DEAR COLLEAGUES,

The American Veterinary Medical Association is your veterinary association. Our amazing cadre of volunteers and our dedicated staff members are here to serve you, our membership, which now numbers nearly 90,000 strong.

As an AVMA member, you are part of a passionate group of professionals, all striving to provide the best and most advanced animal health services for all of society. You make the AVMA what we are today, the leading – and only – veterinary organization that actively protects, promotes and advances the entire veterinary profession through the strength and diverse perspectives of our members. It is your passion for the veterinary profession that drives the ongoing efforts of the AVMA, and we are humbled by the privilege to represent and serve you.

Our mission is to be the collective voice of our AVMA members and our profession so that, together, we can improve the health and well-being of animals, humans and the environment we share. We embrace our professionally diverse membership, because your perspectives – your voices – strengthen our ability to be that collective voice.

This 2016 Annual Report captures for you the highlights of some of our key initiatives and success stories. It is organized by our Strategic Business Units – Products and Services, Advocacy and Public Policy, and Accreditation and Certification. These business units support our strategic business model and our strategic plan, ensuring that we stay focused on what you told us matters most to you.

Together, we’ve achieved a remarkable record of success in advancing the shared interests of our profession. Whether the AVMA is developing policies relevant to our members, governmental and regulatory agencies and the general public, or if we are influencing legislation and building collaborative relationships with other organizations to strengthen the power of our voice, your interests always come first. We are committed to engaging with our members so that we stay connected with what matters most to you. By listening to you and understanding your needs, your association continues to evolve – and we as a profession can continue to protect, promote and advance both animal and human health.

This is your passion. This is your profession. This is our AVMA.

Sincerely,

Tom Meyer, DVM  Janet Donlin, DVM, CAE
President   Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer
Our Vision
The American Veterinary Medical Association’s vision is to be the trusted leader in protecting, promoting and advancing a strong, unified veterinary profession that meets the needs of society.

Our Mission
The mission of the association is to lead the profession by advocating for its members and advancing the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.

Our Core Values
Our core values focus the AVMA to be:

- **ETHICAL:** We act with integrity, honesty and respect.
- **INCLUSIVE:** We represent and support a diverse community of veterinarians with unique perspectives.
- **SCIENCE-BASED:** We lead with science, providing trusted and evidence-based information, and promote research to improve the health and well-being of animals and humans.
- **ANIMAL-FOCUSED:** We support veterinarians in their stewardship of animal health and welfare and their role in promoting public health.
- **MEMBER-CENTRIC:** We are accountable to the needs of our members.
- **SUPPORTIVE:** We invest in the development of our staff and volunteer leaders.
- **FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE:** We practice prudent financial decision-making and accountability.
- **EFFICIENT:** We continuously assess and improve our delivery of products and services.
- **INNOVATIVE:** We promote creativity and embrace change.
Our Volunteers: The Heart of the AVMA

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our association. Their dedicated efforts are critical to the success and relevancy of the AVMA and the fulfillment of our mission to lead the profession by advocating for our members and advancing the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.

These leaders have chosen to own their profession. They have committed themselves to helping influence decisions beyond individual patient care. They have a passion for organized veterinary medicine on every level.

Now more than ever, organized veterinary medicine is vital to our profession, critical to our success and relevant to our careers and our development. And here at the AVMA, organized veterinary medicine is made stronger by the partnership that exists between our volunteers and our staff.

Without our volunteers’ efforts, we would lack diversity and insight; we would have to hire more staff; we would lose out on valuable perspective; and we would be without the immense talents of so many influential members of the profession.

Today, the AVMA is fortunate to have a cadre of more than 600 volunteers who donate thousands of hours to the association and the profession. Their dedication to our Board of Directors, our House of Delegates and dozens of councils, committees, panels and task forces is invaluable to the profession, and we are indebted to them for their service. They take passion for the profession to a new level. To our volunteers both past and present – we thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.

Our Foundation, Trusts and Political Action Committee

We all rely on family for support, assistance and guidance – through both good times and bad. The same holds true here at your association, where our extended family of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, the AVMA PLIT, AVMA LIFE and our AVMA Political Action Committee all play an integral role in providing you valuable member products and services. These groups – and especially their dedicated staff members and volunteers who help them thrive – are committed to ensuring that your voice is heard and that your needs are met. We thank our foundation, our trusts and our PAC for all they do, and we invite you to learn more about them beginning on page 20.
MEMBERSHIP AT A GLANCE:
empowering the AVMA, strengthening our voice

Membership by Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companion Animal</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Animal</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Animal</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Species Contact</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Information provided*</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Membership by Gender

- Female = 56%
- Male = 44%

Membership by Employment Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Clinical Practice</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academia</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry/Commercial</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Information provided*</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The “No information provided” segments of the charts indicate that the AVMA is missing information in these areas. Please take a moment to help us gather this information by visiting the AVMA’s online Member Center at avma.org/myprofile and updating your member profile. Doing so ensures your access to relevant AVMA information and helps the AVMA compile and maintain the most complete picture of the profession.
As an AVMA member, you are connected to a complete program of member benefits that can enhance your opportunities for success at every step of your career. Your robust program of member benefits includes:

- Professional development tools and support
- Ongoing career services
- Conventions and education events
- Industry-leading publications and more

**Veterinary Economics**

We’re working to ensure that every veterinarian finds the profession to be personally and financially rewarding.

Thanks to your participation in member surveys, focus groups and other outreach efforts, the AVMA is the industry leader and most trusted source of complete and unbiased financial and market information relating to the veterinary profession as a whole. Representing your interests in our economics efforts is the AVMA’s Veterinary Economics Strategy Committee (VESC), a dedicated group of veterinarians from all walks of professional life who share a special interest in veterinary economics and the role your association can play in ensuring that every veterinarian finds the profession to be personally and financially rewarding.

As the AVMA continued its broad-based information gathering, 2016 saw a greater emphasis on providing tools and resources that directly benefit veterinarians and the veterinary profession. Although gauging the industry remains a chief priority of the AVMA Veterinary Economics Division – which conducted 10 surveys in 2016, collecting some 14,000 responses – we are helping veterinary educators and practitioners apply information learned about the profession’s markets.

**FOCUSED EFFORTS: WITH YOU IN MIND**

In 2016, we developed a three-year outreach plan that is designed to bring our resources directly to our members. Our outreach efforts included myriad speaking engagements to our members and membership groups. In all, representatives of the division conducted 64 presentations at national, regional, state and local veterinary medical association conferences, conventions, summits, workshops and webinars. Among these were a keynote address on the state of the profession at the Southeast Veterinary Conference; a presentation at the Fix the Debt Summit hosted by Michigan State University; and a presentation titled “The Gender Pay Gap Exists” for a meeting of the Women’s Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative.

Numerous economics-related reports, articles and papers written with the veterinarian in mind were published in 2016. We produced four AVMA Economic Reports – the 2016 AVMA Report on Veterinary Markets, the 2016 AVMA & AAVMC Report on the Market for Veterinary Education, the 2016 AVMA Report on the Market for Veterinarians and the 2016 AVMA Report on the Market for Veterinary Services – as well as a state-focused report for the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association. Thirteen columns were published in dvm360, an industry publication, along with at least as many industry white papers, academic reports and other publications.

Some of our member-focused economics activities merit recognition individually. The fourth annual AVMA Veterinary Economic Summit brought together more than 150 practitioners, academicians, economists, analysts and other experts for two days of presentations and collaboration on various economic subjects of consequence. Information relative to industry trends and the economy overall was delivered by AVMA Veterinary Economics experts as well as by analysts from other organizations working in support of research priorities established by the VESC.
HELPING YOU IMPROVE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Also of note, the VESC launched the Practice Management Core Continuing Education pilot program. Presented at the AVMA Annual Convention, the 16-hour, four-day experiential learning event concentrated on 16 key action items to help practices improve financial performance, and attracted participation by veterinary professionals from 57 practices. Another first taking place at the convention was the inaugural meeting of the Economic Advisory Research Council (EARC), a body representing 62 entities from throughout the veterinary profession. With an objective to develop the data analytics for continuing economic inquiry, the EARC currently comprises the following research groups: the Pet Demographics Research Group, the Pet Insurance Research Group and the Practice Finance Research Group.

Finally, to develop a team of economists with a focus on the veterinary field, the AVMA worked with leadership at Colorado State University to create a new Master of Science program, the curriculum of which is designed to produce a stream of economists trained in the application of economic theory to the study of veterinary markets. It is envisioned that by developing future economists versed in veterinary market dynamics and with the skills to financially analyze veterinary practices, economic challenges that emerge in the profession may be effectively identified and addressed.

From students to recent graduates and practice owners, as well as veterinarians working in all aspects of the discipline, the AVMA’s economics efforts continue to help ensure that every veterinarian finds the profession to be personally and financially rewarding.

The Veterinary Career Center

The online career resource for veterinarians and veterinary professionals. Find a job; post a job opening; get career resources to jump-start your job search.

The AVMA takes great pride in being able to provide to our members a one-stop resource that serves you and your career needs. Our Veterinary Career Center (VCC) (www.avma.org/vcc) is a well-known, niche professional job board unique to veterinary professional and support staffing needs. The VCC has served the veterinary profession since 2001 as a resource for both job-seekers and those looking to hire.

In 2016, 3,416 veterinary profession employers posted 12,571 jobs on the VCC. Also, 22,929 job seekers were
registered on the VCC in 2016, and visits to the online resource averaged 71,000 per month. As an added benefit to our members, all employers posting jobs on the VCC receive advice on “5 Steps for Creating a Successful Job Posting.”

For everyone looking for more information about careers and career options, the VCC hosted three webinars presented by AVMA members and career experts in 2016. In all, 637 attendees enjoyed the live presentations and had their questions answered by the presenters. The attendees of the live presentations also earned one hour of continuing education. All presentations are recorded and posted at www.avma.org/careerwebinars. Topics in 2016 were Careers in Wildlife Veterinary Medicine, Transitioning from Classroom to Practice and Careers in Corporate Veterinary Medicine.

The VCC is also a founding member of the Veterinary Career Network, which is a partnership of 50 members representing state veterinary associations, veterinary and veterinary technician colleges and specialty organizations.

We also recognize the desire of many veterinary students to seek extended learning opportunities, and the AVMA Student Externship Locator (www.avma.org/vccexternships) provides a list of externship opportunities in several disciplines where valuable experience can be obtained while still in school. In 2016, 24,134 visitors came to the Locator to search for externships offered across the globe.

For those of our members considering a career change, the AVMA Veterinary Career Transition resource (www.avma.org/careerchange) provides resources for assessing and translating your skills, and preparing for the next step in your career journey.

Wellness Initiatives

Veterinarians face singular challenges in their jobs, and the AVMA is working to provide you the resources and support you need.

2016 brought significant progress to our efforts to help ensure the wellness and well-being of our members. It all started back in March, when the AVMA convened a veterinary wellness roundtable. It was an inspiring, and yet humbling, show of key industry leaders and mental health professionals, all of whom gathered to discuss well-being in the profession and to begin to find ways to address these crucial wellness issues.

Out of the roundtable came the formation of the Veterinary Wellness Steering Committee. The committee met twice throughout the remainder of 2016 to help direct goals for the larger well-being coalition. The steering committee members – most of whom are AVMA members – are focused on uniting efforts to advance the well-being of all veterinary medical professionals. The committee is concentrating on four main goals, and they are:

- Researching currently available wellness resources, both nationally and globally, and curating the best resources into a common location;
- Exploring the feasibility of developing a veterinary specific hotline or member assistance program;
- Developing model language for implementing effective and barrier-free peer assistance programs in each state; and
- Assessing current continuing education opportunities and developing a working list of offerings that state and national organizations can access to provide wellness programming.

When it comes to wellness, no one should have to go it alone if they are struggling. As the AVMA continues to seek ways to provide wellness resources to our members, our leadership and our staff, we launched in 2016 phase one of our pilot QPR training program. Standing for Question, Persuade and Refer, QPR training was offered to thousands of AVMA members, and we invite you to seek the training today by visiting www.avma.org/qpr. Those who complete the training are empowered to recognize the signs that someone they know may be considering suicide. The training helps us to start a dialogue with the individual and then refer them to appropriate professional help. While this is not a substitute for professional mental health assistance, the self-guided, online QPR modules can be the first step toward getting someone in crisis the help they need. With the success of phase one of the pilot program, the AVMA, in partnership with AVMA LIFE and AVMA PLIT, is looking to expand the program in 2017 to the broader AVMA membership.

Technology plays a role in our society’s wellness, and 2016 saw a major enhancement effort to our
wellness webpage (avma.org/wellness) and its content, which was undertaken by members of our Future Leaders Program. Among other resources, the website contains a wellness self-assessment, and you can also learn how to implement a wellness-centered veterinary workplace through our Countdown to Wellness tool. Unfortunately, technology also has a dark side, particularly when it comes to the power of social media. That’s why, in December 2016, the AVMA launched a new cyberbullying resource for our members. AVMA members who are experiencing a cyberbullying attack now have access to 30 minutes of free, actionable consultation with a professional crisis management firm to help address the issue. While many of the concerns can be resolved within the 30-minute sessions, AVMA members also receive a significant discount for further consultation if additional assistance is needed.

Our veterinary students are also working to improve well-being amongst their peers, and the formation in 2016 of a SAVMA Wellness Committee to help address the well-being issues specific to the student population is a reflection of their commitment to the issue. Their goal is to promote student physical, mental and emotional well-being at AVMA-accredited institutions, with an emphasis on facilitating and sharing wellness programs and opportunities within the veterinary student community.

Fix the Debt Initiative

We’re tackling the student debt issue from a variety of angles, each of which is being addressed by strategic working groups comprised of representatives from across the profession, including veterinary students, colleges of veterinary medicine, state and allied associations, practice owners and other experts. Our collective goal is to reduce the debt-to-income ratio, which now stands at about 2:1, to 1.4:1. It’s not going to be easy getting there, but our strategy is designed to help gradually reduce the ratio to a more manageable level that will lead to a better place for our young members both professionally and personally.

In 2016, the AVMA, in collaboration with the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and Michigan State University, hosted the first-ever Fix the Debt Summit. Throughout the remainder of the year, volunteer working groups continued to collaborate on projects to address key issues. Some of the highlights include raising awareness of different career opportunities, which can have a direct impact on income and earning potential. We are focusing on improving financial literacy resources for both students and veterinarians in the early stages of their career, as well as advocating for debt reduction through support of improved student loan legislation, including lowering the cost of borrowing and pursuing expanded options for repayment.

Early Career Programming

“The AVMA continues to realize that the first 15 years after graduation from veterinary school are a critical time to engage early career veterinarians.”

These are the words of Dr. Erin Casey, an AVMA member and a member of our Early Career Development Committee. She goes on to say, “The AVMA recognizes that the early experiences of a veterinarian’s career can influence their current and future interest in involvement in organized veterinary medicine. Concerted efforts are being made by the AVMA to focus on connecting with this sector of our profession through identifying issues specifically relevant to their demographic. Whether it’s addressing student loan debt, developing confidence in leadership skills or promoting volunteer opportunities to allow our members to have a direct impact on our profession, the AVMA strives to provide products and services tailored to the needs of our early career colleagues.”
Student Initiatives

Now in its fifth year, the ALL for Students program, a joint initiative sponsored by the AVMA, AVMA LIFE, AVMA PLIT and the Student AVMA, continues to provide funding to SAVMA chapters for programs in four key areas: leadership, professional development, wellness and community outreach.

The ALL for Students program, which is administered through the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, has been an important source of funding for wellness initiatives, and the funding has also meant an increase in wellness-related ALL for Students-sponsored events. This past year saw an increase in marketing and promotional efforts of ALL for Students events thanks to the AVMA providing to each chapter electronic templates of ALL for Students banners, ALL for Students posters and ALL for Students PowerPoint presentations. These promotional materials ensured consistent marketing, promotion and sponsorship recognition across the 36 chapters and decreased the workload burden on the student volunteers hosting the events.

In addition to working together on the ALL for Students program, the AVMA family (AVMA, AVMA LIFE, AVMA PLIT and AVMF) have increased their communication and cooperation efforts in student outreach. At the 2016 SAVMA Symposium a coordinated effort was made to have all AVMA family booths adjacent to each other in the exhibit hall, a member benefit and true convenience for the students and organizations alike. Also in 2016, the student outreach staff from AVMA, AVMA LIFE and AVMA PLIT began having regular quarterly meetings to discuss each organization’s outreach efforts and to better support the veterinary student community.

In an effort to support our colleagues in academia and to expand on the long-standing relationship with faculty advisors of our Student Chapters of the AVMA, the AVMA Student Initiatives Team restructured its SCAVMA Faculty Advisor Grant program into the AVMA Veterinary Educator Professional Development Grant program. More than $10,000 in grants was distributed for on-site professional development for veterinarians and veterinary staff who have teaching contact hours with students at the colleges of veterinary medicine represented in the Student AVMA House of Delegates. Priority was given to professional development programs in the following areas of interest: communication training, leadership development, wellness and/or mental health training, financial and/or business skills training and diversity training.

The AVMA Student Initiatives Team is working closely with the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) to build a stronger relationship between pre-veterinary students and the AVMA. We are working to provide sponsorship in the form of student scholarships, awards and webinars. The AVMA will continue to sponsor the annual APVMA Symposium. Our team is also helping foster a relationship between the APVMA and the Student AVMA.
Learning and Networking

You won’t find an association that offers more opportunities for education and networking than the AVMA.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

The AVMA Annual Convention is your association’s flagship event, offering you professional development, and perspective and understanding of the issues facing our profession, all packaged right along with ample opportunities to network with colleagues and friends. At the AVMA Convention, you benefit from continuing education, industry updates and participating in the profession’s collective voice.

AVMA Convention 2016 attracted more than 7,000 attendees, hosted more than 150 business meetings, delivered more than 80 events and receptions, and offered attendees the opportunity to earn up to 42 hours of continuing education. And our exhibit hall, which welcomed 330 exhibitors, stretched 226,726 square feet.

The 2016 Keynote Luncheon focused on wellness, and Dr. Dan Siegel, our keynote speaker, shared with attendees “How Understanding the Mind and Cultivating Mindsight Supports Your Well-Being.” Our Sunday night concert featured an attendees-only performance by the award-winning American country music duo Big & Rich.

New and noteworthy additions to AVMA Convention 2016 included AVMA’s Vet Clinic Live!® – a veterinary facility built right on the exhibit hall floor that showcased the newest and most innovative products and services in veterinary medicine. And our members enjoyed a new Meet-the-Experts Round Table education event.

VETERINARY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

One of the AVMA’s highest-rated programs, the Veterinary Leadership Conference attracted more than 600 attendees, who gathered Jan. 12-14, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. They took advantage of workshops focused on wellness, leadership development and volunteer management, all of which were organized around official meetings of the AVMA House of Delegates and Board of Directors to maximize opportunities for education, interaction and networking.

“As a student, I enjoyed attending VLC because it gave me the opportunity to meet other students and professionals who are passionate about making positive changes in veterinary medicine and inspiring others to go above and beyond their professional duties. It opened my eyes to so many exciting opportunities that this profession has to offer and ones that I look forward to exploring further. VLC doesn’t just stand for veterinary leadership conference; it’s very life-changing!”

- Elizabeth Jones, Student, University of Tennessee CVM

7,265 Total Convention Attendees

78% Veterinarians (Excludes Guests & Exhibitors)

9% Students

7% Practice Managers

7% Veterinary Technicians

Attendees were Offered

989 CE Sessions

563 CE Presenters

75% Thought the Depth of CE was Just Right
Publications

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The mission of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association is to promote the science and art of veterinary medicine and provide a forum for discussion and dissemination of ideas important to the profession.

As the most widely circulated veterinary medical journal in the world, with a 2016 circulation that topped 81,500, the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association strives to provide news, information and research findings relevant to veterinarians across all practice sectors and all facets of the profession.

The news section in JAVMA mixes stories of the association, including coverage of AVMA Board of Directors and House of Delegates activities, with information on important issues and trends in veterinary medicine. Some of the most widely read news stories during 2016 touched on new recommendations from the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians for cats and dogs exposed to rabies; the federal mandate requiring veterinary oversight of medically important antimicrobials used in honeybees; and the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

Through its letters and commentaries sections, JAVMA encourages responsible and balanced debate on controversial issues affecting the profession. Commentaries published during 2016 touched on an extensive variety of topics, ranging from the problem of overdiagnosis, to suggestions for implementing wellness initiatives in the veterinary workplace, and the connection between pets and human suicide.

Finally, through its scientific reports section, JAVMA endeavors to educate readers—as exemplified by the iconic “What Is Your Diagnosis?” feature and the popular Pathology in Practice articles—and publish reports of scientific research having an immediate impact on clinical practice. Of particular note during 2016 was a report on management strategies to prevent transmission of infectious disease among dogs at dog shows and other group settings, an analysis of whether veterinary students are accumulating unreasonable amounts of debt, the Association of Shelter Veterinarians’ 2016 Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs, and a study of whether gender or specialty interest was associated with entry-level laparoscopic skills in third-year veterinary students.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF VETERINARY RESEARCH

The American Journal of Veterinary Research publishes novel research findings that bridge the gulf between basic research and clinical practice or that help to translate laboratory research and preclinical studies to the development of clinical trials and clinical practice.

With a circulation of 6,050 in 2016, the AJVR is the most widely circulated basic veterinary research journal in the world and provides an important outlet for research likely to have an impact on veterinary clinical practice in the next few years. Most-viewed articles in 2016 included studies on the effects of cranberry extract on adhesion of Escherichia coli to canine kidney cells, the diagnostic accuracy of a rapid immunoassay for detection of urinary tract infections in dogs, platelet function in dogs receiving a low-dose aspirin regimen, and tiludronate administration for treatment of lameness in horses with navicular syndrome.
The AVMA is recognized as the collective voice for the entire veterinary profession by local, state and federal governments, as well as for-profit and not-for-profit businesses and organizations. We use our voice to protect and enhance the activities and interests of our diverse membership, and we act on the input of our members to anticipate, identify and address issues that could enhance or inhibit your ability to provide quality veterinary services. In addition, we share the news of your good work to demonstrate the critical role that veterinarians play in protecting animal health and welfare and public health.

**Federal Advocacy Efforts**

**In 2016, the AVMA’s Washington, D.C.-based Governmental Relations Division worked closely with Congress and the federal government to protect, promote and advance the veterinary profession.**

**GRASSROOTS AND MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT**

- As part of our ongoing work to elevate the scientific expertise of veterinarians in policy conversations, our annual AVMA Fellowship Program brought three veterinarians to Washington, D.C., in 2016 to spend a year working in a congressional office and advising on key policy issues. Our fellows are currently serving in the offices of Rep. Brian Babin (R-Tex.), Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and as Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry minority staff. These fellows help drive scientifically sound policy-making and ensure that veterinarians are included in key policy conversations, while also gaining valuable experience that they can use throughout their careers.

- The AVMA’s 8th annual Fly-In brought 91 veterinary students and veterinarians to Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers and advocate for the veterinary
profession. During the 2016 Fly-In, attendees met with lawmakers to advocate for alleviating student debt and stopping the Fairness to Pet Owners Act.

• In 2016, 10 veterinary students participated in the AVMA Governmental Relations Student Externship Program. These young leaders spent four weeks in D.C. learning about the federal legislative and regulatory process, working with members of Congress, building their professional networks and helping advance the AVMA’s legislative agenda in Washington.

• In April, the Governmental Relations Division worked with the American Association of Avian Pathologists to host the organization’s Fly-In. Attendees met with members of Congress and representatives from the National Chicken Council, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Turkey Federation.

PHARMACEUTICAL ISSUES

• To create guidelines addressing compounding concerns raised by veterinarians, the AVMA Governmental Relations Division led a Task Force on Veterinary Compounding Legislation. Last summer, the task force presented its finalized recommendations to the AVMA Board of Directors, and these recommendations were then captured in draft legislation. Supporting this legislation will be a major AVMA initiative in 2017.

ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES

• The AVMA remains a strong supporter of the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act, which aims to amend the Horse Protection Act and increase enforcement of anti-soring laws. Despite the fact that the PAST Act didn’t pass in 2016, it had broad bipartisan support with more than 300 co-sponsors across the House and the Senate. We are hoping for a similar response with the PAST Act’s reintroduction in 2017, and your association will continue to work closely with Congress and our members toward its adoption.

EDUCATIONAL AND WORKFORCE ISSUES

• The AVMA achieved a major victory for rural veterinarians and the communities they serve by working with Congress to secure $2.3 million in funding for the Veterinary Services Grant Program. This funding was issued to 12 grant recipients, including veterinary clinics, colleges of veterinary medicine and veterinary associations, to support veterinarians practicing in rural areas where demand for veterinary care exceeds capacity.

• As a result of our ongoing advocacy work in support of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, 48 veterinarians received a total of $4.3 million in student loan relief. This program helps alleviate veterinary shortages by providing up to $75,000 in loan relief to veterinarians who serve in rural communities where demand for veterinary care exceeds capacity. Your association also secured the introduction of a bill that would eliminate the 39 percent withholding tax applied to these awards, which will effectively increase available funding. While the bill failed this go-around, it did secure bipartisan support and more than 50 co-sponsors in Congress.
State Advocacy and Leadership Efforts

Your association works closely with U.S. states, territories and various species-related and specialty groups to effectively represent the entire profession. These independent veterinary associations bring unique perspectives that strengthen our voice and our ability to meet our members’ needs.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The AVMA assists state veterinary medical associations by providing them information about newly introduced legislation and regulatory developments. These alerts, which totaled more than 1,000 in 2016, are sent out to each state VMA, and the AVMA internally tracks the progress of these bills and regulations. We track dozens of issues of importance to the veterinary profession, including – but certainly not limited to – animal cruelty/abuse; licensure and other veterinary-board regulations; access to compounded medications; prescription-drug monitoring programs and other prescribing requirements; taxation of veterinary products and services; scope-of-practice issues; and regulation of veterinary procedures.

We also respond when state VMAs ask us to provide the profession’s perspective on specific advocacy efforts. Here are a few examples:

- On the issue of compounding, the AVMA supported efforts in Colorado and Massachusetts to ensure veterinarians’ ability to stock compounded medications for emergency situations – and to dispense reasonable amounts of these potentially lifesaving drugs. Both measures became law. We also opposed efforts in Delaware to prohibit veterinarians from legally obtaining these medications, and regulations are now being rewritten to ensure appropriate access to compounded drugs.

- A few states considered legislation that would have allowed courts to award noneconomic damages in litigation involving animals. The AVMA is opposed to these policies, in large part because they have the potential to increase the cost of veterinary services – which could in turn prevent some clients from affording appropriate care for their animals. None of these bills became law.

- The AVMA commented on legislation in Florida that would have allowed non-veterinary providers to offer complementary and alternative therapies. We submitted a letter to state legislators stressing that our policy supports “the professional judgment of a veterinarian who may choose to refer patients to a professional with the proper education and training – but the only safe method of delivering these services is under the direction of the veterinarian, who can collaborate with the provider to ensure that the patient’s needs are met.”

- Maine legislators considered legislation proposing that for certain vaccinations, animal owners would have been permitted to attest to an animal’s good health (in lieu of a physical examination required by the veterinarian-client-patient relationship). The AVMA submitted commentary that the VCPR is the cornerstone of veterinary care, and that a professional evaluation is required. “The proposed exemption … creates an unnecessary risk for the health and welfare of animals with undiagnosed health issues that may be presented for vaccination,” stated the written testimony.
• Lastly, the AVMA was asked to comment on legislation in a handful of states that would ban the practice of declawing cats – and, in some cases, attach criminal penalties and fines to the associated offense. While AVMA policy encourages veterinarians to consider this procedure only after exploring other behavioral and environmental solutions, the organization also stressed that when faced with the options of euthanasia or relinquishment from a good home, veterinarians should have the ability to use their medical judgment to perform this procedure (with adequate pain management and follow-up care).

PUBLIC POLICY SYMPOSIUM

The AVMA considers itself a trusted convener that can bring together top minds to address the critical issues facing the veterinary profession. The AVMA Public Policy Symposium is a perfect example of those efforts. The 6th Public Policy Symposium, which was held in October 2016 and hosted by the AVMA State Advocacy Committee, was an opportunity for veterinarians and state VMA executives to discuss key advocacy issues from around the country.

THE AVMA FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM

The AVMA Future Leaders Program is a unique program that takes a holistic approach to leadership development. Our goal is to develop the strengths and talents of our member veterinarians, promoting your leadership skills for the benefit of the veterinary workplace, society as a whole and especially our profession. After spending a year on a leadership journey with the AVMA through this program, the 5th cohort of participants unveiled their final project at the AVMA Convention in San Antonio. Building on previous Future Leaders’ wellness efforts, the 2016 group focused their efforts on creating a toolkit for veterinary practices that focuses on how to recognize mental-health and wellness issues in a veterinary setting, and tips on how to improve these challenges in a variety of veterinary practice settings. We look forward to seeing the great things this group of veterinarians will contribute to the AVMA – and the profession as a whole!

The newest group of Future Leaders is hard at work on their current project, which focuses on the healthy habits of a successful veterinary team. After presenting their first rendition of the project at the Veterinary Leadership Conference in January 2017, the group will hone their offerings for unveiling at the 2017 AVMA Convention in Indianapolis.

Animal Welfare Initiatives

The veterinary profession has great responsibility and tremendous opportunity to work with people and animals to ensure animals' good welfare.

HUMANE ENDINGS

The first edition of the AVMA Guidelines for the Humane Slaughter of Animals was released in July 2016 as the second Humane Endings guidance document accompanying the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. This document addresses each stage of the slaughter process and provides guidance about how to prevent pain and distress in animals that are to be slaughtered. The guidelines do not venture into discussions about the morality of killing animals for food; instead, their focus is on what should happen to animals to best protect their welfare when slaughter is their ultimate fate.

A draft version of the first-ever AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals was completed by the volunteer AVMA Panel on Depopulation in 2016. Once finalized, this document will represent the first detailed guidance the AVMA has provided relating to depopulation. The guidelines aim to ensure as much
consideration is given to animal welfare as practicable within the constraints of an emergency event. More than 50 volunteers participated in the drafting of the guidance, including representatives from a variety of veterinary organizations, including the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners, American Association of Swine Veterinarians, American Association of Avian Pathologists, American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners and the American Animal Hospital Association. The U.S. Department of Agriculture supported the development of the guidelines financially through a cooperative agreement and provided an advisor to the panel, as did the National Institutes of Health.

SORING

Animal Welfare and Governmental Relations division staff worked tirelessly in 2016 to provide content and expertise to end the inhumane practice of horse soring. In addition to supporting the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act, we also advocated for the United States Department of Agriculture’s proposed changes to the Horse Protection Act. The resulting USDA rule, which was pending due to the change in administration, includes language recommended by the joint AVMA/ American Association of Equine Practitioners Federal Register comments.

REACHING UP

Made possible through the involvement of dedicated volunteer veterinarians, veterinary students and veterinary technicians, and strengthened by funding support from a variety of private sponsors, the AVMA’s Reaching UP program provides valuable services for Native American populations that historically have had minimal access to consistent veterinary care. The program demonstrates the connection between veterinary medicine and public health, and serves as a reminder of what drives so many veterinarians to enter this profession: the opportunity to improve the health and welfare of animals and people. Reaching UP held three clinics in 2016, providing care to approximately 475 high-quality/high-volume spay-neuter patients and 375 preventive or outpatient medical care patients. The program would not have been possible without the participation of 20 AVMA member veterinarians, five veterinary technicians and, for the first time, six Student AVMA members.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ANIMAL WELFARE JUDGING/ASSESSMENT CONTEST (AWJAC)

The AVMA is proud to sponsor a unique contest that teaches our veterinary students to assess the welfare of animals in a variety of settings using science-based methods and reasoning. Students are given the opportunity to weigh evidence and present sound arguments to justify their evaluations. Participating in AWJAC not only opens participants’ eyes to the welfare needs of a range of species but also provides them an opportunity to hone critical analytical thinking skills and oral presentation skills that will help them throughout the rest of their education and their careers. Participation in the contest continues to increase each year, with more than 100 students representing 15 schools taking part in the 2016 AWJAC. For the first time ever, 2016 also saw four AVMA members participate in the contest in order to expand their understanding and practical knowledge of animal welfare and witness the caliber of the educational program presented each year to veterinary students.
Animal and Public Health Efforts

Our animal and public health efforts are crucial to the development of AVMA resources, the implementation of AVMA policy, and our ongoing commitment to protecting, promoting and advancing the veterinary profession.

The collaborative work between our animal and public health volunteers and staff resulted in:

- A Joint Meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and the AVMA to discuss antimicrobial stewardship, from which a joint statement was released in November.

- Our AVMA Task Force on Antimicrobial Stewardship in Companion Animal Practice compiling its recommendations and report, all of which were submitted to the AVMA Board in 2016.

- The AVMA Practice Advisory Panel, and the five working groups it established, reviewing and providing guidance on the veterinary profession’s appropriate use of telemedicine, the final report for which was submitted to the Board in December 2016.

- The launch and subsequent work of the Committee on Antimicrobials, which has been reviewing all of the AVMA’s antimicrobial resources and developing an antimicrobial strategy for the association.

When it comes to advocating for the interests of our members, our animal and public health efforts covered a wide range of topics and are representative of our commitment to represent the varied interests of our diverse membership. Some highlights include:

- Initiating a multi-entity review of the Model Veterinary Practice Act.

- Reviewing all joint, species-specific Judicious Therapeutic Use of Antimicrobial policies and comparing them to those of external stakeholders and authorities.

- Reviewing the proposed Joint AVMA, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Federal Veterinarians of Europe Statement on Continuous Monitoring of Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance and the existing Joint AVMA, CVMA, FVE Statement on Responsible and Judicious Use of Antimicrobials.

- The development of new policy, such as the 2016 newly approved Policy on Lead.

The AVMA was also heavily involved in regulatory affairs related to veterinary medicine, particularly in terms of providing comments to federal agencies. We provided:

- Comments to USDA/APHIS regarding cattle fever tick eradication; select agents; the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases; brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis.

- Comments to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding select agents.

- Comments to the Drug Enforcement Administration regarding thiafentanil.

- Comments to the FDA regarding leadership of the Center for Veterinary Medicine; stem cells and antimicrobials, including veterinary feed directives.

- Comments to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding salamanders and chytrid fungus.
International Efforts and Initiatives

The AVMA is committed to enhancing and sustaining U.S. veterinarians’ role in global veterinary medicine so that we can create and enhance global opportunities for AVMA and Student AVMA members.

GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT

Our Global Health Summit, held during the AVMA Annual Convention in San Antonio, shined a spotlight on emerging diseases and included speakers from companies such as Metabiota, organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of Defense, and universities and veterinary colleges. Nearly 100 convention-goers attended the sessions of the daylong summit.

MAINTAINING YOUR ACCESS TO KETAMINE

After receiving extensive input from our members during 2015, the AVMA continued to serve as the global advocacy voice for the U.S. veterinary profession on the issue of international scheduling of ketamine. We shared your comments and concerns with the United Nations and the World Health Organization regarding the importance of maintaining access to ketamine for animal health and welfare purposes, and we continue to advocate this position on behalf of our members and the profession.

A GLOBAL PRESENCE – AND INFLUENCE

The AVMA president and liaison representatives attended the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress and General Assembly, the PANVET Congress and the World Veterinary Association General Assembly and Council meetings. As members of these organizations, we maintain and continue to build collaborative relationships so that we can represent your interests on a global scale.

ONE HEALTH DAY

As a founding member of the One Health Commission, your association partnered with international organizations for the hosting of the inaugural One Health Day. This global event celebrated and recognized the power of the one-health approach in addressing key issues related to animal, human, public and environmental health.
ACREDITATION & CERTIFICATION

Accreditation by the AVMA Council on Education and the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities represents the highest standard of achievement for veterinary medical education in the United States. Because we apply rigorous standards for accreditation and certification of veterinary programs and institutions:

- AVMA members can remain confident that the quality of veterinary education – and the value of their veterinary degree – is continually protected.
- Students can feel confident that their education will meet the necessary threshold for their entry into professional practice.
- Employers can be assured that graduates are prepared for professional practice.
- The general public can put greater trust in our profession’s standards for health, safety and veterinary education.

Accreditation and certification, the primary activities of the AVMA’s Education and Research Division, involve a rigorous process of peer review that promotes quality assurance and quality improvement. Accreditation guarantees that a graduate of an AVMA accredited veterinary school or veterinary technician program possesses the necessary skills for entry level practice. This guarantee instills confidence in the public. People want to know that they can trust their animals to a highly educated veterinarian or veterinary technician offering the best health care available. Graduating from an accredited program offers confidence that the student has received a quality education from an academic institution held to a high level of standards. Accreditation assures students that the veterinary degree they receive has value and that they are prepared to embark on their career.

Accreditation promotes improvement in the professional services provided to the public, as accredited institutions modify their curriculum to reflect advances in research and knowledge. For animal owners and the public, accreditation ensures the continued quality of veterinary medicine to protect animal health and welfare.

Education and Research staff cooperating with volunteer AVMA and public members work together to provide quality oversight to the profession and the public through the activities of several entities.

The COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (COE) is responsible for accrediting 49 veterinary colleges worldwide (30 in the U.S., six in Europe, five in Canada, four in Australia, two in the West Indies and one each in New Zealand and Mexico). Through its accreditation activities, the COE monitors and ensures the quality of veterinary medical education; protects and enhances the value of a veterinary degree and contributes to the promotion of public health through the graduating of qualified veterinarians.

The COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES (CVTEA) is responsible for accrediting 216 veterinary technician programs. The CVTEA also serves to promote the vital role of credentialed veterinary technicians as professional members of the veterinary health care team who improve the quality of veterinary medical care provided at all levels of the profession.

The AMERICAN BOARD OF VETERINARY SPECIALTIES (ABVS) promotes specialized veterinary medicine and oversees recognition of veterinary specialties within the United States. Currently, the ABVS recognizes 22 veterinary specialty organizations comprising more than 40 distinct specialties. More than 12,000 veterinarians are board-certified by one or more of these AVMA-recognized specialty organizations. Most importantly, the AVMA recognition of these organizations provides an assurance that the organizations are conducting a certification program that meets or exceeds established standards.

The EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN VETERINARY GRADUATES (ECFVG) administers an assessment process to certify the education equivalence of graduates of non-AVMA/COE accredited veterinary schools to allow these students to meet state- and federally mandated educational prerequisites for licensure and employment. During 2016, 168 ECFVG certificates were awarded, and 264 new applicants enrolled in the program.
THE AVMA ANIMAL HEALTH STUDIES DATABASE

We all know that results from randomized, controlled clinical trials provide the highest level of evidence to guide clinical practice. That’s why, on June 29, 2016, the AVMA launched the AVMA Animal Health Studies Database (AAHSD). The site serves as a central repository where veterinary clinician-scientists can list clinical trials and other prospective clinical studies that are being conducted and solicit enrollment of animal patients.

Freely accessible, the AAHSD can be searched by animal owners and veterinary practitioners for studies that might be relevant to their patients. There are more than 250 studies listed in the AAHSD, which can include studies conducted in all animal species and in 20 different fields of veterinary medicine. Users can further refine search results by state (U.S.) or province (Canada) to find studies specifically in their geographic location. The AAHSD, accessible at www.avma.org/findvetstudies, has averaged about 2,500 searches per month since inception.

The AAHSD is a tangible offering to the veterinary research community, and there are more than 30 veterinary experts in various veterinary disciplines that serve as curators to assist management of study listings in their content areas. Establishing the AAHSD on the AVMA website raises awareness of veterinary clinical studies. This can accelerate evidence to guide veterinary clinical practice and can also be used to advocate for greater acceptance of the use of naturally occurring diseases in animals to inform the human medical community for similar diseases in people.
Building trust, serving our members.

Through ongoing, strategic collaboration, the AVMA family leverages the unique aspects of each organization’s approach to member services, creating a comprehensive program of valuable products and services for all AVMA members.
The American Veterinary Medical Foundation is the charitable arm of the American Veterinary Medical Association. For more than 50 years, the AVMF has been developing resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health. Through the contributions of our generous donors, 2016 demonstrates a year of accomplishments that made an impact for veterinarians and the animals in your care.

The AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund®, a relatively new program that helps AVMA members provide charitable care to clients facing hardships, saw significant expansion in 2016. Donor gifts totaling more than $200,000 supported the work of veterinary hospitals across the country. Through the program, veterinarians like you can access these donated funds to help more injured, abused and abandoned animals. Donations helped support community service projects that brought together the veterinary community, students and the animal-loving public. The AVMF community outreach program, Our Oath in Action™, included seven events across the country in 2016. The events provided veterinary care to 303 animals, utilized the time, talents and skills of 345 volunteers and were attended by more than 9,100 animal lovers. The projects included a spay and neuter clinic, pet wellness exams, vaccinations for the pets of homeless and low-income pet owners, a shelter renovation and exhibits at the New York State Fair.

The AVMF believes in investing in the education of America’s veterinary students, ensuring that future veterinarians have the skills and training necessary to treat our pets, safeguard our food supply and protect public health. Through the generosity of many supporters of AVMF Student Enhancement initiatives, $309,000 in scholarships was awarded to 82 outstanding veterinary students last year. In addition, we are pleased to report the launch of the new AVMA/AVMF Scholarship for Veterans. This scholarship honors the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and those men and women who have served our country and are now pursuing a career in veterinary medicine.

In addition to scholarships, donations supported 10 externship stipends for students working throughout the world and 10 externships at AVMA headquarters. These externship experiences add breadth to students’ perspectives and make them better advocates for their patients and their profession.

Expanding on advocacy, the AVMF again helped support the AVMA Congressional Fellowship program in 2016. Three fellows spent a year on Capitol Hill advising members of Congress and their staff on matters of national concern, from animal welfare to food safety and public health. The fellowship program also heightens awareness and enhances the reputation of the veterinary profession on Capitol Hill.

In the area of research, donations supported funding for five Second Opportunity Research Scholarships, three Young Investigator Awards and the Merial/National Institutes of Health Research Scholars Symposium.

Thank you to all of the individuals, veterinary practices, organizations and corporations who helped make our AVMF programs and activities successful in 2016. For more information, visit AVMF.org.
AVMA | PLIT®
Protecting you through it all

For more than 54 years, the AVMA PLIT has delivered on the promise of “protecting you through it all.” AVMA members have long appreciated our comprehensive insurance programs, educational resources, and our efforts, both large and small, to strengthen those services.

2016 was a terrific year for the PLIT. Building on the momentum gained from our rebrand, we’re excited to have implemented a number of new initiatives:

- Veterinary Safety Manual: The newly enhanced manual contains a full safety policy program for veterinary practices. The manual provides a robust safety guidebook and is a tool for members to start, update or modify a personalized safety program at their practice. Each chapter was thoroughly reviewed, updated and refined for 2016 standards. Reviewers included three PLIT Trust Veterinarians, seven HUB Risk Consultants, four university veterinarians and four practicing Veterinarians. For more information, visit avmaplit.com/safetymanual.

- Action Center: September saw the launch of the PLIT Action Center. This online resource (avmaplit.com/actioncenter) is a great new way for veterinarians to learn about the professional liability and license defense claims process, and access information 24/7. The Action Center includes instructional videos and step-by-step explanations to help veterinarians navigate potential or actual professional liability malpractice claims or license complaints. This new resource helps veterinarians take control by taking action.

- Tailored materials for large practices, corporate groups and roll ups: To illustrate the breadth, depth and expertise of our team for growing veterinary businesses, the PLIT developed new materials for this segment. At the corporate level, the practice level and the team level, you can count on the PLIT program for best-in-class coverage and risk management.

- “Cover Your Assets” Educational Module: Developed for veterinary students and available at avmaplit.com/cya, this module launched in the fall of 2016. Students can learn tips to avoid malpractice claims and veterinary license complaints, review an actual claim example and its outcome, and learn how the PLIT program can help protect them throughout their career. Students can include their certificate of completion in their Veterinary Business Management Association Honors Portfolio starting in the spring semester of 2017.

- Veterinary Feed Directive Risk Awareness Alert: This alert, available at avmaplit.com/vfd, is part of our ongoing effort to bring awareness to potential liability risks that can arise in the day-to-day work of veterinarians. Members can learn more about:
  - Understanding VFD regulations and liability risks.
  - Tips to avoid liability risks related to the VFD.
  - Other VFD resources.

As we enter our 55th year of dedicated service, the PLIT will again deliver on our promise to provide the most complete and supportive professional insurance program designed for and by veterinarians. We’re here to protect you, your reputation and our profession.
The AVMA LIFE Trust continued to grow in 2016, with an emphasis on enhancing product offerings to meet the diverse needs of our members. The trust remains committed to providing insurance benefits and products underwritten by New York Life Insurance, a company with more than 170 years of insurance experience and financial stability.

Most notably, in January 2016, after conducting a year-long rebranding initiative, we launched our new name, AVMA LIFE Trust. Although the trust’s mission to serve veterinarians has not changed, this exciting transformation gave us the opportunity to more clearly articulate the juxtaposition our members face every day between their personal and professional lives.

AVMA LIFE continues to be an equal partner in the ALL for Students program. Our commitment to veterinary students is so high that we added to our staff so we could focus on promoting the importance of protection to those entering the profession. In addition, to demonstrate the importance of insurance protection, AVMA LIFE has provided every eligible SAVMA member with $25,000 of No-Cost Life Insurance while they are attending veterinary school.

Additionally, we enhanced several of our current product offerings to better address the needs of veterinarians today. All of these enhancements were made with your needs in mind and included:

- Increasing the plan limits for most of our life insurance to $2 million.
- Providing benefits on the professional overhead expense coverage to pay for the cost of a relief veterinarian’s salary.
- Allowing future purchase options to be exercised annually on disability income policies to keep up with inflation.

At the end of 2016, AVMA LIFE Trust kicked off the celebration of our 60th anniversary. Over the next year, you’ll see changes to our products and services. We are proud of where we’ve been and look forward to the next 60 years.

The AVMA Political Action Committee is an important advocacy tool that the association uses to provide financial support to selected candidates who are seeking election to the U.S. Congress. The AVMAPAC helps to open doors for the AVMA Governmental Relations Division staff to speak with lawmakers about legislative issues impacting how veterinarians – like you – practice medicine.

The AVMAPAC raises funds to support candidates for national office from contributions from AVMA and SAVMA members, their families and AVMA employees. The AVMAPAC Board abides by strict criteria when deciding which candidates to support, always looking for bipartisan leaders who will help further our priorities within AVMA’s legislative portfolio.

All AVMA and SAVMA members are eligible to join the AVMAPAC.
Through development of a Three-year Strategic Plan, prioritization of programs and prudent fiscal management, fiscal year 2016 proved to be a financially successful period for the AVMA. The adoption of the Strategic Plan process helped shape expectations for an annual planning cycle, providing a direction to help organize and prioritize member-facing activities. The association’s Unrestricted Net Assets increased to $41 million, up from $39.6 million in 2015. Overall, revenues of $36.9 million exceeded expenditures of $36.8 million. With the continued growth of the global economy, the association’s investment holdings generated gains and income of $1.3 million compared to a loss of $1.1 million during 2015.

The Board of Directors, operating through its Audit Committee, provides oversight of the financial reporting process, safeguarding of assets and the system of internal controls and procedures. The AVMA external auditors maintain an open and transparent relationship with the committee. As in previous years, the AVMA received a favorable audit from the public accounting firm, which noted no significant errors or omissions in the financial statement reports or internal accounting procedures.

The AVMA continues to hold the influential position as the leading professional association for veterinarians. As we continue to build and refine our strategies, we are focusing on building programs that provide member value with a continued focus on Advocacy and Public Policy, Member Services and Economic Issues.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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<th>2016</th>
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member benefits that

SUPPORT YOUR PASSION

As a veterinarian, you are part of a passionate group of professionals, all striving to improve animal and human health.

Discover how AVMA membership supports you in your day-to-day life as a veterinarian, at every stage of your career. avma.org/value