Our Mission:
“Promoting excellence and professionalism of Alaska Veterinarians in advancing the health and well-being of animals and the public.”

Join Us! 2023 AKVMA Symposium

Come join us for the 2023 AKVMA Symposium in beautiful downtown Anchorage. The Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association welcomes veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other veterinary professionals to attend this premier gathering.

BEGINs - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 - 5PM
CONCLUDEs - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 - 5:15PM

HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK
939 WEST 5TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE AK 99501

Enhance Your Knowledge
- 20 Hours of CE Available
  Approved by the Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners
- General Sessions + Breakout Sessions for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians

Connect with Colleagues
- Networking Opportunities
- AKVMA and AKVTA Membership Meetings

Tradeshow with Industry Experts

Keynote Speaker
Elizabeth “Betsy” Charles, DVM, MA

The Physiology of Leadership—How to Lead Well to Ensure a Bright Future
Can’t We All Just Get Along?

Early Bird Registration Rates Until September 15

Conference Flyer
Online Registration
Paper Registration Form

Lodging: $150 USD/night + taxes for single or double occupancy
- Book by Sept. 15 for early bird rates at the Hotel Captain Cook
- Direct link to hotel booking found at [www.akvma.org/symposium](http://www.akvma.org/symposium) or call 907.276.6000 and ask for AKVMA room rate of $150
Thank you to ZOETIS PETCARE
DIAMOND sponsor of the 2023 AKVMA Symposium

HEARTWORM DISEASE
TICKS & FLEAS
ROUNDWORMS & HOOKWORMS

All this coverage in just one monthly chewable.

The TRIO Zone. It’s the heart of protection.

Simplarica TRIO
(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets)

• Designed for defense
  - Prevents heartworm disease
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  - One convenient and simple-to-give chew does the job of 2 or 3 products
  - Demonstrated safe for puppies as young as 8 weeks old, and weighing at least 2.8 lbs.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: Use with caution in dogs with a history of seizures. Simparica Trio contains sarolaner, a member of the isoxazoline class, which has been associated with neurologic adverse reactions including tremors, ataxia, and seizures in dogs with or without a history of neurologic disorders. The safe use of Simparica Trio has not been evaluated in breeding, pregnant, or lactating dogs. The most frequently reported adverse reactions in clinical trials were vomiting and diarrhea. See full Prescribing information, attached.

Visit SimparicaTrioDVM.com

zoetis
Success! HB 56 Signed July 6 at Twin Cities Veterinary Clinic

HB 56 (a bill to exempt veterinarians from the requirements of the prescription drug monitoring program) was signed into law by Governor Dunleavy July 6. This epic event was held in Representative Justin Ruffridge’s district 7 (sponsor of HB 56) and at Twin Cities Veterinary Clinic in Soldotna. Several AKVMA members (including representatives from the Board of Veterinary Examiners) were able to share in the excitement of this monumental journey! Thank you to the dedication of our legislative sponsors, the AKVMA PDMP Team, the Board of Veterinary Examiners and AKVMA members that worked relentlessly to get this over the finish line! This legislation is a great achievement for Alaskan veterinarians and the requirements of the prescription drug monitoring program were eliminated on July 7, 2023!

July 6 signing of HB 56 into law. Those at the signing event and standing behind Governor Dunleavy from left to right are: Representative Justin Ruffridge, Drs. Denise Albert, Mary Ann Hollick, Jim Delker, Judy Montalbano, Tabitha Perkovich and Rachel Berngartt.

Photo is courtesy of Governor Dunleavy’s office.

Thrive Veterinary Surgical Services

Skilled and available. Driven by excellence.
Committed to quality. Invested in people.
Rooted in faith.

Dr. Vanessa Serratore

Mobile ✩ Orthopedic ✩ Neurologic ✩ Soft Tissue

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To positively impact the surrounding pet communities of Alaska by providing high-quality surgical services to improve animal health and promoting personal wellness amongst veterinary professionals to improve human health, thus advancing the profession to better meet the needs of the community.

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or scan this code
Your Dream, Your Vision, Your Legacy.

At Lakefield Veterinary Group, we want to invest in our Doctors and team just as you invest in your work, education, and patients. Maintaining the highest medical and ethical standards in veterinary medicine is important and a prerequisite for joining our team. We are looking for potential candidates with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with other Doctors, team members, and clients, a sense of humor, and, most importantly, a passion for veterinary medicine.

See What's Possible

Explore our careers: bit.ly/LFakvma23

Want to speak to a recruiter? Message Lori Murphy lmurphy@lakefieldvet.com

With Lakefield, relationships come first.

As a veterinarian who has spent a career building a practice, you deserve a partner that appreciates and respects your incredible work and takes a long-term approach to the continued success of your business. With Lakefield, you get a partner who shares your values, is committed to your legacy, and will care for your team and your community.

Ready to transition your practice?

Contact us to learn what Lakefield Veterinary Group can do for you and your practice.
Be Our Next Rising Leader
**AVMA Leadership Conference Jan. 4—6**

AKVMA is inviting members that are in their 0-15 post-graduation years to apply for paid registration, air fare, and lodging to the 2024 AVMA Leadership Conference. Next year’s conference will be January 4-6, 2024 in Chicago. One AKVMA member will be selected for this exceptional opportunity! You’ll join AKVMA’s president-elect and our AVMA delegates in attending this event!

**Apply by September 21, 2023**—Submit a short summary describing why you became a veterinarian, where you see yourself in the next 10 years and how you think attending the conference will be of benefit to you and your practice.

Submit summary to: execdir@akvma.org
The veterinarian selected will be notified in October and asked to write a summary of their experience for the AKVMA News after attending the event next January.

Bring your **knowledge**... **energy**... and **expertise** to the table!

AKVMA is seeking nominations for:

- President-Elect
  (serves 3 years on the board: president-elect 1st year; president 2nd year; and past president 3rd year)

Contact Pat Anderson at info@akvma.org for more information.

Election will be held during the AKVMA membership meeting Oct. 7 at the Hotel Captain Cook.

**Help Spread the Word!**

How many of your colleagues know about the AKVMA Symposium October 6th—8th? Please help spread the word!

AKVMA welcomes all veterinarians, veterinary technicians and other veterinary support staff.

*Early bird registration rates through Sept. 15. Go to [www.akvma.org/symposium](http://www.akvma.org/symposium) to register.*

AKVMA Membership Meeting
All Members Welcome!

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**
5:30pm
Hotel Captain Cook (Fore Deck Room)
939 W 5th Avenue
Anchorage AK
As of September 1st, 2023, endorsement of International Health Certificates is not available at the Palmer, AK office. International Health Certificate must now be submitted to the USDA office in Tumwater, Washington for endorsement.

There are 2 options to submit International Health Certificates for endorsement:

Option 1: Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS)

VEHCS can be used to submit all health certificates requiring USDA Endorsement. USDA, APHIS, VS, Veterinary Export Trade Services Tumwater, WA

wa.export.animals@usda.gov
360-753-9430

Need Assistance with VEHCS?

Option 2: Mail in Paper Certificates

Ship the paperwork to your Endorsement Office. Please read important information about the pre-paid express return shipping label. Remember to include the checklist.
USDA, APHIS, VS, Veterinary Export Trade Services 1550 Irving Street, SW, Ste. 100 Tumwater, WA 98512
wa.export.animals@usda.gov
360-753-9430

*Choose only one option, do not submit both a VEHCS and Paper Certificate*

VEHCS RESOURCES FOR USDA ACCREDITED VETERINARIANS AND SUPPORT STAFF:

2. Read the Step-By-Step Guide to get started: The Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS) - A Step-By-Step Guide to Using VEHCS (usda.gov)
3. Sign in to start using VEHCS: USDA APHIS Application Access—Home to PCIT and VEHCS
4. Check the destination country’s requirements before getting started on a health certificate:
   - APHIS Pet Travel: USDA APHIS | APHIS Pet Travel
   - Animals Exports: USDA APHIS | International Regulations (IRegs) for ANIMAL Exports Home
AVMA HOUSE OF DELEGATE UPDATE
AVMA Summer Meeting Updates

By Dr. Sarah Coburn

The AVMA House of Delegates met in Denver, CO July 13-14, 2023. Sarah Coburn, Alaska Alternate Delegate attended as “temporary” Alaska Delegate, and Vanessa Serratore, AKVMA President-Elect, attended as “temporary” Alternate Delegate as Dr. Amanda Taylor, AKVMA Delegate, was unable to attend due to medical reasons.

The House of Delegates reviewed and voted on 9 different resolutions and had some lively discussion on 2 Veterinary Information Forum topics. The full resolutions, action taken, and amendments can be viewed at https://www.avma.org/about/house-delegates/hod-resolutions-and-proposed-bylaw-amendments

RESOLUTIONS:
Some of the resolutions were revisions to standing policies, including canine devocalization, tail docking of cattle, docking of lambs’ tails, and physical restraint of animals. Each policy is reviewed every 5 years.

One new policy that was of particular interest and discussion was Resolution 10- Safeguarding Care for Animals with Veterinarian-Led Teams. Several states have seen interest or legislative bills have been introduced to add a mid-level practitioner or otherwise expand the scope of practice for veterinary technicians or other non-veterinarian personnel. Resolution 10 addressed defending the practice of veterinary medicine which includes the ability to diagnose, prognose, develop treatment plans, prescribe, and/or perform surgery against scope of practice expansions by non-veterinarians. An amendment during the HOD session added a statement regarding appropriate delegation of tasks by the veterinarian.

VETERINARY INFORMATION FORUM (VIF)
The VIF is an opportunity for to discuss current topics in the veterinary profession, and guide follow up actions or future resolutions.

VIF Topic—Spectrum of Care: The Why and Barriers to Implementation
This VIF topic was referred to the Board of Directors for consideration on the following actions: additional investigation, collaboration with stakeholders, coping potential research needs, consideration of development policy or position statements, and member resource development.

VIF Topic—Sustainability in Veterinary Medicine: The Greening of Veterinary Workplaces
This VIF topic was referred to the Board of Directors to develop a best practice list regarding sustainability, explore collaboration with other One Health stakeholders and academic institutions regarding sustainability, develop a Sustainable Practices Certificate, review internal processes and systems of AVMA to increase sustainability.

ELECTIONS
Dr. Rena Carlson has transitioned from President Elect to AVMA President. She is from Idaho and was the District XI (which includes Alaska) representative for several years. We are excited to see her in this role and know she will be an excellent leader in this capacity.

Dr. Sandra Faeh Butler was voted as the next AVMA President Elect.

HOD Update continues on page 9
QUICK TIP

How can I remain profitable with all the increased costs?

We just completed an annual valuation update for a client. Even though the revenues of the practice grew more than $250,000, the expenses increased equally as much and therefore the profit of the practice remained the same as the prior year. Unfortunately, this resulted in a lower Fair Market Value for the hospital. The practice was simply not managed as well as the previous year (decrease in profit percentage), and the cost of capital went up (rising interest rates).

There is no doubt the cost of almost every product and service in the marketplace is rising. Our industry is no different. Product costs are increasing. Labor costs are escalating. So how are you going to increase, or at least maintain, your profit level?

The only way to do this is to pass along your increased costs to your clients in the form of increased fees. Historically, veterinarian practice owners have been reluctant to raise fees, but now you MUST if you want to be profitable!

Work smarter, not harder!

Are you at capacity? Is your appointment schedule booked out well in advance? Are you turning away new clients and patients? If so, you definitely have room to increase your fees.

When you increase fees, you may lose a few of your “C” and “D” level clients, the ones who are not ideal for your practice. This is ok! You are then making more room in your schedule for your “A” and “B” clients, the ones you and your staff prefer to work with! These “A” and “B” level clients believe in the value you deliver for the fees you charge.

Monitor your profitability closely!

Now, more than ever, it is critical for you to keep a close eye on the profitability and value of your hospital. Profits can disappear quickly with increasing costs. With profit being the driving force of practice value, we want you to grow your profits and therefore the value of your hospital. We want you to reap these benefits when it comes time for you to sell.

Have you considered annual valuations, like the one for our client mentioned above? This is an excellent way to learn about the strengths and weaknesses of your practice. Do you know what to fix if you don’t know what is broken or not working? Give us a call if you want us to determine the value of your hospital and learn what you can do to increase your profitability and practice value.

**Visit our website for additional details on our listings**

Nikki Nitz, CPA, CMA
Simmons Northwest * 208-664-3100
Simmons@SimmonsNorthwest.com
www.SimmonsInc.com
FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS DIVISION

Combating xylazine act: The AVMA supported the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act which would help combat the emergency threat posed by illicit xylazine while protecting veterinary access to this important animal sedative. The bill’s provisions would equip law enforcement with additional tools to stop xylazine trafficking while maintaining veterinary ability to legitimately use xylazine.

Your AVMA Delegate (Amanda Taylor), Alternate Delegate (Sarah Coburn), and AKVMA President-Elect (Vanessa Serratore) are all available to answer questions or provide more details about the topics covered during the HOD meetings. We are always interested in feedback that members have, or topics that you would like to see addressed in the future.

New FREE Resource for Veterinary Teams

The Positive Pet Care Guide is a new resource aimed at strengthening the relationship between veterinary teams and clients in support of providing the best possible care to pets. The Positive Pet Care Guide, a free resource now available to the entire veterinary profession, outlines shared expectations of both veterinary professionals and pet owners to help foster healthy lines of communication and encourage an environment where each veterinary interaction is rooted in a supportive, safe, and inclusive environment for all.

The release of this resource comes on the heels of new data from an AVMA survey of more than 1,300 veterinarians which found nine out of ten respondents in companion animal practice indicated that they’ve experienced negative or escalated client interactions in the past year. When asked if a resource outlining shared expectations and responsibilities could help strengthen their relationship with pet owners, seven out of ten said yes, and a new survey of 1,000 pet owners found nearly eight out of ten owners agree. Additional survey findings can be found at https://tinyurl.com/2p9rehj6

Recent surveys reveal that more than 80% of pet owners and 90% of veterinarians want to build stronger, more positive relationships with one another.

At the same time, 9 out of 10 veterinarians indicate they experienced negative or escalated client interactions in the past year, with 65% saying it happened on a weekly basis – along with nearly 1 in 2 pet owners revealing they have gotten into a disagreement or heated interaction with their veterinary team.

The Positive Pet Care Guide (pg. 10) can be printed and displayed in the clinic or provided to clients as a helpful tip sheet. It outlines descriptions of the behaviors and treatment veterinary teams/clients can expect from one another to drive mutual trust and respect. Download at: https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/Positive_Pet_Care_Guide.pdf

How To Contact Your Delegates

AVMA Delegate
Dr. Amanda Taylor
Email: amandataylordvmhod@gmail.com

AVMA Alternate Delegate
Dr. Sarah Coburn
Email: tundravet@gmail.com
You and your veterinary team: Positive partners in your pet’s care

A strong partnership—rooted in mutual trust and respect—is essential to support the best possible care for our patients. We are committed to cultivating a welcoming and inclusive environment, free of discrimination, through our words and actions. Any behaviors that suggest differently will not be tolerated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AS A CLIENT, YOU CAN EXPECT TO:</th>
<th>IN RETURN, WE ASK THAT YOU:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be treated with consideration, respect, and compassion by all members of our team.</td>
<td>Demonstrate consideration and respect toward all members of our team, other clients, and patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be seen on time, or be notified of any delays—with respect for your time.</td>
<td>Arrive to appointments on time or call ahead if you’re going to be late or need to cancel. Understand that patients’ needs can be unpredictable, and show patience with explained delays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know who is providing your pet’s care, and be assured that the provided care is appropriate, competent, and complies with applicable laws.</td>
<td>Accept that veterinarians are legally and ethically bound to provide veterinary services strictly under the terms of a current veterinarian-client-patient relationship.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have medical and personal information held in confidence, and have copies or summaries of medical records provided on your request.</td>
<td>Provide as much relevant and accurate information as possible about your pet’s health and medical history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in decisions about your pet’s care, be provided with trustworthy resources, and be informed about the benefits or risks of relevant diagnostic or treatment options in terms you understand.</td>
<td>Ask questions about your pet’s health status and prognosis, recommended diagnostic or treatment options, or next steps if unclear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be presented with a range of care options that address your pet’s needs. Be free to accept, decline, or discuss recommended diagnostic or treatment options, and have the right to seek a second opinion.</td>
<td>Follow agreed-upon treatment plans to the best of your abilities, and tell us if you have any questions or needs for assistance, so that we can help you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be informed of the costs of veterinary services, as well as available payment options, free of assumptions.</td>
<td>Meet agreed-upon financial responsibilities concerning provided veterinary services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have your constructive feedback welcomed and thoughtfully considered.</td>
<td>Let our team know right away if you have any concerns about your pet’s care, so that we may take steps to improve your and your pet’s experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be provided with contact information and office hours for your veterinarian or veterinary emergency services for continuing care and treatment.</td>
<td>Accept that our team will do their best for your pet and may not be able to provide some services or accommodate all requests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists when your veterinarian knows your pet well and recently enough to be able to diagnose and treat your pet’s medical condition, you have agreed to follow your veterinarian’s instructions, and other requirements for this relationship have been met as defined by applicable federal and state law.

NOTE: Despite everyone’s best efforts, things can go wrong. As positive partners in your pet’s care, let’s extend each other the grace to work through and learn from any issues, and continue to cultivate our partnership for the benefit of all pets.

THE POSITIVE PET CARE GUIDE CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
discover your trust

Tailored solutions for your practice, your animal specialty, and your career

VETERINARY STUDENT
Student Basic Protection, Complimentary Life & Professional Liability

THINKING ABOUT WHAT’S NEXT
Retirement, Hospital Indemnity, Long-Term Care

PRACTICE OWNER
Workers’ Compensation, Employment Practices Liability, Property and General Liability, Professional Overhead Expense

ASSOCIATE VETERINARIAN
Professional Liability, License Defense, Disability

FOR YOUR LIFE OUTSIDE OF THE PRACTICE
Life, Home, Auto, Dental, Vision, Critical Illness

Scan QR Code to Discover Your Solutions
Survey for Practicing Veterinarians

My name is Alexis Hoelmer, and I am a second year Small Animal Internal Medicine resident at the University of Florida. I am conducting a survey for practicing veterinarians across the United States about how acute diarrhea in dogs is evaluated and the current management strategies for patients with acute diarrhea. Our goal is to identify patterns in diagnostic and treatment strategies, determine differences in management strategies between disciplines, caseloads, and geographic location, and to identify the most frequently implemented therapeutic intervention.

This survey is expected to take less than 10 minutes to complete. The survey will be open until 5:00 pm ET on Friday, September 15. This survey is completely anonymous, so personal identities will not be available to investigators. Thank you for your time and participation!

Link to survey: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0vv6GBNR9YrerCm

Sincerely,
Alexis Hoelmer, DVM
Small Animal Internal Medicine Resident
UF College of Veterinary Medicine

MentorVet Connect

The AVMA has joined MentorVet to launch MentorVet Connect, a structured mentorship program that connects early-career veterinarians with trained mentors who can offer invaluable support and guidance, providing new veterinarians with free access to an established and proven mentoring platform.

The opportunity to receive mentoring from an experienced and nurturing colleague can be transformational for veterinarians starting out in our careers. A proven mentoring program can provide a solid foundation to launch a new veterinarian on a path toward success and fulfillment—instilling confidence, building new skills, and even reducing exhaustion and burnout.

MentorVet Connect does just that. Building on a proven mentoring platform, it provides free mentoring to any AVMA member who graduated from veterinary school in the Class of 2018 or later.

The mentorship commitment is for six months, yet can provide a base for relationships that last a lifetime.

Be a mentor. Get a mentor. The connection can transform both partners. Learn more.

All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters

Unique opportunity to participate in emergency response training related to animals in disasters, sponsored by AK Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in collaboration with The Center for Rural Development, Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium. Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, livestock producers, and human health professional would benefit from attending this course.

Virtual and in-person options. Workshops will be held at 9470 E Chanlyut Circle, Palmer.

AWR 328: All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters; October 10-11, 2023 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

MGT 448: All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, and Food Related Disasters; October 12-13, 2023 8:00am – 12:00 pm

Please contact the Office of the State Veterinarian for more details and registration information. 907-375-8215; sarah.coburn@alaska.gov
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Go to akvma.org

Save the Dates!
2023 AKVMA SYMPOSIUM
October 6—8, 2023
Hotel Captain Cook
Anchorage

Annual AKVMA Membership Meeting
Sat., October 7
5:30pm

District XI AVMA Representative
Sandy Willis, DVM, MVSc, DACVIM

AKVMA NEWS is a publication of the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association for its members. Comments should be sent to info@akvma.org.