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 Vision

To be the trusted leader in protecting, promoting and advancing a strong, unified veterinary profession that meets the needs of society.

Our Mission

To lead the profession by advocating for its members and advancing the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.
We are a diverse and passionate group of professionals, all striving to improve the health and well-being of animals, humans and the environment that we share. Your passion for the veterinary profession drives our success, and we are humbled by the privilege to represent and serve you.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is the nation’s leading advocate for the veterinary profession. Representing more than 91,000 members, we protect, promote and advance the needs of all veterinarians and those you serve.

Our commitment is to advance the shared interests, values and goals of our diverse membership through a variety of avenues:

• We develop positions on key issues and advocate for veterinarians, advancing your ability to provide crucial veterinary services.

• We provide educational accreditation and certification programs that protect and elevate the quality of veterinary care and the value of your veterinary degree.

• We provide timely and relevant products and services to our members that enhance your opportunities for success and service, and support you in protecting the health and welfare of the animals in your care.

• We educate the public on the important and varied types of work that veterinarians do to advance both animal and human health.

This 2017 Annual Report highlights the many ways veterinarians benefit society and how the AVMA is working each day to ensure your success and help you thrive in a profession we all hold so dear.

This is your passion. This is your profession. This is your AVMA working for you.

Michael Topper, DVM, PhD, DACVP
President

Janet Donlin, DVM, CAE
Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer
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Our Volunteers
the heart of the AVMA

At the AVMA, we know our volunteers are our lifeblood. Their dedicated efforts are critical to our success and relevancy and to helping us fulfill our mission.

Without our volunteers, we would lack diversity and insight. We would lose out on valuable perspectives. And we would be without the talents of so many influential members of the profession.

Today, the AVMA is fortunate to have more than 600 volunteers who donate thousands of hours to the association and the profession. The AVMA Board of Directors, officers, House of Delegates and dozens of committees, councils, panels and task forces are made up of volunteers who provide expertise to influence the key issues affecting veterinary medicine.

Subject matter experts and leaders across the veterinary profession serve as volunteer speakers and on advisory bodies, sharing their knowledge with the greater veterinary community. We also rely on the expertise and input of veterinarians and other professionals as we develop resources and educational tools for the profession.

Our advocacy efforts are made stronger through the voices of more than 30,000 individuals who make up the AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network avmacan.avma.org (AVMACAN). This community of veterinarians, veterinary students and friends of veterinary medicine bolsters our advocacy work by reaching out to lawmakers on legislation that impacts our profession and by sharing their personal stories on important issues. AVMACAN volunteers play a key role in standing up for the veterinary profession and safeguarding the future of veterinary medicine.

Volunteers also participate in outreach programs that advance the work of veterinarians and support local communities.

To our volunteers both past and present – we thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. We are grateful to you for your service.
Our Foundation, Insurance Trusts and Political Action Committee

Our extended family of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, the AVMA Professional Liability Insurance Trust, 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 the 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 are excited that AVMA LIFE and AVMA PLIT – two cornerstones of the AVMA family – unified their efforts in 2017 under an umbrella insurance trust. This is an important step as we continue to focus on providing ongoing value to our members. Members of the AVMA, AVMA LIFE and AVMA PLIT will experience enhanced services because of this new structure. They can also rest assured that their current plans will remain unchanged, but the ways we serve veterinarians will continue to evolve. The umbrella trust will be exploring valuable products and services, including bundling of products to provide a suite of services – all supported by quality customer service and value that our members rely on and have come to expect.

Our Work Is Made Better Through Partnerships

For more than 150 years, the AVMA has supported veterinarians, veterinary medicine and animal health on a local, national and global level. Our uncompromising commitment is to advance the shared interests, values and goals of our members through all available avenues. We cannot do this alone, so we work to build strong and sustainable partnerships. Throughout the years, our partners have included a variety of organizations, corporations, institutions and nonprofits. While each has a unique set of interests and goals, all share our commitment to supporting animal health and welfare, and advancing veterinary medicine. We take great pride in these partnerships and strive to continually nurture new relationships that broaden our perspective, enhance our conversations and grow our network of influence.

We thank our foundation, our insurance trusts and our PAC for all that they do.

Learn more about them on page 26.
Membership at a Glance
more than 91,000 strong

* 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.
Member Benefits

As an AVMA member, you have access to a wide variety 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

The Veterinary Career Center
avma.org/vcc

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) (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 employers looking to hire.

In 2017, 3,438 veterinary profession employers posted 17,377 jobs on the VCC. In addition, 23,907 job seekers were registered on the VCC in 2017, and visits to the online resource averaged 57,000 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.”

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

For the many veterinary students who seek extended learning opportunities, the AVMA Student Externship Locator (avma.org/vccexternships) provides a list of externship opportunities in several disciplines where valuable experience can be obtained while still in school. In 2017, 23,484 visitors searched for externships offered across the globe.
The AVMA hosted four webinars presented by AVMA members and career experts that focused on different career options. In all, 1,041 attendees enjoyed the live presentations and earned one hour of continuing education credits. All presentations are recorded and posted at avma.org/careerwebinars. Topics in 2017 included Veterinary Careers in Regulatory and Research Compliance, Veterinary Forensics, Practice Ownership and Aquatic Veterinary Medicine.

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

Leading the Way in Veterinary Economics

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.

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.

The committee advises the AVMA Board of Directors on the broad scope of economic issues affecting veterinary medicine and makes recommendations that help us develop strategies for addressing these issues. The VESC is here to counsel your association on economic developments in the veterinary profession and the economy in general. Their expertise helps us advance the AVMA strategic economic goals, including strengthening veterinary practice profitability, financial wellbeing and enhancing the veterinary medical workforce. And VESC members are key to helping us deliver information to the veterinary profession that will improve your business knowledge, acumen and financial success.

OUTCOMES THAT MATTER

Through incisive research, analysis and reporting work, the AVMA continued its focus on fostering outcomes that matter – essential and positive...
business and financial results for stakeholders representing the diverse and changing spectrum of the veterinary field.

A centerpiece of our efforts has been the examination of veterinary markets through research and analysis, with findings presented through a variety of outreach vehicles. One such platform was the 2017 AVMA Economic Summit held in late October. Drawing 179 participants, the two-day program featured a range of speakers who offered perspectives from the profession, industry and academia on significant facets of the veterinary markets.

**A FOCUS ON IMPROVING PRACTICE PERFORMANCE**

Veterinary practitioners and practice performance remained a focus of AVMA economics initiatives. Under the VESC’s leadership, we collaborated with the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and Veterinary Management Groups (VMG) to develop the AVMA/AAHA/VMG Chart of Accounts, the standard for classifying and aggregating revenue, expense and balance sheet accounts in small animal veterinary practice. The chart enables practitioners to better organize their finances in line with generally accepted accounting principles, allowing an apples-to-apples comparison of productivity, costs and profitability. This not only helps veterinarians assess the financial health of their hospitals, but also helps create a better picture of the veterinary profession’s overall economic health.

To further help veterinarians enhance practice profitability, the AVMA conducted continuing education workshops and published articles on subjects such as evidence-based practice management, balance sheet analysis, identifying new business opportunities, and pricing and revenue dynamics.

In 2017, we also published a report, “The Impact of Pet Health Insurance on Pet Owners’ Spending for Veterinary Services,” that was jointly produced by the AVMA and the Mississippi State University Department of Agricultural Economics.

Numerous economics-related reports, articles and papers were published throughout the year to help veterinary audiences achieve solid results. In addition to our AVMA Economic Reports series that examines various facets of the veterinary market landscape, we published reports specifically looking at veterinary markets in Texas and the laboratory animal veterinary specialty.

**INCREASING FINANCIAL LITERACY**

The AVMA also collaborated with the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) to conduct a Student Financial Literacy Assessment
in the form of a survey sent to all SAVMA members at AVMA-accredited institutions. The survey was in response to the increasing debt-to-income ratio of new veterinarians and the need to present financial literacy to students as early as possible. Some of the survey findings were presented at the 2017 AVMA Economic Summit, and additional material will be published in 2018. Individual school results are also delivered to the respective veterinary college deans.

Providing Wellbeing Support and Services

The wellbeing of our members is a top priority for your national association, and the AVMA’s wellbeing initiatives are providing support and services to our colleagues in need. It is our hope that our efforts will make a difference for those who need it most.

The AVMA’s commitment to wellbeing led us to hire our first director of member wellbeing and diversity initiatives, whose work is focused on helping the AVMA enhance the wellbeing of our members, and advancing the association’s commitment to ensuring diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the profession. It is our belief that by helping ensure diversity and inclusion, we are also contributing to a greater sense of wellbeing.

Our Student Initiatives Team is also focused on the wellbeing of our veterinary students. These team members are actively engaged at each of our veterinary schools. During their school visits, they see and hear the struggles and the successes of our veterinary students firsthand. They provide guidance about the transition from veterinary student to medical doctor. They serve as trusted advisors between our veterinary students and their professions’ national association. And they help our student chapters achieve maximum benefits from our ALL for Students program, which provides funding for student events in four key areas: leadership, wellbeing, professional development and community outreach.

At the 2017 AVMA Convention, we introduced our members and the entire veterinary community to our award-winning Wheel of Wellbeing. The Wheel of Wellbeing is a handout focusing on activities that can be done in the clinic to help improve the wellbeing of the entire veterinary health care team. We often hear that there is no time to focus on wellbeing, especially in the clinical setting, and our goal is to help break down those barriers. The Wheel of Wellbeing focuses on small activities that can deliver noticeable benefits. The overall objective is to help lay the groundwork for each clinic to implement its own wellbeing culture.

We are also very excited about the work being done by the Veterinary Wellbeing Steering Committee, the volunteer members of which are lending their perspectives and expertise to our wellbeing efforts. Members of this committee, along with staff from the AVMA and in collaboration with the American Association of Veterinary State Boards and the Veterinary Medical Association Executives, performed research to outline what wellbeing resources and confidentiality policies are available in each state for those seeking help for substance abuse and mental health issues. We found laws and regulations authorizing or establishing specific wellbeing programs available for veterinary professionals in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Such provisions, however, were not found in the 14 other states, and it is our intention to help advocate in those states that currently do not have any confidentiality guidelines stated in their practice act.

The AVMA also continued its collaborative efforts with other veterinary groups, including veterinary colleges, veterinary medical associations, corporate sponsors and others, to improve wellbeing in the veterinary community. In coordination with the United Kingdom’s Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, we are exploring the feasibility of creating a global initiative to focus on improving veterinary wellbeing. Our hope is to raise global awareness of mental health issues in the profession and to share best practices across countries.

Resources related to peer assistance, crisis and reputation management, workplace and personal wellbeing, and other wellbeing issues can all be found on our website at avma.org.

Health and wellbeing are essential components to thriving individuals and practices.
Diversity and inclusivity are essential components of the Veterinarian’s Oath and the profession’s core values.

Championing Diversity and Inclusion

As veterinarians, we make a difference in animals’ lives, and we make a difference in peoples’ lives. We do so based soundly in our adherence to the Veterinarian’s Oath, which states, in part, that each of us will “use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society …”

As veterinarians, we also have a role in advancing diversity and inclusion in our profession and in the communities we serve.

The AVMA updated its Policy on Diversity and Inclusion in April 2017, a move that reflected the importance of diversity and inclusion in ensuring access to veterinary care for the benefit of all segments of our citizenry.

THE POLICY STATES:

“The AVMA is committed to diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the profession of veterinary medicine so that we can best serve the animals, the public, and our members. Our goal is to mirror the growing diversity of the communities we serve and to promote an understanding of their varied needs. To this end, we are committed to actively promoting and maintaining diversity and inclusion in our membership, leadership, and organization, and educating our members regarding the value of diversity and inclusion. This commitment embraces the value of the many areas of the veterinary profession, and the value of our members’ and their clients’ varied backgrounds, including but not limited to race; ethnicity; physical and mental abilities; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; parental, marital, or pregnancy status; religious or political beliefs; military or veteran status; and geographic, socioeconomic, and educational backgrounds.”

The AVMA continues working toward our diversity and inclusion goals by providing our members with many resources and tools. Our suggested reading lists, online and in-person networking opportunities, and continuing education regarding the value of diversity to our businesses and work places help advance animal and human health in an ever-changing world. Some examples of our 2017 outreach related to empowering and educating our colleagues and peers include our AVMA staff serving as featured speakers at the first Annual Voice Retreat, held in Athens, Georgia, and the North Carolina Veterinary Conference Diversity Program.

While honoring diversity and inclusion is essential in our role as professionals, it is also critical that a sound understanding of their importance be integrated into our veterinary curriculum. That’s why the AVMA Council on Education took steps in 2017 to revise many of its Standards of Accreditation. These revisions help clarify how diversity and multicultural awareness should be considered core competencies.

An example of the revisions is Standard 11 (Outcomes Assessment), which now says institutions must be able to observe, assess and document that students demonstrate ethical and professional conduct and possess communication skills that demonstrate an understanding and sensitivity to how clients’ diversity and individual circumstance can impact health care.

Tackling Student Debt

Educational debt continues to be a growing concern for many veterinary students and many of our members. That’s why the AVMA and its partners across the veterinary profession have joined forces to address the issue of student debt. To broaden the reach of the Veterinary Debt Initiative, the AVMA and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges welcomed the Veterinary Medical Association Executives into a leadership role in July of 2017. The lead organizations and our 100-plus volunteers continue to organize resources and advocate at both the state and federal levels as we work to provide ways to help reduce the student debt-to-income ratio.

In 2017, the AVMA, in collaboration with the VIN Foundation, presented several modules on budgeting, veterinary economics and student loan repayment options at the 2017 SAVMA Symposium. Paul Gerrard, a national expert in student loan repayment options, presented to both professional attendees and students at the 2017 AVMA Convention.
Advancing Early Career Success

Whether its access to financial tools and career help, or providing professional development and networking opportunities, AVMA member-exclusive resources help set careers on the right path and position our members for success in the veterinary profession. We help early career veterinarians establish themselves financially, we enable them to connect with patients, clients and their peers, and we offer them opportunities to grow, advance and thrive.

In 2017, the AVMA focused on highlighting resources for recent graduate veterinarians. The AVMA’s Early Career Online Community, a closed Facebook group for AVMA members, continued to see growth in both members and engagement.

We also embarked on a dynamic communication campaign that started with the 2017 graduating class. Through a series of targeted e-mails, we highlighted AVMA resources that apply to this specific career stage. Featured topics included wellbeing, career management and financial success. In addition to the e-mail campaign, we also sent each 2017 graduate a copy of the AVMA’s Wheel of Wellbeing. This popular, award-winning handout focuses on activities that can be done in the clinic to help improve the wellbeing of the entire veterinary health care team.

Thanks to upgrades that took place in 2017, our early career web page is more focused on providing resources, guidance and support during this critical period of transition and growth. From career-related webinars to financial planning tools and client education materials, we have created a one-stop shop that better allows young professionals to connect with and learn more about veterinarians in the early stages of their career.

Developing Future Leaders

The AVMA Future Leaders Program takes a holistic approach to leadership development. After spending a year on a leadership journey with the AVMA through this program, the 6th cohort of participants unveiled their final project at the AVMA Convention in Indianapolis. Building on previous Future Leaders’ wellness efforts, the 2017 group focused on identifying healthy habits of a successful veterinary team. 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 One Health and the issue of obesity. After presenting their first rendition of the project at the Veterinary Leadership Conference in January 2018, the group will hone their offerings for unveiling at the 2018 AVMA Convention in Denver.

As a new veterinarian, our members enjoy immediate benefits from AVMA membership.
Supporting Students

Veterinary students will one day join a professionally diverse and passionate group striving to improve the health and wellbeing of animals, humans and the environment we share. First, they must navigate veterinary school, and the AVMA’s Student Initiatives Team is there for them each step of the way.

In 2017, the AVMA and the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) teamed up and offered one veterinary student from each school represented in the SAVMA House of Delegates attendance to the 2017 AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference. The AVMA provided travel and lodging to the conference for more than 35 students, and the SAVMA Executive Board facilitated the application process while working with the local chapters to select the attendees. Our focus was on expanding leadership and networking opportunities to those SAVMA members who are not chapter presidents or SAVMA delegates, so that we could enlarge the pool of early career difference-makers who may one day join other leaders in advancing our profession.

The ALL for Students program celebrated another successful year in 2017. This partnership between AVMA LIFE, AVMA PLIT, SAVMA and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation provided $336,000 in programming support to all 37 student organizations represented in the SAVMA House of Delegates.

ALL for Students supports events and programs in four focus areas: professional development, leadership, community outreach and wellbeing. As campus-based student wellbeing programs continue to grow, the ALL for Students funding helps nurture and sustain what is becoming a vital resource for students and school leaders.

The AVMA and its Student Initiatives Team continued to support veterinary students and pre-veterinary students at their annual meetings in 2017. The AVMA was there in full force when more than 1,000 veterinary students from across the nation and around the world traveled to College Station for the 2017 SAVMA Symposium hosted by the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. As a major sponsor and represented by 10 AVMA Board members and 10 staff members, your association networked with and heard firsthand what matters most to veterinary students.

A highlight of the symposium was our participation in the first Diversity and Wellbeing Roundtable Breakfast. Also new for the 2017 SAVMA Symposium was the first-ever SAVMies Chapter Awards. This was a fun way to recognize SAVMA and our students for Most Improved Chapter Membership, Most Innovative ALL for Students Program and the Highest Chapter Attendance at SAVMA Symposium.

The AVMA also participated in the 2017 American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) Symposium, which was hosted by North Carolina State University and attracted more than 600 pre-veterinary students from across the nation. As a major sponsor of the symposium, the AVMA was honored to lend its support to the development of a pre-veterinary student scholarship through APVMA that will be awarded in 2018.
Learning and Networking

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

2017 AVMA Convention By the Numbers

PEOPLE

7,344 Total Convention Attendees
43% First Time Attendees

EDUCATION

934 CE Sessions
563 CE Presenters
89% Attended CE Sessions

EXPERIENCE

95% of Attendees Visited the Exhibit Hall
91% Rated the Exhibit Hall as Good to Excellent
93% of Attendees Rated the "Overall Experience" as Good to Excellent
The Veterinary Leadership Conference (VLC) is one of the AVMA’s highest-rated programs, with a 94 percent satisfaction rate among attendees.

The 2018 VLC attracted more than 500 veterinary professionals January 4-7 in Chicago. Attendees took advantage of AVMA governance meetings, leadership development programming and networking events. Over 97 percent of emerging leaders and students agreed or strongly agreed that “Leadership skills explored at VLC enhanced my professional life.” In the words of veterinary student attendee Erika Wehmhoff, University of Minnesota Class of 2021, “I give VLC a 10/10 rating and highly recommend attending.”

The convention got off to a racing start in 2017. Our keynote address was presented by paleontologist and explorer Paul Sereno, whose expertise and experiences framed his talk on “Insights for One Health from Centuries and Millennia Past.” The keynote led the way to our exhibit hall opening, where the positive reviews continued with 91 percent of attendees rating their time engaging with exhibitors as “Good to Excellent.” Other events included the popular Meet-the-Experts Round Table, the new Young Professionals Event at the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Technician Appreciation Event at the Indianapolis Zoo, the AVMF’s Food Truck Fest and the AVMA Concert featuring the Gin Blossoms.

avma.org/vlc

Veterinary Leadership Conference

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Publications

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

With an average circulation over 81,700 during 2017, the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) remains the most widely circulated veterinary medical journal in the world. As the flagship publication for the AVMA, the journal 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 combines reports of association activities – including actions of the AVMA Board of Directors and House of Delegates – with stories on important issues and trends in the veterinary profession. The most widely read news stories during 2017 covered a variety of topics, ranging from possible new treatments for feline infectious peritonitis to development of an AVMA policy on responsible breeding of companion animals.

Through its letters and commentaries sections, JAVMA encourages responsible and balanced debate on controversial issues affecting the profession. Commentaries published during 2017 touched on, among other things, the movement toward veterinary student-run free clinics, the 50 years of contributions to the profession by the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology, tailoring veterinary medicine for the future and reforming the veterinary medical curriculum, and developing an evidence-based approach to stress management.

Finally, through its scientific reports section, JAVMA endeavors to educate readers and publish reports of scientific research that has an immediate impact on clinical practice. Of particular note during 2017 were studies evaluating drug content in compounded formulations of doxycycline and lomustine, an analysis of factors associated with anesthetic-related death in dogs and cats in primary care veterinary hospitals, a review of the welfare implications of gonadectomy in dogs, a study on movement patterns of exhibition swine and association of swine management practices with influenza A virus infection, and reports on avoiding violative flunixin meglumine residues in cattle and swine and considerations for extralabel drug use in calves.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF VETERINARY RESEARCH

As indicated in its statement of scope, the American Journal of Veterinary Research (AJVR) 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 6,310 in 2017, it 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. Some of the most-viewed AJVR articles in 2017 include studies on the effect of duration of food withholding prior to anesthesia on gastroesophageal reflux and regurgitation in dogs, the use of underwater treadmill exercise in horses with experimentally induced middle carpal joint osteoarthritis, the effects of various topical medications on healing and granulation tissue formation in horses with full-thickness skin wounds, and the development of a prognostic, CT-based, scoring system for head trauma in dogs.

“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.”
The natural disasters of 2017 tested our nation’s people and its animals. On too many occasions, Mother Nature unleashed a fury that ravaged coastal and Western states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For many of those affected by these disasters, the road to recovery continues.

Through generous efforts that helped alleviate the suffering, many in the veterinary community made that road a bit easier for disaster victims to travel. With your help, the entire AVMA family – the AVMA, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, AVMA LIFE and AVMA PLIT – helped muster relief that benefited many of our veterinary colleagues and the animals we serve.

We thank you for your heartfelt gestures of love, compassion and support.

The AVMA is committed to bringing the veterinary profession together when our colleagues are in need. AVMA members and partners across the profession reached out to the association asking how to assist the victims, and many of them provided aid.

The AVMA helped disseminate information within the veterinary community and among animal lovers and advocates to ensure an immediate and helpful response. We were in constant contact with federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to assist in getting information to the right people when needed. We worked with state and local veterinary medical associations and veterinary schools in the affected areas to provide information, guidance and assistance. As a member of the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition, the AVMA helped plan and coordinate animal-related response. The AVMA also coordinated with many other organizations to get desperately needed animal feed to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To connect those in need with those wanting to help, the AVMA created a special web page with links to resource materials, hotlines and companies offering in-kind products.

Our charitable arm, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, provided relief and reimbursement grants to AVMA member veterinarians and others who either lost essential items or who delivered emergency services.

We thank you for your selfless work during these trying times. It is people like you who make the AVMA such a success, and it is people like you who will make the future of veterinary medicine better.
veterinary medical care and temporary boarding to animal victims of disasters. As of March 2018, the AVMF had provided nearly $180,000 in grants, thanks in large part to a $100,000 AVMA donation.

One inspiring example of the Foundation’s work occurred in the wake of Hurricane Maria, when airplanes filled with dogs, puppies, cats, kittens – and even three pot-bellied pigs – from shelters in Puerto Rico arrived around-the-clock at St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center in Madison, New Jersey. The Foundation provided a $38,000 grant for the first round of medical supplies needed for the emergency intake and care of the 786 animals airlifted to safety.

While there, the animals were in the capable and caring hands of dozens of veterinarians who volunteered their time and services. We can happily say today that most of the animals that were rescued have been adopted into new forever homes.

The Foundation provided grants from $5,000 to $15,000 to entities from Montana to Texas and Florida to California for the purchase of medical supplies and feed, and for the treatment and shelter of injured and displaced animals. Donations also helped pay for housing, clothing, food and transportation for fellow AVMA members in the aftermath of the disasters.

AVMA PLIT representatives reached out to veterinary practices in advance of the 2017 storms to provide early guidance on how to deal with potential damages and claims. PLIT’s carriers began receiving claims even before the rains from Hurricane Harvey had ended, and PLIT officials also provided insured customers with resources to help assess damages.

AVMA LIFE extended the grace period for premium payments an additional 60 days for policyholders affected by the hurricanes and wildfires, and expedited disability claims.

As the skies brightened, as the waters receded and as the smoke cleared, the AVMA and our members could feel proud knowing that we all made a difference in the lives of so many people and so many animals. By coming together and assisting our veterinary communities in need, we helped diminish the heartache and restore some normalcy for those whose lives were affected.

THANK YOU.
Advocacy and Public Policy

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.

Federal Advocacy Efforts

GRASSROOTS AND MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

As part of our ongoing work to leverage the scientific expertise of veterinarians in policy conversations, our AVMA Fellowship Program brought three veterinarians to Washington, D.C., to spend a year working in a congressional office and advising the member of Congress on key policy issues. Our fellows are currently serving in the offices of Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.) and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.). The fellows help drive scientifically sound policy-making and ensure that veterinarians are included in key policy conversations.

The AVMA’s 9th annual Fly-In brought nearly 100 veterinary students and veterinarians to Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers and advocate on behalf of the veterinary profession. During the 2017 Fly-In, attendees met with lawmakers to advocate for alleviating student debt and enhancing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program.

In 2017, 10 veterinary students participated in the AVMA Government 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.

The AVMA mobilized more than 5,000 veterinarians and veterinary students to write and call Congress in support of Public Service Loan Forgiveness in response to legislation that would eliminate the program. Your association has gained recognition as one of the leading voices of
support for this program, and these efforts continue in 2018.

We launched a new-and-improved grassroots website for the AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network (avmacan.avma.org). This mobile-friendly site makes it easier for members to contact Congress on key issues. It also features new tools, including an ability to share your story with us on key issues, so our team can provide personal examples of the impact of legislation on constituents.

The AVMA’s Government Relations Division and State Advocacy Division launched our AVMA Ambassador Program, which empowers members to be highly engaged advocates. The program allows AVMA members to deliver AVMA Political Action Committee checks to members of Congress at in-district meetings, giving members opportunities to discuss key issues and develop relationships with their lawmakers.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ISSUES

The AVMA played a key role in securing critical funding for animal health and welfare initiatives, including a $1.3 million increase for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, a $1.75 million increase for the National Veterinary Stockpile and a $400,000 increase for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act.

We worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support a rule that would increase anti-soring enforcement. While the rule hasn’t been finalized, we continue to work with USDA officials to encourage its implementation. The AVMA also remains a strong supporter of the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act, which aims to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the act of soring and increase enforcement of anti-soring laws.
**SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES**

The AVMA continues its work with Congress and the federal government to protect the business interests of veterinary medicine and ensure we have policies that promote a favorable business environment.

Your association supports giving employers a recruitment and retention tool that ultimately reduces educational debt. Employers would be permitted to give employees money toward repayment of student loans, and the employer would receive a tax break while employees would not be taxed on the money.

The AVMA supports legislation or regulations that would lead to the re-establishment of association health plans, which would allow AVMA LIFE to offer health insurance to our members.

We continue to educate members of Congress and their staff on the impact of tax reform on the veterinary profession, and we are seeking changes to the bill that would favorably impact our members.

The AVMA supports e-fairness legislation, because it impacts the bottom line of veterinary practices. Online retailers selling pet medications, products or equipment have a built-in advantage of as much as 10 percent over brick-and-mortar businesses simply because they do not collect legally owed sales taxes. E-fairness legislation would amend this disparity and level the playing field between online retailers of pet products and medications and the veterinary hospitals that sell them. In addition, the AVMA has joined an amicus brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to level the playing field between online retailers and veterinarians by requiring online retailers to collect sales taxes.

**EDUCATIONAL AND WORKFORCE ISSUES**

The AVMA achieved a major victory for rural veterinarians and the communities they serve by working with Congress to secure $2.35 million in funding for the Veterinary Services Grant Program. This funding was issued to 13 grant recipients, including veterinary clinics and colleges of veterinary medicine, to support veterinarians practicing in rural areas.

Because of our ongoing advocacy work in support of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, 47 veterinarians received a total of $4.2 million in student loan relief. This program provides up to $75,000 in loan relief to veterinarians who agree to serve in USDA designated shortage areas around the country. The AVMA 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. We’re continuing to advocate for this bill in 2018.

The AVMA is working to advance programs to help ease debt and repayment burdens in the Higher Education Act Reauthorization. We support several proposals aimed at decreasing the student debt burden, including eliminating origination fees, lowering interest rates and allowing refinancing. There are also provisions under discussion to increase awareness of income-driven repayment plans and to...
The AVMA is working for you, your patients and your profession.

State Advocacy Efforts

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The AVMA assists state and allied veterinary medical associations by providing them information about newly introduced legislation and regulatory developments. These alerts, which totaled more than 1,200 in 2017, are sent out to each state and allied veterinary medical association, 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 and allied VMAs ask us to provide the profession’s perspective on specific advocacy efforts. Some specific examples include:

- A few states considered legislation that would have allowed courts to award noneconomic damages in litigation involving animals. The AVMA provided letters of opposition 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.

- On the issue of compounding, the AVMA supported efforts in Georgia and New York as the VMAs work to ensure veterinarians’ ability to stock compounded medications for emergency situations and to dispense reasonable amounts of these potentially lifesaving drugs.

- The AVMA hosted its 12th orientation program for executive directors of state and allied associations represented in the AVMA House of Delegates. This day-and-a-half long event provides association directors a greater understanding and appreciation of the structure and operation of the AVMA. The program, fully funded by the AVMA and held every other year, allows executive directors to learn about the work of the AVMA while networking with staff and colleagues.

Animal Health and Welfare: Policy and Practice

The AVMA advances the shared interests of more than 91,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia, not-for-profits and uniformed services. We act as a collective voice for veterinarians, supporting your passion and your profession, and helping you thrive in your career.
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE ANIMALS

When public access for assistance animals, particularly psychiatric service and emotional support animals, started becoming an issue, the AVMA acted. We produced a report for our members titled “Assistance Animals: Rights of Access and the Problem of Fraud” to help you understand the types of assistance animals, the legal landscape for their use and how to help prevent the fraudulent identification of a pet as an assistance animal to gain access and/or avoid pet fees. The AVMA also adopted policy that serves as a foundation to further our educational and advocacy efforts that promote the appropriate use of service, emotional support and therapy animals, discourage misunderstandings or fraudulent activities, and help you support the health and welfare of these special patients and your clients who own them. We also successfully communicated with major airline carriers so that you can assist your clients with needed pre-flight paperwork without putting yourself at risk for potential liability claims. Visit avma.org/assistanceanimals for more information.

OPIOIDS

Responding to the nationwide opioid crisis, policymakers considered measures to establish and change prescription drug monitoring programs and to limit how opioids are prescribed. The AVMA was actively engaged in the discussions, helping our members understand the issues and assisting state veterinary medical associations in their advocacy efforts as they faced legislators’ proposals to include veterinarians in the monitoring programs. One of the AVMA House of Delegates’ summer 2017 Veterinary Information Forum topics was this very issue. The discussion led to the establishment of a working group that would consider veterinarians’ involvement in prescription drug monitoring programs. The AVMA also developed resources for our members and state associations, including summaries of state-by-state prescription drug monitoring programs and veterinary continuing education requirements. With the concern about prescription drug abuse and diversion, we created a printable resource that can be used by members to help identify “vet shoppers.”

We also saw an opioid shortage develop because of upgrades being made at a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in Kansas. The AVMA responded quickly by talking with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, drug distributors and drug manufacturers. While, unfortunately, the shortages are anticipated to extend into 2019, the AVMA worked to find alternate therapeutic options for veterinarians to use in providing appropriate pain management for patients.

You can find these resources and more at avma.org/opioids.

CANNABIS

As medical marijuana use gains a foothold in human medicine, more and more pet owners are wondering if their animals might benefit from similar therapies. When it comes to fielding questions about marijuana use
in pets or managing a case of acute toxicity, you need a working knowledge of cannabis, its effects and the legal status of related products in veterinary medicine.

The AVMA published a report titled “Cannabis: What Veterinarians Need to Know.” This document contains information that will help you advise clients and treat patients who may have been exposed to marijuana. It provides information on:

- How cannabinoids function
- The legal status of marijuana and its derivatives in veterinary medicine
- Marijuana risks for pets
- Clinical signs and treatment of acute marijuana toxicosis
- The effects of chronic marijuana exposure

Encouraged by some early studies in human medicine that hint at its effectiveness in treating pain, nausea and spasticity, the therapeutic potential of cannabinoids for animals has also caught the attention of veterinary researchers. Recognizing the value of evidence-based medicine, the AVMA is communicating to the FDA and DEA the needs of these researchers for access to cannabis and its derivatives.

As this issue evolves, the AVMA will be updating its report on a regular basis and creating additional member resources.

Learn more at avma.org/cannabis.

**ANTIMICROBIALS**

Antimicrobial resistance is a growing health risk for people and animals. Preserving antimicrobial effectiveness, while providing optimal care for your animal patients, means that good stewardship must be top-of-mind in every veterinary practice. The AVMA’s Core Principles of Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine and species-specific resources will help you develop your plan. Downloadable posters are available to remind your team and your clients about best practices.

Veterinarians representing interests across the profession participated in developing the core principles, so our members can be confident their interests were represented. Be assured that the AVMA continues to work on the critical issues of antimicrobial use and resistance to improve animal and public health.

For more information, visit avma.org/antibioticuse.

**HUMANE ENDINGS**

Veterinarians have a special responsibility to protect the welfare of animals during the final stages of life. That’s why the AVMA provides guidelines on euthanasia and humane slaughter, and why we’ll be releasing new guidelines on depopulation in late 2018. Our second Humane Endings Symposium, scheduled for November 2-4, 2018, will convene leading experts to discuss cutting-edge research and its practical application, improving veterinary understanding and patient care.

Visit avma.org/humaneendings.

**TELEHEALTH**

Your association is leading the charge so that our members are well-supported and primed for success when delivering veterinary services to their patients and clients via telemedicine. Exhibit A is the recently launched AVMA Telehealth Resource Center, which was unveiled at the 2018 Veterinary Leadership Conference and offers a suite of educational and practical tools that position you for success in the digital age. The resource center is an example of how the AVMA is committed to ensuring access to the convenience and benefits afforded by telemedicine, while promoting the responsible provision of high-quality veterinary medical care.

We also will be introducing expanded telehealth resources at our annual convention in Denver that provide additional guidance for those interested in using telehealth in their practice. We will continue to present on telehealth at state and regional veterinary meetings across the country, where we are seeing increasing interest in exploring this new opportunity and learning about the AVMA’s policy and resources.

Explore the potential benefits of telehealth for you and your patients, and follow our step-by-step guide to implement it in your practice at avma.org/telehealth.
Global Outreach

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY AFFAIRS

2017 marked a small, yet meaningful, milestone in the AVMA’s long, celebrated history. It was 10 years ago that our Committee on International Veterinary Affairs (CIVA) was formed to help us play a more proactive role in international veterinary medicine. Through the CIVA, which advises the AVMA Board of Directors to help the association achieve its commitment to global outreach, the AVMA has been better able to focus its international work and expand its presence across the globe, which in turn has enhanced animal and human health. Creation of a new staff position to head up our global outreach efforts helped commemorate this 10-year anniversary and cement AVMA’s commitment to global outreach as another means to help enhance member value.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

In February 2017, the AVMA convened a summit in Washington, D.C., to identify strategies for the association to strengthen food security by promoting veterinary medicine and greater reliance on animal-source foods. More than 100 people attended the AVMA Global Food Security Summit, including representatives from humanitarian and intergovernmental organizations involved with food development programs across the globe, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Heifer International, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and Veterinarians Without Borders. At the end of the summit, a summary from the outcomes working group was provided back to the CIVA for review and development of recommendations for further
AVMA action. One key outcome – continued collaboration and partnering among AVMA member veterinarians and professionals in other sectors vital to food security – will be essential to ensure the energy felt at the end of the summit carries through to enhancements in food security worldwide.

GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT
Our Global Health Summit, held during the AVMA Annual Convention in Indianapolis, continued to shine a spotlight on global food security, with a summary of the February summit provided by Dr. René Carlson, the AVMA director of international affairs and chair of the CIVA. Nearly 100 convention-goers attended the sessions of the daylong summit.

AVMA MEMBERS HONORED ON THE GLOBAL STAGE
In August 2017 at the World Veterinary Congress in Incheon, South Korea, AVMA member Dr. René Carlson completed her term as the first female president of the World Veterinary Association (WVA). She is a past president of the AVMA and currently serves as the AVMA director of international affairs, a volunteer leadership position elected by our Board of Directors.

Also at the 2017 World Veterinary Congress, AVMA member Dr. Johann (Hans) Coetzee received the inaugural WVA Animal Welfare Award for the North American region. Nominated by the AVMA, Dr. Coetzee was honored for his ground-breaking work on the assessment and management of pain in livestock, particularly cattle. The WVA Animal Welfare Awards were co-founded and are supported by Ceva Animal Health.

A GLOBAL PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE
If the AVMA is to collectively address the challenges and opportunities facing veterinary medicine, it’s important for us to maintain the coalitions we have built with our international allies and to build new relationships with our veterinary colleagues in other parts of the world. This will help us better serve our members and allow us to unite as a larger voice, so we can more effectively advocate across the world for the importance of veterinary medicine to society.

Through our membership in international associations such as the World Veterinary Association, World Small Animal Veterinary Association and the Pan-American Association of Veterinary Sciences, and our partnership with organizations like the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, the International Veterinary Officers Coalition and the North American Veterinary Leadership group, the AVMA maintains and continues to build collaborative relationships so we can represent our members’ interests on a global scale.
Accreditation and 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 medical 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 public** can put greater trust in our profession’s standards for health, safety and veterinary education.

Accreditation and certification, one of the AVMA’s primary responsibilities, involves 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 who will offer 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.

AVMA staff, volunteers 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 education.

*People want to know that they can trust their animals to a highly educated veterinarian or veterinary technician who will offer the best health care available.*
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 210 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. There are approximately 20 new programs that have applied for accreditation.

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 13,000 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 on 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 applicants to meet state- and federally-mandated educational prerequisites for licensure and employment. During 2017, 161 ECFVG certificates were awarded, and 288 new applicants enrolled into the program.

THE AVMA ANIMAL HEALTH STUDIES DATABASE

The AVMA Animal Health Studies Database (AAHSD) 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 (avma.org/findvetstudies) can be searched by animal owners and veterinary practitioners for studies that might be relevant to their patients. There are more than 340 studies listed in the AAHSD, which can include studies conducted in all animal species and in 20 different fields of veterinary medicine. Visitors can further refine search results by state (U.S.) or province (Canada) to find studies specifically in their geographic location. The AAHSD has averaged about 1,500 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.
The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) is the charitable arm of the AVMA. For more than 50 years, the AVMF has been dedicated to its mission of developing resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.

GIFTS IN ACTION
Through the generosity of donors, the Foundation has been able to help veterinarians help animals. Since its founding in 1963, the AVMF has awarded more than $10 million in grants to support research, education, advocacy, animal welfare and disaster relief programs.

DISASTER RELIEF AND REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS
In 2017, the AVMF distributed nearly $160,000 in disaster relief and reimbursement grants to veterinarians and allied health organizations that were called to action before, during and after the hurricanes, floods and wildfires. Donors supported these disaster relief efforts to give help where help was needed most. Veterinarians and veterinary students transported animals out of harm’s way, provided critical-care treatment to countless injured animals, delivered feed and pelleted hay to Puerto Rico, and found new homes for animals that were abandoned.

AVMF VETERINARY CARE CHARITABLE FUND®
The Veterinary Care Charitable Fund® is a program that provides veterinarians with a simple and effective way to offer charitable veterinary services to clients facing personal hardships, as well as to help animals rescued from injury, abuse and neglect. To date, 686 animals have been able to receive life-saving treatment because of the generosity of donors. Through this program, donors make gifts to the AVMF in support of the charitable work of the practices enrolled. AVMA member veterinarians can then request a grant from those donated funds to cover some of the costs of the veterinary services provided. Veterinary practices in all 50 states and Puerto Rico are enrolled in this national program. The number of donors to the program has
increased 42 percent in one year and the amount of donations received has increased 76 percent.

SCHOLARSHIPS
By investing in the education of veterinary students, donors play a role in ensuring that future veterinarians have the skills and training necessary to treat our pets, safeguard our food supply and protect public health. In 2017, the Foundation provided 89 scholarships for veterinary students in North America, the Caribbean, Latin/South America and Southeast Asia. We are pleased to continue our partnership with Merck Animal Health, who has funded national and international student scholarships over the past four years.

The Auxiliary to the AVMA Legacy Endowment supported 33 scholarships for outstanding students. Future Auxiliary scholarships will be supported from the income from this permanent endowment. The Harold Wetterberg Foundation is also a major donor and has increased their support for scholarships.

RESEARCH SUPPORT
Animal health research is crucial to the future of veterinary medicine. The AVMF devotes its efforts to raising financial support for research projects that will help lead to improved prevention, diagnosis and treatment of prevalent, life-threatening diseases in animals. Donations also support research into new or currently approved medications for combating diseases and conditions of companion and food animals, as well as projects that ensure the safety of food products from treated livestock.

Three new research grants were established in 2017:

• The Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation/AVMF Pharmacology Research Grant: $30,000

• The Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation/AVMF Pharmacokinetic Research Grant: $15,000

• The AVMF Research Grant for Pain Management in Dogs: $25,000

The AVMA Political Action Committee (AVMA PAC) is an important advocacy tool that the association uses to engage with members of the U.S. Congress. The AVMA PAC helps to open doors for the AVMA Government Relations Division staff to speak with lawmakers about legislative issues impacting how veterinarians practice medicine. In 2017, the AVMA PAC raised over $148,000 from more than 1,600 individuals. The PAC disbursed $154,500 to members of Congress, representing 53 percent Republican, 44 percent Democrat and 3 percent Independent.
For more than 55 years, the AVMA Professional Liability Insurance Trust (PLIT), has delivered on the promise of “protecting you through it all.” AVMA members rely on the PLIT for comprehensive insurance programs, educational resources and support when they need it most.

The PLIT had a great year in 2017, both continuing the successes of 2016, as well as launching several new initiatives:

• Personal lines relaunch: The enhanced personal lines program was created to benefit all AVMA members and their families with insurance solutions for their home, auto, recreational vehicles and more. The program was launched at the AVMA Annual Convention in Indianapolis, and PLIT will continue to promote the enhanced program in 2018. More information is available at avmaplit.com/personal.

• Student Smart Guide and social media: In 2017, PLIT sought opportunities to engage Student AVMA members through new marketing initiatives:
   – The Student Smart Guide was created for students to learn about the importance of malpractice protection while they are students and after they graduate. Prior to creating the Student Smart Guide, PLIT invited students to participate in a photo contest by sharing photos of themselves in a practice/clinical setting or with an animal. Many of the student photos were used in the Student Smart Guide, which were shared with students by email and distributed through our student ambassadors.
   – A Facebook page for students was created to build awareness of the PLIT and help educate students on the benefits of the program.

• Business insurance videos: To continue promoting business insurance in 2017, PLIT created three short videos educating veterinarians and practice owners and managers about PLIT’s business insurance offerings. The videos provide a simple explanation of the available coverages, explain why practices need these coverages and take a deep dive into workers’ compensation insurance. These resources are available at avmaplit.com/business.

• Educational webinars with Veterinary Management Groups: From January through March 2017, Veterinary Management Groups (VMG), AVMA PLIT and AVMA LIFE partnered to present a series of five educational webinars to VMG members. The webinars covered topics including professional liability, business insurance for veterinary practices, employee-related insurance coverages, safety and risk management, and life and disability insurance. The webinars were recorded and are available to view at avmaplit.com/vsgwebinars.

• AAEP Open House Reception: As part of the American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention in November 2017, PLIT hosted a special reception for select attendees and clients. The reception offered a venue to network with fellow AVMA members and connect with the PLIT team. Due to the success of the event, PLIT will host additional receptions at conventions in 2018.

In 2018, the PLIT aims to deliver on its promise to provide the most complete and supportive professional and personal insurance programs designed for and by veterinarians. The PLIT is here to protect you, your reputation and our profession.
AVMA LIFE Trust celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2017, which offered a tremendous opportunity to reinforce not only why the Trust was initially formed – to protect the livelihood of the veterinary community and their families with the best and most comprehensive insurance solutions on the market – but also to showcase why it is still so vital today.

Over the course of the year, AVMA LIFE Trust demonstrated that every action taken, every product offered and every decision made stemmed from a desire to care for the caregivers. The Trust exists because the devoted work of every AVMA member is to care for others’ lives … and so too is the Trust’s.

Bringing together what the Trust does and why produced outstanding results in 2017, including:

- Providing insurance protection to over 30,000 AVMA members, veterinary students and dependents.
- Hiring a new member advocate who provides concierge services to members by assisting with complex claim resolution and assessment of medical plans on the insurance exchanges and Medicare during healthcare open enrollment.
- Visiting numerous veterinary colleges around the country to talk with students, listen to their concerns and educate them on the importance of protecting their income with insurance.
- Partnering with Pet Poison Helpline to offer quarterly wellbeing webinars, which touch on topics veterinarians and their staff care about, including mental health, financial health and communication skills.
- Transitioning to a new program administrator, Pearl Insurance, to provide members with a dedicated team of customer service representatives.
- Revamping the LIFE website with features like a member self-service portal and pay-online functionality to make it easier than ever for members to interact with the Trust.
- Launching group employee benefits for life and disability insurance through New York Life.
- Adding LTCR as a provider of long-term care products, which enhances the Trust’s ability to meet the needs of aging members.
- Developing new and creative ways to engage and educate AVMA members, including interactive web pages like Vet School Meme-ories, Tilt-A-Tale, and the Hide and Seek campaign.
- Attending various national and state conventions, including hosting a wellness booth at two national conventions that offered blood screening tests and rabies titers to attendees.

The year ended with AVMA LIFE Trust’s 60-year commitment to maintaining its financial strength and ensuring a solid investment strategy not only intact, but deepening. The Trust looks forward to the next 60 years as it passionately carries out its mission to protect the wellbeing of AVMA members and their loved ones.
Financial Highlights

YOUR DUES DOLLAR AT WORK...

10% Drive Lifelong Membership
- Student Initiatives
- Veterinary Career Center
- Market Research Priorities
- Economic Programs and Initiatives

42% Professional Development & Lifelong Learning
- Convention
- Veterinary Leadership Programs
- JAVMA & AJVR Publications
- Education Programs (Excluding COE)

23% Policy & Practice
- Policy Development
- Practice Resources
- Scientific Activities and Research
- Animal Welfare Education
- Global Outreach

25% Advocacy
- Federal Advocacy & Outreach
- State Advocacy & Outreach
- Congressional Fellowship Program
- PAC Activities
Fiscal year 2017 proved to be a financially successful year for the AVMA. Through prudent fiscal management and a focused business plan, the association is providing an even greater value to its members. Adherence to our Strategic Plan, our focus on making membership the center of what we do, and our continued ability to invest in operations and programs allows the AVMA to provide benefits to veterinary professionals worldwide. These programs focus on delivering personal and professional support that advances the scientific acuity of veterinarians and ensures that the veterinary perspective is represented in our ongoing advocacy efforts. The continued investment in these programs will establish a strong foundation upon which members should realize value for many years to come.

Through prudent fiscal oversight, the association’s total unrestricted net assets increased to $47 million, up from $41 million in 2016. Total assets increased to $76.7 million, up from $67.6 million in 2016. Revenues of $38.6 million exceeded expenditures of $38.5 million, producing a change in net assets before investment gains of $123,964 and paving the way for continued quality of service from your AVMA.

The Board of Directors, operating through its Audit Committee and within our system of internal controls and procedures, provides oversight of the financial reporting process and safeguards association assets. 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.

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<td><strong>Statement of Activities</strong></td>
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