Present and Future Auxiliary
Ginger Morton, Acting President, Auxiliary to the AVMA

On February 15, 2011, I became the Acting President of the Auxiliary to the AVMA. It has been a fast pace trying to catch up and to adjust to the new task at hand. Before I was your Acting President, I was the President-Elect and Chair of the Vice President of Membership. I am honored to be your Acting President and look forward to being your President.

I want to encourage each one of you to attend the “64th House of Delegates Convention” at St. Louis, Missouri. Come and learn about “the Present and the Future of your Auxiliary”. This is your Auxiliary and a time to share your thoughts and your ideas. Yes, we have had some challenges this past year. I want to think that the future looks bright again. The past is gone and we should always learn from our past and look at the present and focus on the future.

In the spring we met at Schaumburg, Illinois. We spent time focusing on the business of the Auxiliary. “National Pet Week” has always been a wonderful recognition for us. It has been a great stepping stone. We realized how important it was missed when we did not have our website and supplies available to the public. We are looking at ways in which we can use our website to promote “National Pet Week” along with our membership and newsletter.

We also focused on improving our membership and will be having a “Show Special” membership promotion at the S. Louis Convention. We will be running a “Show Special” at an annual cost of $40.00! We will have a membership table and brochures at our Kitters Korner exhibit. Kitters Korner will be in the Convention Center close to the Merial food area. We are hoping that this will attract buyers to visit us.

We established a Benevolence Fund to honor our Auxiliary friends that may leave us much too soon. A large, Past President’s plaque has been ordered and will be presented at the Convention to the AVMA to display in the hall at the AVMA office in Schaumburg, Illinois. It has the name of every Past President of the Auxiliary to the AVMA and is our gratitude for the AVMA supporting us in many ways.

We have been able to hire a staff person in Schaumburg to help us with our Student Loans and duties of a Treasurer to insure that bills were being paid and loan money deposited. Our staff person is Mary Ellen Bowgren. She is very knowledgeable in accounting. We still are using AVMA’s Accounting Department to administer our financials.

We have hired and attorney from the State of Illinois to review our Proposed Partnership with the AVMF. We have taken your thoughts very seriously and ask that you be in attendance to help make sound decisions for your Auxiliary. We are taking about two million dollars that the State Auxiliaries have raised through different fundraisers like “Market Place of States”.
Your Board has worked hard in such a short time. I am very proud of them and look forward to our new proposed Board Members. Come meet them in St. Louis at the House of Delegates Luncheon. We will have great food and entertainment.

We heard you loud and clear to revise our ByLaws. These Proposed ByLaws are on the Auxiliary website. We have been very fortunate to have Doris Blalock, Parliamentarian and her committee along with Nancy Sylvester, Parliamentarian for the AVMA, working long and hard on these Proposed ByLaws. We know that we may still have to tweak a few things. We are open minded and are listening to you.

We are proud to be a part of our parent organization the AVMA and I have high respect for the organization. Come on Sunday and learn about our Goals, Strategic Planning and our Partnership with AVMF.

We need to align our Auxiliary with the mission of the AVMA to improve animal and human health and advance the veterinary medical profession. This can be our road map to success. Your Auxiliary needs you!

Warmest regards,

Ginger Morton,

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