



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

A closer look at your association





About the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA®)

The AVA is the professional organisation representing veterinarians across Australia.

Our vision is a global community that respects and values the benefits of enhanced animal health, welfare and production. Our mission is to represent the veterinary profession with one voice, and to serve the interests of members.

To achieve our mission, the AVA

- provides leadership and expert scientific advice in animal health, welfare, conservation, public health, biosecurity and agriculture
- promotes the veterinary profession and advocates AVA policy to government and the community
- sets standards of professional excellence
- provides a forum for professional support and the exchange of information and ideas
- facilitates continuing education for members and the profession
- provides valuable member benefits.

Members join the AVA to participate in their professional community, and work together to

promote the profession, advise governments, and inform decision-makers. They must adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct.

AVA members value and invest in their own continuing education, and appreciate the value of setting high standards of professional excellence. They show their commitment to their communities through volunteering their time, and undertaking pro bono and reduced-cost veterinary work. As AVA members, they are also committed to their profession, and supporting other veterinarians in times of hardship.

Member benefits include the option to join more than 20 special interest groups. Eight state and territory divisions and 40 local branches work at state and local levels to provide continuing education and professional support opportunities. They are also the veterinary voice for local and state governments. Conferences, scientific journals and other publications are important member benefits.

Membership is open to veterinarians and students studying for a veterinary science degree.

Information about the AVA is available at www.ava.com.au.

© The Australian Veterinary Association 2009
Annual Report 2008

For general enquiries concerning the Australian Veterinary Association:

Telephone: 1300 137 309
Facsimile: 02 9437 9068
Website: www.ava.com.au

Edited and compiled by Marcia Balzer and Jennifer Bolton
Designed and illustrated by Melanie Humphery

Photography (cover, pages 6, 10-14, 25-32, 35, 42-50, 52)
© Anne Jackson

Photography (pages 2, 36, 37, 40, 41)
© Melanie Humphery

Photography (pages 8, 39)
© Maureen Revington

Photography (page 51)
© Sue Lyn



Contents

1

2	Governance
3	The AVA Board
4	President's report
6	CEO's report
8	Treasurer's report
10	Organisational chart
11	Staff structure
12	Australian Veterinary Journal
12	Policy Development and Implementation Group

14	STATE DIVISIONS
15	Australian Capital Territory
16	New South Wales
17	Northern Territory
18	Queensland
19	South Australia
20	Tasmania
22	Victoria
24	Western Australia

25	SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
26	Acupuncture
26	Alpacas
28	Avian
27	Behaviour
29	Cattle
30	Conservation Biologists
31	Dental
32	Equine
34	Greyhound
35	History
36	Holistic

37	Industry
38	Pig
39	Poultry
40	Practice Management
41	Public Health
42	Reproduction
42	Sheep
43	Small Animal
45	Unusual and Exotic
44	Welfare and Ethics

46	TRUSTS AND ADVISORY GROUPS
47	Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation
47	Animal Welfare and Crisis Response Trust
48	Therapeutics Advisory Committee
48	Animal Welfare Trust
49	Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
49	Centre for Companion Animals in the Community
50	Benevolent Fund
51	Australian Companion Animal Council

52	FINANCIALS
53	Directors' report
56	Income statement
57	Balance sheet
58	Statement of changes in equity
59	Cash flow statement
60	Notes to the financial statements
73	Directors' Declaration
74	Auditor's Independence Declaration
75	Independent Auditor's Report

Governance

The nine Directors on the AVA Board bear the ultimate responsibility for every aspect of the association.

AVA has been a company limited by guarantee since 1976, and the functions of the Board include:

Policy development

- Setting the strategic direction
- Approving the annual budget for the AVA as a whole
- Considering and approving financial policies
- Creating and dissolving committees and taskforces
- Approving strategies, business plans and operational policies
- Establishing delegations
- Reviewing and monitoring of Board Code of Conduct.

Monitoring

- Ensuring solvency
- Annual budget and related fiscal matters
- Achieving strategic direction through the annual business plan
- Recommending to the AGM for appointment of the external auditor
- Considering reports from both the internal and external auditors
- Employment and performance of the Chief Executive Officer
- Operating information to understand at all times the state of health of the company
- Overseeing the management of business risks, insurance risks, environmental issues and occupational health and safety
- Ensuring that the company acts legally and responsibly on all matters and that the highest ethical standards are maintained.

Composition and operations

There are nine non-executive Directors on the Board. Six Directors are nominated and elected by the membership as a whole, and the three largest special interest groups nominate one Director each.

The term of each Director is three years. Directors who do not hold presidential positions may stand for a second term of office.

The Board at its first meeting following each Annual General Meeting elects the President, Vice President and Treasurer from amongst its number. The President chairs the Board, and each Director has responsibilities on Board committees.

The President is in regular communication with the Chief Executive Officer to review issues and construct and agree Board agendas. The Board holds most of its face-to-face meetings at the national office of the AVA, which is at St Leonards in Sydney.

Annual briefings for new Board members

At its first meeting after the AGM each year, committee membership is finalised, and new Directors are provided with briefing materials: all Board members are invited to formally renew their commitment to the AVA Board Code of Conduct. A planning workshop is held annually, often at the first full meeting of the Board after the AGM. All Directors are also encouraged to undertake company director training before and during their term.

Directors' fees and indemnification

AVA Directors receive a small allowance for attending face-to-face meetings of the Board and the AVA President receives an allowance in recognition of the substantial time commitment required. All allowances are taxable. The AVA covers the cost of return economy airfares or equivalent for attendance at Board meetings from the home base of each Director, plus reasonable accommodation, meals and ground transport. Basic liability cover for directors and officers is also provided.



The AVA Board

3



Mark Lawrie
President



Barry Smyth
Vice President / Nominee of Equine Veterinarians Australia



Diane Sheehan
Immediate Past President



David Clarke
Treasurer / Nominee of Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association



Steve Atkinson



Ben Gardiner



Kevin McGrath
Nominee of Australian Cattle Veterinarians



Samantha McMahon



Peter Gibbs



President's report

The more one becomes involved with the AVA, the more you realise it is an organisation that provides support and care to animals and people generally, as well as to veterinarians. My year as president has heightened my appreciation of this. I believe the reason others (veterinarians and non-veterinarians) have not thought this way in the more recent past has been a communication problem.



This year we have invested in improving communications. This is a work in progress though the feedback from members already has, in the main, been very positive. Evidence has been seen in increased media presence, greater stakeholder dialogue and most importantly improvements in internal communications with members.

I would like to praise the staff and the amazing work they have done for the AVA and its members through this year of unprecedented change. I have had the opportunity to spend more time in the office than previous presidents and it has been great to feel part of this wonderful team, which extends to those in our other capital city offices.

I would like to thank the members of the board who, along with Graham Catt our CEO, have served the AVA with me this year as a leadership team. I particularly mention Barry Smyth who has offered ever-present support and a wealth of wisdom as Vice President, along with our other 'office bearer' in the first year of our new board structure, David Clarke (AVA Treasurer). We have benefited greatly from his calm hand on the financial lever in a time of transition, which sees us very favourably positioned for the future. Thank you also to the others who completed their service, Sam McMahon and Immediate Past President Diane Sheehan. They have made major contributions to the association during their years on the Board, and leave it a stronger and more professional organisation.

The work done by members in their roles as voluntary office holders and representatives can never be underestimated. Not only does it contribute enormously to the success of the association, it

provides collegiality and a sense of us working together. We made important progress during 2008 in providing better support to the volunteer members who have these roles.

We have recognised the need to provide more resources so that the association can meet its strategic goals. This commenced in 2008 with respect to communications, but also by developing in-house skills to provide value to members and volunteers. In particular, we commenced a process of strengthening our divisions and branches by providing office staff at executive officer level.

It is important to benchmark the AVA against our sister organisations and to share strategic wisdom with them. We strengthened our ties with New Zealand and continue to look at opportunities for working together and sharing resources to our mutual benefit. We are linked with other veterinary associations through the International Veterinary Officers Committee and through the World Veterinary Association, as well as through other veterinary associations around the world, such as the American Veterinary Medical Association.

A critical strength of the North Americans that we wish to grow in Australia is the collegiality and support for the association that can be witnessed in younger veterinarians and students there. This grows from a high percentage of student membership that flows on into a sense of belonging to the association as part of their profession. This was considered by the Board to be so important that we acted on this in December to set up a system to support a significant increase in student membership with a new AVA student network.

It was with great sorrow last year that I attended the memorial service of Ben Cunneen who died from Hendra virus. Ben typified the dedication of so many in the profession in his devotion to the job he loved, and his tragic loss was felt by veterinarians around the country. Although we are blessed to live in a country such as Australia, calamity from emergent diseases can occur. Despite it being such a rare disease, much has been done to learn more about Hendra and to use that knowledge. Many scientists and veterinary scientists have been furthering research to help us understand more. Along with the focus on equine influenza and the Beale review of quarantine and biosecurity in Australia, veterinarians from all sectors are continually being directed to the importance of biosecurity. The AVA has a responsibility to engage and lead by incorporating such important issues into our culture through continuing education and communication.

This year we have been very much engaged with a number of small animal issues and are finding that governments and the media are seeking our input more than ever. We offer the unique perspective of a high knowledge base without the heavy influence of marketing and profit-making or fundraising spin that can complicate the message coming from others.

With respect to animal welfare we have become more proactive in engaging in issues and debate. The role of veterinarians in animal welfare is sometimes not highlighted as it should be. I have witnessed the negative animal welfare impacts in countries where the capacity of the veterinary industry is low and appreciate how blessed we are in Australia. The Board agreed to support the development of a Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare.

I attended the British Veterinary Association conference in London in September and used the opportunity to stop over in the Gulf on my return. I visited feedlots, wet markets and supermarkets in Bahrain to gain perspective of the live export industry. My aim was to develop a balanced view of the live export industry, weighing up the vested views from both sides of the debate. There is animal welfare gain from the continuation of the trade, as well as deficit. In

particular, there have been significant improvements in many aspects of the trade (such as lower morbidities and mortalities in transit) as well as improvements in animal welfare in the countries that receive Australian stock. This improvement must continue. This information was fed into the Policy Advisory Council process and saw us adopt a position of neither supporting nor opposing the trade, but demanding continued improvements.

Much work has been done and more is required in supporting rural and food animal practice, which will be desperately needed in a world with rising demand for food. I have spoken a lot about this through the year and it will require ongoing effort to impress industry, government and the public. Along with the need to work with the performance animal sector and all our amazing special interest groups, we need to re-engage with our colleagues and members in government and academic spheres.

Continuing education has remained an important strength for the AVA, with a great national conference in Perth and a range of other opportunities at the SIG, division and branch level.

One of my themes this year has been the importance of us all embracing a culture of positivity. We have had the most wonderful opportunity in the world to train and work as vets. There are so many great and positive things about our profession and our association. It is true there are many challenges and difficulties that we need to work on, and the AVA is firmly committed to doing this. I believe we need to embrace a culture of praise above criticism to achieve progress and move forward in strength.

It has been an honour to serve as AVA President this year. I didn't think it would be easy and it wasn't, but it was very satisfying. I would encourage all members to consider taking a leadership role in your association to discover how fulfilling it can be to work alongside your colleagues for the good of the profession and the animals of Australia and the world.

Mark Lawrie



CEO's report

At the end of my first year as Chief Executive Officer, I look back at 2008 and see many achievements that all parts of the AVA 'family' can celebrate.



As an interim step towards a new five-year strategic plan for 2009–2014, the Board updated the AVA's vision and mission statements and set strategic goals this year. In doing so we reflected on past strategic statements, and looked at where the profession was in 2008 and is heading in coming years. We then sought feedback from members on these interim strategic statements, so that the Board can consider all views when the new five-year plan is established during 2009.

Vision, mission, strategic goals

Our vision is a global community that respects and values the benefits of enhanced animal health, welfare and production.

Our mission is to represent the veterinary profession with one voice, and to serve the interests of members.

To achieve our mission, the AVA

- provides leadership and expert scientific advice in animal health, welfare, conservation, public health, biosecurity and agriculture
- promotes the veterinary profession and advocates AVA policy to government and the community
- sets standards of professional excellence
- provides a forum for professional support and the exchange of information and ideas
- facilitates continuing education for members and the profession
- provides valuable member benefits.

Our report card

There were significant achievements during 2008 in all the areas described by these strategic goals.

There has also been great progress in building the capacity of paid staff and volunteers, increasing resources to divisions and branches, and investing in resources to build a strong future for the AVA.

1. Leadership

- AVA representatives commented on a diverse range of media stories throughout the year. Significant topics included the Callinan Inquiry, the Beale Review into quarantine and biosecurity, Queensland's Hendra virus outbreak, ongoing equine influenza vaccination, and pet food contamination.
- The association helped achieve a ban on importation of Savannah cats to protect native wildlife.
- Major submissions were made to the Callinan Inquiry, and the Beale Review. Our submission to the federal review of higher education emphasised veterinary workforce and capacity concerns.
- The *Australian Veterinary Journal* published 138 peer-reviewed scientific papers.

2. Promoting the profession and AVA policy

- The AVA appeared in the media nearly 2000 times during the year, an increase of almost 20 per cent from 2007. More importantly, these media appearances have been more targeted and achieved better outcomes in promoting our key messages.
- Advocacy on companion animal policies took place at state and local government levels. A new policy framework document was developed as a resource for all jurisdictions to help explain the AVA position.
- Divisions and special interest groups gave advice to governments about many other issues including pesticides and veterinary medicines, animal welfare standards, pet-owning rights of tenants, jumps racing, vocational training and equine influenza vaccination.

3. Setting standards of excellence

- 15 policies and position statements were created or revised, with topics including livestock export,

cane toad euthanasia, working with bats, and equine dentistry.

- Over 1200 eye tests were performed through the Australian Canine Eye Scheme to help reduce inherited eye disease.
- The Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme processed over 500 x-rays to support a reduction of inherited disease through selection pressure.
- Special interest group programs like the Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Scheme, the Accredited Microchip Centres program, and the Hospital Accreditation Scheme set standards of excellence in veterinary practice.
- The Code of Professional Conduct continued to provide the profession with clear guidelines on professional standards.

4. Professional support

- The 70 SIGs, divisions and branches that make up the AVA delivered scores of social and networking events for members, and helped provide individual members with professional support.
- The Annual Conference hosted more than 17 social events.
- The Wellness Stand made its debut at the national conference.
- State mentoring programs for students and new graduates.
- Divisions, branches and special interest groups published newsletters for members.
- Twelve issues of eLine were sent to all AVA members.

5. Continuing education

- 130 continuing education events were held.
- 39,150 Vet Ed points were awarded.
- At the end of 2008 there were 171 AVA members who met the requirements for the Chartered Member AVA post nominal.
- The annual conference in Perth was a huge success, attracting 880 attendees and 70 exhibitors.
- Special interest groups published clinical journals and annual conference proceedings.

6. Member benefits

- 342 new members joined the AVA in 2008.
- A new format was developed and used for AVA eLine and Student eLine.
- Our AVA counselling service continued to provide support to members and their immediate families.
- The Complaints and Mediation Service helped resolve 143 problems between veterinarians and clients.
- The AVA HR Advisory Service handled 2650 enquiries.
- New telephone services were launched to provide members with legal, accounting, financial and superannuation advice.

Perhaps most importantly, our investment in services has enabled the national office to better assist AVA groups in supporting their members. This included media training and support, event management, graphic design, new web pages and more.

Many thanks to our partners and sponsors who made possible so many educational and networking activities across the whole AVA family: Hills, GE Money, Diners Club and Guild Group.

The AVA Board carry out their role with great professionalism and dedication, and I'd like to thank all the Directors, and particularly the President, for their support and guidance over the past year. Three members of the Board will step down from their positions at the 2009 Annual General Meeting, and I wish them all the best in their next endeavours. My thanks also go to the group presidents, committees and AVA members who have made me feel welcome as I attended meetings and functions across Australia.

AVA staff have faced many changes and challenges over the past two years. Each of them can look back on their own growth and achievements in 2008 with great pride, and I thank all of our team for their hard work and commitment.

The achievements detailed above, and throughout this report, result from the efforts of the whole AVA; volunteers, committees, Directors, staff and members. Congratulations to all of you for such a successful year, and I look forward to reviewing an even longer list of achievements at the end of 2009.

2008 Awards Recipients

Congratulations to the AVA's 2008 award recipients.

Gilruth Prize

Tony English

Kesteven Medal

Stewart Routledge

AVA Fellowships

Philip Brain and William Darmody

Meritorious Service Awards

Bruce Cartmill
Tony Mosman
Hugh White
Matthew Retchford
Alan Sherlock
Phillip Reeve
Barbara Gill
Ian Hough
Julie Toth

Excellence in Teaching Award

Vanessa Barrs

Don Kerr Student Award

Tom De Ridder

Graham Catt

Treasurer's report

Overall performance

Total consolidated income for AVA Ltd was \$10,188,777, and expenses \$10,070,789, resulting in a net surplus for the year of \$117,988. In 2008, AVA Ltd continued to have a very strong balance sheet with the main changes reflected in the significant increase in cash reserves and the decrease in property and managed funds held. Amounts of \$5,032,558 are held in cash, receivables, inventories and other current assets \$1,962,527 in direct shares and managed funds and \$5,778,648 in property and equipment. Total liabilities amounted to \$1,608,217, giving an overall position in total equity of \$11,165,516.



Managed investments

The AVA Ltd investment portfolio (comprising cash deposits, listed shares and managed funds) of \$5,748,228 is managed through Macquarie Bank, BankWest and CBA. This represents an increase of \$969,000 from 2007 (20%). The receipt of proceeds from the sale of the Perth property allowed additional funds to be placed on term deposit. This increase in invested funds offset the impact of turmoil in world financial markets on the value of AVA listed shares and managed funds. Few additional funds were allocated to the acquisition of listed shares or managed funds as a consequence of the world financial uncertainty. The AVA retained a preference for cash investments in the current world financial environment. The position will be continually reviewed in anticipation of a time when returns on investment stabilise. The decline in the value of AVA listed shares and managed funds was well below the decline in the world equity markets. Throughout the year, the AVA Board continued to take advice and follow our asset management strategy, reducing exposure of members' funds to the decreasing equity markets, and increasing investment in term deposits. Overall, even with the turmoil of the share markets, the AVA investments remain strong and available if required in the short term. We believe the AVA is in a strong position to take advantage of any upturn in the equity markets when they occur.

Property

During the year the WA Division property (AVA House in South Perth) was sold for \$2.5m, and a new strata title office was purchased in Subiaco for \$1.05m. The gain produced on the sale of the Perth property, as disclosed in the accompanying financial statements, was \$1,272,855. The Board also approved a re-fit of the Adelaide office.

Funds, estates and trusts

The AVA has four trusts which have a total equity of \$845,509. There was activity in each during the year with the major movement being \$200,000 (just under half the surplus from the 2007 WSAVA conference) which was transferred from the AVA account to the Australian Companion Animal Foundation Trust (ACAHF). The ACAHF, Animal Welfare Trust, Benevolent Fund and Animal Welfare and Crisis Response Trust held balances of \$590,442, \$56,779, \$198,318 and (\$30) respectively at year end.

Business units and AVA generally

The AVA Board has delivered another year of tight financial management in very trying fiscal times when the world in general is undergoing significant financial upheaval. The AVA has continued to enjoy surpluses produced over the last four years and as such is in a good position to provide staffing support and benefits to all members through the divisions, branches

and special interest groups in the coming years. Of particular note were the continued successes of the conferences, in particular the national conference, and the large special interest group conferences (Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association, Equine Veterinarians of Australia and Australian Cattle Veterinarians) which produced surpluses without diluting the science and quality of the education provided. Income was also generated through increased membership, the sale of the Perth property, and through affinity arrangements and strong relationships with the Guild Group and Diners Club.

There was increase in expenditure through staffing, as the association employed a National Communications Manager and has better resourced divisions. This commitment will continue in 2009 as the AVA Board has committed to provide Executive Officers and administration staff in the coming year to all divisions,

and as such will lessen the burden of administration that members and volunteers perform currently.

Once again it has been a delight working with the groups' treasurers this year and I would like to congratulate them on their commitment to the smooth running of the association through submissions of invoices and documents, regular reporting of events and putting together accurate budgets for the coming year. I would like to thank the AVA Board and management, in particular Graham Catt, Deryk Andrew, John Robb and the finance staff Liz Dawkins, Cora Luong and Bianca Wardle for making my role as AVA Treasurer smooth sailing throughout another busy and hectic year.

David Clarke

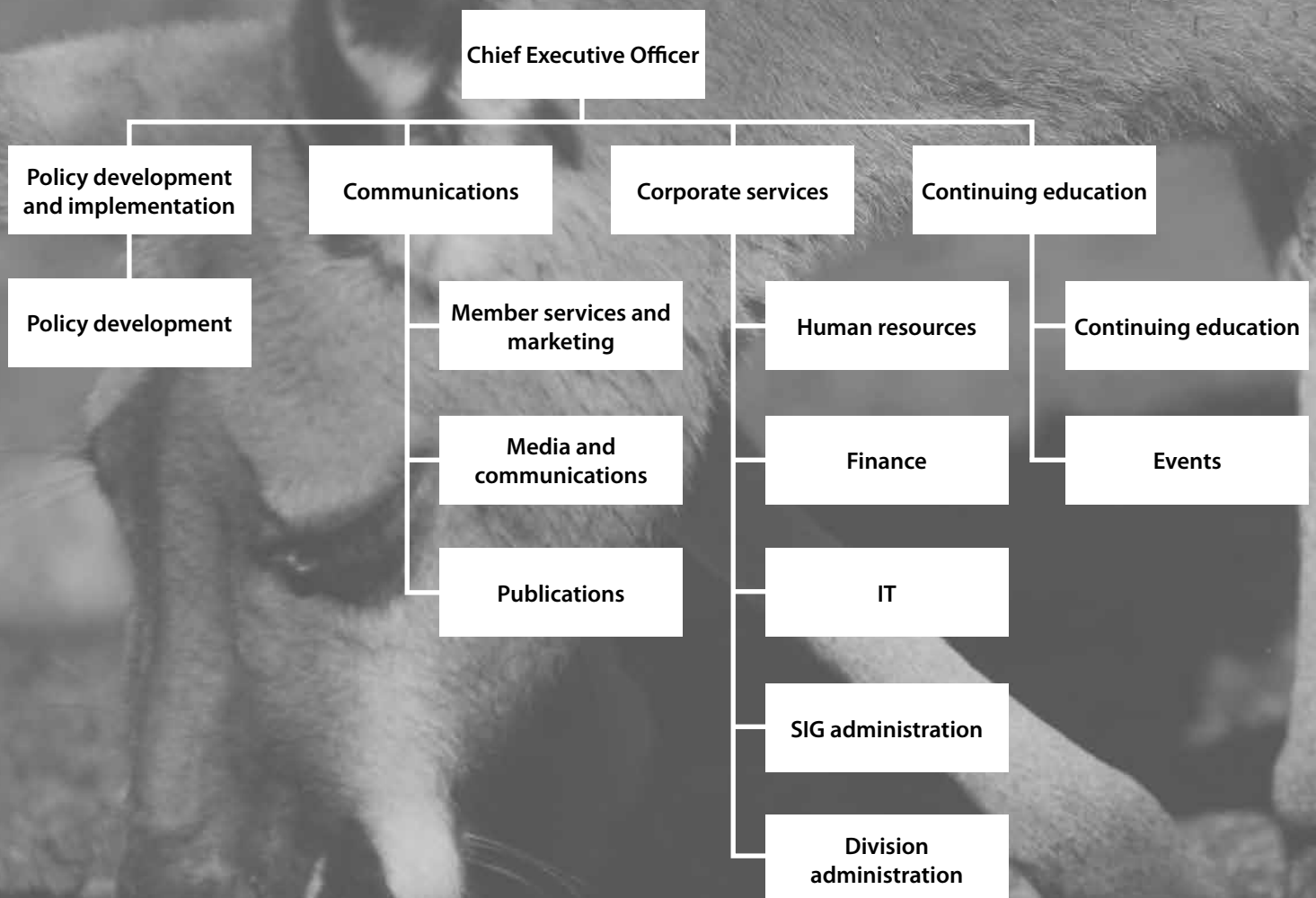


Organisational chart



Staff structure

11





Australian Veterinary Journal

In 2008, volume 86 of the *Australian Veterinary Journal* (AVJ) had 11 issues, with 496 pages and 138 papers. There were over 300 submitted peer reviewed papers from more than 1000 authors, and each paper was sent to at least 2 reviewers. The acceptance rate was 26.6 per cent.

The majority of published articles came from Australia (117). There were four each from USA and UK, two each from Japan and New Zealand, and one each from Canada, China, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy and Spain.

The most important change in the AVJ in 2008 was the massive growth in peer reviewed article downloads, with a 976% growth in abstracts and 154% growth in full papers downloaded.

The AVJ is now available in thousands of institutions globally, including those in Australia and New Zealand, Canada, China, Europe, Japan, the UK, the USA and the rest of the world, either as individual institutions or as part of consortia, or group subscriptions. There were also nearly 2000 free subscriptions as part of a philanthropic program to developing countries.

Downloads were helped by Wiley Blackwell's highly targeted e-marketing campaigns that covered equine, canine and feline, and production animal article highlights. This gave excellent results, with a 21 per cent open rate, and a 43 per cent click through to open rate.

There was a slight rise in the Journal's impact factor to 0.575. Our overall ranking in the veterinary sciences category was 71/133, an increase of 9.3 per cent. Our Immediacy Index (the average number of times that an article published in a specific year within a specific journal is cited over the course of that same year) has increased to 0.247, a 69.2 per cent increase since 2007, compared with an overall increase of 12.4 per cent for the whole of the veterinary sciences category.

The Journal also published approximately 200 news articles and regular features, 350 classified advertisements, 120 full page advertisements, as well as photographs, continuing education quizzes, diary dates, book reviews and obituaries.

Policy Development and Implementation

The policy functions of the AVA include both development and implementation activities. Monitoring upcoming changes to relevant state and federal legislation and regulations is an important part of having effective policy functions.

Policies are developed through the Policy Advisory Council, Board-appointed committees, or by the President in consultation with staff and Board members.

Implementation activities include preparing submissions to, and communicating with, Ministers, members of parliament, government departments

and authorities, the wider profession, community and industry groups, the public and the media.

The AVA often cooperates in strategic alliance with external organisations to implement organisational policy.

Submissions

Submissions and representations to, and appearances before, parliament and government inquiries are made with support from special interest groups, divisions and AVA advisory committees. Submissions in 2008 included:

- The Beale Review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements
- Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on an animal health budget
- Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry regarding the veterinary Pathology Initiative (in collaboration with universities and industry)
- The Callinan Inquiry into equine influenza
- The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority on antibiotics, permethrin and virginiamycin
- State governments on companion animal control, compulsory desexing and sale from pet shops
- Commonwealth and States on animal welfare legislation
- Animal Health Australia regarding the National Animal Health Laboratory Strategy
- The use of vaccines for equine influenza following eradication
- Legislation on companion animals in units
- Review of Australian Higher Education

AVA position papers were prepared for major assemblies including the International Veterinary Offices Council meeting in Canada.

AVA contributions to the national public policy debate included:

- Input into the National Animal Welfare Strategy – the National Veterinary Director is a member of the Advisory Committee and AVA is represented on the six sectoral committees.
- Land transport of livestock standards and guidelines
- Culling of kangaroos
- Pregnancy diagnosis of cattle
- Livestock exports
- Follow up on the Review of Rural Veterinary Services
- Biosecurity Australia development of quarantine policy
- Prudent use of antibiotics to minimise resistance
- Food safety
- Labelling of veterinary drugs
- Addressing an outbreak of Hendra virus in horses in Queensland
- Biosecurity and infection control guidelines for veterinarians
- The Australia and New Zealand Invasive Species Cooperative Research Centre; in particular humane control and eradication of feral pigs and other species.

Policy Advisory Council

- Veterinary surgeons dealing with bats
- Collection, euthanasia and disposal of cane toads
- Microchipping of reptiles, birds and small mammals
- Socially responsible companion animal ownership
- Feeding of live mammals to snakes
- Dental guidelines – canine and feline

- Equine dentistry
- Aggression in dogs
- Desexing (surgical sterilisation) of companion animals
- Equine jumping races
- Use of female cattle for pregnancy testing and artificial insemination schools
- Collection of semen from animals by electroejaculation
- Diagnosis and treatment of animals by non-veterinarians
- Greyhound hurdle racing
- Guidelines for the tethering of animals.

The work of the Policy Advisory Council provides members with clear policies that are representative of members' views and up to date with current knowledge on issues facing the profession.

These policies are used in the daily advocacy and communication work of the association, and allow strong and clear statements to be made about AVA views at any time. The full Policy Compendium is available in the members' section of the AVA website.

Related policy initiatives

The AVA is a shareholder role in Animal Health Australia (AHA), and is involved with emergency animal disease planning, exercises and eradication programs and animal welfare standards. Through AHA we provide input into the Australian position on international matters managed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). We also contributed to the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (WHO/FAO) Joint Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Inspection and Certification Systems.

We supported and promoted the work of the Australian Veterinary Reserve (AVR), which was involved in eradication of equine influenza.

Involvement with the Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) and continuing education for animal welfare officers and for members of Animal Ethics Committees is another important policy function of the AVA.

AVA staff and members sit on the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare that advises the Federal Minister for Agriculture, along with several state animal welfare advisory committees appointed by state ministers.

National Veterinary Director, Kevin Doyle is a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (TSEAC). TSEAC gives advice on national policies and programs to address risks to Australia.

AVA participated in the reviews of AUSVETPLAN and associated practice manuals, as well as assisting with the development of standards and guidelines for horses, sheep and land transport of livestock.

STATE DIVISIONS





Australian Capital Territory Division

15



The ACT Division has had a great year. The committee set itself three major goals for this term. These were to:

- continue to provide local continuing education events
- increase membership
- provide members with as many opportunities as possible to socialise together.

On the continuing education front, the Division hosted several evening seminars throughout the year. These events were well supported by veterinarians and our nursing colleagues and allowed time for some catching up with colleagues. These seminars gave us the opportunity to learn about a range of topics, including babesiosis, equine influenza, vetting at equestrian events at the 2008 Olympics, accreditation of veterinary schools and the role of the Delta Dog Society.

Our membership numbers remained steady over the 12 months, with a small amount of movement in and out of the ACT. There are a number of veterinarians in government within the ACT who are not AVA members. In 2008 both our Division and AVA National Office have concentrated on engaging

these colleagues and communicating the value of AVA membership to them. Even so, the ACT Division membership comprises a healthy mix of veterinarians from both private practice and government and we enjoy sharing in the diversity of the profession at social functions and continuing education events.

In the winter, over 50 of us enjoyed a sensational Christmas in July where we welcomed vets new to Canberra. We then followed this up with the inaugural ACT Division Ski Conference, which was held in Thredbo. AVA members came from far and wide for valuable and diverse continuing education on topics such as ophthalmology, the plight of dogs in Aboriginal communities within central Australia, the trends in marketing within the pet industry, the importance of public health in veterinary science, the psychology of influence and other great topics. A great deal of fun was had both on and off the snow.

The ACT Division also influenced the outcome of local legislation surrounding owners' corporations of residential buildings. The proposed legislation was going to make pet ownership more difficult for residents in apartments and our submission was successful in improving this outcome.

In addition, we have continued to conduct our financial affairs prudently under the watchful eye of Treasurer, Rob Boxall. We are also very grateful for the generous sponsorship we have received for some of our events, which has enabled us to subsidise the cost of these to members.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank the ACT Division committee who contribute their time and efforts so generously on behalf of members – Raana Asgar, John Aspley Davis, Rob Boxall, Sally Coggins, Kevin Doyle, Catherine Evans, Lyn Gallimore, Olivia James, Toby Koenig, Jill Millan, Alison Taylor and Bruce Twentyman. Olivia James deserves special recognition in her role as Secretary for the huge effort in coordinating a lot of what we do. I would also like to thank Belinda Radnidge for her enthusiastic work in the AVA office on our behalf.

Mark Ethell
President



New South Wales Division

The NSW Division has had a busy and effective year. We have been proactive in fulfilling the objectives of the strategic plan and our actions have been in line with the mission statement of the AVA. In some cases the actions were our initiatives, in others they were in response to outside challenges.

Equine influenza had been eradicated by the end of 2007, but there was much dissatisfaction in the veterinary community about different aspects of the response to the outbreak by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). As a result the Division canvassed opinions from the membership and we gathered, I think, the most comprehensive critique of the response from any group involved. This information has been presented to the DPI and was also used by the AVA (including EVA) in formulating the Association's submissions on this disease outbreak. As a result of this initiative the Division, along with other AVA delegates, was invited to the equine influenza summit to plan the direction that future prevention and control of this exotic disease would take. The intention of this meeting was that improved biosecurity, the institution of control zones and strategic vaccination in the face of an outbreak were the preferred and proven methods of containment and eradication.

Emerging and exotic diseases again featured with the outbreak of the zoonosis, Hendra virus. Thankfully the suspected NSW case proved not to be the disease. The presence of this condition and the serious risks to attending veterinarians that it represents will change equine practice forever in potentially endemic areas.

The Division was consulted by the DPI and the Veterinary Practitioners Board (VPB) on amendments to the *Exotic Diseases Act* which were implemented as a result of these two circumstances.

The Division needs to maintain a vision of where it's going and how it's going to get there. In 2008 it was again time for us to produce a plan for how and what we would and should be doing. Our workshop in May produced a comprehensive framework, on which we will continue to build (and renovate I hope, as necessary). The plan for the Division is to:

- develop a branch support framework
- be more effective lobbyists
- improve available continuing education
- develop and implement a communication plan.

This plan is guiding our future actions, both proactive and reactive.

Clover Moore produced her Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill, which we considered carefully and rationally and decided to oppose. We agreed with the intent of the legislation, but not its means of achieving such. This has been an ongoing issue as the Bill has been withdrawn and re-presented. We have had good hearings from, and consultation with, members of parliament and bureaucrats involved with this proposed legislation.

Other state government matters with which we have been involved have been the off-label use of pesticides, the possible introduction of Savannah cats, cooperation with the Veterinary Practitioners Board, the restructure of the Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPBs) and the supply of rural professionals. In all these cases we have striven to present a considered, balanced, scientifically valid case. I think we have achieved this and as a result, our communication with and access to politicians has continued to improve and develop.

The restructure of the RLPBs is underway and they have been consolidated from 47 down to 14 larger structures. They are now to be known as Livestock Health and Pests Authorities. A commitment has been given that in this restructure the number of frontline staff, including veterinarians, will be maintained and it is hoped that the larger authorities, with more veterinarians working together, will provide an improved career path for new graduates interested in entering this field.

The concept of regional conferences was developed within the Division this year. These have been a success; however, they require further nurturing by the Division and local branches for them to achieve their full potential. Local drive and enthusiasm will allow this concept to achieve the aim of high quality, accessible and financially viable continuing education.

The Division continues to be an important point of contact for members. It can react meaningfully to issues as they arise and is a necessary part of the association. I would like to see members feel that they have more ownership of their Division. This will only happen as branches strengthen and

the communication from the Division through the branches to the members improves so that they feel they are really part of the organisation.

*Nigel Scott
President*



Northern Territory Division

The Northern Territory Division saw some big changes in 2008. The small number of members in the Division and the geographical distance between them has made functioning in a cohesive way a challenge. Thanks to support from AVA National Office, a Division planning session was held in October, our executive committee was reformed and the challenges addressed. We now welcome administration assistance from the South Australia Division, who have already provided an exceptional service to the Division. They will assist us in developing a print and email newsletter accessible to members and non-members, and will provide much-needed support with meetings, correspondence and events.

On the same weekend as the planning session we held a successful conference for veterinarians and veterinary nurses. Kim Smith, an active member of the Division, was instrumental to the success of the conference. He organised for keynote speaker, Steve Haskins, a specialist in emergency and critical care from the University of California, to present on a wide range of topics. Associate Professor Gary Wilson also educated and entertained attendees with presentations on small animal and equine dentistry.

A few issues arose in 2008 that were of relevance to the veterinary profession in the Territory. Animal management by-laws in local councils around the Territory were introduced or modified to include compulsory microchipping, registration and control of dogs and cats. Dogs and cats at large has been a problem in the Territory.

New to Darwin city in 2008 was the arrival of the dreaded cane toad. Fortunately, public awareness of their danger to biodiversity and toxicity to pets has increased. Other unwelcome animals were the wallabies on the Katherine airbase, which prevented flights, including medical ones, from using the airbase. The wallabies have now been successfully culled and a wallaby proof fence is being installed.

Now that the Division is back on track and our goals are more attainable, 2009 should prove to be a productive year. We are very proud to be hosting the AVA National Conference in Darwin in 2009, and this will provide an extra incentive for the Division to be successful in meeting its objectives.

*Clare d'Beckett
President*

Queensland Division

The Queensland Division, as one of the larger divisions, has continued to meet the needs of members and other stakeholders by addressing the objectives adopted by the Board in June.

When I look back on what has happened in Queensland since the beginning of my presidency, it is obvious the vital role our organisation has for our profession. We have a fabulous team in Queensland and I wish to thank Gill Arnold and Camilla Broughton in our office for their tireless support of our executive. Thanks must also go to Amanda Pollard, our wonderful PetPEP education officer, her assistant, Wendy Humprey and Mark Stallwood for his input into the business management of the program. Thanks to the ongoing support of all the branch and Division executives. Division achievements couldn't have been accomplished without substantial work from past presidents, Andrew Easton and Rob Hedlefs. Thanks also to Bruce Pott for stepping up to the mark of President-elect following the resignation of Evan Fisher, and once again this year Bob Rees has done a fabulous job of keeping the financials in order.

Obviously the big news item for Queensland this year was the outbreak of Hendra virus, the subsequent death of one of our colleagues and the infection and recovery of a veterinary nurse. It is doubtful that any member is not familiar with this situation, but if you are looking for more information the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) has ample on their website.

The DPI&F is to be congratulated on their management of this crisis and at all times, keeping the AVA informed and consulted where necessary.

Inspired by this incident and subsequent report by Nigel Perkins, our Division is in the process of delivering a series of seminars on infection control – not specifically for Hendra virus, but looking at infection control guidelines across our profession. By the time this report is published, there will have been at least three of these, the first being in Malanda in North Queensland in February. These seminars will also be open to veterinary students and nurses.

The Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Bill 2008 was presented to Parliament in December and accepted unopposed. Before the Bill received Authority to Prepare, there was (allegedly) extensive public consultation about the issue of unwanted cats and dogs. On 4 July 2007, the then Premier released for public comment a paper titled *Managing unwanted cats and dogs*. The majority of the 5300 responses received indicated dissatisfaction with Queensland's system of dealing with this problem, which had failed to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs being euthanased. The responses supported mandatory registration and identification of cats and dogs and responsible pet ownership education.

Stakeholder representatives from the AVA, RSPCA, the Animal Welfare League, the Canine Council of Australia, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Australian Pet Industry Association and officers from the Departments of Local Government, Sport and Recreation and Primary Industries and Fisheries met and unanimously agreed that a Queensland Companion Animal Management Group (QCAMG) be established. The AVA provided comments on the consultation draft of the Bill.

The framework of the Bill was based to a large extent on the system already in place in Victoria.

A Code of Practice for Pet Shops was also developed as part of the animal management plan and the Division gave detailed comments on the draft version.

Logan City Council obtained funding from the state government to set up a community desexing clinic for the financially disadvantaged, which will open in March 2009. Its operation has been outsourced to the Animal Welfare League, who will also be performing minor consultations in order to make the clinic sustainable.

The AVA Pets and People Education Program (PetPEP) in Queensland had a great year. The program was responsible for educating 26,829 students about responsible pet ownership and safe behaviour around animals. The program has continued to see huge growth thanks to continued financial and active support it receives from individual veterinary practices,

local councils, RSPCA Queensland, DPI&F and a number of other animal care groups.

There is much planned work for the year ahead for the Queensland Division. By the time this is published, the appointment of an executive officer for our

Division should be complete, which will greatly assist us in achieving our goal of providing leadership and expert scientific advice in animal health, welfare and conservation.

Susan Fowkes
President

19



South Australian Division

The South Australian Division was a strong and expanding resource for members, the veterinary profession and the South Australian community throughout 2008.

The Division was the primary supplier of continuing education for South Australia, filling the void left by a lack of activity from Murdoch University and the University of Sydney. The annual conference in April, headlined by Vic Menrath, continued with dual streams, catering for veterinarians and veterinary nurses.

The Small Animal Practitioners Branch (SAPB) provided seminars throughout the year on a wide range of topics including; orthopaedics, animal behaviour and wildlife medicine. Workshops on wildlife health were provided to veterinarians, veterinary nurses and fauna carers.

Our Rural Veterinary Practitioners Branch (RVPB) provided a forum on prescribing in rural practice, an equine workshop with emphasis on neurology and a conference on biosecurity. The Hindmarsh Branch, which caters for non-practising members, organised several events throughout the year as well. These included a debrief on equine influenza from the state Chief Veterinary Officer Rob Rahaley, a presentation on zoos and conservation by zoo director Chris West and

a field trip to examine the new veterinary facilities at Gilles Plains TAFE.

Other Division continuing education initiatives were the provision of weekday morning seminars, in a child-friendly environment, on a variety of veterinary topics, and our *Revitalise the passion* seminar which provided current views on diagnostic and therapeutic protocols to small animal veterinarians. These events could not have taken place without the hard work of both Barb Menzies and David Mason.

There were also several social events scattered through the year. Our ever popular South Australian Veterinary Industry Ball in June was well attended, as was our annual dinner in April at Gauchos, our new graduates and mentors dinner and the President's Reception in October. The Division's annual sporting event, the Shuffield Shield, between the SAPB and Hindmarsh Branch, was dragon boat racing. Both teams competed well and the event was declared a tie.

The AVA in South Australia provided expert scientific advice to print and broadcast media throughout the year. Our Immediate Past-President David Mason spoke on behalf of the division on a variety of issues such as animal cruelty, dog attacks, several toxicity incidents including xylitol, puffer fish (tetrodotoxin) and illicit drugs, and acquired Fanconi syndrome allegedly associated with imported dog treats. The

Division also provided comments to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia on their draft guidelines on recency of practice and changing field of practice, and provided expert advice to the Dog and Cat Management board for their dog bite inquiry.

Representatives of the Division sat on several boards and committees, including the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Board, the restored State Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, the TAFE Industry Advisory Committee, and the Curriculum Committee of the University of Adelaide School of Veterinary Science. The South Australian Division maintained strong relationships with both the Animal Welfare League and the RSPCA. In November the AVA and RSPCA jointly ran an information evening for veterinarians on their roles in relation to animal welfare legislation in South Australia.

A previous AVA annual report noted that the Division advised against development of a veterinary school in South Australia. The University of Adelaide eventually decided to proceed with the development of the school at their Roseworthy campus. Once the inception of the veterinary school was confirmed the Division committee agreed it was in the best interest of the students, the profession, and the community to provide full support to the progress of the school. 2008 saw the first intake of students (48), into the Animal Science (pre-veterinary) program, the first half of their 3+3 course of studies. Academic appointments have

been made and are ongoing, as are building plans and curriculum development. The Division welcomed the first intake of undergraduate veterinary students at an informal white coat ceremony at Roseworthy in February.

The Division was well supported by its sponsors in 2008 and was in a strong financial position, which allowed us to greatly reduce the cost of events for members. We also received support from AVA National Office to complete the refit of our Walkerville offices, which now feature a new boardroom and office space for a new PetPEP officer, Rachel Sullivan. Rachel also assists our Division Manager, Barbara Gill.

Towards the close of 2008 it was decided that the South Australian Division office would provide administrative support for the Northern Territory Division. The quarterly Bulletin for December included sections from both South Australia and the Northern Territory. Regular electronic communication through the year was backed up by an updated presence on the AVA web site.

The South Australian Division is guided by an active and enthusiastic committee. With sound financial management, a cohesive branch structure, and the appointment of an executive officer in 2009, we will continue to provide high quality service to members in the state.

*Stephen Yeomans
President*



Tasmanian Division

The Tasmanian Division has enjoyed another very successful year. The state executive has worked well as a team and provided not only an excellent program of events, but a very successful Annual

Conference in Hobart in November. Of particular note this year has been the large numbers of younger members attending both the conference and our continuing professional development

program. We hope they will continue to strengthen their ties with their professional organisation and we invite them to join the state executive to provide new ideas to improve the Division and its activities.

The Division has provided leadership and expert scientific advice in animal health, welfare and conservation to the state government, schools, local councils and community groups. We have provided guidance to the state government in relation to public health, biosecurity and agriculture, and continued to promote the profession and AVA policies to government, the media and the community.

These activities include our involvement in the development of the new *Dog Control Act*, the Animal Welfare Amendment Act and Regulations (a major revision of the State's *Animal Welfare Act*) and responding to the government's Cat Management Discussion Paper. We received invaluable assistance from Michael Hayward from the AVA Centre for Companion Animals in the Community with our response to this discussion paper and for this we were all very grateful. We were later advised that of all the submissions received, the AVA's was by far the most useful, detailed and technically researched and presented.

The *State Veterinary Surgeon's Act* is now being reviewed, to align it with legislation in the other states and territories, and to allow for the mutual recognition of veterinary registration.

The Division has continued to liaise with government on a range of issues, including poultry industry welfare, outbreaks of human salmonellosis, the Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease program, the Emergency Animal Disease Consultative Committee and the regulation of rodeos. In addition to this, our members also have representation on a number of expert statutory advisory and animal ethics committees.

We received frequent enquiries from local media seeking comment on issues and events here, interstate and overseas. We have been grateful for the assistance we received from the Media Relations Manager at the AVA National Office in responding to these.

The mid-year management, administration and leadership meeting in Sydney was attended by our State President, Treasurer and President Elect. This meeting led to a closer understanding of the association's management, administration and future development, and facilitated an exchange of ideas between those who lead divisions and branches throughout Australia. One very positive outcome of this meeting was the decision that the Tasmanian Division will in the near future employ a part-time executive officer to assist in running the Division. The initial appointee is expected to be our current Honorary Secretary, Angela Offord, and we have every confidence in her capacity to successfully fulfil this role.

In 2008, the Division was especially active in promoting our Continuing Professional Development program. In March in conjunction with our annual meeting we hosted a Sydney Post-Graduate Foundation *Time-out* seminar, which featured a presentation by Graham Swinney on small animal medicine.

There was also a dairy cattle reproduction management seminar at Smithton on the North West Coast, a series of emergency animal medicine seminars presented by Philip Judge, and a weekend seminar in Launceston titled *Turbo-charge our practice management* with Dick Gelderman.

The Tasmanian Conference was held in Hobart and proved a huge success, with the outstanding sponsorship of almost 30 companies. The veterinary lectures and demonstrations featured excellent presentations by Georgina Child on neurology and David Clarke on dentistry. There was universal acclaim for the content of the lectures, the speakers and the trade exhibition. The Saturday evening conference dinner, with its Halloween fancy dress theme was a big hit and we were very happy to be joined by AVA CEO Graham Catt and his wife Denise. A great time was had by all and again a big thank you to our sponsors who make it possible to hold such an event. The 2009 Tasmanian Conference will be held at the Wrest Point Casino, Hobart from 30 October–1 November.

The AVA Annual Conference held in Perth in May was an outstanding event and the many delegates who attended from Tasmania enjoyed the hospitality and excellent program provided.

I would like to thank the Division for the opportunity and privilege of being Tasmanian Division President for the past two years. I would especially like to extend my thanks to John Gillham, Past President and Treasurer, and Angela Offord, our Honorary Secretary, for their great contributions. Special thanks must also go to the other executive committee members for their continued support. Thank you too, to the Divisional members; we have been greatly encouraged by your attendance at meetings and seminars throughout the year.

W. Peter Holm
President

Victorian Division

It has been another exciting, challenging and productive year for the Victorian Division.

Our executive committee has continued to maintain a high level of dedicated service to our members and the profession throughout the year. Sue Stanley was welcomed in May as the part-time Executive Officer, and Jenny Cumming continues to provide exceptional administrative support to all who contact our office.

David Rendell has continued the valuable role of the Division's representative on the Victorian Government's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. During the year responses were submitted for a diverse range of animal welfare regulations and codes of practice.

Onn Ben-David maintained his excellent work as our Policy Councillor, by ensuring the Division is capably represented at the Policy Advisory Council meetings.

The Division is fortunate to have an extensive consultative feedback process coordinated by David Rendell and Onn Ben-David. This process ensures that each member has the opportunity to discuss, debate and provide comment on the various draft policies, position statements, codes and legislation circulated during the year. We thank them both for their diligent work in their respective roles.

Special acknowledgement is also extended to other members who have assisted the committee during the year by representing the Division on a range of working groups and committees. These include Linda Beer on the Code of Practice for pounds/shelters writing group, Peter Grant on the Enzootic Bovine Leukosis working group, Jeff Brady and members of the Fellows and Awards subcommittee, Tom Hart assisting with the complaints processes and John Larsen on the Ovine Johne's Disease Ministerial Advisory Committee.

Michael Harrison continued as the Honorary Editor of the Division's newsletter, *VicVet*. Four editions of *VicVet* are published annually and provide members with relevant information on topical issues about the profession, personal or practice-related circumstances and the continuing work of the committee.

Continuing education

During the year the Victorian branches, with the assistance of Jenny Cumming, conducted approximately 40 continuing education programs and events for members. The majority of these activities involved advances in veterinary science and practice, but there were also a number of successful social events for members.

Improving visibility

In April the Division held its annual meeting with presentations provided by Jill Sargeant, Deborah Neutze, Past President of the NSW Division and Roger Paskin, Principal Veterinary Officer, Epidemiology, Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

The committee continues to meet on a monthly basis from February to December and to attend joint meetings with the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria and DOGS Victoria. Guests at the executive meetings included David Clarke, AVA Treasurer, and Jenelle Ferrier, AVA Complaints and Mediation Officer.

The President, President Elect and Executive Officer attended a range of external meetings to promote the AVA or to provide input on issues. These meetings provided the opportunity to continue the exchange of information with government bodies, universities and other relevant organisations. Formal presentations were made at the Veterinary Nurses Graduation Ceremony and the University of Melbourne White Coat Ceremony.

Once again the Division has been involved in supporting the Practitioner in Residence program at The University of Melbourne.

The Division has been active in supporting a government media campaign to improve the community's awareness of appropriate approaches to control and welfare of stray cats. We have spoken to several local councils about the association's policy on mandatory cat desexing.

In addition the Division has provided comment on a wide range of policies, guidelines, codes of practice

and bills throughout the year, including:

- Animal welfare issues associated with the administration of the current dangerous and restricted dog breed legislation contained within the *Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994*
- DOG's Victoria's discussion paper *Pit Bull Types*
- Code of practice for the welfare of horses competing at bush races
- Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals–Horses (Consultation Draft)
- Draft categories (Code of Practice) for equine dentistry
- Draft Victorian Code of Practice for the Exhibition of Animals
- Review of Jumps Racing in Victoria
- Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan for Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses (Rev. No. 1)
- Regulatory Impact Statement: Proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2008.

Member services

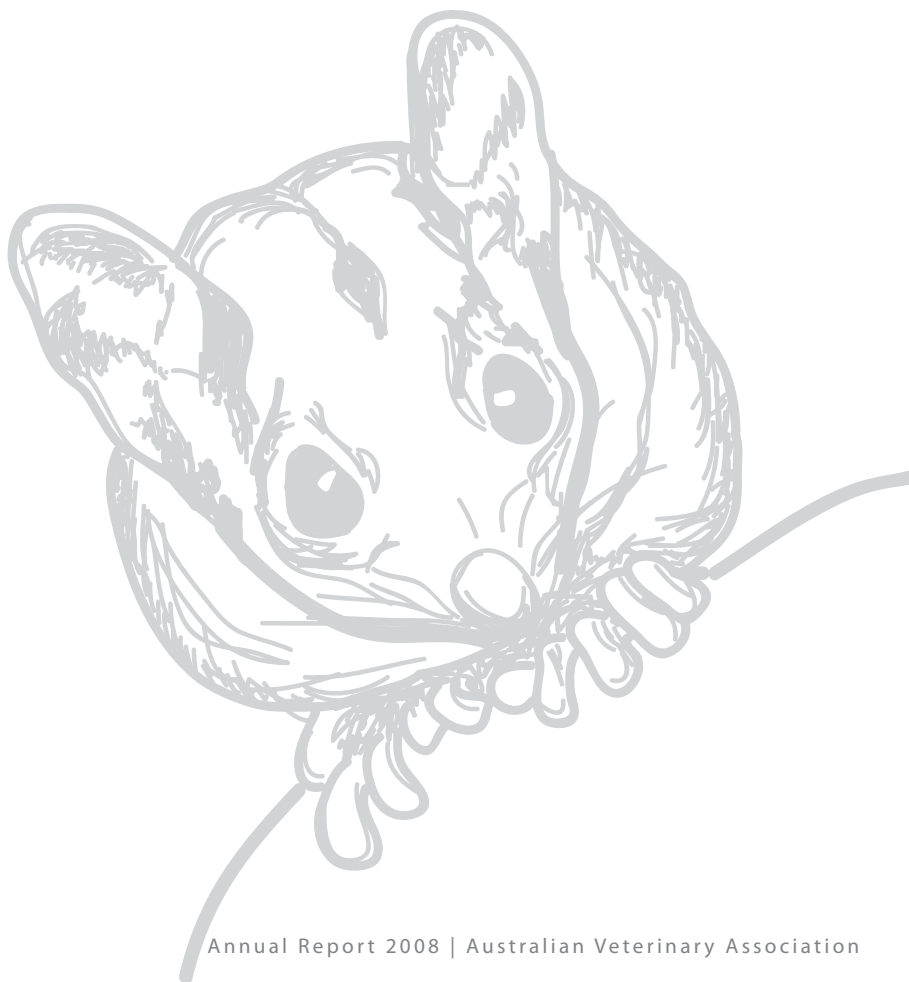
We continue to work to improve our communication with members and to keep them well informed about issues that affect them. During the equine influenza outbreak, the Division ensured that members were kept up-to-date with developments as quickly as possible. This included distributing the DPI updates to all members whose email addresses were registered on our circulation list.

Our sponsorship and support of veterinary students continued with the Division maintaining its Principal Partner status with the Veterinary Student's Society of Victoria (VSSV).

We also still have veterinarians registering for microchipping of cats and dogs accreditation. The Microchipping Committee have met to discuss the implementation of equine microchipping in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank William Harkin who will be stepping into the President's role in 2009. I also wish to express a very special thank you to the 2008 executive committee for their contribution at the divisional level and particularly for their personal support during my time in office.

Roslyn Nichol
President



Western Australia Division

Early in 2008, our Immediate Past-President Mark Hopwood wrote a very well constructed letter to CEO Graham Catt outlining a three year strategic plan for the Division.

The letter addressed four key points of continuing education, visibility, membership services and governance, and arrived at a total of 18 goals addressing these. Some of the more major goals included planning a state conference, increasing the professionalism of the local newsletter (The Veterinary Association Bulletin), improving the media profile of the Division, creating a vibrant Divisional committee, employing an Administrative Officer to assist the Executive Officer, and improving the professionalism of the Division.

Each of the goals listed then had performance indicators provided to monitor their success in being implemented. There were 20 key performance indicators (KPIs) listed.

On reviewing the 18 goals listed in the three year plan, we identified that by November 2008 we had achieved the required result in 16 of the 20 KPIs, and realised 17 of the goals. Technically this would have given us two years to achieve one goal and four KPIs, but in November we finalised our new strategic plan, which has provided us with plenty of new work for the year ahead.

The successes we recorded in 2008 include the appointment of a new Administrative Officer to our Executive Officer, a move in premises from AVA House in South Perth to AVA New House in Subiaco, and a new approach and look for the Veterinary Association Bulletin. They included the planned commencement of a state conference to coincide with the Trade Fair, which traditionally has been our biggest event. Long have we considered the Tasmanian Division conference as a success story and for this reason we have chosen to emulate their model for our conference. Other successes included gaining rural committee members for the first time this millennium, which substantially increased representation in the Division. We have implemented a succession plan for the executive positions on the committee and most importantly reduced the need for volunteers to

do the operational work of the Division. Finally, our professional association is being run by professionals at a state and national level, and the benefits are obvious. The entire committee and members of the state thank Allison Lyons for her tremendous work and commitment to the success of the association.

The biggest event in our year was the sale of the old AVA House. The loss of the old premises was felt by most of our members, but the benefits of the move were immediately recognised. The old premises had served their time well, but were no longer appropriate for the needs of the Division, and I have been overwhelmed by the positive comments from members about the suitability of AVA New House. We have instantly gained a new face and a new personality, and the premises are ideal. The Division would like to thank Graham Catt and David Clarke for all their help and input in the selection of the new premises and facilitating the move.

The biggest project for next year will be working to increase membership. Our strategic plan performance indicators identified maintaining static numbers as a goal, but we have since realised this is inadequate. President Elect Garry Edgar has carefully researched our membership concerns, strengths and weaknesses and a priority for the Division now is to increase our numbers. We have initiated moves to reform the membership strategies, and hope to report next year on an improved result in this area.

Other new directions for the Division include improved support for the regional Southern Branch, and there are plans to commence a Rural Practitioners' Branch. We have assessed the South Australian Division model of branches based on type of practice rather than geographical location and appreciate certain advantages that should translate well for the Western Australia Division.

In all, we think 2008 was a great year for the Division. We continued to enjoy the relationship we have with all the staff at the National Office and the Board of Directors, and we all look forward to the challenges of 2009.

David Neck
President



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

25

Australian Alpaca Veterinarians

2008 was another super year for the Australian Alpaca Veterinarians (AAV).

Our annual conference was held in Sydney in March. It was headed up by world-renowned camelid veterinarian Chris Cebra from Oregon State University, and was a big success. This event ran parallel with the meeting of the Australian Alpaca Association, which was hosting the World Alpaca Conference for owners and breeders.

In 2008 the AAV continued to maintain a healthy membership and regular attendance at our annual meeting.

Looking ahead, the 2009 annual AAV conference will be held in Galway, Ireland. AAV is organising an international veterinary camelid conference at the Radisson SAS hotel. Delegates from Ireland, the UK, Europe, the USA and Australia will gather to learn more and celebrate their existing knowledge of these wonderful animals.

For more information on the AAV or the conference visit the AAV section of the AVA website, or contact denisahv@optusnet.com.au.

Denis Ryan
President

Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Group

The main aim of the Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Group's (AVAG) is to provide quality continuing education opportunities for its members and in particular for those who are International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) graduates and need to maintain their continuing education for annual IVAS membership and registration.

The AVA Annual Conference in May in Perth provided us with two days of lectures. The invited speaker was American Bruce Ferguson, now an adjunct senior lecturer and consultant at Murdoch University. Bruce has extensive international experience teaching the many aspects of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM). During the two days of lectures at the conference Bruce taught TCVM Food Therapy. Bruce's interactive teaching methods and infectious enthusiasm for this topic inspired all present.

The post-conference program shifted location to a property in the foothills of Perth. The first three days

– also taught by Bruce Ferguson – were dedicated to Tui Na or Chinese massage/bodywork. Tui Na is an important aspect of TCVM and is used in addition to acupuncture. The course involved lectures as well as practical sessions on human, canine, feline and equine patients.

The following two days were dedicated to a TCVM herbal module for dermatological disorders, where we were taught new ways to treat some of these most frustrating of veterinary conditions. Practical sessions included examining and prescribing for some of Bruce's patients. Thank you to Bruce Ferguson, Clare Middle, Rosemary Hood and the many others involved in organising these amazing seven TCVM days.

In December, Bruce conducted another five days of TCVM at Murdoch University in Perth. The practical sessions provided participants the opportunity to examine many clinical cases.

All these TCVM courses have been allocated full CE points for IVAS graduates and form an important part of our quality continuing education program.

The sixth Australian IVAS course was completed this year in Geelong. More than 50 veterinarians from Australasia were enrolled in this course. The main lecturers were Ulrike Wurth, Pam Short and Alan Sultan. The course was wonderfully coordinated by Chris Robinson and Ulrike Wurth. Thank you to all who were involved with this IVAS course.

The AVAG continues to produce a quarterly journal and has an active email newsletter. The AVAG is pleased with the success of its website – www.acuvet.com.au – which had over 7000 visits in 2008. Our continuing education events are updated regularly and listed under membership information.

In 2008 we launched the Dr Rebecca Palmer Trust Fund Veterinary Student Award. Details of this award can be found on our website. AVAG enjoys a growing membership base of over 120 members and we have taken steps to increase student membership of AVAG by reducing their membership fees.

Interest in acupuncture as a form of treatment continues to grow, with positive media coverage, newspaper and journal articles and a radio interview about veterinary acupuncture in the past year.

Thanks to the AVAG committee members for all their hard work during 2008!

Esther Horton
President

Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group

The Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group (AVBIG) is the newest and already one of the larger special interest groups of the Australian Veterinary Association.

AVBIG has organised very successful scientific programs at every AVA Annual Conference since our special interest group's inception. In 2008, the French veterinary behaviourist, Patrick Pageat, presented papers on the behaviour of cats, dogs, horses and rabbits. Victorian clinical psychologist, Pauleen Bennett, presented for us in 2007 and was invited to speak again in 2008. These sessions were shared with the Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association, Equine Veterinarians Australia, Welfare and Ethics and Unusual and Exotic Pets special interest groups (SIGS) to our mutual advantage. For the 2009 conference, AVBIG will again share sessions with a number of other SIGs.

In 2008 we also organised a seminar with the Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners Branch. The international speaker, Sarah Heath, appeared courtesy of the Animal Welfare League and was supported by members Debbie Calnon, Robert Holmes and Gaille Perry. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Kersti Seksel. A similar event, using local speakers, is planned in 2009 with the Melbourne Metropolitan Practitioners Branch.

Our notable achievements in 2008 include:

- A quarterly online newsletter for members
- Negotiating a special member rate for the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior Clinical Applications and Research*

- Providing members with printed copies of AVBIG papers for the AVA conference
- Organisation of successful post conference field trips and conference dinners for the 2008 conferences
- Securing sponsorship from Hills Pet Nutrition to subsidise the cost of the Journal for our student members
- A subscription-based online discussion group where members can post questions on cases they have seen and topics of interest
- Contributing to the development of a number of policies and position statements through the attendance of an AVBIG member at the Policy Advisory Council meetings
- Providing assistance to the Board and media services.

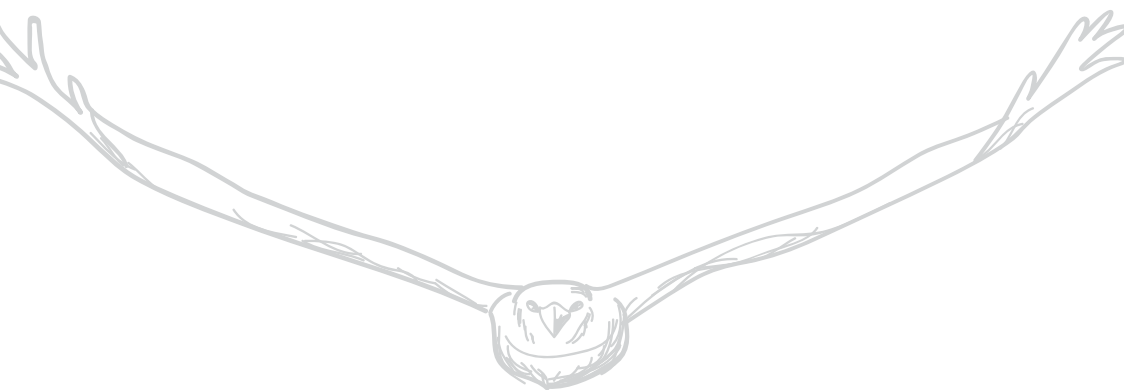
Our aims for 2009 include:

- Providing a forum for professional support and the exchange of information and ideas
- Facilitating continuing education for members and the profession
- Setting standards of professional excellence
- Promoting the veterinary profession and advocating AVA policy to government and the community.

In August 2009 we are planning to hold our first AVBIG conference. The internationally renowned ethologist Raymond Coppinger will be the featured speaker.

Gaille Perry
President

Australian Avian Veterinary Medical Association



The Australian Avian Veterinary Medical Association (AAVMA) aims to promote the interests of veterinarians in the area of cage and aviary bird health and welfare. It does this through scientific meetings, email discussion groups and the provision of expert advice on avian health and welfare issues when needed.

The main focus of the AAVMA has been scientific conferences to disseminate new avian health information, as well as some basic casework to encourage less experienced members. These conferences are run with complementary groups and associations to ensure all membership areas of interest are included.

The next annual meeting will be held in October 2009 at our annual conference. The central issue addressed at the previous meeting was strategies to stabilise membership numbers and to encourage younger members to join the avian group by offering free student membership. The other main issue was to consider formulating a policy on birds kept in cages and aviaries. In the past year the added promotion we've undertaken has led to the steadying of membership numbers of the AAVMA.

Our next annual conference will be with the Association of Avian Veterinarians Australasian Committee (AAVAC) in October 2009 in Adelaide. The AAVMA will also co-present with the Unusual and Exotic Pets special interest group at the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin in May. These meetings enable the promotion of scientific material on avian health and welfare.

The teaching of wildlife, cage and aviary medicine has been increasing in the Australian university curriculum. The practical clinic experience for recent graduates may, however, be minimal, leading to a sharp falling away of these newly acquired avian skills. Many students seek guidance in training as undergraduates and as new graduates.

The AAVMA provides a mentor system for undergraduates and veterinarians who wish to improve their skills or deal with avian cases. As in the previous year, undergraduates are being encouraged to contact and join the association in order to facilitate appropriate placement for undergraduate private clinic training and new graduates can be assisted in finding employment in avian-friendly veterinary clinics.

The AAVMA is continuing the process of producing a series of information sheets and client handouts for the most common conditions. In the past year a CD-ROM of our presentations at the past AVA Annual Conferences was distributed to all AAVMA members.

Thanks again to all committee members who assisted during 2008 in the mentoring system and helped in formulating policies to increase the desirability of membership of the AAVMA.

Alex Rosenwax
President



Australian Cattle Veterinarians

In 2008, Australian Cattle Veterinarians (ACV) focused on continuing education and member services as well as ongoing liaison with the cattle industry. We employed a Scientific Officer, David Beggs, who has proved to be a real asset to the organisation. David's role involves editing our journal and organising the conference programs.

The ACV stand-alone conference has gained the enviable reputation in recent years as one of the 'go to' events in terms of production animal continuing education in Australasia. It is also a great social occasion and often the only time of year when members have the opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends. The 2008 theme *Case Based Investigation* had a strong epidemiological theme.

The scientific program was informative, stimulating and relevant. Presentations by keynote speaker Mark Bryan, were largely based around the theme of providing herd health services to large dairies. His topics included a comparison of different anoestrous treatment programs, the challenges of providing herd health services with limited data and a well received workshop on how to manage Gen Y in the workplace. He proved not only to be a goldmine of dairying and epidemiological knowledge, but also an extremely entertaining speaker.

Local speakers, John Morton, David Beggs, Mike Hamblin and Geoff Niethe, presented some excellent papers on epidemiology, production management, human resource management and computer skills for veterinary practice. Of particular note this year was the line-up of young speakers on the program. The George Osborne Young Speakers Award saw Mark Humphris, Zoe Vogels and Claire Sellick present their papers and vie for the award. As judge Mark Bryan commented, all three papers were of an extremely high standard and were a credit to their authors. Zoe Vogels was judged the ultimate winner with her paper on possible abamectin toxicity in calves.

The workshop sessions were also well attended and received. A range of topics including Bull Reporter, tools for beef vets, evaluating effectiveness of treatment options and providing reproductive advice

to clients were presented. It is the first year for some time that we have not undertaken a field trip as part of the conference program. However, given the very high quality of workshop presentations and the low quality of the Geelong weather outside, this year's format worked extremely well!

A Trivia Quiz and the Ben Cunneen Charity Raffle and Auction, were held to raise as much money as we could for the family of this young veterinarian killed by Hendra virus in Queensland in August.

The ACV executive, state representatives, executive officer and scientific officer met for the annual executive workshop at Geelong prior to the start of the conference in late November. It was certainly a hectic couple of days and we covered a lot of territory and identified plenty of issues to be acted on in the coming year. Much time was devoted to looking at how ACV can continue to encourage undergraduates to enter the rural veterinary profession as well as retain them in rural practice in those vital first three to five years post-graduation. One of the ways ACV does this is through awards and incentives that bring young members to the conference and encourage them to build a career in cattle practice including through the rural practice weekends and presenting at the ACV conference.

In May ACV put forward a bid to host the World Association of Buiatrics in 2014. This bid was successful and the congress will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre in either July or August of 2014.

Member services

The Veterinary Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation accreditation scheme has been driven by the desire of the cattle industry to have an accreditation scheme which identifies those veterinarians who have demonstrated their ability to provide an accurate, safe, repeatable and properly recorded bull evaluation service. In 2008 we rolled out accreditation workshops in Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Bull Reporter Mark II was also released. We have made updates available from the ACV website.

ACV launched a searchable CD of all conference proceedings. This valuable member service was well received by members and it is planned to periodically release updates.

Late December finally saw approval for the certification mark for the ACV National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Scheme. This certification mark will provide additional legal protection to the scheme and tail tags.

Rural Practice Weekends

The rural practice weekends have continued to be a big success. Early in the year, we provided this format at the veterinary students' conference in Victoria. Ian

Bradshaw and crew ran a highly successful weekend at Murdoch University. Justin Schooth, Rod Howard and friends will be running the Queensland University rural practice weekend in mid September. The weekend at Charles Sturt University was absorbed into the AVA regional conference at Wagga and students were encouraged to attend the ACV Basic Bull Testing Skills Workshop that was run in conjunction with the weekend. These events provide a fantastic opportunity for ACV and individual practices to promote themselves to the undergraduate population and nurture the oncoming crop of rural vets.

Scott Parry
President

Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists

The Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB) achieved many things in 2008, both as a group and as individual members. The group is now looking towards a very active and bright year ahead. In the past year our newsletter has been a vital tool in providing up-to-date information to our members. It contains regular features on conservation research and other activities of our members. The inclusion of a member profile has also provided insight into what our members are doing and given those starting out in their careers something to aspire to.

Within the Sydney region our group has sponsored a number of evening talks on local and international conservation issues. Topics have included, dingo management, wild dogs in Africa, Canadian sea otters and conservation in India. We also had a very well received talk on transporting elephants by plane and the importation of elephants into Australia.

Our resurgence was marked at the AVA Annual Conference in Perth, where a small group of our members gathered to discuss current issues in conservation. Andrea Reiss also treated attendees to a look at the Perth zoo's threatened species breeding and rehabilitation facility.

Many of our members have been involved in formulating policy for the AVA on conservation issues. These issues have ranged from problems with both

native and non-native pest species, utilisation of native animals and also policies on zoos. With such varied expertise among our members, they are regularly called upon to help formulate policies for the AVA as well as other groups such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

On a personal side there was a great honour bestowed upon our Past-President and founder Tony English who was the recipient of the Gilruth Prize in 2008. This is the AVA's most prestigious award for outstanding service by a member or a non-member to veterinary science in Australia. Tony is a very deserving recipient of this award for his tireless service to conservation and the veterinary profession as a whole.

The AAVCB is now looking forward to continuing to provide valuable services for its members. We are in the process of creating a new website where members and the public can find out more information about our activities and current conservation issues.

This coming year will see us continue to maintain communication with our members through our newsletter and support worthwhile conservation activities through sponsorship.

Geoff Dutton
President



Australian Veterinary Dental Society

31

This year the Australian Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS) has been very proactive in running a number of dental workshops throughout the country. By far, the standout AVDS workshop was held at this year's AVA Annual Conference in Perth (special thanks to Lian Yeap). This workshop was many times oversubscribed and we hope to bring many more workshops, especially to regional Australia, throughout 2009. The AVDS, in providing quality professional development throughout the year, has contributed to one of the AVA's strategic goals of facilitating continuing education for the members of the profession.

The AVDS had an idea to make a professional DVD on small animal dentistry, which followed on from the dental guidelines produced in 2007. This became reality in June of 2008 when Christine Hawke and I Anthony Caiafa provided the technical and hands-on expertise in the production of the educational DVD *Open Up – A practical guide to improving pet oral health*. This would not have been produced without the assistance of our supporters. These DVDs have proven to be a valuable educational tool not only for veterinarians, but also as an 'in-practice' teaching resource for pet owners emphasising the importance of oral health in the overall wellbeing of their pets.

The AVDS has been heavily involved in AVA policy as well. This culminated in the ratification of the equine dentistry policy December 2008. Many thanks to the hard work put in by Wayne Fitzgerald, Rod Salter, Gary Wilson and other AVDS committee members. We are also assisting the AVA and EVA in negotiations with government bodies in the formulation of a practical training package for technicians in equine dentistry.

The AVDS intends to review its dog and cat dental guidelines on standards of dental care in 2009.

Finally, The AVDS committee would like to thank all AVDS members for offering their time, commitment and expertise in making 2008 a monumental year in the promotion of better pet oral care and animal welfare.

Tony Caiafa
President



Equine Veterinarians Australia

In 2008 Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA) refocused its efforts from the equine influenza (EI) outbreak onto providing continuing education for our members and consolidating the previous years' activities. We continued to work on strengthening our ties with stakeholders to ensure the views of the equine veterinary profession are taken into consideration. We also ensured EVA had a sound financial base so we can continue to provide the necessary services and support to our members.

Continuing education has been a key focus for EVA. We have increased the number of 'hands on' workshops around the country and provided further continuing education at local state meetings. In 2008 workshops included equine reproduction for EVA Young Members held at the Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital, ophthalmology at the Anstead Veterinary Hospital in Queensland and held also in Western Australia and dentistry for students and members held in Western Australia.

The 2008 AVA Annual Conference featured a workshop headed by Guy Lester and Sue Beetson at Murdoch University on diagnostic techniques covering clinical pathology, endoscopy, bandaging and cardiac auscultation and ECG interpretation. At the Bain Fallon workshops, a local Arab stud was transformed into a venue to host the world-renowned ultrasonographer, Jean-Marie Denoix, who conducted an in-depth musculoskeletal workshop. This workshop was a success, and is destined to become a regular event. A musculoskeletal ultrasonographic workshop was also held for the EVA Young Members. Experienced EVA members took the young members through a lecture series and workshop on the ultrasonographic anatomy of the lower limb. We continue to strive to improve the number and diversity of these workshops for our members. This aim would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors.

The 2008 AVA conference in Perth featured an array of 'home-grown specialists' and combined sessions of interest with other SIGs. Topics presented included: general equine medicine and surgery, behaviour, dentistry, equine influenza and practice management. The highlight of our continuing education was the

Bain Fallon lecture series, held at the Convention Centre in Cairns. Derek Knottenbelt (dermatology), David Ramey (evidence-based medicine), Jonathan Pycock (reproduction) and Gary Willson (dentistry) were our keynote speakers and were supported by numerous other presenters. The equine research sessions featured Ken Hinchcliffe, Martin Sillence, Nigel Perkins and Judy Cawdell-Smith, who presented their latest research.

At the conference, EVA recognised the achievements of two longstanding members, both former presidents. Reg Pascoe was awarded the EVA Industry Award for his outstanding work across many aspects of the horse industry. Reg played a pivotal role in the founding years of the AVA and in the establishment of AEVA (now EVA). His involvement with the outbreak of CEM in the late 1970s led to his recommendations to government for a national body to improve communications between the horse industry and government. This led to the development of the Australian Horse Council (AHC). For over 12 years, Reg was involved in all aspects of the running of the AHC and in 1994 was awarded an Honorary Life membership of the AHC. Jonathan Lumsden was the recipient of the Provet Award for Excellence. Jonathan was intimately involved with the renaming and restructure of EVA during his presidency year as well as being a dynamic member of the stakeholder committee. He has published and presented many scientific papers and his commitment to continuing education of our members was again highlighted with his involvement in coordinating the Jean-Marie Denoix workshop.

EVA again participated in Equitana, a four day equestrian event held at the Melbourne Showgrounds in November 2008. Warwick Vale, Laura Egan and an enthusiastic group of EVA members manned the EVA stand and provided talks on prepurchase examinations, dentistry, biosecurity and gastric ulcers. Derek Major and Warwick also enthralled the crowd with the very popular 'head, leg and hoof dissections'. Equitana provided an ideal forum for promoting EVA and its members to the public.

This year saw the loss of a well-respected EVA

member with the tragic death of Ben Cunneen from Hendra virus infection. His death highlighted to the equine veterinary profession the vulnerability of our profession to Hendra virus infection. EVA and AVA provided support to assist David Lovell and the staff of the Redlands Veterinary Clinic through this difficult time. The Hendra virus outbreak has also led into a much needed overview of the biosecurity of personnel and veterinary hospitals. The AVA has taken the lead from EVA and is drafting recommendations on biosecurity protocols for practices. EVA worked closely with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to review the draft of the *Guidelines for Veterinarians Handling Potential Hendra Virus Infection in Horses* and provided input into new guidelines for horse owners and handlers. A review by Dr Nigel Perkins into the outbreak of Hendra virus at Redlands Veterinary Clinic and at Proserpine has led to key recommendations for the equine veterinary profession, which EVA will be looking into for its members in the coming new year.

EVA also represented its members' views on the use of whips in race meetings and the licensing of race track veterinarians to respective racing authorities. The mop up of the EI outbreak has continued throughout the year and we have been involved in meetings with government authorities concerning handling future outbreaks of EI, vaccination of race horses and remuneration of veterinarians in an exotic disease outbreak. The beginning of the year saw equine veterinarians still busy with the vaccination of horses

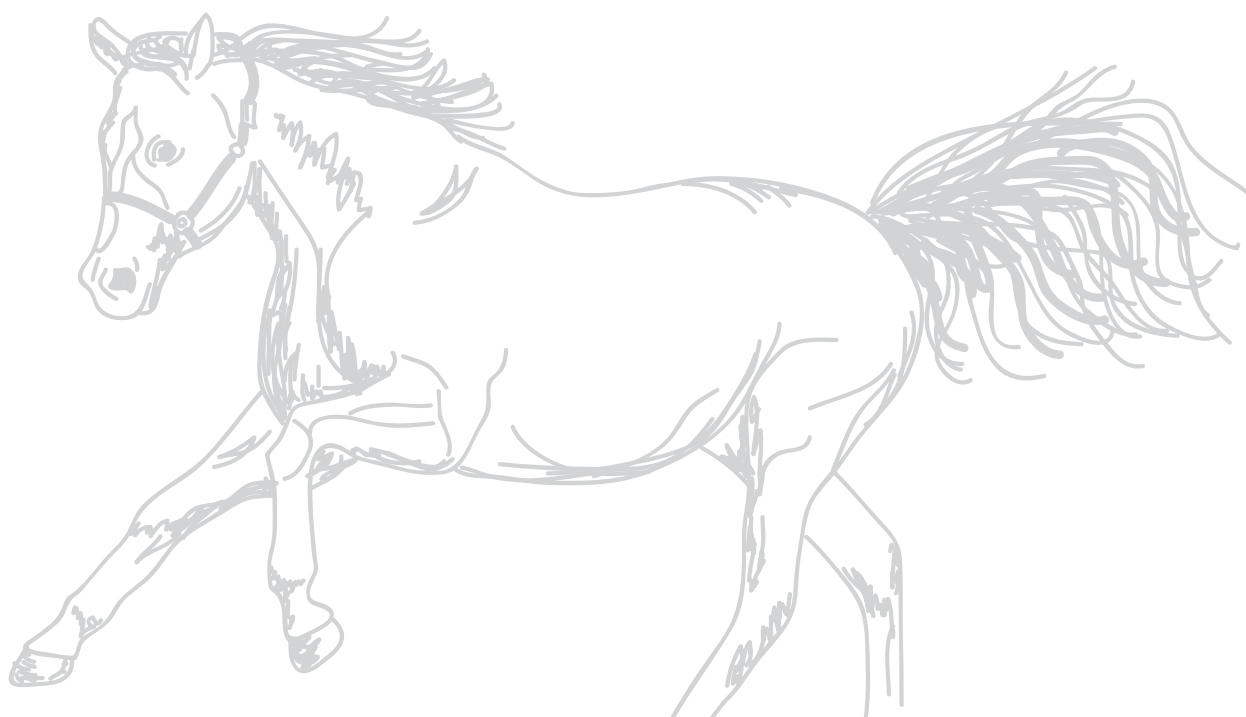
and by the end of the year Australia was declared EI free.

The ramifications of the outbreak will be ongoing, with the implementation of the recommendations of the Callinan Inquiry still being put in place, the ongoing push by selected stakeholders for vaccination of racehorses and continuing discussion into how a future outbreak of EI should be handled. EVA is ensuring it has representation in all these areas.

EVA, AVA and AVDS have worked together to express members' views on the development and course content of a proposed dental technician's training package. I would like to particularly thank the AVDS for their professional input into the meetings and the AVA, which assisted with coordinating the members' communications.

Finally are words of thanks. A strong, motivated and well-respected professional organisation is a reflection of its members and the commitment and hard work of its committee. I would like to extend a sincere thanks to the EVA executive committee and members who have helped us with continuing education, stakeholder representation and financial management. I would also like to thank our Executive Officer, Jane Barry, and Administrative Officer, Laura Egan, whose efforts and organisation have resulted in the smooth sailing of the EVA through the past year.

Jane Axon
President



Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association

The Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association (AGVA) retained strong membership in 2008 and finished the year with 125 members.

With the assistance of Ray Ferguson, our Secretary/Treasurer, we have embraced the use of the internet. Our newsletter is now distributed electronically to members and an online forum to discuss current issues has been established. Feedback from members regarding the online forums indicate that they have been a success and have helped them with their continuing education.

Throughout the year we have had extensive communication with both state and national racing bodies and provided advice on oestrous control, vaccination protocols, disease disaster planning and euthanasia protocols. This has been particularly important with the controversial changes to anabolic steroid usage in the greyhound industry.

In 2008 vaccination protocols were changed Australia wide with the introduction of strict new requirements for registering pups for racing. With the involvement of AGVA protocols and requirements have also been introduced for greyhound euthanasia. A disease disaster plan has been implemented in most states to cover situations that may impose on the operation and viability of the greyhound industry.

We have maintained our involvement with race clubs Australia wide concerning matters of greyhound health and welfare. The AGVA also continues to support the involvement of veterinarians in the industry, such as John Katakasi who sits on the Greyhound Racing South Australia Board and Linda

Beer who is the Business and Welfare Development Officer for Greyhound Racing Victoria.

Representatives from our group have attended AVA Policy Advisory Council to contribute to discussion concerning hurdle racing and euthanasia in greyhounds.

AGVA's Chris Doyle and Ray Ferguson spoke about the introduction of the new drug rules concerning anabolic steroids at various meetings across Australia. They also gave a series of lectures to final year students at the University of Melbourne.

The AGVA has been involved in the implementation of a new protocol by Greyhounds Australasia for veterinarians officiating at greyhound meetings. This work has resulted in the On Track veterinarians accreditation scheme and a handbook produced by our special interest group.

Planned work for the year ahead includes looking at strengthening our ties with our British counterparts by becoming part of their Track Veterinarian organisation, which enables us to share important clinical and track matters across our countries. We will also continue to contribute to discussion in the industry regarding heat policy on racing days and the issue of microchipping.

As I reflect back on 2008, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Professor Phil Davis, who made an enormous contribution to the greyhound industry and will be greatly missed.

Chris Doyle
President



Australian Veterinary History Society

35

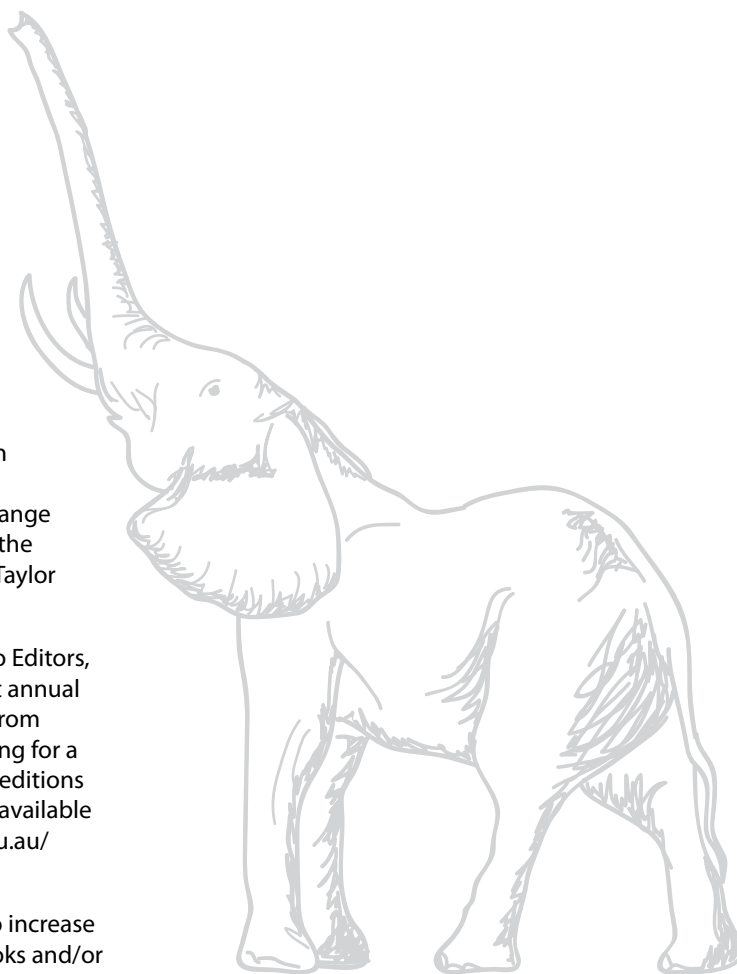
The Australian Veterinary History Society (AVHS) was founded in 1991 to foster interest in and to record the lives, work and achievements of veterinarians in this country. The members' newsletter, the *Australian Veterinary History Record* (the Record), is currently the only journal devoted to Australian veterinary history. Three issues of the newsletter are published each year. This year our special interest group has focused its attention on consolidating our activities.

Our group continues to collect and publish valuable insights into the development of the veterinary profession in Australia in a range of publications. These include the Record, the Max Henry Memorial Library and the Bob Taylor Collection.

Since its inception, the Record has had two Editors, Peter Mylrea and Ian Parsonson. At the last annual meeting, Ian indicated his desire to retire from the position of Editor and we are still looking for a suitable replacement for him. All previous editions of the Record have been digitised and are available to view online at <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/222/>.

Tom Hart, Honorary Librarian, is anxious to increase the library and is seeking donations of books and/or money to do so. If you would like to donate books or money please contact Tom at tomhart@tpg.com.au.

The library has been catalogued by Nicki Mock, a veterinary graduate who is working as a trainee librarian with the University of Melbourne. Digitising the contents has now been completed, thanks to the work of Tammie Goates, Gilruth Librarian, and Nicki Mock, and this is now available for members to view.



The next annual meeting of the Australian Veterinary History Society will be held in Darwin on Monday 18 May 2009. An interesting scientific program has been developed, which will focus on the Northern Territory and the development of specialist equine veterinary practice in Australia. Following the program and the annual meeting we will hold our annual dinner.

Andrew Turner
President

Australian Holistic Veterinarians

The Australian Holistic Veterinarians (AHV) had a busy year, and I would like to extend my thanks to our committee for their hard work as well as welcome the new members of our group.

In 2008 we began conducting our committee meetings via teleconference. This method has proved to be very successful and we will continue to use it in the coming year.

Continuing education

The AHV recognises the importance of providing its members with continuing education. It facilitates and supports ongoing courses in acupuncture, chiropractic, herbal medicine and homeopathy. We also recognise the importance of providing these courses to the veterinary profession as a whole. By doing so we reduce the likelihood of pet owners and farmers seeking these treatments from health practitioners who don't have formal veterinary qualifications.

In May 2008, the third Australasian Course in Veterinary Homeopathy began. The first module provided basic information on homeopathic prescribing. In total, the course will run for three years, with two modules held each year. Self study and internet support is provided between each of the modules. We have had three members complete the course and they were also successful in passing the membership examinations of the Faculty of Homeopathy in London. Congratulations to those members.

This year, a very successful conference program was organised by Clare Middle in Perth. The program included presentations by Bruce Ferguson from Murdoch University. These were so well received that he has been asked to speak again at the AVA Annual Conference in 2009.

Improving visibility

Several members of the committee were invited to talk to students at the university veterinary schools. This has greatly improved the visibility of our group and provided information to veterinary students on alternative therapies.

We have produced an information leaflet that describes the aims, function and services that the AHV provides for its members.

Greater visibility of the AVA and AHV was also achieved throughout the year with several of our members addressing various groups and meetings.

We also had an article published in the news section of the *Australian Veterinary Journal* that detailed some of our special interest group's activities.

Member services

Our printed newsletter, *Chiron*, continues to be produced every three to four months. We will be continuing this in the coming year and we are also looking at the possibility of providing this resource electronically.

At present we are trialling an internet-based discussion group, which will be up for review in the first half of 2009.

The AHV website (www.ahv.com.au) is in the process of being upgraded. The new version will enable members to list their contact details on the website where the public can access them when looking for a holistic veterinarian in their area. The new website will also give more flexibility to members by providing them with the permissions to upload and download documents, photographs and presentations.

Douglas Wilson
President



Australian Veterinarians in Industry

37

The Australian Veterinarians in Industry (AVI) represents veterinarians who work outside veterinary practice in allied animal health industries. The majority of members work in the pharmaceutical industry in technical services, regulatory affairs and research and development. There are also members from other industry groups including the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The majority of veterinarians employed in industry are members of AVI.

Representing the interests of this group is a key focus of the AVI. The committee ran a survey of its members in 2008 to determine issues of relevance to the membership and also to better understand the diversity of our members. Some 70–80 per cent of operational veterinary members responded to the survey.

The results confirmed that the pharmaceutical industry is still the most common (2/3) career option for an industry veterinarian, with consultancy to the animal health industry becoming a more obvious component of the membership (15 per cent). The vast majority of AVI members started in private practice with most moving to industry as their second career choice.

It is pleasing to note that careers in industry tend to be long and also that there seems to be a significant younger generation coming through. On the negative side, there is still a big challenge for industry to lift the profile of careers with veterinary science students and recent graduates. Industry provides very worthwhile careers for veterinarians but also is itself well-served by having both a significant number of veterinarians within it (in many and diverse roles) and by the selection pool for new employees being as large and as broadly skilled as possible.

The AVI continues to be represented on various committees of relevance to the animal health industry, such as the APVMA Industry Technical Committee, the AVA Therapeutics Advisory Committee and the AVA Policy Advisory Council. We also have a representative on the AVA conference scientific committee.

Continuing education is a major focus of the committee and each year we strive to put together an excellent program at the AVA Annual Conference. In particular, we work with other special interest groups to provide relevant combined sessions as well as stand-alone sessions on issues that are highly relevant to our members.

In 2009 the AVI will host a two-day course on statistics. The course is aimed at veterinarians working in research, technical services and regulatory affairs, but is also open to the wider veterinary group and animal health industry. The course is designed to give a better understanding of the general principles of statistics in animal research, including topics such as experimental design, sample size and power, and critical appraisal of published literature. There will be a good mix of theory and practical examples, including small group workshops to work through activities and exercises.

The AVI committee in 2008 continued to provide a conduit between its members and the various groups and agencies involved in the animal health industry. One such group is the wider veterinary community. Through its regular newsletter, its participation in a wide range of technical and industry forums and regular emails and communication channels maintained by our long-serving Secretary, Neil Cooper, our members have stayed on top of developments, ensuring another successful and productive year.

David Homer
President

Australian Pig Veterinarians

The Australian Pig Veterinarians (APV) has some 140 members as well as a further 20 non-veterinarians who subscribe to our email list. Subscribers receive regular updates on current issues in the industry, but do not have voting rights at the annual meeting.

Our 2008 stand-alone conference was held at the Bonamanzi Game Reserve in South Africa prior to the International Pig Veterinary Society meeting in Durban. This arrangement gave our group an opportunity to tap into the expertise of the world's leading pig specialists at minimal cost to members and may become a feature of our APV conference every second year. As well as the annual conference APV offers continuing education to members by way of a monthly quiz. This is emailed to members and those who complete and submit the quiz can earn one continuing education point.

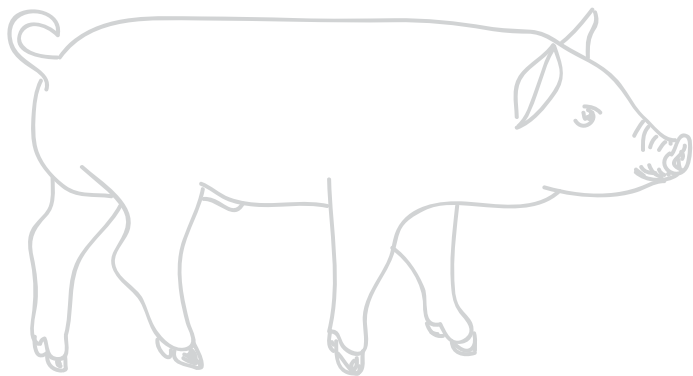
Comparatively, 2008 was fairly quiet when compared with other years where there was much debate over the new code of welfare for pigs and the controversy over what constitutes prudent antibiotic use. This year saw the full implementation of a national vendor declaration system called PigPass. This system was

imposed on the pig industry following some residue detections in pork earmarked for export to Asia. APV were closely involved in the discussions leading to the final version of PigPass. Currently we are working with Australian Pork Limited to draft fact sheets for veterinarians on the PigPass system.

The 2007 drought saw the national pig herd reduced by some 20 per cent due to the high cost of feed, a record amount of imported processed pig meats and a strong Australian dollar. In December 2007, pork was selling for \$2.60/kg compared with December 2008 when it was selling for \$3.80/kg. Factors involved in the price rise include weakening of the Australian dollar, the shortage of pigs as a result of the reduction in the national herd size, and the higher production costs for North American imported and processed meat.

In 2008 APV has had representation on a number of committees. These include the Therapeutics Advisory Committee, Policy Advisory Council and the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

Tony Fahy
President





Australian Veterinary Poultry Association

39

In 2008, the major activity of the Australian Veterinary Poultry Association (AVPA) was assisting with the organisation and running of the 6th Asian-Pacific Poultry Health Conference (AP6). The conference was part of the XXIII World's Poultry Congress (WPC) and was held at the Brisbane Convention Centre in July. WPC is organised by the World's Poultry Science Association and AP6 formed the major poultry health stream of the congress. The event was well attended and attracted hundreds of the world's poultry scientists and producers. AVPA sponsored two overseas speakers for the conference; Professor Dick Jones from the University of Liverpool, UK and Daisy Van Rompay from Ghent University, Belgium.

The major theme for AP6 was avian influenza and featured speakers with quality local expertise as well as speakers from China, Iran, Italy, Egypt, Germany, Thailand and the USA. Other topics covered comprehensively included necrotic enteritis, in particular, approaches to control this disease by vaccination, coccidiosis, histomoniasis, the use of bacterial vaccines, viral respiratory disease and immunosuppressive conditions.

There was strong coverage of the future of poultry vaccines, modulation of the immune response and the application of new generation vaccines and diagnostic techniques. A session on emerging problems brought to light information on new issues and the resurgence of some old ones. These included, reovirus studies and the situation with runting stunting viruses in the USA, the emergence of inclusion body hepatitis in Canada and an increase in awareness of chlamydia as a zoonosis for the industry and its employees in Europe.

AP6 was a wonderful achievement and we owe a great amount of gratitude to Kevin Whithear and his team for a monumental effort in the organisation of this event. Of note as well is that Bob Pym, from the University of Queensland will become the next president of the World's Poultry Science Association – it is great to see an Australian at the head of such an active world organisation.

In the coming year, AVPA will be looking into several projects that will benefit both our members and the poultry veterinary fraternity at large. Work is also underway for two scientific meetings that are already planned for 2009.

Peter Groves
President



Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association

It has been a busy year for the Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association (AVPMA) as we have developed some new momentum.

The AVPMA had a fresh start to the year with the appointment of a new Executive Officer (Debbie Neutze), new Administration Assistant (Jill Baker) and new committee (Warren Foreman, Terry Theakstone, Andrew Nathan, Michelle Cotton, Jenni Trewren, Chris Boemo and Andrew Easton).

The new faces provided the opportunity to take a fresh look at the AVPMA and its direction. We held focus groups with AVA members to determine what they thought of their practice management special interest group and which direction they wanted it to take in the future. These groups revealed that AVPMA plays a pivotal role in the development and financial health of their practices as well as providing vital information and ideas for practice improvement.

The first major event in the year was the AVA Annual Conference in Perth. The practice management stream was well attended and included presentations from Byron Farquer, Ian Hallet and Judy Gillespie.

The AVA/Pfizer Practice of Excellence Award winners also gave individual presentations at the conference. This program has attracted an even greater number of entries this year and we look forward to the winners' presentations at the 2009 conference in Darwin.

Our next major event was the stand-alone AVPMA Conference *Leading Teams to Success* held at Coffs Harbour in October. Sheila Grosdidier was the keynote speaker and delivered a series of talks on how to energise and re-vitalise your practice.

Thanks to Jill and Debbie the AVPMA newsletter was redesigned for the second and third editions and now boasts vibrant colours and excellent artwork and photos. We have also continued to provide members

with 'practice tips', in the form of handy computer hints, courtesy of Debbie Mayo-Smith.

Smaller projects completed in 2008 include first-aid training courses for members, offered at a substantial discount and delivered nationwide, and representation at Policy Advisory Council meetings to present our views on a policy for the contribution of nurses to veterinary practices.

We worked with the University of Queensland to provide input into their undergraduate curriculum in practice management. The local Practice of Excellence award winners will be sharing their expertise with the students and the AVPMA will deliver an introductory lecture. It is pleasing to see the development of student groups interested in practice management and we were happy to be able to sponsor a student to attend the annual conference.

Towards the end of the year we conducted a membership telephone survey and found that the vast majority of AVPMA members are in favour of practice management remaining a special interest group within the AVA.

Programs we are currently working on include plans for a conference on women's issues in the profession and development of an occupational health and safety training and accreditation package. This package will enable practices to quickly navigate through the potential minefield of this topic and make sure they comply with the necessary requirements. We expect to see government focusing more and more on this area in the near future.

Our membership this year has strongly increased and we look forward to the year ahead and another successful practice management stream at the Annual Conference in Darwin in May.

Warren Foreman
President

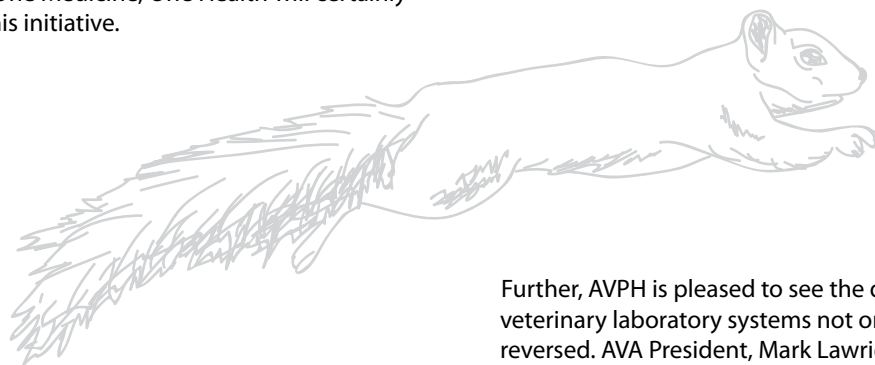


Australian Veterinarians in Public Health

41

Australian Veterinarians in Public Health (AVPH) had a busy year as we sought to strengthen and rejuvenate our special interest group. In 2008 the executive developed a strategic plan, which aims to help all veterinarians, both in private and government practice, see that they are involved in veterinary public health at some level.

Our program at the AVA Annual Conference in Perth was well received and we have plans to expand on this for the Darwin conference in 2009. We hope to engage a broader spectrum of AVA members in 2009 and the theme of One Medicine, One Health will certainly support this initiative.



In the coming year we are keen to support the deans of the veterinary faculties as they work to impart a sense of relevance and enthusiasm for veterinary public health to students. There is a real focus on clinical practice and veterinary public health courses appear to be of minor interest to students. In 2009 AVPH will be looking at ways to attract more student members. This includes activities to raise our profile and promote our group to students by appointing representatives and encouraging them to become involved in current issues.

Our group has noted that industry funding bodies are increasingly reluctant to fund research into public health issues, (for example, food borne diseases, antibiotic resistance) because they are seen as human health issues. The National Health and Medical Research Council's position is that industry should fund such work. We can see a real need for more post-graduate training for public health veterinarians. At present, the University of Sydney has a program

and the University of Queensland is interested in redeveloping aspects of its existing veterinary public health program.

We have also focused on and supported the lobbying done by the AVA to ensure that veterinarians retain their roles in the agricultural decision-making process. AVPH and the AVA are eager to see more government veterinarians come back into the AVA fold, and having a greater influence on government policies affecting livestock and diseases will make this easier to achieve.

Further, AVPH is pleased to see the decline in the state veterinary laboratory systems not only halted but reversed. AVA President, Mark Lawrie, has sought AVPH input into compiling as much data on this as possible in order to establish an AVA policy that supports the rebuilding of veterinary services.

Ongoing issues for AVPH have included microbial contamination of food and antibiotic resistance, especially with the release of the national food and animal antimicrobial resistance survey results late in the year.

Finally, we have been watching with interest some of the developments in the USA in relation to veterinary public health, including the recognition of the role of small animal practitioners in veterinary public health. The new *Compendium of veterinary standard precautions: dealing with zoonotic disease prevention in veterinary personnel* potentially provides a model that can be incorporated into AVA plans for our own biosecurity guidelines.

Emma Haslam
President

Australian Reproduction Veterinarians

In keeping with our commitment to providing quality continuing education the Australian Reproduction Veterinarians (ARV) held an annual conference in 2008. The conference, held in Queenstown, New Zealand was the highlight of our year both professionally and socially.

The conference also provided an opportunity for attendees to sit the theory component of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQIS) export accreditation exam.

In 2008 ARV along with Australian Cattle Veterinarians (ACV), Australian Sheep Veterinarians (ASV) and Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association (ARCBA) formed a discussion group. As most of Australia's states and territories have deregulated their artificial breeding industries the purpose of this

group is to formulate guidelines for minimum quality standards in frozen ram and bull semen.

The scope of discussion has very quickly expanded to include how communication can be improved between AQIS and veterinarians who are exporting genetic material. The formation of this group was an interesting and necessary development for all involved and will be of significant benefit to all groups.

The year also saw another collaborative effort with the ACV and ASV veterinarians with the planning and organisation of the Mega Reproduction Conference to take place on the Gold Coast in July 2009. We are looking forward to this conference and continuing to support our membership in remaining informed and relevant to the industries we service.

Peter Atkinson
President

Australian Sheep Veterinarians

Membership of the Australian Sheep Veterinarians (ASV) remains strong at approximately 300 members. A major highlight for our group in 2008 was our program at the AVA Annual Conference in Perth. The ASV ran a well-attended three days at the conference, which included combined sessions with the Australian Cattle Veterinarians (ACV) and Australian Veterinarians in Industry (AVI) groups. Proceedings from the conference have now been made available as a resource for members.

In September the ASV ran a stand-alone meeting at Marcus Oldham College in Geelong. The meeting was attended by over 70 members and the standard of presentations was very high. The meeting concluded with a dinner, where attendees were addressed by Chris Lewis from the UK and AVA President, Mark Lawrie. A survey of members who attended showed there is a very strong preference for continuing with these stand-alone meetings every two years.

The quarterly newsletter remains an important part of ASV activities. John Plant and Anne Cover continue to ensure it provides members with valuable information and updates on relevant areas of interest.

In terms of policy issues, 2008 was a fairly quiet year. We continued to monitor developments in the mulesing debate, live sheep trade, SheepMAP and chemicals throughout the year. While 2008 was thankfully quiet on the mulesing front, there will no doubt be increased interest as the industry deadline for phasing out mulesing by 2010 approaches.

The severe widespread drought continued to effect sheep producers and sheep veterinarians. Thankfully, late rains in spring and summer meant a major turnaround for most drought-declared areas. However, it will still be many months and in some cases years before producers are able to achieve normal production levels.

In 2009 the ASV will have a restricted program at the AVA Annual Conference in Darwin. This is because of the ASV's commitment to the International Sheep Veterinary Congress, which takes place in Norway in June, and also our contribution to the Mega Reproduction Conference being held on the Gold Coast in July.

Kym Abbott
President



Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association

43

It is my pleasure to present my first annual report as the ASAVA President. I believe that 2008 was the most successful year in the history of the ASAVA as we continued to build on our existing strengths and further develop the benefits we provide to our members.

The most significant achievement for the ASAVA in 2008 was the annual conference, *Keep up-to-date in 2008*, which attracted over 500 attendees. As has come to be expected from the annual ASAVA meeting, the conference was packed full of great educational, social and recreational opportunities. All the feedback from members was positive and the convention centre in Cairns proved to be an outstanding venue. In 2009 the objective of the ASAVA is to further raise the bar at our annual conference in Christchurch. The industry support for the ASAVA and our conference was outstanding and I would like to thank the many companies involved in the trade exhibition.

The hard work and dedication of your ASAVA committee was recognised by the AVA this year. Phil Brain was awarded the most prestigious AVA award, Fellowship of the AVA. This award recognises Phil's outstanding service to both the ASAVA and the AVA over many years. I congratulate Phil on his well-deserved and hard-earned recognition. Matthew Retchford also received a much deserved AVA Meritorious Service award at the AVA Gala Dinner this year.

I am delighted to report that ASAVA membership numbers have risen again. This increase is the result of a number of factors, including the significant exposure the ASAVA gained through the WSAVA conference and also ongoing awareness of the many valuable benefits membership offers. Some of the key membership benefits include:

- Excellent opportunities for continuing education at the ASAVA and AVA Conferences.
- *Australian Veterinary Practitioner (AVP)*, Australia's leading scientific journal for companion animal practitioners.
- *The Companion*, the ASAVA magazine, keeping members up-to-date with information of

relevance to companion animal practitioners.

- ASAVA Accredited Hospitals of Excellence program, providing a framework for veterinary hospitals to provide the highest standard of practice for their clients.
- ASAVA brochures and other materials designed for veterinary practices to provide relevant and accurate information to their clients.
- ASAVA website providing a source of information to members, including conference information, conference registration and the E- Library.

2008 was a time of change which extended to the ASAVA office. We welcomed a new Executive Officer, Colin Hort, who has helped to continue to raise the profile of the ASAVA over his first six months. Other changes included the appointment of Office Administrator, Cristina Sacco, and the return of Ellen Quinn as an Administrative Officer on casual basis. In 2009 ASAVA will also welcome another Administrative Officer, Patricia Soesanto.

The ASAVA Committee continues to maintain representation on the AVA Board, Australian Companion Animal Council, Nursing Industry Advisory Group, Therapeutics Advisory Committee, AVA Centre for Companion Animals in the Community and the AVA Policy Advisory Council.

This past year the ASAVA committee has been involved in implementing and updating several AVA policies. The companion animal vaccination policy will be revisited in line with the latest WSAVA vaccination guidelines. New policies introduced include the surgical alteration of the natural state and genetic manipulation.

The ASAVA has long been involved with the Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF), both financially and through administrative support. ACAHF provides funding to support companion animal research programs in Australia, and past projects supported include Jacquie Rand's diabetes research and Vanessa Barr's research into low grade alimentary lymphosarcoma in cats. In 2008 the ASAVA made a \$200,000 donation to the ACAHF from the profits derived from the WSAVA 2007 conference.

This donation moves the foundation well along the pathway to becoming self-sustaining.

The ASAVA Committee is continually trying to devise new ways we can provide further services for our members. During the next 12 months we plan to maintain and improve our current level of member services.

Major initiatives for the coming year include:

- A fully revised ASAVA website providing increased and improved online services for ASAVA members.
- The ASAVA smart card. Members can be quickly and easily identified and use the card to store CE points, obtain access to ASAVA member services, keep member status up-to-date, with the potential for more services to follow.
- The PennHIP hip assessment scheme. The ASAVA

will continue to promote and support the PennHIP scheme in Australia, with more training and communication programs for members.

As the largest special interest group of the AVA, our representation on the AVA Board and various subcommittees means we will continue to provide the best possible support and representation for our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Matthew Retchford for his incredible efforts as ASAVA President over the last three years. He leaves large shoes to fill.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you in 2009.

Graham Swinney
President

Australian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare and Ethics

Membership of Australian Veterinarians for Animal Welfare and Ethics (AVAWE) swelled to 132 in 2008 and now includes practitioners from all disciplines. It is exciting to see that animal welfare is regarded as a principle issue for all veterinarians and AVAWE is working towards being regarded as the source of animal welfare expertise for the profession and the community. To support this, it is with pride that we can announce that 13 of our members successfully passed their membership exams this year for the Animal Welfare Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

The community expects that animal welfare and advocacy should underpin all of our activities as veterinarians. This is because we are the only profession specifically trained to accurately assess animal welfare and wellbeing. Unprejudiced animal welfare information for undergraduates has been of particular concern to our group. To address this issue a number of AVAWE members have volunteered to make themselves available to speak to students and work with the veterinary faculties to contribute to future veterinarians receiving a balanced view of animal welfare. AVAWE wants all graduates to be able to contribute knowledgeably and effectively to the animal welfare debate and make the best advocacy choices as professional veterinarians.

In 2008 AVAWE contributed significantly to policy development and review for the AVA, thanks to the work of our policy councillor, Tanya Stephens.

AVAWE is dedicated to the dissemination and promotion of current animal welfare science and ethics to the Australian veterinary profession. As well as our regular newsletter for members, the AVA Annual Conference in Perth provided another opportunity for veterinarians to obtain significant structured continuing education in animal welfare. The AVAWE component of the conference covered a range of issues including fish welfare, stem cell research, animal rights vs animal law, welfare and ethics in veterinary education and the cost of competition within the profession.

During the conference, AVAWE held its annual general meeting where it was decided that the executive should be extended to include both state and veterinary faculty representatives. It is proposed that as these positions are filled AVAWE will be able to support workshop opportunities locally to further support the education of members. We now have representatives in nearly all states, territories and veterinary schools. We look forward to working more closely with these representatives in 2009.

Susan Maastricht
President



Unusual and Exotic Pets

45

It was another busy year for the Unusual and Exotic Pets (UEP) special interest group.

In September we held our annual conference in conjunction with the Australian Avian Veterinary Medical Association and the Association of Avian Veterinarians. Angela Lennox, from Indianapolis was the international guest speaker at the conference. The Anne Martin Memorial scholarship (awarded to the best student presentation) went to Kate McLoughlin from the University of Melbourne. Winner of the Inaugural Stephen Ross Memorial Scholarship (awarded to best paper and presentation from a clinician in practice for less than five years) was Clarissa Stirling, from South Australia. The award was presented by Wendy Ross, Stephen's widow, and their two sons at the conference dinner. The yearly Toady for the best speaker at the conference went to Shane Simpson from Victoria.

The UEP remains committed to ensuring that there are clear policies on the issues facing the husbandry of our less usual pets. To help achieve this outcome UEP member, Robert Johnson, continued to play an active role in the Policy Advisory Council meetings in 2008.

The UEP also worked to raise the profile of our group in 2008 by organising members to speak at various state division conferences throughout the year. Thanks to Brendan Carmel and Robert Johnson who both acted as presenters.

Our email discussion group was a well-used resource, with the appearance of daily posts on challenging problems affecting unusual and exotic pets. We now have a subcommittee that is continuing to make progress with the Australian College of Veterinary Science to develop memberships in the Medicine and Surgery of Unusual Pets. Exams for this are planned to commence within the next few years.

The provision of member benefits will remain a focus of the UEP committee in the coming year. At present members receive a certificate of membership for display in their veterinary hospitals, a CD of conference proceedings, access to the UEP email discussion group and the UEP newsletter. The committee continues to investigate future benefits for our members.

Anne Fowler
President

TRUSTS AND ADVISORY GROUPS





Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation

47

The Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation (ACAHF) was established in 1989 as a non-profit trust of the AVA.

The major aim of the Foundation is to help to fund investigative projects to further our knowledge of the cause, treatment and prevention of the clinical diseases of companion animals, mainly dogs and cats.

The foundation raises money through donations from veterinarians and companies associated with the pet industry, pet owners and other concerned members of the public.

All gifts and donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the donor, under the *Income Tax Assessment Act*. Donations for 2008 totalled \$34,399 including \$3,493 from condolence cards. This money will be used to fund research grants for 2009. The trustees would like to thank all of those people who donated so generously.

Honorary trustees oversee the operation of the ACAHF and funds donated to the ACAHF are distributed to clinical research projects after careful assessment by a selected research committee, consisting of eminent veterinarians from veterinary schools and private

practices around Australia.

The Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA), a special interest group of the AVA, generously donates office space and administrative support for the Foundation. This helps to keep administrative costs to a minimum and allows virtually all the money donated to the Foundation to be used for the benefit of companion animals. In addition to this invaluable assistance the ASAVA generously donated \$200,000 of the profit from the WSAVA 2007 congress to be used to promote research into veterinary science of companion animals in Australia.

The type of research that is funded is wide ranging, and is chosen for the direct benefit of companion animal species. Some examples of this research are investigations into arthritis, heart disease, diabetes and cancer that focus on a better understanding of the basic disorder, and thus lead to improved methods of treatment and prevention.

The purpose of this report is to publicly acknowledge the generous support that has been given in 2008 to the Foundation by pet owners, veterinarians and industry.

Animal Welfare and Crisis Response Trust

A new trust was established in 2008 to provide an additional means of supporting both animals and veterinarians in times of crisis, and to address gaps in the type of support that can be provided from the existing AVA trusts.

The trustees are AVA Directors who hold the offices of President, Vice President, and Treasurer, along with the Immediate Past President.

During 2008, the trust distributed ex gratia payments from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. The funds supported the management of the welfare of horses involved in the extended quarantine period imposed on Redlands Veterinary Clinic as a result of the Hendra virus outbreak.

Therapeutics Advisory Committee

The Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC) provides advice to the AVA Board on therapeutic issues. Its members consist of representatives from different special interest groups in the AVA and those who have specific expertise and interest in therapeutics.

The committee has one face-to-face meeting per year and meets by teleconference on one or two occasions as issues arise. The group is very proactive and responsive to therapeutic issues that will impact on members and advises the Board on policy development as well as interacting with the Policy Advisory Council.

Over the last 12 months, some of the issues that TAC has been working on are:

- permethrin intoxication in cats
- nitromec and labelling issues that were having an impact on the legal responsibilities of veterinarians
- sedation in rams with acetylpromazine
- ways to improve adverse drug reaction reporting
- development of guidelines for antibiotic use including in aquaculture
- updating prescribing guidelines.

Animal Welfare Trust

The Animal Welfare Trust (AWT) was formed to support the welfare of animals through an institution engaged in the utilisation of veterinary and other knowledge and expertise through research, education, promotion and action.

Trustees are appointed by the AVA Board and their appointment is open-ended. The annual meeting in Perth during the AVA Annual Conference saw the re-election of Steve Atkinson as Chairman and Lyndy Scott as Deputy Chair.

There have not been any research grants awarded in 2008 as it was decided that the AWT would first meet with other AVA trusts to plan a way forward and to find a way to expand the asset base to become more sustainable. This meeting occurred on 11 September 2008 at AVA National Office.

The decision was made to continue with the AWT in its present form and investigate the costs of altering

the trust to remove promotion from the trust deed to allow tax deductibility. Further promotion and exposure via the *Australian Veterinary Journal* and additional advertising is planned.

During the last 12 months the grants application and assessment forms were improved to ensure they are more consistent. Letters will again be circulated to the Deans of all the veterinary schools to offer application forms for the granting of small allocations of funds to assist students and post-graduate students undertaking projects and studies such as a Bachelor of Science (Veterinary) or a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery degree, honours degree, masters degree or to support suitable projects.

Applications will be assessed and then funds allocated with a requirement for the successful applicant to present written reports and present them to the AVJ for publication. It is planned to encourage the presentation of these reports at future AVA conferences.



Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

49

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) consists of members with special animal welfare skills and interests, and members of the state and territory government animal welfare advisory committees. The main aim of AWAC is to make animal welfare a number one priority with our members, to be proactive and to respond quickly to issues.

The purpose of the group is to advise the AVA Board on animal welfare issues and also to assist the Policy Advisory Council in the development of animal welfare policies. The group usually has one annual meeting held at the AVA Annual Conference and teleconferences as

needed or when important issues arise.

The annual meeting held in May 2008 stressed the need to have early input into the AVA policy development process and reinforced the need to increase the visibility of veterinarians in the community as animal welfare experts.

AWAC, through its state and territory representatives, can also initiate policy development as specific animal welfare issues arise in their jurisdictions. In 2009 there will be stronger emphasis on assisting with lobbying and representations between jurisdictions.

Centre for Companion Animals in the Community

The Centre for Companion Animals in the Community (CCAC) had a very positive start to 2008. In February, members of the CCAC committee hosted a workshop on Pet Friendly Urban Design for the City of Playford (South Australia). Also participating was the mayor of Playford, other City of Playford representatives, and representatives from the South Australia Heart Foundation, South Australia Healthy Living Coalition and the Planning Institute of Australia.

This workshop was the beginning of what was to be a world-first project to incorporate planning for pet ownership into the urban redevelopment project at Playford North. The project involves over 8000 new homes and the refurbishment of about 800 existing homes, with an anticipated population increase of 27,000.

For a range of reasons the AVA Board decided not to support the Planning for Pet Ownership Project and our involvement has ceased.

Another positive development this year was the launch of the CCAC website – www.ccac.net.au. The CCAC site is highly valuable resource for AVA staff and members, pulling together and organising much of the available literature on otherwise poorly documented subjects relating to companion animal management.

During the year, the CCAC committee assisted several AVA divisions, directly or indirectly through AVA National Office, to respond to state and local government issues.

Due to changes in resourcing within the AVA, the structure of the CCAC is being reviewed to redefine its role.

Benevolent Fund

After a quiet introduction to the year, 2008 developed into one of the busiest years since the Fund's inception.

The Wellness Program at the AVA Annual Conference in Perth appears to have been a big success, despite some teething problems, and trustees have agreed to sponsor this program again at the 2009 Annual Conference in Darwin. Whether it is as a result of this or not, there appears to be a much greater awareness of the role of the Benevolent Fund.

Trustees Lyndy Scott and Ronald Hyne represented the Benevolent Fund at the meeting of trustees held at AVA National Office in September. Their submissions provided the attendees with a greater understanding of the role and workings of the Benevolent Fund, and the necessity for confidentiality in some areas of its work.

As well as seven longer term clients, eight new beneficiaries were assisted in what appears to be an emerging trend of moving away from assisting families of deceased veterinarians to instead helping colleagues directly. It is heartening to observe that the broader association now appears to have mechanisms in place that should address some of the causative factors involved. Helping to address these factors are AVA initiatives such as the Australian Veterinary Practice Management Association special interest group, counselling services and a realisation that mental health is an important issue for the wellbeing of veterinarians.

Trustees have received wonderful pro-bono support from colleagues outside the formal structure of the

Benevolent Fund who have willingly mentored and assisted colleagues. Their help has been invaluable. Tony Thelander deserves special mention, as does the Western Australian team who worked so hard on the Wellness Program, Helen Jones-Fairnie and Paul Davey in particular. The Wellness Centre was arranged by the Western Australia Veterinarians' Health Group in conjunction with the AVA Benevolent Fund, VetPath and Health on the Move (Corporate Health Services). It provided conference delegates with the opportunity to check out some key health and lifestyle factors, including mental wellbeing, and compare their results with the general population.

Approximately \$46,000 was expended on beneficiaries directly in between the AGMs 2007–08. The balance in the Benevolent Fund account at 31 October 2008 was \$238,260.05. Donations amounted to \$6989.05 and interest for 10 months (when the Treasurer's report was prepared) was \$19,984.48. The total cost of the Wellness Program, which included the sponsorship of the Bob Taylor Wellness Centre, screening tests, printing and sundries was \$5059.95. The trustees have received a report on the Perth program from Helen Jones-Fairnie, whose committee recommended a number of changes for Darwin in 2009. In addition, the trustees have resolved to commission the group to continue their research into depression/suicide as suggested by Trevor Faragher's letter to the editor published in the July 2008 *Australian Veterinary Journal*. Details of this are being finalised.

The trustees appreciate the support and sensitivity of the state and territory representatives as they carry out the work of the Benevolent Fund, as well as the assistance provided by AVA National Office staff.



Australian Companion Animal Council

51

Pets are the social glue of our society and the Australian Companion Animal Council (ACAC) is the peak body representing pet ownership and the pet industry in Australia. ACAC actively promotes the benefits of socially responsible companion animal ownership to governments and the wider community. This has resulted in wide national media coverage on pets.

The Safe Pets Out There (SPOT) program, was developed two years ago under the umbrella of the ACAC by the Animal Welfare League NSW, the AVA, Delta Society Australia and the RSPCA NSW and funded by the NSW Department of Local Government. In 2008 the program continued to spread the message to K-2 children in NSW about safe behaviour around dogs, pet care and kindness and respect for all animals.

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS), a Federal Government initiative administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry provides an opportunity for members of the ACAC

to be at the forefront of animal welfare in Australia through participation on the Companion Animal Working Group and the Animals used for Work, Sport, Recreation or Display Working Group. The AAWS08 conference highlighted Australia's international role in the area and ACAC took an active role at the conference.

The ACAC also made several submissions to government on legislative issues that affect companion animal ownership in Australia.

The year ahead promises to be exciting for the ACAC, as the *Power of Pets*, the pet industry fact book and *Renting with pets for tenants and landlords* brochures will be updated and circulated to media and government at all levels. By doing this we aim to reinforce the message that pets are important to the health and welfare of Australians, as well as the economy. Promoting the benefits of pet ownership in Australia will continue to be the focus of ACAC.



FINANCIALS



Directors' report

Your Directors present their report on the economic entity for the financial year ended 31 December 2008.

Directors

The names of Directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Diane Sheehan	
Kersti Seksel	Resigned May 2008
Mark Lawrie	
Samantha McMahon	
Bruce Cartmill	Resigned May 2008
David Clarke	
Barry Smyth	
Kevin McGrath	
Steve Atkinson	
Peter Gibbs	Since May 2008
Ben Gardiner	Since May 2008

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Information on Company Secretary

H Barnard, B Com (Hons) Acc, MBL
Company Secretary since 13 August 2007,
resigned 28 May 2008.

G Catt, MA, MBA, Grad Dip Business
Company Secretary since 16 April 2008.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Australian Veterinary Association Limited during the financial year focused on the advancement of veterinary and allied sciences and included:

- operation as an association representing veterinary professionals in Australia
- promotion of the value of the profession to the community, industry and government
- providing a forum for veterinarians to exchange ideas and access member services
- assisting members to strive for professional excellence
- providing high standards of continuing education and professional development
- providing leadership and expert advice in animal science, health, welfare and production
- stimulating informed debate on issues within the areas of professional competence
- developing technical policy on animal health and welfare issues.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Company's principal activities during the financial year.

Operating results

The consolidated surplus from operations for the year was \$117,988 (2007: consolidated surplus of \$765,739).

Review of operations

A review of the operations of the Australian Veterinary Association during the financial year is contained in the Report of the National President.

The economic entity comprises the Company, including 8 divisions, 21 special interest groups (SIGs) and 40 branches in addition to the AVA national group and 4 trusts. All groups operate within their own budgetary control but within financial operating guidelines promulgated by the Board. Being a not-for-profit entity, the Company does not seek to maximise profits but to provide member services compatible with possible income. On the foregoing basis, it is expected that constituent groups will generate surpluses in some years (to be carried forward for future use) and deficits in some years (representing the expenditure of past or future surpluses).

The SIGs recorded a deficit of \$143,960 the divisions recorded a deficit of \$98,077, the branches recorded a surplus of \$41,914, the AVA national group recorded a surplus of \$111,626, and the trusts recorded a surplus of \$206,485.

Significant changes in state of affairs

No significant changes in the Company's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

Events subsequent to reporting date

No matters or circumstances (apart from the change in manner of management of investments referred to below) have arisen since 31 December 2008 that significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations of the Company or economic entity
- (b) the results of those operations
- (c) the state of affairs of the Company or economic entity in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2008.

In February, 2009, and in the interests of securing greater long-term value in the association's holdings of investments, the Board resolved to appoint Macquarie Private Portfolio Management (a part of Macquarie Banking Group) to manage the association's investments. This action is likely to require the disposal

of some existing investments at a loss in order to position the association for greater long-term growth. An impairment loss of \$466,707 has been recognised in the financial statements as at 31 December, 2008 to reflect the impact of this action.

Likely developments

No information is included in this report as it is the opinion of the Directors that the disclosure of this information would prejudice the interests of the Company.

Likely developments in the activities of the Company are noted elsewhere in the annual report, with the Company continuing to work towards the achievement of its objectives.

Dividends

The Company's constitution precludes the payment of dividends. Accordingly, the Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend. No dividend has been paid or declared since the commencement of the financial year.

Directors' benefits

Since 31 December 2007 no Director has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related corporation with the Director or with a firm of which he/she is a member, or with a Company in which he/she has a substantial financial interest. However, the President and Directors who serve in an honorary capacity are entitled to receive a reimbursement for actual expenses incurred as well as an honorarium for their services as Directors of the Company.

Information on Directors

D Sheehan , B.Sc, BVSc, MBA, CMAVA	Director AVA since 2001. President 2007–08, President Elect 2006–07, Treasurer 2002–06, President ASAVA 2000–2002, President QLD Division 1994. AVA member since 1984.
K Seksel , BVSc (Hons), MRCVS MA (Hons), Dipl ACVB, FACVS (Animal Behaviour)	Director AVA 1999–2002 and since May 2005. President 2006–07, President Elect 2005–2006, President AVBIG 2004 to present, President SMPB 1996–1997, Director ACVSc 2004 to present. Vice President ACAC 2002–2004, President ACAC 2004 to present, ASAVA Committee 1999 to 2005. AVA member since 1986.
M Lawrie , BVSc, MACVSc (Animal Welfare)	Director AVA Since May 2006. Chair of Visibility Strategy Committee, President NSW Division 2005–2006, NSW Executive 2002–2007, Chief Veterinarian RSPCA NSW 1993–2008, Secretary AMRRIC 2003–2007, Experience in government, management, animal welfare, food animal, mixed and small animal practice in Australia and overseas. AVA member since 1995.
S McMahon , BVSc, FAICD	Director AVA since 2004. President NT Division 2002–2003 and 2003–2004, Chair Risk and Audit Committee 2006–07. AVA member since 1999.
B Cartmill , BVSc	Director AVA since May 2005. Chair Continuing Education Strategy Committee 2007–08, Chair Board Strategy Committee 2006–07, President NSW Division 2003–2005, NSW Executive 1998–2006, ASAVA Accredited Veterinary Hospital Committee 1997–2002. AVA member since 1965.
D Clarke , BVSc, Diplomate AVDC, Fellow AVD, MACVSc (Dental), Registered Specialist Veterinary Surgery (Dentistry)	Director AVA 2006–08. AVA Treasurer 2006–08, ASAVA Committee 2004 to present, Adjunct Associate Lecturer Massey University NZ, Consultant Veterinary Dentist Taronga and Western Plains Zoos, Adelaide and Monarto Zoos, Director K9 Gums, Director Dental Care for Pets. AVA member since 1985.
B Smyth , BVSc, MBA, PhD, GAICD, FACVSc, Diplomate ACVS. Registered Specialist Equine Surgery.	Director AVA since May 2007. President Equine Veterinarians Australia 2006–2007, Secretary EVA 2004–2006, Director Australian Horse Industry Council Inc. 2002 to present – various roles, President AHIC 2006–present, Director private companies, Clinical Veterinary Practice Australia and overseas, Research Australia and USA, University teaching Australia and overseas. AVA member since 1995.
D K McGrath , BVSc	Director since May 2007. Cattle Veterinarians Executive member 2000–2007, President Cattle Veterinarians 2005–06. AVA member since 1988.
S Atkinson , BVSc, MACVSc (Animal Welfare), DipContEd, CMAVA	Director since May 2007. President/Policy Councillor AVAWE 1997–2007, Chair AVA Animal Welfare Trust, Chair AVA AWAC. AVA member since 1994.
P Gibbs , BVSc, MACVSc (Anaes and IC), MRCVS, CMAVA	Director since May 2008. NSW Division committee member 2002–2008, President NSW Division 2006, Policy Councillor 2007–08. AVA member since 1970.
B C Gardiner , BVSc, CMAVA	Director AVA Ltd since May 2008. Various AVA branch and ACV SIG executive positions since 1989 including ACV President 2003–4, Elected member local government 1995–1999, including Chair consultative Committee. Chair NSW NPWS DAC. Director of private companies. AVA member since 1982.

Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, 15 meetings of Directors were held. Attendances were:

	Directors' meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Diane Sheehan	15	15
Kersti Seksel	7	6
Mark Lawrie	15	15
Samantha McMahon	15	14
Bruce Cartmill	7	7
David Clarke	15	15
Barry Smyth	15	15
Kevin McGrath	15	15
Steve Atkinson	15	14
Peter Gibbs	7	7
Ben Gardiner	7	7

Insurance for Company Officers

During and since the financial year the Company has paid, or agreed to pay, premiums in respect of contracts insuring persons who are or have been a Company Officer, against certain liabilities incurred in that capacity. Company Officer for this purpose means any Director or Secretary of the Company and includes any other person who is concerned, or takes part, in the management of the Company, including trustees of the four AVA trusts (Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund, Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation, Australian Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Trust and Animal Welfare and Crisis Response Trust).

The insurance contracts prohibit disclosure of the nature of the liabilities insured by the contracts and the amount of the premiums.



D Clarke
Director and Honorary Treasurer

Indemnity and insurance of Directors and Officers

The Company has, to the extent permitted by law, entered into agreements to indemnify its Directors and officers for all losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of the Company or a related company. This includes losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of a company where such office is held for the benefit of the Company.

No claim has been made against or by the Company in relation to any such indemnities or insurance policies during the financial year ending 31 December 2008.

Environmental issues

The Company's operations are not subject to significant environmental regulation under the law of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory.

Proceedings on behalf of the Company

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company or intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Company was not a party to any such proceedings during the financial year.

Auditors' Independence Declaration

A copy of the Auditors' Independence Declaration as required under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out on page 74.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



M Lawrie
Director and President

Dated at Sydney this 30th Day of March 2009.

Income statement

For the year ended 31 December 2008

56

	Notes	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2008	2007	2008	2007
		\$	\$	\$	\$
			Restated		Restated
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	8,915,922	8,525,445	8,603,181	8,480,632
Revenue from other non-operating activities	2	1,272,855	138,060	1,272,855	138,060
Total revenue		10,188,777	8,663,505	9,876,036	8,618,692
Service expenses		(1,069,409)	(688,099)	(723,706)	(640,458)
Sponsorship, marketing and promotions expenses		(351,373)	(339,910)	(551,373)	(339,910)
Conferences and continuing education expenses		(2,849,036)	(2,322,431)	(2,849,036)	(2,322,431)
Communications and publications expenses		(1,307,808)	(1,274,141)	(1,307,808)	(1,274,141)
Occupancy expenses		(202,593)	(180,016)	(202,593)	(180,016)
Administration expenses		(2,679,951)	(2,126,783)	(2,679,951)	(2,126,783)
Interest expense		-	-	(39,448)	(43,072)
Impairment loss		(466,707)	-	(466,707)	-
Other operating expenses		(1,143,912)	(966,386)	(1,143,912)	(966,386)
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities before income tax expense		117,988	765,739	(88,498)	725,495
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(b)	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities after income tax expense	11	117,988	765,739	(88,498)	725,495

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2008

57

		ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2008	2007	2008	2007
	Notes	\$	\$ Restated	\$	\$ Restated
ASSETS					
Current assets					
Cash assets	1(h),14	4,160,317	3,082,666	4,116,397	3,036,599
Receivables	4	569,241	538,020	569,241	538,020
Inventories		63,214	96,164	63,214	96,164
Other current assets	5	239,786	160,901	239,786	160,901
Total current assets		5,032,558	3,877,751	4,988,638	3,831,684
Non-current assets					
Available-for-sale financial assets	1(e), 6	1,962,527	2,789,090	1,962,527	2,789,090
Property and equipment	7	5,778,648	5,922,639	5,778,648	5,922,639
Total non-current assets		7,741,175	8,711,729	7,741,175	8,711,729
Total assets		12,773,733	12,589,480	12,729,813	12,543,413
Current liabilities					
Payables	8	502,193	219,017	1,303,780	811,971
Other liabilities	9	853,673	602,507	853,673	602,507
Provisions	10	148,997	92,901	148,997	92,901
Total current liabilities		1,504,863	914,425	2,306,450	1,507,379
Non-current liabilities					
Payables		64,759	64,759	64,759	64,759
Provisions	10	38,595	65,678	38,595	65,678
Total non-current liabilities		103,354	130,437	103,354	130,437
Total liabilities		1,608,217	1,044,862	2,409,804	1,637,816
Net assets		11,165,516	11,544,618	10,320,009	10,905,597
EQUITY					
Retained earnings	11	8,141,766	8,951,255	7,296,259	8,312,234
Reserves	12	3,023,750	2,593,363	3,023,750	2,593,363
Total equity		11,165,516	11,544,618	10,320,009	10,905,597

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity

For the year to 31 December 2008

58

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Capital Profits Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Economic entity				
	Restated			
Balance at 1 January 2007	7,917,144	2,117,911	941,889	10,976,944
Transfers to/(from) reserves	268,372	(268,372)	-	-
Revaluation of investment	-	(198,065)	-	(198,065)
Surplus attributable to members of the economic entity	765,739	-	-	765,739
Balance at 31 December 2007	8,951,255	1,651,474	941,889	11,544,618
Transfers to/(from) reserves related to fixed assets sold or impaired	(927,477)	(483,438)	1,410,915	-
Revaluation of investment	-	(497,090)	-	(497,090)
Surplus attributable to members of the economic entity	117,988	-	-	117,988
Balance at 31 December 2008	8,141,766	670,946	2,352,804	11,165,516

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation	Capital Profit	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Parent entity				
	Restated			
Balance at 1 January 2007	7,318,367	2,117,911	941,889	10,378,167
Transfers to/(from) reserves	268,372	(268,372)	-	-
Revaluation of investment	-	(198,065)	-	(198,065)
Surplus attributable to members of the parent entity	725,495	-	-	725,495
Balance at 31 December 2007	8,312,234	1,651,474	941,889	10,905,597
Transfers to/(from) reserves related to fixed assets sold or impaired	(927,477)	(483,438)	1,410,915	-
Revaluation of investment	-	(497,090)	-	(497,090)
Surplus (deficit) attributable to members of the parent entity	(88,498)	-	-	(88,498)
Balance at 31 December 2008	7,296,259	670,946	2,352,804	10,320,009

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 December 2008

59

		ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
		2008	2007	2008	2007
	Notes	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash flow from operating activities					
Receipts from members' subscriptions		2,784,786	2,501,848	2,738,137	2,493,664
Receipts from AVA activities		6,078,822	5,911,366	5,821,379	5,874,802
Payments to suppliers and employees		(9,165,785)	(7,822,391)	(8,859,498)	(7,780,355)
Interest received		263,659	199,406	263,611	199,341
Net cash (used in) provided by ordinary activities	14b	(38,518)	790,229	(36,371)	787,452
Cash flow from investing activities					
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	52,088	-	52,088
Proceeds from sale of property		2,500,000	721,138	2,500,000	721,138
Payment for property		(1,243,303)	(519,976)	(1,243,303)	(519,976)
Payment for equipment		(140,528)	(44,906)	(140,528)	(44,906)
Net cash provided by investing activities		1,116,169	208,344	1,116,169	208,344
Net increase in cash held					
		1,077,651	998,573	1,079,798	995,796
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		3,082,666	2,084,093	3,036,599	2,040,803
Cash at end of the financial year	14a	4,160,317	3,082,666	4,116,397	3,036,599

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2008

60

Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies

The financial report covers the consolidated group of Australian Veterinary Association Limited as an individual parent entity and Australian Veterinary Association Limited and the controlled entities as a consolidated group. Australian Veterinary Association Limited is an unlisted public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

Basis of preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, including Australian Accounting Interpretations other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has concluded would result in a financial report containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this financial report are presented below. They have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Accounting policies

(a) Principles of consolidation

An entity is consolidated when the substance of the relationship between an entity and the Australian Veterinary Association Limited indicates that the entity is 'controlled' by the association. The association has the power to make decisions concerning the appointment and resignation of the trustees of the four entities nominated below in accordance with the relevant trust deeds. This is an indication of control. However, the association does not have any voting rights in relation to these entities, nor is the association directly or indirectly liable for the expenses or obligations of the entities. The controlled entities are:

- Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation
- Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund
- Australian Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Trust
- Animal Welfare and Crisis Response Trust.

All controlled entities have a December financial year-end.

All inter-company (Company-Trust) balances and transactions between entities in the economic entity, including any unrealised profits or losses, have been eliminated on consolidation. Accounting policies of the trusts have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with those policies applied by the parent entity.

Where controlled entities have entered or left the economic entity during the year, their operating results have been included/excluded from the date control was obtained or until the date control ceased.

(b) Income tax

No income tax is payable by the Company as it has been advised on 30 October 1981 by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation that it is exempt from income tax under the terms of section 23(e) of the Income Tax Assessment Act. As part of the self assessment regime the Company sought professional advice during 2004 which affirmed that there had been no substantial change in purpose of the Company since October 1981 and that the Company could continue as a tax exempt entity.

(c) Inventories

Inventories comprise primarily of forms, publications, clothing and membership insignia which have been included in the accounts at cost on a first in first out basis. All inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(d) Property and equipment

Each class of property and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Property

Freehold land and buildings are measured on the fair value basis, being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction. It is the policy of the Australian Veterinary Association to have an independent valuation every three years, with annual appraisals being made by the Directors. Newly acquired properties are valued at cost, in the period preceding the next round of external valuations.

Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

Increases in carrying amount arising on revaluation of buildings are credited to asset revaluation reserve in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against fair value reserves directly in equity. All other decreases are charged to income statement. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset charged to the income statement and depreciation based on the asset's original cost transferred from the revaluation reserve to equity.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

The buildings, which are a component of the total valuation of each property, are isolated from the land component and depreciated over expected life of 40 years, consistent with AASB 116 – Property, Plant and Equipment.

Equipment

Equipment is measured on the cost basis.

The carrying amount of equipment is reviewed annually by Directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives to the Australian Veterinary Association Limited commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of assets are:

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rate
Furniture and fittings	5–10%
Equipment	25–33%
Buildings	2.5%
Leasehold improvements	10%

The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount.

These gains and losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to the asset are transferred to retained earnings.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the group reviews the carrying values of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

(e) Financial instruments

Recognition and initial measurement

Financial instruments, incorporating financial assets and financial liabilities, are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Trade date accounting is adopted for financial assets that are delivered within timeframes established by marketplace convention.

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity is no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset.

Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets include financial assets not included in the following categories:

- Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss
- Loans and receivables
- Held to maturity investments.

Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity unless the assets are impaired.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

Fair value

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

Impairment

At each reporting date, the group assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

(f) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled plus related on-costs. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Contributions are made by the Australian Veterinary Association to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

(g) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the consolidated group has legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow

of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(h) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than three months and net of bank overdrafts.

(i) Revenue

Membership subscriptions are brought to account as income at the time they are received except that where members' subscriptions are received in respect of a future financial period, the income is deferred and subsequently recognised in that future period. Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

(j) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis except that the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(k) Comparative figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(l) Error in previous year

The financial statements have been restated to reflect the correct gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment and to correct the corresponding value of buildings. The effects of the restatement are as follows:

	ECONOMIC ENTITY			PARENT ENTITY		
	2007 \$	2007 \$	Increase \$	2007 \$	2007 \$	Increase \$
	Restated			Restated		
Income Statement						
Other income	9,349	138,060	128,711	9,349	138,060	128,711
Profit from ordinary activities	637,028	765,739	128,711	596,784	725,495	128,711
Balance Sheet						
Property and equipment	5,793,928	5,922,639	128,711	5,793,928	5,922,639	128,711
Retained earnings	8,822,544	8,951,255	128,711	8,183,523	8,312,234	128,711

Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

(m) Critical accounting estimates and judgments

The Directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data obtained both externally and within the consolidated group.

The Directors are of the view that the available-for-sale financial assets should be impaired as of 31 December, 2008. This view has been taken following the receipt of independent professional investment advice as to the course of action which would position the association's assets for greater long-term growth in the circumstances described in Note 6. A total impairment loss of \$466,707 has been recognised in the financial statements as at 31 December 2008 to present these financial assets at their recoverable amount.

The consolidated group assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists the recoverable amount of the assets is determined. Value in use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

(n) New accounting standards and interpretations not yet adopted

There are no impending new accounting standards that will result in any material change in relation to the financial statements.

(o) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

The financial report was authorised for issue on 30 March 2009 by the Board of Directors.

ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
2008	2007	2008	2007
\$	\$	\$	\$
	Restated		Restated

Note 2. Revenue from ordinary activities

Operating activities

- Subscriptions	2,457,439	2,501,848	2,410,790	2,493,664
- Interest	292,456	199,406	292,408	199,341
- Affinity commissions	999,770	976,509	999,770	976,509
- Other revenue (including conferences and publications)	5,166,257	4,847,682	4,900,213	4,811,118
	8,915,922	8,525,445	8,603,181	8,480,632

Non operating activities

- Gain on disposal of fixed asset	1,272,855	138,060	1,272,855	138,060
	1,272,855	138,060	1,272,855	138,060
Total revenue	10,188,777	8,663,505	9,876,036	8,618,692

ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
2008	2007	2008	2007
\$	\$	\$	\$
	Restated		Restated

Note 3. Profit from ordinary activities

Profit from ordinary activities has been determined after:

Expenses

- Depreciation of equipment and buildings	207,642	205,645	207,642	205,645
- Provision for employee entitlements	43,159	71,056	43,159	71,056
- Impairment loss on investments	466,707	-	466,707	-

Note 4. Receivables

Current

Trade receivables	407,595	425,950	407,595	425,950
Commissions receivable	161,646	112,070	161,646	112,070
	569,241	538,020	569,241	538,020

Note 5. Other assets

Current

Prepayments	211,600	113,717	211,600	113,717
Other assets	28,186	47,184	28,186	47,184
	239,786	160,901	239,786	160,901

Note 6. Available-for-sale financial assets

Non-current

Managed funds	1,754,288	2,433,387	1,754,288	2,433,387
Listed shares	208,239	355,703	208,239	355,703
	1,962,527	2,789,090	1,962,527	2,789,090

Financial assets consists of investments portfolios which are composed of listed securities, managed funds and listed trusts. The fair value of managed funds is based on the latest available price which may be different to the Balance Sheet date.

In the interests of securing greater long-term value in the Company's holdings of financial assets the Board resolved to appoint Macquarie Private Portfolio Management ('MPPM', a part of the Macquarie Banking Group) to manage the association's investments. The Board has accepted the professional advice of MPPM to effect the disposal of some existing investments at a loss in early 2009 in order to position the Company's financial assets for greater long-term growth. Management are of the view that this likely result requires that the financial assets held as at year end be impaired as at 31 December 2008. The total impairment loss recognised as at 31 December 2008 is \$466,707. Fair values as at February 2009 were used as the basis of determination of the extent of impairment.

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$
		Restated		Restated

Note 7. Property and equipment

Land and buildings

Freehold land at:

- Independent valuation October 2006	769,448	1,843,350	769,448	1,843,350
--------------------------------------	---------	-----------	---------	-----------

Buildings at:

- Independent valuation October 2006	3,211,651	3,286,652	3,211,651	3,286,652
- Purchased June 2007	519,976	519,976	519,976	519,976
- Purchased September 2008	1,054,972	-	1,054,972	-
Less accumulated depreciation	(316,622)	(237,001)	(316,622)	(237,001)
	5,239,425	5,412,977	5,239,425	5,412,977
Office furniture and equipment at cost	1,269,446	1,128,919	1,269,446	1,128,919
Less accumulated depreciation	(730,223)	(619,257)	(730,223)	(619,257)
	539,223	509,662	539,223	509,662
Total property and equipment	5,778,648	5,922,639	5,778,648	5,922,639

(a) Movements in carrying amounts

Movements in the carrying amounts for each class of property and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Freehold Land	Buildings	Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of the year (restated)	1,843,350	3,569,627	509,662	5,922,639
Additions	51,098	1,054,972	149,376	1,255,446
Disposals	(1,125,000)	(56,795)	(10,000)	(1,191,795)
Depreciation expense	-	(97,827)	(109,815)	(207,642)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	769,448	4,469,977	539,223	5,778,648

Land and buildings are revalued at three yearly intervals. Independent assessments are obtained from registered valuers in each State or Territory of the fair market value of land and buildings based on existing use and such assessments are used as a guide when revaluations are made. Revaluation increments (decrements) are credited (debited) directly to equity (revaluation reserve). In the event of a disposal of an asset, realised gains and losses are recognised in the income statement, while the revaluation balances related to the asset disposed of, are transferred from the revaluation reserve to retained profits.

Independent valuations of all properties were carried out in October 2006 by registered valuers in each State or Territory of the fair market value of land and buildings based on existing use.

Note 8. Payables

Current

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$
		Restated		Restated
Sundry creditors	502,193	219,017	502,193	219,015
Animal Welfare Trust	-	-	56,779	50,549
Australian Veterinary Benevolent Fund	-	-	192,600	243,031
Australia Companion Animal Health Foundation	-	-	552,208	299,376
	502,193	219,017	1,303,780	811,971

Note 9. Other liabilities

Current

Income received in advance:				
Membership subscriptions	356,719	83,802	356,719	83,802
Annual conference income	428,542	518,705	428,542	518,705
Other income in advance	68,412	-	68,412	-
	853,673	602,507	853,673	602,507

Note 10. Provisions

Current

Employee benefits	148,997	92,901	148,997	92,901
-------------------	---------	--------	---------	--------

Non-current

Employee benefits	38,595	65,678	38,595	65,678
-------------------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Total (current and non-current)	187,592	158,579	187,592	158,579
--	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

Number of employees at year end	46	37	46	37
--	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Note 11. Retained earnings

Balance at the beginning of the year	8,951,255	7,917,144	8,312,234	7,318,367
Transfer from asset revaluation reserve	483,438	268,372	483,438	268,372
Transfer to capital profit reserve	(1,410,915)	-	(1,410,915)	-
Operating surplus for the current year	117,988	765,739	(88,498)	725,495
Balance at the end of the year	8,141,766	8,951,255	7,296,259	8,312,234

Note 12. Reserves

Capital profit reserve

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$
		Restated		Restated
Balance 1 January	941,889	941,889	941,889	941,889
Transfer from retained earnings	1,410,915	-	1,410,915	-
Capital profit reserve balance 31 December	2,352,804	941,889	2,352,804	941,889

Asset revaluation reserve

Balance 1 January	1,651,474	2,117,911	1,651,474	2,117,911
Transfer to retained earnings	(483,438)	(268,372)	(483,438)	(268,372)
Revaluations of investments	(497,090)	(198,065)	(497,090)	(198,065)
Asset revaluation reserve balance 31 December	670,946	1,651,474	670,946	1,651,474
Total reserves balance 31 December	3,023,750	2,593,363	3,023,750	2,593,363

Note 13. Capital and leasing commitments

Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2008 the Company did not have any capital commitments.

Operating lease commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements.

Payable – minimum lease payments:

- not later than 1 year	21,197	21,374	21,197	21,374
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	52,034	73,231	52,034	73,231
	73,231	94,605	73,231	94,605

Note 14. Cash flow information

(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash on hand and cash in bank	1,200,317	1,732,612	1,156,397	1,686,545
Short-term placements	2,960,000	1,350,054	2,960,000	1,350,054
	4,160,317	3,082,666	4,116,397	3,036,599

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Note 14. Cash flow information (continued)

(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operating activities with profit from ordinary activities

Profit from ordinary activities	117,988	765,739	(88,498)	725,495
Non-cash transactions				
Depreciation	207,642	205,645	207,642	205,645
Impairment expense on investments	466,707	-	466,707	-
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(1,272,855)	(138,060)	(1,272,855)	(138,060)
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	(31,221)	(177,457)	(31,221)	(177,457)
Decrease/(Increase) in inventories	32,950	37,742	32,950	37,742
Decrease/(Increase) in other assets (excl property and equipment related)	(78,885)	226,890	(78,885)	226,890
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	238,977	68,091	447,610	105,558
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	29,013	(54,354)	29,013	(54,354)
Increase/(Decrease) in other liabilities	251,166	(144,007)	251,166	(144,007)
Cash flows from operating activities	(38,518)	790,229	(36,371)	787,452

Note 15. Members guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 31 December 2008 the number of members was 4,876 (2007: 4,877).

Note 16. Remuneration of the auditor

Amounts received or due and receivable by the auditor of the Company:

Audit of the financial statements	21,500	19,200	21,500	19,200
Other services	9,026	-	9,026	-
	30,526	19,200	30,526	19,200

Note 17. Key management personnel compensation

Directors

Diane Sheehan (Non-Executive Past President)
Kersti Seksel (Non-Executive Past President)
Mark Lawrie (Non-Executive President)
Samantha McMahon (Non-Executive)
Bruce Cartmill (Non-Executive)
David Clarke (Non-Executive Treasurer)
Barry Smyth (Non-Executive Vice President)
Kevin McGrath (Non-Executive)
Steve Atkinson (Non-Executive)
Peter Gibbs (Non-Executive)
Ben Gardiner (Non-Executive)

Other key management personnel

Graham Catt (Chief Executive Officer)
John Robb (National Corporate Services Manager)
Kevin Doyle (Veterinary Director)
Marcia Balzer (National Communications Manager)
Sonya van der Steege (Membership and Marketing Manager)
Colin Hort (Executive Officer ASAVA)
Jane Barry (Executive Officer EVA)
Anne Cover (Executive Officer ACV, ASV and ARV)
Allison Lyons (Executive Officer West Australia Division)
Sue Stanley (Executive Officer Victorian Division)
Debbie Neutze (Executive Officer New South Wales Division)
Anne Jackson (Editor in Chief, Australian Veterinary Journal)

Note 17. Key management personnel compensation

	Short-term benefits of Directors and key personnel				Post employment benefit		Total
	Salary and fees	Super-annuation contribution	Bonus	Non-cash benefits	Super-annuation	Long-term benefits long service leave	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2008							
Total compensation	729,335	67,287	-	-	-	-	796,622
2007							
Total compensation	596,154	78,791	-	-	-	-	674,945

Note 18. Related parties

Directors: The names of persons who were Directors at any time during the year are set out in the 'Directors' Report' on page 53.

Information relating to the remuneration of Directors is set out in Note 17. There were no other transactions between Directors and the Company during the year.

Note 19. Risk management

The consolidated group's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, and available-for-sale financial assets.

(a) (i) Credit risk exposures

The credit risk on financial assets of the entity which have been recognised on the Balance Sheet is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for doubtful debts. Credit risk is managed on a group basis and reviewed regularly by the Finance Committee. The group does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables.

(ii) Interest rate risk exposures

The Company's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for each class of financial assets and financial liabilities is set out below. Exposures arise predominantly from assets and liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the Company intends to hold fixed rate liabilities to maturity.

(iii) Liquidity risk exposures

Liquidity risk represents the risk the entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Company's major cash outflows are conference and continuing education expenses, communication and publication expenses and administration expenses, the levels of which are managed by the Board of Directors.

(iv) Market risk exposures

Market risk represents the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of the changes in market prices. Refer to Note 6 for details on how the Board of Directors manage this risk.

(b) Financial instrument composition and maturity analysis

2008	Economic entity	Interest rate	Floating interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non-interest bearing	Total
				<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial asset								
	Cash and deposits	5.1%	1,200,317	2,960,000	-	-	-	4,160,317
	Receivables	0%	-	-	-	-	569,241	569,241
	Available-for-sale financial assets	0%	-	-	-	-	1,962,527	1,962,527
			1,200,317	2,960,000	-	-	2,531,768	6,692,085
Financial liabilities								
	Payables	0%	-	-	-	-	502,194	502,194
	Other liabilities	0%	-	-	-	-	853,673	853,673
			-	-	-	-	1,355,867	1,355,867
	Net financial assets		1,200,137	2,960,000	-	-	1,175,901	5,336,218

2007	Economic entity	Interest rate	Floating interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non-interest bearing	Total
				<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial asset								
	Cash and deposits	6.1%	1,732,612	1,350,054	-	-	-	3,082,666
	Receivables	0%	-	-	-	-	538,020	538,020
	Available-for-sale financial assets		-	-	-	-	2,789,090	2,789,090
			1,732,612	1,350,054	-	-	3,327,110	6,409,776
Financial liabilities								
	Payables	0%	-	-	-	-	219,017	219,017
	Other liabilities	0%	-	-	-	-	602,507	602,507
			-	-	-	-	821,524	821,524
	Net financial assets		1,732,612	1,350,054	-	-	2,505,586	5,588,252

Note 19 (b) Financial instrument composition and maturity analysis (continued)

2008	Parent entity	Interest rate	Floating interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non-interest bearing	Total
				<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial asset								
Cash and deposits		5.1%	1,156,397	2,960,000	-	-	-	4,116,397
Receivables		0%	-	-	-	-	569,241	569,241
Available-for-sale financial assets		0%	-	-	-	-	1,962,527	1,962,527
			1,156,397	2,960,000	-	-	2,531,768	6,648,165
Financial liabilities								
Payables		3.2%	801,587	-	-	-	502,193	1,303,780
Other liabilities		0%	-	-	-	-	853,673	853,673
			-	-	-	-	1,355,866	2,157,453
Net financial assets			354,810	2,960,000	-	-	1,175,902	4,490,712

2007	Parent entity	Interest rate	Floating interest	Fixed interest maturing in			Non-interest bearing	Total
				<1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years		
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial asset								
Cash and deposits		6.1%	1,686,545	1,350,054	-	-	-	3,036,599
Receivables		0%	-	-	-	-	538,020	538,020
Available-for-sale Financial assets			-	-	-	-	2,789,090	2,789,090
			1,686,545	1,350,054	-	-	3,327,110	6,363,709
Financial liabilities								
Payables		4.7%	592,956	-	-	-	219,015	811,971
Other liabilities		0%	-	-	-	-	602,507	602,507
			592,956	-	-	-	821,522	1,414,478
Net financial assets			1,093,589	1,350,054	-	-	2,505,588	4,949,231

(c) Net fair value

The net fair value of:

- Listed investments have been valued at the quoted market price at balance date, adjusted for transaction costs expected to be incurred. For unlisted investments where there is no organised financial market the net fair value has been based on a reasonable estimation of the underlying net assets or discounted cash flows of the investment.
- Other assets and other liabilities approximate their carrying values.

(d) Sensitivity analysis

Interest rate risk

The Company has performed a sensitivity analysis relating to its exposure to interest rate risk at the balance sheet date. This sensitivity analysis demonstrates the effect on current year results and equity which could result from a change in this risk. As at 31 December 2008, the effect on profit and equity as a result of changes in the interest rate, with all other variables remaining constant, would be as follows:

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		PARENT ENTITY	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Change in profit				
- Increase in interest rate by 2%	82,261	60,667	82,261	60,667
- Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(77,673)	(60,667)	(77,673)	(60,667)
Change in equity				
- Increase in interest rate by 2%	82,261	60,667	82,261	60,667
- Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(77,673)	(60,667)	(77,673)	(60,667)

This sensitivity analysis has been performed on the assumption that all other variables remain unchanged. No sensitivity analysis has been performed for foreign exchange risk, as the entity is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign exchange.

Note 20. Company details

The registered office of the Company is:

Unit 40
6 Herbert Street
St Leonards
NSW 2065

In February 2009, and in the interests of securing greater long-term value in the association's holdings of investments, the Board resolved to appoint Macquarie Private Portfolio Management (a part of Macquarie Banking Group) to manage the association's investments. This action is likely to require the disposal of some existing investments at a loss in order to position the association for greater long-term growth. An impairment loss of \$466,707 has been recognised in the financial statements as at 31 December 2008 to reflect the impact of this action.

Note 21. Segment reporting

The Company and the economic entity is engaged in the advancement of veterinary and allied sciences, including providing high standards of continuing education and professional development; providing leadership and expert advice in animal science, health, welfare and production; and stimulating informed debate on issues within the areas of professional competence. Their activities are conducted in Australia and revenue is derived from the members.

Note 23. Capital management

Management control the capital of the Company to ensure that adequate cashflows are generated and that returns from investments are maximised.

The Company's capital consists of financial liabilities supported by financial assets.

Note 22. Subsequent events

No matters or circumstances (apart from the change in manner of management of investments referred to below) have arisen since 31 December 2008 that significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (d) the operations of the Company or economic entity
- (e) the results of those operations
- (f) the state of affairs of the Company or economic entity in the financial years subsequent to 31 December 2008.

Management effectively manage the Company's capital by assessing the Company's financial risks and responding to changes in these risks and in the market.



Directors' Declaration

The Directors of the Company declare that:

73

1. The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 56–72, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2008 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the Company and economic entity.
2. In the Directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Clarke'.

D Clarke
Director and Honorary Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read 'M Lawrie'.

M Lawrie
Director and President

Dated at Sydney this 30th Day of March 2009.

MOORE STEPHENS

74

Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Directors of Australian Veterinary Association Limited

In accordance with the requirements of section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, as lead auditor for the audit of Australian Veterinary Association Limited for the year ended 31 December 2008, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



MOORE STEPHENS SYDNEY
Chartered Accountants



S.M. WHIDDETT

Partner

Dated in Sydney this 30th day of March 2009

Moore Stephens Sydney ABN 90 773 984 843
Level 7, 20 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW2000
GPO Box 473, Sydney NSW 2001
Telephone: +61 2 8236 7700 Facsimile: +61 2 9233 4636
Email: sydney@moorestephens.com.au Web: www.moorestephens.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

*An independent number of Moore Stephens International Limited – members in principal cities throughout the world
The Sydney Moore Stephens firm is not a partner or agent of any other Moore Stephens firm*

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Australian Veterinary Association Limited

75

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Australian Veterinary Association Limited ("the association"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2008 and the income statement, statement of recognised income and expenditure and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Act 2001. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Moore Stephens Sydney ABN 90 773 984 843
Level 7, 20 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 473, Sydney NSW 2001
Telephone: +61 2 8236 7700 Facsimile: +61 2 9233 4636
Email: sydney@moorestephens.com.au Web: www.moorestephen.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

*An independent member of Moore Stephens International Limited – members in principal cities throughout the world
The Sydney Moore Stephens firm is not a partner or agent of any other Moore Stephens firm*

MOORE STEPHENS

76

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of Australian Veterinary Association Limited is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Australian Veterinary Association Limited's financial position as at 31 December 2008 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001.



MOORE STEPHENS SYDNEY
Chartered Accountants



S.M. WHIDDETT
Partner

Dated in Sydney this 30th day of March 2009

AVA supporters

Platinum affinity partner



Gold supporters



Bronze supporter



