Dear AVMA Executive Board,

The American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture (AAVA) is grateful for the opportunity to respond to Dr. Robinson’s comments to our letter supporting the fact that AAVA is representative of the broad population of American veterinary acupuncturists.

We find it Impossible to respond to accusations of AAVA’s lack of inclusiveness based on undocumented, third party references that provide no facts nor basis for response. If there are any issues of leadership or committee complaints regarding mistreatment of Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians (MAV) graduates, those complaints have not been brought to our Board within the last four years. The current AAVA Board does not support nor condone suppression of scientific investigation or dissemination of science based acupuncture. This fact has been demonstrated within our original letter to the AVMA Executive Board. In that letter we noted that we have an MAV graduate and instructor seated on the AAVA's Board of directors. We mentioned that an MAV graduate is our newsletter editor-in-chief and was our representative in Reference Committee #1 where our resolution was presented. And we made mention that our keynote speaker for this year's annual meeting was an MAV graduate. A review of AAVA's membership numbers demonstrates that AAVA represents the population of veterinary acupuncturists within the United States in close proportion to the foundation course attended. MAV graduates constitute 2.6% of the AAVA membership which compares favorably to the fact that MAV graduates comprise only 7% of all veterinary acupuncturists educated by the three major acupuncture courses in the United States.1-5

Therefore, we are surprised and disappointed that much of Dr. Robinson’s response to our letter wanders from the AVMA House of Delegates' request for further clarification regarding how inclusively the AAVA "represents veterinary acupuncturists."

We are aware of Dr. Robinson’s assertions that the traditional origins of acupuncture have no place in modern use of this technique. However, hers is a minority opinion. Acupuncture is unique in that it was adopted in the West based on its ethnomedical tradition. The majority of modern acupuncturists find the current level of scientific documentation a limiting factor when choosing treatment protocols, and therefore must rely, to some extent, on the historical precepts in planning treatments. A brief review of the literature on veterinary acupuncture shows that academic and specialist veterinarians regularly teach, refer to, and make use of these historical concepts.6-11

Like the majority of modern veterinary acupuncturists, AAVA supports scientific investigation and increasing our understanding of the physiologic basis of acupuncture. We are, therefore, puzzled by Dr. Robinson’s assertions that we aim to “integrate TCVM throughout veterinary medicine.” Our goal is to bring representation of veterinary acupuncturists from all traditions to the profession through the AVMA's House of Delegates and thereby foster a deeper understanding of the application of acupuncture in modern veterinary practice.
We respectfully request that the AVMA Executive Board allow Resolution 14-2013 to be resubmitted as we originally qualified in June.

Thank you,

2. AAVA membership roster submitted to AVMA for application to the AVMA House of Delegates, May 9, 2013.
3. Email from Vikki Weber, IVAS Executive Director. IVAS official records.
4. Email from Dr. John Limehouse. Personal IVAS records.
5. Email from Huisheng Xie, Executive Director of AATCVM.