

SVME NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics

Volume 9, Number 1

January 2003

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message, page 1

*President-Elect's Message,
page 2*

Treasurer's Report, page 3

Programs & Meetings, page 3

Cloning Report, page 4-7

*AVMA Convention: Minutes of
Annual Meeting for SVME
,
page 8-10*

SVME Officer list, page 10

Member News, page 11

*A Call for Nominations, page
11-12*

*SVME Discussion list, page
12*

Death Notice, page 12

Editor's Notes, page 13

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The SVME offers the profession the opportunity to discuss issues and practices within the context of that elusive and often ignored framework titled "Ethics". Reflection and interaction between the members of the collective group that we represent can be a very positive force.

My interest in SVME is based on a need to have some sort of collective wisdom aid me as I travel through the uncharted waters of our rapidly changing world. As a profession we are blessed with a great reputation for our commitment to do the "right thing" for our patients. This reputation is the product of dedicated efforts of generations of veterinarians that have preceded us. We have an obligation to maintain and nurture this sense of "trust". Such an obligation can only be met through a concentrated effort.

There was a time when I thought that "Ethics" was as constant as the law of mathematics. My experience reading and talking with Bernard Rollin introduced me to the concept of "Social Ethics". Conceptually appreciating this side of "Ethics" allowed me to understand the dynamic involved in making decision based on the changes happening all around us. The "expectations" driven by new information and new ways to solve problems necessitates a behavioral response suitable to new conditions. I hope that makes sense.

Confusion and the lack of some form of "sign posts" can produce a condition referred to as moral stress. Our psyches sense an inconsistency between our actions and our beliefs. Relief of such stress is based on solutions born out of reflection, altered behavior or some sort of rearrangement of our appreciation for what we really believe in. For those Hefeians out there, this process is referred to as a "Dialectic".

I am disappointed in the availability of some sort of ongoing discussion within the profession relative to ethical issues. As president of the SVME I will take this opportunity to begin an effort to provide some sort of stimulus for the AVMA to publish in the AVMA journal a monthly or quarterly section dedicated to ethical challenges within the profession.

I realize that this project is going to take more than a year or so. I will on occasion seek advice and ideas from the membership. I want to encourage everyone to be dedicated to the concept, avoid frustration over political posturing, not be deterred by the occasional overbearing self-interest groups and maintain an attitude focused on the opportunity to present issues and work toward greater understanding.

Thank you for your interest in SVME. I look forward to seeing and meeting as many of you as possible in Denver.

Brian Forsgren, DVM
SVME President

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

Dear SVME members,

Since 2000 I have been acting as the editor and secretary of the society. I was working behind the scene. This year I was elected as president-elect. That means, next year I will succeed Brian as the president. I hope that I will meet the expectations of the members. Most of you know the work that I did for the newsletter, the web site and the listserv. In an attempt to give you a little insight into who I am (besides being the SVME secretary and editor of the newsletter), I thought I would take the opportunity of this, my first letter as president-elect, to tell you about myself and my duty as the president-elect of SVME. I received a BSc degree in Biology (specialised in animal behaviour) from McGill University in 1987, a MSc degree in Biology from Laval University in 1990 working on social organization in wild Snow geese and a PhD in psychology from Universite du Quebec a Montreal in 1997 working on social organization in domestic chicken. I became interested in applied ethology and welfare while I was working on my PhD. Since 1997, I am a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for the Study of Animal Well-being, which is part of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. When you are working on the welfare of animals you also have to deal with animal rights, health and management issues and consequently ethics. I had the opportunity to work with the late Dr. Leo K. Bustad, founder of the People-Pet-Partnership and pioneer in the field of the human-animal bond. Working with Dr. Bustad increased my awareness of the importance of respecting all living beings. When I arrived at Washington State University, I also met Bob Speth, who was the president-elect of SVME at that time. Bob introduced me to SVME. The society helped me gain further knowledge about veterinary ethics. I also became progressively more involved in the society, first as the editor of the newsletter and the manager of the web site and list-serv and finally as the secretary. It was (and still is) a good learning experience!

I attended my first SVME meeting in 2001 in Boston. It was a highly enriching experience to listen and discuss ethical issues with "real" people rather than discussing through a list-serv, which does not always convey feelings and emotions appropriately. There are few meetings about veterinary ethics; attending the meeting is a way to learn more about the "hot" topics in the field and meet people who share an interest in ethics. For the past two years, the program of the meeting was very interesting and featured famous speakers (Dr. Armistead in 2001 and Dr. Rollin in 2002). Unfortunately the attendance was moderate. Both years, the society business meeting followed the seminars and both years only four members attended the meeting. There are several factors contributing to the low attendance of members to the Ethics session and business meeting. However, I do not want to talk about this now. I will just say that Dr. Brian Forsgren, the president and I will work on improving the situation since my main duty as the president-elect, beside helping the president in his own tasks is to organize the annual meeting. The next meeting will be held in July 2003 in Denver, Colorado. I hope that you will be numerous to attend the meeting. I also hope that many of you will come to the annual meeting of the society, held after the seminars. It would be a pleasure to meet you all!

Best wishes for the coming year!

Sylvie
Sylvie Cloutier, Ph.D.
SVME President-Elect

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance of the SVME checking account as of 12/10/02 was \$2,891.53; however, there are four checks for \$500.00 each, as start-up grants to veterinary school chapters, which are presently outstanding and not reflected in that balance. The balance of the SVME savings account as of 12/10/02 was \$22,254.49.

Mary

Mary D. Kraeszig, DVM
SVME treasurer

NOTICE:

Any member who has email access and did not provide it when sending the membership application is encouraged to send their current email address to the treasurer, Mary D. Kraeszig, at kittydoc@iquest.net

—PROGRAMS & MEETINGS—

SVME meeting slated

The next annual meeting of the society will be held in conjunction with the AVMA meeting on July 20, 2003, in Denver, Colorado. Seminars on veterinary ethics will be presented from 8am to 5pm with a 1h lunch break. Everyone is invited to attend. The annual business meeting of the society will follow the seminars at 4:30 pm. All active members, i.e. members who paid their dues, are invited to attend the business meeting.

Schedule – AVMA Ethics session
Sunday July 20, 2003
Colorado Convention Center, Denver Co
Room A214

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 8 am | Dr. Carol A. Morgan
<i>Working with the Weakest Link: Should the Strength of the Human Animal Bond Affect the Way You Practice?</i> |
| 9:30 am | coffee break |
| 10 am | Dr. Carol A. Morgan
<i>Is Marketing the 'Bond' Morally Reprehensible?</i> |
| 11:30 am | lunch |
| 1 pm | Dr. Bernard Rollin
<i>Ethics of Cancer Therapy</i> |
| 2:30pm | coffee break |
| 3pm | Dr. Alice Villalobos
<i>Compassionate Cancer Therapy</i> |

4:30pm SVME business meeting

Mark your calendar!

Other meetings planned

UFAW Symposium 2–4 April 2003, University of Edinburgh

If you are interested in attending or contributing to the symposium, please put this date in your diary. For further details, please send the following information to the address below or by email to scioff@ufaw.org.uk as soon as possible (this will ensure that you reserve your place and receive future mailings; it will also help us to plan the event):

Name; Title (Dr, Mr, Mrs, Ms etc); Address; Telephone number; Fax number; Email address; University / Organisation.

Send to the Scientific Officer, UFAW, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, AL4 8AN, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1582 831818; Fax: +44 (0) 1582 831414; Email: scioff@ufaw.org.uk

International Society for Applied Ethology meeting

The 37th International Congress of the ISAE will be held June 24–28, 2003, in Abano Terme (near Venice), Italy. Deadline for submission of abstract is January 15, 2003. For more information visit the web site <http://www.isae2003.org>

Special Report: The Cloning of Fluffy — Do We Dare?

With the successful cloning of CC the cat, the doors to cloning pets were opened. While commercial cloning of pet cats is anticipated within the year, cloning of dogs and horses is still in the research phase. Companies, anticipating commercial cloning opportunities, have begun advertising tissue-banking services to the general public. Tissues are collected from live or recently dead animals and preserved, awaiting the perfection of the cloning process. Costs for preparation and storage of tissues range from \$700 - \$1395, plus monthly or annual maintenance fees. The anticipated cost for the service of commercially cloning a cat is estimated at \$ 20,000. This article will not address the ethical issue of cloning itself and assumes that cloning of pets has no detrimental effect on any animal or person other than those directly involved. This article will examine some of the issues a veterinarian in private companion animal practice should consider when faced with a client requesting tissue-harvesting services.

The Benefits of Cloning

Despite public concerns of cloning research and particularly human cloning research, the benefits of cloning may be substantial. Cloning and cloning techniques promise to revolutionize medicine in the form of xenotransplantation, medications produced by transgenic animals, and ‘therapeutic’ cloning (the cloning of organs for replacement). In agriculture, clones of superior livestock may improve productivity. Cloning of endangered species may provide a reservoir of animals to release back into the wild when once again the habitat becomes stable. Cloning research may carry some significant potential benefits. But what are the benefits to cloning pets?

Cloning is very much in vogue. A client may desire a cloned pet for the sake of novelty similar to owning an exotic reptile or a rare car. Others may feel that a clone of a beloved pet will quench their grief. Furthermore, some breeders may wish to preserve the genetic material of a prized show dog or cat. Genetic material of a genetically superior animal could be required to improve the viability of the remaining lines within a given breed. Although cloning of a show dog may have financial benefits for the breeder, because these animals are used or sold as companions (as opposed to food or research models), ultimately the desire to clone pets is based on an emotional need at one level or another. These emotional benefits may be very real for some people, and thus pet owners may indeed benefit from the commercial cloning of pets.

In addition to pet owners, veterinarians may also benefit from commercial cloning of pets. Practitioners are recruited by both client and tissue banks, to conduct the tissue harvesting of donor animals. Veterinarians are often anxious to please their clients, and providing tissue-harvesting services could increase the array of options for clients. Not only would veterinarians benefit financially, they will also benefit from satisfying a client’s wishes and may even enjoy their involvement in the exciting field of biotechnology. Thus, veterinarians may view tissue harvesting as a financially viable means of providing client satisfaction.

How do the animals figure into this process? Although some have argued that the genetic donor animals may ultimately benefit from cloning by receiving cloned replacement organs, the likelihood of this occurring is quite low. Genetic donors are unlikely to benefit from the tissue harvesting in any way. The egg-donors and surrogates animals used in the process, according to

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Article by: Carol Morgan, DVM
Small Animal Practitioner and
M.A. Candidate in Ethics,
University of British Columbia,
BC, Canada

one web site, are placed in suitable homes. Considering these animals were scheduled for euthanasia anyway, enduring these procedures may seem a reasonable trade off for life. Finally, the healthy clones will no doubt benefit from a life that they would otherwise not have lived.

The Risks and Harms

1. The Client

The client bears the financial burden of acquiring tissues from their current pet, paying for storage, and finally the cost of a successful cloning. For some, these costs may be worth the benefits of acquiring a clone. Veterinarians may feel that these financial burdens are the client's choice and none of their business. This 'mind your own business' attitude may be appropriate if the client has thoroughly considered their options and is fully informed. If a pet is young and healthy, the client may be able to make an informed rational choice to harvest tissue from their pets. However, the situation is different if the pet is ill or recently deceased. Considering the significant body of literature on grief associated with the death of companion animals, the client may be unable to make a rational informed decision at the time of their beloved pet's illness or death. These clients may consider cloning a ray of hope. However, once their grief has subsided a client may feel foolish or resentful. Veterinarians and tissue banks may bear the brunt of a client's shame and anger when they realize that their grief has resulted in a decision they would not have otherwise made. On the other hand, denying clients the service of tissue harvesting based on their emotional state would leave a veterinarian open to the criticism of paternalism. When possible, discussing these issues with a client well before the pet is critically ill may help to alleviate these concerns.

2. The Genetic Donor

i) Healthy Donors

Tissues harvested from healthy animals include skin and, for some tissue banks, gingival biopsies. While skin biopsies can be readily obtained through local anesthesia in most cases, it would take a very placid animal to submit to gingival biopsies. Most animals would need to be subjected to heavy sedation or general anesthesia for the collection of this type of biopsy. Although the risk of general anesthesia is relatively low in a healthy young animal, it is still a risk that affords the animal no benefit. Additionally pain and potential complications from the biopsy itself must be considered. Performing biopsies in conjunction with other procedures requiring sedation or anesthesia will minimize the risks to the animal and the use of post-operative analgesics could alleviate concerns about unnecessary suffering. In any case, no matter how trivial, biopsies pose at least some risk to the patient with no benefit.

ii) Unhealthy Genetic Donors

One tissue bank claims that more and varied tissue improves the likelihood of success (samples of liver, lung, urinary tract, etc.). Multiple organ biopsies are recommended for

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removal from ill or recently dead animals. The risks of harvesting tissues from internal organs are substantial for ill animals. Recovering an ill animal from general anesthesia for the purposes of tissues harvesting is such a glaring failure of the veterinarian's duty to reduce suffering and requires little discussion. Assuming that an ill animal will be euthanized on the surgery table (and would have been euthanized regardless of the decision to harvest tissues) is the only credible method for a veterinarian to accommodate such request by clients.

The number of eggs, embryos, and fetuses required to produce one successful clone is very high.

3. Egg-donors and Surrogates

A veterinarian may feel as though he/she is ethically in the clear, having handled both the client's interests and the patient's health and safety. But does our responsibility end there? Cloning of a pet involves the use of animals as egg donors as well as surrogates. Although these animals may have been destined for destruction through shelters etc., the procedures required to produce clones are not benign. The risks and harms of donor egg collection and implantation into surrogates must also be considered. Collection and implantation involves general anesthesia and abdominal surgery, placing these animals at risk of complication and, at minimum, some suffering. Although these animals may be placed in a 'loving' home, it is not clear that it is preferable for an animal to be used as a surrogate or egg-donor for as long as a year and later adopted, rather than being euthanized at a shelter. This issue alone should be debated remembering that the surrogates and donors are not being subjected to these procedures to fulfill some vital role in society but to satisfy the curious whim of a pet lover.

Additionally, the number of eggs, embryos, and fetuses required to produce one successful clone is very high. At the current success rates, many egg-donors and many surrogates would be needed to produce a single successful clone. The risks and suffering of all the egg-donors and surrogates must be considered when one tries to determine whether the benefits of cloning outweigh the risks and costs.

4. The Cloned Offspring

The potential harms to future clones are very real at this time. These harms include the possibility of accelerated aging (this claim is controversial), large fetus syndrome, neonatal abnormalities and high perinatal mortality rates. Thus, the clones themselves may suffer substantially from the cloning procedure. Assuming that, with time, these numbers will be reduced and the science of cloning pets will be perfected to the point where minimal suffering is anticipated in the cloning of a pet, the potential for harm does not end. CC's coat color is different from her genetic donor. Will a client demand an animal who looks exactly like their original pet? How many failures will be produced to accomplish this goal? Even if the clone does resemble the genetic donor, the behavioral traits may not be the same. What will become of the clone who prefers to chew on the furniture rather than perform the tricks of its genetic donor? The degree of a client's expectation that a cloned pet will behave in a similar way to the donor animal would be very high. There is a risk, regardless of how well a client is informed that the animal will not be the same and

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the client will be disappointed with the resulting clone. And while it is impossible to ensure a strong human animal bond in every case, the depth of expectation in a cloned pet may be extreme. After all, pet owners who would clone their pet do so in the expectation that the clone would behave similarly to the genetic donor. In these cases, the client may be unsatisfied with the pet.

5. The Veterinary Profession

Finally, veterinarians, when considering offering tissue-harvesting services, must consider the profession as a whole. Cloning is a very highly charged issue. Endorsing these technologies without considering the views of society could have dire consequences for the profession. Will society view veterinarians' role in cloning and tissue harvesting as another means to pad their wallets at the expense and suffering of animals? Will the public suspect veterinarians are taking advantage of their grief stricken clients? Will clients with top quality show dogs continue to feel confident that their dog will not have tissue harvested during a surgical procedure or post mortem? A number of the web sites offering tissue storage services advise veterinarians that clients requesting tissue harvesting have generally addressed the ethical questions for themselves and that vets are unlikely to have to deal with any of these issues. They suggest that clients can book a skin biopsy with a spay or vaccination. There are at least two serious problems with this approach. 1) Many clients surfing the web are unlikely to realize the seriousness of the procedures to which

egg-donors, surrogates are subjected, and the high morbidity and mortality of cloned offspring (in fact these concerns are minimized). Some clients may not care about many of these concerns; others would care if they were informed of these problems. 2) Veterinarians are not technicians. It seems irresponsible of a veterinarian to fail to counsel this client on the ramifications of their choices. Blindly accepting the client's decisions for the disposition of their pet promotes the view that veterinarians are more akin to car mechanics rather than health care professionals. This view harms the entire profession. Clients requesting tissue collection services need to be informed of all of the ramifications of their decision.

Cloning is a very highly charged issue. Endorsing these technologies without considering the views of society could have dire consequences for the profession.

Conclusion

Cloning may provide very useful resources for society and animals. Cloning animals for the reproduction of a pet - Fluffy II - may have merits for some individual clients and under certain circumstances may be beneficial. Nevertheless, when one considers the potential harms, cloning an animal for novelty's sake or in the desperate hope of replacing a lost companion is questionable at best. The veterinary profession and its regulatory bodies should consider the ramifications of harvesting tissues from animals in anticipation of cloning and consider developing guidelines for the profession to follow. Leaving the ethical analysis to those advocating the process is foolish. In the meantime, when asked to harvest tissues from a patient, individual practitioners need to examine the issues. Veterinarians should talk to their clients to ensure that they are completely informed and are not reacting to their own grief or grasping for a ray of hope, they may latter regret.

139TH AVMA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2002

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics 2002

Held on Sunday, July 14, 2002
At the Opryland Convention Center, Nashville, TN
Room Canal D

Members present: Sylvie Cloutier, Mary Kraeszig, Brian Forsgren, Don Draper

Agenda of SVME Annual Business Meeting:

- A. Call to order
- B. Secretary's report & approval of minutes
- C. Treasurer's report
- D. Officer reports
- E. Committee reports
- F. Old business
 - 1. Utilization of Dr. Robert Shomer gift to SVME / Status of student SVME chapters
 - 2. Does SVME need a strategic plan?
 - 3. SVME Web site and VETETHIC list
- G. New business
 - 1. How to increase attendance of members at annual meeting
 - 2. Action items from committees
 - 3. Other new business
- H. Nomination committee report
 - 1. Election of officers
- I. Install officers
- J. Adjournment

-
- A. Call to order
The order was unanimously approved.
 - B. Secretary's report & approval of minutes
The minutes of last year's meeting were published in the September 2001 Newsletter of the Society, which was also available on the web site of the society. The minutes were approved unanimously.
 - C. Treasurer's report
The treasurer' report provided by Mary Kraeszig noted a balance of \$1,086.53 in the checking account, and \$24,139.06 in the savings account (total of \$25,225.59). Two checks of \$500 each for students chapters are presently outstanding.
The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.
 - D. Officer reports
No officers' reports were presented.

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E. Committee reports

No committee reports were presented.

F. Old business

1. Utilization of Dr. Robert Shomer gift to SVME/ Status of student SVME chapters

It was agreed at the 2001 meeting that the money from Dr. Shomer's gift would be used to promote the formation of SVME student chapter and to develop veterinary ethics activities in the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine in US and Canada. Bill Folger contacted the Associate Dean of Education of all the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine to inform them that SVME could provide financial aid for the development of a SVME student chapter. He also contacted the SAVMA chapter at all institutions. Each College was offered \$500 for the formation of a student chapter. Student Chapters have been started in three schools so far. Bill Folger is actually in contact with 15 other schools to start new chapters. To be considered a Student chapter of SVME and to receive \$500 from the society, the school must meet the following requirements: (1) form a Constitution and Bylaws; (2) elect officers; (3) submit an expense report to let the SVME officers know how the \$500 was spent; and (4) hold at least four meetings per year. Once a chapter has been formed, these dues paying members become members of the SVME, and should be allowed access to the Listserver.

It was accepted unanimously that Bill Folger would continue to communicate with the schools for the creation of SVME student chapters.

2. Does SVME need a strategic plan?

Bill Folger, the president, did not have time during his term to determine if SVME needs a strategic plan. Brian Forsgren, the new president, will work on the development of a strategic plan and will submit it to the members for comments and suggestions.

3. Listserv

The problem of the quietness of the VETETHIC list was raised. It was decided that an effort would be made to start discussions on the list. It was also suggested that the list be used more consistently to inform members about the society's annual meeting and other activities.

G. New business

1. How to increase attendance of members at annual meeting

It was noticed that the number of SVME members present during the AVMA Ethics session has been decreasing every year for the past few years. The attendance at the society Business meeting has also decreased. Brian Forsgren mentioned that the SVME has to compete with several other societies and organizations to attract members. Brian Forsgren suggested submitting a survey to the members, via the

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VETETHIC list, about the preference for the location of future SVME meetings. Sylvie Cloutier suggested also putting the survey in the next issue of the newsletter in order to reach members who are not on the VETETHIC list. It was agreed that Brian Forsgren will prepare the survey and Sylvie Cloutier will help.

2. Action items from committees

No action items were presented.

3. Other new business

No other new businesses were presented.

H. Nomination committee report

1. Election of officers

The slate of candidates for SVME officer positions is:

President-Elect, Dr. Sylvie Cloutier; Treasurer, Dr. Mary D. Kraeszig

Dr. Sylvie Cloutier will continue to serve as secretary until a new secretary is named by Dr. Brian Forsgren, the president for the coming year. The president will also have to name a historian; this position has not been replaced since the resignation of Jerry Tannenbaum in 2001.

I. Install officers

The slate was approved unanimously.

New officers were installed.

The new president is Brian Forsgren.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvie Cloutier, Ph.D.
SVME President-Elect

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

<i>President:</i>	Brian Forsgren, DVM
<i>President Elect:</i>	Sylvie Cloutier, PhD
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mary D. Kraeszig, JD, DVM
<i>Secretary:</i>	Sylvie Cloutier, PhD (temporary)
<i>Parliamentarian:</i>	Robert C. Speth, PhD
<i>Historian:</i>	To-Be-Named
<i>Immediate Past-President:</i>	William R. Folger, DVM, MS, ABVP (Feline)
<i>Past-Presidents:</i>	Ronald L. McLaughlin, DVM
	Albert Dorn, DVM, MS
	Jerry Tannenbaum, MA, JD
	John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
	Robert C. Speth, PhD
	Robert Shomer, VMD
	Don D. Draper, DVM, PhD, MBA

Dr. William Waddell -The buffalo soldier

Dr. Waddell, a member of SVME, was the subject of an article by H. K. Branson published earlier this year in the journal *Veterinary Economics* (May 2002, p. 28-29). This is a short but enlightening article about the accomplishment of this man. Ms. Branson describes Dr. Waddell's many accomplishments: from his years as a Buffalo soldier during WWII— an all-black military unit of the US army from 1866 to 1948—which he is the oldest

living member at 93 years old, to being the first black to pass the state board in veterinary medicine in Pennsylvania, his meetings with Frank D. Roosevelt, and his involvement in the foundation and management of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Ala.

For the complete story read *Veterinary Economics*, May 2002, p. 28-29.

—A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS—

The following SVME officer positions will need to be filled for the year 2003-2004:

Secretary

1. The Secretary of the Society shall provide for the keeping of the minutes of all general meetings, executive committee meetings and special committee meetings.
2. The Secretary shall give or cause to be given appropriate notices in accordance with this constitution or as required by law, and shall act as custodian of all society records and reports. The Secretary shall oversee the society seal or logo, assuring that it is affixed, when required by law, to do comments executed on behalf of the society.
3. The Secretary shall perform all duties incident to the office, and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.
4. The Secretary shall be responsible for all publications of the society.
5. The Secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting with the term of office being one year. The Secretary may be reelected at the discretion of the membership. In case of a vacancy of this office, the President shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next general meeting when an election will be held.
6. The Secretary shall be chair of the Awards Committee of the society.
7. The Secretary shall be the editor of the newsletter of the society

Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall collect dues and fees and be custodian of all funds of the society. The Treasurer shall present an annual report to the membership on the financial status of the society.
2. The Treasurer shall cause to be kept correct and accurate, accounts of the properties and financial transactions of the society and in general, perform all duties incident to the office.
3. The Treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept a roster showing the names of members in good standing of the society and their addresses, and make this roster available to other officers.
4. The Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting with the term of office being one year. The Treasurer may be reelected at the discretion of the membership. In case of a vacancy of this office, the President shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next general meeting when an election will be held.
5. The Treasurer shall chair the Membership Committee of the Society.

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Parliamentarian

1. The Parliamentarian shall be elected in odd numbered years and will serve for a term of two years.
2. The Parliamentarian is a member of the Board of Directors with all of the rights and responsibilities described herein.
3. In case of a vacancy of this office, the President shall appoint a replacement.
4. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for questions relating to Robert's Rules of order during the conduct of meetings.
5. The Parliamentarian shall chair the Nominating Committee of the society.

Historian

1. The Historian will be elected in even numbered years and will serve for a term of two years.
2. The Historian is a member of the Board of Directors with all the rights and responsibilities described herein.
3. In case of a vacancy of this office, the President will appoint a replacement.
4. The Historian shall maintain an archive or file of materials and papers related to veterinary ethics.
5. The Historian shall chair the Education and Archives Committee of the society.

If you are interested by one of the position or would like to nominate someone, contact Dr. Brian Forsgren, SVME president (BForsgren1@aol.com). The officers will be elected at the society business meeting held July 20, 2003 in Denver CO.

SVME discussion list - VETETHIC

Any member who did not pay their dues for the year 2002-2003 will be removed from the SVME discussion list at the end of February. If you would like to pay your dues, contact Mary Kraeszig, the treasurer (kittydoc@iquest.net).

—CHRISTINE STEVENS DIES; ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST—

By Adam Bernstein
Washington Post Staff Writer

Friday, October 11, 2002; Page B06

Christine Stevens, 84, a conservationist and animal rights activist who used her position as a leading figure in Washington society to lobby for legislation on many animal protection measures, died Oct. 10 at George Washington University Hospital. She had metabolic encephalopathy, which affects the nervous system, complicated by shingles.

Mrs. Stevens, a Washington resident, founded the Animal Welfare Institute, a nonprofit organization that publishes books and newsletters about the humane treatment

of animals. She also started the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, the lobbying arm of her institute. She founded both groups in the 1950s and served as president of the Animal Welfare Institute until her death. Membership is now 20,000.

She played a key role in the passage of more than a dozen congressional acts, including the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958 and the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966, which mandates the licensing of animal dealers to prevent pet theft and sale to research centers.

Her husband of 60 years died in 1998. Survivors include a daughter, Christabel Gough of New York.

BOOK REVIEW

There is no book review in this issue of the newsletter. However, Dr. Sally Walshaw is recommending the following book:

Forgive and Remember: Managing Medical Failure

by Charles L. Bosk

Chicago, U. of Chicago Press, 1979

(available in paperback)

According to Dr. Walshaw, this is a gem of a book. Although it deals with human surgeons and how surgery residents are trained, the ethical issues are the same in veterinary specialty training.

I encourage any member who would like to review a book that could be of interest to the members for the next issues to let me know.

Sylvie Cloutier, PhD
SVME Secretary/Editor