2019 AVMA Convention
A MONUMENTAL EXPERIENCE

WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER
AUGUST 2-6

FIRST GLANCE
2018 AVMA Convention
By the numbers

9,154
ATTENDEES
25% HIGHER
THAN LAST YEAR

“I would recommend the AVMA conference to everyone. You need to go at least once to know how great it is.”
JAMES VAN STONE, DVM

95% OF ATTENDEES VISITED THE EXHIBIT HALL

78.57% VETERINARIANS
7.14% VETERINARY TECHNICIANS
7.83% VETERINARY STUDENTS
2.2% VETERINARY TECHNICIAN STUDENTS
4.26% PRACTICE MANAGEMENT/SUPPORT STAFF

45% FIRST TIME ATTENDEES
30% MALE
67% FEMALE

48% OF ATTENDEES HAVE BEEN IN VETERINARY MEDICINE BETWEEN 5-20 YEARS

EDUCATION

1,026 CE SESSIONS
696 PRESENTERS

77% VERY SATISFIED WITH CE AVAILABLE

EXPERIENCE

93% EXHIBITOR SATISFACTION RATING

HIGHEST RATED EXPERIENCES
1. KEYNOTE & LOCATION
2. TECHNICIAN EVENT
3. HEADSHOT LOUNGE & AVMA CARES

OVER 8,000 ATTENDEES DOWNLOADED THE CONVENTION APP
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"This was such an excellent experience. Thank you for all the hard work you all put in behind the scenes. The lectures were very informative and great refreshers as well. Thanks again!"

— Jessica Salter
Schedule at a Glance

We’re Open Early!
Registration will be open Thursday, August 1 from 2:00 - 7:00 PM and Friday, August 2 beginning at 7:00 AM. Save time and come early to pickup your registration materials!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2
CE Sessions 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Lunch Break 12:00 – 1:00 PM
CE Sessions 1:00 – 5:00 PM
VCC Career Mix & Mingle 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Alumni Receptions 7:00 – 9:00 PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
CE Sessions 7:00 – 10:00 AM
Keynote 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Exhibit Hall/Hours 12:00 – 4:00 PM
CE Sessions 2:00 – 6:00 PM
Technician Appreciation Event 6:30 – 8:00 PM
Live Life, Love All 8:00 – 10:00 PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
CE Sessions 7:00 – 11:00 AM
Exhibit Hall Hours 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Lunchtime Connections/Break 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
CE Sessions 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Posters Presentations, Refresher Sessions & Break 3:00 – 4:00 PM
CE Sessions 4:00 – 6:00 PM
AVMA Concert at The Anthem: Battle of the Bands 6:30 – 9:30 PM

MONDAY, AUGUST 5
CE Sessions 7:00 – 11:00 AM
Exhibit Hall Hours 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Lunchtime Connections/Break 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
CE Sessions 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Refresher Sessions/Break 3:00 – 4:00 PM
CE Sessions 4:00 – 5:00 PM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
CE Sessions 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, MD
What Animal Adolescents Can Teach Us About Growing Up As Human Adults
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 | 10:00 AM
## Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Full Convention</strong></th>
<th><strong>ADVANCE BY JUNE 12</strong></th>
<th><strong>STANDARD AFTER JUNE 12</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVMA Member Veterinarian</td>
<td>$585</td>
<td>$685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVMA Honor Roll/Retired Member</td>
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<td>$560</td>
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<td>Member of Foreign Veterinary Medical Association</td>
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<td>$685</td>
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<td>AVMA Member 2019 Veterinary Graduate</td>
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<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recent Graduate&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt; – One Time Only 2014-2018</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Student&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>$135</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinary Technician</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$135</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice Staff</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Single Day</strong></th>
<th><strong>AVMA Member Veterinarian Price Per Day</strong></th>
<th><strong>Non-AVMA Member Veterinarian Price Per Day</strong></th>
<th><strong>Veterinary Technician Price Per Day</strong></th>
<th><strong>Non-Veterinarian Price Per Day</strong></th>
<th><strong>Practice Staff Price Per Day</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Guests&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></th>
<th><strong>Adults (Age 18 and Over)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Children (Under Age 18)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$95</td>
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<sup>1</sup> AVMA accredited veterinary school graduates, upon joining the AVMA, are eligible for one complimentary AVMA Convention registration within five (5) years from the date of graduation (year of graduation 2014-2018). Eligibility will be verified from AVMA membership records.

<sup>2</sup> Students working towards a veterinary degree and veterinary technician students. Non-SAVMA member students must present school ID when picking up registration materials onsite.

<sup>3</sup> AVMA welcomes guests and children of attendees to participate in some events. Guests and children are not permitted to attend continuing education (CE) classes. Childcare will be available.
Ways to Save

REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS

• Two-for-one registration if you purchase a One-Day pass for Monday, Tuesday is included!
• Vet Tech Bring-a-Tech Program register yourself and pass along a 50% registration fee discount to a second veterinary technician.
• Active Military registrants are eligible for a $200 discount off their registration fee.

SAVE ON FOOD

Debit Cards

All full conference veterinary, veterinary technician, and exhibitor registrants will receive a pre-loaded debit card that can be used in the Exhibit Hall Café during Exhibit Hall hours.

Save Every Day

• Friday – Kick off your convention at a sponsored lunch or fill up while showing school pride at your alma mater’s alumni reception event.
• Saturday – Don’t miss the available snacks as you enter the keynote. Afterward, use your debit card for lunch between visiting exhibitors. Join us for more food later that night if you attend the Live Life, Love All event!
• Sunday & Monday – Attend a Sunrise CE session for breakfast, a Lunchtime Connection for lunch, and a Refresher Session for light snacks.
• Don’t miss the best of D.C. cuisine Sunday night at this year’s concert – included in the price of admission!

Daily Coffee Breaks And Water Stations

Available throughout the center and in the Exhibit Hall.

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Courtesy of washington.org
Washington, D.C. Hotel Map

HOTELS

Secure your hotel within AVMA’s official hotel block by booking directly from avmaconvention.org.

For rates and amenities, please visit avma.org/conventiontravel.

American Veterinary Medical Association Hotel Map

Convention Center

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Headquarter Hotel

Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C.

Additional Hotels

3 Courtyard Washington Downtown Convention Center
4 Residence Inn Washington Downtown Convention Center
5 Renaissance Washington, D.C., Downtown Hotel
6 Henley Park Hotel
7 Conrad Washington, D.C.
8 Embassy Suites Washington, D.C. Convention Center
9 Hampton Inn D.C. Convention Center
10 Homewood Suites Washington, D.C. Convention Center
11 Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Washington, D.C./Downtown*
12 Kimpton Hotel Manaco Washington, D.C.*
13 Grand Hyatt Washington*
14 Washington Marriott at Metro Center*
15 Morrison-Clark Inn*
16 Comfort Inn Convention Center Downtown D.C.*
17 Kimpton Donovan Hotel*
18 Washington Plaza Hotel*
19 The Westin Washington, D.C. City*

* Shuttle service provided to Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Travel & Transportation

EXPLORE D.C.
Check out AVMA’s recommendations for all things D.C.! Visit avmaconvention.org/explore to start planning your trip.

AIRFARE
Use AVMA’s official travel agency Travelex and mention the AVMA Convention for assistance with airline reservations and car rentals. Email avma@travelexbiz.com or call 800-882-0499.

Purchase your air travel to and from D.C. with United, Delta, or American Airlines and receive discounts! Service fee will apply for phone reservations.

• United Airlines: Provide Z Code ZG7J and Agreement Code 298139 when booking at united.com/meetings or call 800-426-1122
• Delta Airlines: Provide Meeting Code NMST8 when booking at delta.com/meetings or call 800-328-1111

D.C. METRO
Washington, D.C.’s Metro is one of the busiest public transportation systems in the country. The system is heavily used by local commuters and is a popular, convenient, and affordable way for visitors to D.C. to get around the region. Visit the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority at wmata.com for schedules, maps, and more information.

SPOTHERO
SpotHero is the nation’s leading parking reservation service, partnering with different facilities in D.C. to provide many parking options and premium rates up to 50% off drive-up.

CAPITAL BIKESHARE
More than 4,000 bicycles are available for sharing at 500+ stations around metro D.C. area. Designed for quick trips and convenience in mind, it’s a fun and affordable way to get around. Visit capitalbikeshare.com to purchase trips and for more information.
KEYNOTE
Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, MD
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 | 10:00 AM
WHAT ANIMAL ADOLESCENTS CAN TEACH US ABOUT GROWING UP AS HUMAN ADULTS
Coffee and light breakfast included.

Dr. Barbara Natterson-Horowitz is a Visiting Professor in Harvard University's Department of Human Evolutionary Biology and Professor of Medicine in the UCLA Division of Cardiology. She co-directs UCLA's Evolutionary Medicine Program.

Dr. Natterson-Horowitz studied evolutionary biology as an undergraduate and graduate student, receiving bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Harvard. She attended UC San Francisco for medical school followed by post-graduate training at UCLA including internal medicine residency and chief residency, and cardiology fellowship with advanced training in heart failure and cardiac imaging. She has been a member of the UCLA Division of Cardiology since 1993 and served as Director of Imaging for the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Group.

In 2012, she published the NY Times bestselling book, Zoobiquity which makes the case for a species-spanning approach to health. Zoobiquity was a Finalist in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)’s Excellence in Science Books Award, Discover Magazine Best Book of 2012, and the China Times Best Book of 2012. It has been translated into seven languages and has been a common read at universities across the country.

In September 2019, Dr. Natterson-Horowitz will keynote the Nobel Assembly’s Nobel Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. The theme of the 2019 conference be the identification and application of scientific insights from the natural world to human health. In the same month, her new book, Wildhood, a comparative analysis of developmental transitions, will be published.

AVMA CONCERT AT THE ANTHEM:
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 | 6:30 PM

Are you ready for a monumentally good time? Don’t miss this year’s PREMIER event! Located less than two miles from the Convention Center, The Anthem is the hippest music venue in the city, located in the heart of the most exciting neighborhood in the history of the nation’s capital.

Come watch three TOP D.C. bands battle it out for the title of AVMA’s Top Dog.

Event includes all-you-can-eat food, transportation and loads of fun! Don’t miss the live voting after the battle. And we’ve got something up our sleeve to celebrate you and the winning band you won’t want to miss.

Check back often for more details as they unfold.

Adults: $5
Children 18 and under are free!

Admission includes transportation, food and fun!

Premier Sponsor

Boehringer Ingelheim
VCC CAREER MIX & MINGLE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 | 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Mix and mingle with dozens of career professionals in a relaxed environment. Enjoy refreshments and learn about different career opportunities within the profession.

ALUMNI RECEPTIONS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 | 7:00 PM
What better way to kick off your Convention than with your fellow alumni? Reconnect with old classmates and find new friends to meet up with throughout convention.

New this year! Have love for more than one school? Some receptions will be situated in adjacent rooms that share an expansive foyer so several schools can mingle together at once! Attendees can easily visit another school just steps away!

TECHNICIAN APPRECIATION EVENT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 | 6:30 PM
The AVMA extends our thanks to veterinary technicians for their invaluable support to the veterinary industry. In recognition, join us in celebration with your colleagues at Penn Social for food, live music, and a multitude of games and activities. Play a round of giant Jenga or challenge a friend to a game of Sorry! while you listen to live local musicians. Stick around for Live Life, Love All, taking place downstairs later in the evening! Until then, you have Penn Social to yourselves to explore.

LIVE LIFE, LOVE ALL!
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 | 8:00 PM
The veterinary industry is home to a wide variety of people; let’s celebrate what makes us different and the profession that brings us all together. Put on your dancing shoes and come to Penn Social, home to a large collection of arcade games, plus food, drinks, and music. Enjoy a DJ set, then a live performance from Chicago mash-up band Sweet Diezel Jenkins. The group takes popular songs and mashes them together with incredible results! Check out their mash-up of Beyoncé’s “Crazy in Love” with Warren G’s “Regulate,” or their combination of “Lollipop” by Lil Wayne, “Back in Black” by AC/DC, and “Dead or Alive” by Bon Jovi. They’re sure to keep you on the dance floor all night!

WELLBEING EVENTS
Stay on top of your physical wellbeing throughout the Convention with our sporting event opportunities designed for all schedules and fitness levels. Try yoga, check out the monuments on a running tour with professional D.C. tour guides, or get out your leg warmers for Jazzercise®! We will have new offerings available on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday mornings before CE sessions begin. More activities will be announced soon!

Jazzercise®
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 | 6:00 – 7:00 AM
Kick off your convention weekend with this heart-pumping class that fuses aerobics, cardio and dance! AVMA Member Veterinarian and licensed Jazzercise® instructor Dr. Jananne O’Connell is back by popular demand to guide you through this invigorating class.

D.C. Running Tour
MONDAY, AUGUST 4 | 6:00 – 7:00 AM
Join in on one of D.C.’s hottest fitness trends and take a 5K (3.1 miles) running tour to see the Capital City sights! Learn about the historical and cultural significance of some of Washington’s most interesting landmarks. Led by professional running tour guides, this tour is for all paces and includes some walking.

Cost: $25 per runner. Sign-up within convention registration.
*Jogging strollers are permitted.
Exhibit Hall

In order to stay relevant, a veterinary professional needs to know the latest trends and how to implement them in his or her organization. With an exhibit hall filled with more than 330 exhibitors offering today’s latest products and solutions, there is no better place to take the pulse of the industry than at AVMA Convention.

**AVMA DIGITAL DISTRICT**

What do you get when you combine technology, virtual care, wellbeing, career development and practice tips? The most efficient and valuable spot on the show floor! We will be bringing a one-stop shop designed for YOU, the attendee. Best part? All of these 20-minute sessions earn you additional CE.

Some of the topics include:
- Virtual Care Technology and Tools
- Productivity Challenges
- Collaboration Optimization
- Personal Branding
- Digital Marketing
- Social Media
- Health and Wellbeing Tips
- And so much more!

**Tech Hubs:** Hand-selected startup companies and vendors will demonstrate the newest and most innovative products and services for improving veterinary patient care, treatment and work-life balance.

**New this year! Tech Bar:** Visit with a team of technology know-it-alls. Have a question about the AVMA Convention App? Want to check out some new AR/VR tools? Just having issues syncing your phone, laptop and watch? No tech question is too big or too small. Explore and play—all these tools are here for you, many of which are designed to add more precious minutes back into your day!

**LINKEDIN & HEADSHOT LOUNGE**

Back again, and better than before! Meet with professionals to review your LinkedIn profile (or create a profile!) and take an updated, professional headshot. You are your brand; don’t sell yourself short!
Event includes all-you-can-eat food, transportation and loads of fun!
And we’ve got something up our sleeve to celebrate you and the winning band you won’t want to miss.
Guide to Your Continuing Education

Choose from a large selection of CE sessions in the following tracks:

**COMPANION ANIMAL MEDICINE**

Companion Animal Medicine provides veterinarians with a wide range of the latest topics and trends relevant to domesticated or domestic-bred animals considered to be pets. Topics range from behavior and nutrition to clinical and surgical. While the primary species in Companion Animal Medicine are dogs and cats, sessions also focus on exotic animals such as backyard poultry, rodents, and pet pigs.

Subtopic areas include:

| • Anesthesiology/Pain Management | • Geriatrics/Senior Wellness | • Poultry |
| • Behavior                     | • Human-Animal Bond          | • Radiology/Imaging |
| • Cardiology                   | • Internal Medicine          | • Rehabilitation |
| • Clinical Genetics            | • Leadership                 | • Reproduction/Neonatal |
| • Complementary/Alternative Medicine | • Neurology/Neurosurgery | • Respiratory |
| • Dentistry                    | • Nutrition                  | • Shelter Medicine |
| • Dermatology                  | • Oncology                   | • Small Mammals |
| • Emergency/Critical Care      | • Ophthalmology              | • Sports Medicine |
| • Feline                      | • Orthopedic/Soft Tissue/Surgery | • Strategies |
| • Food Safety                  | • Otology                    | • Toxicology |
| • Gastroenterology             | • Pharmacology               | • Urinary |

![Image of a crowded conference room](image-url)
Elizabeth Colleran, DVM, MS Diplomate ABVP Feline

Dr. Elizabeth Colleran is the founder and hospital director of two exclusively feline practices and an ABVP feline Diplomate. Her membership in the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) resulted in many years on the executive board and stints as treasurer and president. She is the co-chair of the signature and most significant AAFP program: Cat Friendly Practice. She serves on the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee. Her passion for feline education has taken her around the world talking to veterinarians and support staff about feline medicine, behavior and ethology. In 2017, the online reference “Decision Support in Medicine: Feline Medicine” was published as part of the DSM medicine series. Dr. Colleran was the editor in chief and contributor. She wrote six chapters for the latest edition of the Feline Patient, ed. Dr. Gary Norsworthy and is presently writing a book about her true passion, senior cats.

Feline Subtrack:

• Calm Cat Encounters: Making Better Medicine Possible
• Slow Down the Dying Nephron: Managing Feline Chronic Kidney Disease
• Update on Feline Retroviruses
• Older Cats Not Skinny Older Cats
• Cholangitis: Update on the Evolution of GI Therapy in Cats

Sue Ettinger, DVM, DACVIM (ONC)

Dr. Sue Ettinger is a practicing veterinary cancer specialist, international speaker, book author, and vlogger (video blogger). She is currently at the Veterinary Cancer Center in Norwalk, CT—part of the Compassion-First Pet Hospitals family of Hospitals. She is one of approximately 400 board-certified specialists in medical oncology in North America. She received her veterinary training at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her residency in medical oncology at the Animal Medical Center in NYC in 2003. She has recently received awards for Exceptional Doctor Performance and the Public Relations Achievement.

Also known as Dr Sue Cancer Vet®, Dr. Sue is the co-author of the Second Edition of “The Dog Cancer Survival Guide”, which has been a best-selling book in small animal health for the last several years. She is a frequent contributor to Today’s Veterinary Practice, Today’s Veterinary Business, Clinician’s Brief, Veterinary Team Brief, & DVM360.

Oncology Subtrack:

• Cancer Cliff Notes for Dogs: Five Cancers, What You Need to Know
• Cancer Cliff Notes for Cats: Five Cancers, What You Need to Know
• Tips and Tricks for Managing Inappetence in Your Patients
• Tips and Tricks for Lymphoma in Dogs 2019

View complete schedule at avmaconvention.org
FOOD ANIMAL / EQUINE

Food Animal/Equine sessions cover a wide variety of veterinary practice areas. Sessions appeal to practitioners who diagnose and treat aquatic animals, horses, or livestock species. Attendees include large animal practitioners as well as mixed animal practitioners.

Subtopic areas include:

- Aquatic
- Equine
- Bovine
- Small Ruminant

Klaus Hopster, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ECVAA

Dr. Klaus Hopster is Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Anesthesia & Analgesia.

He received his DVM degree from the School of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany, in 2006 and conducted a large animal internship at the equine clinic of the School of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover. During this time, he completed a thesis focusing on "Open-Lung-Concept-ventilation during general anesthesia of the horse and influence on the early post-operative period". Thereafter he completed a residency in veterinary anesthesia and analgesia as well as his habilitation thesis (PhD) investigating the influence of general anesthesia on intestinal perfusion and oxygenation.

Klaus’ research activities in the field of anesthesiology over the past 10 years have focused on intraoperative lung function and tissue oxygenation in horses. He further is interested in intra- and postoperative pain assessment and management in large animals.

Equine Subtrack:

- Equine Anesthesia Under Field Conditions
- Pain Recognition in Horses
- Clinical Essentials of Pain Management in the Field

Andrea Lear, DVM, MS, Dipl. AVCIM (Large Animal)

Dr. Andi Lear holds a DVM from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. While performing a large animal internal medicine residency with an emphasis in livestock medicine and surgery at Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine, she obtained a MS. Dr. Lear joined the Farm Animal Field Service team at the University of Tennessee and is concurrently working toward her PhD in immunology and infectious disease. Her clinical interests include livestock medicine and surgery, backyard milk quality, herd disease investigation, and neonatology. Her research interests focus around maternal-fetal interactions, including placental immunology and reproductive physiology.

Bovine Subtrack:

- Reproductive Outcomes: Biomarkers for Reproductive Success
- Ambulatory Internal Medicine: Cow-Side Diagnostics
- Ambulatory Internal Medicine: Practical Fluid Therapy

“ As a veterinary student, I was able to network with other students and veterinarians. The CE was relevant and accessible even to students. ”

– Carley Jones
Caitlin DeWilde, DVM

Dr. Caitlin DeWilde is a practicing veterinarian and founder of The Social DVM, a small consulting firm devoted to helping veterinary professionals manage and grow their social media and online reputation. She has partnered with small and large animal veterinary practices, national industry groups, non-profit organizations, and individual veterinarians to create practical yet creative strategies to succeed online and in practice.

She is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, where she was the president of the Veterinary Business Management Association. Dr. DeWilde is also an alum of the AVMA’s Future Leaders Project, as one of ten members of the 2014-2015 class. She has also taken an active role in organized veterinary medicine, and recently completed her term as President of the Greater St. Louis Veterinary Medical Association.

Practice Management Subtrack:

- Turn Puppy Kits to Marketing Magic
- Veterinary Instagram: A New Focus
- Chatbots: The Next Wave of Communication
- Lead Magnets and Sales Funnels in Vet Med

Personal/Professional Development Workshop (additional registration required):

- Individual Brand Development: Bring Your Computer!

Amanda Donnelly, DVM, MBA

Dr. Amanda Donnelly is a sought-after speaker, author, business consultant, and second-generation veterinarian. With over 29 years of experience in the veterinary profession, Dr. Donnelly understands the challenges facing practice teams.

Dr. Donnelly is a graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri, Columbia. She has an MBA from Baker University in Overland Park, Kansas, and she also holds a certificate in Veterinary Practice Administration from the AAHA Veterinary Management Institute (VMI) at Purdue University.

Dr. Donnelly is Past-President of VetPartners™, a national organization of consultants and advisors. She is the author of the book “101 Practice Management Questions Answered” available from AAHA.

A member of the National Speakers Association, Dr. Donnelly has twice been named Practice Management Speaker of the Year for the North American Veterinary Conference.

Practice Management Subtrack:

- 5 Communication Skills To Convert Potential Client Calls to Appointments
- How to Grow Your Practice by Increasing Client Compliance
- Creating Bonds with Today’s Pet Owners
Dr. Charlotte Lacroix owns Veterinary Business Advisors, Inc., a national consulting firm advising on veterinary business and legal issues. Beginning her career as an equine veterinarian, she transitioned to law to advocate for veterinarians. With over 20 years of experience assisting veterinarians in all areas, her expertise is companion and large animal and multi-specialty practices.

Dr. Lacroix lectures extensively on business and legal issues, and facilitates continuing education seminars nationwide. Topics include succession planning, practices sales, employment and other contract negotiations, medical records/informed consents, ethics, animal welfare, drugs and biologics, and human resources.

Dr. Lacroix volunteers for organizations including AVMA, AAHA, AAEP, NJVMA and PVMA. She was the 2014-2015 President of NAVC, and is currently Chair of the Board of PetsPAC and Board member of the Veterinary Innovation Council.

Practice Management Subtrack:
- Employee Manual Snafus
- Issues to Negotiate in Contracts Seen in Practice
- Trending HR Dilemmas, Parts 1 and 2

Hot Topics Track:
- Should I Sell to Corporate?

Professional Development Track:
- Understanding Your Net Worth and Using It to Earn More Salary
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Focus on enhancing your personal growth and strengthening your leadership skills. Gain a better understanding of how to interact with your peers or manage your personnel. Investigate the various paths you can take in your career. All veterinary professionals are encouraged to attend.

Subtopic areas include:

- Career Options
- Early Career
- Finance
- Human-Animal Bond
- Leadership
- Personal Growth
- Personal/Professional Development
- Personnel Management
- Practice Management
- Wealth of Knowledge
- Wellbeing

Cherie Buisson, DVM, CHPV

Dr. Cherie Buisson hails from Kenner, Louisiana and is a graduate of Mississippi State University. In 2015, she opened Helping Hands Pet Hospice which provides house call pet hospice and euthanasia. She is one of the first veterinarians in the world to be certified in hospice and palliative care. She is also certified in Low-Stress Handling. Her articles have been featured on DrAndyRoark.com. Dr. Buisson started “A Happy Vet” in January 2016. This website is devoted to supporting veterinary professionals as they learn to take care of themselves and create happier workplaces. She is an international speaker, giving talks and workshops on end-of-life care and professional development.

Personal/Professional Development Subtrack:
- Impostor Syndrome: If You Think You Suck, You’re Probably Wrong

Personal Growth Subtrack:
- How to be Happy in Veterinary Medicine

Wellbeing Subtrack:
- Personal and House Call Safety

Kristin Wuellner, DVM

Dr. Kristin Wuellner (Auburn ’16, Clemson ’12) is a fun-loving veterinarian with interests that extend beyond the exam room—she’s passionate about how education, marketing, and scientific outreach can enable pet parents make the best decisions for their pets. Currently, she is the Veterinary Digital Education Specialist at Hill’s Pet Nutrition located in Topeka, KS. Prior to this role, she worked in small animal private practice and completed a one-year clinical internship with Nestle Purina. She’s a proud alumnus of the National VBMA Executive Board (’15) and now volunteers for the AVMA’s Early Career Development Committee. Her personal leadership philosophy is a commitment to self-awareness, servant leadership, and creativity.

Personal Growth Subtrack:
- Bitter to Better: How to Change Your Mindset for Success

Donna Harris, DVM, MBA

Dr. Harris currently teaches career development, business skills and personal finance at Michigan State University (Go Green) College of Veterinary Medicine and at St. Matthews School of Veterinary Medicine. She spent 20 years in small animal practice while at the same time moonlighting at a race track vet and in a zoo. She finished her MBA in 2000 and is now working on a masters in Strategic Foresight from the University of Houston.

Personal/Professional Development Subtrack:
- The Personal Finance Side of Insurance and Retirement Options
- Building Personal Equity
PUBLIC AND CORPORATE PRACTICE

Public and Corporate Practice offers sessions that focus on veterinarians’ role in protecting the health of animals and society. Veterinary professionals employed or with an interest in public health, regulatory medicine, teaching, research, or industry are encouraged to attend these sessions.

Subtopic areas include:
- Animal Welfare
- Comparative Medicine
- Current Issues/Advances
- Disasters
- Dr. James H. Steele
- One Health
- Food Safety
- Global Health Summit
- Preventive Medicine
- Research and Technology
- USDA NVAP Renewal Modules

Rachel Cezar-Martinez, DVM

Dr. Rachel Cezar-Martinez is currently the Director of Live Animal Imports for United States Department of Agriculture in the Washington D.C. area. She has served in the federal government for the last 15 years as a supervisory and field veterinary medical officer as well as the horse protection national coordinator.

Dr. Cezar-Martinez received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 2002 from Michigan State University and Public Policy Leadership Certification from American University in 2012. Prior to beginning her career in the federal government in 2004, Dr. Cezar-Martinez interned at equine veterinary hospitals in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Lexington, KY. She has also served as a Public Health Officer in the Air National Guard in Fort Wayne, IN and Andrews AFB in Washington, D.C. from 2006-2012 and currently still holds her Major officer status in the inactive ready reserves.

Comparative Medicine Subtrack:
- Getting Involved in Legislation through Your State VMA and Why It’s Important for the Veterinary Profession

Emily Pieracci, DVM

Emily Pieracci graduated from Washington State University with her DVM in 2009. She earned her Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University while interning with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the Center for Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Diseases.

Dr. Pieracci served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer at the Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention from 2014-2016. During her time as an EIS officer, Dr. Pieracci deployed twice to West Africa for the Ebola outbreak.

Dr. Pieracci is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine and currently serves as a veterinary epidemiologist in the CDC’s Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, Poxvirus and Rabies Branch.

Current Issues/Advances Subtrack:
- Rabies - What You Need to Know
- Can I Bring This Dog Home? Updates to the U.S. Dog Importation Policy
Shanna Siegel, DVM, MPH
Dr. Shanna Siegel has worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services for over a decade and currently serves as the Director of Live Animal Exports. In that role, she is responsible for facilitation of the international movement of live animals from the United States, as well as the development of domestic policies related to those exports. She received her DVM with a Certificate in International Veterinary Medicine in 2006 and her Masters of Public Health Degree with an emphasis in Health Policy and Management in 2008, both from the University of Georgia. Shanna currently lives outside of Washington, D.C. with her spouse and furry children and enjoys kayaking and photography.

Current Issues/Advances Subtrack:
- What in the World?!: International Movement of Live Animals, Including Pets
- USDA’s Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS): Online Generation and Submission of International Health Certificates (also an AVMA Poster)

AVMA Poster:
- What is VEHCS? An online system for issuing international health certificates

Jake Socha, PhD
Dr. Jake Socha is an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics at Virginia Tech. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and biology from Duke University in 1994 and a PhD in biology (with a focus on biomechanics) from the University of Chicago in 2002. After graduate school, he was the Ugo Fano Postdoctoral Fellow at Argonne National Laboratory, studying insect flow systems using synchrotron X-ray imaging at the Advanced Photon Source. His research program at Virginia Tech combines both interests, investigating the biomechanics and functional morphology of flows in and around organisms, specifically flying snakes, frogs, and insects. Prior to entering science, he was a member of the Teach for America national teacher corps working in southern Louisiana.

Comparative Medicine Subtrack:
- The Biomechanics of Flying Snakes
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

The profession of veterinary medicine has become ever more sophisticated and complex. The public expects state-of-the-art veterinary care for animals. In order to provide high quality service, veterinary technicians are an integral member of the veterinary health care team. Veterinary Technology offers a diverse education platform targeted for both newcomers and experienced veterinary technicians.

Subtopic areas include:

- Anesthesiology/Pain Management
- Behavior
- Cardiology
- Career Options
- Clinical Pathology
- Dentistry
- Early Career
- Emergency/Critical Care
- Exotic
- Internal Medicine
- Leadership
- Neurology/Neurosurgery
- Nutrition
- Parasitology
- Personal Growth
- Personal/Professional Development
- Pharmacology
- Practice Management
- Preventive Medicine
- Rehabilitation
- Toxicology
- Urinary
- Virology
- Wellbeing

Stephen Cital, RVT, SRA, RLAT, VCCS, VTS-LAM (Res. Anesthesia)

Stephen originally started college to become a registered human nurse but did not enjoy working with humans as patients. Instead Stephen became an RVT and then obtained certification as a Surgical Research Anesthetist through the Academy of Surgical Research followed by the designation of a Registered Laboratory Animal Technician through the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science. Most recently he became one of the first Veterinary Cannabis Counselor Specialists in the country while continuing to educate veterinary professionals on safe and effective use of cannabis in the clinical setting. Stephen is the Executive Director for the Academy of Laboratory Animal Veterinary Technicians and Nurses, holding a VTS credential in Research Anesthesia. His regular daytime position is at Silicon Valley Veterinary Specialists, as well as a private contractor for several research organizations and two local zoos. Stephen has served as the President for the Society of Laboratory Animal Veterinary Technicians, Vice President for the California RVT Association and member at large for the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America. Stephen is currently the Chair-elect for the Committee of Veterinary Technician Specialties.

Emergency/Critical Care Subtrack:

- Airway Management and Emergency Techniques in the Theatre and Emergency Room
- Blood Transfusion Tips

Exotic Subtrack:

- Blood Collection in Exotic Animal Species

“ The AVMA Convention is a great way to connect with colleagues and have the opportunity to receive a wide variety of continuing education. ”

– Stephanie King
Liz Hughston, MEd., RVT, VTS (SAIM, ECC)
Liz is the Co-Founder of the Veterinary Cannabis Academy and practices as a relief veterinary technician, trainer, and consultant in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since her graduation from Foothill College in 2006, Liz went on to become certified as a VTS in both Small Animal Internal Medicine and Emergency and Critical Care in 2012. Liz is dedicated to advancing veterinary nursing through training, mentorship, and support and speaks frequently at regional, national, and international veterinary conferences. She has authored textbook chapters and is currently in the process of editing a veterinary cannabis use textbook. In addition to her relief work, speaking, consulting, and writing, Liz is honored to serve as President of the National Veterinary Professionals Union and a Past President of the Academy of Internal Medicine Veterinary Technicians.

Career Options Subtrack:
- To V or Not to V: The Road to VTS

Emergency/Critical Care Subtrack:
- Wrap It Up: Basic Wound Healing and Bandaging

Internal Medicine Subtrack:
- The Guest That Never Leaves: Hemotropic Mycoplasmas
- Git ‘Er Down: Nursing Care for the Megaesophagus Dog
- What a Pain in the Gut: Nursing Care for Canine Acute Pancreatitis

Pharmacology Subtrack:
- Let’s Do Math: CRIIs in Clinical Practice
- Play Nice! Drug Interactions Every Veterinary Technician Should Know
- Mythbusters: ECC Pharmacology Edition

Toxicology Subtrack:
- Green Vomit! The Answer Isn’t Always Vitamin K
- The Solution to Pollution: Top Toxicity Tips

Virology Subtrack:
- Going Viral: Canine Distemper

David Liss, MS, RVT, VTS (ECC, SAIM), CVPM, CCFP
David Liss has an incredibly rich and diverse background in the field of veterinary technology. He is a double board-certified veterinary technician specialist in emergency/critical care and small animal internal medicine and a certified veterinary practice manager (CVPM). He has been a technician manager at two different 24-hour referral/specialty facilities in the Los Angeles area, has contributed to numerous veterinary texts and was awarded the Veterinary Technician Educator of the Year award by Western Veterinary Conference and the Southern California RVT of the Year. David also holds a Master’s in Biomedical Science and is a certified compassion fatigue professional. David currently is the hospital manager of a 24 ER/GP hybrid VCA Central Animal Hospital, runs his own consulting business, Veterinary Training and Consulting, Inc., and lectures worldwide.

Emergency/Critical Care Subtrack:
- All Stopped Up! The Blocked Cat
- The Dreaded GDV!
- All Sugar and No Salt! DKA
- All Stuck Together! IMHA
- My Heart! CHF Emergencies
- HBC, BBD, Trauma in the ER!
- Med Math Review! All the Fun and None of the Fear!
LABS & WORKSHOPS

Labs and Workshops are multi-hour programs that include lecture and hands-on training in a small group environment.

**Canine Abdominal Ultrasound Labs: Ashley Hanna, DVM, MS, DACVR**
(Washington State University)
With more transducer time than ever before, under personalized guidance, master the practical fundamentals of clinical diagnostic imaging.

**Common Canine & Feline Soft Tissue Surgery Labs: Howard Seim, DVM, DACVS**
(Colorado State University)
Two great labs (dog and cat) where, after viewing videos, registrants perform many of the common surgeries indicated in small animal practice.

**Canine & Feline Dental Extraction Labs: Dr. Kristin Bannon, DVM, FAVD, DAVDC**
(Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery of New Mexico)
Two labs (dog and cat) will allow you to approach even difficult dental extraction procedures with confidence.

**Simple Fracture Repair: Donald Hulse, DVM, DACVS**
(Texas A&M University)
Learn the simple techniques that put many common orthopedic interventions within the scope of general practice.

**Ophthalmic Surgery: Eyelids & “Cherry Eye” David Whitley, DVM, MS, DACVO (University of Florida)**
Master the most commonly indicated ophthalmic surgery procedures in small animal practice.

AVMA POSTERS

Posters will showcase the latest research and innovative ideas from practitioners and students. Poster authors will have a designated time to present their poster and answer questions on Sunday, August 4 from 3:00 - 4:00 PM in the exhibit hall.

**Examples of poster types include:**
- Basic Research
- Clinical Research
- Case Reports or Interesting Cases
- Useful Tips or Techniques for Clinical Practice
POULTRY MEDICINE

The American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) holds its annual scientific and business meetings in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Convention. The AAAP Scientific Program includes an annual Symposium assembled around an important topic in avian medicine; a Keynote Lecture; a History Lecture; multiple Award Winner Lectures; almost one hundred and fifty 15-minute presentations on cutting-edge research and clinical topics spread over three days and two simultaneous sessions; and an extensive poster session.

Subtopic areas include:

- Antimicrobial
- Avian Influenza
- Bacteriology
- Case Reports
- Diagnostics
- Enteric Health
- Epidemiology
- Food Safety
- Immunology
- Management
- Marek’s Disease Virus
- Parasitology
- Pathology
- Poultry Symposium
- Reovirus
- Vaccinology
- Virology
- Wealth of Knowledge

Featured:

**Dr. Oscar Fletcher**
- Cases Selected from a Career in Avian Pathology

**Dr. Randall Singer:**
- Quantifying Antimicrobial Use in Poultry Production

**Dr. Naola Ferguson**
- Evaluation of the Impact of Mycoplasma synoviae infection on the Efficacy of Infectious Laryngotracheitis CEO Vaccination in Broiler Chickens.

**Dr. Jean Guard**
- Sex and the Single Salmonella: What We Don’t Know Hurts Us
interact with the entire AVMA family

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

Offering unparalleled support to our profession with cutting-edge member resources, top-notch insurance products, charitable programs and much more.

Visit us in the Exhibit Hall

**AVMAF**
American Veterinary Medical Foundation

Providing support for animal welfare, education, disaster-relief and research programs.

**AVMA | PLIT**
Protecting you through it all

Your trusted source for professional, business and personal coverage at every stage of your career.

**AVMA | LIFE**
Veterinarian Inspired Coverage

Designed by veterinarians for veterinarians. Multifaceted insurance solutions providing coverage from head to tail.

**AVMA | PAC**

Helping us amplify our voice with federal legislators who make laws that impact our profession.
Thank you to our AVMA Partners for their continued commitment to the veterinary profession.
Washington, D.C.

QUICK FACTS

1. The streets in D.C. are lettered – but there is no “J” street.

2. The Washington Monument is two different colors due to two different phases of construction.

3. The iconic pink cherry blossom trees were a gift from Japan in the early 1900s.

4. The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world.

5. D.C. residents consume more wine per capita than any of the fifty states.

6. The International Spy Museum is the only public museum in America dedicated to spies.

7. D.C. receives more rain than Seattle per year.

8. The iconic D.C. flag’s design is based off George Washington’s coat of arms.