

THE HUMANE SOCIETY VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association was founded in 2008 as an affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States with the goal of providing a home for veterinary professionals who are concerned about and want to be involved in animal protection efforts.

By virtue of their education and commitment to the well-being of animals, veterinary professionals have a profound ability to influence how animals are viewed and treated by individuals and society. The HSVMA was formed to provide avenues for compassionate professionals to use their training and experience to protect, care for, and advocate on behalf of animals and to stand as leaders in the movement to build more humane communities.

The HSVMA is unique among professional veterinary organizations as our focus is animal welfare. We give veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary students the opportunity to get involved in direct care programs to help animals in need. We coordinate veterinary advocacy for animals in the legislative and public policy arenas, and offer educational programs and resources with a welfare focus. Finally, we have a strong presence on veterinary school campuses throughout the United States, providing opportunities for veterinary students to learn about animal welfare and community service work.

The HSVMA has filled a gap in the veterinary profession, evidenced by the significant growth in our membership. Since our inception, more than 6,000 veterinary professionals have joined the organization. We have members in all 50 states and a growing international representation.

Below are some highlights of HSVMA program activities during the past year:

Direct Care for Animal in Need: The Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) program is HSVMA's field services division. RAVS is a service-based learning program, combining high quality direct-care veterinary field clinics and clinical training for future veterinary professionals to improve the health and welfare of animals in underserved rural communities where poverty and geographic isolation make regular veterinary care inaccessible. During 2012, RAVS hosted 23 clinics, providing life-saving medical care as well as spay/neuter services to more than 7000 animals. RAVS is well known for the high quality of care provided to animals in desperate need as well as the tremendous hands-on training opportunities offered veterinary students. Approximately 300 veterinary students from 30 different veterinary schools participated in RAVS clinics during 2012. For a closer look at RAVS, here are links to two videos which provide an overview of our efforts to provide care for animals in need:

http://www.hsvma.org/hsvma-ravs_progress_report_071111#.UJAwr4ab6So

<http://www.kxnet.com/story/19219318/a-pack-of-veterinary-volunteers-give-basic-care-on-reservation>

Veterinary Advocacy: Our advocacy efforts have involved activating veterinary professionals to support a variety of animal welfare reforms, including legislation to ban gas chambers in Michigan animal shelters, to regulate Internet sales of puppies nationwide, to ban veal and gestation crates in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey, and, on the federal level, to improve living conditions for egg-laying hens, and regulate Internet sales of puppies. Most recently, we recruited more than 110 veterinarians to endorse a California bill to ban the hound hunting of bears and bobcats and we were a co-sponsor of a bill that prohibits landlords from requiring that tenants have their cats declawed or their dogs devocalized. Both of these bills were just signed into law by California Governor Jerry Brown. A highlight of this year's advocacy efforts included veterinary participation in Humane Lobby Days throughout the United States.

Here's a [link](#) to a newsletter article featuring photos and quotes from our veterinary members who participated in Humane Lobby Days in 2012 .

Welfare-Related Continuing Education and Resources for Veterinary Professionals: HSVMA provides frequent continuing education opportunities for veterinary professionals with a focus on welfare-related topics. Previous educational programs we have hosted have focused on emergency care for injured and orphaned wildlife, kitten socialization, disaster preparedness, recognizing and reporting animal cruelty, and hereditary diseases of purebred dogs.

Visit the [HSVMA resources](#) web page to view recorded versions of past webinars and access a list of our upcoming training events.

Veterinary Student Outreach: HSVMA is also active in providing opportunities for veterinary students to learn more about animal protection and get involved in animal welfare work. We currently host HSVMA student chapters on eight veterinary school campuses, with student activities ranging from field trips to farm sanctuaries and wellness clinics in low-income urban areas to participation in Lobby Day activities. Additionally, HSVMA provided 20 presentations on veterinary school campuses during the past year, reaching nearly 1,000 veterinary students with topics ranging from puppy mill reform and feral cat population control to cosmetic surgeries and early-age sterilization.

Our HSVMA student newsletter, emailed to the students twice per semester, provides a snapshot of our student-related activities. Here's a [link](#) to the latest edition and [archives](#) of previous editions.

For more details about HSVMA programs and activities, you can download our [annual report](#) from our website and view past copies of our monthly [HSVMA e-newsletter](#). If you have any questions, please email info@hsvma.org and one of our [HSVMA staff](#) members will respond.