



Virginia-Maryland VBMA Newsletter

September 2008

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<http://students.vetmed.vt.edu/vbma>

Thanks to our National Sponsor:



Upcoming Event: How to Prepare for Speed Networking with VVMA Mentors



On September 26, 2008, the VBMA in conjunction with the VVMA will hold the first 45-minute speed networking event with the VVMA mentors. This is a terrific opportunity to practice networking skills with a diverse group of veterinary practitioners that want to help you explore career opportunities. If you are new to the networking game, this will be a useful introduction. It is also a way to meet more than one mentor at the same breakfast.

If you think your networking skills are rusty or could use some work, have no fear. The VBMA understands and have supplied some open-ended questions you can use to start a great conversation with a veterinarian.

Some good ice-breaker questions to start with are:

- Where did you attend veterinary school?
- What was your favorite or least favorite class in school?
- Any vet school survival tips?

After the ice has quickly broken, ask the practitioner what he/she is currently doing, and sometimes more interestingly, what they “wanted” to do when they started out in school. You will find that the two are usually quite different from each other.

If you get tired of asking questions, feel free to discuss your interests. Many of the practitioners have great contacts that they can refer you to, even if they have opposite interests.

Lastly, the best advice is to have a good time and start being a part of the veterinary community.

The VBMA Welcomes the Class of 2012

The VBMA would like to give a warm welcome to the class of 2012. We encourage you to attend our upcoming membership meeting to learn more about all our member benefits. Please join the VBMA as soon as possible to start reaping the amazing benefits!

Some of our member benefits include:

- Opportunity to win a trip to NAVC in Orlando in January or \$1,000 cash from Veterinary Pet Insurance
- Giveaways for members at select events
- Discounts on legal/ business texts published by Priority Press
- Receive Veterinary Economics monthly
- Enter to win a \$2000 scholarship/award from Simmons Educational Fund (for 3rd-year student members)
- Opportunities for leadership on a local and national level
- Acknowledgement from the Virginia / Maryland VMAs
- Impress future employers with your dedication to improving your business acumen!
- Interactive opportunities to practice the skills you develop, in future networking and business-tool training events
- Develop business knowledge that will serve you for a lifetime!

Please check out our recently updated website that has a current list of club officers, previous newsletters, and a list of previous events with pictures and a brief synopsis. It's a great resource to learn more about how the VBMA can prepare you for your career in veterinary medicine.

<http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/students/vbma/index.html>

Feel free to contact any of the club officers if you have any questions, suggestions or want information on becoming a future club officer!

2008-2009 VBMA Upcoming Events

The VBMA hopes you enjoyed your summer and are ready for an exciting year of new and favorite events.

Mark your calendars for:

- September 10 – **First membership meeting!** Lunch provided
- September 26 – First Speed-networking event in conjunction with VVMA Mentor Breakfast
- Early October – Members' Only Dinners with speakers from courses in the professional development curriculum.
 - An excellent networking opportunity!
 - Guests of honor at dinners may include: Dr. Jim Wilson, Mr. Fritz Wood, Mr. Mark Opperman
- October 28 – Business Management for the Large Animal/Ambulatory Practice with Pfizer's Dr. Rob Lynch
- Early November – Business Etiquette Dinner – this time, our elegant event is open to members only!
- November 19 – Interviews for Future Officers – **the VBMA wants YOU!**
- December 2 – Mr. Nate Cockle, Director of Recruitment for National Veterinary Associates, speaks about NVA
 - Employment and Practice Ownership opportunities for veterinarians who are looking for a worker-friendly environment where they can practice medicine autonomously
- February 2 – Dr. Ernie Ward – Father, husband, practice owner, triathlete, personal trainer, and life coach
 - Don't miss this energetic speaker, past recipient of the NAVC Speaker of the Year Award, as he speaks at Virginia-Maryland for the first time since 2006!

If there is an event you would like to see the VBMA to present, please contact VBMA Chapter President H. Groch at hgroch@vt.edu with your ideas.

Legislative Issues in Veterinary Medicine

All information taken directly from the legislative section of the VVMA website:

HB 725, Equine Dentistry Bill

HB 725 does not amend last year's law; rather it adds two exceptions to the law to cover apprenticeship and LVT activity. Specifically, the bill states that registration requirements for equine dental technicians shall not prevent 1) persons performing tasks related to the practice of equine dentistry under the direction and immediate supervision of a licensed veterinarian or registered equine dental technician during completion of training and experience necessary for registration for a period not to exceed 12 months and 2) licensed veterinary technicians from planing or leveling equine teeth for routine dental maintenance under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, provided the licensed veterinary technician has graduated from an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited program with successful completion of coursework in equine dentistry or can document training comparable to that of an equine dental technician.

HB 537, Exemption of rabies certificate information from FOIA

Due to dog owners' sensitivity about breed information on rabies certificates in a treasurer's possession, an effort was made in 2007 to exempt the information from FOIA requests.

State Support for VMRCVM's Marion DuPont Scott Equine Center

The VVMA was pleased with the legislature's financial support of Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center (EMC). In February 2007, a potentially fatal equine herpesvirus type-1 (EHV-1) infection led to a state-imposed quarantine of the EMC, resulting in a 42-day closure. While the EMC's prompt and rigorous protocols ensured minimal disruption, revenue generating activities were temporarily suspended and expenses were incurred as a result of actions taken to ensure the safety and well-being of patients housed at the EMC during the closure. Unfortunately, due to the temporary closure, the center incurred a financial loss of \$755,000. Budget requests were filed in both the House and Senate for the full \$755,000. While we hoped for full funding, only \$200,000.00 emerged in the budget for the EMC. Again, considering the overall budget situation, the EMC was fortunate to receive that amount.

*All information extracted from <http://vvma.wikispaces.com/Legislation>
Please send comments on this new section to Michelle Larsen, mlarsen@vt.edu.*