New AVMA Committee on Antimicrobials being formed

The AVMA Board of Directors recently established the Committee on Antimicrobials (CoA), which will be advisory to the board and will have oversight of all antimicrobial issues for the AVMA. Among its charges, the committee will:

- Develop and recommend an overarching strategy for the veterinary profession to effectively share recommendations for policy and its implementation with legislators, regulators, the marketplace and other stakeholders.
- Serve as the lead AVMA entity in the association’s collaboration with similarly focused stakeholders—including the human medical community—in a One Health approach to the overarching issue of antimicrobial resistance.

Nominations/Applications are needed by July 25 for candidates interested in serving on this new committee. Initial committee members’ terms will be for one, two and three years.

The committee will consist of nine voting seats, each filled by a primary member and an alternate member. One seat is an at-large position open to nominees from the AVMA’s general membership with demonstrable backgrounds in public health; the other eight seats are to be nominated by allied veterinary associations. All committee members must be AVMA members with backgrounds in pharmacology, microbiology, epidemiology, public health, or a documented history of productive and collaborative contributions in the areas of antimicrobials and/or antimicrobial resistance.

Nomination materials and instructions can be found in the Volunteer Opportunities section of the AVMA website.

Council on Education site visitors needed

The Council on Education (COE) is looking for veterinarians engaged in private clinical practice or other non-academic roles to take part in accreditation site visits at veterinary medical colleges.

Applications are due August 1 from veterinarians interested in being added to the pool of site visitor volunteers. The Council on Education draws from this pool to appoint site visitors to conduct individual accreditation site visits on behalf of the COE.

The work of a site visitor involves a careful review of the college’s self-study documents, verification of that information during a comprehensive site visit at the institution, and submission of a report to the Council on Education for its consideration. Site visitors make recommendations to the COE, but do not attend COE meetings, discuss their findings, or otherwise participate in accreditation decisions.

All site visitors receive training prior to participating in site visits. Applicants must be available for the 2016 training session, which will be held Sept. 23-26 at AVMA Headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The application form and more detailed descriptions of the application process and the responsibilities of site visitors are available on the AVMA website.

Reconnect with your love of animals – and people – with Reaching UP

An advocacy program offering high-quality, high-volume (HQHV) spay/neuter and targeted preventive care services on Native American tribal lands gives AVMA volunteers a chance to work
prevention care services on Native American tribal lands gives AVMA volunteers a chance to work directly with underserved populations. Reaching UP New Mexico promises to reconnect you with the passion for animals and people that so often drives veterinarians to enter the profession in the first place.

Reaching UP is currently seeking volunteer veterinarians to provide preventive care and public education services during a Nov. 17-20 clinic in New Mexico. Volunteers may serve for either two or four days.

Veterinarians who have volunteered with Reaching UP sing its praises. "This was one of my most cherished veterinary memories," said one veterinarian who worked at an April clinic and asked to return for future events. "I would highly recommend volunteering with Reaching UP. ... I feel it allows us to re-center on what is important and why we became veterinarians. Take the time, meet some great people, explore the area and I believe you will leave with way more than you came. I know I did!"

Volunteer applications to take part in the November 2016 Reaching UP clinic must be submitted by September 23. For application details, and to learn more about Reaching UP, go to AVMA.org/ReachingUP. If you're interested in volunteering for future Reaching UP clinics but aren't available for the November one, please fill out the application and indicate on it that you would be interested in 2017 clinic dates.

**AVMF seeks volunteers**

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) also is inviting new volunteers to share in the rewarding experiences that come from volunteering for the AVMF. Whether you want to contribute from home or at an Our Oath in Action community service event, donate a few hours or serve on a committee, the AVMF welcomes your participation. Current volunteer opportunities include:

- Scholarship application review
- Our Oath in Action community service projects
- Finance and audit committees
- Fundraising
- Photography/Videography

To get started, please complete the Volunteer Survey found at AVMF.org.