

# SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a strange time to live! Widespread uncertainty, even fear, seems to be the norm in the world, dealing with a new illness that can be totally innocuous in the vast majority of people, but steals the very breath of an unfortunate few. As medical professionals, we are called to be a voice of calm reason amidst the fear and chaos.

Times like these highlight what social creatures we truly are. I was semen testing bulls for a young family, and I was trying to explain that social distancing is bad for the elderly. He was aghast that his teacher had told him it was good! Then I quickly explained my point that it is the mind and emotions that suffer when we're alone. We were created for fellowship, and to see people looking upon each other with trepidation in the grocery store, stony glances warning off any familiarity, my heart breaks. We can maintain physical separation and distance, but we must not distance ourselves emotionally.

I've been part of a series of emails being exchanged by small animal clinics in the Flathead Valley, and truly gratified that those clinics are offering help and support to each other, willing to care for what animals need care and wanting to do it without trying to get the folks needing help to transfer to the helping clinic as a new client. Compassion for colleagues and clients eloquently discussed in the emails encouraged me once again that ours is the best profession ever!

I encourage everyone to stay connected to loved ones and friends. Phone calls are safe! Hearing a voice may be more comforting than an email, being able to see each other via our modern face to face communication forms may be best of all! I think I prefer the term physical distancing to social distancing, as the latter evokes feelings of loneliness and an emotionally unhealthy isolation.

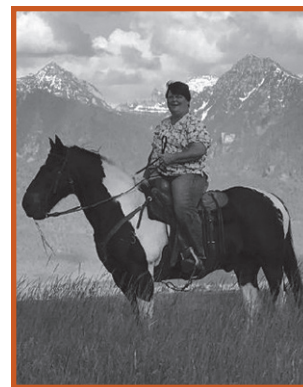
In the interests of keeping everyone safe, we moved the summer MVMA meeting to August. Now, with a resurgence of COVID-19 and new restrictions, our meeting will not happen. The

speakers graciously had confirmed either moving to the August dates and participating in person or participating virtually, but it was not to be. In light of the expense and complexity of offering webinars, your board decided to simply post available opportunities on the MVMA website. Your executive board also has sent a letter to the veterinary board strongly supporting that the regulatory board accept online continuing education for all 20 hours of the CE required for license renewal this cycle. They will meet August 31 and inform us of their decision.

Thank you so much for placing the trust and confidence in me to serve as the MVMA President. I certainly was disappointed that I couldn't finish with a good meeting spent with you, my colleagues and my friends. One bright spot has been getting to know Jenny Bloomquist, our new den mother. She is truly an inspiration and has definitely jumped into the deep end with all the scheduling and rescheduling, writing and rewriting that has plagued our endeavors this year. A big thank you to Jenny and Stuart for their work above and beyond as we've navigated this year.

Moving forward to 2021, I hope to see you at the exciting Winter Meeting Cara Voss has planned for us and that the trials and difficulties of 2020 are in the rear-view mirror! Thank you again!

*Beth M Blevins, DVM*



**Beth Blevins, DVM**  
2019-2020  
MVMA President  
Ronan, Montana

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### **MVMA Regrettably Forced to Cancel Summer Meeting**

The MVMA Board of Directors has regrettably been forced to cancel the Summer Meeting which was previously rescheduled for August 27-29 in Missoula. Given the rise in COVID cases, the majority of the meeting speakers and vendors were recently prohibited from traveling and participating in person. In addition, the Missoula County Health Department's evolving meeting restrictions would have made the gathering prohibitive.

MVMA leadership and staff made a valiant effort to execute an in-person event and discussed proceeding with a virtual format, but determined it was not a cost efficient and viable option at this time. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Beth Blevins for the time and effort she devoted to planning an outstanding event for the membership and regrets the ultimate outcome.

The Association also wishes to thank the members and allied partners who registered for the event. While refunds have been issued to all those who registered, if you have questions about the process or did not receive a refund, please contact Jenny Bloomquist, Association Coordinator, at 406-447-4259 or [jennyb@montana.com](mailto:jennyb@montana.com). The Missoula Hilton Garden Inn will cancel reservations with no penalties, but members are encouraged to call the hotel (406-532-5300) as soon as possible to cancel.

MVMA will now focus on hosting a Winter Meeting, under the direction of Dr. Cara Voss, January 23-25 at the Best Western GranTree Inn in Bozeman. The meeting will be expanded to include a limited number of trade show exhibits, as well. Watch for registration information this fall.

### **Request for Temporary Extension and Online Options for CE Licensing Requirements Sent to Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine**

On July 20, MVMA sent a letter to the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine requesting an extension of the November 1, 2020 deadline for Continuing Education (CE) requirements for license renewal given the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Montana veterinarians' ability to obtain in-person CE credits.

Furthermore, the Association requested the board temporarily suspend the rule requiring "No more than ten of the 20 hours to be obtained through online courses" to allow all 20 credits to be obtained online for the current license renewal cycle.

In the letter, MVMA President Blevins stated, "The MVMA and our membership take our obligation to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public very seriously and realize the importance of obtaining informative and quality Continuing Education in fulfilling that charge, particularly interactive and hands-on seminars. However, with our current world human health crisis, we acknowledge in-person participation in such events during the upcoming months will be restricted and, as such, request the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine consider extending the period of time licensees have to complete CE requirements and temporarily suspending the in-person attendance requirement."

The Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine will meet virtually on August 31 and will consider this request.

### **MVMA Posts Online CE Opportunities on Website**

To assist members in sourcing online CE opportunities, MVMA is posting industry and university virtual education events on the Association website: [www.mtvma.org](http://www.mtvma.org).

## 2020-2021 Membership Renewal Process Underway

Earlier this spring, the MVMA Board agreed to postpone the proposed dues increase until next year and delay the dues renewal process until August in consideration of the financial challenges posed by the COVID pandemic. Online membership renewal notices have now been emailed to all members. Your prompt reply is appreciated to ensure the Association can meet its upcoming financial commitments and continue to provide valuable services, including advocating for the profession on the state level. Please read incoming MVMA President, Dr. Ed Peretti's, renewal request featured to the right. If you prefer to send in your membership renewal with a check, please submit the renewal form found on page 4 at your earliest convenience.

### Dr. Ed Peretti Seated as 2020-2021 MVMA President

During a July 23rd conference call, the MVMA Board of Directors voted to proceed with seating President Elect Dr. Ed Peretti as the 2020-2021 MVMA President during its upcoming August virtual Board meeting. Dr. Peretti was slated to assume the role during the Summer Meeting, therefore, the Board decided this unprecedented situation required immediate seating.

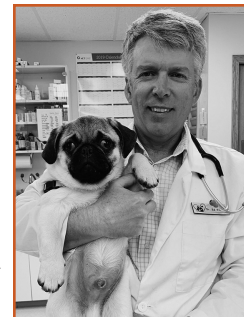
Dr. Peretti, of Amherst Animal Hospital in Butte, succeeds Dr. Beth Blevins who has provided thoughtful and enthusiastic leadership during the past year. Dr. Blevins will remain on the Board as Past President. Dr. Cara Voss, of Glendive, will assume the President Elect position.

## 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### MVMA Needs Your Support!

Dear MVMA Member,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for being a Montana Veterinary Medical Association member. Your membership is vitally important to the future of our great profession. Organized veterinarians involved in national, state and specialty organizations have allowed us to maintain the high professional standards that make us the most respected profession in the world.



**Ed Peretti, DVM**  
2020-2021  
MVMA President

### As a member of the MVMA you receive:

- Biannual continuing education conferences at bargain rates;
- Exclusive lobbyists that protect our Practice Act;
- Continual legislative updates for members only;
- Free classified advertising on our website;
- Newsletters that are pertinent to issues in our state;
- Free member listing on the MVMA website;
- Discounted services for disability insurance, credit card and payroll processing and debt collections;
- Involvement in MVMA committees;
- Networking with colleagues and classmates;
- Power of Ten Leadership workshops for recent graduates;
- Covid-19 updates.

Your MVMA, guided by Executive Director Stuart Doggett and Association Coordinator, Jenny Bloomquist, is one of the most respected and fiscally responsible organizations in our state.

We are never as strong alone as we are together. Please renew your membership today using the form on the next page.

With Sincere Thanks,



Ed Peretti, DVM  
2020-2021 MVMA President



**MONTANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
PO Box 6322 • Helena, MT 59601 • p 406-447-4259 • f 406-442-8018 • info@mtvma.org

## 2020-2021 Membership Renewal Form

Renew your dues online and pay with a credit card: [www.mtvma.org](http://www.mtvma.org)

Log in to your account, click **My Profile**, then click **GO** in the yellow box next to **Renew Here**. You can also update your profile information. Contact the office if you need help with your login information.

**I hereby renew my membership in the Montana Veterinary Medical Association for the 2020-2021 year:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or Box City State Zip

Email for communication \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_  
For future Life Membership purposes.

**Information for free web listing:** ☐ Do not list my email on website ☐ Do not list any of my information on website  
Even if you choose not to be listed on our website, please still complete the below information, if applicable, for association records.

Clinic name \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or Box City State Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

I graduated from \_\_\_\_\_  
Veterinary School Month Year

### Renew Membership Status in the Category Checked:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Active member: \$100:** full benefits of association; must be licensed in Montana.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Affiliate member: \$75:** veterinarians living out of state; must be member of state association in which currently residing.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Life member: No charge:** must be 65 years of age and have been a member of the MVMA for 25 years.

Do you have any board certifications or specialties you would like to list? \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I am interested in serving on the MVMA Executive Board—meets twice annually with the Winter and Summer Meetings.  
☐ I am interested in being considered for an appointment to the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Are you interested in  
serving on any MVMA  
Committees?

- ☐ Animal Welfare  
☐ Budget and Finance  
☐ CE/Program  
☐ Companion Animal  
☐ Disaster Preparedness  
☐ Eulogy

- ☐ Food Animal/Regulatory  
☐ Legislative  
☐ Nominations  
☐ Veterinary Technicians  
☐ Wellness

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail renewal form to MVMA, PO Box 6322, Helena, MT 59604.**

*Contributions or gifts to the MVMA are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses subject to restrictions imposed as a result of association lobbying activities. MVMA estimates that the nondeductible portion of your dues, the portion that is allocable to lobbying is 15%.*



# VETERINARY LAW AND ETHICS

## ONLINE RACE-APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION

**Your time is valuable and limited.** We get it and agree that when you need to invest time for training, it should improve your practice and the health of your patients.

Our programs are available on demand and can be completed whenever it works for you, without the cost of travel or time away from work.

### Available RACE-approved CE

- Medical Records
- Telehealth
- Veterinary Medical Ethics
- Controlled Substances Awareness
- Client Consent & Communication
- Professional Standards of Care

### About Us

Dr. Babcock, a licensed veterinarian and attorney, has served as the President of Animal & Veterinary Legal Services, PLLC since 2005.

She provides continuing education and online training opportunities to help her colleagues fulfill their lifelong obligation to the continual improvement of professional knowledge and competence, as well as satisfy state licensing requirements.

### HERE'S WHAT VETS ARE SAYING...



#### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AWARENESS (3-CE)

*"I can assure you that this CE includes everything veterinarians should know about opioids and controlled substances!"*

**Amanda Bisol, VMD, JD Candidate**  
Animal Medical Clinic, Skowhegan, Maine  
American Veterinary Medical Association Opioid Work Group Member



#### TELEMEDICINE (2-CE)

*"This course covers all the bases on the legal and regulatory framework surrounding telemedicine in veterinary medicine. It's an essential primer for practices as they make decisions on how to use these tools in the time of coronavirus—and beyond."*

**Douglas G. Aspros, DVM**  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
Veterinary Practice Partners



#### MEDICAL RECORDS (2-CE)

*"When I began the course, I thought it would likely be another waste of time. I was quickly, and pleasantly surprised to discover that was not the case. If one has any aspiration of practicing quality medicine, this course is not optional it is indispensable."*

**John B. Smith, DVM**  
Petcare Animal Clinic  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

# ENROLL TODAY!

[AnimalAndVeterinaryLaw.com/courses/](https://AnimalAndVeterinaryLaw.com/courses/)



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## MVMA Classifieds

As a service to our members, MVMA offers free advertising for job postings, as well as equipment and clinic sales, on our website – [mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org). Ads will be posted on the website for three months unless earlier removal is requested. At this time, there is an abundance of listings which precluded us from publishing them all in this newsletter. Please note, we have reinstated the 150-word limit for postings.

Non-members may purchase classified ads on the website for \$150 or in the newsletter for \$125 – with a 150-word limit. Larger website and newsletter advertising opportunities are also available. For more information, contact Jenny Bloomquist, MVMA Association Coordinator at [jennyb@montana.com](mailto:jennyb@montana.com).

## Welcome New MVMA Members!

The following members were approved during the 2020 Winter Meeting in Bozeman:

### LIFE

Constance Campbell Missoula	Rollett Pruyn Missoula
Richard Cunningham Hysham	Dick Richardson Missoula
John Erfle Kalispell	Paul Schaumberg Seeley Lake
Sid Gustafson Bozeman	Ron Walters Lewistown
Gerald Killen Forsyth	

### FULL

Kelli Ator Helena	L. Gretchen Saam-Anders Basin, Wyoming
Ben Baldwin Troy	Justine Scaccia Bozeman
Zoe Ball Kalispell	Tracy Schmitt Three Forks
Kelli Kolar Great Falls	Robyn Thompson Kalispell
Teresa Petterson Stevensville	Jessie Waltz Helena
Jessi Ross Butte	Thomas Wurtz Great Falls
Sarah Roth Molt	

## In Memoriam

*MVMA mourns the passing of several long-time and prominent members. Each of these men made a lasting impact on the Montana veterinary profession, their clients, and communities. Their leadership and presence will be missed within our organization.*

### John W. Gee, DVM – Stanford

Born in 1935 in Toledo, Ohio, Dr. Gee spent his childhood dreaming of moving west. After high school, he realized that dream by attending Colorado A & M (now Colorado State University) and became a successful member of their rodeo team. He returned to Ohio State University to earn his DVM but made his way back west to Montana and began practicing in Stanford in 1963. For over 50 years, Dr. Gee faithfully served his clients and community, while also pursuing a renowned rodeo career. He is survived by his son John, daughters, Maria and Theresa, and their families.



### Wesley Marshall, DVM – Ekalaka

Dr. Marshall, a distinguished graduate of Washington State University School of Veterinary Medicine, practiced with his wife, JoAn, for 40 years in Lompoc, California before “retiring” to run a cattle ranch in the Chalk Buttes near Ekalaka, Montana, where JoAn’s family had a homestead. In Montana, Dr. Marshall bred and raised Arabian horses and was an avid fly fisherman. He is survived by his wife, “Dr. Jody,” of 62 years, their children, Kerri, Daniel and Matt and their families.



## Special Recognition

After serving as a veterinarian for 47 years, Dr. Dick Rath, Lewistown, (left) received the distinguished Golden Rectal Bovine Probe 2020 for his outstanding service in bovine practice from Dr. Bob Sager, Wilsall, (right). Congratulations, Dick, and best wishes for a fulfilling retirement.



### Sherman John Smith, DVM – Townsend



Born in Bozeman, Montana, Dr. Smith grew up raising milking Shorthorn cattle and Duroc hogs. After spending his first two collegiate years at Montana State University, he was accepted into Veterinary School at Washington

State University where he met his first love of his life, Emma. He started practicing with Dr. Gerald Robertson in Bozeman and eventually moved to Three Forks and purchased his own practice. He was instrumental in the operation of the Montana Winter Fair, successfully introduced semen testing at Midland Bull Testing and developed an elk breeding program with Jack Bridgewater. He sold his practice in 2013 and retired to Townsend with Emmy who passed in 2011. In 2013, John married his second love, Barbara, who survives him, as well as his son Sherm and daughter Judy.

### William J. Tietz, DVM – Bozeman



Montana State University President Emeritus, Dr. William Tietz, died June 10, 2020 at the age of 93. Dr. Tietz came to MSU in 1977 from Colorado State University where he was dean of CSU's College of Veterinary

Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Current President, Waded Cruzado shared the following sentiments regarding Dr. Tietz's impact on MSU, "For many of us, the name Bill Tietz will forever signify the ushering of Montana State University into the modern era. By any account, he was a transformative president of MSU, moving mountains and often with little more than his passion, willpower and large personality."

### Jack K. Ward, DVM – Hamilton

Raised in Hysham, Montana, Dr. Ward attended Montana State University and Washington State University School where he earned his DVM. Jack and his wife, Della, moved to Hamilton in 1958 where Jack joined the Bitterroot Veterinary Clinic. In 1975, he opened his private equine and bovine medicine and surgery practice, where he continued to work until 2015. Dr. Ward held various officer positions with MVMA and received the 1983 AVMA Practitioner Research Award for his collaborative research with the University of Montana in the field of virology and immunology. He is survived by his wife, Della, and daughters Lorri and Beth.

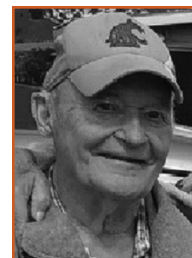
### Paul H. Bissonette, DVM – Pendleton, Oregon (formerly Deer Lodge)

Dr. Bissonette passed away on June 20 while on his afternoon walk in Pendleton, Oregon. Born in 1931 and raised on a ranch in Hall, Paul worked hard and came to respect the land and people around him. He joined the Navy during the Korean conflict and, after his discharge, attended Montana State University and Washington State University on the GI bill to become a veterinarian. In 1959, he moved with his wife and family to the Deer Lodge Valley where he started his veterinary practice with Dr. Fred Metcalf in Drummond and in 1961 started the Clark Fork Veterinary Clinic in Deer Lodge. "Dr. Paul," as he was affectionately known across Powell County for many years, was a cowboy at heart, and as such, he had a simple philosophy: Work hard, play hard, be honest and spend more time listening than talking. He held his patients and clients on the highest pedestal and nothing came between him and them when in need. Paul is survived by his wife Patricia, his twin sons, Robert and William, stepchildren Eric and Dena, and their families.



***"The goal isn't to live forever, the goal is to create something that will."***

Chuck Palahniuk



# POWER OF TEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## MVMA Selects 2020-2021 Class



The **Power of Ten** Leadership Program is an MVMA initiative designed to cultivate leadership capacity in recent graduates (graduated between 2013 and 2020) and provide learning experiences that will enrich the individual and benefit the individual's practice,

community, and profession. It is designed to help recent graduates develop foundational skills in leadership, communication, and business.

Participation in the Power of Ten class creates a spirit of community and participants build lasting bonds with other members of the leadership academy class. Learning experiences are scheduled to minimize the impact on working hours – and the entire program is designed to garner support from practice owners who recognize their key responsibility in developing human potential.

### 2020-2021 Class Participants:

The following applicants were recently selected to participate in this year's Power of Ten leadership academy. These participants will engage in a

series of learning experiences that commence in August 2020 and culminate in June 2021. MVMA extends its sincere appreciation to the MVMA members who employ these individuals and encouraged their participation.

#### **Grace Clifford, DVM**

Locum Veterinarian - currently at Skyline Veterinary Hospital, Belgrade

#### **Kelsey Heiberg, DVM**

Black Dog Veterinary Services, Bozeman

#### **Ellen Holbrook, DVM**

Colmey Veterinary Hospital, Livingston

#### **Kaitie Ivory, DVM**

Pruyn Veterinary Hospital, Missoula

#### **Katherine Malcott, DVM**

Sorensen Small Animal Hospital, Belgrade

#### **Magdalena Niedermeyer, DVM**

Burnt Fork Veterinary Clinic, Stevensville

#### **Garrett Ryerson, DVM**

Banfield Pet Hospital, Bozeman

#### **Chelsea Uffelman, DVM**

Best Friends Animal Hospital, Billings

#### **McCaide Wooten, DVM**

Pruyn Veterinary Hospital, Missoula

***"I certainly wish this would have been available to me as a young vet."***

Katie Rein, DVM  
Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service  
Harlowtown, MT



"A few years ago, one of my beef producers said, "he didn't want me to try a procedure for the first time on his bull." I said, "Do you know how many other things, I've done for the first time on your animals?!" Looking back at my first 7 years as a veterinarian, there were a lot of firsts: first job as an intern, first job in private practice, first time being a practice owner, and so many firsts in the practice of veterinary medicine. It was such a challenging time. I feel the greatest benefit of Power of Ten, is that you meet with a group of peers and a couple of older facilitators to navigate these firsts. I certainly wish this would have been available to me as a young veterinarian.

From learning to work with different personality types including your boss and co-workers, to leadership and personal development, the curriculum is designed to encourage young veterinarians to succeed in this incredible profession.

The inaugural class in 2019 thought this program was beneficial enough to meet with the Montana Veterinary Medical Association executive board to pitch the merits of the program. It was approved and we have selected the class of 2020."

*Dr. Katie Rein, MVMA Power of Ten Curriculum Coach*



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## **Helena Independent Record Selects MVMA Member as 2020 “20 under 40” Community Leader**

Dr. Amanda “Mandy” McGowan, 39, works diligently as an award-winning associate veterinarian at the Animal Center Veterinary Hospital of Helena.

*Independent Record* readers voted her as the runner-up for best veterinarian in the “Best of Helena” contest last year, and she tied for first place this year.

When McGowan is not doing blood work, taking X-rays or checking for signs of infection or disease, she is helping to fill sandbags for flood victims, working with 4-H members during shows and stocking shelves at Helena Food Share.

“I don’t have one main place I like to volunteer, I like to volunteer at various little ones,” she said. “I have a new respect for filling sandbags.”

McGowan’s love for volunteer work around the Helena Valley stems from a rather nostalgic root.

“I’m a past 4-H member, and 4-H helped me out with getting a career and scholarships that I wouldn’t have had otherwise,” McGowan said. “And as far as 4-H goes, I help judge the fair and do workshops for vet science, and 4-H girls learn how to ride as well. For the young members, 4-H has lots of animal projects and leadership opportunities for them.”

McGowan was born and raised in Helena and is a 1999 graduate of Capital High School. She earned her bachelor’s degree in biology in 2003, and in 2007 she graduated veterinary school at Colorado State University before finding her way back home to Helena.

“It was one of those things that I knew I always wanted to be a vet when I was little. That, or a mathematician,” she said.

For 13 years, she has helped countless animals and families recover and cure their pets, and in some cases, their best friends.

“The clients is what keeps me motivated, and their loving pets we help and their great, unique, personalities. I love having great relationships with clients and they seem truly grateful,” she said.

McGowan has been with the Animal Center Veterinary Hospital of Helena for five years and has no plans of leaving any time soon. She said he staff is what keeps the organization afloat.

“I definitely have amazing co-workers, and I have passion for Helena,” she said. “Helena shaped me to be who I am today and I had a lot of help of when I was younger, to help get me into veterinary school. And at the end of the day, I just want to pay it forward for those who have helped me out.”

She continued, “And our job is pretty emotional, it can be really tough, and I have a great staff that helps support me at the animal center being an animal advocate – we couldn’t do it alone.”

*Reprinted with permission from Helena Independent Record*



**Amanda “Mandy” McGowan, DVM**  
*Animal Center Veterinary Hospital, Helena, MT*

Photo courtesy of Thom Bridge, Helena IR

**“It was one  
of those  
things that  
I knew I  
always  
wanted to  
be a vet  
when I  
was little.”**



# MONTANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE UPDATES

*Submitted by Lucy Richards, Executive Director*

**Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine**  
PO Box 200513  
Helena, MT 59620-0513  
406-444-5711  
boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/vet

**Next Meeting Date**  
August 31, 2020  
8:00 am

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly influenced normal operations at the Department of Labor and Industry for the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the 31 other licensing boards. In spite of that, normal administrative operations continue despite the new challenges. The majority of department staff have been working from home since mid-March. Managers, IT staff, the state of Montana Department of Administration, and our own staff in the Professional Licensing Bureau have done an excellent job adapting and ensuring that work continues.

Normal daily application processing and review work continues as our processing staff members are starting to receive the spring "graduation influx" of applications. As always, I encourage all new applicants to apply sooner rather than later so that staff can begin reviewing their specific qualifications. Online application is recommended.

Below are some brief updates on board and department activities. I encourage people to visit the board's website at [www.vet.mt.gov](http://www.vet.mt.gov). We work to ensure that information that is relevant to both licensees and the public can be found on our website. You can also e-mail questions to [dlibsdlhelp@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdlhelp@mt.gov).

## COVID-19 Information (Including Continuing Education)

An FAQ specific to COVID-19 questions is posted to the board's homepage at [www.vet.mt.gov](http://www.vet.mt.gov). I update the FAQ periodically as the situation changes and new information arises. I encourage all licensees to read through the FAQ if they have not already reviewed the most current version. A few:

- The bulk of questions staff received for this board over the last two months pertained mostly to telemedicine/telehealth and how to obtain continuing education.
- Question/Response #13 of the FAQ is the most current response to the questions on continuing education. To sum up that response: *"Based on guidance recently developed by this department for the licensing boards under it (including this one), licensing boards with CE requirements can consider options for extending the period of time licensees have to complete CE and/or the process for granting hardship waivers. Based on circumstances at present, this board will be considering those options at its August 31 board meeting."* I know of at least one other board that has already voted to extend CE requirements and I know it is on other boards' agendas. Note that if this board were to extend the date that CE were due it **would not** change the renewal deadline of 11/1/20. Licensees would still have to renew by that date. They would just have more time to complete CE.

## Board Rulemaking – Current Proposed Changes to Board Rules

- The rulemaking process for MAR 24-222-41 is nearly complete. Generally speaking the proposed changes: (1) update the veterinarian recordkeeping and unprofessional conduct rules to conform with national standards; (2) clean-up and standardize the certified euthanasia technician (CET) and certified euthanasia agency (CEA) licensing and inspection rules; and (3) standardize the continuing education rules for CET and embryo transfer technicians (ETT).

- The public comment period ended at 5:00 p.m. on 4/10/20. The board responded to those comments at its 4/20/20 regular board meeting. If you want to review the proposed language prior to adoption click on this link. If you want to listen to the board respond to comments at the 4/20/20 meeting you can access the audio recording and time stamped agenda on the board events webpage.
- The final step in the rulemaking process will be for department staff to file the notice of adoption with the Secretary of State's Office. The rules will become effective the day after the SOS publishes that notice.
- Due to COVID-19, staff including myself and the administrative rules unit, had to reprioritize our work and less time sensitive projects. I anticipate the adoption notice will be filed in the next few months. When that notice is filed we will notify interested parties and all licensees who have a current e-mail address in our eBiz licensing system. That notice will also be posted to the board's rulemaking webpage.

## 2021 Legislative Session

- Board Legislative Requests – at its 12/17/19 meeting the board voted to request approval from the Governor to move forward with five different legislative concepts for the 2021 session. Since the board is part of the Executive Branch the Governor must approve all board and department legislative proposals. A final decision on whether the board can move forward with any or all of those proposals not been made yet. I will update the board again at its 8/31/20 meeting as it is likely a final decision will have been made by that time. Further information on those proposals can be found by listening to the board discussion and motions at the 12/17/19 meeting. The audio recording and time stamped agenda can be found on the board events webpage.

- Veterinary Technician Licensure – the Big Sky Veterinary Technician Association, with the support of MVMA, is once again moving forward with legislation to create a license for veterinary technicians. A previous attempt died in process during the 2019 Session. BSVTA continues to update the licensing board as we get closer to the session. As with all legislation, once final draft bill language is completed by BSVTA the bill will be placed on a board agenda so the board can vote on whether it would like to request permission from the Governor to support or oppose the bill. I will note that the board supported the 2019 version of the bill.

## Next Board Meeting and General Stakeholder Outreach

- Board of Veterinary Medicine members continue to represent this board at MVMA meetings. Most recently, Becky Mattix and Barbara Calm attended the Winter MVMA meeting as representatives and updated the MVMA board and general membership on board activities.
- Board meetings are open to the public and any licensee or member of the public. If you wish to be added to the board's interested parties list to receive updates on proposed rulemaking and upcoming board meeting agendas just e-mail your request to [dlibsdrvvet@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdrvvet@mt.gov).
- The next regular board meeting is scheduled for 8/31/20. An agenda will be finalized and posted to the website two weeks prior to the meeting. All board meetings continue to be by telephone only as our office in Helena remains closed to the public.

### Members

Rebecca Mattix, DVM  
Bozeman

Barbara Calm, DVM  
Kila

Jean Lindley, DVM  
Miles City

Paul McCann, DVM  
Havre

Tia Nelson, DVM  
Helena

Kim Baker,  
Public Member  
Hot Springs

**Please Note:** During the August 31 meeting, Rhonda Morgan will be assuming the Board's Executive Director position, replacing current Executive Director Lucy Richards. MVMA extends its sincere appreciation to Lucy for the time and effort she has devoted to the Board and wishes her well as she transitions to overseeing other State Boards.

# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK COVID-19 UPDATE

**Submitted by:**

**Anna Forseth, DVM, MS, Program Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock**

**Tahnee Szymanski, DVM, Assistant State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock**

## Resources:

**AVMA Statement on Testing Animals:**

<https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/coronavirus/COVID-19-Joint-Statement-Testing.pdf>

**CDC Guidance for Veterinary Clinics:**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html?deliveryName=US\\_1164-DM27551](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html?deliveryName=US_1164-DM27551)

**Companion Animal Toolkit:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/toolkit.html>

**CDC Frequently**

**Asked Questions:**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?deliveryName=US\\_1164-DM27551#Pets-and-Animals](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?deliveryName=US_1164-DM27551#Pets-and-Animals)

**COVID and Animals:**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html?deliveryName=US\\_1164-DM27551](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html?deliveryName=US_1164-DM27551)

**COVID Testing Decision Tree:**

<https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/coronavirus/COVID-19-Testing-Flowchart.pdf>

**CDC Handouts for**

**Pet Owners:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>

## What we know about animals and COVID-19

- There is no evidence that companion animals play a significant role in spreading SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Based on the available data, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.
- SARS-CoV-2 infection has been confirmed in tigers at the Bronx Zoo, two pet cats with mild respiratory illness in New York, and most recently in a dog in Georgia. All of these animals had contact with confirmed or suspected positive human cases.
- There have been no COVID-19 cases associated with animals in Montana.

## Considerations for your veterinary practice

- The greatest risk of COVID-19 exposure to staff at veterinary clinics comes from person-to-person transmission through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, or talking, which is the main way SARS-CoV-2 spreads. Clinic staff should be screened at the beginning of each shift prior to interacting with other staff and clients.
- Take precautions to minimize staff contact with pet owners. Examples of actions to minimize contact with pet owners or other people include:
  - o Practice social distancing.
  - o Use professional judgment when determining whether a case is urgent or non-urgent and when procedures should be postponed.

- o Use telemedicine for consults or to help triage patients. Consult your state requirements for telemedicine and veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) requirements.
- o Schedule drop-off appointments or receiving companion animals from their owners' vehicles (also called curbside).
- o Communicate via telephone or video-chat to maintain social distancing.
- o Use direct-to-exam-room admissions and/or enforce social distancing in the lobby. Veterinarians should also use their best judgment when considering appropriate PPE to use.
- o Have staff, rather than clients, hold animals to minimize direct contact.
- o Use online payment and billing to reduce handling credit cards or other potential fomites.

## Clinical signs in animals

- Limited information is available to characterize the spectrum of clinical illness associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection in cats, dogs, mustelids and other susceptible species. Clinical signs thought to be compatible with SARS-CoV-2 infection in animals include: fever, coughing, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, lethargy, sneezing, nasal/ocular discharge, vomiting, and diarrhea.

## Testing companion animals for SARS-CoV-2

The following should be considered when deciding whether to test for COVID-19:

- Infection in pets is rare.
- Routine testing is not recommended.
- Animals exhibiting compatible clinical signs should be screened for common respiratory pathogens prior to testing for COVID-19.
- If you have an animal that you believe to be an appropriate candidate for COVID-19 testing, please consult with your local health office or MDOL.

## What if an animal tests positive?

- Positive test results should be reported to the Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) at (406) 444-2976. MDOL may request confirmatory testing be conducted at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).
- Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections in animals must be reported by USDA to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

## Next Montana Department of Livestock meeting date:

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the public is asked to join this meeting via ZOOM.

Please email [dwilham@mt.gov](mailto:dwilham@mt.gov) or call 406-444-9321 for log-in information.

## AGENCY CONTACTS

### Montana Department of Livestock Animal Health Bureau

PO Box 202001  
301 N Roberts Street  
Helena, MT 59620-2001

General Inquiries: (406) 444-2043  
FAX: (406) 444-1929  
Import Permits: (406) 444-2976  
Standard permits available 24 hours

Martin Zaluski, DVM: (406) 444-0782  
State Veterinarian

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM: (406) 444-5214  
Assistant State Veterinarian

### USDA – APHIS

Scott Beutelschies DVM  
Area Veterinarian in Charge-Montana-  
Veterinary Services Field Operations-D3

208 N Montana Ave.  
Suite 101  
Helena, MT 59601  
Phone: (406) 437-9450

*There have  
been no  
COVID-19  
cases  
associated  
with  
animals in  
Montana.*

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For more information, please contact:

Edgar C. Trevino, Executive Director | Brownsville Spay Neuter | 1050 A McIntosh Dr. | Brownsville TX 78521 | [edgarc Trevino@aol.com](mailto:edgarc Trevino@aol.com)



## AN AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS



*Submitted by Dr. Nancy Belk, MVMA Director, and her husband, Dan Belk, in April 2020. Nancy and Dan were able to finally return to Montana on May 16 with many cherished memories and a deep appreciation for arriving safely home.*



We are sharing our adventure to Australia during Covid19. It all started last November when my husband Dan and I booked tickets to visit two friends who live in Australia. Kathrin Guderian and Karen King were both long time vet school friends who had moved to Australia years ago. Kathrin lives on a farm near Tooma, New South Wales, and Karen lives on farm near Dunkeld, Victoria. It had been a goal to visit them for many years. We bought cheap tickets (you know non-refundable) and planned our trip. In November there was a drought in Australia, but we were really not aware of it, then in January there were fires, well we figured those would be done by the time of our arrival--and they were. Rain came in February, all at once and there was flooding. Then, a windstorm came and claimed the roof of a guest cabin on Kathrin's property. We told Kathrin we would come with work gloves and help rebuild.



So, with all that in mind, we set off on March 11 to visit and help out. We got into Sydney on Friday morning March 13, things seemed normal enough to us as we had not looked at a TV or paper since we left Billings. We took the train to downtown Sydney to spend 3 days to see the sights and recuperate from the plane trip.

We knew about jet lag, but we were

totally unprepared for the loss of directional orientation that happens when you cross the equator. North suddenly was south, and the sun felt like it was in the wrong place. During our time in Sydney, we visited the Darling harbor, walked through Chinatown and took the ferry to Toronga park – the Sydney Zoo. A ferry ride took us by the Sydney Opera House and near the Sydney Bay Bridge. And, we attended an evening service at St. Mary's Cathedral.

On Monday morning, we got on the train and traveled to Wagga Wagga, then on the bus to Tumbarumba where Kathrin picked us up and took us to her farm. All around us as we traveled to the farm there was evidence of the fires that had raged through the area only two months ago. As we rode on the train and coach (bus), we saw twisted heaps of metal that were houses or barns scattered here and there, and some structures that looked as if they should have burned but survived the fires due to the wind just happening to favor them that day. After we arrived at Kathrin's, we realized that things were not going so well regarding CoVid19, and that we probably were not going to be able to travel onto Karen's farm like we had planned. But we had to make it to Kathrin's farm, so we needed to make the best of it.

We have a ranch in central Montana, so we are familiar with ranch operations in the States, but some things were definitely different. The farm borders Kosciusko National Park and is named after a range of mountains near the farm known as Jagumba. The terrain is forested with eucalyptus trees of every shape and color, locally called gum trees. In the US we would call the farm a ranch because the only crop they grow is hay, and that is fed to their cattle which is what they sell. The farm is located about an hour from Tumbarumba in a densely forested area (Australians call it Bush) where they have cut down the trees and planted grass in the flatter parts of the land. In the steep areas and gullies there is still forest. The eucalyptus tree is



amazing, unless the fire was extremely hot, most of the native trees did not die and are coming back and growing new leaves, while the pine trees are dead sticks. There are only a few native species of pine tree, most of the pine trees in the tree farms are non-native, and burned hot, taking adjacent native trees with them.

It was incredibly green when we arrived in mid-March, and only got greener as April rolled by. The grasses vary almost as much as the trees. There are several species of annual and perennial grasses including kangaroo grass which is a summer grass, and rye grasses planted as a more palatable cattle feed. All the shades of green are a visual treat. This area is quite hilly and brush is normally quite thick, consisting of a brush tree called tea trees. This year most of the underbrush was burned out by the bush fires of January. To work the cattle, we ride horses and rely heavily on dogs to get the cows out of what brush remained. The riders mostly just direct the dogs and open gates. The dogs are amazing to watch. They are Kelpie (an Australian stock dog) and border collie type stock dogs and get a very intense look on their faces when they are working.

Bordering a national park has its challenges, primarily keeping out what Kathrin's husband, Barry, calls "Share Farmers"...the deer, wild horses (brumbies), wild dogs (dingos), kangaroos, wallabies and the like want to feed on the pasture improvements made on the farm for the cattle and sheep. To combat this, a boundary fence is installed that is 6 feet high. It is woven wire on the bottom (called mesh) and smooth high tensile wire on up to the top wire. Interestingly, the wires are run through holes in the steel posts, so staples and clips are not needed unless in the case of an electric wire, an insulator is needed.

The soil here is sandy and lots of gravel, so doesn't allow the strainer post to move under wet conditions like can happen in Montana. A common strainer here is a concrete railroad tie, weighing in at over 700 pounds (350 kg). Since most of the posts here are metal, most of the damage to the fences on Jagumba were due to

trees falling on the fences, and fire taking the tensile strength out of the wire. Ideally the trees are cut back, and fire breaks installed, but there are many and varied rules on where and how far one can cut back trees. For example, the boundary fences with the park land only get 6 meters, although there is a move afoot to expand that to a much higher value.

The cattle at Jagumba are a mixed lot of colors and consist of Santa Gertrudis, Murry Grey, Brahma, Charolais and Angus. All the cattle we've seen are longer legged with a leaner appearance than cattle in Montana, likely due to the need for these animals to tolerate the hotter climate. Mineral deficiencies that are seen in this area are calcium, phosphorous, sulfur and selenium. Native grasses here are not so nutritious for livestock as improved pasture grasses, generally some type of rye grass or something similar. The season here is autumn, so calves are being sold. Cattle auctions here are similar to those online auctions in the States. Jagumba sold some calves online through a simultaneous auction. This is where the various lots are all placed in a matrix, and when the bidding slows down the results are locked in. Prices here are comparable to those in Montana, even to the extent that the black Angus calves bring in a little more. For example: \$6/kg AUS = \$1.71/lb US after translating kg to lbs and AUS to US dollars.

The sheep that Kathrin and Barry raise are Dorper sheep, that shed their wool, no shearing needed and no docking of tails required. There are flocks of merino sheep in the area, but not at Jagumba. The sheep are kept as a "killer flock" that means they are not sold so much as used to feed the people at the farm, friends, and family. When the freezer gets low,



**Australian Adventure** continued on page 20

**Australian Adventure** continued from page 19

and a cool night is on tap one is butchered. The sheep are penned up at night behind fences good enough to keep wild dogs out.



Most of the stock dogs here at Jagumba are an Australian developed breed called Kelpies. They are a modification of the Border Collies from England. Like most working dogs, they live to herd. They work well with both sheep and cattle.



Alfalfa hay is called "Lucerne" here and is put up in large square bales. Forty inches of rain for the annual average rain fall, hay sheds are a requirement, so square bales stack better. The improved pastures are planted in areas where the terrain is level enough, the forest is left in the gullies and steep areas. Yields here for irrigated crops is similar except that the growing season is longer, so they get extra cuttings.



The remote location of Jagumba means being "off the grid" for electricity. Even though two high voltage lines run through the farm, there is no distribution voltage lines available. They rely on solar generation and diesel generator into batteries run through an inverter for electric power. Internet is through a satellite connection and is generally pretty



good if you ignore the latency. Domestic water is provided by collecting the water off the roof of a large metal shed where is stored far enough up hill to provide water pressure. Hot water is provided by solar heating panel and a water jacket on the wood heat/cook stove in the kitchen. Temperatures here are generally in Celsius, and the wintertime temps usually do not get lower than a couple degrees below freezing. It isn't cold enough to bother the citrus trees. Water lines underground are not to avoid freezing, but to protect the water line.

Most of the tractors here at Jagumba are Kubota tractors. There are John Deere and others around. The utility vehicle is the ute with a tray back. This is basically a small pickup with a flat bed with fold up 6 to 8-inch side walls. The steering wheel is on the right side, making the shift on the left. Haven't seen an automatic ute yet. Most of the stock hauling is done on a tray truck unless it is a big load where they use B-double, which is two 40-foot pots pulled by one tractor. Here at Jagumba they have a 20-foot tray truck and have a stock rack that is attached when needed.

A typical day here starts at daylight...around 6:30 am (days are getting shorter in April, while in Montana they are getting longer) with breakfast consisting of eggs from the chooks, some garden veggies and whatever leftover meat is available in the fridge. Go out fencing or whatever is the chore of the day, come back around noon hour for soup and whatever is in the fridge. Continue the chore of the day be it repairing the wind damaged guest house or fencing or fixing the machinery. Evening meal is generally roasted meat (lamb, venison, or beef) along with potatoes and veggies.

***Nancy and Dan returned to the United States on May 16 – and found nothing typical as Nancy describes:***

We got back the 16th of May. It was quite a contrast traveling back through the airports from Australia, very few shops were open, just food places and those had social distancing in place. No lines at security or customs. Traveling from Sidney to San Francisco there were about 40 people on the flight. United had one flight daily from Sydney to San Francisco. To my knowledge, that was the only flight to the US from Australia. I do know there were no international flights from Melbourne at that time as we flew from Melbourne to Sydney and the international airport in Melbourne was closed. So strange to see all the vacant parking lots and so little traffic at a huge airport.

We had a wonderful experience during our unexpected extended visit to Australia.





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***This innovative and highly successful program, known as the WIMU Regional Program, serves students in the Northwest and Northern Rockies.***

## WIMU REGIONAL PROGRAM IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Montana State University (MSU), the University of Idaho (UI) and Utah State University (USU) are partners with Washington State University (WSU) in its Regional Program in Veterinary Medical Education to serve the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Utah. This innovative and highly successful program, known as the Washington-Idaho-Montana-Utah (WIMU) Regional Program, serves students in the Northwest and northern Rockies.

Montana students spend their first year in Bozeman at Montana State University. MSU faculty members teach the 1st year curriculum which includes Anatomy, Histology, Physiology, Neuroscience, Immunology, General Pathology, Professionalism and Ethics, Introduction to Clinics, and Introduction to Surgery. MSU WIMU instructors have extensive backgrounds in veterinary medicine, including several instructors with both DVM and PhD degrees.

Classroom and clinical study continue in years 2 and 3 on WSU's Pullman campus. Students then have the opportunity to learn in a wide network of clinical placements throughout the four-state region in the 4th year before graduating.

Listed to the right are the Montana students who recently graduated in May 2020, their Montana hometowns and their future plans.

These students were among the WIMU Program's the third graduating class:

**Hannah Greene, Clancy**

Equine Clinic in Vancouver, BC

**Allison Hale, Corvallis**

Mixed animal medicine in Twin Falls, ID

**Emily Munday, Butte**

Small animal medicine at Poulsbo Animal Clinic in Poulsbo, WA

**Maddie Parker, Helena**

Small animal medicine in Fayetteville, NC

**Kamron Ratzburg, Galata**

Marias Vet Clinic in Shelby, MT

**Jordan Robins, Kalispell**

Horizon Veterinary Clinic in Lewistown, MT

**Garrett Ryerson, Helena**

Small Animal Veterinary Clinic in Bozeman, MT

**Maddie (Sechena) Watkins, Great Falls**

Small animal and small ruminant medicine at North Star Animal Hospital in Palmer, AK

**Tori Wilson, Pony**

Mixed animal medicine at Mountainview Veterinary Service in Twin Bridges, MT

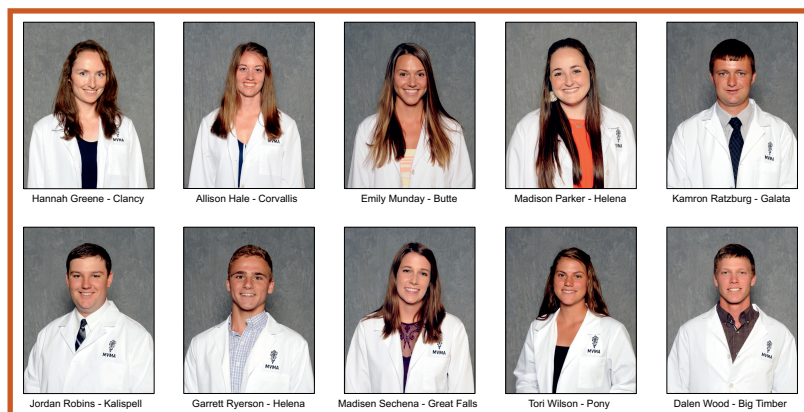
**Dalen Wood, Big Timber**

South Valley Equine; Equine Internship; Saratoga Springs, UT

MVMA is also pleased to congratulate the following students who will be inducted into the Program during a virtual White Coat Ceremony in August. Dr. Ed Peretti, MVMA President Elect will be delivering the ceremony address to students.

Randa Boler	Colter Christian
Greta Gustafson	Sara Heine
Kelly Liebers	Emma Loney
Jacob Malek	Bryan Mitchell
Lynn Short	Kayla Stanek

Cassidy Wiley



## MVMA IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE TRISH BROWNING, MONTANA'S NEWEST CVPM!

### Here's Trish's inspirational story:

"Determination is nothing without dedication and hard work."

Hi! I am Trish Browning, Practice Manager for Dr. Mark Albrecht and the Gallatin Veterinary Hospital since August of 2006. I can't believe that it has been almost 15 years that have been working with the team here.

I came to Bozeman with my three children, Orry, Taw and Reina and started my career in veterinary medicine working in Client Relations and moving to become a Veterinary Assistant before I found that my spot is Practice Management. There hadn't been a practice manager at GVH before me so as I sat at my desk for the first time I thought, "Okay I am here but what do I do now?"

After learning the basics, I started setting goals:

1. Changing from paper records to electronic. I was tired of always singing the ABC song when filing.
2. We became the first veterinary hospital in Bozeman to become American Animal Hospital Association, (AAHA) certified. And there were a ton more.

At the end of this very long list of goals was to become a Certified Veterinary Practice Manager, CVPM! It was at the end of the list not because it wasn't important. It was VERY important but ten years ago when I first thought about becoming certified I thought, I am WAY too old to work on that goal and put it on the back burner. So I waited 10 years...and decided that I was now YOUNG enough to start studying.

Studying for the Veterinary Hospital Managers Association's, CVPM designation is not for the

faint of heart. It required that I go back to college and take courses in business, take CVPM prep courses and continuing education that would take most of my weekends for over a year and recommended reading list on the five disciplines for management in a veterinary practice: human resources, law and ethics, marketing, finances and practice organization. I spoke to people who were sitting for the exam for the second or third time. Yikes!

However, 2019 was a pretty fantastic year for me. I was chosen by VHMA to be featured in their Year of the Member article. An honor only 12 practice managers across the US and Canada received. I was selected to be on the Industry Advisory Panel by VHMA which helps those that work in the industry and for the industry relate and work toward improving veterinary medicine. Last, but not least, on August 13th I sat for my CVPM certification and PASSED. I joined just two others in Montana to become certified.

It was a journey well worth taking and I really encourage others to not give up on your goals. Who knows maybe you will be next!



**Trish Browning**  
CVPM  
Gallatin  
Veterinary Hospital  
Bozeman, Montana

# Congrats!



# MVMA ANNOUNCES 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Each year, the MVMA awards two, \$2,000 scholarship grants to Montana students who have completed, at minimum, their first year of a professional veterinary medical curriculum. This year's recipients are Sadie Reddick, a second-year student at Washington State University and Shea Stevens, a third-year student at Oregon State University.



**Sadie Reddick**  
2020 MVMA  
Scholarship Recipient

Sadie is the daughter of Veloy and Dan Reddick, of Belgrade. She grew up with an exposure to local veterinary practices in the Gallatin Valley through her involvement with 4-H horse and beef projects and worked with the small animal veterinarians at Sorensen Veterinary Hospital. She graduated with honors from Oklahoma State University earning a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences with a major concentration in Pre-Veterinary Animal Science. With a goal of one day returning to Montana as a rural veterinarian, Sadie enrolled in the WIMU program through Washington State University (WSU). Sadie was one of two students selected to represent WSU in the Veterinary Leadership Experience and was also selected for the Northwest Bovine Veterinary Experience Program (NW-BVEP) internship.



**Shea Stevens**  
2020 MVMA  
Scholarship Recipient

Shea is the daughter of Dave and Colleen Stevens, of Kalispell. Fulfilling her childhood dream, she is one year away from achieving her goal to return to the Flathead Valley to practice companion animal medicine as a general practitioner. Shea has gained valuable clinical experience at the Whitefish Animal Hospital. Her passion is leadership and she continues to build on her experiences obtained through the Leadership Fellows Certificate Program at Montana State University. Shea is actively involved in the Oregon State University (OSU) Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine and was selected by the OSU Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical

Association (AVMA) to represent the college at the Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago. In addition, she serves on the Chapter's board and its Wellness Committee, is a student ambassador for the college and is the leader of the Josh Project, a group of veterinary students who organize activities to bring comfort to the children at the OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Congratulations Sadie and Shea! Montana's future veterinary profession is in good hands.

## New MVMA Staff Member

Jenny Bloomquist was hired this winter to serve as the MVMA Association Coordinator. She replaces Charlotte Lauerma who left to take a position with the Montana Telecommunications Association. The Association extends its heartfelt gratitude for Charlotte's diligent service over the past seven years.

Most recently, Jenny took time off from the workforce to raise her children and serve as an active Helena community leader. Prior to that, however, she gained extensive experience working for state and national agriculture industry associations including serving as the Executive Vice President of Marketing for the American Angus Association's Certified Angus Beef Program and as Special Services Coordinator for the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Jenny is married to Helena agriculture attorney, John Bloomquist, and has two children, Audrey, and Caswell.



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# AVMA PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY, BUSINESS AND PERSONAL INSURANCE (PLIT)

Dr. Karen Wernette, DVM, and AVMA PLIT Trust Veterinarian was scheduled to speak to MVMA members during the 2020 Summer Meeting. In place of that session, she graciously offered the following article:



**Karen Wernette, DVM**  
AVMA PLIT  
Trust Veterinarian

## RABIES, Oh My!!

Have you ever considered the ripple effect of a potential rabies exposure in your clinic? Are you vaccinated? Is your staff vaccinated? Who is going to pay for all of these treatments, quarantines and/or reimbursements for losses? A rabies exposure in a veterinary clinic can trigger several insurance policies that practice owners may not have considered or are aware of. Rabies exposures in practices are not that uncommon.

Claim Example: A client presented a stray kitten for wellness exam. The client was holding the

kitten during the exam and it bit the client. The client washed the wound and was told to seek medical attention. A week later the kitten presented for muscle tremors and had become aggressive. During the exam, Dr A was bitten by the kitten. The kitten was hospitalized but progressively became more aggressive and was euthanized. The brain was submitted and tested positive for rabies. Dr. A, two staff members, and the client underwent rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatment. Dr. A's bite became infected

and she was hospitalized for 3 days and unable to work for three weeks while healing and undergoing physical therapy. Multiple AVMA Trust sponsored Policies were triggered by these events.

**Professional liability** coverage responds when you are accused of veterinary malpractice. The client filed a claim against Dr. A for her injuries and rabies PEP treatment. The insurance carrier for Dr. A opined that it is below the standard of care to allow a client to restrain an animal during treatment. Dr. A consented to settle for allowing the client to restrain the kitten. The

insurance company paid the client \$60,000 for rabies PEP treatment and treatment needed for the infected bite wound.

**Workers' compensation** protects your workers financially if they are injured on the job. The two staff members' rabies PEP treatment and injuries were covered.

AVMA LIFE **rabies prophylaxis benefit** is part of the **Member Basic Protection Package**. The rabies prophylaxis benefit helps cover the cost of rabies prophylaxis either before or after exposure. Dr. A had been previously vaccinated against rabies so she received two rabies booster vaccines. The insurance policy paid \$600 for the vaccines.

Dr A also had the AVMA Life **Hospital Indemnity Plan**. The hospital indemnity plan may supplement other medical care insurance you may carry. It is rare that any medical care plan covers all of the expenses especially if hospitalization is involved. Dr A was hospitalized for 3 days and received a daily benefit of \$400.

Dr A had the AVMA LIFE **Short-Term Disability Income Plan 1** where benefits begin on the first day of hospitalization.

Practicing veterinary medicine confronts us with many risk situations. We all need to know how to provide the best protection possible. The AVMA Trust program not only provides professional liability coverage for veterinarians. The AVMA Trust has developed insurance products to protect you, your family, your staff, and your practice.

To discuss your insurance needs, please call us.  
AVMA PLIT: 800-228-7548  
AVMA LIFE: 800-621-6360



# What Coverage is Your Practice Missing?

## BUSINESS OWNER'S POLICY



This coverage helps replace or repair your building, equipment, furniture, computers and more. PLIT's policies are unique in that they protect you against one of the most common causes of damage at veterinary practices—your patients.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION



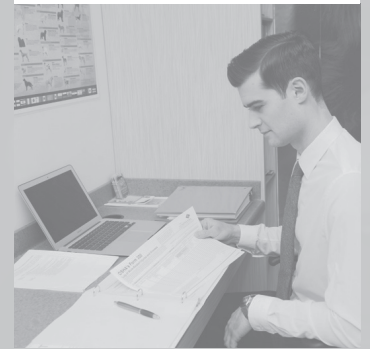
Your employees are the strength of your practice. This coverage protects your workers financially if they're injured on the job.

## EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY



Even the most disciplined practices can face allegations of harassment, discrimination, and wrongful employment operations. This provides coverage for legal defense fees and indemnity (compensation) for wrongful employment practices claims.

## DATA BREACH



The average data breach costs \$214 per record! Data breach coverage responds to the loss, theft, accidental release, or accidental publication of sensitive records.

Let's talk about how we can manage risk at your practice.

800-228-7548, option 4  
[avmaplit.com](http://avmaplit.com)

**AVMA PLIT<sup>®</sup>**  
Protecting you through it all

**AVMA LIFE<sup>®</sup>**  
Veterinarian Inspired Coverage



## UPCOMING MVMA MEETINGS

### Winter 2021

January 22-23

Best Western Plus Gran Tree Inn  
Bozeman

### Summer 2021

June 25-27

Clarion Inn Copper King Hotel &  
Convention Center  
Butte

### Winter 2022

January 21-22

Best Western Plus Gran Tree Inn  
Bozeman

### Summer 2022

June 20-21

DoubleTree  
Billings



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