

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Interesting posts from the AVSAB Listserv | 3 |
| Book Review: <i>Merle's Door</i> | 5 |
| Animal Behavior Resources Institute Launches Website | 6 |
| Minutes of the AVSAB Meetings | 7 |
| Upcoming Behavioral Meetings | 11 |
| AVSAB Membership Applications | 13 |

AVSAB Officers 2006-2007

President

Dr. John Ciribassi
Chicagoland Veterinary Behavior Consultants
1042 Mountain Glen Way
Carol Stream, IL 60188
630-231-1544 • fax: 630-231-1544
e-mail: drjdvm@gmail.com

Past President

Dr. Melissa Bain
University of California School of Veterinary Medicine
Center for Animals in Society
1 Shields Ave.
Davis, CA 95616
530-757-8449 • fax: 530-792-8165
e-mail: mjbain@ucdavis.edu

President Elect

Dr. Kathy Meyer
Veterinary Behavior Clinic
9039 Gaither Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-947-3333 (ph) • 301-977-7196 (fax)
e-mail: EKathyMeyer@comcast.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Lisa Radosta
12249 73rd Ct. North
W. Palm Beach, FL 33412
e-mail: avsabe@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Dr. Sophia Yin
3215 Trawler Pl
Davis, CA 95616-2740
e-mail: Sophia@nerdbook.com

Member-at-large

Dr. Laurie Bergman
University of California Veterinary Medical Center
San Diego
Behavior Service
PO Box 9115
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92024
858-759-6837
e-mail: lbergmanvmd@sbcglobal.net

Member-at-large

Dr. Valli Parthasarathy
Northwest Neighborhood Veterinary Hospital
2680 NW Thurman Street
Portland, OR 97210
(503) 227-6047
e-mail: vallidvm@gmail.com

President's Message

I don't know if many of you are like me when nerves set in as you are doing something new and unfamiliar. Personally, my brain shuts off and blood supply to vital organs becomes interrupted (some would say that my brain is rarely vital to me...but that's for another column). So, during my first general meeting at this year's AVSAB/ACVB meeting the gremlins stole my brain and I failed to introduce and thank the people that make this organization successful—our executive board. As a result, I would like to publicly thank with heartfelt sincerity those individuals that are the backbone of our organization:

Dr. Kathy Meyer (*Pres-Elect*)

Dr. Lisa Radosta-Huntley
(*Sec-Treasurer*)

Dr. Melissa Bain (*Past-Pres*)

Dr. Sophia Yin (*Recording Sec*)

Dr. Laurie Bergman
(*Member at Large*)

Dr. Valli Parthasarathy
(*Member at Large*)

As for this year's annual meeting, it could not have gone any better. The decision two years ago for this meeting to be organized concurrently between AVSAB and ACVB was one of the better decisions this organization has made. The dedication and responsibility that members of both organizations have to make this meeting a success is amazing. It is a testament to what cooperation can accomplish and I want to thank all of you who gave so much of your time and talents this year. I am looking forward to next year's meeting already—no, not because I will be handing the reins over to Kathy. The program keeps getting better, working with talented people is an education for me and I am anxious to see how New Orleans has recovered in the wake of Katrina. If you would like to participate in the planning of the '08 meeting, drop me an email

(drjdvm@gmail.com) and I will be sure to steer you to a committee that suits your interests and abilities.

As an added note regarding the meeting, the proceedings from the '07 meeting are posted on the AVSAB website at www.avsabonline.org. There should be a link on the front page to help you navigate to the papers from the meeting. In addition, there is a link to the proceedings from the International Veterinary Behavior Meeting held this year in Italy. The website itself should be fully functional by the time you receive this newsletter. With the help of Galiant Solutions working with Drs. Radosta, Meyer and myself, we have made the site much more workable and editable. In addition, we have been able to activate the ability to register members for the annual meeting and to handle membership applications electronically. This eliminates the need for a paper application and also drastically reduces the work that Dr. Radosta has to do in managing the membership database. There are other changes in store over the next few months but these were the biggest hurdles. Thank you all for your patience with the website.

Continue to look for notices posted on the listserv regarding the progress of our public education efforts (position statements, articles and speaker bureau). Speaking of the listserv, if you have not been getting regular messages from the list, let me know. If it is possible that you are not an active list member and you might have to be re-added. Just send me a note and I will take care of it.

I hope everyone had a great summer and may the coming fall and holiday season be a great one for you and your families.

John Ciribassi DVM, DACVB
Pres. AVSAB

Thanks to the sponsors of the 2007 AVSAB/ACVB meeting!

Platinum Sponsors

**Lilly
Novartis
Premier Pet Products**

Silver Sponsors

Hills PetMate Pfizer VPL/CEVA

Bronze Sponsors

Kong VIN

Contributors

Blackwell Campbell Pet Company

Interesting Posts from the AVSAB Listserve



Access via
www.avsabonline.org or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/avsab>

Listserve posts are written in a casual tone and may not be grammatically perfect. To preserve the authors' intent, the following listserve posts have not been heavily edited.

Recommending Euthanasia for an Aggressive Labradoodle

This is a long one, please bear with me. It's a sad case for which I'm hoping to get some additional opinions in order to give the owner some closure. A 1 yr 4 month old, M(N) Labradoodle. Owner believes this was a first generation model from a less than reputable breeder. Since purchase at 8 weeks of age, the dog had been unusually rough with a female dog (Cockapoo) in the home. Subjecting her to alpha rolls, knocking her down, pinning her head with his mouth, etc.; this behavior persisted even though the female submitted to him fairly early on. She became a nervous wreck and constantly hid from him. Pup did respect the authority of the other dog in household, a male Cockapoo. As a pup, Teddy would also knock down the owners' youngest child (male, about 9 yrs old) to mount him, to the point that the boy would be in tears because the dog was so persistent and so rough. The latter behavior was eventually remedied through training. Teddy has been destructive in the household and would rip the siding off the house and bark/ howl incessantly if left out by himself.

In the last few months, Teddy had been showing increasing levels of aggression. Barking, lunging at, and chasing people (not the owners) while in the yard or when he was in the car. Recently, the 9 year old child was eating on the couch, watching television when Teddy sat directly in front of him and began growling. The owner had to physically remove him from near the child, he wouldn't listen when called off. On an-

other occasion, the female owner was sitting down and without warning Teddy jumped onto her and put his mouth around her neck. He did not bite down and the owner was able to get him off of her easily and without any growling, snarling, etc. Two days ago, he and the male Cockapoo came close to all out warfare (no brawling but much snarling, etc.), which only ended when the owner was able to physically separate them.

Physically, the dog was perfectly healthy. He exhibited some signs of fear aggression in the exam room, but unlike most fear aggressive dogs I've encountered you didn't need to be anywhere near him (i.e., not cornering him) to elicit an "attack" posture. We talked over all the options and settled upon euthanasia, which I fully supported since we couldn't guarantee a positive outcome and everyone in the household was at risk while the dog was being "re-programmed." (Re-homing was briefly discussed but the liability and moral/ ethical issues were too much for the owner).

The owner feels euthanasia was the right decision, but is beating herself up over this anyway. She didn't have the time, energy (3 kids and an aged, ailing uncle plus a job) or experience to do what needed to be done to try to turn this dog around. Yet, still feels like she failed him somehow. What experiences have people had with patients like this? How often are they "redeemable"? Any additional info that might help the owner deal with this loss would be much appreciated. Or even if you feel I

made the wrong call, what could we have done differently so I know for the future?

TIA
Rita Kivircik, DVM
New York

Hi Rita:
In my opinion, any other decision would have been unsafe (even keeping dog muzzled with 3 kids and an aging person in the household + 2 other dogs, while engaging in a modification program, would have posed significant risks). Perhaps if the owner had used appropriate methods starting when the dog was 8-16 weeks old things would have been completely different. But at this point, in this type of family situation, the prognosis would have been bad. In my mind, when I see patients, I base prognosis more on the family situation than on the dog. (and also if it involves aggression, I base it partly on size of the dog since the larger the dog, the higher the liability). In general, the more kids and dogs and elderly, the worse the prognosis.

In fact, I'm coming to the opinion that people with kids should not get dogs unless they adopt a calm adult dog who is already trained and good with kids and other dogs. In general I think people should have the dog first, train

continued ►

it, and then have kids :-). Or they should wait until their kids are really well behaved (enough to keep from untraining everything the adults may be working on) and then get a dog. I really don't know how some people get dogs and have unruly kids and turn out with dogs that are ok —I think they're mostly really lucky that they just got a good dog.

Don't know if that helped at all but I definitely think it's the safest choice. If there were only 2 adults involved, then behavior modification may have been a more viable option.

Sophia Yin
Davis, CA

I recently consulted with a university about a Golden-doodle with a very similar history (I think also the breeders first litter). Quite aggressive from a young age, no real triggers and increasing intensity. MRI findings did show brain abnormalities due to a suspected malformation in the brain. This dog was returned to the breeder and eventually put to sleep. We are now awaiting histopathology on the brain. This dog had the left frontal lobe sinus larger than the right and lacked the inner table in his brain. He also had atrophy of his left frontal lobe about 1/4-1/3 of his left frontal lobe appeared to be missing on MRI. He also showed an unusual gait, was difficult to house train and had increasing aggressive episodes with very low provocation. He would even growl at the wall. He was a breech birth, 4th in the litter, needed to be bottle fed, gained weight poorly and did not open his eyes until late. The breeder used a first generation cross as the mother and a standard poodle I think as the father. She no longer breeds goldendoodles.

Debra F. Horwitz, DVM DACVB

Many people have touted the wonderful qualities of the Labrdoodles and goldendoodle as combining the “best of both breeds”. I have seen a few other of these crosses with behavior issues quite

young. Too early to tell if it is just a blip in the radar.

This client had to think of the safety of everyone in her home and made a difficult but courageous decision. Unfortunately there may be some dogs that do not make suitable pets and perhaps are too dangerous for a person to own. Each client has to decide how much risk they are willing to live with and we need to respect that and acknowledge how difficult it is to make that decision.

Debbie Horwitz

It took me years to come to grips with the fact that, just as I cannot always get a diabetic regulated (due to the patient, the owner, the situation at home, my knowledge (hopefully rarely a weak link, but hey, I'm honest) and a zillion other factors), I cannot always succeed with a behavior case. Especially with aggression, where the risks associated with a less-than-perfect outcome are often unacceptable, I know that euthanasia is the correct choice for a certain number of patients. I compare them to seriously mentally ill humans, who, despite all efforts using behavior techniques and medication, are chronically institutionalized as societally dangerous or end up with a long criminal rap sheet. I think it takes great strength to admit this defeat, and make a choice that protects the safety and mental health of the other animals and people involved with the pet.

Laurie Thornton, DVM

Just last week I euthanized a boxer for aggression. I'd been trying to convince the owner that it needed to be done for several years. The dog had bitten her and broken her hand, had bitten her abdomen while she was pregnant, and had bitten the children more than once. I'd even called SRS because I was scared about the welfare of the children. The woman sobbed as I gave the injection, and I thought later that she had a relationship with the dog like some women

have with abusive husbands. This dog could be wonderful, but was really scary when he didn't like the way things were going.

Rita, be assured you and the owner did the right thing for this dog. I told the owner that she had two choices: to euthanize the dog or go to a veterinary behaviorist who works with aggressive dogs. I didn't want to be responsible for this dog's actions.

Judy Norton, DVM

There really are few reputable breeders for Labradoodles — most of these breeders are focused on making money and they over promise the wonder of their dogs. The clients who get wooed by this want the perfect dog and because they bought into the idea they underestimate how much work a puppy is and what is involved with training it. I've read that even in the original Austrian (??) stock only about 10% are truly non-shedding.

While the mixes may combine the “best of both worlds” — they are still only as good as the gene pool they start with. Oddly, if you breed a poor quality Labrador with a poor temperament to a poor quality Poodle with poor temperament ... you still get a dog you can sell to someone for \$1200.

Leader Dogs for the Blind (Rochester, MI) tried using labradoodles about 10 years ago in their breeding program — they stopped because they found they still had to maintain their quality breeding lines of Poodles and Labradors and only their first generation crosses were useful working dogs.

Your client bought a puppy but she was scammed on the idea, mystique and expectation that she was getting a perfect and special designer dog. Treating behavior problems involves the family and the dog — this was an “untreatable situation.”

Regards,
Theresa DePorter, DVM

continued ►

My last dog had only half of her brain and lived to 8.5 years, only to succumb to cardiomyopathy (consequence of part Doberman and phenobarbital likely affecting carnitine levels).

She was missing most of the left cerebral hemisphere, and had defects in some of her midbrain also. Her right hemisphere was mildly abnormal in shape also. This was all from a skull injury at 4 weeks of age. These abnormalities were evaluated through MRI.

She had many neuro deficits, OD blindness, progressive incoordination through life, seizures weekly, and sometimes clusters. Behavioural changes were also evident. These included inability to settle, excessive movement with circling when excited (not neuro-

logically based, i.e. ataxia). She did not know how to receive / interpret cut off signals from other dogs. My friend likened my dog to her son who was hyperactive w/attention deficit disorder. Her medical care was extensive managing seizures, pancreatitis, hyposthenuria, UTI's, cardiomyopathy among other things.

She was an exceptionally responsive dog, displayed happiness and enthusiasm all the time, but particularly when she transitioned out of her seizures. She knew so many commands, and relied on me for direction so as not to fall of the curb, go slow on stairs, not bump into the telephone pole on her right... etc. We were a great team. I do recognize that she had neurocircuit and feedback abnormalities, but like to think that she was strongly "right" brained, in that she was ever happy.

As a profession, we have gathered a

great amount of knowledge, yet there is more to neurology and behaviour than we can explain. It is always fascinating when we come across these complex cases.

Shelley Breadner, DVM
Saanichton, BC

Thank you for all the replies regarding the young Labradoodle who was euthanized for escalating aggression. It's a difficult situation, but hearing others echo our fears for the children and others in the household, I know it was the right decision in this particular case.

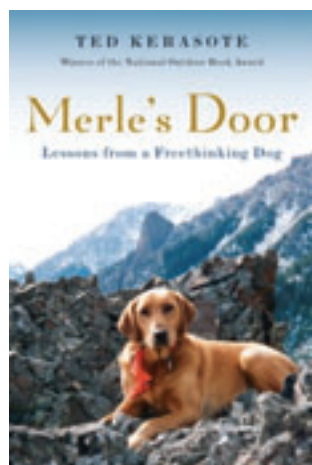
Thanks again,
Rita Kivircik, DVM
New York

AVSAB

Book Review

Merle's Door— Lessons From a Freethinking Dog

By Ted Kerasote



Reviewed by Terri A. Derr, VMD

Ted Kerasote is an extraordinary writer; Merle was his dog. Together they shared a life in northwest Wyoming, where dogs could (usually)

run free. Ted is a keen observer of nature and dog behavior. He watched Merle closely in order to look at the world through Merle's eyes—or more accurately, through all of Merle's senses.

Merle was free to explore his world to, literally, his heart's content. Kerasote writes that "those animals who live in more challenging terrain have more synaptic kisses going on in their brains." Merle's well-kissed brain resulted in some surprising behaviors, including possible self-recognition in a mirror, advanced problem solving, and a surprising appreciation for music. (Kerasote's description of Merle's reaction to the Hallelujah Chorus is one of the most remarkable bits of writing about dog be-

havior I have ever encountered.)

Kerasote recognizes that he is unabashedly anthropomorphic. But he is not just putting words into a dog's mouth; he is an observer of minute details of body language and vocalizations, and his anthropomorphic comments feel like an interpretation of a foreign language.

Loaded with elegant explanations of current thinking about animal behavior, this memoir filters natural science through the lens of a man's love for a special dog. Those of us who love dogs and also love science's attempts to understand them will be touched and captivated. And those of us who appreciate good writing will be glad that a dog like Merle found a writer who could do him justice.

AVSAB

Animal Behavior Resources Institute, Inc. Launches Website

R. K. Anderson
Chairman of the Board

Videos and Podcasts

These videos and podcasts are made possible by the generous volunteer support of our expert presenters. Click on the thumbnail below to see a full description of the segment, or to watch the video. Registered users can also download these videos in either QuickTime or WindowsMedia format.

Log in
Register

ABROnline.org is a non-profit site created as a free resource for companion animal professionals. This helpful site showcases leading professionals managing the behavior of many different dogs with different behavior problems in the training center, veterinary hospital, animal shelter, and in the home. Most impressive is a wide range of free videos showing how leading veterinarians, behaviorists, trainers, and other professionals manage behavior issues as part of their practice. Registered users can download these videos

to use for staff training, client education, or as part of professional presentations. New material will be added every month, so please visit the site often. Articles and podcasts are also available on the website. The goal of the organization is “To enhance human animal relationships and improve quality of life for people and animals by providing education and animal behavior resources.” Please visit the site and take a look for yourself at the valuable resources for you, your clients, and your patients. AVSAB

Introduction from the Chairman of the Board

R. K. Anderson DVM, MPH, DACVP, DACVB

I'd like to welcome my colleagues, friends and visitors to this non-profit educational website. This website is made possible by the generous volunteer contributions of outstanding experts in the field of companion animal behavior. Their skills, time and knowledge have helped us offer a valuable set of resources. We hope you will enjoy watching these videos and learning how some top professionals manage the behavior of many different dogs — with different behavior problems — in the training center, veterinary hospital, animal shelter, or in the home. In particular, we hope that by making these videos available as a free download, you'll find them to be an effective resource to help educate and train your staff, clients, and associates.

As we launch this site, we will be updating the site regularly with over 100 videos featuring more than 40 professionals, as well as regular podcasts. Over the next six months we look forward developing even more material with additional volunteer professionals and broadening our resources to include books, articles from journals and links to other web sites including on-line telecourses, clicker training, and sites providing relevant educational material on companion animal behavior. Please let us know what is most useful to you and your clients, or give us your comments by contacting us.

Best Wishes and great viewing!

MINUTES OF THE AVSAB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

July 15, 2007 • Washington, D.C.

In Attendance: Drs. Melissa Bain, John Ciribassi, Sophia Yin, Terri Derr, Laurie Bergman, Lisa Radosta-Huntley, Kathy Meyer, Valli Parthasarathy

- I. Meeting called to order by president, Dr. John Ciribassi, 5:23 pm.
- II. Minutes approved from 2006 executive board meeting
- III. Budget (Dr. Radosta-Huntley): More registrants and more members this year. Our newsletter cost is \$700/quarter. Meeting expense for us is low this year.
Web site: Last year the cost was \$2300.00 Estimate is \$4,500 for the next company. So this year we will come out in the red losing \$5,000.00. However, we have \$44,000 of assets so we can absorb a \$5,000.00 deficit.
- IV. Dr. John Ciribassi reports that AVSAB's incorporation in Texas has been renewed..
- V. Membership: Dr. Radosta-Huntley reported that we have 291 members now, including students.
- VI. Financial report: Dr. Radosta-Huntley reported.

VII. Standing committee reports:

1. **Newsletter (Dr. Kathy Meyer):** Cost of the graphic design is high but Craig is very reliable. The graphic design process is streamlined because Dr. Meyer is able to just send the documents to him and he quickly incorporates them into the newsletter.
2. **Listserv:** Dr. Meyer reported that there are few complaints. People are polite.
3. **Student Chapters:** (Dr. Kathy Meyer and Dr. Laurie Bergman) We had a fall initiative to send emails to SAVMA presidents. We outlined how students could form chapters. We went from 3 to 8 chapters in a year. Additionally, Ohio is looking for a mentor and Tufts is getting Nick Dodman as their mentor. Pennsylvania's is formed but they want to start at the beginning of the dues year. We also have a student area on our new web site. We will also post the student award so Student Chapters can see what other Student Chapters have done.
4. **Booth:** (Melissa Bain): The AVMA booth representative was hard to work with this year as she did not return emails or phone calls. We did have a booth, however. Last year we had a gift card raffle for the booth volunteers. This year Dr. Meyer made up yellow sheets with registration form on one side and the program on the opposite side. She suggests we have the grid of times and who's going to be there and contact information in the back of the booth next year. Then people who are there can tell AVSAB members

when to come in if they drop by. The booth does need to be updated with new AVSAB web address, etc. The center panel needs to be redone. John gets to take the booth home. He will need it in Chicago. We should make Meghan Herron head of booth committee. Currently Mami is handling it even though she's in Japan.

5. **Student Research Award:** We had 2 submissions this year. We had one 1st place (\$1500.00 award) and one 2nd place winner (who presented a poster \$500.00). We did contact the vet schools and announce it. This is still better than 5-6 years ago when we had none.
6. **Annual meeting:** AVCB is handling the meeting. We decided to have a joint meeting with ACVB instead of competing. They get sponsorship and we do the registration, collecting \$20 per registrant. So we are guaranteed to not lose money. We also staff registration. We hope registration will be online next year.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. **Web Site:** (Dr. John Ciribassi). The original web site was done through Sagi Denenberg with a group in Canada. It was unsecured and it got hacked. We then hired Jeff Lange. He did do a lot of work. The problem was that he was unresponsive to changes and difficult to get a hold of. We couldn't get editing done. Also on the backend it was not easy for us to add or take material away. It's not set up for that. We do own the web site name. (AVSABonline.org). Jeff decided to stop doing the web site. We put out the word on Craigslist. We have hired a company called Galliant. They proposed to take two hours to examine the site and give idea of time and money cost to clean up the back end of the site so we can use it and also to develop electronic registration for meeting and membership so that when someone joins the information flows into a database someone can use. Galliant's estimate was \$4500.00. The problem with the site is that Jeff Lange used Joomla. Everyone we've hired since then has found it to be a good site on the front end. But they've all expressed concern about Joomla. At this point we do not want to scrap the site to start anew. Dr Yin suggested that her webmaster (Jay and Vivian McLean at JV studios) could do the site. They've developed numerous databases for her web-site including one for nerdbook registration and for research questionnaires and she is able to add movies and articles to her web site. We will get an estimate from them just in case

continued ►

Galliant falls through. JV studies will examine the web site and provide an estimate at no charge. We need a web site where people can register and it goes into an Excel spread sheet.

2. **Public Education** (Valli Parsethasary) We took a hiatus because Janice Willard was writing a book. The book is finished the committee will meet during lunch time. They have a mixture to review articles already. Then will put out another call for articles. They are designed for the public and those designed for vets and for owner education. Lisa Nelson has organized links to current scientific articles. Client articles will be on the public side, veterinary articles will be on the veterinary side. Members will have access to the ones slated for member access only.
3. **Media relations** vs. public education. Both of these are standing committees. Media relations will now be its own standing committee.
Dr. Valerie Tynes wants to organize something with Jim Humphries and communication workshop. Make sure that Janice contacts Elise and Lisa Nelson so they know that Janice is the committee chair.
4. **Relation with SBVT.** We won't have a joint meeting including them. They are probably going to start having regional meetings instead of a national meeting associated with AVMA.
5. **Donation to ACVB.** We will not be making a donation.

IX. New Business

- A. **Speaker's Bureau:** Terri and Elisa have put together a brochure. The brochure would go to local VMAs, vet schools. They can go to the web site to see info about the speakers and then they can arrange with the speakers individually and negotiate fee directly with the speaker. At this point AVSAB will sponsor for \$250.00 per appearance. Anything above this would be paid by the groups sponsoring the meeting. Dr. Radosta-Huntley has allotted \$5000.00 for the speaker's bureau. We will say funds are available, check www.avsabonline.org for more information. This way the brochure will not go out of date. We will send to state and local VMA's as well as colleges. Then we'll put out notice to AVSAB to send local VMA information. We can also ask AVSAB members to forward it to their people as well.
- B. **Student Chapters and Advisors for the chapters:** The way it reads right now one advisor must be selected who is a faculty member of the same school and who is a member or willing to become a member of AVSAB. This is an issue where there is a behavior club with no faculty member to act as an advisor. We propose that one advisor selected by the student chapter who is a veterinarian or member of AVSB. They will have regular contact with (physically attending chapter meetings or function 4x/school year). They need not be a faculty member. We also propose adding that the advisor file a report summarizing the activities on yearly basis at membership renewal time.
- C. **Gap between vets and nonvets in AVSAB.** Valli

Parsathasary spoke to veterinarians and non-veterinarians. The PhDs brought up the speaker bureau. This was one of the big speaking issues. Some were offended about this because they have spoken to veterinary groups. We decided to look into finding ways to try to mend what's going on. Do we want to try to develop guidelines for different people do? Have a workshop or retreat to see what others do? Possibilities include saying that our first choice is to have veterinary representation we can look through membership and see if we have affiliate members too though. We may word the speaker bureau applications to say that as of now our goal is to promote veterinary behavior; however, we are sensitive and receptive so we can explore ways to working towards a common goal of working together with other educated behavior professionals. Valli will head up a committee of veterinarians and affiliated professionals to see how we can improve relations.

- D. **Student chapter Service Award: UC Davis.**
- E. **Press and non-vets at the Annual Meeting:** ACVB felt that primary goal of media relations was not to get writers to attend the meeting but to get T.V. coverage or more people to come to the AVSAB to interview people rather than attending the conference. AVSAB agreed that it is a reciprocal relationship. We need to establish a relationship with the media so they will use our members as a resource.
- F. **HIT program:** Last year was the first year. This year we had more applications for speakers than we had slots. We had 3 slots this year.
- G. **R.K. Anderson's Web Site:** ACVB just put a link on the front page of their web site. It is a not-for-profit site and we will add a blurb to next newsletter.
- H. **Dr. Lisa Radosta-Huntley's pregnancy:** Dr. Ciribassi will check the AVSAB emails since most will be his responsibility anyway. It may take 6 hours a week until the web site does it electronically.
- I. **Media contact:** Dr. Radosta-Huntley will give Dr. Yin the membership Excel file and then Dr. Yin will contact the potential researchers to get their permission to put them in contact with media.
- J. **Committee Chairs**
 1. Newsletter: Dr. Meyer
 2. List serve: Drs. Ciribassi and Radosta-Huntley
 3. Student chapters: Drs. Bergman and Meyer
 4. Program Chairperson for 2008 meeting
 5. Media relations: Dr. Sophia Yin
 6. Student Research Award: Dr. Laurie Bergman
 7. Web site committee: Dr. John Ciribassi
 8. Affiliate membership liason: Dr. Valli Parsathasary
 9. Program chairperson for 2008 meeting: ACVB handles selection of presenters, hotel arrangements, proceedings, presenter communications, advertising, publicity, meetings signs, raffles. AVSAB handles registration.
 10. Booth (current Dr. Bain)

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

AVSAB

MINUTES OF THE AVSAB GENERAL MEETING

July 16, 2007 • Washington, D.C.

- I. The meeting was called to order by president, Dr. John Ciribassi, 5:25
- II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting. (50 in attendance)
- III. **Officer's Report**
- A. **Treasurer's Report: Dr. Linda Radosta-Huntley** provided an overview of the 2007-2008 budget. This budget is similar from last year's. We're getting a little more income from the meeting. This year we allotted \$5000 for our speakers' bureau and have allotted \$5000 for the website. This puts us at a deficit of \$5000 but we have the assets to cover it. We have approximately \$20,000 in a CD and approximately \$18-19,000 in money market. Our goal is to distribute funds to meet the goals of the association. R.K. Anderson motioned to approve the treasurer's report.
- IV. **Standing Committee report**
- A. **Newsletter** (Dr. Kathy Meyer) The newsletter coming out 4 times a year in an electronic format. Members were encouraged to share information for publication in the newsletter
- B. **Booth** (Meghan Herron): Mami Irimajiri was chair of the booth committee and Meghan Herron jumped in to chair it because Mami is in Japan. We will adjust the center pictures for next year because it has the old web site information. The booth was well-covered, thanks in part to members such as Valerie Tynes, who picked up extra booth hours.
- C. **Annual meeting** : This is our second year of combined meeting with ACVB. ACVB gets the sponsors, handles the proceedings, and organizes the paper reviews. AVSAB handles booth and registration. Laurie Bergman put in a plug for HIT sessions, which will be a hodgepodge of practical things. Members wanted more of this practical information, consequently the HIT sessions were instituted. Presentations are not limited to board-certified members. This year, according to Gary Landsburg, we had 100 registrants at early deadline, 120 at the final deadline and 147 that showed up. We had far too many people showing up within the last 3 weeks, which makes it more difficult for the hotel to accommodate all of our needs. Next year we will have a larger penalty for late registration. Both AVSAB and ACVB are happy with the current meeting arrangements.
- D. **Student Chapters** (Dr. Kathy Meyer): Over the past 3 years there was a falloff of student chapters. We went from 14 to 6 and then to 3 in the previous 3 years. As a consequence of our active involvement in outreach we now have 8 active chapters (Auburn, Co, NC, UCD, Western, TX, Mn) and 3 others in the works. Ohio is looking for a mentor, Tufts is starting a chapter, Penn is waiting until the beginning of the fiscal year. **Student Award** (Laurie Bergman): We have an area on the web site dedicated to students. There are 3 awards for students. Two are **scientific paper awards**—One for first place (\$1500.00 sponsored by Premier) and one for second place (\$500 sponsored by AVSAB). First place was won by Hannah Dandolo. The third award is the **Student Chapter Service Award**. It was won by UCD. The activities they organized are listed on the web site. Symposium, members attended behavior talks, and took part in Gentle Leader fittings. They win a \$500.00 award.
- E. **Public Education** (Dr. Janice Willard): The committee is working on position statements. E'lise Christensen has been in charge of this. Those passed or in the early stages include statements on the use of dominance theory, punishment, and explanations of the types of behaviorists. Anyone who has an idea can send it to E'lise Christensen. Once we have these up when we see a vet recommending the wrong thing we can tell them that "This is the standard of care for those in the veterinary field." Valli Parthasarathy and Val Stanton are working on getting public education articles onto the web site and Lisa Nelson has been putting together a list of scientific articles such as on aggression (published articles) and has posted links to current articles. The purpose is for the public as well as members to more easily gain access to published articles.
- G. **Media Relations** (Dr. Sophia Yin): We have developed a media list of 56 VMA and 29 pet media contacts. The goal is to notify VMA's of upcoming meetings and notify pet magazines of upcoming meetings and topics. We also are helping to make of AVSAB members available for interviews. We had 2 media people attend this meeting (Steve Dale of *Petworld* and Beth Adelman, *NY Post*). We need to increase our list of local VMA's. Sophia will send out to the listserv current names of VMA contacts and will ask members to add contacts/names for local VMAs.

continued ►

- H. **New standing committee:** Valerie Tynes will head a committee to develop a recommended book list.
- I. **Web site:** We have a new web designer whose job is to clean-up the web site so we can make changes easily. We also want to make electronic registration for meetings and electronic member renewals.
- V. **ACVB:** (Dr. Barbara Sherman): New diplomats of ACVB include Dr. John Ciribassi, Dr. Lisa Radosta-Huntley, Dr. Sheila Segurson.

VI. Unfinished business.

A. Change Criteria for student advisors:

1. The current constitution states *One advisor shall be selected by the Student Chapter who is a faculty member at the same school, and a member or willing to become a member of AVSAB. The advisor(s) shall serve as an advisor to the Chapter and as a liaison between the Chapter and the AVSAB, faculty and practitioners offering behavioral externships. These externships will be coordinated through the AVSAB newsletter. An advisor's term of office shall be one year and may be renewed by the Chapter. The advisor shall approve any speaker or topic offered by the Student Chapter of the AVSAB.*
2. We voted to change the constitution to say: *One advisor shall be selected by the Student Chapter who is a veterinarian and a member or willing to become a member of AVSAB. This individual shall have regular contact with the Student Chapter. Regular contact shall be interpreted to mean physically attending chapter meetings or function a minimum of 4 separate times per school year. In addition, the advisor shall read and approve a student-written report to the AVSAB board summarizing the activities of the chapter at the end of each school year at the times that dues are submitted for the next year. Through discussion we decided that the advisor's attending four functions minimum was appropriate since anything less would indicate that the club was not very active.*

VII. New Business

- A. **Speaker Bureau:** To meet the goal of educating veterinarians, we considered the idea of CE around the U.S. but it's cost prohibitive. One other suggestion was to develop a speaker bureau to assemble a group of AVSAB members willing to speak in their region of the country and publicize to state and local veterinary organizations and universities. AVSAB can help financially. Drs. Elise Gingrich and Dr. Terri Derr are on the committee. Terri developed the application form and has received 22 applications. The process is that they forward these applications to the board and the board makes a decision as to whether the speaker is accepted. They also develop a brochure. We will send media releases to VMAs as to the availability of be-

havior speakers. The VMAs or meeting organizers can then contact the speaker directly and negotiate payment. AVSAB will contribute money to the speaker (flat amount) but the total payment will be negotiated by the organization. The criteria for being on the speaker's bureau include that the potential speaker must be a member of AVSAB, a veterinarian, have sufficient speaking experience in the field of animal behavior, and have sufficient training as well. We have not been very specific as to what that "sufficient speaking experience or sufficient behavior training" means. If the board feels an area in the application is lacking, the applicant has been advised to provide additional information. We need to revamp the application to specifically ask for information regarding education and speaking experience within the behavior field. Terri and Elise will periodically put out a call for speakers. The brochure will not have a list of speakers but the website will, so we can stay up to date. We will make the list regional. An organization can ask someone from other part of the country but the organization will have to cover the expense of getting the speaker to the meeting.

- B. **We elect a new board next year:** If you're interested in running please contact us. Next year Kathy Meyer will be the president and John Ciribassi will be immediate past-president. We will need a president-elect, secretary/treasurer, recording secretary and several members-at-large.
- C. Current Committee appointments:
 1. Newsletter: Dr. John Ciribassi
 2. Student Chapters: Dr. Kathy Meyer and Dr. Laurie Bergman
 3. AVSAB booth: Dr. Heron and Dr. Mami Irimajiri.
 4. Student Research Award: Dr. Laurie Bergman
 5. Liability Insurance: Dr. John Ciribassi
 6. Media Relations: Dr. Sophia Yin
 7. Position Statements: Dr. E'lise Christensen
 8. Registration: The executive board
 9. Booth volunteers: Dr. Mami Irimajiri
 10. Proceedings: Dr. Sagi Denenberg
 11. Public Education: Dr. Janice Willard
 11. Listserv: Dr. John Ciribassi and Dr. Kathy Meyer
 12. Articles: Dr. Valli Parthasarathy (articles), Dr. Allie Kulow (articles).
 13. Volunteers for student award: Dr. Sheila Segurson, Dr. Laurie Bergman, Dr. Karen Sueda, Dr. Ulrike Reinisch, Dr. Amanda Florsheim, Dr. Lore Haug, Dr. Nancy Dreschel.
 14. Reviewers for HIT and the AVSAB/ACVB abstracts and poster: Dr. Tracy Krall, Dr. Karen Sueda, Dr. Kathy Meyer, Dr. Sheila Segurson.

VIII. Dr. David Spiegel presented information on how to donate to other organizations. This information will be placed on the agenda for next year's meeting.

IX. 6:35 Meeting Adjourned.

AVSAB

Upcoming Behavioral Meetings

October 3-4, 2007

2nd Annual Solving Canine Behavior Problems

Ithaca, NY

This weekend course is designed with veterinary technicians, breeders, trainers, kennel clubs and owners in mind.

Contact: amm36@cornell.edu,
www.vet.cornell.edu/education/ConEd.htm

October 10-14, 2007

Wild West Veterinary Conference

Reno, NV

www.wildwestvc.com

Veterinary and technician behavior lectures and Feline Anxiety workshop with Dr. Debra Horwitz

October 20-21, 2007

Preventing & Treating Behavior Problems in Small Animals

College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia Athens, GA

This course will provide the practicing veterinarian and veterinary technician with comprehensive information on the treatment of behavior problems, including environmental management, the use of psychoactive medications, and understanding animal learning and training. Please visit the web site for registration and agenda information.

Contact: Melissa Kilpatrick, (706) 542-1451,
melissak@uga.edu

http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/conferences/2007/Oct/20/problems_sm.phtml

November 14, 2007

Cleveland Academy of Veterinary Medicine

4 hours of behavior lectures on canine and feline behavior with Dr. Debra Horwitz

2007 APDT Conference

The 2007 APDT conference will be Oct. 15-19 in Louisville, KY.

Robert Miller, DVM (*The Revolution in Horsemanship*) will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Miller is sure to entertain and educate attendees with material from his new book, *The Mind of the Horse*, and, of course, some of his cartooning. Visit the APDT website (www.apdt.com) for more details.

AVSAB members are encouraged by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) to submit speaker proposals for the 2008 meeting. Proposals are due September 2007 for the 2008 conference.

2008 ACVB/AVSAB Scientific Meeting

The next joint ACVB/AVSAB Scientific meeting will be held Monday, July 21, in New Orleans, LA in conjunction with the 2008 AVMA meeting. The deadline for submission of abstracts, which will be reviewed "blind" by reviewers, is December 1, 2007.

As in the past, one-page abstracts may be submitted for short (15 minute), long (30 minute), and poster presentations. Longer papers must be submitted for those qualified Residents who wish to enter the ACVB Residents' competition.

Additional details will be forthcoming.



Trial Membership Application

A six-month, free, trial membership is open to veterinarians who are also AVMA members. The trial membership includes access to the “members only” area of the website, the AVSAB listserv, and the current newsletters for six months. Only one trial membership per veterinarian, please. The trial membership does not include listing on our website’s public membership referral list.

Name: _____

AVMA member number: _____

Academic Degrees, schools and dates:

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior

_____ \$0.00 Trial Membership

I agree to abide by the principles of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Return to:

Lisa Radosta DVM, DACVB, 12249 73rd Ct. North, W. Palm Beach, FL 33412
Email: avsave@yahoo.com or fax: 561-795-8537

Statement of AVSAB Principles

The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) is a group of veterinarians, veterinary students, and nonveterinarians with advanced degrees in animal behavior, interested in exploration of the clinical and research aspects of the behavior of companion and noncompanion species. Its goals are:

- to promote the discipline of applied animal behavior within veterinary medicine,
- to facilitate the exchange of information among interested individuals,
- to serve as an informational resource for veterinarians and the general public, and to promote and protect the animal welfare and the human-animal bond.

American Veterinary Society Of Animal Behavior Membership Application

(Check one): Renewal New Member

If this is a renewal, is your address information on this form correct?

Yes No

Please add fax number and e-mail address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____ - _____

(this number will be given to potential referrals if requested)

Fax: _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

Professional Memberships:

Current Employment:

Major interest in animal behavior:

Academic Degrees, schools and dates:

I hereby apply for membership in the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior

- \$40.00 Regular Membership. Foreign or U.S. residents. Open to veterinarians only.** Includes Newsletter, Yahoo Group and registration for annual meeting (voting privileges included).
- \$40.00 Affiliate Membership. Foreign or U.S. residents. Open to non-veterinarians who have been approved by the executive board.** To be considered for approval **you must have a Ph.D. in animal behavior or a closely related field** and be currently active in research and/or practice of applied animal behavior. Your curriculum vitae must accompany your application. You will be granted membership if approved by the board. Also includes newsletter, Yahoo group access and registration for annual meeting (voting privileges included). *Renewing affiliates who have not submitted a curriculum vita in the past 2 years, please submit one with renewal form.*
- \$7.50 Student Membership. Currently enrolled veterinary students.** Includes newsletter, Yahoo group access and registration for annual meeting (no voting privileges).
- \$30.00 Quarterly Newsletter** Subscription only (no voting privileges).
- FREE New Veterinarian.** Veterinarians who graduated from veterinary school this calendar year and were a student member at the time of the graduation are entitled to a complimentary membership for the next calendar year.

\$ _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED. MUST BE IN U.S. FUNDS. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "AVSAB"**

e Credit card (international and U.S.) and checking account direct debit payments (U.S. checking accounts only) can be done via PAYPAL at the following web site: www.paypal.com. Remit PAYPAL payments to our account, avsabe@yahoo.com.

Check here if payment is being sent via PayPal.

I agree to abide by the principles of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of faculty if a student: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Institution: _____

May we release your name to the public for referrals? Yes No

➔ **Return to: Lisa Radosta DVM, 12249 73rd Ct. North, W. Palm Beach, FL 33412.** For questions, e-mail Dr. Radosta at avsabe@yahoo.com.