

Minutes of the December 2013 Meeting of the Northwestern Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, Inc.

The fourth quarterly meeting of the Northwestern Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, Inc. was held on December 11th, 2013 at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center in Eau Claire WI. There were 35 people in attendance.

Business Meeting:

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Bruce Wilmeth at 7:30 PM.

Introduction of Guests:

Dr. Shannon Luepke, a veterinarian in Eau Claire.

Dr. Linda Vognar, a veterinarian in Eau Claire.

Dr. Kari Ekenstedt, a veterinarian and professor at UW-River Falls.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the September 2013 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported a current balance of \$5472 in the checking account.

Reports:

AVMA Update - Dr. Rene Carlson

Dr. Rene Carlson was not present.

WVDL Update - Dr. Mark Carlson

Dr. Mark Carlson was not present.

WVMA Representative - Dr. Mike Wolf

Dr. Mike Wolf reported on various state-wide issues. The possible merger of the Department of Safety and Professional Services which includes the Veterinary Examining Board, into the Department of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection is being studied and evaluated. The WVMA does not support efforts for 'rehabilitating' fighting dogs due to the potential public safety issue that could arise from a 'rehabilitated' fighting dog.

There has been an effort made by one legislator's constituent to have a law passed requiring veterinarians to write a prescription if demanded. It is felt that we should inform clients of the risk of using human pharmacies that do not understand the ramifications of substitution of a generic or similar drug on a patient's well-being. We as veterinarians are responsible for the pharmacy sources we use and maintaining control of that is in our patients and clients best interest. Educating clients of what is their pet's best interest generally will diffuse the issue. If after this discussion, the client still insists, we should record our conversation in their record and write the prescription. This will be far better than having to use resources to defeat such an effort at the legislature and will only bring bad publicity to our profession. This is an example of how one constituent with the ear of a legislator can result in laws with adverse consequences. These things are being discovered at a much earlier time in the process than before because of our new legislative counsel, Ross & DeWitt.

The sale of raw milk issue is still being debated. One Sheboygan legislator polled his constituents and found 62% support raw milk sales. This indicates how confident and accustomed people have become to safe food because of quality control and food safety practices in modern manufacturing. They do not realize the reasons these safety measures were put in place. If passed, Governor Walker has indicated he would probably veto it just as previous Governor Doyle did at the end of his term. The WVMA continues to support the none passage and veto if raw milk sales legislation is passed.

Finally, the Mercy for Animals recent YouTube video documenting abuse of dairy cows on an eastern Wisconsin dairy has created an re-awareness of best practices concerning handling of non-ambulatory cattle and euthanasia. Although portions of this video are taken out of context and not understood by the general public, other portions of this video displayed totally unacceptable practices. This should prompt a discussion by all of us, especially large animal practitioners with our clients as to what are best practices for humanely handling of cattle on our farms.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Election of Officers: President Dr. Bruce Wilmeth called for the election of new officers. He thanked Dr. Cathie Morrow for her three years of service to the NWVMA as President-Elect, President and Past-President. He also thanked Dr. Ryan VanderTop for his past two years of service to the NWVMA as District Director. Each position was opened for nominations, the nomination was announced and a request was made for additional nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received from the floor, so the final nominations for each position included:

- President: Dr. Jeff Johnson from Stanley, WI
- President-Elect: Dr. Kevin Landorf from Eau Claire, WI
- Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Larry Baumann from River Falls, WI
- District Director (2 yr term): Dr. Helene Keily from Barron, WI
- District Director (1 yr term): Dr. Eb Ballinger, from Cornell, WI
- Dr. Larry Baumann moved for a “white-ballot” to elect this slate of officers. The motion was seconded; and the slate of officers was elected on a voice vote.

Announcements:

- Copies of the State of Wisconsin rules on continuing education for veterinarians and veterinary technicians were distributed
- Dr. John Berggren from River Falls passed away on October 11, 2013.

Wrap-Up: Dr. Bruce Wilmeth thanked everyone for the privilege of serving as president this past year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The door prize (a small decorative Norway Pine tree) was won by Dr. Ryan VanderTop from Chippewa Falls.

Continuing Education Program:

Dr. Kari Ekenstedt gave a presentation on “The Practical Applications of Genetic Tests in Dogs and Cats”. Her talk highlighted the genetic basis and testing for two different conditions in dogs: 1) Exercise Induced Collapse; and 2) Progressive Retinal Atrophy. Two websites were given as references for genetic diseases and testing in animals. They are the Canine and Feline Hereditary Disease (DNA) Testing Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania, <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?TabId=7620>, and the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at the University of California-Davis, www.vgl.ucdavis.edu. (presentation time: 8:15-9:30 PM).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Larry Baumann

NWVMA Secretary-Treasurer