Call to Order
Dr. Peter Hellyer called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Present: Dr. Peter Hellyer, Dr. Erin Epperly, Dr. Curtis Crawford, Dr. Randa MacMillan, Dr. Sam Romano, Dr. John Rule, Dr. Melanie Marsden, and Ralph Johnson.

Approval of Agenda
It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes
It was moved and seconded to approve minutes of the November 1, 2013 meeting of the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

Reports

A. President – Dr. Hellyer wished everyone a Happy New Year, and noted that Juliebeth Pelletier, CVT, executive director of the CACVT, will join the meeting at 2 PM.

B. Secretary/Treasurer – Financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2013 were distributed. Dr. Crawford noted that net revenue is ahead of budget.

C. Other Officers – No reports.

D. AVMA – Dr. Rule noted that the House of Delegates will be meeting during the upcoming Veterinary Leadership Conference. Discussion ensued on the resolution to prohibit AVMA accreditation of veterinary colleges outside the US and Canada, and the Executive Committee expressed its opposition to the resolution.

E. Executive Director – Ralph Johnson reported on progress in the installation of updated computers throughout the building; a promissory note has been executed between PetAid Colorado and CVMA for the loan of capital by CVMA.

5. Discussion and Action Items

A. Advocacy and Outreach
   1. Advocacy Training – February 6 at CVMA offices
   2. Legislative Issues 2014
      ▪ Greyhound racing – CVMA position on draft bill – It was agreed to take a “monitor” position, however CVMA does have concerns about the welfare of some greyhounds that were previously involved in the Colorado greyhound racing industry, and CVMA
endorses the AVMA position statement on Animals Used In Entertainment, Shows, and for Exhibition because it focuses on the welfare of the animals. CVMA urges that greyhound breeding be overseen by PACFA irrespective of whether greyhound racing is a prohibited or allowed practice in Colorado.

- Pre-veterinary emergency care – Draft of bill has been finalized with Senator Balmer; co-prime sponsors in the House will be Reps. Beth McCann and Lois Court; EMSAC board voted to support; ASPCA has indicated support; hearing date not yet scheduled; Dr. Apryl Steele will be invited to present testimony.

- PACFA sunset review – Working group continues to define issues to be raised; stakeholder meeting with Rep. Lebsock on January 6; hearing scheduled in House Ag on January 13; working group seeks feedback from CVMA on mandated annual veterinary inspection of licensed breeders. It was agreed that CVMA supports the inclusion of such a provision, with the language proposed by CVMA as follows:

  Each licensed breeder shall enter into a written agreement with a veterinarian licensed in this state to provide veterinary care for the animals maintained in the commercial breeder’s facility. The agreement shall include a requirement that the veterinarian visit the facility at least once every 12 months for the purpose of viewing all the animals in the facility, making a general determination concerning the health/disease status of the animals, and reviewing the licensed breeder’s program for disease prevention and control. If during the course of the visit, the veterinarian identifies an animal that requires a more detailed individual examination to determine the specific condition of the animal or to determine an appropriate course of treatment, then such examination shall be undertaken, followed when appropriate by prompt treatment of any serious illness or injury by a veterinarian licensed in this state, and where needed, humane euthanasia by a veterinarian licensed in this state using lawful techniques deemed acceptable by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

- Veterinary technicians – meeting held with Sen. Kefalis; tentative proposal for potential bill to define CVT and VTS in the veterinary practice act and address misrepresentation of nomenclature. Discussion with Juliebeth Pelletier:
  - She believes there is significant lack of public understanding that CVTs exist or what they do; believes CACVT has lots of work to do in building industry and public awareness about the value of attaining certification; if the CVT title is represented in the clinical setting, it should mean something.
  - Presently, CVT is not a protected term and therefore there is no accountability for misuse of the term; CACVT is basically looking for title protection.
  - CACVT is not prepared at this point to seek full licensure for veterinary technicians; its 2012 member survey landed on “no” for licensure. Juliebeth suggests that taking baby steps (e.g. nomenclature standardization and accountability) is a better approach, though she recognizes that CACVT members may not fully understand all the aspects and implications of licensure and that it will take time and ongoing conversation to get technicians comfortable with the concept. There are also potentially significant issues for CACVT (e.g. revenue from CVT certification) that could occur if licensure through the state was put in place.
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○ Are there other options for CACVT to achieve the term protection it seeks (e.g. might CVMA endorse a legislative initiative that CACVT would undertake?
  ▪ The Executive Committee agreed that CVMA should affirm with Senator Kefala that the issue with Mr. Clark is separate from the issues of nomenclature standardization and accountability. CVMA wishes to continue dialog with CACVT about education on the value of CVTs and consider (with consultation of CVMA members) whether a legislative approach is desirable in the long term.

3. Legislative Issues 2015
  ▪ Forensic veterinarians – Deb Foote, ASPCA regional legislative director, queried whether CVMA might support future legislation addressing the use of forensic veterinarians during specific circumstances (e.g. large-scale cruelty impoundment) if those veterinarians were not licensed in Colorado. Conceptually, the Executive Committee was in support and is open to further discussion with ASPCA.
  ▪ Mandated evaluation – Ralph Johnson reported on the request from both Peer Assistance Services and Mo Miskell (program director at the state board) to consider including such a provision in the veterinary practice act.

4. CLAW Caucus – CVMA is hosting the March 20 caucus; discussion topic is cat declawing, with Dr. Hellyer scheduled as issue expert.

5. Dog Protection Task Force – Dr. MacMillan, co-chair of the task force, provided an update on progress being made toward the goal of presenting online education for law enforcement about dog behaviors; AAF awarded $15,000 grant and CVMA will serve as fiscal agent; Arapahoe Sheriff’s Office has donated $2,500, and other entities are being asked for contributions. Immersive Technologies will be engaged to do the video, with an estimated completion date of mid-March.

6. Political Action Committee – Action item is to convene the work group to begin developing a white paper.

7. Regulatory Issues
  ▪ Dentistry
    o CVMA position statements adopted in November – Dr. MacMillan will create an article to introduce the position statements in the Voice, and Ralph Johnson will coordinate with Mo Miskell for a time on the state board agenda for Dr. MacMillan to apprise the state board of the CVMA position statements.
    o Dr. Woodward’s dental workshop – The Executive Committee noted with appreciation that Dr. Tony Woodward made possible a dental workshop for shelter veterinary teams.
    o Equine dentistry – CVMA will review draft rule language when it becomes available in regard to equine dentistry and what will be allowed under indirect supervision. It was agreed that CVMA will invite the state board to submit an article for the Voice once the rule is in place; CVMA will also invite comments for the Voice from Dr. Scott Marx, Dr. Jessica Dunbar, and Mr. Henderson. Ideally, the final rule will be disseminated to non-veterinary technicians; CVMA will ask Mr. Henderson for ideas in this regard.
    o Third-party Internet advertising – It was noted that the state board was appreciative of information provided by Dr. Bill Fredregill concerning how some Internet advertising can be changed by unauthorized third parties.
Coalition on Prescription Drug Abuse – Formation of this coalition was noted, and CVMA wishes to republish information about the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in the Voice.

Concerns about practice monitor protocol – Ralph Johnson will contact Mo Miskell to apprise him of these concerns; Dr. Marsden is willing to serve on a study group if one is formed by the state board.

- Online continuing education – Ralph Johnson noted that DAVMS is exploring options in delivering online education, and is likely to request that CVMA approach the state board with a proposal to revise the state board policy on online CE.
- Pharmacy board – Dr. Marsden reported on the Compounding Task Force, which as met once and has an upcoming meeting next week; the group is identifying the scope of work and goals for the task force.

8. Task Force on Collaboration – The task force held a productive meeting on November 1 and is making continued progress in creating the collaboration playbook; the next meeting is being scheduled for early February to review draft playbook.

B. Animal Issues

1. Cat declawing education – The Executive Committee agreed to move forward with the following action steps:
   - Gather all possible position statements – e.g. AVMA, AAFP, CaVMA, DFL, AAHA – and Banfield client information
   - Survey members; provide a two-week opportunity for Dr. Lavizzo to submit questions for consideration
   - Define a position statement – Neither encourage nor discourage, but instead advocate for an informed client decision, such as “As with any surgical procedure, we advocate for client education, communication of risk assessment, and owner consent. The decision to obtain a surgical onchyectomy is best made between the client and the veterinarian based on the individual and unique circumstances of that individual cat and client, and should be made only after all possible alternatives have been exhausted.” Drs. Hellyer and Marsden will draft this position statement.
   - Special issue of the Voice (issue 2014:2 or 2014:3, include AAFP article if possible)
   - Post resources on the website (e.g. position statements, client information sheet, fact sheet) for both public and professional audiences
   - Ask CFAWA for data on number of declawed cats received at shelters
   - Develop a fact sheet
   - Develop an op-ed piece that is ready to go in response to articles or letters. Drs. Hellyer and Marsden will draft this op-ed piece.

2. Colorado Livestock Care Coalition – Dr. Crawford provided an update on the December 4 meeting of the coalition; the most significant issue of discussion continues to be tail docking.

3. Juvenile spay/neuter – Roger Haston, executive director of the Animal Assistance Foundation, proposed to Ralph Johnson that AAF fund a CVMA seminar on the Western Slope on juvenile spay/neuter. It was agreed to invite Mr. Haston to meet with the Executive Committee for discussion on how outcomes for animals are being affected by the
lack of juvenile S/N, what juvenile S/N means, what are the pros and cons, what are the differences in technique.

4. Scrotal castrations – Information from Dumb Friends League was provided, indicating their change in protocol from pre-scrotal to scrotal castration. It was suggested that this topic could be addressed along with juvenile spay/neuter at a Western Slope seminar.

C. Communications
1. Media training – Scheduled for March 13 at CVMA office.
2. Onesheets – Information (in the form of onesheets) about Send-a-Student, Save The Dates for various programs, and the webinar series were included with Voice 2013:4.

D. Finance and Administration
1. Colorado Science and Engineering Fair – It was agreed to provide a $500 sponsorship.

E. Governance
1. Commission on Leadership – Dr. Anderson will serve as vice chair, but in need of chair to relieve Dr. Romano; Dr. Epperly will review the POTL 2013 graduate list to see if someone might be willing and available.
2. District services – To continue discussion with the Colorado Springs Area Veterinary Society (CSAVS) about potential CVMA services that could be provided to the district, Dr. Marsden will communicate to Dr. Wall that CVMA is willing to meet to discuss their needs but not able to implement dues billing until the 2015 dues cycle.

F. Learning
1. BIG Ideas Forum | Spring 2014 – Confirmed for the Warwick Hotel, April 11-12, with Jeffrey Cufaude on the topic of innovation.
2. The Ultimate Practice Growth Weekend – Confirmed for Cheyenne Mountain Resort, May 30-June 1, with Dr. Michael Warren.
3. CVMA CE West – Confirmed for Wine Country Inn, June 27-29, with Drs. Mike Lappin and Rob Callan.
4. CVMA CE Southwest – Confirmed for Doubletree Hotel, October 4-5, with Dr. Dan Smeak plus two New Mexico specialists in neurology and ophthalmology.
5. CVMA Convention 2014 – Structural changes being implemented, including Wet Lab Thursday and the Friday evening event Dining at the Diagnostic Medicine Center.
6. BIG Ideas Forum | Fall 2015 – Confirmed for Cheyenne Mountain Resort, November 7-8; topic to be determined.

G. Membership
1. District visits – The 2014 schedule is being confirmed with the district representatives.
2. Surveys
   a. Cat declawing – The draft online survey has been created; Dr. Lori Kogan is working with VIN to potentially collaborate on this survey; CVMA would like to create whatever consistency is possible with the VIN questions to allow comparison of Colorado data with national data.
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- Student engagement – The online draft has been created and approved in printed form, Dr. Hellyer has written the introduction; Action: send the link to Executive Committee to test the online version.
- Compounding – The online draft has been created by Dr. Marsden, and approved in printed form; Action: send the link to the Executive Committee to test.
- Microscope use – Draft and introduction are finalized, and the survey will be released once CSU human subjects sign-off is received.
- Member needs assessment – in development (staff)
- Microchipping – in development (Ralph)
- Veterinary prescribing and dispensing issues – This survey concept was generated at the BIG Ideas Forum | Spring 2013 meeting and charged to CoAPA. In light of the change in responsibilities for that commission, the Executive Committee agreed that other surveys being prepared should be completed and then reconsideration of this survey can occur.

H. Programs and Services
1. 9PetCheck – Ralph Johnson met with CAVS members about the potential for a PetCheck with the local NBC affiliate, and the veterinarians gave a “thumbs up” to the concept. For 9PetCheck, Merial is determining whether it is willing to provide rabies vaccines to all participating clinics. The Dumb Friends League inquired if it could provide their mobile units at two off-site locations as a way to utilize more volunteer veterinarians, with the potential for involving additional shelters in this way in future years; the Executive Committee agreed this approach is desirable this year and moving forward.
2. Power of Ten Leadership Academy – The meeting is confirmed for One Ski Hill Place in Breckenridge, October 10-12. Facilitator training will be held in Indianapolis, March 25-28 with Dr. Fuhrman, Dr. Fankhauser, and Ralph Johnson attending.

I. Professional Affairs
1. Veterinary Peer Health Assistance Program – The Executive Committee reviewed outcomes from discussions with Peer Assistance Services about sustaining continuing visibility for the program. It was agreed that webinars would be a good way to keep the program visible to members, and that PAS should be asked to include in the webinars (a) liability for a veterinarian who sees but does not report unsafe/impaired practice by another veterinarian, and (b) the topics of self-care and warning signs of abuse.

J. Relations
1. 9News selected for Excellence in Media Award by Colorado Nonprofit Association
2. AVMA
   - VLC – Saturday night group dinner at Francesca’s
   - AVMA Convention – Ralph Johnson reported on the initiation of discussion with AVMA about their expectations of the state association in regard to convention.
3. CSU
   - Dr. Hellyer to clinical sciences department meeting on January 22
   - Advocacy Training (Ralph Johnson, Leo Boyle and Dr. Powers) on February 4 for students, coordinated by Dr. Joy Fuhrman
Dr. Hellyer and Ralph Johnson to Foundations class on March 4 on the role of VMAs in professional practice

K. Upcoming meetings
    February 5 – email update
    February 6 – Advocacy Training
    March 5 – 11 AM meeting
    March 13 – Media Training
    April 11 – 9 AM meeting at BIG Ideas Forum | Spring 2014
    May 21 – email update
    June 4 – 11 AM meeting
    July 2 – email update
    August 6 – 11 AM meeting
    September 19 – 9 AM meeting at CVMA Convention 2014
    October 1 – email update
    November 7 (?) – 9 AM meeting at CVMA Big Ideas Forum | Fall 2014
    December 3 – email update

Other Business
    Future meeting discussions
      Deb Foote (ASPCA) – forensic veterinarians exemption to CVPA
      Elizabeth Pace (PAS), Mo Miskell (SBVM), Dr. Fredregill – mandated evaluation
      Juliebeth Pelletier (CACVT) – public outreach on the value of CVTs

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 4 PM.