wildlife Center in Calabasas, California, she learned the basics of rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife for release back into the wild, with a focus on neonates and the importance of enrichment for successful release. She further honed her skills at the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA in Burlingame, California, where she worked as a wildlife technician. Adrian also spent time as an animal care intern at the Cleveland Armory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas, where she cared for domestic and exotic animals who have found sanctuary from abuse or neglect situations.

There is no doubt that Adrian has what it takes to become an outstanding veterinarian. Dr. Kirk Miller, Clinical Instructor for the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University, said of her time spent as a volunteer at the Oregon Humane Society: “She combined hard work and empathy to provide top-notch care. Her ability to provide great care under busy, sometimes stressful, conditions has served her and her patients well.”

**SECOND PLACE**

**SHAKERA FUDGE**

*Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, class of 2018*

Shakera’s passion to serve animals and their communities is evident through her extensive travel with organizations that work in underserved areas. She has traveled to Nicaragua with World Vets to help with spay/neuter and wellness for small and large animals. Shakera also volunteered at a non-profit large animal clinic in Cairo, Egypt. There she performed pregnancy checks and mastitis tests on cattle and even fed infant chimpanzees.

Currently, she is planning to travel to Bolivia with the Christian Veterinary Fellowship to serve the community through the provision of medical care for small and large animals. Shakera says that her travel has been the highlight of her journey into veterinary medicine. “These moments have been priceless and provided an eye-opening cultural experience. It brings me great satisfaction to see the smiles on people’s faces when I’m able to help their animals.”

Working as an intern at the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services served to strengthen her commitment to animal welfare and broaden her experience as a future veterinarian. Her internship provided her with hands on training and enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. She inspected animal facilities to make sure they were upholding federally established standards of care defined by the act. Related to her work with APHIS, she also interned at the Great Apes exhibit at the Smithsonian Zoo in Washington, D.C., where she was further able to apply her knowledge by providing routine inspections on the physical and psychological well-being of the resident primates and offering enrichment.

**THIRD PLACE**

**SABINE FISCHER-DALY**

*Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, class of 2018*

Sabine’s first career was as a middle and high school science teacher, and she intends to utilize her teaching experience after she finishes veterinary school. “I believe to improve the health and well-being of animals, it is essential to educate the people who interact with them,” she says in her application.

Prior to admission to veterinary school, Sabine worked at a clinic in Brooklyn, which treated shelter animals who had suffered from abuse, neglect and lack of adequate medical care. Seeing the need for veterinarians who can act as a voice for the animals who end up in shelters, she decided to pursue shelter medicine. As a veterinary student, she is an officer of her school’s shelter medicine club and was a director for the Southside Healthy Pet Clinic, a low cost vaccine clinic for low-income residents of New York.

Her skill in shelter medicine led her to be chosen for a summer job working for the American Samoa Department of Agriculture Veterinary Clinic. There she helped the island’s veterinarian manage the population of street dogs. Since many of these dogs had shown signs of leptospirosis, Sabine took and submitted blood samples to seek out the prevalence of this disease among the population.
**HSVMA in Action During 2017**

**HSVMH Veterinary Advisor Dr. Barbara Hodges (right) conducts outreach at the HSVMA booth at the 2017 AVMA veterinary conference.**

**Photo Credit: HSVMA**

The Paw Project founder Dr. Jennifer Conrad (left) is joined by Paw Project supporters and HSVMA members Drs. Susan Whittred (holding cat), Dr. Eileen Jefferson and Dr. Holly Cheever to speak in support of New York legislation sponsored by Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (right) that would ban cat declawing.

**Photo Credit: Office of Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal**

Veterinary technicians Jessica Gresham, Elisa Martin and Heather Schrader joined Drs. Barbara Hodges and Cynthia Karsten to advocate for humane legislation at the California Humane Lobby Day.

**Photo Credit: HSVMA**

HSVMH Leadership Council member Dr. Joanne Lindenmayer testifies in support of Massachusetts legislation requiring that animals used in research be offered for adoption after research is completed, at the Statehouse in Boston.

**Photo Credit: House**

University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine students participate in a HSVMA sponsored suture lab.

**Photo Credit: Dr. Susan Krebsbach**

HSVMH member Dr. Dickie Vest performs dental surgery on a resident bobcat at the Black Beauty Ranch in Murchinson, TX.

**Photo Credit: Black Beauty Ranch**
HSVMA Member Benefits

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For more information, visit [hsvma.org/insurance](http://hsvma.org/insurance).

**STAY IN THE LOOP**
Want to know what the HSVMA is doing? Make sure you are receiving our email updates and other news. Log onto [www.hsvma.org](http://www.hsvma.org) to add your email to your member profile or email membership@hsvma.org.

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**ADVOCACY**
- PO Box 208
- Davis, CA 95617
- Phone: 530-759-8106
- Email: advocacy@hsvma.org

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & SERVICES**
- 700 Professional Drive
- Gaithersburg, MD 20879
- Phone: 530-759-8106
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**MEMBER BENEFITS, CONTINUED**
Below, we have highlighted a few of the benefits HSVMA will continue to offer to our valued members throughout the coming year:

**Continuing education opportunities**
Through webinars, lectures and participation in HSVMA-RAVS, HSVMA will continue to offer multiple opportunities for members and non-members to earn CE through our programs. Learn more about these opportunities at [hsvma.org/education](http://hsvma.org/education).

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**ABAXIS**
If you work for or with a non-profit animal welfare organization—thanks to our friends at The Humane Society of the United States’ Shelter Partner program—they can take advantage of special discounts on Abaxis Veterinary Reference Laboratory Services such as VetScan Rapid Tests, VetScan VSpro Cartridges, handheld analyzers and more.

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If you are not yet a member, join us now at [hsvma.org/join](http://hsvma.org/join).

*35% Wiley-Blackwell discount is not available for German language titles or certain major reference works. For example, *Plumb’s Veterinary Drug Handbook* is only eligible for a 20% discount.

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