



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS



Quarterly Newsletter of the AAWV Fall 2003

## President's Message

# The Power of One

By David Jessup

About 7 or 8 years ago I saw a movie called "The Power Of One." It was about a young white South African boxer coming of age during the height of apartheid and the relationship he forged with a young black boxer, his most skilled rival. This movie showed so very, very clearly that despite all the pressure a society could bring to bear, one person with conviction, commitment and courage could make a difference and could change the world—The power of one.

Since 1979, when AAWV was founded and wildlife veterinarians began to come into their own, I have seen "the power of one" repeatedly in our profession. I have seen energetic wildlife veterinarians step into new jobs and through hard work, perseverance, and commitment, change the world around them. That has not always meant fame and fortune or even major changes in the dysfunctional relationships and bureaucracies around us. It has mostly meant changing the beliefs and expectations of students, colleagues, collaborators and co-workers and, like a slow ripple on a pond, the expectations of wider professional organizations, whole communities, and the world.

During our recent business meeting in Saskatoon I commented that, although we may be a small organization, I think we sometimes fail to appreciate how much we as wildlife veterinarians have changed the world. We have certainly changed the goals and expectations of many of the best

veterinary students, the veterinary community in general, zoological institutions and teaching programs, and the larger conservation and wildlife management communities. Dr. Billy Karesh's AAWV "Cutting Edge" talk at the WDA banquet (see pg. 6) showed that more eloquently than I ever could hope to. He also spoke to us about Dr. Analissa Kilborne in whose life "the power of one" shone brightly.

The changes we have made have come about as much or more by inspiring others, by changing peoples hearts and minds, by showing what can be done, than by exercise of power. One has only to look at the legacy of great religious teachers, philosophers and artists (Jesus, Buddha, Mother Teresa, Gandhi, M.L. King, Darwin, Thoreau, Muir, Leopold, Michelangelo, Stienbeck, Hemingway) to see that lasting influence, "the power of one", is not usually political, or even power in the everyday sense. The really cool thing is that, to some degree, we all have that power, both in ourselves and in our work.

Let me use someone you know as an example (and someone who will be embarrassed by what I am about to say, but he'll get over it). When Dr. Thierry Work went to Hawaii 10-12 years ago he found himself in a whole new set of ecosystems, far from his parent organization and with relatively little in the way of resources and power. His energy, inquiring mind, open spirit of collaboration, inventiveness, ability to "think outside the box", and vision

for applying the health paradigm broadly (conservation medicine) has resulted in new knowledge about disease and health problems of corals, reef fish, marine turtles, endangered marine mammals, pelagic and endemic sensitive bird species, just about everything in the South Pacific but green plants. More importantly biologists and other researchers, conservation organizations and even the staid old Federal government have had their eyes opened. That is "the power of one" at work.

The movie "The Power Of One" also spoke to the price we sometimes must be willing to pay for things that really matter. It spoke of the deep personal joy to be had in doing what's right. Another message in the movie was that very different people, rivals, even opponents, can be brothers and sisters in an important cause and lifelong friends. This is another lesson to remember when we find ourselves in disagreement over issues that might seem very large at the time.

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## Business Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Commenced at 5:06 p.m.

Officers present: Terry Kreeger (President), Kirsten Gilardi (Secretary), Walt Cook (Treasurer). Not present: Julie Langenberg (Vice-President). Members present: Approximately 36.

#### 1. Welcome

Kreeger took this opportunity to acknowledge this as his last meeting as AAWV President, and he thanked his advisory council for assistance during the four years of his presidency.

#### 2. Approval of 2002 AAWV minutes

Minutes from the 2002 meeting were published in the Fall '02/Winter '03 newsletter. It was noted that no concerns were raised regarding the content or accuracy of the minutes at that time. Kreeger asked if anyone had a comment or concern regarding last year's minutes: there were no comments made by meeting attendees.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

Walt Cook presented the Treasurer's Report. The AAWV is in good financial standing, with total assets as of August 2003 of \$28,200.73. Total expenditures in 2002-03 were \$3,987.24 (for supplies, services, USAHA membership, and cutting edge speaker; not reflected in total expenditures were expenses for newsletter production, because AAWV hasn't received an invoice for newsletter production yet in 02/03).

#### 4. Secretary's Report

Gilardi reported membership figures for 2003. As of 8/7/03, there were 210 members paid through 2003 and 2004; 200 US members, 10 non-US members. There were 74 members paid through 2002 not yet paid in 2003. Gilardi noted that there were 131 individuals listed as paid through 2001 that did not renew in 2002 or 2003. Gilardi reported that membership renewal notices were made in the Fall '02/Winter '03 newsletter, in a special postcard mailing sent in January

2003, and in the Spring-Summer 2003 newsletter.

#### 5. Membership Report

Last year, Sharon Taylor volunteered to take the lead on mass-mailing new member solicitation letters. Taylor was not in attendance at the meeting: it is not known whether or not these were sent out.

#### 6. Newsletter Editor's Report

Mike Ziccardi reported that three newsletters were produced in 2002/2003. Total costs for each newsletter (printing, mailing, lay-out) have generally run under \$1,000 per newsletter. Mike announced that Joe Gaydos is now a co-editor, and will be in charge of content, with Mike overseeing lay-out and production. The next newsletter will be sent out in September/October 2003. Walt Cook noted that he had yet to receive a billing from UC Davis for newsletter production.

#### 7. Webmaster Report/New Webmaster

Kreeger announced that Peggi Rodgers was stepping down as the AAWV's webmaster. Kreeger presented a service award to Rodgers (in absentia). Colin Gillin volunteered to serve as the new webmaster. There was discussion about the purpose and utility of the AAWV website. Presently, the AAWV website lives on the NBII server. Kreeger asked that a listserv be established for mass emailing members. Josh Dein made a motion that the AAWV make a commitment to support information-sharing by forwarding new postings to the AAWV website to Dein for linking on the Wildlife Disease Network. The motion was seconded by Mark Drew. All in favor: all attendees; Opposed: none. The motion passed.

#### 8. Student Chapters

Student Liaison Laurie Baeten was not in attendance. It is believed that no

applications for student chapters were received this year.

#### 9. Cutting Edge Speaker

This year's cutting edge speaker will be William Karesh, of the Wildlife Conservation Society. It was noted that identifying and scheduling a cutting edge speaker for next year's joint meeting with the AAZV and WDA in San Diego will need to occur earlier than this year, as this conference program be set likely this Winter.

#### 10. Revised Election Procedures

Dave Jessup's proposed revised election procedures were published in Fall 2002 newsletter. Central to the recommendation was that there be an Elections Committee that would have as its charge the active recruitment of candidates, so that there would always be at least two candidates running for every open office. A copy of the revised election procedures recommendations was not available at the meeting, so the discussion was tabled.

#### 11. Forging ties with TWS

Not discussed.

#### 12. Report of the Ad Hoc AAWV Strategic Affiliations Committee

Dave Jessup presented the final report of the ad hoc AAWV Strategic Affiliations Committee to the meeting attendees (see "President's Message" on page 1). Jonna Mazet made a motion to accept the Committee's report and put the Committee's recommendation that the AAWV merge with the AAZV to the general membership via mail-in vote. Mark Drew seconded the motion.

Kreeger opened the floor for discussion of the motion. Thierry Work expressed concern about the difference in cultures of the two organizations, and whether that difference lent itself to a merger. Work also questioned the value of gaining a seat in the House of Delegates; he asked how many seats there were in the House of Delegates

(Jessup clarified: 50 or 60), and then questioned the wisdom of trying for a seat in the HOD when a single voice for wildlife and zoo veterinarians would be fairly diluted. Kreeger noted that he was in favor of the idea of a merger. Sonia Hernandez-Divers shared with meeting attendees that the AAZV International Committee, which she co-chairs with Mark Atkinson, is 50% US members, 50% overseas members. She felt that a merger with the AAZV would present AAWV members with an opportunity for greater awareness of international wildlife health work and international wildlife veterinarians, and visa versa. Walt Cook stated that he was strongly opposed to a merger. His chief concern was the cost of being a member of a merged organization. He felt that we would definitely lose members, especially those members who are private practitioners that are willing to pay \$25 to get the newsletter, but will likely not join a merged organization because of the expense. He reminded attendees that there will also be tremendous pressure for members of the merged organization to join the AVMA also. He also wondered about the strength of the wildlife voice in a merged organization.

Josh Dein asked the Committee to elaborate on the AAZV's interest in a merger. Dave Jessup read aloud a letter from AAZV Executive Director Wilbur Amand (dated August 7, 2003), which essentially expressed full support of the idea of a merger. Jonna Mazet asked if it wouldn't be possible for the proposed Wildlife and Conservation Committee to produce a quarterly newsletter that individuals could subscribe to without being full members of the merged organization (i.e. a less expensive alternative to membership for individuals who are most just interested in staying informed). Tom Thorne commended the Committee for its work, but said he has been opposed to the idea of a merger forever. He agreed with Thierry Work that there was a significant difference in culture

between the two organizations, and felt that the AAWV on its own has more influence with the USAHA than AAZV does. Scott Larsen asked for clarification on what would happen if a merged organization had HOD status with the AVMA but then the membership count of the organization went down. Dave clarified that once an organization has HOD status with the AVMA, the required minimum membership count (calculated as a percentage of the overall AVMA membership count) goes down. Marguerite Papaionou asked if there was a way to assess how many members we would lose if we merged; could we do a survey beforehand to assess the number of people we would lose. Kirsten Gilardi reminded attendees that AAWV membership already is in decline, citing her earlier report that 131 individuals who were members of the AAWV in 2001 did not re-join in 2002 or 2003. Walt Cook wanted to know why AAZV couldn't just form a wildlife medicine/conservation committee on their own; Dave Jessup said they likely would form such a committee, with our without merger with the AAWV.

Tom Roffe expressed his opposition to the merger, stating that he felt it would be contributing to the misconception that zoo vets are the same as wildlife vets. Dave Hunter said he agreed with Tom Thorne, citing wildlife veterinarians' influence with the USAHA. Kirsten Gilardi noted that such influence would not be lost simply because of a merger of the two organizations. Todd Cornish worried about the AAWV's ties to WDA. Thierry Work wondered if the AAWV wasn't giving itself enough credit for being a strong, active organization, and wondered whether membership might be going down because members are tired of talking about AVMA issues. Jonna Mazet wanted to raise some positives about a merger: she said she felt that a merged organization would more accurately reflect the new generation of veterinarians training as zoo and

wildlife veterinarians, who do not see the distinction between captive zoo and wildlife veterinary medicine, and are therefore confused by the distinction we make in having two different organizations. Josh Dein said he is ambivalent about a merger, and agreed with Jonna's point, saying that there was a lot of merit to breaking down barriers. He noted that the AAZV has an ever-increasing free-ranging wildlife orientation. Colin Gillin asked how it would work to reconsider the merger at the end of the 4-year merger period? Dave Jessup asked if the AAWV was underestimating the power it has within the AAZV for what AAWV members do. Cynthia Tate agreed with Jonna's statement, saying that as a recent graduate, she knows that students' perception of the distinction between wildlife versus zoo medicine is muddy. That said, she would prefer to stay a member of the AAWV and not join a zoological medicine organization. Rick Gerhold, also a fairly recent graduate, stated that he was opposed to a merger.

Kreeger asked if there was any more discussion. He then asked for a vote on the motion: All in favor: 14; all opposed: 16. The Committee's recommendation that the AAWV consider a merger with the AAZV will not be put to the general membership for a vote.

#### 13. Announcement and installation of new officers

Kreeger presented Sarah Shapiro-Hurley's Report of the 2003 AAWV Election of new officers. Eighty-nine ballots were received. New officers for 2003-2005 are:

President: *Dave Jessup*

Vice-President: *Kirsten Gilardi*

Secretary: *Kristin Mansfield*

Treasurer: *Mike Ziccardi*

#### 14. New Business

There was no new business.  
Meeting adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

## Warning on euthanasia products

Source: JAVMA (edited)

The Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine is adding an environmental warning to labels of pentobarbital-containing euthanasia solutions. The FDA hopes the two supplemental new animal drug applications that require manufacturers to revise these labels will help prevent or alleviate future injury to wildlife.

The FDA says it initiated the revision because of reports of wildlife dying from barbiturate intoxication. Poisonings occur for various reasons, including people leaving carcasses in fields, burying dead animals in shallow graves, or leaving carcasses uncovered in landfills. The new warning will state the following:

### ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD

This product is toxic to wildlife. Birds and mammals feeding on treated animals may be killed. Euthanized animals must be properly disposed of by deep burial, incineration, or other method in compliance with state and local laws, to prevent consumption of carcass material by scavenging wildlife.

## Sea turtle die-off in S. Carolina

Source ProMED-mail (edited)

Sea turtles are dying along the South Carolina coast this year in numbers that surprise wildlife officials. Nearly 80 sea turtles have washed ashore in South Carolina either dead or dying since January 2003. Many of them have rotting flippers, parasite-riddled bodies, and shells encrusted with barnacles, said Sally Murphy, a sea turtle biologist with the Natural Resources Department. Wildlife biologists and turtle experts say hypothermia and pollution may be among the causes.

Dead turtles are not unusual in the spring, when loggerheads and others swim from wintering grounds in the Gulf of Mexico, biologists say. The number of is like nothing South Carolina biologists have seen, Natural Resources Department officials say. The number of dead turtles is up this year from 45 in 2002 and 27 in 2001.

There are several theories on the turtle deaths. A sudden cold spell early in the fall

of 2002 may have caught some turtles off Guard while they fed in North Carolina's Pamlico Sound. As cold-blooded animals, turtles' body temperatures reflect the air or water temperatures around them. The sudden chill may have "cold stunned" the turtles, Murphy said, causing their core body temperatures to plummet and making it hard for them to feed. The weakened turtles could have been swept out of the sound on the tides and survived until spring, when currents carried them onto South Carolina beaches, Murphy said. The fact that most are covered with sea life indicates they haven't been swimming vigorously, she said.

"Most of them die immediately upon hitting the beach," Murphy said. But that doesn't explain the whole problem, she said. "Something else weakened these turtles and kept them from fighting off the parasites," Murphy said.

## Epidemiologists advocate restrictions on wildlife trade

Source: JAVMA (edited)

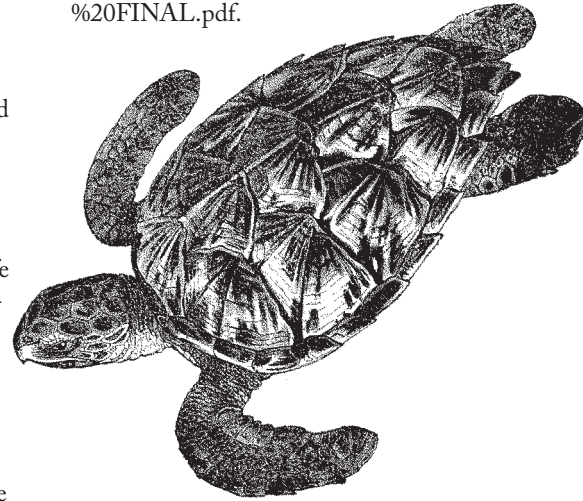
The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists have released a joint statement urging federal agencies to restrict the importation and exportation of native and foreign wildlife to protect public health.

The statement recommends that the recently instituted federal ban on the importation and movement of African rodents and prairie dogs be expanded to restrict the importation, exportation, and movement of all exotic wildlife. The statement also recommends that a working group comprising representatives from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NASPHV and CSTE be formed to develop the restrictions on wildlife trade.

As an example, organizations pointed to a recent outbreak of monkeypox in animals and humans that was traced back to animal dealers selling exotic wildlife. In response to that outbreak, officials from the CDC and the FDA implemented and

emergency executive order June 11 restricting the movement of African rodents and prairie dogs.

The full statement is available online at [www.cste.org/PS/2003pdfs/03-ID-13%20-%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.cste.org/PS/2003pdfs/03-ID-13%20-%20FINAL.pdf).



## Monkey Pox Outbreak in U.S.

Source: MMWR Weekly (edited)

In early June 2003, monkeypox was reported among several residents in the United States who became ill after having contact with sick pet prairie dogs. This is the first evidence of community-acquired monkeypox in the United States. The disease, a rare smallpox-like viral disease that is found mostly in the rainforest countries of central and west Africa, is called "monkeypox" because it was first discovered in laboratory monkeys. Blood tests of animals in Africa later found evidence of monkeypox infection in various rodent species. The virus that causes monkeypox was recovered from an African squirrel (*Funiscuirus* sp.), which may be the natural host. Laboratory studies showed that the virus could also infect rats, mice, and rabbits.

As of July 8, 2003, a total of 71 cases (35 confirmed, 26 suspect) of monkeypox have been reported to CDC from six states: Wisconsin (39), Indiana (16), Illinois (12), Missouri (two), Kansas (one), and Ohio (one). The majority of patients were exposed to prairie dogs and reported a clinical illness that included rash and fever. No patients have been confirmed to have had exposure to persons with monkeypox as their only possible exposure. To prevent

transmission of monkeypox, 30 persons in six states have received smallpox vaccine since June 13.

Traceback investigations have determined that all 35 confirmed human cases of monkeypox were associated with prairie dogs obtained from an Illinois animal distributor, or from animal distributors who purchased prairie dogs from this distributor. Traceback of animal exposures are ongoing for other cases. Prairie dogs at the Illinois animal distributor appear to have been infected through contact with Gambian giant rats and dormice that originated in Ghana and were purchased on April 21 from a Texas animal distributor. On April 9, the Texas distributor imported a shipment of approximately 800 small mammals from Ghana that contained 762 African rodents. Testing of animals confirmed the presence of monkeypox by PCR and virus isolation in several rodent species, including one Gambian rat (*Cricetomys* sp.), three dormice (*Graphiurus* sp.), and two rope squirrels (*Funiscuirus* sp.).

The outbreak described highlights the public health threat posed by importation, for commercial purposes, of exotic pets into the United States. In this outbreak, the rapid and widespread distribution of monkeypox-infected and potentially infected imported wild animals to distributors and potential buyers in several settings (e.g., pet stores, swap meets, and wild animal trade centers) enabled epizootic spread through multiple states before effective interventions could be implemented. Federal agencies in collaboration with state and local health departments and professional organizations are developing long-term strategies to coordinate the control of importation, exportation, interstate trade, and intrastate sale of exotic and native wild animals (see State veterinarians, epidemiologists advocate restrictions on wildlife trade).

Veterinarians who suspect monkeypox in animals should report such cases to their state and local health departments. State health departments should report suspect cases to CDC, telephone 770-488-7100.

For more information on monkeypox see: [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox)

(PRESIDENT, continued from page 1)

Let me close by offering tribute to another person who showed "the power of one," Dr. Herman Dieterich. After a long and successful practice career in Texas, which included becoming a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, he moved to Del Norte Colorado and, using his own funds, land and other resources established a terrific wildlife rehabilitation facility (Frisco Creek). He told me he did it simply because he loved wildlife and wanted to use his skills to help in any way he could. He joined AAWV about 10 years ago. Dr. Dieterich and others, like John Beecham in Idaho showed that, despite wildlife management dogma to the contrary, orphaned bear cubs can be successfully raised, released to the wild, and stay wild. His facility was central to the reintroduction of Canada lynx to Colorado and he received awards from the Wildlife Society and Colorado Division of Wildlife. I hope many of you saw his presentations at the 2002 WDA meeting at Humboldt State. Hermann, who died this summer, was a quiet and unassuming guy, laughed easily, was never confrontational, with an incredibly positive outlook on life and "the power of one."

Presently, and for at least the near future we, your organization and officers, are going to focus on growing the AAWV in breadth and depth. By the time you get this newsletter we will have already increased membership by 20 percent over what it was in August simply by phone calls and mailings reminding colleagues of what they will miss if they are not members of AAWV. As you will also note we are putting before you, in this newsletter a ballot on proposals to improve election procedures. Please vote (but not early and often). On the political front, feral cats and veterinary involvement in TNR programs is front and center right now. I have attempted to e-mail all of you a Powerpoint presentation you might use in talking to our colleagues, students, humane and wildlife organizations. The power of one can me increased 200 fold if each of you will give one talk on feral cats this year. On these and other issues I ask for your support. Keep your power on and your powder dry ladies and gentlemen, we are going to have a very busy and productive year.

## Treasurer's Report

### American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians 2003 Summary Report

Account Balance as of July 2002		\$10,897.81
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership dues	\$5,984.28	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,984.28</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Bank Charges & Returned Checks	\$ 34.92	
Supplies (membership drive)	537.13	
Services (website)	300.00	
USAHA membership	600.00	
Cutting Edge Speaker	524.99	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,987.24</b>	
Account Balance as of August 2003		\$14,885.05
<b>Money Market Account as of July 2002</b>		
Interest earned	\$3010.64	\$15.04
Current value as of July 2003		\$3,025.68
Certificate of Deposit as of November 2002		\$10,290.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS as of August 2003</b>		<b>\$28,200.73</b>

## Human-Wildlife Relationship in Developing Countries Explored

By Kristen Mansfield, AAWV Secretary

This year, attendees at the Wildlife Disease Association banquet in Saskatoon were treated to an eye-opening and thought-provoking presentation by AAWV Cutting-edge speaker Dr. William Karesh (Wildlife Conservation Society, New York) titled "You Get What You Eat". Dr. Karesh drew upon his extensive experience working in developing countries to enlighten us about the intimate relationships many cultures have with wildlife, particularly as a source of protein; and offered some interesting perspectives on effective strategies for conserving wildlife in those countries.

For example, he noted that previous campaigns had failed to have an impact on the mind-boggling magnitude and diversity of wildlife traded in Asian markets until the suspected link between animals in these markets and human severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was reported. Only with the emergence of a public health emergency did enforcement of existing wildlife protection laws become a priority.

Dr. Karesh pointed out that human Monkey Pox infections are fairly common in certain parts of Africa; especially in children who often catch and eat squirrels and various other rodents. How-

ever, in contrast to the situation here in the United States, there is usually no support for affected Africans, and little effort on the part of government to inform them about the disease.

Finally, Dr. Karesh described how surprisingly little is known about the role of wildlife in the epidemiology of Ebola hemorrhagic fever. For example, early on during the most recent epidemic, some unmonitored gorilla populations disappeared for unknown reasons. Later, other populations of gorillas, as well as species such as duikers, were documented to have died of Ebola hemorrhagic fever. In retrospect, Ebola hemorrhagic fever was likely the cause of the earlier disappearances as well.

In conclusion, Dr. Karesh detailed the need for multiple-agenda driven interventions to change human behavior in order to accomplish wildlife conservation and improve human health in developing countries. Professionals from organizations such as WDA could play a significant role in this respect. Foremost is the need for outreach to the local people; realizing that suspicion of outsiders can run deep, and sometimes there is no support from the local or national governments.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Oct. 4-10, 2003	American Association of Zoo Veterinarians /Association of Reptile & Amphibian Veterinarians Joint Conference, Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, Minnesota; www.aazv.org
Oct. 9-16, 2003	United States Animal Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, California; www.usaha.org
Nov. 15-19, 2003	American College of Veterinary Pathologists 5th Annual Meeting and 13th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Clinical Pathology, Banff, Alberta, Canada; meetings@acvp.org
Apr. 4-10, 2004	International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine's 35th Annual Meeting, Galveston, Texas; www.iaaam.org
Jul. 24-28, 2004	American Association of Veterinary Medicine's 141st Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; www.avma.org/convention/default.asp
Aug. 29-Sep. 2, 2004	Joint meeting of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, and the Wildlife Disease Association, San Diego, California
Sep. 18-22, 2004	The Wildlife Society's 11th Annual Conference, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; www.wildlife.org

## Suggested Changes to AAWV Election Procedures

By Dave Jessup, AAWV President

### Background

Leadership and selection of officers who have the time and energy to do the associations work has been a major challenge for AAWV since its inception. This is true for many other small professional organizations too. Several times in its 23 year history AAWV has lost significant momentum when people simply could not devote enough time to get AAWV's business done.

In the past AAWV has only occasionally held contested elections. Officers have largely succeeded each other through the ranks. When an officer has been needed to fill in a leadership opening a candidate has often been selected by President or Advisory Council and run unopposed. There are advantages and disadvantages to succession and to elections with multiple candidates which will not be discussed here. But, clearly AAWV is challenged with the need to "grow its leadership" while leaving openings for dynamic newcomers and for departure of leaders who are overburdened.

### Suggested changes

AAWV will hold elections every two years as per constitution and bylaws. Each position (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) should be up for vote by the membership. Selection of Advisory Council and Newsletter Editor to be at the discretion of the President.

A standing Elections Committee will be established by the President shortly following entry to office consisting of no less than 3 members none of whom should be seeking election two years hence. One person (not an elected officer) will chair that committee. The Elections Committee will be responsible for recruiting at least one candidate other than a succeeding officer for each office. Officers will be encouraged to run for the next higher office (Vice President for

President, etc.). Nominations will also remain open to the membership.

The Elections Committee will also collect standardized candidate resumes and statements for publication in the AAWV Newsletter, coordinate with the AAWV Newsletter Editor to make publication deadlines for candidate announcements and ballots and assure proper ballots (as described below) are printed and made available to all AAWV members. This committee will do the majority of their work (recruiting candidates, getting background information and candidate statements, counting and verifying ballots) every other year. Thus, in the Fall or Winter AAWV newsletters prior to an election there will be a call for nominations from the membership, and an announcement of the two candidates (one the succeeding officer the other a member selected by the Elections Committee) who will run. Unless there is significant dissatisfaction with the choice of candidates most elections should be between two individuals.

### Future Ballots

Ballots will be printed in the AAWV Newsletter such that they can be removed without destruction of any significant portion of the newsletter or detached and mailed back as per instructions to the Chair of the Elections Committee. No photocopies of ballots will be accepted and postmarks observed to assure they arrive within specified time lines. Elections Committee Chair will tally and report the results to the President within 7 days of the closing date of the election and assure that the results are verified by at least one other committee member within another 7 days.

In closing, I think these additions and modifications to AAWV's elections procedures will help 1) assure greater membership participation in AAWV affairs, 2) encourage greater openness and accountability to the membership, 3) allow incorporation of "new blood" while encouraging stability of succession if officers are active, 4) relieve the President and Newsletter Editor of some responsibilities every other year.

### PLEASE VOTE!



#### BALLOT TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE PROPOSED CHANGES TO ELECTION PROCEDURES

- YES, I approve the election procedure changes
- NO, I do not approve the election procedure changes

#### Clip and Send To:

Dr. Kristin Mansfield  
WA Dept. of Fish & Game  
8702 N. Division St.  
Spokane, WA 99218



**AAWV MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM**  
**Annual dues for 2004 due now!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip, Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): Work (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable (in US funds) to AAWV**

- \$25.00 Veterinarian (Active)
- \$15.00 Veterinary Student
- \$25.00 Subscribing (Non-veterinarians & institutions)

**Send To:**

Dr. Mike Ziccardi  
 Wildlife Health Center  
 University of California  
 Davis, CA 95616

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Founded in 1979, the AAWV is a national, non-profit organization of veterinarians interested in all aspects of wildlife health.

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The continued high quality of this newsletter is dependent on members submitting articles, notices, letters to the editor and our new upcoming section titled "notes from the field" (1 or 2 sentences about field techniques).  
 Deadline for submission is December 15, 2003.  
 Please submit to Joe Gaydos at jkgaydos@ucdavis.edu

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fall 2003v Newsletter

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**AMERICAN  
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