



Volume 9 - Number 4

July - August, 2000

Newsletter

Eric (Rick) M. Mills - President; Elizabeth Lund - President Elect, Robin Starr-Chichester - Secretary Treasurer;
Ronald D. Smith - Newsletter Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

ASSOCIATION NEWS.....	2
Thank you Jim Schoster.....	2
New AVI Web Site Launched.....	2
AVI Newsletter Editor Dr. Ronald D. Smith Receives National Award for Distance Education.....	2
How to Contact AVI.....	3
Minutes of the Annual AVI Business Meeting - Sunday, July 23, 2000.....	3
Association for Veterinary Informatics Executive Board Minutes.....	4
AVI Financial Report 1999-2000.....	5
AVI Membership Report 2000.....	7
CORRESPONDENCE.....	10
RE Talbot Symposium and Veterinary Informatics.....	10
PRODUCTS & REVIEWS.....	10
Vendor-Software Survey Update.....	10
INTERNET RESOURCES.....	10
Veterinary-Homeopathy List.....	10
NEWS & COMMENTARY.....	11
VetExchange VetMedCenter Merger Streamlines Practices in Veterinary Clinics Nationwide.....	11
CALL FOR SPEAKER & POSTER PROPOSALS - TALBOT SYMPOSIUM 2001.....	12

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Thank you Jim Schoster

Rick Mills, AVI President

As President of AVI, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Jim Schoster for his tremendous work in coordinating the last two Talbot Symposiums. If I had to pay a nickel for every e-mail he sent, I'd go broke. Every aspect of Jim's work was superb. Dick Talbot would no doubt be proud to have his name associated with Jim's effort. Jim's annual evaluation should most definitely be a 10 in the service category. Jim will be the first to say that many others were also responsible for the Symposium's success, and they were. However, his organization and coordination was essential. Jim, thank you. We have all been enriched by your efforts.

New AVI Web Site Launched

Robin M. Starr, AVI Sec/Treas

On September 1, 2000, the AVI launched a dynamic new web site at <http://www.avinformatics.org>. This exemplary web site will provide valued benefits to members and aid in recruiting new members. This will be a dynamic site with regular updates to the content. There will be links to news stories important to veterinary computing, abstracts and links to the latest edition of on-line veterinary journals, and the AVI Newsletter.

The new AVI web site will become a focal point for online veterinary informatics information. There will be information on past and upcoming Talbot Informatics Symposia and links to related non-profit organizations and libraries of veterinary medicine. We will seek sponsors with products related to veterinary computing, with the goal of having the site become self-sufficient by its second year. The web site will emphasize accessibility by most graphical browsers and stability, using leading edge technology only after it is stable. This is your member benefit! We request your feedback so that we can tailor the web site to suit your needs.

AVI Newsletter Editor Dr. Ronald D. Smith Receives National Award for Distance Education

Dr. Ronald D. Smith, of Urbana, Ill., was among a select few who won a 2000 American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) "Excellence in College and University Distance Education National Award" at its March meeting in Washington, D.C. Dr. Smith was honored for his pioneering work using the World Wide Web for education in veterinary medicine and food safety. ADEC is a nonprofit organization of 58 state universities and land-grant colleges.

The award recognizes work that is effective, creative, and collaborative and faculty members who have commitment to high standards for distance education. A professor of epidemiology and preventive medicine at University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana, Dr. Smith placed the entire veterinary curriculum on line. His asynchronous programs, "Food Safety CAI" and "Virtual Rounds", support learning within and outside of the college.

"My Virtual Rounds case-based veterinary medical exercises are designed to introduce students to clinical problem solving, epidemiologic concepts, and evidence-based medicine," noted Dr. Smith. The program draws on the most current online resources, which are critical for the success of veterinarians, and other health professionals. Dr. Smith further commented, "I am honored to have my work recognized by such a prestigious national organization. The ADEC award has helped focus local and national attention on efforts by all of us to enhance higher education through innovative approaches to distance education."

In 1997 Dr. Smith received the Merck AgVet Creativity Award for innovative and creative use of the Internet for teaching. He speaks widely to veterinary and public health audiences

on the educational aspects of computers and the Internet.

Details of the ADEC award recipients and their distance education programs can be found at <<http://www.adec.edu/user/current/2000/UKnewsrel.html>>. ADEC's "Guiding Principles for Distance Teaching and Learning" can be found at <http://www.adec.edu/admin/papers/distance-teaching_principles.html>.

How to Contact AVI

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check payable to the AVI, should be sent to:

Dr. Robin M. Starr; Secretary Treasurer, AVI;
31575 Griffin Drive, Conifer, CO 80433
Phone: 303/674-5231; FAX: 303/674-9717;
e-mail: starrchi@earthlink.net

Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://www.avinformatics.org/>

Dr. Starr is responsible for distribution of the hardcopy version of the AVI Newsletter.

Newsletter items can be sent to:

Dr. Ronald D. Smith, Newsletter Editor, AVI;
UI College of Veterinary Medicine; 2001 South
Lincoln; Urbana, IL 61801.
Phone: 217/333-2449
FAX: 217/333-4628
E-mail: rd-smith@uiuc.edu

If you are an AVI member and would like to be on the AVI Newsletter electronic distribution list, send an e-mail message to the Newsletter Editor. The electronic (PDF) version is faster, searchable, easier to store and retrieve, and environmentally friendly.

Current and past issues of the AVI Newsletter are also available on the Web at:

<http://www.avinformatics.org/>

Minutes of the Annual AVI Business Meeting Sunday, July 23, 2000

The AVI business meeting was held in the Snowbird-Alta room of the Marriott Hotel in conjunction with the AVMA Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. Thirty members and two guests were in attendance. President Dr. Rick Mills called the business luncheon to order at 12:20.

Installation of Officers

Dr. Eric (Rick) M. Mills was installed as AVI President for 2000-2001.

Nominating Committee Report

Dr. Elizabeth Lund was elected AVI President-Elect by membership ballot. Elizabeth Lund, DVM, MPH, PhD, is President and CEO of EpiCenter, Inc. in Lake Elmo, MN. Dr. Lund earned her PhD at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, with her thesis *Development and Evaluation of a Model for Diagnostic Surveillance in Companion Animal Practice*. She has also researched and published in the areas of standardized nomenclature, clinical trial methodology, evidence-based medicine, cancer epidemiology, and assorted canine and feline disease epidemiology.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report – Dr. Robin M. Starr

Treasurer's and Membership reports are recorded separately in this issue of the AVI Newsletter.

Education Committee Report

The Talbot Symposium is being held today, with 14 speakers presenting a full day of 10 to 45 minute presentations, plus a poster presentation. Four speakers will present the Informatics

Program in eight 90-minute blocks on Monday and Tuesday. The consensus was that the schedule was well planned and that the morning presentations had gone well. Drs. James V. Schoster and Robert H. Featherston were recognized for their tremendous efforts in planning the 2000 Talbot Informatics Symposium and Informatics Program.

Dr. Paul M. Schmitz has accepted appointment as Chair of the Education Committee for the 2001 Talbot Symposium and Informatics Program. Dr. Schmitz requested that members provide suggestions and encouraged them to submit proposals.

Work Group Reports

None given.

AVI is sponsoring a CAI/CAL work group meeting to be held Monday evening July 24.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Dr. Mills led a discussion of future directions and issues in veterinary informatics.

Members recognize the need to encourage student participation in AVI and in the field of informatics. The decision was made to consider a student competition with at least a \$500 award for a presentation at the 2001 Talbot Informatics Symposium.

A suggestion was made to have the AVI establish minimum standards in informatics for acceptance to and graduation from veterinary school.

Association for Veterinary Informatics Executive Board Minutes

Executive Board members present were Drs. Robert H. Featherston, Rick M. Mills, Paul M. Schmitz, Ronald D. Smith, and Robin M. Starr.

Old Business

Library memberships will be limited to a complimentary subscription to the AVI Newsletter and will not include participation in work groups nor voting rights.

The question on member interests on the AVI renewal form is adequate, with no immediate need to repeat the survey conducted in 1999.

New Business

AVI will have a student competition for papers to be presented at the Talbot Informatics Symposium. We will seek one or more sponsors for at least a \$500 cash award plus roundtrip airfare, plus AVMA meeting registration and prorated speaker honorarium. If we are unable to recruit sponsors, the AVI can provide one student award.

The Executive Board approved expenditure for creation of a new AVI web site with the objective of providing regularly updated information and improving member benefits.

Establishment of standards in informatics for veterinary colleges is a major undertaking that will be reconsidered in 2001.

AVI Financial Report 1999-2000

The AVI started Fiscal Year 99-00 with over \$8,200 on hand, enabling us to expand our member benefits and out reach, and increase our presence at the AVMA Annual Convention in Salt Lake City. We have started providing complimentary newsletter subscriptions to 36 libraries of veterinary medicine. We were able to print and distribute the first AVI Membership Directory in September '99 (\$600), and begin annual distribution in March 2000. We added a T1 line and computer projection equipment for 3 days of Talbot Informatics Symposium and AVI presentations at the AVMA Convention (\$455). We supported the CAI/CAL work group meeting with refreshments (\$291) and AV equipment (\$456).

AVI plans for FY 2000-2001 include setting the membership renewal deadline at March 1, 2001 to save on postage with simultaneous mailing of the January/February newsletter and the 2001 Membership Directory. The Executive Board approved expenditure for creation of a new AVI web site to be kept current and provide enhanced member benefits. We will sponsor a student paper competition for the Talbot Informatics Symposium and provide an award if we are unable to recruit sponsors.

Sincerely,

Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd
Secretary/Treasurer
Association for Veterinary Informatics

INCOME

Balance Forwarded	8,213.77
Interest Inc	145.59
Member Dues:	
Associate	360.00
Corporate	200.00
Full	4,060.00
Student	100.00
TOTAL Member Dues	4,720.00
TOTAL INCOME	13,079.36

EXPENSES

AVMA Meeting:	
AV Equip	-455.00
CAI-CAL	-746.95
Exec Brd Mtg	-48.94
Luncheon	-713.57
TOTAL AVMA Meeting	-1,964.46
Ballots:	
Postage	-100.98
Printing	-23.50
Services	-30.00
TOTAL Ballots	-154.48
Business Exp:	
Bank Charge	-15.90
Office supplies	-129.99
Postage	-75.63
TOTAL Business Exp	-221.52
Directory: Sept. '99 and Mar. '00	
Postage	-376.32
Printing	-695.38
Services	-60.60
TOTAL Directory	-1,132.30
Newsletter:	
Honorarium	-1,260.00
Postage	-370.13
Printing	-481.25
Services	-132.75
TOTAL Newsletter	-2,244.13
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (5,716.89)
BALANCE ON HAND	\$ 7,362.47
8/31/00	

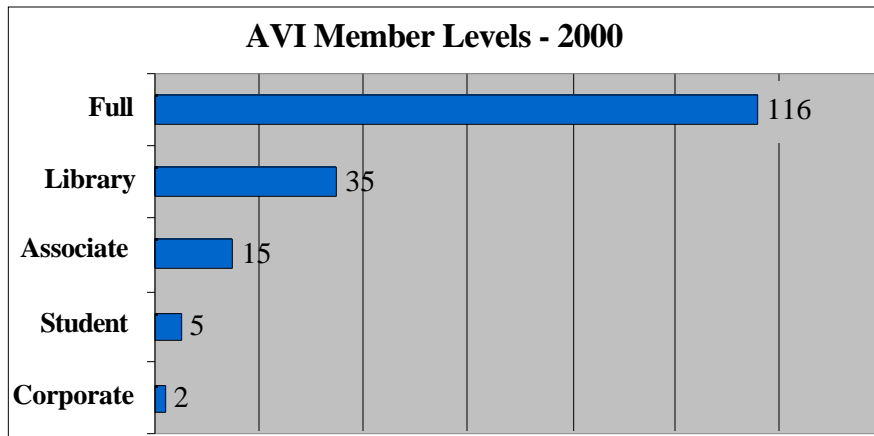
AVI Membership Report 2000

Membership recruitment efforts during 1999-2000 year included:

- E-mail renewal notices on November 22, 1999; and January 1, January 31, March 6, and June 16, 2000.
- E-mail solicitation of '98 members who did not renew in 1999 on January 31, 2000
- Letters mailed to members lacking E-mail addresses on January 2 and March 6, 2000
- Letters mailed to members who had not renewed on January 2 and February 2, 2000
- Membership application form in AVI Newsletters and on the AVI web site
- Information about the AVI and membership on the AVI-L LISTSERV.

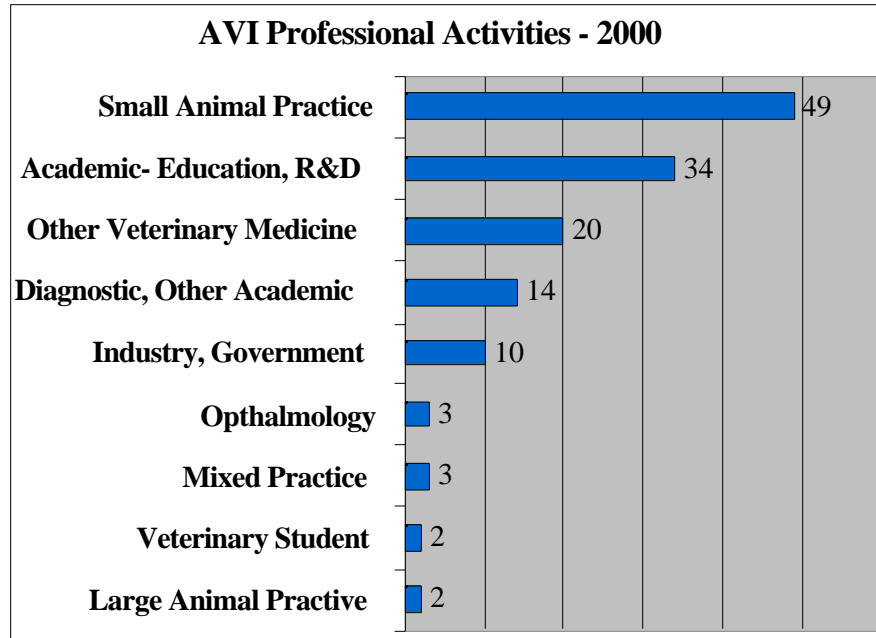
Membership:

As of July 31, 2000, AVI has 138 active members, down slightly from 147 in 1999. Membership includes 116 Full, 15 Associate, 5 Student, and 2 Corporate members. There are 9 non-USA members; 1 each from Australia, Brazil, Israel, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sweden, and Switzerland, and 2 from Canada. In addition, 35 libraries of veterinary medicine, the AVMA, and the National Library of Medicine receive a complimentary subscription to the AVI Newsletter.



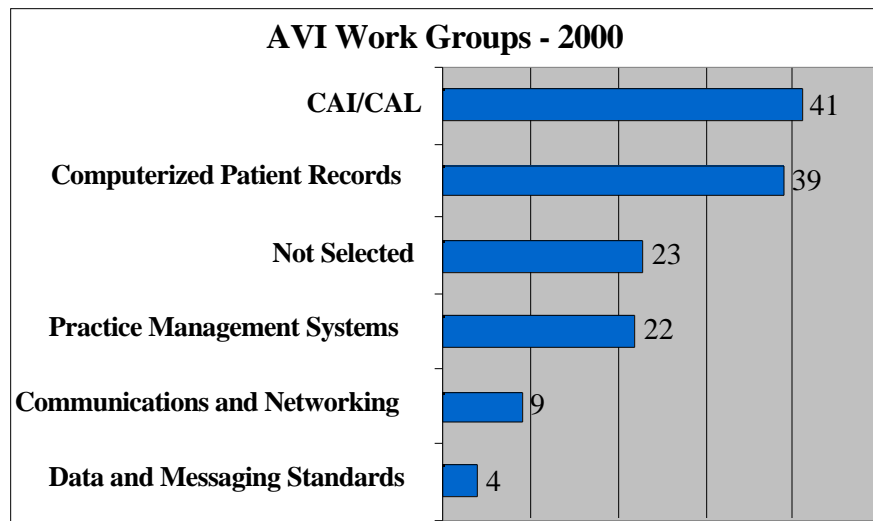
Professional activities:

AVI members indicate that 36% are in Small Animal Practice, 35% in academe (Education, R&D, Diagnostic, Other), 15% in “Other” veterinary medicine, and the remaining 14% in a variety of categories. Details are in the graph below.



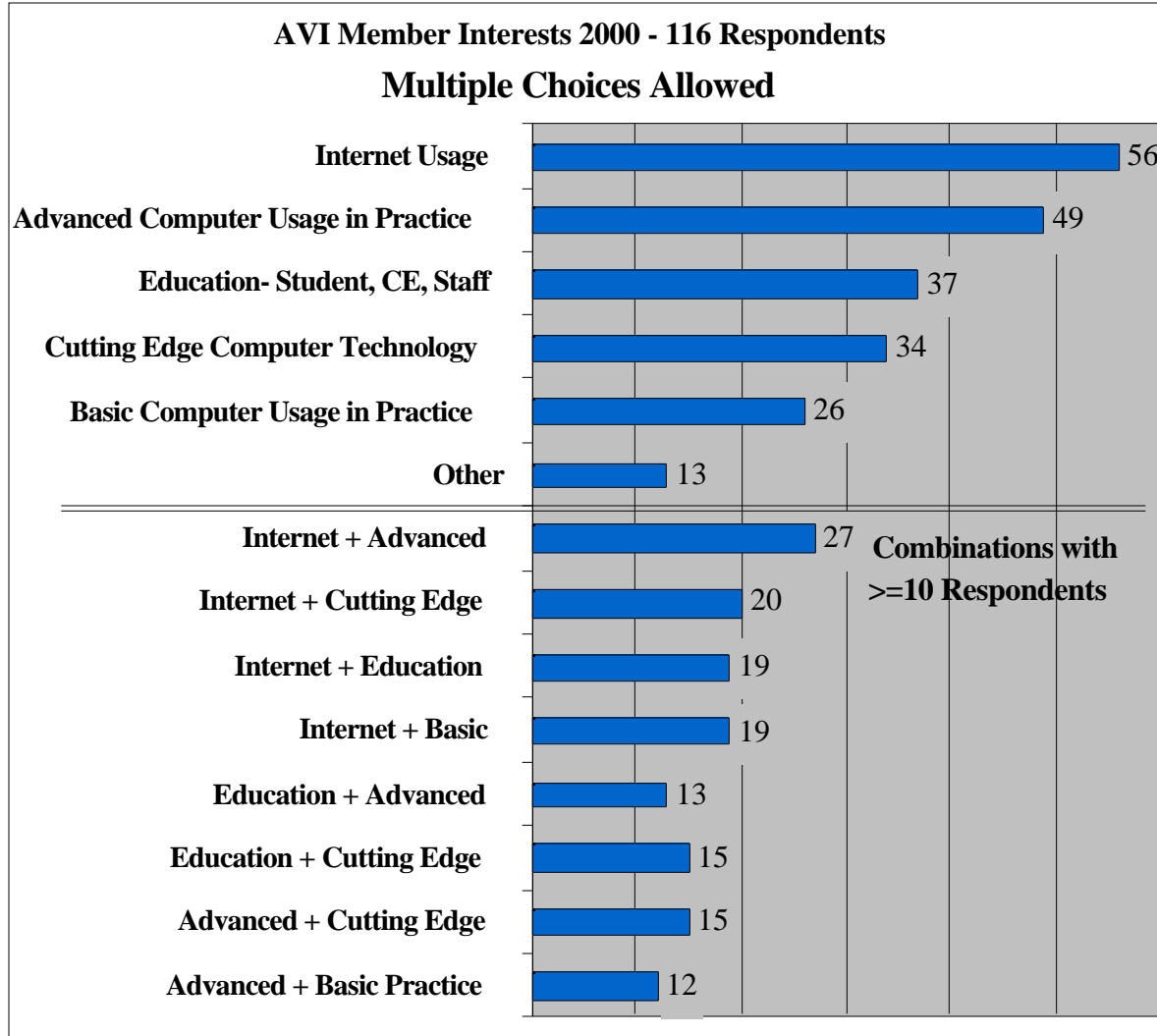
Work Groups

Members are allowed to select one work group: CAI/CAL is selected by 30%, Computerized Patient records by 28%, and Practice Management Systems by 16%. Details are as shown in the graph below:



Member Interests:

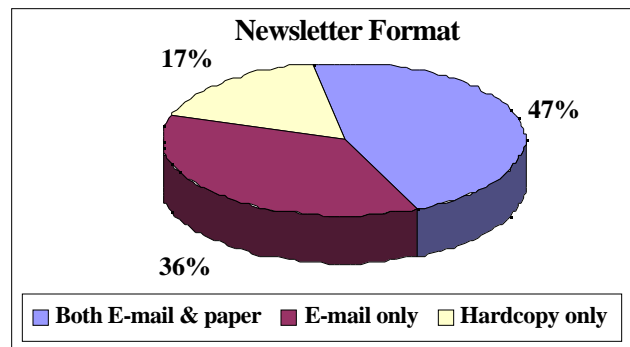
Members were asked to select one or more current interests in veterinary informatics. A total of 116 members responded: 48% selected Internet Usage, 42% Advanced Computer Usage in Practice, 32% Education, 30% Cutting Edge Computer Technology, and 22% selected Basic Computer Usage in Practice. Details and combinations with more than 10 respondents are shown in the graph below.



AVI Newsletter Format:

The majority of members request a paper copy of our newsletter: 46% request both electronic and hardcopy, 17% hardcopy only, and 36% are content with electronic only.

Respectfully submitted,
 Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Association for Veterinary Informatics



CORRESPONDENCE

RE Talbot Symposium and Veterinary Informatics

Steve Waldhalm <waldhalm@cvm.msstate.edu>

Jim (Schoster),
I wanted to commend you and all of our group for the fine job done this year. I was able to attend much of the symposium, and I believe it measured up to the expectations and was

reasonably well attended. We are in an exciting field.

Please try to "impose" yourselves as speakers in other specialty group meetings through the coming year. Metastasis is still the best way for informatics to achieve recognition in veterinary medicine. Steve

PRODUCTS & REVIEWS

Vendor-Software Survey Update

Paul Schmitz <PETSDDVM@AOL.COM>

Here is the link to the Vendor Survey results which I conducted last year. It's not absolutely complete but it does update the DVM Magazine-

Simms data from 1998 for some of the Windows based software vendors.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~petsddvm/vssupsimms1299.pdf>

It is an Acrobat pdf file, created with version 4.0.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Veterinary-Homeopathy List

Description:
The Veterinary Homeopathy list was started by Veterinary Homeopathy students of Dr. Christina Chambreau and provides a forum for the discussion of the use of Homeopathy in Veterinary Medicine. Members may be veterinarians, pet owners, breeders, and/or Homeopathy students.

Topics that are considered appropriate on the list are homeopathic philosophy, casetaking, repetorization, and materia medica. Translation of animal symptoms into rubrics, dosing, and evaluation of the case are also appropriate.

Impediments to healing such as diet and vaccination should be limited to passing remarks. Detailed discussion of these subjects should take place on other lists which are dedicated to them.

Subscription instructions:
To subscribe to Veterinary-Homeopathy send an email to

Veterinary-Homeopathy-subscribe@topica.com

Owner/moderator address:
TimSaffell@USA.Net

NEWS & COMMENTARY

VetExchange VetMedCenter Merger Streamlines Practices in Veterinary Clinics Nationwide

ATLANTA, GA July 24, 2000

VetExchange and VetMedCenter have agreed in principle to merge, creating a new company that will provide veterinarians with complete practice management and medical information, streamlining clinic operations, offering telemedicine capabilities and allowing practitioners to spend more time practicing veterinary medicine.

Headquartered in Atlanta, VetExchange, the first Web-based practice management software system, replaces the expensive - and often inefficient - client-server-based systems that veterinary practices have relied on for years. It also provides veterinarians essential resources such as online inventory and financial management, as well as continuing education opportunities.

VetMedCenter, based in San Francisco, is the animal healthcare online point of contact for both veterinary professionals and pet owners alike. VetMedCenter provides two dynamic Web sites customized to meet the needs of each market, offering a blend of news and reference materials and access to products and services. A panel of board certified veterinary specialists representing 27 fields of expertise oversees all editorial content.

The new company will be a complete veterinary information management system, designed to resolve inefficiencies in individual veterinary clinics and throughout the \$33 billion industry as a whole. Chief among its offerings will be a Web-based practice management software package featuring electronic patient records and supply chain management, and a general content Web site serving as the ultimate online reference point for the veterinary professional.

Also included in the merger is the telemedicine division of VetMedCenter, currently serving some 3,800 veterinarian clients nationwide.

This client base will provide a strong platform for rollout of the new company's practice management software system, scheduled for September.

"A merger between these two companies creates a powerful new force in the veterinary industry," said John McCallum, CEO of VetExchange. "VetExchange's strength lies in technology, as evidenced by our practice management software. VetMedCenter's strength lies in the depth of its content and its network of board certified veterinary experts. Bringing the two companies together will result in a product that revolutionizes the way veterinary clinics operate."

"I am pleased to join a company that combines years of veterinary knowledge with current technologies to improve upon the practice of veterinary medicine, bringing more efficiency and general knowledge to veterinary professionals and pet owners," said Larry Tilley, DVM, founder of VetMedCenter.

To date, the two companies have raised more than \$10 million. The merger brings an initial \$700,000 in revenue and strengthens the new company's investor base. VetExchange investors include Atlanta Technology Angels; Mercury Investors; John P. Imlay Jr.; and eHatchery, LLC. VetMedCenter investors include T.H. Lee of Putnam Internet Partners, L.P.; Robert Senoff of New Millennium Partners; Ken Orton of Cognitative; and Dr. Larry Tilley.

The companies expect to finalize the merger by August 15, 2000.

CALL FOR SPEAKER & POSTER PROPOSALS

Association for Veterinary Informatics

On the web at: <http://www.avinformatics.org>

Please pass / forward on to all colleagues, faculty, and students!

6th Annual Talbot Symposium on Veterinary Informatics

and

AVMA Computers & Informatics Program – July 2001

"Bringing practitioners, hospitals and staff into
the 21st century with patient-centered systems"

This year we will focus on how computer and Internet technology together with informatics can increase the quality of patient care; provide educational enrichment and enjoyment for practitioner and staff; and also increase the bottom line of the practice. These areas are all interrelated and dependent upon each other.

The Talbot Informatics Symposium takes place at the AVMA Annual Convention in Boston on Sunday, July 15, 2001 and consists of 10 to 45 minute presentations. The Informatics Program takes place on Monday and Tuesday, July 16 and 17 and consists of four 90-minute sessions on each day. We strongly encourage private practitioners to submit proposals, as well as academicians and students.

We are also pleased to announce the:

Association for Veterinary Informatics Scholars' Award

Pet's Choice and the **AVI** are sponsoring prizes of \$750 plus round trip airfare for the two winning student informatics proposals. Each 20 minute presentation is to be given on Sunday July 15th at the Talbot Informatics Symposium. In addition, the winning students will receive free registration for the AVMA Annual Convention and an honorarium equal to the current AVMA Standard Speaker honorarium. Students enrolled in any accredited college of veterinary medicine or in a veterinary or medical informatics program, and not graduating prior to the Class of 2001 are eligible for this award.

Deadline for submission is September 30, 2000

Suggested topics for next year's symposium:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computerizing the veterinary practice • Internet access issues • Hardware & networking issues • Database programs for hospitals • Other clinical practice related software / hardware • Digital photography for practitioners • Status of On-line CE: VIN, NOAH...others? • Status of the world wide web & Internet 2...other? • Literature searching via the internet • Better and more relevant client communications • Clinical workstations • Decision support technology • Resource allocation in veterinary medicine • Interactive clinical discussion courses - online rounds etc. • Expert systems • Standards and policy • Imaging and non-textual data issues • Bio-informatics • Bibliographic database search, retrieval and storage programs • Paperless practices and truly computer-based medical records • Outcomes analyses in veterinary medicine - its use or not? • Continuous quality care improvement in veterinary medicine • Clinical information management • Health information networks in veterinary and human medicine • Legal and ethical ramifications of the electronic record • Impact of information technology on the pet health-care delivery process • Query languages and search engines -through intranets and the internet • Accuracy on the Internet • Comparison of various veterinary software programs on the market • Voice recognition software/hardware for medical record entry of data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants) and such in veterinary medicine • Diagnostic programs - their current state and ones still available • Drug Formularies or other "Practitioner Helper" type programs • Education uses of technology for the hospital, DVMS and staff – online, distance learning, training via internet technologies, video-conferencing, Advances in CD-ROM use: books, lectures, images, literature, videos, drug formularies, medical dictionaries, client information handouts (CE), kiosks for clinic lobby, others? • Acquiring, authoring and delivering clinical information via the internet • Tele-medicine: patient records, radiology, ultrasound, EKG, video-image capture, etc. • Medical terminology & nomenclature standards - where are we now, where will we or should we be? Compliance to such? Streaming etc. • Importance of standardized patient descriptions, problem lists, diagnoses lists, services, inventory descriptions, protocols and strategy development as it relates to an optimal patient care delivery system • Better and more informative computerized reminders - methods of attention getting delivery • Use of online manuals, client and staff training (CE) computer presentations and hospital user references or guides - and other training and education issues • User friendly front-ends in our hospitals and other user interface issues - ergonomics in a typical veterinary hospital in 2001 and beyond • Tapping into alternative media channels, allowing quick and direct communications within the hospital; between hospitals; and between hospitals and their patients (their owners) • More use of the world-wide-web (internet) for disseminating information between ourselves and to our clients • Information retrieval and digital libraries
--	--

The Executive Board and Educational Committee of the Association of Veterinary Informatics (AVI) requests submissions of presentation and/or poster proposals that fit into our stated description / goals for the 2001 Talbot Informatics Symposium and AVMA Computers & Informatics Program. Talks can be 10, 20, 30, 45, 90 minutes long or longer (see above for blocks each day). Any computer or informatics related topic will be considered: preference will be given to topics of interest to the broadest range of individuals.

Submissions are invited from both inside and outside the veterinary profession, wherever information technologies have been shown effective in solving real problems for veterinary practitioners or bringing clarity to veterinary decision-making regarding their patients as a result of systematic approach. Presentations will be chosen competitively with preferences to those aligned with the symposium's theme and/or with information the practitioner can take back immediately to practice.

The Education Committee of AVI will review all proposals and will have final approval on selecting those for presentation at the Talbot on the 15th. The AVMA will have final approval on speakers for the AVMA Informatics Program of the 16th & 17th, though the AVI will do the initial judging and selection. **Selected speakers and poster presenters will be notified as soon as possible by the AVI Educational Committee once the proposals are reviewed and approved, hopefully by November 1, 2000.** All selected speakers will receive free meeting registration and an honorarium of \$100.00/speaking hour without speaker notes and \$175.00/speaking hour with notes, prorated at the hourly rate depending on the length of the presentation. All Standard Rate speakers will receive a per diem and must be on the program for at least 1.5 hours total to qualify for any travel reimbursement. This will all be explained in the Speaker Information Packet from the AVMA office, to be sent in December 2000. All Speakers notes are due to the AVMA offices by March 1st, 2001 for inclusion in the AVMA Annual Convention Notes.

Submit your abstract for review electronically (preferred) to petsdvm@aol.com or please call Paul Schmitz, DVM (918-459-9460, 918-258-5579) or any member of the Education Committee of AVI to discuss your topic.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT CONVENTION NOTES AT THIS TIME

If and when your presentation has been accepted by the AVI, you will receive a speaker's letter from the AVMA which will include instructions for submission of material for publication in the AVMA Convention Notes as well as deadlines.

Suitable presentations may be sponsored by the AVI for publication in *JAVMA* or the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*. Please use the proposal submission form below and e-mail all completed proposals to: petsdvm@aol.com or mail to:

Paul Schmitz, DVM
209 N. Hemlock
Broken Arrow, OK, 74012
USA

Proposals must be received by September 30, 2000 to be considered

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM PER PRESENTATION / POSTER

Please indicate the topic area of your presentation or poster according to the outline of suggested topics listed above:

TOPIC AREA

TITLE *(Please be sure your title reflects your content and is ATTRACTIVE to attendees)*

Length of Presentation: (Check one)

Sunday session: 10 min. 20 min. 30 min. 45 min.

Monday or Tuesday: 90 min. more...? _____

Poster: *Poster will fit on a 4' x 6' Display board.*

Abstract: *300 words – Use second page if necessary.*

SPEAKER

Name

Address

Phone Number (____) ____ - _____ *FAX Number* (____) ____ - _____

E-mail Address _____

Computer Needs for presentation (call or email for list of supplied hardware):

*AV Equipment requests will be made through the AVMA. More info will follow to speakers who are accepted.

Other Comments / Needs:

Proposals must be received by September 30, 2000 to be considered

