



SVME Newsletter

Newsletter of the Society for
Veterinary Medical Ethics

Winter 2017

President's Message

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President's Message - Winter 2017

It has been a great honor for me to be the President of the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics in the last three years. The SVME is engaged in a reconstruction of our membership in many ways that I would like to acknowledge.

1. We now have an all-day ethics track at NAVC (VMX) starting in February 2018. That schedule of topics appears in this newsletter. These topics are going to generate a lot of interest in our Society. I will bring 300 brochures to this ethics track to introduce veterinarians and veterinary technicians to our membership and encourage them to join us.
2. Our New Membership Chair Don DeForge (and next President!) is reaching out to all the Deans of the veterinary schools to promote membership in the SVME.
3. We have invited this year's AVMA Young Leader's to be members of the SVME.
4. We are allowing all new graduates a 1-year free membership into our Society.
5. We have a complete Executive Committee and Chairs of the committees, and we are getting organized for this effort.
6. We have established an independent Shomer Award Committee to accept nominations for this prestigious award, and to designate the new award winner.



7. We are writing ethics articles for Veterinary Team Brief, the first of which will be published February 2018(The Top Three Ethical Lapses in Companion Animal Practice).
8. We are going to send news items related to the SVME to JAVMA, VPN, and DVM360 to publish in their respective magazines. First up is the Shomer Award recipient for 2018.

I want us to try and reach a goal of 1000 members within five years. We can do this, but it will require many of us to step up and make this difference in a meaningful way.

We are also going to explore membership payment through PayPal to make it easier for everyone to pay their dues.

William Ray Folger DVM, MS, ABVP(Feline)

President of the SVME 2015-2017

VETETHICS Listserv is a great communication tool for SVME Members.

All SVME members are automatically entered into the VETETHICS Listserv.

SVME BOD members enter new topics or post interesting articles for discussion.

You are encouraged to ask your SVME Colleagues questions regarding ethical dilemmas that have disturbed you.

We encourage your comments on the various ethical topics under discussion.

Dr. Albert Dorn: The 2018 Shomer Award Recipient

It was my privilege and honor for me to nominate my teacher and mentor Dr. Albert Dorn for this year's Society For Veterinary Medical Ethics (SVME) Shomer Award. Dr. Dorn was one of the original co-founders of the SVME and was involved in the production of the constitution and by-laws of the SVME. He served as the second President of our organization, and was involved in updating the SVME Constitution and By-Laws in 2005. Dr. Dorn has remarkable achievements in the field of veterinary ethics, and promoting ethics discussions nationwide.

Here are some of the specific achievements which Dr. Dorn has been involved in making the right selection for this year's Shomer Award:

• **Service to the SVME**

1. Along with Drs. Robert Shomer, Robert Speth, and Mr. Jerrold Tannenbaum, Dr. Albert Dorn was one of the original co-founders of the Society For Veterinary Medical Ethics in 1994.
2. Dr. Dorn was involved in the production of the original Constitution and By-Laws of the SVME, and in the 2005 revisions to these By-Laws.
3. Served as Chair of the Program Committee for the SVME
4. Served as the second President of the SVME

• **Service to the Profession At-Large- National**

1. Elected to the AVMA Judicial Council for 6 years, and during that time served as President of the Judicial Council
2. During his tenure on the AVMA Judicial Council, he was responsible for the revision of the AVMA Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics
3. Served as the Section Manager for Personal and Professional Development for the AVMA Annual meeting with responsibilities for management of the AVMA

Annual meeting Veterinary Ethics Program

• **Service to the Profession Regional/State/Local**

1. Teaching experience at the University of Tennessee- Clinical Correlations and Ethics. In this manner he taught thousands of veterinary student basic principles of veterinary medical ethics as well as professional ethical interactions between colleagues and practitioners
2. Delivered professional presentations on veterinary ethics both regionally and nationally from 1987 to 2000.
3. Chaired the UT-CVM Curriculum Committee which in part designed the veterinary curriculum involving ethics
4. Member of the Univ. of Tennessee Campus-wide Task Force on Ethics

William Ray Folger DVM, MS, ABVP(Fe)

President, SVME 2015-2017

***Proposed Ethics Track at VMX Convention (formerly NAVC)
on Wednesday, February 7, 2018***

8:00- 9:15am	Moral Distress in the Veterinary Profession Dr. Nicole Reynolds
9:55- 10:45am	Convenience Euthanasia in Small Animals Dr. Craig Merow
10:55- 11:45am	Ethical Consideration of Horse Slaughter Dr. Lance Roasa
1:45 – 2:35pm	Ethical Dilemmas Faced by Small Animal Veterinarians Dr. Barry Kipperman
2:45- 3:55pm	Ethical Struggles that Veterinary Technicians/ Veterinary Nurses Encounter Beckie Mossor, RVT and Kara Burns, MS, Med, LVT, VTS
3:55- 4:10pm	The Necessity of Ethical Discourse on Social Media and Veterinary Internet Forums—Part I Dr. Bill Folger
4:15- 4:30pm	The Necessity of Ethical Discourse on Social Media and Veterinary Internet Forums—Part II
4:35- 4:50pm	The Necessity of Ethical Discourse on Social Media and Veterinary Internet Forums—Part III



Meetings & Events

SVME Annual Meeting at VMX 2018

The Annual meeting of the Society For Veterinary Medical Ethics will be held at the VMX Conference (formerly known as NAVC) at:

Café Gauguin

Monday, February 5, 2018

7:00pm at the Rosen Centre Hotel. This hotel is right next to the convention center.

2018 Ethics Track Abstracts and Biographies of Speakers Nicole Reynolds, DVM, MPH

Passionate health professional with more than 18 years of combined academic, federal, nonprofit, and corporate preclinical research experience. Areas of expertise include; people and relationship management, excellent written and oral communication, and working knowledge of state and federal regulations. Veterinarian with the ability to negotiate positive outcomes when faced with challenging economic and ethical situations. Strategic leader who collaborates within and across professional networks to build strong and resilient partnerships. Creative problem solver who applies metrics to achieve and verify successful outcomes for multiple stakeholders.

Veterinarian: Preventative, post-operative and critical care of animal research models including, but not limited to, canines, rodents, ruminants, swine, non-human primates and rabbits.

Leadership: Workflow planning, team building and retention, supervise, train, performance management, interview, hire, creating an environment of psychological safety and accountability

Project Management: Strategic planning, and design; develop, analyze and refine procedures; budget, steward resources, pro-active resource planning

Technical: Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint, navigate/use SAS, MINITAB, and EpiInfo

Writing/Development: Research protocol submissions, literature reviews, standard operating procedures, study design, record reviews and reports for GLP submission, data management, statistical analysis, presentations

Moral Distress in the Veterinary Profession

For this Seminar I will discuss the definition of moral distress and review the results of my graduate thesis and, time permitting, I will go through a few cases +/- audience participation. How do veterinary professionals experience and manage competing moral demands, that is when internal and/or external constraints make it difficult or impossible to act according to what they believe is the right course of action. Ethical issues in the veterinary profession have been well documented. Veterinary Professionals (veterinarians and veterinary technicians) have an ethical and legal responsibility to the care of the animals, the people who are custodians/owners, and society in general. Trying to address competing moral responsibilities can result in the experience of moral distress. As indicated by Peter & Liaschenko, "Research findings support the notion that moral distress can be interpreted as a response to constraints, or threatened constraints, to the moral identities, relationships, and responsibilities of nurses and other health professionals" (Peter & Liaschenko 2013, p. 344). Because veterinary professional experience multiple, potentially conflicting responsibilities, it is possible that they experience moral distress. However, this has not been documented in the literature even though ethical issues are prevalent in the veterinary profession in general. In other professions, moral distress, if not managed satisfactorily, can lead to damaged moral identities, physical and emotional stress, burn out, decrease in the quality of patient care, and leaving the profession. This is important to understand if veterinary professionals experience moral distress, the strategies they use to manage it, and how they learned these strategies. This knowledge is important for animal welfare, the professionals who care for the animals, and our society.

2018 Ethics Track Abstracts and Biographies of Speakers

Craig B. Merow, PhD

2013 – 2015	Michigan State U, Instructor: Introduction to Philosophy, Logic and Reasoning, Ethical Issues in Health Care.
Spring 2011	The University of the Arts, Part time senior lecturer in philosophy.
1998 – 2011	Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, PA. Director of the Academy Scholars Program;
1986 – 1998	Delaware Valley School District, Milford, PA. K-12 Mathematics Coordinator;

Honors and Awards

2014	Hall-Hanna Graduate Travel Award
2011 to 2016	Michigan State University Distinguished Fellow
2011	U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Teacher Recognition Award
2005	Appointed to Level 4, Germantown Academy Master Teacher
2003	Kast Grant to study philosophy at Oxford University (UK).

Convenience Euthanasia in Small Animals

No issue contributes to the “moral stress” experienced by veterinary clinicians more than convenience euthanasia (Kay, et al. eds. 1988, Verdon 2003, Rollin 2006). Many small animal veterinarians feel that taking the life of healthy companion animals is inconsistent with their dedication to healing and the moral convictions that led them to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. At a veterinary conference session on dealing with client grief, a practicing veterinarian exclaimed, “I know how to deal with client grief, ... what I need to know is how to deal with *my* grief. I went into veterinary medicine to care for animals, and I am constantly being asked to kill them for trivial reasons” (Rollin 2006, 53). Some philosophers, however, argue that veterinarians, such as this conference attendee, are mistaken in their judgment that the painless killing of healthy animals is morally wrong.

In this seminar, I consider the two leading arguments against painless killing—lost-future arguments and preference arguments—and the objections to them, before expanding the discussion to include relationship-based considerations. The owner/companion animal relationship shares many of the characteristics widely considered to generate responsibilities of care in the parent/adopted child relationship. First among the responsibilities of care is an obligation of the dominant member of the relationship to protect the life of the subordinate member. While I find neither of the traditional arguments against painless killing compelling in themselves, when limited in scope to companion animals, and considered in combination with a relationships-generate-responsibilities argument, a stronger cumulation of considerations argument emerges. This argument is sufficient, I contend, to justify (1) the refusal of veterinary clinicians to euthanize companion animals for the convenience of their owners, (2) a strong AVMA stand against the procedure, and (3) legislation to severely restrict it.

Kay, William, et al. eds. 1988. *Euthanasia of the Companion Animal: The Impact on Pet Owners, Veterinarians, and Society*. Philadelphia, PA: The Charles Press.

Rollin, Bernard. 2006. *An Introduction to Veterinary Medical Ethics: Theory and Cases*, 2nd ed. Ames, IA: Blackwell Publishing.

Verdon, Daniel. 2003. “Euthanasia’s Moral Stress: A High Psychological Price.” DVM360

Magazine: July 1, 2003. Available online: <http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com/euthanasia-moral-stress-high-psychological-price>. Accessed 6 February 2015.

2018 Ethics Track Abstracts and Biographies of Speakers

Bill Folger, DVM, MS, ABVP

	Hospital Director, Founder of Memorial Cat Hospital
Academic Degrees	University of TN, College of Veterinary Medicine, DVM Texas A&M University, MS in Biology University of the South, BA in Biology
Special Interest	Feline Internal Medicine
Professional Degree	Diplomate, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Feline Specialty
Professional Affiliations	American Board of Veterinary Practitioners American Veterinary Medical Association Texas Veterinary Medical Association American Association of Feline Practitioners Veterinary Information Network Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics Winn Feline Foundation
Professional Service	Feline Regent, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, 2011-present Panel member AVMA Panel on Depopulation Chair, Feline Welfare Comm, Amer Assoc of Feline Practitioners, 2005-2011 Consultant In Feline Medicine: Veterinary Infor Network, 1998-present Credentials Committee Member: ABVP (Feline), 1998-present Winn Foundation Protocol Review Committee, 1998-2010 Animal Welfare Committee (AAFP Representative) of the AVMA, 2001-2007 AVMA Rep of the Nat'l Council on Pet Population Study & Control, 2002-07 Past President: Society of Veterinary Medical Ethics, 2002 Board Member: American Association of Feline Practitioners, 1998-2002

Title: Tiger the Cat, Kristen Lindsey, and the Necessity of Ethical Discourse on Veterinary Internet Forums

Part 1: Tiger the Cat and Kristen Lindsey. This section will answer three questions: was it Tiger in the famous Facebook photo? Was Tiger alive in the Facebook photo? And, did the state's expert witness change his testimony, and was the expert biased? Strategic errors by the defense attorney will be examined, and the character assassination of the expert witness on a large veterinary professional forum will be discussed.

Part 2: The Necessity of Ethical Discourse in Veterinary Internet Forums. In this section., definitions of practice ethics and professionalism will be presented. Examples of posting guidelines and active content moderation on professional forums will be examined. The establishment of the culture of hate that exists in many internet forums will be discussed, and practitioners' responses to being attacked on the internet by disgruntled clients and previous employees will be shown. How we deal with each other is just as important as how clients respond to us in a social media forum (or anti-social media forum).

2018 Ethics Track Abstracts and Biographies of Speakers

Barry Kipperman, DVM, DACVIM, MSc

Dr. Barry Kipperman is a graduate of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. He is Board Certified in internal medicine and is staff internist and founder of IronHorse VetCare, a 24 hour referral/emergency practice in the San Francisco Bay area.

Dr Kipperman has a masters degree from the University of Edinburgh in international animal welfare, ethics and law, and is pursuing board certification in animal welfare. He teaches the veterinary ethics course at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and an online undergraduate course in animal welfare and ethics for the University of Missouri.

Dr Kipperman serves on the Board of Directors of the HSVMA, and the California Veterinary Medical Association animal welfare committee. His research interests include the influence of economics on animal welfare and veterinarian well-being, and the ethical dilemmas faced by veterinarians.

Ethical dilemmas faced by small animal veterinarians

Small animal veterinarians in practice encounter conflicts between satisfying the interests of the pet owner and those of the animal. Ethical dilemmas arise when there are competing interests or responsibilities of perceived equal moral weight, and there is a lack of clearly defined rules to prioritize these, of what course of action is best, or when the best outcome appears uncertain. These circumstances can potentially cause moral stress and influence professional behaviors, attitudes, and satisfaction.

This lecture will present results of a survey of small animal veterinarians and will discuss the frequency and nature of ethical dilemmas faced by small animal veterinarians, their beliefs regarding ethical dilemmas and euthanasia, and will examine the consequences of and methods to ameliorate the impact of ethical dilemmas. The information from this project has important implications for professional wellness and whether small animal veterinarians are meeting societal expectations as animal advocates.

2018 Ethics Track Abstracts and Biographies of Speakers

Beckie Mossor, RVT

Beckie is a Registered Veterinary Technician living in Wilmington, NC. She is a 2007 graduate of Central Carolina Community College. Beckie has enjoyed a diverse career background including, small animal, exotic, large animal, and mixed animal practices, academia and consulting.

Beckie is currently Executive Director of 3K9 Working Dogs Inc, a Service Dog training organization, K9 Fit Club Master Trainer part time Q&A expert for PetMD. She serves on the National Association of Veterinary Technicians, the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians, the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics, and the Veterinary Team Brief Advisory Board

Beckie has enjoyed expanding her veterinary career through private consulting, public speaking, professional writing, professional blogging, and Podcast Co-Host of the Veterinary Perspective podcast.



Ethical struggles

Ethical struggles play an important role in the work environment and longevity of support staff. Understanding important factors and discussing ways to approach and manage the ethical situations veterinary technicians/nurses face today. In this hour we will take an in depth look at the ethical struggles faced by all support staff and create a discussion based environment to open pathways for approach to find resolution that benefits and supports the profession.

2018 Ethics Track Abstracts and Biographies of Speakers

Lance Roasa DVM, MS, JD

Education

2013-2016	University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lincoln, NE	J.D. <i>College of Law</i>
2004-2008	Texas A&M University College Station, TX	D.V.M. <i>College of Veterinary Medicine</i>
2003-2007	Texas A&M University College Station, TX	M.S. <i>Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology</i>
1999-2002	Texas A&M University College Station, TX	B.S. <i>Biomedical Science</i>

Veterinary Experience

2013-present	Veterinarian/Surgeon Lincoln and Omaha, NE
2009-2013	Animal Medical Center Woodland Park, CO, Owner/Veterinarian
2008-2009	Banfield, The Pet Hospital Mesa, AZ, Associate Veterinarian

Business & Legal Experience

2016 -present	The Roasa Law Firm, Raymond, NE, Legal Licensed attorney, and Principal
2013 -present	Roasa Legal Consulting, Raymond, NE, Principal

Ethical Considerations of Equine Slaughter

Equine slaughter plants have not operated in the United States since 2007, yet the topic remains hotly debated and discussed. Nine years of data now exist since the last equine slaughterhouses in the US closed. According to the USDA, nearly 100,000 horses are transported to Mexico each year for slaughter but American public opinion polls overwhelmingly oppose equine slaughter. The statistics of slaughter and unwanted horses will be presented, but this discussion will also explore the deeper questions of the elevated status of horses in American society, the line between companion animals and livestock animals and the stigma associated with the human consumption of horsemeat.

This interactive, thought-provoking discussion will explore the professional and normative ethical considerations around equine slaughter. The presenter will introduce topics such as the slaughter for human consumption versus euthanasia, the slaughter of horses versus other livestock species, human safety concerns, veterinary drug residues, unwanted horses, equine transport to slaughter, wild horses in the western US, and veterinary research dependent on slaughter. We will discuss the stances of the professional organizations as well as opinions from affected practicing veterinarians.

The presenter was raised on a working ranch and earned a Master's degree from Texas A&M University in veterinary physiology and pharmacology specifically using slaughterhouse obtained equine ovaries and oocytes to perform research surrounding *in vitro* fertilization. After veterinary school, the presenter practiced equine medicine for 5 years, before earning a law degree from the University of Nebraska. Dr. Roasa now teaches veterinary law and professional ethics at a dozen veterinary schools in North America. The discussion will not claim to have the answers to equine slaughter, but will raise ideas and concepts for discussion.



2018 SVME STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

TOPIC:

Burnout, Compassion Fatigue and the Future of our Profession:

Burnout is common in all medical professions but their presence has been growing in veterinary medicine. It no longer is a problem of the senior veterinarian but is occurring in young veterinarians with less than a decade of practice life behind them. Coupled to burnout is ethics fatigue and compassion fatigue. These very serious problems and can be linked to burnout. It effects our ability to be able to treat the patients we see each day.

Question:

What happens to our profession if we do not recognize and seek treatment for ethical and compassion fatigue?

. For Full Essay Contest Guidelines and Instruction go to
www.svme.org

The SVME Waltham Essay Contest is open to any student presently enrolled (part-time or full-time) in a graduate or undergraduate degree program at an accredited institution of higher learning



Society for Veterinary Medical
Ethics Proudly Announces:

2018 SVME Waltham Student Essay Contest

ALL ENTRIES received compete
for the Alice Villalobos Student
Essay Award (Grand Prize)

- \$1,000.00 Cash Prize
- \$1,000.00 Travel Stipend to attend 2018 VMX Convention
- Speaker Slot in SVME Plenary Session to present the winning essay
- Publication of essay on the SVME website

Deadline
January 1, 2018

Founded in 1994, The Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics (SVME) seeks to promote thoughtful and respectful public discussion on ethical issues arising in, and relevant to, the practice of veterinary medicine. In that effort, The SVME has long recognized the importance of student participation and development in the field of veterinary ethics. And so, with the generous support of The Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition.



APPLICATION FORM

SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY MEDICAL ETHICS

NAME: _____

BUSINESS _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME (optional) _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE SEND MAIL TO: ___Office ___Home

Business Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Home Phone: _____

OCCUPATIONAL AND PRESENT POSITION:

PROFESSIONAL DEGREES:

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

INTERESTS IN VETERINARY ETHICS:

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY ARE:

- To encourage ethical practices and professional behavior of veterinarians in all aspects of the profession.
- To increase the understanding of the philosophical, social, moral and ethical values encountered by the veterinary profession.
- To sponsor seminars and other presentations on ethics and values at local, state, regional and national meetings of veterinarians and other interested individuals.
- To promote the teaching of ethical and value issues at colleges of veterinary medicine and to identify speakers on these subjects.
- To encourage persons from other professions and disciplines, such as biomedical research, discussions and studies of these issues.
- To exchange information about veterinary ethical issues via bulletins, periodicals, and newsletters.
- To maintain archives of appropriate documents and materials related to these disciplines.

I hereby make application to the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)

Dues are \$40 for Regular Membership & Free for students per year.

Please mail this completed & signed application to: 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 (email: wright008@umn.edu)

SVME Mission Statement

c/o

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



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/

SVME Board of Directors member list:

President	William R. Folger, DVM, MS, ABVP		
President-Elect	Don DeForge, VMD, FAVD		
Past President	Thomas Edling, DVM, MspVM, MPH		
Treasurer	John Wright, DVM		
Parliamentarian	Lynn Bahr, DVM		
Secretary	Marthina Greer, DVM		
Chair of the Student Essay Committee	Beckie Mossor, RVT		
Chair of the Shomer Award Committee	Karyl Hurley, DVM, DACVIM, DECVIM		
Course Coordinator - SVMEEthics Course	Alice Villalobos, DVM, FNAP		
Membership Committee	Don DeForge, VMD, FAVD		
Administrator.	Roni Miyashiro		
Board Members	Leland Shapiro, Ph.D	Louise Dunn	Don DeForge, VMD, FAVD,
	Virginia Koch, DVM	Marthina Greer, DVM	Rodney Jouppe, DVM
	Karyl Hurley, DVM, DACVIM, DECVIM		Jessica Baron, DVM
	Kara Burns, MS, MEd, LVT, VTS	Michael White, DVM	Laura Kahn
	Thomas Edling, DVM, MspVM, MPH	Jerry Owens, DVM, ACVR	