Award Recipients

Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. Barbara McGuire, of Albuquerque, was recently selected as the NMVMA Veterinarian of the Year. This award recognizes a practicing veterinarian who has shown exemplary professional conduct and outstanding service to clients, patients and community. Dr. McGuire grew up in rural northern Colorado and is a 1984 veterinary graduate from Colorado State University. She is part owner of Aztec Animal Clinic in Albuquerque, and holds a special interest in geriatric medicine as well as behavior medicine in a primary care setting. She is a past president of the Albuquerque Veterinary Association and has played a significant role in the veterinary community and local community. Dr. McGuire currently serves as a preceptor of the CNM Veterinary Technician program, is a member of the Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory Advisory Committee and has served as a mentor for the Veterinary Sciences program at APS Career Enrichment Center. She has participated in the Heeling Hearts Prison Dogs program providing free veterinary care and surgical services for dogs in the program. Dr. McGuire is also a regular veterinarian for the ASPCA/AHA Low Income Vaccine and Microchip events.

Dr. McGuire’s personal interests include cycling with her husband, Paul, and distance and trail running with her two rescue dogs. She is “grateful on a daily basis to live in such a great place and to work with dedicated and fabulous people.” We are grateful to have her here.

Bonnie Gray Dees, DVM
Barbara McGuire, DVM
Tamara Spooner

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Distinguished Service Award

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Executive Directors Message

Notes from the Executive Director

Congratulations to all of the award recipients! It was indeed a pleasure to be in attendance for some of the award presentations. All of the award winners are incredibly deserving and the stories are quite heartfelt and touching. Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination.

We at the NMVMA are rather excited about a new program that we will be launching this summer. Dr. Kathy Brooks and I traveled to Indianapolis to attend training, which was generously sponsored by Elanco, for a new program entitled the Power of Ten. The Power of Ten is designed to help recent graduates develop foundational skills in leadership, communication, and business. Ten participants will be selected from the applicant pool to participate in the Power of Ten leadership program. Participants will join a network of peers in a series of learning experiences including social styles, communication, compassion fatigue, time management, and other topics. We anticipate that this program will also create a sense of community and expect participants to build lasting bonds with other members of the leadership program. We are hopeful that practice owners will commit to supporting their new graduates in this initiative, as the owners will benefit as well! Look for more information in the next newsletter, email blasts and on our website.

The Fairness to Pet Owners Act has been re-introduced. Senator Blumenthal (CT) introduced S. 1200, with Senators Schumer (NY) and Lee (UT) on May 6, 2015. The language is a mirror of

Continued on page 3
last Congress’s bill and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. AVMA entities are reviewing the legislative and the AVMA will formalize their official position at the July meeting. For more information you may access the AVMA link, http://atwork.avma.org/2015/05/07/back-at-it-congress-introduces-sweeping-prescription-mandate-veterinarians/ or visit www.nmvma.org. You may also find the contact information for the NM Congressional Delegation can be found on the NMVMA website as well, under the Legislative tab.

Starting with the fall newsletter, the NMVMA Executive Board recently decided to issue the Roadrunner electronically. We will send out a reminder, however, if you have any questions, you may certainly contact the NMVMA office.

Registration for SWVS is now open! With over 200 exhibitors, the popular Design conference, and access to over 375 hours of CE, you’ll have plenty of opportunities to enhance your practice, your hospital and your career while reconnection with old friends. We’re thrilled about the special session on Sunday, September 27th, featuring Temple Grandin, PhD. Head to www.swvs.org today to take advantage of the Early Bird Registration.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!
Tamara Spooner

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Toll Free: (877) 804-8366

- Rebecca Mount, DVM, DACVD

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dr. Mount is now a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (DACVD) having successfully passed her boards November 2014.

D4A has expanded our service hours to Fridays. We have a new fax line: (505) 903-6644 and a new email: d4aNewMexico@gmail.com.

www.dermatologyforanimals.com

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**Locklan’s Laughs**

“We thought of him as a really experienced clinician with a good eye for being resourcefully practical”

Dr. Doug Hill Retirement Party

“We thought of him as an out dated old quack who could really screw up the computer every time he was on it.”

“We thought of him as our friend, although not always very funny.”
2015 Legislative Session Wrap-up

As most of you know, House Bill 88 did not pass the NM Senate due to the last minute time crunch on the last day of the legislative session. During the session, it had unanimously passed two committees in the House, the House Floor, and two committees in the Senate. It was scheduled to have been heard the very last day of session, March 21, on the Senate Floor, but the Senate did not make it through the agenda before closing at noon.

As mentioned before, Drs. Murt Byrne and Emily Walker spent numerous hours away from their clinics and families, oftentimes late in the evenings and on weekends, in order to speak on behalf of the NMVMA and all NM veterinarians. We greatly appreciate their hard work and the work of the rest of the NMVMA Legislative Committee, including Drs. Daniel Levenson and Tim Hanosh. They have all sacrificed much of their time in order to be your voice! We’d also like to thank our paid legislative consultant, Joe Menapace, who has expertly guided us through the process. Thank you also to Dr. Manuel Garcia, without his research and thoughtful contributions, this would never have gotten off the ground.

The NMVMA will be presenting this bill again and will be hoping for a better outcome. We are very much encouraged by the support from legislators and other organizations.

The other bills that we were watching did not progress to both chambers. They either “died” in committee or on the floor of one of the chambers. Those bills were HB 105, which would have amended sections of the Livestock Code to clarify definitions of “livestock”; SB 178 which would have appropriated $300,000 from the general fund to the children, youth and families department for expenditure in fiscal year 2016 to enhance the system of temporary care and housing of animals of victims of domestic violence; SB 170 which would have appropriated $300,000 from the general fund to the higher education department for expenditure in fiscal years 2016 through 2019 to fund at least two additional slots for New Mexico students to obtain their doctorates in veterinary medicine through the western interstate commission for higher education; HB 147 would have moved the Animal Sheltering Board from the Department of Regulation and Licensing to the Department of the Environment.
In Memoriam

On April 22nd 2015, Jimmy Mundy, 70, died at his home overlooking Conones Creek in the Chama Valley. Born in Las Cruces in 1944, his family was from Hatch but relocated to Chama when Jimmy was very young. He was raised horseback on the family cattle ranch.

Jim attended New Mexico Military Institute for high school prior to studying at Colorado State where he graduated with a D.V.M. in 1969.

Returning to Northern New Mexico, he worked for Leonard Blach, D.V.M. for one year. He then started the Ark on Rodeo Road in Santa Fe in 1971. At one time, the Ark had satellite clinics in Taos, White Rock, Las Vegas, and Moriarty.

Dr. Mundy moved back to Chama in 1980 where he had a veterinary clinic, a real estate business, and did land developing.

He was an avid world traveler that loved to fish, scuba dive, and hunt.
Distinguished Service Award

Dr. John Wenzel recently received the Distinguished Service Award which is presented to individuals who, over the course of their careers, have consistently given back to the veterinary profession with service, dedication and dignity. Dr. Wenzel, a New Mexico native, received his veterinary degree from Kansas State University in 1986. Dr. Wenzel settled in Silver City in 1987 and became an associate veterinarian in a mixed animal practice. He purchased the practice in 1991, concentrating on cow/calf medicine and preventative health programs for 20 years. Dr. Wenzel left full time private practice in 2011. In 2006, he joined the faculty at NMSU in the Department of Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources as the first extension veterinarian in the state. Dr. Wenzel is a member of the NM Board of Veterinary Medicine, the state coordinator for the NM Ag/Livestock Incident Response Team and the NM Beef Quality Assurance programs, a member of the Veterinary Medical Advisory council to the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program, CNM Veterinary Technician Advisory Board, and NM Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Advisory Board just to name a few.

Dr. Wenzel has devoted most of his time on programming that provides livestock producers with educational opportunities in a variety of settings. He has delivered over 250 educational presentations and authored or co-authored 53 extension, popular press or proceedings articles.

Dr. Wenzel and his wife, Dolly, have been married since 1979 and have three sons and seven grandchildren. His hobbies include his grandchildren, water sports, and reloading for his old Winchester rifles.

Lay Award for Humanitarian Endeavors

The Lay Award for Humanitarian Endeavors was presented to Margaret Keller for her work with Feeding Pets of the Homeless New Mexico, an independent, all volunteer project working under the parent non-profit organization Feeding Pets of the Homeless based in Reno, NV. Feeding Pets of the Homeless is working to diminish hunger in companion pets of the homeless and to provide veterinary care for those pets. The program engages participation by First Unitarian Animal Advocates members, the public, including churches, student groups, and generous individuals, as well as community partners, such as the City of Albuquerque Shelter volunteers, who donate their time for clinics and provide pet food. Partnering with ABQ Pet Care, Pets of the Homeless has been able to offer clinic and emergency veterinary services, which is an essential part of the project.
Pet Hall of Fame
This year, the NMVMA chose two worthy recipients for the Pet Hall of Fame.

**Sparkling Moonshine**, also known as Sparky, was a read headed strawberry roan mare belonging to Lindsey Reader in Los Alamos. Sparky was Lindsey’s Pony Club hunter jumper companion during high school. Together they achieved novice level in eventing and first level in dressage. After Lindsey left to attend college, Sparky began teaching multiple young Pony Club members in beginning horse husbandry and equitation. In later years, Sparky worked as a therapeutic riding horse to help people with disabilities. Sadly, Sparky was lost in a barn fire, but remembered as an exceptional horse that illustrated the human animal bond in her interactions with all who knew her.

**Penny Lane**, a border collie was trained, as a service dog, in a program at the NM Women’s Correctional Facility in Grants before she became a friend and companion to Edwina Taylor. Penny Lane holds a special place in Edwina’s heart as they both became caregivers to Edwina’s mother, as her mother was dying. Edwina’s mother was not particularly fond of dogs but that all changed when Penny Lane comforted her by licking away her tears. This occurred while Penny Lane was recovering from surgery, performed by Dr. Andrea Trujillo, and after she had made a cross country road trip to Edwina’s mother’s home in Philadelphia.

The NMVMA would like to thank the many people who helped to make the awards possible. Many thanks to Drs. Andrea Trujillo, Kathy Brooks, Bonnie Gray-Dees, Benoit Bouchet, Timothy Fitzpatrick and Mike McCallister.
San Juan Veterinary Hospital Receives Finalist Award From International Veterinary Organization

Farmington, N.M.—San Juan Veterinary Hospital has been named a finalist for the 2015 AAHA-Accredited Practice of the Year Award by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA).

San Juan Veterinary Hospital, of Farmington, N.M., received the award at the AAHA Tampa 2015 Yearly Conference on March 12.

The AAHA-Accredited Practice of the Year Award is designed to recognize the outstanding achievements of accredited veterinary practice teams, along with celebrating the ongoing advancements in veterinary medicine. Out of over 3,500 accredited veterinary practices, approximately 20 apply for the highly competitive award each year.

Because AAHA-accredited hospitals are evaluated on approximately 900 standards, each practice team must push itself to pursue innovative and ground-breaking practices within their clinics. The AAHA Awards Committee evaluates each team on its most recent accreditation score, mission and vision, practice team composition, continuing education and training, community service, and more.

Since AAHA members are known for their excellence, the award is highly competitive.

“AAHA believes that the success of a veterinary practice depends on the entire team working together to provide excellent care for pets and their people,” said Mike Cavanaugh, DVM, DABVP, AAHA chief executive officer. “San Juan Veterinary Hospital is a top-performing AAHA practice, dedicated to the health of its patients.”

Accreditation is a voluntary commitment practices make to their clients and patients, and AAHA is the only organization in the United States and Canada that accredits companion animal hospitals based on standards that go above and beyond state and provincial regulations.

Not all veterinary hospitals are accredited. Nearly 60% of the pet-owning public believes their veterinary hospital is accredited when it is not. In actuality, only 12-15% of animal hospitals in the United States and Canada are accredited by AAHA. AAHA-accredited veterinary hospitals hold themselves to a high standard of care and strive to deliver excellent care for animals.

The 2016 AAHA-Accredited Practice of the Year Awards will be presented at the AAHA Austin 2016 Yearly Conference in Austin, Texas on March 31, 2016.

About AAHA
AAHA is the only organization in the United States and Canada that accredits companion animal hospitals based on standards that meet or exceed state regulations. Established in 1933, the Association is well-known among veterinarians for its leadership in the profession, high standards for veterinary practices and pet health care, and most importantly, its accreditation of companion-animal practices. Visit aaha.org for more information.
Conference Features

- Feline-specific material presented by expert speakers.
- Sessions for veterinarians who see cats at all levels of their career.
- Two Veterinary Tracks and one Para-professional Track.
- Labs – two Hands-on Dental Radiography Labs will be offered. Attendance is limited.
- Lunch & Learns – additional CE is offered through lunch with speakers. Attendance is limited.
- Networking and social activities with colleagues.
- Meals and coffee breaks in our interactive exhibit hall.

Sessions will include Material on:

- Pain Management
- Thoracic Ultrasound & Radiography
- Ultrasound of Multiple Diseases
- Abdominal Radiography
- Managing Feline Cancer Patients
- Feline Lymphoma
- Quality of Life Considerations
- Oncology Tips & Best Kept Secrets

* For a full list of sessions, visit www.catvets.com/education

Visit www.catvets.com/education to learn more about:
Agenda Details, full list of Sessions and Abstracts,
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Paws
Stress Checklist
(AVMA Website)

Is Your Stress Level in Check?

Stress can help make you more productive but, when left unchecked, can cause a number of serious health problems. Here are some ways to help manage stress.

- Exercise regularly
- Get sufficient sleep
- Plan for and follow a balanced diet
- Drink alcohol in moderation
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Balance work and play
- Delegate tasks appropriately. Don’t try to do everything yourself
- Spend quality time with friends and family
- Resolve conflict in a timely and respectful manner
- Take psychological health seriously. Seek professional assistance if bothered by feelings of depression or other signs of mental illness
- And last but not least, never underestimate the health benefits of playing with your pet

No single strategy to reduce stress will work for everyone. Find techniques that work for you and then stick to them.

For more information and resources visit https://nmvma.site-ym.com/?page=nmvmapaws
5 Most Common DOL Group Health Benefits Audit Mistakes

The US Department of Labor (DOL) has been increasing audits of group benefit plans sponsored by companies of every size. The following is a list of most common mistakes employers/plan sponsors make during an audit process.

1. **No Summary Plan Description (SPD) or Plan Document.** Many employers think a benefit of summary or certificate of coverage document fulfills the regulatory requirements of an SPD, but too quickly find out during an audit that these documents are inadequate.

2. **Not Communicating Changes to Plan Participants.** During an audit an investigator will want to review whether plan participants were notified of any changes made to a benefit plan. Common changes are carrier changes or eliminating or adding different types of benefits.

3. **Not Informing Plan Participants of Special Enrollment Rights.** Under HIPPA, certain events that happen to employees or their dependents trigger a right to “special enroll” in an employer-sponsored group health plan, this right must be communicated to employees and should be implemented 30 or 60 days from event regardless of the plans designated open enrollment period.

4. **Submitting Required Documents in a Disorganized Way.** The DOL typically begins an audit with a “DOL Audit Document Request Letter” which requires the submission of a large number of documents. The best way to respond is to create a binder with tab headings, indexed in the order the documents were requested and organized chronologically.

5. **Providing Too Much Documentation.** Another common mistake is for the employer/plan sponsors to provide more documentation than requested in hopes of providing a better impression. However the more documentation provided, the more opportunity the DOL will have to find something wrong.

We at Design Concepts and Solutions are taking a proactive in educating our clients as to the potential liabilities that exist under the new compliance issues that have arisen under the Affordable Care Act. We hope that nobody has to go through one of these audits, but if you do, it would be nice to have the proper resources, advisors and representation in place to assist you in the audit process. If you have questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact our office.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sept. 24-27, 2015        SWVS Ft. Worth, TX
Sept. 24, 25, 2015       NMVMA Board Meeting (SWVS)

Watch for the 2015 NMVMA Directory coming Fall 2015