



SVME Newsletter

Newsletter of the Society for
Veterinary Medical Ethics

Spring 2013

President's Message Spring 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I recently attended a dinner at Colorado State University (CSU) with Bernie Rollin, PhD., University Distinguished Professor, Temple Grandin, PhD., Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), several CSU Animal Science and Philosophy professors plus some members of the State Cattlemen's Association. Following the dinner I went to a talk by Mr. Pacelle about welfare in animal agriculture sponsored by CSU's Department of Philosophy and organized by Dr. Rollin. The following day Dr. Rollin invited me to sit in on a three hour Ethics in Animal Science class composed of freshmen and sophomore undergraduate students. These experiences reminded me of the wide range of issues and diversity of people we face every day in our profession. It also emphasized that the most effective way to work through controversial issues is by discussing our differing opinions in a direct fashion, face to face and with respect.

Veterinary colleges across the country are having difficulty fitting veterinary ethics courses into their curriculum due in part to the massive expansion of new information important to the training of veterinary students. Many schools have completely dropped or greatly reduced the ethics footprint at their institutions.

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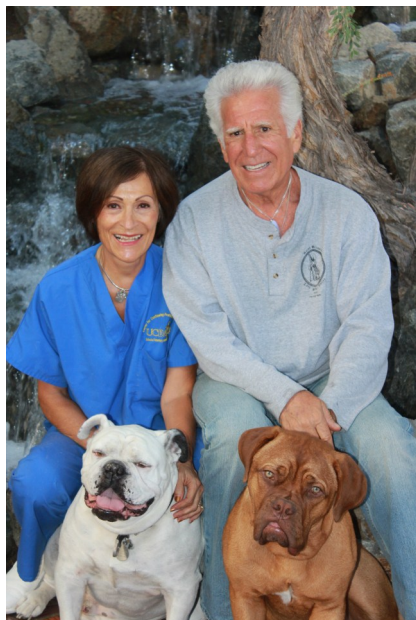
In our modern world, social media frequently allows anonymity while discussing issues. This anonymity makes it much easier to be disrespectful to those with opposing views. This type of faceless interaction permits people who have not developed an informed opinion to mindlessly jump on an issue or in many cases write something they will later regret. We need to fight the current trend of faceless anonymous interactions and provide veterinary students an avenue for person to person discussions about veterinary ethics. As Dr. Rollin discussed during his class, we should not try to convince people that what we believe is correct; we need to simply remind them of what they already believe, so they can examine these beliefs.

Two areas I would like to address during my SVME Presidency are (1) increasing the membership of the SVME and (2) getting more veterinary ethics courses into veterinary college curriculums. Students, as they say, are our future and I would like to get more students to join the Society and then stay involved once they graduate. I would also like to get the message out to veterinarians that there is a place where they can discuss pertinent ethical issues facing our profession. We also need to work with the veterinary colleges to develop ethics programs that can be integrated into their current curriculum. Many schools are using problem based learning classes that could be adapted to include ethics scenarios. Over the last two years leaders in the SVME have developed an online veterinary ethics course for veterinarians and others who want or need ethics instruction in the United States and abroad. This course could serve as the framework for similar teaching in veterinary colleges.

As I was contemplating this first President's message, my initial thought was a familiar metaphor initially recorded in the twelfth century and attributed to Bernard of Chartres: "*nanos gigantum humeris insidentes*" [directly translated: *Dwarfs standing on the shoulders of giants*]. Isaac Newton is said to have stated the point in this fashion: "*If I have seen further than others it is by standing on the shoulders of giants*". I have yet to accomplish anything within the ranks of the SVME. Over the next two years we will make progress, not by virtue of insight on my part, but by building on what has already been accomplished.

Thomas M. Edling, DVM, MSpVM, MPH
President, SVME

Past President's Message



**Alice & Ira with Neo & Trinny
taken early last summer**

Photo Credit: Haley Harrington

Dear SVME,

Knowing that the SVME is now infused with strong leaders aligned with our mission brings me great satisfaction as the gavel goes to our new President, Dr. Tom Edling.

Showers of acknowledgement and personal thanks go to each member of the SVME BOD, especially: Dr. Eric Clary for Chairing the Student Essay Contest Committee,

Drs. Sylvie Cloutie & Dennis Lawler for Chairing the VETETHICS Listserv,

Dr. Dennis Lawler for Chairing the Document Development Committee,

Dr. Suann Hosie for Chairing the Articles & By-Laws Change Committee,

Dr. Lide Doffermyre for her strong support as Secretary and

Dr. John Wright for his work as Treasurer.

I thank the late Dr. John McCarthy and Drs. Diane Levitan, Jose Peralta, Lee Shapiro, Dennis Lawler, Peggy Danneman, Patricia Olson, Wendy Koch and Mr. Michael J. White for their contributions toward developing the SVME On Line Ethics Course.

I also thank Drs. Marty Greer, Ann Forslund, Karyl Hurley, Barry Kipperman, Ms. Louise Dunn and Ms. Catlin Dooley for promoting the SVME in their specific arenas.

With great admiration, I thank our mentors, Dr. Bernie Rollin and Mr. Jerold Tannenbaum, JD, and Dr. Gary Block for their guidance and inspiration during my first year as president. This issue is SVME Past President, Dr. Barb Horney's, first as Editor-in-Chief with Wendy Koch as Assistant Editor. I'm truly delighted to pass the Editor's pen to Barb & Wendy's excellent aptitudes.

Friends ask, "Alice, what will you do with your extra time?" FYI, My husband, Ira Lifland, and I are new guardians of a 14 year-old Chinese girl. After 30 years of marriage, we plan to spend more time at home and do the important job of parenting!

SVME's mission is more important now than ever. Everyone working with animals faces challenge, dilemma and conflict of interest and markedly so during recession, drought, epidemics, disaster, etc. The SVME assists decision making and strives to remind us to do what we might already know is right and what is best under given circumstances. I'm enthusiastically looking forward to working with President Tom Edling, our brilliant SVME BOD and membership for years to come.

Luv-in-pets,

Alice

Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP

VETETHIC Mailing List

Guidelines for participation and some recent topics:

Submitted by: Dr. Sylvie Cloutier, Washington State

Members of the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics can communicate and exchange information via VETETHIC, a mailing list providing an electronic forum to discuss ethical issues relevant to the profession of veterinary medicine. The list also functions to facilitate the exchange and distribution of information, questions, and announcements of interest to SVME and its members. The VETETHIC list is limited to current members in good standing of SVME. This list is not a public forum in which anyone may participate. The list is one of the functions and benefits of membership in SVME. All new members will be automatically subscribed to the list. To unsubscribe from the VETETHIC list, send an email to the manager of the list at scloutie@vetmed.wsu.edu.

Guidelines for participation:

Disclaimer

VETETHIC is a private mailing list. Post to the list are moderated but not edited or checked for accuracy by any list administrator. By joining the list and receiving messages, participants agree not to hold any list owner or administrator of VETETHIC or any officer or member of SVME liable for any damages or injuries whatsoever, including those resulting from participation in the list. Participation includes but is not limited to receiving messages from the list, reading messages transmitted by the list, sending messages to the list, and making any contacts based upon information transmitted by the VETETHIC mailing list

Confidentiality

The content of postings made to the list is intended to be read only by members of SVME. No message or portion of any message may be redistributed or given to any person not on the list without the express consent of the person who posted the message.

List serve etiquette - VETETHIC CHARTER

The list is moderated in order to keep the exchanges professional. To ensure that all the postings follow the rules and etiquette, we encourage all members to read the VETETHIC charter ([on the SVME website](#)). If you have any questions regarding the list, please feel free to send a private message to one of the managers/moderators:

Sylvie Cloutier: scloutie@vetmed.wsu.edu, or

Dennis Lawler: dlawler11@yahoo.com

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Appropriate discussion topics:

Discussions should further the objectives of the SVME, which are as follows:

- A. To encourage ethical practices and professional behavior of veterinarians and others in all aspects of the veterinary medical profession.
- B. To increase the understanding of the philosophical, social, moral and ethical issues encountered by the veterinary medical profession.
- C. To arrange presentations on ethical issues at local, state, regional and national meetings of veterinarians and other interested individuals.
- D. To promote the teaching of ethical issues at colleges of veterinary medicine and to identify speakers on these subjects.
- E. To encourage persons from other professions and disciplines, such as biomedical research, medicine, law, political science, philosophy and theology to engage in cross-disciplinary discussions and studies of these issues.
- F. To exchange and disseminate information about veterinary ethical issues via various methods of communication including electronic means.

Discussion should be conducted in a professional manner. While discussion of ethical issues may easily become emotional, list members should strive to maintain a civil and professional tone at all times. Postings to the list should be of general interest to the members at large, and it is requested that they are written so that all list members will feel included in the forum. This is not a forum for product endorsements, advertisements, or lay person looking for advice concerning individual problems. The list is intended for professional discussion.

[How to post appropriately](#)

If you are replying to a message sent by someone else, include enough of the original message to provide context. Remember that electronic mail is not as immediate as a telephone conversation and the recipient may not recall the contents of the original message. Including relevant section from the original message helps the recipient to place your reply in context. However, include only the minimum you need from the original message. One of the most annoying things you can encounter in email is to have your original 5-page message quoted back at you in its entirety, with the word "Me too" added at the bottom. Quote back only the smallest amount you need to make your context clear. Use some kind of visual indication to distinguish between text quoted from the original message and your new text. This makes the reply much easier to follow. ">" is a traditional marker for quoted text, but you can use anything provided its purpose is clear. Pay careful attention to where your reply is going to end up. It can be embarrassing for you if a personal message end up on the list, and it is generally annoying for the other list members. Ask yourself if your reply is really warranted - a message sent to a list server which only says "I agree" is probably better sent privately to the person who originally sent the message.

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People often report on interesting scientific news in the media, or forward items from other newsgroups or mailing lists. Full citation of sources is always appropriate and appreciated. Requests for references or comments are also welcome, and, when posed as specific questions of general interest, frequently lead to successful discussions.

Write useful summaries whenever a question or request for information results in many replies. Particularly, with a large number of personal replies, it is expected that the person who posted the original article will compile and post a summary of the responses. That person is expected to exercise discretion and tact when compiling and editing the replies, to ensure fair and accurate summary.

Avoid starting "flame wars" (message sent in anger). If you simply must say something highly critical, consider sending it via personal email, rather than posting or mailing to the group.

Always include a subject line in your message. It is often the only clue the recipient has when filing and searching for messages. Make the subject line meaningful and specific. If you are replying to a message but are changing the subject of the conversation, change the subject line, too.

Do not type your message in all-UPPERCASE. It is more difficult to read.

Try to break your message into logical paragraphs and keep your sentences to sensible length.

Use correct grammar and spelling. Poorly-worded and misspelled messages are hard to read and potentially confusing. Just because electronic mail is fast does not mean that it should be sloppy.

Always include your "signature" (full name and email address) at the end of your message.

Above all else, remember that electronic mail is about communication with other people. When you compose and email message, read it before sending it and ask yourself what your reaction would be if you received it. Any time spent on making our email clearer is time well-spent.

Grounds for removal

Subscribers may be dropped from the list if they:

- Fail to follow the rules, or

- Fail to maintain their membership in the Society for whatever reason, including but not limited to failure to pay Society dues.

People who abuse membership privileges will be asked to leave the list. The list owners and other administrators reserve the right to remove any list member from the VETETHIC list at their discretion, at any time, for any reason. This may include the removal of any member who consistently deviates from the list purpose, uses the list for commercial purposes, slanders a person or makes libellous statements, or uses language in a manner that is offensive in the judgment of the list owners.

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To post to the list

1. From the list web page: Go to <http://listserv.vetmed.wsu.edu/> (note that this is a different web site than the Society's web site). You will be asked for a login and password (note that the login and password for the VETETHIC list web site are different than the ones for the Society's web site). Your login is the email address that you are using for the list. Your password has originally been set to be a random word, which is unknown even to the moderator. Therefore, the first time you log in, to find out what your password is, you will need to follow the instruction for forgotten password. Once you access the list page, click on Mailings on the menu on the Left side of the screen. Select New Mailings. Write your message. Click Save. Your message will then be ready for approval by the moderator before being sent to the members.
2. By replying to another VETETHIC message: You could also simply reply to a message that was previously sent to the list (svme@listserv.vetmed.wsu.edu).

Originally prepared by Lone Smith

Modified by Sylvie Cloutier

November 21, 2012

Synopsis of the list serve topics over the last 4 months:

Below is a short synopsis of some ethical issues discussed in the past 4 months on the list. If you want to know more about what is going on, check out your email regularly for postings. If you have a question, post it on the list.

1. The most recent post discussed the use of an elective surgery, debarking, to prevent a deaf cat from meowing loudly.
2. We discussed whether animals should be considered as property or not, following a news article about a dog that was mistakenly euthanized.
3. Another discussion focused on the Pirbright issue (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/files/poa-btv14-20121130.pdf>), suggesting the vaccine strain BTV-14 is apparently used in South Africa has been causing disease in Europe.
4. There was a discussion about ethical issues that could be raised by a new type of pet renting business (Hannah, the pet society) following the publication of a news article: http://www.wweek.com/portland/article-19896-rent_a_pup.html
5. There was mention of an article discussing the potential addition of a new School of Veterinary Medicine at University of Arizona. Some members raised their concerns about too many schools, too many graduates, increasing long-term debt, increasing competition that inevitably leads to higher prices for consumers of veterinary services, and even the possibility of unethical behaviors on the part of some individuals.
6. We had a few discussions on vaccines, their short- and long-term effects, and vaccination schedule.
7. Another topic discussed was whether it is ethical for veterinarians to practice medicine on humans. ■

The Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics Board of Directors, Top Row: Dr. Alice Villalobos, President, Michael J. White, Student Member, Drs. Suann Hosie, Parliamentarian, Lide Doffermyre, Secretary, Marty Greer, JD, Erik Clary, ACVS, Chair of the Student Essay Committee and John Wright, Treasurer. Seated: Drs. Dennis Lawler, Chair of Document Development Committee, Drs. Peggy Danneman, ACVLAM, Dr. Annie Forslund, Louise Dunn and Leland Shapiro, Ph.D. Sylvie Cloutier, Ph.D., Chair of VETETHICS Listerv, Dr. Diane Levitan, ACVIM, Dr. Wendy Koch and Catlin Dooley, Student Member are not pictured.



Dr. Alice Villalobos with Lee Shapiro, Ph.D. who nominated Temple Grandin, Ph.D. for the highest honor of the SVME Shomer Award. Dr. Shapiro accepted the award for Dr. Grandin in her absence at the annual SVME meeting. The two presented Dr. Grandin her award in person in Redondo Beach on Nov. 11 th during the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) Annual Convention thanks to Dr. Marty Greer, JD, President of NAIA.

Presentation of the Student Essay Contest Award to Michael White. From left to right: Dr. Karyl Hurley of Watham, Dr. Howard Erikson, emeritus professor, Kansas State University, Michael J. White, Winner (from KSU), Dr. Alice Villalobos, SVME President, Dr. Eric Clary, Chair of the Student Essay Committee.



A group of SVME Members assembled for a short inauguration ceremony on January 21, 2013 in Orlando during NAVC. Outgoing SVME reconstruction President, Dr. Alice Villalobos, DPNAP, turned the gavel over to Dr. Tom Edling, MPH, who will serve as the SVME's new President for a two year term. They are seated in the front row holding the president's gavel with Bernie Rollin, Ph.D. who nominated Dr. Edling and Dr. John Wright. Top row from left to right: Dr. Lila Miller, Dr. Karyl Hurley, ACVIM, Dr. Gary Block, ACVIM and Dr. Brian Forsgren. Drs. Block and Forsgren are both Past Presidents of the SVME.



SVME BOD Members at the Student Essay Award Ceremony (winner: Michael White), 2012



Alice turns the SVME Gavel to Tom

The Three Faces of Veterinary Medical Ethics

Barbara Horney DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP
Editor in Chief, SVME Newsletter

There has been an explosion of literature on the topic of professional ethics in the last 20 years. In the field of human medicine, the discussion and exploration of ethics has divided along two lines: biomedical ethics and professionalism. In veterinary medicine, there is the additional area of animal ethics. In this essay, I would like to explain how these major perspectives on professional ethics are related and how they all apply to the veterinary medical profession.

Ethics is a broad concept, relating to the guidelines, principles and processes of differentiating between actions that are right and those that are wrong. Wrong actions are those that cause harm, right actions will result in some benefit or good. This simplified description sounds straightforward but the complexity in real life revolves around defining *what* is harm and *what* is good and then identifying (or anticipating) and balancing the multiple harms and goods to multiple entities (usually sentient beings) that stem from a single action. Professions have special responsibilities to promote “good” conferred by their area of expert knowledge and skills. The easiest way to understand this concept is to think of a profession as a group of individuals who are trusted by society to hold the knowledge and skills that humanity has gathered through the ages in a certain area of expertise. This special knowledge should not be viewed as the private property of the individual professional or the professional group, but as community knowledge and skills entrusted to the group to use in service to society. The knowledge imbalance between the professionals and the society they serve could be exploited to benefit the professionals. To serve society effectively, professionals must be trusted to put the interests of society before their own self-interest. This is the basis of the “social contract” between all professions and society as described by Cruess et al(2009). This largely unwritten contract is based on the expectation that the profession will serve society and keep the good of society as its prime goal. In return, society permits professions monopoly over practice in their area of expertise and the privilege of self-regulation. The profession as group determines who will be accepted as members of the profession and oversees the creation and enforcement of the standards of professional education, competency and conduct.

The recognition of the special responsibilities of professionals to society and the maintenance of the social contract form the underlying values of “professional ethics”. These responsibilities are often summarized in the professional oath which is traditionally taken upon entering a profession. Veterinarians share some responsibilities with other professions, particularly with human medical professionals by virtue of their knowledge of the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of disease. Veterinarians have a special responsibility in the field of animal welfare (prevention and relief of animal suffering) by virtue of their knowledge of animal physiology and biologic response to pain, stress and disease. The three faces of veterinary medical ethics (professionalism, biomedical ethics and animal ethics) actually all contain the same expectations, values and responsibilities. They differ only in the perspective taken – like looking into the same room through three different windows.

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Professionalism (see Cruess, Cruess and Steinert, 2009):

This perspective on medical ethics, which applies equally well to veterinary medicine, describes the values, attitudes and behaviors expected of members of a profession. From this perspective, members of a profession are expected to develop into (adopt) a professional culture through their training and career. The “role” of a professional is really a way of being, rather than just a way of acting. This version of medical ethics emphasizes the responsibilities professions have to the individuals they serve and to society as a whole. This perspective voices the importance of maintaining the “social contract” in order to serve society effectively through the application of the expert knowledge and skills held by the profession. Alongside the values of professional competence and holding the interests of the patient and society above self-interest are the values of high standards of conduct, personal integrity and trustworthiness. Responsibilities to patients and society cannot be effectively fulfilled without the trust of society. The members of a profession have a responsibility to the profession to maintain this trust. This responsibility requires a genuine effort to uphold the social contract, practicing true “self-regulation” in which the profession ensures (and is seen to ensure) the competence and integrity of individual members and the profession as a whole.

Biomedical ethics (see Beauchamp and Childress, 2013):

This perspective on medical ethics (also referred to as bioethics) grew in response to grave ethical transgressions in medical research and perceived paternalism in doctor-patient interactions regarding therapeutic choice. Responsibility to the patient is emphasized in this ethical perspective. “Respect for autonomy” of the individual (patient or potential research participant) is a core concept. Individual autonomy is seen as the right to individual choice or self determination and privacy or confidentiality. The concept of free (or voluntary), informed consent is emphasized. The medical professional is required to translate and effectively transmit the risks and benefits of each course of action (research procedure or treatment choice) allowing the patient (or participant) to choose according to their values and interests. The promotion of benefit (beneficence) and avoidance or mitigation of harms (non-maleficence) are prime considerations. These concepts are also important in veterinary medical ethics which mandates informed consent (by the owner/client) to treatment for their animal as well as protection of client confidentiality.

Animal ethics/animal welfare (see Rollin 2006):

Veterinarians have a special responsibility to prevent and relieve animal suffering. Their expert knowledge of animal physiology and treatment of animal diseases places on them special responsibilities to their patients. This knowledge also obligates them to contribute to the discussion and formation of social policy on the treatment of non-human, sentient beings. In response to this duty to animals, veterinarians have refused to condone painful procedures for non-therapeutic purposes and made prevention and relief of pain a standard of care. Although euthanasia is currently held to be an ethical veterinary procedure, there is a struggle within the profession to understand the conditions under which this choice is acceptable. The veterinarian’s responsibility to animals is the best known perspective on veterinary ethics and is the primary perspective presented in most literature and texts on veterinary medical ethics. The veterinarian’s responsibility to the patient is the first principle in the American Veterinary Medical Association’s (AVMA) Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics “II. A. *Veterinarians should first consider the needs of the patient: to relieve disease, suffering, or disability while minimizing pain or fear.*” It should be noted that the responsibilities of veterinarians to their

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clients and the whole of society are also voiced in these principles: "V.A. *The choice of treatments or animal care should not be influenced by considerations other than the needs of the patient, the welfare of the client, and the safety of the public*", and "II. K. *The responsibilities of the veterinary profession extend beyond individual patients and clients to society in general.*"

In summary, veterinary medical ethics is a complex balancing act and should encompass all three of these perspectives. Attention to the ethics of veterinary medicine is especially important in our capitalist driven society as the business aspects of veterinary medicine are developed, refined and promoted. Veterinary medicine will be allowed professional status only so long as it maintains the high standards of competence and conduct expected of a profession. It is imperative that the profession and its members are seen to be trustworthy and are not perceived to exploit the special knowledge that they hold, putting self-interest above the interests or good of patients, clients and the public. The commercial principle of "buyer beware" has no place in the practice of a profession. It is important to remember that veterinarians do not serve animals, they serve society through the use of their expert knowledge and skills to care for the animals that our society variably loves or consumes and with which humans live and share many diseases. Important ways in which veterinarians serve society are in promoting animal welfare and limiting harm to animals through the education of individual clients; and through contribution of expert opinion in the formation of relevant social policy. Veterinarians do have a duty to animals, to protect their health and welfare and prevent and relieve suffering. However, if the members of the profession lose sight of their important responsibilities to their clients and society and see themselves as patient or animal advocates alone, they risk creating adversarial relationships that will only limit the good that they can do.

Resources:

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA): Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics

See: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Principles-of-Veterinary-Medical-Ethics-of-the-AVMA.aspx> (accessed Feb. 4, 2013).

Beauchamp T. and Childress J. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 7th ed.

Oxford Press(New York) 2013.

Cruess R., Cruess S. and Steinert Y. *Teaching Medical Professionalism*.

Cambridge University press (New York) 2009.

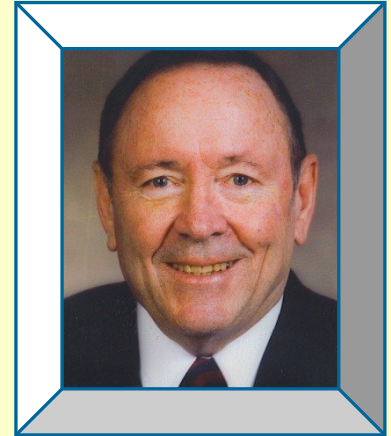
Rollin B. *An introduction to Veterinary Medical Ethics: Theory and Cases* 2nd ed.

Blackwell Publishers (Ames Iowa) 2006

In Fond Memory : Dr. John B. McCarthy

Dr. John B. McCarthy of Easton, Maryland, formerly of New City, died on July 4, 2012 after a lengthy battle with cancer. John and his wife Ruth had resided in Easton since 2002.

John was born January 14, 1931, the son of the late John and Bernice McCarthy. He graduated from Brewster, NY High School in 1946 and Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1952. In 1989 he earned a Masters in Business Management from Long Island University. After Veterinary College, John served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany where he met and married his wife Ruth. On the day he died, they celebrated 58 years of marriage. John owned two animal hospitals and practiced veterinary medicine from 1954 until 1990, first in Carmel and then at the County Animal Hospital in New City. In 1990, he and Ruth moved to Washington DC where he was employed by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Subsequent to that, he established an educational consulting firm in Washington where, among other endeavors, he taught and advised students at veterinary colleges in St. Kitts and Grenada until his retirement in 2009.



During his life, John was active, recognized and awarded for his service to many veterinary organizations. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the NYS Veterinary Medical Society and the American Animal Hospital Association and was the President of the American Animal Hospital Association from 1983-1984. John was a Founder and Distinguished Practitioner Member of the National Academy of Practice in Veterinary Medicine, one of ten veterinarians in the country so named. John was a [Rotarian](#) and served as President to two Rotary Clubs. In 1976, he was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship by his Rotary Club in New City. John was the author of three books and several articles pertaining to management practices in veterinary medicine and was a frequent speaker on those topics. He was involved in the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics for many years and was very dedicated to teaching about ethics of veterinary practice. He worked tirelessly through his illness to contribute to the SVME Ethics on line course, which will be dedicated to his memory.

On a personal note, his daughter wrote the following words to remember him by:

*Written with love and respect
by Heidi McCarthy*

"Collectively, we have all been part of, or have been witness to, the life of this great man. Stephen Covey, professor and author of several books including, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People has said, "There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfillment. The essence of these needs is captured in the phrase 'to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy'". My dad certainly lived fully, loved deeply, learned passionately and indeed has left a legacy. . . Isn't that what we all strive for? To leave this world having made a difference? Well my dad certainly has. I have always been – and continue to be – so proud to say that John McCarthy is my Dad."

"Dad's work, through his profession and volunteerism, has and will continue to ripple out and reach thousands of people. He devoted his life to the care of animals, his veterinary organizations and the commitment to educate those who were following in his profession."

"... dad was to me – a person of truth, who held their word and would never let you down. I often went to him for advice, and he was readily forthcoming with it, whether you asked for it or not, but the beauty of it was that he was so very very smart, knowledgeable and practical and his advice was always so valuable."

John is survived by his wife, Ruth, daughters Karen and Heidi, sons-in-law Anthony Costantino and Edmund Knyfd, and grandchildren Nicholas Costantino and Meghan and Erin Roy. He is also survived by his brother, William McCarthy and sister-in-law Rosemary.

Memorial gifts may be made to Cornell Veterinary College Class of 1952 Scholarship Fund and mailed to Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 39, Ithaca, NY 14853, or to the Talbot Hospice Foundation, 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Levitan

Spotlight on SVME Board Members

Caitlin Dooley – Student Board member



As a third year veterinary student at Washington State University, I am excited to step out of the classroom, get on the clinic floor, and see ethics in action! Originally from Issaquah, Washington, by way of Kaneohe, Hawaii, my focus is in small animal general medicine and pocket pets. I'd love to be the vet that gets to watch families, pets, and kids grow up together, and see them year after year.

At WSU, we don't have a class dedicated solely to ethics. Last year, I started the Veterinary Ethics and Animal Law Club (yes, V.E.A.L., the acronym was an accident, I swear) so students have a place where they can openly discuss and learn about ethical issues. We've talked about the old standards, like convenience euthanasia, breed specific legislation, animal models in research, and obesity as abuse, as well as some new issues, like the veterinarian's role in the raw milk controversy and the "Ag Gag" laws. I've learned so much from my

fellow students and the faculty speakers we've had, and I'm hopeful about what this club can do.

My ethics interests include all the facets and complications of euthanasia, farm animal welfare, and the ownership of exotic and wild species, but the field is so diverse. I'm looking forward to a lifetime of learning and new ethical issues. In my free time, I enjoy knitting, downhill skiing, and playing violin in my folk band, Buffalo Death Beam.

Michael White – Student Board member



Mike is a second-year student at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. A native of Westport, Conn., Mike graduated from the University of Virginia with degrees in economics and Spanish literature. He worked as a financial analyst for McColl Partners for two years, specializing in sell-side mergers and acquisitions. Soon after, he traded the financial world for veterinary medicine. Mike completed his preveterinary course work at the University of Colorado while working as an outpatient assistant at University Hills Animal Hospital in Denver, under the tutelage of Dr. Ted Cohn, former AVMA Executive Board chair.

Mike was elected president of his class as a first-year student. He was also chosen as a KSU CVM student ambassador and as the Pfizer Animal Health student liaison. Mike is a member of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Response Corps and co-founder of KSU's Lesbian and Gay VMA. He also received one of three Student Leadership Awards from the Lesbian and Gay VMA. In the summer of 2012, he won a Veterinary Research Scholars Program Grant from the NIH to study the exercise mimetic potential of flavonols for use in congestive heart failure. Mike plays for the CVM soccer team and is an Ironman triathlete.

Mike's professional interests include public health and critical care medicine. Within medical bioethics, his favorite topics include the employment of palliative/hospice care (i.e. enhancing quality of life over strict longevity) and the bioengineering of animals for food and fiber. On graduating from Kansas State in 2015, Mike will become a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. Mike loves to sing but acknowledges that he is completely tone-deaf. He also loves every movie Pixar has ever produced (except "Cars 2" because it was downright awful) and has spent the past two months trying to convince his girlfriend to let him see "Wreck-It Ralph."



Events & Announcements

*** Bustad Animal-Interaction Symposium (Human-Animal Interaction)**

Washington State University - Pullman Campus, Oct 18-20, 2013

<http://cm.wsu.edu/ehome/bustad/88094/?&>

*** SVME meeting at: AVMA convention, Chicago, July 19-23, 2013**

The SVME Ethics Plenary Sessions and Annual General Membership meeting will be held in on Saturday, August 20, 2013. The Plenary Sessions start at 7:00 am and runs all day.

The Annual General Membership meeting starts at 5:00 pm directly following the Plenary Sessions.

The Board of Directors meeting follows the AGM at 6:30 pm.

There are also animal welfare and Animal-Human-bond streams during the convention.

*** Veterinary Ethics:**

OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body

« Ensuring excellence and ethics of the veterinary profession»

Foz do Iguazu (Brazil), 4–6 December 2013

*** Human Ethics:**

“Effective Communication in Healthcare and Ethics” is April 12. Register at azbioethics.org. The registration fee is \$80 per person, \$25 per student.

*** Medical Ethics & Legal Medicine Saturday, 12 October, 2013 - Saturday, 19 October, 2013**

Website: <http://www.continuingeducation.net/coursedetails...>

This is a Live Lecture 7-Night Eastern Mediterranean Cruise Conference Starting in Venice, Italy and ending in Barcelona, Spain and is held aboard Royal Caribbean's Splendor of the Seas.

*** Intensive Course on Health and Human Rights: Concepts, Implementation, and Impact**

June 10–13, 2013 • Boston, MA

*** Bioethics in Law and Public Policy**

22 -24 May 2013

Web: www.postgradbioethics.org

King's College London

There is also information on upcoming medical ethics conferences at

<http://www.researchraven.com/conferences/category/medical-ethics.aspx> and

<http://www.conferencealerts.com/topic-listing?topic=Medical%20ethics> and

http://www.globalhealthethics.org/?page_id=120



SVME Mission Statement

The Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics was founded in 1994 by a group of veterinarians, biomedical researchers and academics to promote discussion and debate about ethical issues arising in and relevant to veterinary practice. The SVME publishes a newsletter, provides a listserv, holds an annual meeting at the AVMA convention, sponsors an annual student essay contest and honors an individual annually with the Shomer Award for outstanding contributions to veterinary medical ethics.

Individuals interested in information or in joining the SVME can visit the SVME website below to learn more about the organization.

www.svme.org/

APPLICATION FORM

SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY MEDICAL ETHICS

NAME: _____

BUSINESS

ADDRESS: _____

HOME

ADDRESS: _____

ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE SEND MAIL TO: _____ Office _____ Home

Phone: _____

Business: _____

Fax: _____

OCCUPATION AND PRESENT POSITION:

PROFESSIONAL DEGREES:

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

INTERESTS IN VETERINARY ETHICS:

I WOULD LIKE MY NAME & STATE OF RESIDENCE TO BE INCLUDED ON

THE SVME WEBSITE yes _____ no _____

I hereby make application to the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)

c/o

John S. Wright, DVM, SVME Treasurer
Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
1352 Boyd Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

SVME Board of Directors member list:

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