

# HSVMA IN ACTION

*2020 Year in Review*



## *HSVMA State Representatives*

*Expanding the Veterinary Voice in Animal Welfare Advocacy*

### **P3 | COVID-19 Response**

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the United States in 2020, HSVMA sprang into action.

### **P8 | Continuing Education**

HSVMA offers RACE-approved CE on a variety of animal welfare topics.

### **P10 | Student Outreach**

Program provides veterinary students with a variety of ways to advocate.

# President's Message

*Barry Kipperman, DVM, DACVIM, MSc, DACAW*

*HSVMA Board President*

It has been an honor to serve as President of the Board of the HSVMA this year. I am continually amazed at how much we accomplish on behalf of animal welfare thanks to the commitment and advocacy of our veterinary professional members and devoted staff. Our members represent many subsets of our profession, and your qualifications and credentials are impressive. As a result, our impact in advancing animal welfare far surpasses our budget.

The pandemic changed the world this year and should remind us that our interactions with animals are intricately linked to humans and the environment—the foundation of the One Health model. Throughout the year, HSVMA provided substantial resources to the veterinary and pet-owning communities to help cope with the challenges presented by the pandemic, including relief grants to veterinary partners to aid animals in need. These activities are summarized on [page 3](#).

In addition to our COVID-19 related work, more than 1,200 veterinary professionals joined HSVMA during 2020 in actively advocating for animal welfare. You can read more about HSVMA's achievements in the article on [page 4](#), "Veterinary Advocacy in Action." Our State Representative program has expanded to include 39 members representing 34 states and the District of Columbia. We offer complimentary continuing education to members in the form of six RACE-approved CE events on welfare-related topics annually, as well as dozens of archived on-demand lectures.

Student participation and outreach are pivotal to our future success. We have HSVMA chapters at 12 veterinary schools and representatives at an additional 20 schools, including in the United Kingdom and the Caribbean. In 2020, HSVMA speakers gave 34 presentations on a variety of animal welfare-related topics to vet students across the country. In November, we hosted our annual Animal Welfare Symposium virtually. You can read student testimonials regarding our support of World Spay Day events on [page 12](#). This year, HSVMA recognized three veterinary students for their accomplishments in animal welfare via the Compassionate Care Scholarship program. It's inspiring for the sponsors of this program to learn about the efforts of our profession's future leaders. Finally, the HSVMA honored five colleagues for their achievements in animal welfare. Details about these amazing leaders can be found on [page 14](#).

The HSVMA is the only VMA with a commitment to advancing animal welfare as our primary mission. In addition to knowing that your membership contributes directly to this mission, members also receive numerous tangible benefits outlined in the Membership Benefits article on [page 15](#). I hope you will take pride in reading about our accomplishments. Thank you for your contributions, and I look forward to continued collaborative success in improving our stewardship of all animals.

Sincerely, 



*COVER PHOTO: Dr. Melissa Shapiro, HSVMA Connecticut State Representative, and her adopted dog, Piglet, a deaf, blind pink puppy who was rescued from a hoarding situation in Georgia.*

*Dr. Shapiro and her husband, Warren, run a nonprofit, Piglet International Inc., which supports the online Piglet Mindset Educational Outreach Program to help teach acceptance, inclusion, empathy, and kindness. They also offer presentations focused on animal welfare and rescue topics. Through Piglet's popular social media pages, they educate, advocate, and fundraise for "special-needs" dog rescues. Visit [PigletMindset.org](http://PigletMindset.org) to learn more.*

*PHOTO CREDIT: Joan Caruthers Photography*



# COVID-19 Response

**Pam Runquist, MS**  
Executive Director

*Rescue dogs arriving at the Compassion Without Borders sanctuary in California. Photo credit: CWOB*

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the United States, HSVMA sprang into action on several fronts to assist the veterinary community, as well as pet owners, in dealing with this unprecedented challenge.

## Information/Resources

To help veterinary professionals decipher all the information related to the pandemic, HSVMA maintains a COVID-19 webpage ([hsvma.org/covid-19-update](https://hsvma.org/covid-19-update)) with a variety of resources including updates from the Centers for Disease Control, guidance on caring for pets during the pandemic, a communications toolkit, veterinary hospital protocols, telemedicine regulations, and shelter-specific resources.

## Education/Webinars

HSVMA hosted three special COVID-19-related webinars during 2020, all of which are archived and available for viewing at [hsvma.org/publiceducation\\_outreach](https://hsvma.org/publiceducation_outreach). They include:

- **Veterinary Telemedicine: Extending Care Beyond Your Walls**  
Dr. Hilary Jones demonstrates how virtual care can be used to improve practice efficiency and productivity and expand care to underserved populations (during and after the pandemic).
- **Post-Pandemic Pets: Tips for Transitioning Companion Animals as Shelter-in-Place Orders Are Lifted**  
Dr. Susan Krebsbach and Dr. Nicholas Dodman discuss tips for dealing with potential separation anxiety issues as well as other transitional challenges as shelter-in-place orders are lifted.
- **COVID-19 and the Wildlife Trade**  
Dr. Teresa Telecky, a zoologist and Vice President of Wildlife for Humane Society International, discusses the link between the wildlife trade and COVID-19.

## Advocacy/Policy

### Essential Services/Telemedicine:

When the pandemic began, HSVMA joined forces with a coalition of animal protection and veterinary groups in advocating for veterinary services to be considered essential and allowed to remain open.

HSVMA also joined with other animal welfare groups to request that veterinary telemedicine be authorized along with an emergency waiver of in-person VCPR (Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship) in states that did not already have this provision. Several states enacted changes in this arena as a result, including an expansion of permitted telemedicine activities in California.

### Grants to Veterinary Partners for COVID-19 Relief

Working with HSUS, HSVMA facilitated COVID-19 relief grants to several HSVMA veterinary members who are providing assistance to families and pets during this public health crisis. Those include Dr. Jon Geller, founder of the Street Dog Coalition, who also serves as HSVMA's Colorado State Representative; Dr. Eric Jayne, our Arkansas/Hawaii State Representative who works with SpayArkansas; and Dr. Christi Cambler, who helps animals in California's Central Valley and in Mexico through her group, Compassion Without Borders.

HSVMA also obtained a \$20,000 grant from the Kislak Family Foundation to help RAVS (Rural Area Veterinary Services) with its relief work on the San Carlos and White Mountain reservations in Arizona during the pandemic. The grant was used to provide emergency veterinary medical care for dogs on the reservations as well as to purchase Seresto collars for the dogs, since there is a significant tick problem in the region.

# Veterinary Advocacy in Action

**Pam Runquist, MS**  
*Executive Director*

Animal advocacy efforts faced new challenges during 2020 as many legislative and regulatory agencies closed or moved to virtual operations during the pandemic. Nevertheless, HSVMA and our network of veterinary advocates were instrumental in helping pass several key animal welfare reforms during the year.

## ***Highlights of our advocacy efforts during 2020 include:***

### **Puppy Mills - Humane Pet Shop Legislation:**

HSVMA and our veterinary professional members supported restrictions on pet shop sales of dogs and cats from commercial breeders in several states in an effort to stem the flow of animals from large-scale mill operations. Veterinary support statements were submitted for bills in California, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington state as well as the cities of San Antonio and Chicago.

- The San Antonio ordinance enacting a pet shop sales ban was approved by the City Council by a 9-1 vote. HSVMA Texas State Representative Dr. Carrie Waters submitted a support statement.
- The California bill, known as Bella's Law, was enacted, closing a loophole that allowed dogs to be sold at pet shops via "sham" rescue groups who purchase them from breeders. HSVMA California State Representatives Drs. Barry Kipperman and Paula Kislak led support for this effort.

### **Wildlife - Banning Killing Contests:**

HSVMA's advocacy team was active in supporting efforts to ban wildlife killing contests, where prizes are awarded for indiscriminately killing large numbers of animals. HSVMA's veterinary professionals submitted support statements and/or testified in support of efforts to ban killing contests in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Washington.

- In Washington, HSVMA State Representative Dr. Lauren Henderson and PAWS veterinarian Dr. John Huckabee,

a wildlife veterinarian, submitted support statements to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. The commission approved the measure, making Washington the seventh state to enact a ban on these inhumane and unsporting events.

### **Wildlife - Ban on Wild Animal Acts:**

HSVMA Maryland State Representative Dr. Nikhil Joshi offered expert witness testimony in support of a local Gaithersburg, MD ordinance prohibiting the use of wild animals in traveling exhibits. The City Council approved this ban in February.

### **Wildlife - Fur Farms:**

HSVMA developed a [veterinary statement on fur-farmed animals](#) which addresses the severe animal welfare deficiencies inherent in the fur trade as well as the fact that fur farms provide potential channels for diseases to propagate from one fur-bearing species to another. The statement became critically important as HSVMA joined forces with HSUS to advocate for closing down fur farms both in the United States and abroad in the wake of SARS CoV-2 outbreaks on mink farms and the apparent transmission between humans working on the farm and mink. HSVMA also advocated for fur sales bans in several states including Rhode Island, Hawaii, and Minnesota.



*HSVMA Board member and Rhode Island State Representative, Dr. Gary Block, advocated for a fur sales ban in Rhode Island.  
Photo Credit:  
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association*

### **Companion Animals - Temporary Licensing for Spay/Neuter in Puerto Rico:**

More than 575 veterinary professionals joined HSVMA in supporting SB 1621, legislation to allow for temporary



HSVMA advocated for closure of fur farms and bans on fur sales during 2020. Photo credit: HSI

licensing of veterinarians in Puerto Rico so that spay/neuter efforts, including the Spayathon™ Project led by the Humane Society of the United States, which has already altered more than 55,000 animals, can continue. SB 1621 was signed into

law by Puerto Rico Governor Wanda Vázquez Garced in August.

### **Farm Animals – Ventilation Shutdown:**

HSVMA joined forces with another veterinary group, Veterinarians Against Ventilation Shutdown, as well as the ASPCA, on a petition to the AVMA urging them to classify “ventilation shutdown” as not recommended for mass depopulation. Ventilation shutdown involves locking a flock or herd of animals in a building and turning off the ventilation systems. As the temperature rises and gases inside the building accumulate, the animals suffocate to death, usually over a period of many hours. In an even more extreme form, referred to as VSD-plus, heat, steam and/or gas are injected into the building, baking the animals alive.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, this inhumane method has been utilized by pig producers to cut costs. The petition, which was signed by 2,900 veterinary professionals and animal advocates including approximately 1,500 veterinarians, was submitted to the AVMA in December and is pending a vote in 2021.

### **Federal Legislation**

During 2020, HSVMA supported a variety of key federal animal welfare bills including the following, all of which are still pending as of the end of the year unless otherwise noted:

- **Big Cat Public Safety Act** to ban the possession of big cat species like tigers and lions by unqualified individuals and prohibit animal exhibitions from allowing public contact with big cats, thereby halting the endless breeding of big cats for this harmful practice.

- **Humane Cosmetics Act** to prohibit animal testing for cosmetics manufactured or sold in the United States.
- **Horse Racing Integrity and Safety Act** to end the dangerous practice of using race-day medications in horses and increase equine drug testing at the racetracks. This bill was enacted into law in 2020.
- **PAST Act (Prevent All Soring Tactics)** to better crack down on the cruel practice of “soring,” in which unscrupulous trainers deliberately inflict pain on the hooves and legs of horses to force them to perform an unnaturally high-stepping gait.
- **Puppy Protection Act** to strengthen baseline standards of care for the tens of thousands of dogs and puppies housed at large-scale dog breeding operations, including prohibiting the stacking of cages, wire flooring, and overbreeding and requiring larger enclosures, socialization, and exercise space.

## **HSVMA LEADERSHIP**

### **Board of Directors**

Michael Blackwell, DVM, MPH

Gary Block, DVM, MS, DACVIM

Barry Kellogg, VMD

Barry Kipperman, DVM, DACVIM, MSc, DACAW, *President*

Paula Kislak, DVM

Nicole Paquette, JD

Gwendy Reyes-Illg, DVM, MS

Meredith Rives, DVM

### **Leadership Council**

Holly Cheever, DVM

Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, DACVB, DACVAA

Anne Quain, BVSc, MVetStud GradCertEd (Higher Ed), MANZCVS (Animal Welfare), DipECAWBM (AWSEL)

Brenda Forsythe, MS, PhD, DVM, CAAB

Zarah Hedge, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, DABVP (Shelter Medicine Practice)

Joann Lindenmayer, DVM, MPH, *Chairperson*

Sheila (D'Arpino) Segurson, DVM, DACVB

Erin Spencer, MEd, CVT, VTS (ECC)



*HSVMA Alabama State Representative Dr. Karen Hill Sheppard is director of Huntsville Animal Services. She is shown here with Sapphire, one of the shelter's dogs adopted during the pandemic. Photo Credit: Karen Hill Sheppard, DVM*

# HSVMA State Representatives

*Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA  
Director of Advocacy & Outreach*

## **HSVMA Widens Reach of State Representative Network in 2020**

Launched in 2014, the HSVMA State Representative program now includes a talented team of 39 Representatives, representing 34 states (there are eight states with Co-Representatives) and the District of Columbia.

The HSVMA State Representative team consists of active volunteer veterinarian liaisons who conduct outreach to veterinary medical associations in their states and across the broader profession. They help with advocacy on legislative initiatives, provide expert testimony, submit opinion pieces to media outlets, and publish articles in professional journals. They also assist with outreach at veterinary conferences, present talks at veterinary medical colleges, and offer vital first-hand field perspectives from their respective states. Many of our Representatives further amplify their advocacy work for animals through affiliations with other non-profit endeavors, and some Representatives have even established their own.

There is no typical background required of an HSVMA State Representative, except a strong commitment to working within the veterinary community to help advance the health and welfare of animals. In fact, we celebrate their diverse backgrounds.

Among our Representatives are small animal and mixed animal practitioners, house call veterinarians, practice owners, an equine sanctuary founder, specialists in the pet nutrition and pharmaceutical industries, shelter veterinarians and consultants, teachers of veterinary workshops for kids and an advocate for special-needs pets, a creator of a foundation to help adoptable animals out of crowded shelters and into loving homes, board-certified animal welfare specialists, internists, behavior specialists, academics, authors and editors of animal welfare-focused books, a public health consultant, a public health veterinarian, a veterinarian journalist, veterinarians with advanced training in forensics, animal welfare, public policy, Indigenous Peoples law, business administration and epidemiology, a founder of a non-profit free clinic network serving pets of unhoused and indigent people, and another practitioner affiliated with this network, providers of veterinary clinic services at Native American reservations, and three veterinarians who are also attorneys.

Interested in representing HSVMA within your state? Please contact us at [advocacy@hsvma.org](mailto:advocacy@hsvma.org) or visit [www.hsvma.org/statereps](http://www.hsvma.org/statereps) to learn more about the program.

## HSVMA STATE REPRESENTATIVES

**Alabama:** Karen Hill Sheppard, Dvm

**Arizona:** Nellie Goetz, DVM, MPH

**Arkansas:** Eric Jayne, DVM, MLS

**California:** Barry Kipperman, DVM, DACVIM, MSc, DACAW and Paula Kislak, DVM

**Colorado:** Jon Geller, DVM, DABVP

**Connecticut:** Melissa Shapiro, DVM

**District Of Columbia:** Gail Hansen, DVM, MPH

**Florida:** Sy Woon, BVSc and Michelle Dally, DVM, JD

**Georgia:** Sharon Crowell-Davis, DVM, PhD, DACVB and Michael Good, DVM

**Hawaii:** Eric Jayne, DVM, MLS And Ranaella Steinberg, DVM

**Illinois:** Robin Hadley, DVM and Debra Teachout, DVM, MVSc

**Kansas:** Sadina Scott, DVM

**Louisiana:** Kate Maher, DVM

**Maryland:** Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, DACVB, DACVAA and Nikhil Joshi, VMD

**Massachusetts:** Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, DACVB, DACVAA and Christine Schlupf, DVM

**Michigan:** Pamela Greenwald, DVM, MS

**Minnesota:** Karen Arras, DVM, MBA and Amos Deinard, DVM, PhD

**Missouri:** Anna Delabar, DVM

**New Hampshire:** Karen Campbell, DVM, DACVIM

**New Jersey:** Patricia Zinna, DVM, MS

**New York:** Eileen Jefferson, DVM

**North Carolina:** David Stansfield, BVSc, MRCVS, CHAB

**North Dakota:** Lori Gossard, DVM

**Ohio:** Lee Schrader, DVM, DACVIM

**Oregon:** Katie Gray, DVM

**Pennsylvania:** John Rossi, VMD, M Bioethics

**Rhode Island:** Gary Block, DVM, MS, DACVIM

**South Carolina:** Jennie Elizabeth Clark, DVM, JD

**Tennessee:** Michael Greenberg, DVM

**Texas:** Carrie Waters, DVM, PhD, JD, DACVIM

**Utah:** Katie Gray, DVM

**Virginia:** Josette Phillips Richmond, MS, DVM

**Washington:** Lauren Henderson, DVM, MBA

**West Virginia:** Josette Phillips Richmond, MS, DVM

**Wisconsin:** Susan Krebsbach, DVM



*HSVMA Arkansas and Hawaii State Representative Dr. Eric Jayne participates in a spay/neuter clinic on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Photo credit: Sally Cooper-Smith*



*HSVMA Florida State Representative Dr. Michelle Dally initiated a Street Dog Coalition pilot project in Florida to help provide care for pets of the homeless. Here she examines the cat, Baby Girl. Photo credit: Tara Pariso*



# HSVMA Webinar Series Launches Some Firsts!

One of HSVMA's featured webinars during 2020 addressed the topic of declawing.

*Lorna Grande, DVM  
HSVMA Veterinary Adviser*

Our continuing education webinar series remains a favorite HSVMA member benefit. Members have free access to six live webinars per year and three dozen archived webinars. HSVMA welfare-focused presentations are unique and offer topics not usually available in other online veterinary CE forums.

In 2020, we once again partnered with The Association of Shelter Veterinarians presenting the webinar, “Hoarding: A Human-Animal Bond Disorder,” with Lena DeTar, DVM, DACVPM, DABVP. This webinar explored the multifactorial issue of hoarding, looking at the role of shelters, private practitioners, animal control, law enforcement, social services, and animal welfare organizations.

“America’s Veterinarian,” Dr. Marty Becker, was a very popular speaker discussing the Fear Free program he has developed building on the work of several behaviorists. Fear Free is a widely accepted way of reducing stress for our patients and this program has been expanded beyond animal hospitals to shelters.

## Also featured in 2020 were:

### ■ **These Toes Were Made for More Than Scratching: The Case Against Feline Toe Amputation**

*Presented by Robin Downing, DVM, MS, DAAPM, DACVSMR, CVPP, CCRP*

As a specialist in pain management, Dr. Downing shared her unique perspective on issues related to cat declawing (feline toe amputation) and why it should not be performed.

### ■ **Veterinarians and the Humane Movement: Past, Present, and Future**

*Presented by Bernard Unti, PhD*

This webinar explored the important historical relationship between the veterinary profession and the animal protection movement.

For more information on upcoming and archived webinars visit [hsvma.org/webinars](https://hsvma.org/webinars)

## Some feedback from HSVMA webinar attendees...

“This was an excellent webinar. The speaker was knowledgeable and engaging while presenting important information in a very accessible manner.”

**Lisa Last, DVM**

“I think the information in this webinar was extremely compelling and interesting. I have told many people about this webinar and the information provided.”

**Erin Maud, veterinary student**

“The handouts were a great idea. Good time allowance for questions. Thank you for addressing this important topic.”

**Lori Alvarez, DVM**

## Animal Care Expo 2020 Debuts Virtual Format

Due to restrictions imposed because of the pandemic, Animal Care Expo 2020 switched gears and debuted its first-ever virtual conference in July. The online platform had the advantage of making available more opportunities for attendees from all over the world to attend Expo, including the more than 700 veterinary professionals who participated in the animal welfare-related learning and networking opportunities.

For the seventh year in a row, HSVMA provided RACE continuing education credits for veterinarians and veterinary technicians who attended Expo. CE topics addressed access to veterinary care, shelter medicine, transport protocols, animal behavior, and kitten welfare, and sessions were archived through November for additional viewing opportunities.

Animal Care Expo 2021 will also take place in an online format April 21-23 and HSVMA will once again be partnering with conference organizer HSUS to offer veterinary CE on timely animal welfare, shelter medicine, and access to care topics. For more information, visit [humanepro.org/expo](https://humanepro.org/expo)



## VMX Presentation Highlights Access to Veterinary Care

HSVMA continued its tradition of hosting an evening presentation on a timely welfare-related topic at VMX 2020 with Dr. Michael Blackwell and Dr. Gary Block co-presenting, “Honoring Our Oath by Increasing Access to Veterinary Care.” The presentation highlighted the AlignCare model, which Dr. Blackwell is piloting through the Program for Pet Health Equity at University of Tennessee as a way for communities to collaborate to help animals in need obtain veterinary care. Dr. Block's portion of the presentation focused on innovative ways that veterinarians can help provide access to care through in-clinic and community-based programs.



# HSVMA Student Outreach

Heather Schrader, RVT, MCJ  
Program Manager, Student Outreach

## New Directions in 2020

HSVMA's Student Outreach Program provides veterinary students with a variety of ways to advocate and advance animal welfare through multiple programs and direct-care opportunities. Due to the pandemic, we have had to modify outreach with our student volunteers across the world. With the temporary suspension of some activities, others were implemented to keep our outreach optimal during distance learning and cancellation of in-person events on campus.

## HSVMA Student Chapter and Student Representative Program

HSVMA works with many veterinary students who volunteer to serve as officers in our chapters or as representatives. In 2020, HSVMA sponsored student chapters at 12 veterinary schools as well as student representatives at an additional 20 schools, including schools in the Caribbean, Canada, and the UK. Our chapter officers and representatives were involved in many activities in 2020 including:

- Coordinating World Spay Day events at Cornell University and University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Organizing online lectures given by our HSVMA Speakers Bureau on a variety of different animal welfare topics
- Organizing RAVS suture labs at University of Wisconsin and University of Nebraska (pre-pandemic) and University of Glasgow (virtual) to teach students about this popular field service opportunity

For more information on the HSVMA Student Chapter and Representative program, go to [hsvma.org/students](https://hsvma.org/students).

## Education in Animal Welfare Topics

### Speakers Bureau:

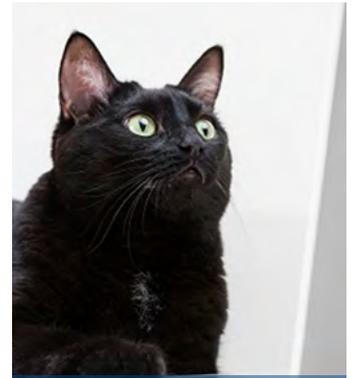
In 2020, HSVMA hosted 34 presentations on a variety of animal welfare-related topics for vet students across the country. Since students and speakers have become more

proficient on platforms such as Zoom, providing lectures online became an easy alternative to our typical in-person lectures. Students heard experts present on topics such as wildlife medicine, access to care, forensics, disaster response, exotic companion mammals, and caring for pets of the indigent.

### Student Summer Lecture Series:

Like the rest of the world, HSVMA struggled to maintain a new normal as we adhered to ongoing shelter-in-place orders and got acquainted with distance learning. In order to stay in touch with our student members and offer them additional options for summer learning, we introduced our Student Summer Lecture Series. We scheduled Zoom webinars on topics from our Speakers Bureau in addition to some new, timely topics. These webinars were approximately one hour in length with an additional 10-15 minutes of Q&A afterwards. Registration for these lectures was FREE for all HSVMA student members! The summer lecture series kicked off

with a newly-added topic to our Speakers Bureau, "Understanding Animal Hospice Within Welfare Work," presented by Dr. Kathleen Cooney. There was a new topic every week and the lectures were recorded and archived on our website for viewing anytime by our members. Our grand finale was Dr. Melissa Shapiro's lecture, "Special Needs Pets and Educational Outreach in Today's Veterinary Profession." You can see the full summer schedule and gain access to the archived lectures at [hsvma.org/students](https://hsvma.org/students). Students enjoyed being able to participate while in the comfort and safety of their own homes.



HSVMA offered virtual presentations for students during 2020.



# Animal Welfare Symposium

*Heather Schrader, RVT, MCJ  
Program Manager, Student Outreach*

## HSVMA Animal Welfare Symposium Goes Virtual, Expands Audience

HSVMA was excited to co-host this year’s Animal Welfare Symposium for Students with the Humane Society of the United States via a virtual platform. Two concurrent lecture tracks allowed attendees more topic choices for a full day of welfare-related presentations. On Saturday, November 7th, attendees were able to participate in live Q&A sessions with the speakers during the scheduled lecture times, visit the virtual exhibit hall and interact with representatives at the booths, and join one of three live networking sessions with some of our speakers. After November 7th, online content was available on demand through January 31, 2021.

Of the eleven lectures that were presented, topics included “We Don’t Know What We Don’t Know: COVID-19, Pandemics and Veterinarians” presented by Dr. Gail Hansen, HSVMA DC State Representative, “The Impact of Veterinary Professionals on Animal Welfare Policy” presented by Dr. Barbara Hodges, HSVMA Director of Advocacy and Outreach, “Puppy Mills and



*Dr. Lauren Kloer instructing a student during a RAVS suture lab at University of Nebraska, Lincoln.  
Photo credit: Katie Higgins*

*Dr. Karen Hershberger-Braker, faculty adviser for the HSVMA student chapter at University of Wisconsin, helps instruct students during a suture lab.*

*Photo credit: Susan Krebsbach, DVM*

Irresponsible Dog Breeding: Fertile Ground for Canine Health and Welfare Concerns” presented by Dr. Lorna Grande, HSVMA Veterinary Adviser, and “Farm Animal Welfare: The Science and Ethics” presented by Dr. Barry Kipperman, HSVMA Board President and California State Co-Representative.

In a typical year, HSVMA would hold its symposium on a veterinary school campus and organize with the help of the HSVMA student representatives or student chapter at that school. While we missed the interaction and face-to-face networking as with previous events, our online symposium was able to reach more students than ever before. As with our past symposiums, registration was free for all veterinary and veterinary technician students. Registration was also open to veterinary professionals regardless of HSVMA membership status.

HSVMA obtained a grant from the Glide Foundation for the symposium and was able to secure sponsorships as well. Our Platinum Sponsor was Total Planning Veterinary Services, a partner that provides disability insurance at a discounted rate to our members. Our Gold Sponsor was Safehold Special Risk, a partner that provides liability insurance at a competitive rate to our professional and student members. Our Silver Sponsor was Companion Protect, a pet insurance provider. We would like to thank them for their support.



World Spay Day volunteers at University of Wisconsin.  
Photo credit: Susan Krebsbach, DVM

# World Spay Day

Heather Schrader, RVT, MCJ  
Program Manager, Student Outreach

## 2020 World Spay Day: A Decade of Partnering with Veterinary Students to Support Spay/Neuter

2020 marks ten years that HSVMA has sponsored World Spay Day events involving veterinary and veterinary technician students. These clinics help prevent overpopulation of companion animals in addition to providing students with the training necessary to learn life-saving procedures. HSVMA also encourages students to participate because it is a great opportunity to help animals in their communities and connect with local welfare organizations. For many students, the events inspire them to continue to help address animal overpopulation during their veterinary school years and beyond.

In 2020, HSVMA supported World Spay Day events involving students at two veterinary schools. These events provided sterilization surgeries for more than 100 animals in need!

- Veterinary students at **Cornell University** sterilized feral cats in the Finger Lakes region of New York State.
- Veterinary students attending **University of Wisconsin-Madison** and veterinary technician students from **Madison College** collaborated with local organization, Madison Cat Project.

We commend all the volunteers who helped set up and run these clinics and thank everyone who offered their support!



A spay surgery being performed at the University of Wisconsin clinic. Photo credit: Susan Krebsbach, DVM

“Spay day was an amazing opportunity to practice my anesthesia and communication skills. It was my first experience with a high volume spay/neuter clinic, and I loved being able to help so many animals and the chance to give back to the community!”

Gianna Paganelli, Cornell University, Class of 2021

“Spay/neuter clinics were something that I was really passionate about before veterinary school. The Spay Day clinics at UW-Madison were something that I looked forward to when I was applying and got accepted into veterinary school. Being able to practice the medicine that I envision as my career has kept me inspired and genuinely excited for my future.”

Travis Neils, University of Wisconsin, Class of 2022

“It was an incredibly heartwarming and humbling experience to work with such a motivated team of fellow students to help sterilize our local population of kitties. We had an incredibly supportive team of veterinarians that helped me become more confident performing surgery and burying my knots than ever before.”

Karianna Crowder, Cornell University, Class of 2021

# Compassionate Care Scholarships

**Heather Schrader, RVT, MCJ**  
*Program Manager, Student Outreach*

Applicants for this year's HSVMA Compassionate Care Scholarships have already proven their resilience and determination as future veterinary professionals. We had a record number of applicants this year and we are excited to recognize these students and the work they are already performing to advance animal welfare in the veterinary field.

Many thanks to HSVMA leaders who continue to donate their time and resources: Dr. Barry Kipperman, HSVMA Board President and California State Co-Representative, Dr. Gary Block, HSVMA Board member, Rhode Island State Representative, and co-owner of Ocean State Veterinary Services in Greenwich, RI, and Dr. Carrie Waters, HSVMA Texas State Representative.

## 1st Place

### **BENJAMIN FLAKOLL**

*Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, class of 2021*

At age eleven,

Ben started working as a translator for Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS), a program providing free veterinary services to horses owned by poor farmers in his country, Nicaragua. Over many years working with RAVS, he began assisting in medical care and farrier services, and he became convinced that the communication between veterinarians and local horse owners was key to bridging the gap he saw between education and humane treatment.

As an undergraduate, Ben furthered his interest in welfare focusing on research to determine whether two common methods of restraining a horse were humane. He has published and presented his research in several forums. In 2017, he became a professional farrier and now works as one in the Ithaca, NY area while pursuing his vet school studies.



## 2nd Place

### **NAOMI GUZMAN**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Veterinary Medicine, class of 2021*

Growing up

in a Mexican-American household, Naomi witnessed conflicting ideals about the roles of companion animals in everyday life. Her professional goals include shelter medicine work to provide community outreach and resources to impoverished areas. She feels it's her "duty to bridge the gap between these cultures by improving the ideals that surround animal welfare in minority communities."

In veterinary school, Naomi maintains her focus on providing services such as basic veterinary care and spay/neuter surgeries to communities with sparse resources. She traveled to the island of Rhodes in Greece with shelter medicine veterinarians from the University of Illinois, where they worked in the local animal shelter assessing patients and providing necessary medical care.



## 3rd Place

### **SHEREE DEADRICK**

*Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, class of 2021*

Sheree's dedication to access to care and its intrinsic

link to the human-animal bond is evident in all her activities. Whether through her volunteer work at the BARC Animal Shelter in Houston or at the Houston Zoo, she demonstrated her understanding of, and commitment to, the fact that outreach and education is vital to the welfare of all animals. Sheree has also volunteered her time to provide community outreach for pets through the HSVMA-sponsored Tuskegee World Spay Day and both the annual Tuskegee Small Animal and Horse Health Fairs. These events have helped strengthen the relationship between the historic Tuskegee veterinary school and the surrounding community, both of which have faced their share of social injustice and inequity.

It is clear that Sheree's goal "to promote the fundamental rights for quality care of all animals regardless of the socioeconomic status of the owners" has already been met in all she has accomplished thus far.



# HSVMA Humane Achievement Awards

## HSVMA Recognizes Veterinarians for Humane Achievements

HSVMA honored five veterinarians in 2020 for their incredible advocacy and continued work in the field of animal welfare. Dr. Jennifer Conrad was presented with the inaugural Gordon Stull Lifetime

Achievement Award for her dedication to ending cat declawing. Dr. Stull, who passed away in 2019, was a longtime HSVMA Leadership Council member. He was also a tireless advocate for animal welfare with a particular interest in ending the cruel practice of declawing.

### Dr. Jennifer Conrad of California

Dr. Conrad founded [The Paw Project](#), a non-profit that educates about the cruelty of feline declawing and has successfully lobbied governments to ban the surgery in many US and Canadian locations. The Paw Project has succeeded in passing bans in eight California cities, the cities of Denver, CO, and St. Louis, MO, and statewide in New York.



### Dr. Richard Fischer of Arizona

Dr. Fisher has saved tens of thousands of lives via spay/neuter surgeries with [Arizona Humane Society](#) and [PAWS - The Modern Spay Neuter Clinic](#) in Arizona. He has donated his time and services to animals in the Havasupai Native Nation, to equine rescues and sanctuaries, and at [Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center](#). Dr. Fischer also provides equine dentistry throughout the state of Arizona with his mobile service, [Fischer Equine Dentistry](#).



### Dr. Brenda Griffin of Florida

Dr. Griffin is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. Over her career in shelter medicine, she co-founded the [Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs \(ACC&D\)](#) and spearheaded the establishment of shelter medicine as a veterinary specialty. Recently, she led the development of [Fear Free Shelters](#), an online certification program which addresses the emotional needs of animals in shelters.



### Dr. Andrew Knight of the UK

Dr. Knight led the initiative to replace invasive laboratory exercises, establish a body donation program, and set up a spay/neuter program using adoptable animals from local shelters while attending Murdoch University School of Veterinary Medicine. Professor Knight has helped introduce humane alternatives in veterinary schools across Australia, New Zealand, and the US. He is the founder and Director of [Centre for Animal Welfare](#) at Britain's University of Winchester which provides education and research on animal welfare issues.



### Dr. Andrea Peda of St. Kitts and Nevis

Dr. Peda started the shelter medicine wellness program at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and is head of its spay/neuter program which includes the [Feral Cat Project](#). She is also faculty adviser for the school's welfare and rescue organizations including [People for Animal Welfare on St. Kitts \(PAWS\)](#) and [Volunteers in Defense of Animals \(VIDA\)](#), organizations which provide free veterinary services to low-income families on the islands, and [Saving Animals From Emergency \(SAFE\)](#) which uses public donations to pay for emergent veterinary care.

# HSVMA Membership Benefits

*Piper Crussell, Program Manager  
Membership and Marketing*

A key benefit of HSVMA membership is knowing you are supporting a leadership role for veterinary professionals in the animal protection movement. HSVMA is the only veterinary medical association focusing on animal welfare, and your membership ensures that veterinary voices are at the forefront of the most important animal welfare initiatives facing our profession and our communities today.

HSVMA also provides a variety of membership benefits that are designed to directly help you in your professional career. Featured among those benefits are:

## Continuing Education

### HSVMA Webinar Series

HSVMA members can earn RACE-approved continuing education credit—free of charge—by accessing any of our six live webinars per year and 35+ archived on-demand webinars, all on welfare-related topics.

### Animal Care Expo

HSVMA members enjoy discounted registration rates for Animal Care Expo, which offers 15+ hours of continuing education credit on animal welfare topics annually. Animal Care Expo 2021 will be held online April 21-23, 2021. More info can be found at [humanepro.org/expo](http://humanepro.org/expo)

## Insurance and Financial Services

### Professional Liability Insurance

HSVMA partners with Safehold Special Risk to offer HSVMA members a cost-effective professional liability insurance program.



### Individual Disability Insurance

HSVMA partners with Total Planning Veterinary Services to offer HSVMA members a discounted individual disability insurance product from Principal Life Insurance. Graduating veterinary students can purchase this insurance without medical screening.



## Credit Card Processing

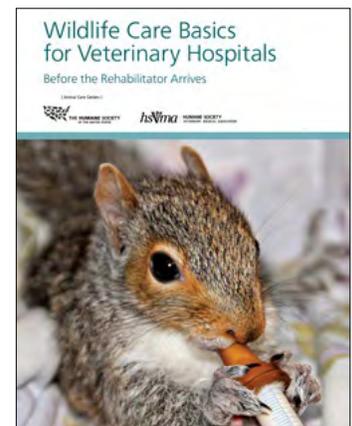
A trusted partner of HSVMA, Gravity Payments guarantees to meet or beat your current credit card processing rates. They will also donate a portion of their profits back to HSVMA and cover the cost of your HSVMA membership while you are a Gravity customer.



## Publications and Subscriptions

### Free Copy of HSVMA Wildlife Care Basics for Veterinary Hospitals

As interest in animal welfare is on the rise, our clients often seek out the aid of a veterinarian when they see perceived injured or orphaned wildlife. This guide provides vital information on intake and triage, temporary care, and safe transport of injured animals to rehabbers.



### Free Subscription to HSVMA News

Our monthly e-newsletter provides updates about advocacy efforts, volunteer opportunities, member discounts and resources, and the latest in animal welfare news.

### Discounts on Animal Welfare Resources

- 35% discount on Wiley-Blackwell publications  
Note: Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook only eligible for 20% discount.
- Free download of the HSUS/HSVMA Euthanasia Training Manual
- 30% discount on all animal welfare textbooks available from CABI Publishing
- 20% discount on all equine books, e-books, and videos from Trafalgar Square Books

For more information about these and other valuable HSVMA membership benefits, visit [www.hsvma.org/benefits](http://www.hsvma.org/benefits)

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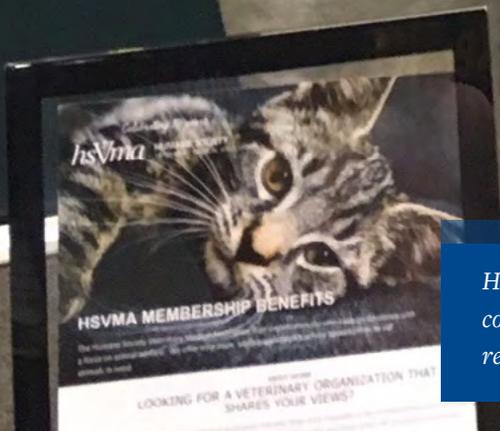
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HSVMA State Representatives Dr. Sy Woon (FL) and Dr. Kate Maher (LA) conduct outreach at the HSVMA booth at VMX 2020 along with Milo (Dr. Woon's rescue dog). Photo Credit: HSVMA

### HSVMA CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 208  
Davis, CA 95617

Phone: (530) 759-8106  
Email contact: info@hsvma.org

Website: www.hsvma.org  
facebook.com/hsvma