



HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2011



HSVMA In Action

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW



The HSVMA-RAVS team in action.

HSVMA-RAVS Update from the Field



RAVS Director Windi Wojdak handles intake at a clinic in Washington state. © Shelly Boyd

By: Windi Wojdak, RVT, Director, HSVMA Rural Area Veterinary Service

As we wrap up another successful clinic season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous progress our HSVMA-Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) program made in 2011. Throughout the year, HSVMA-RAVS field teams have provided high-quality preventive health care to more than 8,600 animals in 42 communities around the world; from Pine Ridge, South Dakota to Jimma, Ethiopia. All told, over 1.5 million dollars in essential veterinary services were delivered, all at no cost to the communities and families served.

The impact of our services on families in communities hit hard by tough economic conditions and a lack of access to veterinary care is clear. In most cases, RAVS' clinics have meant the difference between high-quality veterinary care and no care at all. For many animals, our presence has truly made the difference between life and death. Clients routinely line up outside our clinic doors—hours before we open—seeking care for their animal companions. In every area we visit, residents and community leaders express immeasurable gratitude and appreciation.

Equally important, more than 230 veterinary students from 25 different veterinary schools throughout North America participated as volunteers. Each of these students gained intensive hands-on clinical experience ranging from client communication to humane animal handling, from anesthesia to surgery. Students also gained an appreciation for the realities of life in some of the most economically impoverished communities, as well as for the many ways in which they can apply their knowledge, skills and dedication to improve the lives of animals and their people everywhere.

This year, 130 professional volunteers participated in RAVS field clinics: highly skilled and dedicated veterinarians and veterinary technicians who take time away from their jobs and their lives to generously share their skills and expertise. Student volunteers who work with these inspiring professionals can't help but be touched by the passion and commitment they demonstrate.

As our veterinary student alumni graduate, their time invested with RAVS helps them extend compassionate medical care to animals everywhere. We see evidence of this connection in the many alumni who return as volunteer veterinarians to work in RAVS clinics. In 2011, more than a third of our volunteer veterinarians were RAVS alumni.

Looking forward to 2012, we will continue the hard work of caring for animals in desperate need, reaching out to communities where no other help exists, where change is slow to happen and progress only minimally incremental. With each step forward our dedicated, compassionate staff and volunteers inspire my utmost respect. They are truly what makes it all possible.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.5 million	Value of Services Provided in 2011
8,693	Animals Treated
234	Student Volunteers Trained
130	Professional Volunteers
25	Veterinary Schools Represented

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED YOU! HSVMA-RAVS' ability to provide quality veterinary care and educational opportunities depends on the many dedicated veterinary professional volunteers who generously share their time and expertise in our field clinics each year. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are needed for our 2012 clinic season. Applications are currently being accepted. Check our clinic schedule and find more information on how you can get involved at hsvma.org.

HSVMA-RAVS CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are eligible to receive up to 30 hours of RACE-approved continuing education credit for their participation in HSVMA-RAVS clinics. Visit the HSVMA website for more information (click on HSVMA-RAVS).

HSVMA-RAVS International Program Update



Dr. Susan Monger oversees surgery instruction at Jimma University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ethiopia. The RAVS International program focuses on teaching high standards of care within the confines of locally available resources. © RAVS

**By: Susan Monger, DVM,
International Director**

SMALL ANIMAL PROGRAMS

In 2011, the HSVMA-RAVS international small animal programs provided training in the fundamentals of surgery and anesthesia at veterinary schools in Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Ethiopia. As in many veterinary colleges in emerging countries, these schools are severely challenged economically and lack many basic resources. Working one-on-one with veterinary faculty and students, HSVMA-RAVS provides training in anesthesia and surgery, supplementing and enhancing the curricula and clinical opportunities within a university. We demonstrate and teach the ability to perform surgery safely and humanely with minimal equipment and supplies, and we support university faculty efforts to incorporate these fundamentals into their academic programs.

In addition to our regular teaching clinics, this year HSVMA-RAVS introduced the first humane euthanasia training course in Bolivia. Twenty-eight veterinarians from all over Bolivia participated, learning to use sodium pentobarbital for humane euthanasia by injection. In many countries euthanasia is often performed using inhumane methods such as electrocution or chemical euthanasia with inhumane products. The acquisition of a humane euthanasia product and training in humane

euthanasia techniques represents a milestone in Bolivian animal welfare.

EQUINE PROGRAMS



Dr. Mike Russell teaches equine owners in Peru about dental examinations. © Dr. Dave Turoff

The HSVMA-RAVS equine programs in Peru, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico provided veterinary services to more than 2,300 animals in dozens of remote communities reliant on horses, mules and donkeys for their work and transportation. These animals represent a significant investment and a critical resource to their families. Access to basic humane veterinary care provided by our experienced equine field teams has a tremendous impact on the communities by improving the quality of life for the animals and the humans in them.

Focused on teaching, HSVMA-RAVS international programs support advancements in veterinary education that help more and more animals around the world receive the humane care they deserve.

2011 EQUITARIAN WORKSHOP

HSVMA, in collaboration with the National Autonomas University of Mexico (UNAM), the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and The Donkey Sanctuary, conducted the second annual Equitarian Workshop in Veracruz, Mexico October 10-15. The Equitarian Workshop was organized to further education and experience in

equine field medicine in economically challenged rural settings, while providing direct care to 1,067 horses, donkeys and mules.

Thirty attendees including veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students, farriers and community leaders, worked in extremely remote communities to provide therapeutic care to working horses. Many equids carry heavy loads on small or thin frames with little padding. This can create painful back sores which decrease their working lives. By correcting life-threatening dental conditions, providing hoof care, demonstrating handling techniques, and teaching preventive care and education classes, we help improve the welfare of these hard-working animals.

Dr. Dave Turoff, an HSVMA-RAVS lead veterinarian posted a blog from the Equitarian Workshop at http://www.hsvma.org/field_services/2011_equitarian_blog.html. His narrative about the week-long workshop highlights the extensive collaborative efforts and educational experience that took place.



Dr. Dave Turoff, an HSVMA-RAVS lead veterinarian, at work during an equine field clinic as part of the Equitarian Workshop in Veracruz, Mexico. © Marc Laxineta, DVM/robovet.net

HSVMA-RAVS VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Dr. Amanda McNabb © McNabb

For the past 12 years, **Dr. Amanda McNabb**, of Seattle's Animal Critical Care and Emergency Services, has volunteered her time with HSVMA-RAVS. Dr. McNabb first joined RAVS in 1999 as a second-year veterinary student from the University of Tennessee, and after graduating in 2002, she has returned annually.

"I've watched the program grow both in services provided and in recognition among veterinary schools as a quality source of education," she said, "Our trips are a structured medical course in themselves. It's an amazing blend of on-the-job training and academic, didactic education that you don't get even in an internship."

Dr. McNabb spends most of her time during field clinics educating veterinary students on the essentials of small animal spay and neuter surgery. When asked what impact HSVMA-RAVS has had on her personally, she notes the gratitude of the people in the communities that RAVS serves as well as the many animals who might not have survived without the program.

Dr. McNabb balances her personal and professional lives with a myriad of outdoor activities and a passion for racing bicycles. She races road bikes, participates in cyclocross, and even dabbles in mountain bike racing.

It's not unusual for veterinary student volunteers of HSVMA-RAVS, after a long and tiring two weeks in the field, to leave with the goal of one day returning to another of our field clinics. Dr. McNabb has been one of the program's most dedicated and longest-standing volunteers. We are extraordinarily fortunate to have her on our team.

On Campus in 2011



Veterinary students at Washington State University participate in an HSVMA suture lab on campus.
© Stacie Summers, HSVMA Student Chapter, Washington State University

2011 was a banner year for HSVMA's outreach efforts to veterinary students. Not only did we grow our student chapter program, we also expanded the benefits we offer to student chapters and student members.

VETERINARY SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

During the 2010-11 academic year, HSVMA hosted 13 Speakers Bureau presentations on a variety of animal welfare and practice topics including the benefits of early-age sterilization, puppy mills, and factors to consider as a new veterinarian searching for your first job. We also began to run special suture dry labs exclusively for our student chapters, offering students one-on-one time with veterinarians focused on helping them improve their suturing skills.

2011 STUDENT AVMA (SAVMA) SYMPOSIUM

HSVMA was well represented at the only veterinary student-oriented conference again this year. We hosted a booth in the exhibit hall, we offered two presentations—one on animal cruelty presented by HSVMA member Bonnie Yoffe-Sharpe, DVM, and another on the history of shelter medicine by HSVMA Leadership Council member Richard Bachman, DVM—and we offered a suture dry lab.

In conjunction with the SAVMA Symposium, HSVMA hosted a networking reception attended by veterinary students and local HSVMA professional members. The reception featured a presentation by Western University veterinary student Heather Rally about her field advocacy work on behalf of marine mammals.

STUDENT CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS

Three new veterinary student chapters were established this academic year: at Cornell University, Oregon State and the University of California at Davis, bringing our total to nine student HSVMA chapters. We're happy to report the new chapters are already quite active. Oregon State chapter members participated in a 2011 Spay Day event that reached 100 free-roaming cats, the Tufts Student Chapter held their first annual volunteer day at a local farm animal sanctuary, and a Western University veterinary student lobbied successfully for California legislation to provide rabies vaccination exemptions for ill and immune-compromised dogs—Molly's Bill (AB 258)—which was signed into law this summer.

The response from our student members this year has been overwhelmingly positive and we are looking forward to academic year 2011-2012!

HSVMA Advocacy in Action



Dr. Barbara Hodges, HSVMA Director of Veterinary Advocacy Pam Runquist and veterinary student Lisa Lippman lobby for animal welfare legislation at the State Capitol in Sacramento. ©HSVMA

**By: Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA,
HSVMA Advocacy/Policy Division**

Each year as we expand our work, we take on new challenges conducting animal-related advocacy on behalf of a variety of species ranging from companion animals and wildlife to farm animals and animals used for entertainment. We are especially thankful to our HSVMA members who have volunteered their time and expertise in assisting us with these advocacy efforts.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ADVOCACY

During 2011, HSVMA lobbied for a variety of state animal welfare reforms including legislation to ban gas chambers in Michigan shelters, to better regulate puppy mills in Texas, to prohibit the use of veal and gestation crates in Massachusetts, and to win medical exemption from rabies vaccination for ill or immune-compromised dogs in California. We also recruited more than 100 veterinarians to endorse farm animal welfare reform efforts in Oregon and Washington, which helped lead to an agricultural industry commitment to egg-laying hen welfare reform at the federal level.

On the federal level, we supported legislation to ban the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in animals raised for food, and to ban the transport and slaughter of American horses for overseas meat markets. We also spoke in favor of maintaining the ban on inspection of U.S. horse slaughter facilities, effectively continuing a ban on stateside horse slaughter.

Working with scientists and other experts at The Humane Society of the United States, HSVMA offered detailed input into the updating of the AVMA's widely-referenced Guidelines on Euthanasia document. In the regulatory arena, we suggested improvements to the veal calf confinement regulations of the Ohio and Kentucky livestock care standards boards, and improvements to the Missouri Department of Agriculture's animal care standards for large-scale commercial breeding facilities, known as "puppy mills." We also submitted testimony in support of banning race-day medications to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission and provided input into federal regulations strengthening oversight for puppy importation.

HUMANE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS

During 2011, HSVMA presented webinars and in-person events to provide welfare-focused continuing education opportunities for veterinary professionals. New offerings included:

■ "Doing Well Because You're Doing Good: How Helping Animals Can Help Your Bottom Line," a talk presented by Dr. Brian Forsgren, HSVMA Leadership Council member and private practice owner from Cleveland, at the 2011 North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC).

■ "Wildlife Care Basics for Veterinary Clinics and Shelters," a presentation delivered by Dr. Roberto Aguilar, a wildlife veterinarian at the Cape Wildlife Center in Massachusetts. Dr. Aguilar presented this talk at both the Animal Care Expo in Florida and at a welfare conference hosted by the Michigan Humane Society.

■ "Fundamentals and Standards of Small Animal Field Surgery," a webinar co-presented by Dr. Susan Monger, HSVMA-RAVS International Director and Dr. Richard Bachman, HSVMA Leadership Council member and shelter medicine consultant.

■ "Kitty Kindergarten: Creating the New Improved Cat through Early Kitty Socialization," a webinar presented by Dr. Sophia Yin, behavior consultant.

■ "Curing the Litter Box Blues: Feline Elimination Disorders," a webinar presented by Dr. Susan Krebsbach, HSVMA Veterinary Consultant and behavior consultant.

■ "Looking for Your First Job: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," a webinar presented by Dr. Gary Block, HSVMA Board member and private practice owner.

Humane Awards and Achievements

HSVMA presented our second annual Veterinary Advocate of the Year and Direct Care Practitioner of the Year awards during a special veterinary reception at the Animal Care Expo in Orlando, Florida in May. Dr. Gary Block, an HSVMA Board member who, along with HSVMA Board President Dr. Paula Kislak, presented the awards, said “Through their advocacy and direct care for animals in need, these doctors epitomize the HSVMA goal of promoting veterinary leadership in animal welfare. Their efforts serve as an inspiration to us all to use our veterinary skills and expertise to promote the health and welfare of all animals.”

HSVMA VETERINARY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR



Dr. Brian Forsgren was awarded the HSVMA Veterinary Advocate of the Year. © Paul Vernon

Dr. Brian Forsgren of Cleveland, Ohio, was recognized as the HSVMA Veterinary Advocate of the Year.

Dr. Forsgren has been helping the companion animals of low-income families at his practice in inner-city Cleveland for the past three decades. However, his compassion for animals extends beyond the dogs and cats in his care to a broader concern for addressing all forms of animal cruelty.

A longtime animal advocate, he was one of the first veterinary professionals to step forward and endorse a farm animal welfare ballot initiative launched in 2010 in Ohio to address extreme forms of confinement on factory farms. Dr. Forsgren not only lent his public support to the initiative, he also collected signatures for the ballot petition, hosted a fundraiser and reached out to his colleagues, asking them to join him in endorsing the bill. His support—along with the endorsement of 75 other Ohio veterinary professionals—helped lead to a compromise agreement on farm animal welfare in the state that is yielding new improved guidelines for animal care.

“As veterinarians we are accountable for the health and welfare of all animals. That is the intuitive public perception of who we are and the role we play in society. We must individually and collectively live up to that vision of our professional self-concept,” said Dr. Forsgren. “Through advocacy we can make conditions better in a sustainable fashion for all animals. Our actions

must be consistent with such a vision. Without veterinarians taking a leadership role, remarkable trauma and animal suffering exists. Times are always difficult. They are made much more difficult by standing on the sidelines. We need to get in the game and make a difference.”

We are honored that Dr. Forsgren accepted an invitation to join our HSVMA Leadership Council this year. We’re sure his creativity and dedication will serve us well.

HSVMA DIRECT CARE PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR



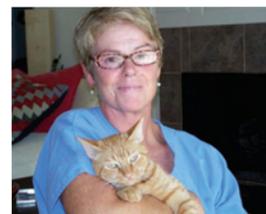
Dr. Lori Pasternak was awarded the HSVMA Direct Care Practitioner of the Year. © Kathy Milani, HSUS

Dr. Lori Pasternak of Richmond, Virginia, through her aptly-named clinic Helping Hands Affordable Veterinary Surgical and Dental Care, works to ensure no animal goes without surgical or dental care due to prohibitively high costs by putting a portion of every fixed-cost procedure into a fund to help clients who cannot afford a procedure their pets need. Those who use the fund are required to repay their debt by doing community service at the clinic or any local animal welfare group.

By limiting the focus of her clinic to surgery and dental care and eliminating office visit and consultation time and fees, Dr. Pasternak is able to provide low, all-inclusive costs to clients. With her unique system of providing access to care, she is improving the quality of life for animals in her community and helping eliminate wrenching ‘economic euthanasia’ decisions—due solely to unaffordable veterinary care—for their caregivers.

“Surgery happens to be my talent. We should all use our talents to make the world a better place,” said Dr. Pasternak. “No one should ever have to make the choice between paying their bills and saving their best friend’s life.”

HSVMA VETERINARY STUDENT ADVOCACY AWARD



Dr. Ruth Dunning received the 2011 HSVMA Veterinary Student Advocacy Award. © Dunning

Our third annual HSVMA Veterinary Student Advocacy Award was given to **Dr. Ruth Dunning**, a 2011 graduate of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. This award was developed to honor veterinary students who have shown extraordinary commitment to animal welfare including the courage to follow their hearts and promote humane treatment of animals in their veterinary training.

Among her accomplishments, Dr. Dunning sparked the implementation of a viable “alternative program” at UGA, in which veterinary students may opt to learn surgical skills on donated animal cadavers. She helped establish a small animal Educational Memorial Program or willed body (cadaver) donor program, which was facilitated by an HSVMA grant. Dr. Dunning also helped launch a Shelter Medicine Program, including a fourth-year student spay/neuter rotation, shelter medicine-related courses in forensics, small animal herd management and disease prevention; and she started a digital media/DVD library of non-terminal surgical procedures for use in sophomore and junior surgery courses.

HSVMA a Proud Partner of Spay Day



Laura Niman, an Oregon State first-year veterinary graduate student, transfers a cat that has just been spayed to the recovery unit at the Spay Day event in Corvallis, Oregon. © Katie Campbell

**By: Susan Krebsbach, DVM,
HSVMA Advocacy/Policy Division**

February 22 marked the official 2011 Spay Day, but in practice the event was celebrated throughout the entire month of February. Across the country, veterinary professionals applied their exclusive skills to sterilizing at least 41,789 cats, dogs and rabbits. Nationwide, more than 600 events were organized around Spay Day with local animal shelters, spay/neuter clinics, private practice veterinarians, and others providing spay/neuter services. But Spay Day did not stop at our borders—internationally, there were 89 events hosted across 46 countries.

Spay Day is an annual campaign of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Humane Society International (HSI), designed to encourage people to save animal lives by spaying or neutering companion animals and feral cats. The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) has joined ranks with the HSUS and HSI for the past two years as a proud partner of Spay Day, inspiring veterinary professionals around the world to participate in this impressive event.

In addition to encouraging participation among veterinary professionals, the HSVMA reached out to the educational community by sponsoring a Spay Day event at Wisconsin's Madison Area Technical College (MATC) and another event with veterinary students from the Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU-CVM).

The Wisconsin event included a healthy dose of playfulness, with veterinarian-and-technician surgical teams competing for the cleverest name with titles like Hello Kitty, Nutter Pluckers, Castration Sensation, Team Emasculators, and Uterine Obliterators. Humor aside, the volunteers had a serious purpose: providing free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and treatment for 86 feral cats. This was accomplished with a combined force of five volunteer veterinarians, three volunteer veterinary technicians, 15 veterinary students, 26 veterinary technician students, and a number of dedicated lay volunteers.

For the Oregon event, veterinary students from OSU-CVM donned their surgical gear to fight the spiraling pet

overpopulation problem in their community. They teamed up with the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, a local nonprofit that focuses on assisting free-roaming cats, to help sterilize approximately 100 feral cats. In addition, prior to their event, the OSU Student Chapter of the HSVMA, hosted an HSVMA lunch presentation on the veterinary professional's role in curbing free-roaming cat populations through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Therefore, the HSVMA-sponsored Spay Day event gave the students a chance to see firsthand and put into practice what they learned in the classroom.

What makes these HSVMA-sponsored events so unique is that they support the education of veterinary students and veterinary technician students—the future of our profession—in a way that benefits both the animals and the communities. Involving students in spay/neuter events ignites their desire, and increases their knowledge and ability to become effective advocates for and community resources about the benefits of spay/neuter as they become practicing veterinarians and veterinary technicians.



Veterinary technician student Pam Wendorf, left, shaves Sherbert, the cat, as vet technician student Shannon Clark holds her in place, as they prepare the cat to be spayed during a Spay Day clinic in Madison, Wisconsin. © Amber Arnold

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 46 COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN SPAY DAY 2011, THE NAME OF THE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN CHANGED TO WORLD SPAY DAY. WORLD SPAY DAY 2012 TAKES PLACE ON FEB. 28, DURING SPAY/NEUTER AWARENESS MONTH.

To find ideas about how to organize a World Spay Day event or to get involved with an event in your area, go to worldspayday.org.



**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association
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New Website Update

HSVMA is excited to announce our new website and membership system, which will be up and running in early 2012!

Benefits of the new system include:

- Online renewals
 - Career Center
 - Member message boards
 - The option to list your information in a public member directory
- ...and much more!

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