



SVME Newsletter

Society of Veterinary
Medical Ethics

Summer 2012

President's Message - Summer 2012

The SVME is honored to host the Ethics Plenary Sessions at the AVMA Convention on August 6th this year in San Diego. Our goals are to strengthen the bridge between clinical veterinary medicine and ethics by providing a forum for the exchange of experience and discussions between veterinarians, ethicists and ethics consultants. Many of the discussions will present real clinical case experiences and help us achieve our theme, *From Controversy to Consensus!*

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ETHICS PLENARY SESSIONS From Controversy to Consensus AVMA Convention SAN DIEGO, CA Monday August 6, 2012

Moderator: Alice Villalobos, President, SVME

Speaker	Topic	Time
Dennis Lawler, DVM	Ethics & Aging Science	8:00-9:00 am
Louise Dunn, CPM	Ethical Marketing	9:00-10:00 am
Alan Beck, Ph.D.	Pet Keeping & Breed Bans	10:00-11:00 am
Bernie Rollin, Ph.D.	How to Gain Consensus	11:00am-12:00 pm
2 Hour Break	2 Hour Break	2 Hour Break
Gary Patronek, VMD, Ph.D.	Ethics of Death Hoarding	2:00-3:00 pm
	AWARDS CEREMONY	3:00 pm
Alice Villalobos, DVM	Top 10 Controversies to Consensus?	3:00-4:00 pm
Bernie Rollin, Ph.D.	Moral Stress as Pets Decline Ethics & Euthanasia Dilemmas	4:00-5:00 pm
Panel Discussion:	Lawler, Dunn, Patronek, Villalobos, Rollin	5:00-5:45 pm
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:	Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics	5:45-6:30 pm
SVME BOARD OF DIRECTORS	MEETING to follow the AGM	6:30-7:30 pm



Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP
with Neo, her Olde English Bulldog

The morning sessions will be amazing; beginning with a discussion on the ethics of aging by Dr. Dennis Lawler, ethical marketing by Louise Dunn, the ethics of breed bans by Alan Bech, Sc.D., and the art of how to reach consensus despite polarity by Bernie Rollin, Ph.D.

At 2:00 pm, After the lunch break, the SVME Plenary Sessions deal with more touchy issues such as: the ethics of hoarding elderly/ infirm animals but withholding euthanasia by Gary Patronek, DVM, Ph.D.

At 3:00 pm we will hold a short awards ceremony. Dr. Leland Shapiro will accept the prestigious SVME Shomer Award for this year's winner, Temple Grandin, Ph.D. of CSU. We will also honor Michael J. White of Kansas State who won The WALTHAM Student Essay Contest and who will present highlights of his excellent and informative essay to the audience. Following that, yours truly will present the Ten Top Ethics Issues followed by Bernie Rollin's resonating revelation that veterinarians and their staff suffer *Moral Stress as Pets Decline* with further discussion on ethical dilemmas with euthanasia.

At the end of the day, a Panel Discussion with the day's speakers will provide ample time for questions and free discussion from attendees. I have badgered our speakers to step out of their comfort zones to discuss the ethical dilemmas inherent in specific situations. This NL contains brief editorialized summaries of what I intended that our speakers would hopefully discuss.

The SVME Ethics Plenary Sessions are open to all AVMA attendees who want to focus on the need for ethics discussions and consultations that look at various opinions attempting to understand that polarity is part of living life. We hope that we can attract many colleagues that are interested in ethics and medicine for a lively day of courteous exchange and helpful information.

The SVME Annual General Meeting will be held promptly following the Panel Discussion at 5:45 pm. We sent the proposed changes to update our Constitution's Articles and By-Laws along with last year's AGM minutes via email. This should expedite voting acceptance. The SVME BOD will meet following the AGM at 6:30 pm.

We are looking forward to polarizing or pairing with you on Monday August 6th at AVMA, San Diego!

Luv-in-pets,

Alice



Dennis Lawler earned his DVM from the University of Illinois in 1974. He was a Veterinary Research Scientist at Nestle (Ralston) Purina Company, St. Louis, MO from 1979-2008. He conducted original research and publications in population health, reproduction, nutritional biology, genetics, diet restriction, and diseases of aging. He was co-principal investigator in a lifetime study of the effects of reduced food intake in dogs. Over twenty peer-reviewed publications have resulted from this large study including molecular explorations of the data.

Lawler was the administrator of academic grants program for 14 years and provided technical training, analytical methods evaluation, quality control programs, and data interpretation for clinical chemistry in nutrition research. He consults for several groups on reproductive biology and on anatomic and clinical pathology for broad-scope genetics studies of the mammalian body plan, using the Portuguese Water Dog canine model.

Ethics & Aging Science

8:00-9:00 am

Summary:

The state of the science of aging has various components despite a wide-ranging panorama of specific subjects ranging from aging biology to cellular and physical senescence. This lecture will present a sensible and understandable framework of aging and give some insights on how understanding the aging process suggests some possible ethical approaches to managing aging and the death trajectory in a community clinical setting. Ethical considerations regarding fertility and cautions about interventions and preventative medicine will be discussed. The Portuguese Water Dog model will be used as an investigational model.



Following 21 years in practice with 16 years in management consulting, **Louise S. Dunn** has operated Snowgoose Veterinary Management Consulting since 1995. Her firm provides technical assistance to practice teams to meet their strategic plans, working with a wide variety of practices. They range from large specialty hospitals with 100 plus team-member companion animal referral centers, to mixed animal hospitals, to single veterinarian practices.

Ms. Dunn conducts practice management workshops at numerous veterinary schools and works with many of the VBMA clubs. She has also contributed to a number of books including the 5 Minute Consult, Pathways to Ownership and Veterinary Clinics of North America and speaks internationally and nationally on various veterinary management topics at meetings including North American Veterinary Conference (TNAVC), Western Veterinary Conference (WCC), American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), Veterinary Specialists in Private Practice (VSIPP), CVC, American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). She was named Practice Management Educator of the Year at WVC 2007.

Ethical Marketing

9:00-10:00 am

Summary:

Businesses are so quick to cry, "Foul" when another business rolls out an innovative marketing plan. Then there are all the rules and regulations of the profession you must abide by. With all these factors pulling you in different directions it is difficult to market your practice, highlight the medical needs of pets and turn a profit.

The problem with ethical marketing is that everyone has a slightly different take on it - your moral compass may point in a different direction than mine. Thus, ethical marketing does involve a lot of "you" and just how far "you" will go to market a service or product.

The goal of ethical marketing is to do the right thing and avoid being manipulative or deceptive. It also means showing respect and not playing on the vulnerabilities of your clients. But it also extends beyond just your clients to the community at large. It is about building relationships and bonding with your clients and your community.

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ALAN M. BECK received his B.S. from Brooklyn College, a Master's degree from UCLA and his Doctorate in Animal Ecology from The Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. He has studied the ecological and public health implications of dogs in Baltimore, St. Louis, New York, and along the US-Mexican border. He authored, *The Ecology of Stray Dogs: A Study of Free-Ranging Urban Dogs* and coauthored, *New Perspectives on Our Lives with Companion Animals* and *Between Pets and People: The Importance of Animal Companionship*. Dr. Beck has published numerous articles on the nature of our relationship with animals. He is a founding board member of the Delta Society.

Dr. Beck directed animal programs for the New York City Department of Health for five years. He was Director of the Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society at Penn for 10 year. In 1990, he became the "Dorothy N. McAllister Professor of Animal Ecology" and Director of the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue.

Pet Keeping & Breed Bans

10:00-11:00 am

Summary:

There is now general acceptance that animals can provide service to individuals and can play important roles in therapeutic settings. The paramount ethical considerations for service and therapy animals are no different from the concerns society has for all animals—are the animals treated with the respect they deserve? Society recognizes the human-animal bond and a bond must be bi-directional, with each party to the bond benefitting in ways that are significant.

Some in the animal rights community still question the utilitarian emphasis of service animals and animal-assisted therapy, that is, they are concerned that animals are viewed as mere "tools" without respect for their inherent worth? It should be appreciated that improving the utility of animals adds value to their existence and therefore to their protection. It is naïve to believe that companion and domesticated animals will thrive in a world that had no value for them. But just assisting people in need is not enough—the animal's utility to people must never include psychological or physical abuse and whatever discomfort that is absolutely necessary is clearly balanced with benefits that serve the animal.



Bernard E. Rollin, Ph.D. earned his Ph.D. at Columbia, and was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. At CSU, Rollin is Professor of Philosophy, Biomedical Sciences, Animal Sciences, and University Bioethicist. He was named University Distinguished Professor and Eddy Professor for excellence in teaching. He is author of many pivotal books and lectures worldwide on controversial issues.

Rollin forged the first classes in veterinary medical ethics at CSU in 1978. He pioneered the reform of animal use in surgery and teaching for veterinary colleges. Rollin testified before Congress enabling the 1985 federal legislation for experimental animal welfare.

Rollin has consulted internationally on many aspects of animal research and on genetic engineering of animals for the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress, on animal pain for NIH, on antimicrobials in food animals for WHO, on farm animal welfare research for the USDA/CSRS and on future planning for APHIS. He is recipient of the Brownlee Award from the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Colorado VMA.

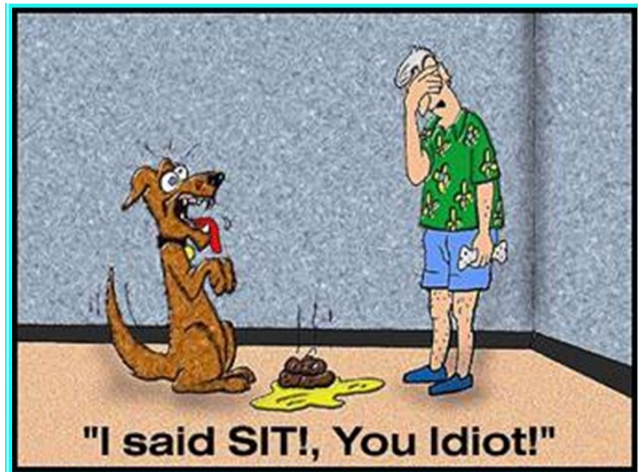
How to Gain Consensus

11:00 am—12:00 pm

Summary:

The way humans treat animals has a wide range of variability depending on the value which is placed on the animal be it for food, sport, show, transportation or companionship. People in society are inherently polarized somewhere between kindness, apathy or cruelty depending on their personal ethics, cultural exposure and understanding of animals. Reaching consensus regarding the care and treatment of animals no matter what their role may be can be very difficult. This lecture will reflect on how some very polarized animal welfare issues were debated and how experts were able to find enough common ground during the controversies to arrive at meaningful consensus.

IT'S
SO
EASY
TO



MISCOMMUNICATE!

Submitted by Louise S Dunn of Snowgoose Veterinary Management Consulting

**Moral Stress as Pets Decline
Ethics and Euthanasia Dilemmas**

4:00-5:00 pm

Summary:

Suicide among veterinarians is higher than in other professions. Why is this so, especially in England? Moral stress is a unique and insidious form of stress that cannot be alleviated by normal approaches to stress management. Moral stress arises among veterinarians, shelter workers, and laboratory animal workers, who entered the field out of concern for animals yet wind up having to kill animals on a day-to-day basis due to the unwanted overpopulation or pet owner convenience. Many research workers, who initially wanted to help people and animals, find themselves being complicit in causing pain, distress or disease to comply with research goals.

Being asked to or having to kill healthy animals creates moral stress. When one's actions are repeatedly in conflict with one's intended goals, we see a formula for moral stress. Ethical dilemmas surrounding euthanasia and owner reluctance to euthanize suffering animals or to understand animal suffering will be discussed.



Dr. Patronek earned his VMD at U of Penn. and his Ph.D. in Epidemiology/Animal Welfare at Purdue. After working in private practice for several years, he served as the Director of the Chester County SPCA. Few veterinarians worked in shelters at that time. With his PhD, he joined Tufts University as Director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy. As adjunct staff at Tufts, he developed their shelter medicine program. While at Tufts, he founded the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (HARC), which conducted the initial research on animal hoarding. He helped

develop the League's Center for Shelter Dogs, he was on the Board Specialty Organizing Committee for the shelter medicine specialty sanctioned by the AVMA.

His interests include: how animal abuse often predicts human abuse, hoarding, standards for quality of life for animals in shelters, and using geo-spatial analysis to better understand how shelter intakes and adoptions are connected to human socio-geographic factors.

Ethics of Death Hoarding

2:00-3:00 pm

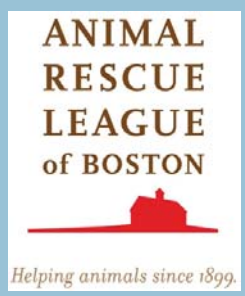
Summary:

Self Proclaimed Collectors of Old, Special Needs Animals Who Do Not Provide Euthanasia: Are They "True" Hospice or Death Hoarders?

More people want to save old and/or special needs animals. Some start collecting more and more and set themselves up as self proclaimed pet "hospice" or sanctuary owners. One can barely take care of a dozen special needs animals 24/7 at their home before going into physical, mental and emotional overwhelm. The debate goes on at Angels Gate, a facility housing over 200 animals run by Susan Marino who was arrested and charged for animal cruelty.

Without veterinary supervision, these collectors fail to properly care of their animals in the process of declining towards death and dying. What if the caretakers do not believe in euthanasia? The situation can be compounded by pain or the slow, drawn out decline toward death. Are these collectors "true" hospice providers or death hoarders? What are the ethical concerns regarding this situation?

Without adequate veterinary supervision and pain control, there must be a terrible amount of needless suffering at these self proclaimed facilities. Most run on a shoe string budget with little veterinary care. How can the community and society alleviate such multifaceted misery for those unfortunate animals?



SVME Shomer Award: Temple Grandin, Ph D.



Temple Grandin was born with autism on August 29, 1947 in Boston. She is a Doctor of Animal Science and professor at Colorado State University. She is a bestselling author and consultant to the livestock industry in animal behavior. Grandin explains that she thinks in pictures which has given her the ability to improve abattoir facilities worldwide to maintain calmness for cattle. She advocates for children with autism. Clare Danes stars as Grandin in a full length biographical movie about how Grandin, against the odds, achieved her highly respected status as an authoritative advocate for humane livestock slaughter. Leland S. Shapiro, Ph.D., Agricultural Department Chair and Director, Pre- Veterinary. Science Program, L.A. Pierce College and SVME BOD member, will accept

Awards Ceremony

3:00 pm

Waltham-SVME Student Essay Winner: Michael J. White of Kansas State



Michael J. White will receive a check for \$1,000 and reimbursement for his trip to AVMA. He will present a short slide show summary of his winning essay. The essay topic dealt with "human exceptionalism" - the claim that there exists some fundamental difference between human beings and animals that serves to justify differing standards of ethical treatment.

The 2012 SVME Student Essay Committee Chair is Erik Clary. Peggy Danneman, Lide Doffermyre, Suann Hosie, Dennis Lawler, Lee Shapiro and Alice Villalobos served as evaluation members who overall felt that this year's essays were very informative. Michael's essay appears in the Summer NL. URL's for the top 3 essays are on the SVME web site AWARDS page.



Dr. Alice Villalobos is a Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian Award recipient for her pioneering role in bringing oncology services to companion animals. She is President of the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics, past President of the American Association of Human Animal Bond Veterinarians, the Sierra VMA and Chair of the Veterinary Academy for the National Academies of Practice. She is author of the textbook, *Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology: Honoring the Human-Animal Bond* and numerous articles, papers and chapters. She has lectured worldwide on oncology, quality of life, end of life care, the human-animal bond and ethics.

She introduced Pawspice, an end of life care program that embraces kinder, gentler standard care with palliative medicine and transitions to hospice as patients decline. She is Director of Pawspice at VCA Coast Animal Hospital in Hermosa Beach & Animal Oncology Consultation Service in Woodland Hills, CA. Her concierge referral practices provide consultations; integrative oncology therapy and nursing staff home care services for end-of-life care patients, www.Pawspice.com, dralicev@aol.com.

Top 10 Controversies to Consensus?

3:00-4:00 pm

Summary:

Top Ethical Concerns in Veterinary Medicine by Alice Villalobos, DVM

- ◆ the growing dilemma of convenience euthanasia
- ◆ the unwanted horse slaughter and transport dilemma
- ◆ the issues facing the horse and dog racing industries
- ◆ the farm animal welfare issues that conflict with intense production of meat, milk and eggs
- ◆ the conflict of interest inherent in production oriented pay

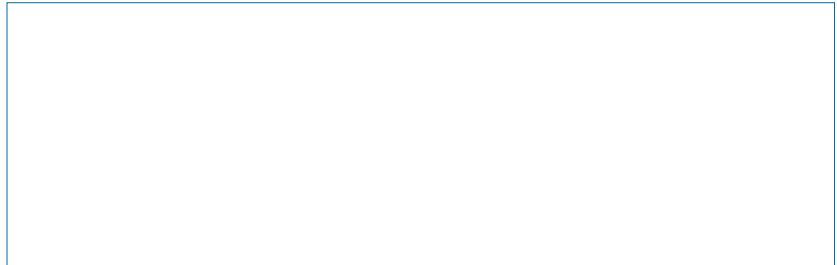
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- ◆ the “pay for services rendered” or no delivery of veterinary services
- ◆ the conflict of interest between entrepreneur and healer
- ◆ the issues involved in over treatment
- ◆ the issues involved in under treatment
- ◆ the tendency to dismiss or pass on cases that we can’t save
- ◆ the demand for animal hospice and palliative care
- ◆ the legal status of animals in the court system
- ◆ the problems of self governance via variable state boards
- ◆ the role for third party payment for pet health care
- ◆ the dog and cat overpopulation problem
- ◆ the shelter and rescue issues facing public and private efforts
- ◆ the foreclosure impact on the human-animal bond
- ◆ the horrors of animal hoarding
- ◆ the detection and reporting of animal abuse and dog fighting
- ◆ the mistakes and deception in drug, supplement and food production
- ◆ the issues regarding addiction, obesity and lifestyle
- ◆ the question if we practice what we preach
- ◆ the political action issues facing the profession
- ◆ the incorporation of corporate practice
- ◆ the issues concerning biohazard and antiterrorism efforts
- ◆ the pollution by growth and antibacterial agents and waste from food animal production



**Society of Veterinary Medical
Ethics**

c/o
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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/

