SVECCS Members,

I hope everyone is having a great year thus far and doing well in their studies!

In this issue of Vital Signs you can meet the faces of your phenomenal executive board on page 2. Take a look at our Coast to Coast section beginning on page 3 to check out the other chapter’s amazing experiences and ideas!

As you all know the SVECCS to VECCS Crossover goes into effect this year! Please take a look at the letter from our president to better understand the changes that will take place.

Finally, for those of you who were unable to attend IVECCS this year in Washington, DC check out the recap of what you missed on page 15.

As always any suggestions are appreciated. Enjoy!

Jennifer Kobylanski  
NSVECCS Communications Director
Introducing the National SVECCS Executive Board!

In partnership with our parent organization, the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (VECCS), National SVECCS functions to oversee individual SVECCS chapter activity and disseminate information and resources relevant to the field of Emergency and Critical Care to individual chapters worldwide. If you have any questions or concerns about our organization or ECC in general, please contact any of our board members!

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For more information on each board member visit the NSVECCS website @ http://sveccs.org/board-members.pml
Colorado State University
By SVECCS member

Here at CSU our SVECCS chapter has had another wonderful year. We were excited to start with a large group of new, enthusiastic members and were able to have some great lectures, labs, and journal clubs. Our monthly journal clubs have covered topics such as feline urethral obstruction, sepsis, and outcomes of long-term positive pressure ventilation to name a few, and we have one or two more to go before the end of the year. These were hosted by several of our ECC interns and residents. Our school sent three SVECCS officers to IVECCS in Indianapolis in September to attend the conference and return with knowledge to spread to our members. Late in the Fall 2014 semester we were fortunate enough to have a lab/lecture sponsored by Royal Canin where critical care nutrition was discussed followed by a lab on placing feeding tubes. During the Spring 2015 semester we joined with our school’s AAEP chapter for the first time for a combined lecture about signs and treatment of colic in horses led by Dr. Diana Hassel. We have had one of our two emergency procedures labs so far. In March, Dr. Justin Mathis demonstrated chest tube placement, a jugular cut down, and a tracheostomy then provided guidance as SVECCS members performed these procedures. A second emergency procedures lab is scheduled for later in April. Our ECC intern, Dr. Pia Martiny, led a lecture on common toxicities in March as well. Even though the year is wrapping up quickly we still have more to look forward to before the end. Our annual First Aid Day where we teach people from the community about common pet emergencies and basic first aid that they can perform is coming up in April. Faculty, resident, and intern ECC members volunteer their time to lead lectures and demonstrations and our members are there to help as well. The public has always loved meeting some of the people from the veterinary school and gaining knowledge in order to help their pets. Another event we are looking forward to is our combined lecture with CSU’s ACVIM chapter about EKG interpretation. This is always a popular lecture as it comes just days before the 2nd year students’ big cardiology exam. We’re excited to wrap up such a great year, but are even more excited to start planning all the fun SVECCS events for next year and see what great new (and returning) ECC interns and residents will be involved as well.

Kansas State University
By Kaleigh Robinson
SVECCS President

In our 2014-2015 school year, our chapter has hosted great speakers and fun wet labs. Just to name a few: Dr. Sasha Thomason, one of the Emergency Care Residents at our on campus Veterinary Health Center, explained the path she took from vet school to obtaining a residency in this field. Then her husband Dr. Justin Thomason, a veterinary cardiologist, presented the next semester on how to choose fluids and calculate fluid rates for a few different critical cases. The most popular wet-lab this year was our tracheotomy and thoracotomy lab, in which members of were able to practice on cadavers with instruction from Dr. April Haynes, Dr. Emily Klocke, and Dr. Julie Gervais. Our members have also been able to see first-hand emergency situations in the KSU Veterinary Health Center during our overnight on-call program. This program will continue next year and we look forward to new speakers and more exciting wet-labs.
Massey University
By SVECCS member

The 2014 year for the Massey SVECCS crew was jam packed full of exciting learning opportunities, catering to students with both small animal and production animal interests. The lunchtime lecture series started us off with an excellent introduction to emergency care medicine, and included talks on dealing with emergencies in confined spaces, anaesthetic complications, poisoning, alpaca drama, and racehorse fractures to name just a few!

In August we hosted the annual SVECCS conference day, and were pleased to see a great range of student years represented from the enthusiastic 1st years, right through to 4th years brushing up on their skills. We started the morning with a series of interactive talks covering emergency dog casearins, critical care nutrition, bovine foetotomies and equine leg wounds. Lunch and snacks were generously sponsored, so no one was left hungry before we launched into the afternoon wet labs. Our committee was helped out by some wonderful volunteer staff members and senior students, who carried out teaching and advising. The conference attendees were split into small groups to allow everyone good opportunities to get hands-on experience. The wet labs included the popular suturing station, tracheostomies and documentaries. In addition, students had a chance to get hands on in a simulated emergency C-section, calf foetotomies and joint taps on 'septic' equine joints following on from the morning lectures. The feedback from the student attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and we are already excited for the 2015 conference!

As an addition for this year, we felt we could offer students of all year levels the opportunity to perfect their suturing skills at home, by purchasing a SVECCS suture kit. It included all the items needed for basic suturing, asides from a patient of course! This allowed students to consolidate the suture skills learnt during the conference, as they say “practice makes perfect”.

Later in the year, in the relative hiatus before exam weeks began, the SVECCS team held the newly rebranded “Vital Signs CPR workshop”. In a lead up to the weekend event, a lecture was held on CPR and critical care so that students were well versed in the theory behind the actions. This year we expanded the workshop to include a station on fluid therapy, a crash cart and a chance to practice placing chest drains, as well as utilising our faithful CPR-model dogs so that everyone could really experience how enduring one minute can become whilst performing proper chest compressions!

The weekly lecture series have been both informative and interesting, and being able to engage fellow students in the practical components have provided a fun and fulfilling year. We have no doubt that Massey students will continue to develop and expand their passion for emergency medicine through SVECCS!
UCD SVECCS had an exciting year with many different events including E-team shadowing (after hours shadowing on the emergency rotation at UCDs Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital), journal clubs, grand rounds with the emergency department’s faculty, lunch talks, and wetlabs (including an IO and AFAST/TFAST wetlab). Additionally, we had a business oriented year, with 3 events focusing on emergency medicine from a corporate perspective: ‘Career Path Options & Realities in Emergency & Critical Care Practice’ Talk, ‘The Business Side of Emergency Medicine’ Talk and a Field Trip/Tour to PESCM, a local privately owned small animal emergency hospital. Each of these was sponsored by UCDs amazing Dr. Jim Clark, DVM, MBA, Co-founder of multiple emergency hospitals, and past VECCS Board Member. Not every school may have access to their own “Dr. Clark,” so we wanted to share some of the knowledge we learned this year.

**Step 1: Decide whether you want to specialize.** According to a 2014 survey of DACVECCs, there are currently 469 DACVECCs, 227 residents, and approximately 60 new DACVECCS seeking jobs annually. DACVECCS average annual salary is $125,000, while an associate emergency veterinarians’ salary averages around $100,000. The key thing to consider when deciding on an ACVECC residency program is to first know how you’d like to practice as a DACVECC – do you want to be a hospitalist? Do you want to be the leader of other emergency doctors/interns? Do you want to work primarily in an ICU setting or would you rather see more routine emergency cases? Also, know that employers may have higher expectations for you including surgery or ultrasonography. Consider all of these things as you delve into the possibility of specializing in emergency and critical care.

**Step 2: Decide if you’d like to open your own hospital.** While owning your own practice is undoubtedly associated with a higher salary, there are many things to consider which can impact client and staff satisfaction as well as patient flow. When deciding on location, you must consider the human and pet population of the area, the number of referral general practices that may choose your hospital as a go-to for emergency after hours, and the number of other emergency hospitals in the area that will serve as competition. Additionally, consider the geography of the region and whether there may be obstacles to reaching your desired hospital location (for example, people consider large bodies of water or bridges as psychological deterrents). Lastly, consider the wealth of the area and whether it is feasible to start up a practice given the costs of running one. Costs include paying the doctors, staff, equipment, rent, etc. Ideally there is enough profit to allow a marginal increase in your own salary as owner.

**Step 3: Design your hospital.** The layout and details of a hospital help determine the overall atmosphere and efficiency of day-to-day events. Considerations include patient care, client appeal, storage access, future developments, and building inspections, among many others. An emergency hospital needs quick access to ‘the back’ yet isolation from worried owners, a large number of visible cages yet ability to reduce sound, and of easy access to oxygen and power outlets throughout. The hospital also needs areas to talk to owners about estimates, visiting space for inpatients, and a comfort space for euthanasia procedures. The hospital must also make good use of space for equipment, storage (you can never have enough storage), and building code requirements such as fire sprinklers and air circulation (separate vents for isolation rooms or client waiting areas). Lots of care and thought must be taken in designing a hospital, but the rewards of a safe, effective, and appealing layout are endless.

Emergency and critical care medicine is a business. It may be hard work, but at the end of the day it saves lives, and that’s a business worth fighting for. Our experiences this semester have been very diverse and our time with Dr. Clark has encouraged us to think not only of how we can better our futures and the field of veterinary medicine through the type of medicine that we practice, but also the environment that we practice in.
SVECCS had another great year here at Cornell! There were many productive and interesting learning opportunities provided by SVECCS during this school year. We continued our biweekly Emergency and Critical Care rounds, featuring both large and small animal cases. Our Small Animal ECC Chief, Dr. Gretchen Schoeffler, gave some great interactive lectures on managing common (and sometimes not so common) cases including pneumothorax, animals affected by house fires and hit-by-cars. For our large animal rounds, Dr. Rolfe Radcliffe shared some exciting cases and insight on how to manage colics, dystocias and traumatic injuries. Our fall wet lab on equine limb bandaging and colic work-up was also led by Dr. Radcliffe. Students were given the exciting opportunity to palpate and ultrasound a live teaching horse and to practice proper suturing and bandaging techniques. An accompanying fall lecture was given on disaster preparedness and emergency rescue of large animals. Our spring lecture and wet lab were given by another of our ECC chiefs, Dr. Daniel Fletcher. Students first learned and then performed epidurals and urinary catheterization on cats. The students here in Ithaca definitely had some great learning opportunities with SVECCS and we are all looking forward to next year!

Hello SVECCS Members!

It has taken over a year to come into effect, but your additional benefits are here!! If you are an active member of your chapter’s SVECCS then upon graduation you get some great benefits like discounts on books, JVECCS Subscription, first notification and preferred option for volunteering at IVECCS to receive FREE registration and MORE!!!

You get all the benefits that VECCS offers for your first year after graduation and it is free!! You will also get half-off registration to your IVECCS Conference (if you don’t want to volunteer)! These benefits will save you over $300!!!!!

If your school maintains Active chapter status then we will already have your name in our system each year that you maintain membership. If your school’s chapter does not maintain active status then we will not know if you are active in your school’s chapter. It then becomes your personal responsibility to either make sure that your chapter sends a chapter roster each semester or you can send it in to SVECCSSEC@gmail.com.

This crossover goes into effect August 2015!!! Make sure you get ready for the great benefits!!! Please read the full proposal which can be found on our website (sveccs.org) or on our facebook page!

I hope you guys will enjoy this as much as I will!!

Always,

Joe Masciana
SGU SVM ’17
NSVECCS Secretary
Mississippi State University
By SVECCS member

In August, Mississippi State University welcomed Dr. Brittany Thames to the College of Veterinary Medicine as an assistant professor in Emergency and Critical Care medicine. Dr. Thames graduated from MSU-CVM then completed a small animal rotating Internship and Residency in emergency and critical care before returning home to the Bulldog family. We were excited to have her present at our first meeting of the academic year, and welcomed her back at a following meeting where she discussed the incredible opportunity that is being an emergency and critical care veterinarian!

Both Dr. Thames and our chapter advisor, Dr. Todd Archer, an internal medicine specialist with a love for all things ER and ICU, have planned several exciting meetings for us this year! We have already conducted a lecture about blood types, transfusions and cross-matching, followed by a hands-on lab where each SVECCS member was given their own blood typing card, and allowed to type real blood samples! We were very grateful to one of our Equine specialists, Dr. Allison Eddy, who allowed us to draw a small amount of blood from her Type B kitten (who is also one of our precious blood donors). It was pretty neat to actually see a feline Type B type card as well as a lot of fun and a great learning experience.

Our next several meetings are designed to target the third and fourth year veterinary students, while still including the first and second years. We have composed a panel made up of MSU-CVM’s very own interns, residents, and senior clinicians to discuss “What NOT to do in the ER!” The panelists will be discussing particular cases from their pasts, where they learned valuable lessons about how to do things a little better in the future. We are looking forward to this meeting, and it gives the first and second years a chance to spend time with our clinicians prior to transitioning into clinics, as well as learn from others so that we might avoid similar mistakes in our future career as veterinarians.

Our final meeting for this academic year will be a “Mock Visit.” This lab will allow our students the opportunity to play the role of DVM, while Dr. Thames plays the role of client. The students will be responsible for going through an entire veterinary visit, from taking a history and performing a physical exam, to discussing differential diagnoses, recommendations for diagnostics and treatments. This “Mock Visit” is designed to get the first and second years to think like clinicians, and start to integrate and assimilate what they are learning in class, to what they will do very soon in clinics!

In other news, we were very fortunate this year to have a donor provide us with funds to begin making some special efforts for our patients that present as emergencies, or spend extended periods of time in our ICU. Our goal is not only to support the “wag” and “purr” of our patients while in ICU, but to also offer some emotional support to the owners of these four-legged babies!

To help support the owners during this difficult time, pictures will be taken of the patient with members of their critical care team, and these photos will be given to the owners throughout treatment, until the animal returns home. This allows for the owners to stay connected, and know their trusted companions are being loved and cared for while they can’t be together. Treating companion animals medically with focus, integrity and perseverance is key for their physical health, but it is important to remember their emotional health, as well as their owners. For so many, companion animals are considered family members and provide them with unconditional love.
(continued)

Additional care provided by Operation Support their Wag (SWAG), and Support their Purr (SPUR), will include sending companions home with a personalized Mississippi State bandana, and a personal bag of treats specific to their diet and/or medical needs! Our goal in the MSU-CVM ER/ICU is to give some unconditional love back to our patients and their families, by supporting their WAG and SPURring them on toward recovery!

Royal Veterinary College
By SVECCS member

This year the RVC chapter of SVECCS has been very active. We ran a successful Symposium, numerous "SVECCS Rounds" sessions, and evening talks/practicals. The long list of lecture topics from this year include approach to trauma cases, anti-dysrhythmic therapy, oncological emergencies, and targeting the pre-medication in selected cases.

A new event that we've had great success with is the "ECC Chit Chat", which is carried out on by our own final year members. The final year students select a topic of their own choice and lead a discussion with the younger students. It's been a great opportunity for more senior students to revise on topics that they're interested in, enforces their learning through teaching and practicing their teaching skills for eventual post-graduate programmes. It also creates an enriching learning environment for those starting clinical year and provides the opportunity for these students to see what it's like to be a final year vet student. The positive feedback from this year re-enforces this choice of teaching sessions for the upcoming years and gives further enthusiasm in searching new approaches for increasing learning opportunities.

The RVC SVECCS symposium hosted over 80 students last January. The morning consisted of 3 lectures: ECGs in the Critical Patient, Emergencies in Cattle Practice, and Approach to the Clinical Patient. The afternoon was split between 6 different practical sessions including small animal CPR, "Tubes" in the Clinical Skills Centre, small animal case studies with clinicians, dystocia in cattle using a bovine uterine simulator, and placing contrast dye in equine cadaver limb for peripheral nerve anestheisia. Each student was able to participate in two afternoon practicals, and from the received responses it seemed that everyone enjoyed themselves and found the learning sessions very useful! With the help of several clinician and students the event ran very smoothly.

For this summer term, we have an emergency diagnostics imaging practical, a lecture on blood transfusions in small animal hospitals, a discussion on emergency and critical care in general practice, and SVECCS Rounds set up, all with clinicians from the Queen Mother Hospital on campus. With students looking forward to animal husbandry and clinical placements over the summer, the RVC SVECCS chapter will hold off events during the break and resume its activities at the beginning of September.
The University of Wisconsin-Madison chapter of SVECCS this year was able to provide two elective courses to students. Each course consisted of weekly lectures for the majority of a semester and was capped off with a hands-on wetlab to practice skills used in emergency care. Our ECC I elective wet lab included suture skills, patient vital sign monitoring, analyzing ECG, bedside diagnostics, and venous access. The ECC II elective focused on more advanced emergency disease and classes were interactive. Students provided differentials and requested specific diagnostics from the teaching clinician in order to diagnose and treat a case. The wetlab for this elective allowed students to work on cadavers and practice skills such as placing feeding tubes, chest tubes, placing IO catheters, performing thoraco/abdominocentesis, and much more. Students have expressed gratitude about the ability to perform practical skills that they may not even get to see until their fourth year. This year we have also had lectures from clinicians from outside the school on topics such as: opportunities in emergency medicine as a career, internships and externships, and the in’s and out’s of autologous blood transfusions.

Each year our SVECCS chapter runs a continuing education conference, and this will be our 16th Annual Emergency and Critical Care conference. This conference gives an opportunity for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and students to hear the latest news on toxins, azotemia, bleeding disorders, acute kidney injury, respiratory distress, and thoracic trauma. The lectures go for one day but this year we have added a second day for a wetlab. In this wetlab, clinicians will have an opportunity to practice and gain pointers on their emergency procedure skills on cadavers. Hopefully, feedback will show that this added wetlab was helpful and we can continue it into the future.

As the school year winds to a close, new officers have been elected and are eager to take the place of those departing for fourth year clinical rotations. While it will be sad to leave, our outgoing officers are sure that the Madison chapter of SVECCS will be in very capable hands.
The 2014/15 academic year has been an exciting year for the University of Calgary SVECCS chapter. As a young SVECCS chapter in our third year we held several events this year including: ECG Lab, Toxicology Lecture and Emergent Patient Radiology Review. Our two most popular events this year included our AARDA Presentation and our 3rd Annual CPR Competition.

Late November we hosted the Presidents of two non-for-profit organizations, AARDA (Alberta Avalanche Rescue Dog Association) and CARDA (Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association) to demonstrate CARDA certified canine searching techniques directed by the handler followed by a formal presentation. We learned about the strict training standards each dog/handler team must attain and maintain yearly in order to be called upon in the event of an avalanche. These teams are responsible for clearing any avalanche that may involve humans in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. The dog searches the area and communicates to their handler whether or not humans were involved. If the dog indicates a positive burial, the handler directs search and rescue teams to the digging location. If the dog does not indicate, the site is cleared with 100% certainty that no humans were involved in the avalanche and no further resources are required. Needless to say, the responsibility placed on these teams is immense. As future veterinarians we are responsible for providing health care to these dogs. Understanding the value of the rescue dog’s life, not only to their partner and handler but also to the potential lives they may save, will help us understand the type of care our client will be looking for. For more information please visit the AARDA Facebook page or website www.aarda.info.

In March we held our 3rd Annual CPR Competition where 8 groups of 5 students worked as emergency medicine teams to save the life of a simulator Jerry dog. ECC and internal medicine professors and SVECCS executives created an 8-minute cardiac arrest scenario that focused on fostering an environment of effective teamwork and communication under a stressful situation. Emergency clinical skills emphasized during the event included: intubation to provide PPV, external cardiac massage, catheter placement, medical/fluid therapy, and proper monitoring of a cardiac arrest patient (heart beat, pulses, respiration, PLR, ECG and capnograph interpretation). The teams’ professional skills were simultaneously assessed. Teams assigned a member to efficiently collect the necessary patient history from the client and relayed pertinent information to their team to accurately manage their emergent patient. Faculty judges objectively scored teams using a scenario specific scoring rubric. We are very excited to report that 45 students took part in the event. The competition was fierce with only a 7-point difference separating the top three teams. Congratulations to “Palpitation Nation” for their win!
Boy Scout Veterinary Merit Badge at UGA

Each year The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine holds a veterinary merit badge seminar for Boy Scouts from all over the state of Georgia. This year, SVECCS members were involved in the seminar by presenting on several topics of interest within emergency and critical care. These topics included toxicology, heat stroke, bandage placement and cardiopulmonary resuscitation of small animals. The scouts were attentive and engaged during all of the presentations and displayed a genuine interest in emergency and critical care.

One of the highlights of the day was the cardiopulmonary resuscitation demonstration. The Boy Scouts were first shown how a veterinarian would intubate to maintain the airway. They were then taught how to perform compressions and watched a video of compressions paired with “Stayin’ Alive”. None of them had ever heard that song before, but the parents chuckled. We then invited them to practice doing compressions on mannequins. Each Boy Scout was also given a pamphlet with information regarding proper cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques.

Another highlight of the seminar was the presentation on toxicology. There were a variety of food items present for the Boy Scouts to determine whether or not they believed they were toxic to small animals. Most of the Scouts successfully identified chocolate as toxic to dogs, but did not know that raisins, sugar free gum or onions could harm their pets. This allowed us to educate them about some possible toxicities that commonly present in practice.

Overall the veterinary medicine merit badge seminar was very successful. The Boy Scouts and veterinary students both enjoyed the presentations and gained knowledge. The students involved in SVECCS at UGA were happy to participate in the seminar and hope that we will be invited to share again next year.

St. Matthew’s University

By Taylor Pitts
SVECCS President

This past year has been an exciting one for the students in Grand Cayman. At St. Matthew’s we operate on trimesters instead of semesters, so we have the opportunity to participate in three wet labs per year (one per trimester).

In Summer 2014, our chapter held a lab to help students learn important emergency procedures from Dr. Brian Roberts, DVM, DACVECC and Dr. Eric Dunayer, VMD, MS, DABT, DABVT. They showed students how to perform closed chest CPR on our dummy, Resuscitation Jerry, and they explained how and when emergency drugs should be used. Students also learned how to use a defibrillator and how to use an EKG machine. Later in the lab, we practiced performing thoracotomies, tracheostomies, and open chest CPR on cadavers.
In Fall 2014, we partnered with the Food Animal Medicine Club to learn more about emergency procedures in large animals from Dr. Eric Dunayer, VMD, MS, DABT, DABVT and Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, DVM. This lab was performed on our clinical teaching goats. Students learned how to properly restrain and take blood from a goat. The blood was used to run CBC, PCV/TS, chemistry, and blood smears. Students learned how to collect and analyze rumen fluid. Students also got a chance to learn and practice placing splints.

In Spring 2015, SVECCS held its annual suture lab, but this time, we also gave students the opportunity to practice bandaging and splints. For this lab, students were under the guidance of Dr. Eric Dunayer, VMD, MS, DABT, DABVT, Dr. Marco Demaria, DVM, and Dr. Liesl Schmidt, DVM. Lower semester students learned the basics of suturing, such as handling the instruments and how to make throws and knots, while upper semester students had the chance to get more practice and hone their suturing skills.

We are already planning our next wet lab for this semester. Our SVECCS chapter is going to join with the Nutrition Club to learn how to place and use different types of feeding tubes on cadavers.

Congratulations to Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine for being awarded the NSVECCS Fall Education Grant!

We look forward to hearing about your Procedures Wet Lab!
Oklahoma State University
By SVECCS member

The Oklahoma State University’s chapter of the Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society has had a productive and exciting year! We have been able to host many meetings that have expanded our knowledge of emergency and critical care but also a wetlab where we were able to perform many techniques that are needed of us when we graduate. We have continued on with our ICU team which has helped students become more comfortable in emergent situations. Each night, two students are able to shadow the clinicians, technicians, and 4th year students after hours in the ICU where they are able to learn about incoming emergencies and the critical patients that are already being cared for.

This year we had Dr. McNamara from the Animal Emergency Center of Tulsa, OK come to speak to us about upper respiratory emergencies. This was a wonderful perspective from someone who strictly works in emergency medicine. The students found this meeting to be very informative and led insight into what life is like working at an emergency only facility. We were extremely lucky to have Dr. Lorenz present a meeting over neurological emergencies and spinal cord trauma before he retires. At our yearly open house we had a booth set up with common household toxins. This was very informative to the public as many did not know about the potential hazards lying around the house that their pets could get in to.

This spring we hosted a tubeology wetlab which was a success! The students were able to place tracheostomy tubes, chest tubes, and urinary catheters. We also practiced obtaining bone marrow biopsies and aspirates which was not an easy task! The most exciting part for most of the students was learning how to do a CSF tap but every procedure was just as fun!

We have had an awesome year and are looking forward to passing off the torch to the new officers!

Texas A&M
By SVECCS member

The Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society at Texas A&M University had a fun and exciting year. We held a variety of meetings and wetlabs, and we once again opened our doors to the community for our annual Pet First Aid Seminar. In the fall semester, we hosted an intern and resident panel, which allowed our members and members of other veterinary student organizations to find out more about specializing in emergency and critical care, surgery, anesthesiology, radiology, internal medicine, cardiology, neurology and oncology. We followed our panel up with an informational meeting in the spring about applying for internships. Other meetings we held this year covered topics such as cardiovascular emergencies, lipid emulsion therapy, CPR and emergencies in food animals. At our final meeting of the year, we had the opportunity to learn about abbreviated ultrasound techniques used in trauma cases, including TFAST, AFAST and VETBlue. In the fall, our hands-on wetlab covered wound management and bandaging techniques. Our spring wetlab, with the theme “Nuts and Bolts” of emergency medicine, gave members the chance to practice performing thoracocentesis and abdominocentesis, in addition to practice placing chest tubes, tracheostomies, intraosseous catheters and central lines. We had a great turnout for our first aid seminar this year. Clinicians and veterinary technicians from our teaching hospital donated their time to cover topics like general first aid for dogs and cats, disaster preparedness, toxicities and envenomations. We hope to continue to be able to offer this educational opportunity to the public and that the seminar continues to grow year after year. Many thanks to our faculty advisors, officers and members for helping to make this a great year!
Iowa State University’s SCVECCS

By Caitlin Murphy
SVECCS President

SCVECCS had quite a busy semester with enthusiastic new members. Our first event we held was a wound debridement wet lab on September 8th. SCVECCS advisor, Dr. Bolser conducted the wet lab and spent time demonstrating ways to lavage, debride, and suture a wound. Over 50 members were able to attend the wet lab and practice these techniques on cadaver dogs!

At the end of September, Dr. Hudley hosted our famous emergency techniques wet lab for 50 members. Students were able to practice chest tube, nasal cannula, and urinary catheter placements along with a variety of suture patterns to secure the tubes. A few days following the wet lab, Lisa Foster, a licensed veterinary technician, lectured on how we can be prepared when going into the ER. She presented fun cases that were seen this past year and had students try to determine what diagnostic tests, fluids, and care should be performed to stabilize the patient. In late October, Dr. Bolser was able to perform a case based lecture on triage. He presented each case with “rounds style” as a way to engage the students along with answer some pressing questions that had not been addressed in many VM1 or VM2 courses.

We had great feedback from the students who attended, with one student saying, “Now that’s a way to get your blood pumping”! In early November, SCVECCS held their final wet lab with the Surgery club since the topic applied to both groups: feline emergency medicine. With the help of Dr. Olsen we were able to have students practice placing esophageal feeding tubes, urinary catheters, and castrations on male cats. This was a popular lab last year and we had a great turn out this semester. Unfortunately, the cadaver cats available this semester were still slightly frozen making some of the procedures difficult but students seemed excited and eager to learn (regardless of the situation). We finished our final lunch meeting of the semester with the Theriogeneology club. Dr. Dohlman talked about the different approaches to handling cow dystocia’s and the variety of techniques available to retrieving a live calf. This was a great opportunity to provide large animal experience to those interested in mixed/large animal emergency medicine. The last bit of exciting news was finding out that Dr. Olsen, our amazing emergency resident passed her boards and is officially the FIRST licensed DACVECC veterinarian at ISU!!! We hope to have next semester jammed full of fun speakers and wet labs!
IVECCS 2015
By Joe Masciana
NSVECCS President

IVECCS 2015 was attended by nearly 2900 Veterinarians, Technicians, Managers, and Students - the largest IVECCS by a wide margin exceeding IVECCS 2011 previous record attendance by over 250 registrants.

IVECCS 2015 was the 21st IVECCS and the first on the East coast. There were 2,892 vet, tech, student and practice manager registrants which included 390 international registrants from 31 foreign countries. With exhibitor personnel, nearly 3700 attended this IVECCS. This state-of-the-art symposium was again conducted jointly by the Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society (VECCS), American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC), and the Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT). The American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia (ACVAA) and the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthesia and Analgesia (AVTAA) met at IVECCS and augmented the scientific program with tracks focusing on anesthesia and pain management. ACVAA also conducted two full-day tracks of Research Abstracts. The International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAPM) met at IVECCS as an affiliate. The organization held their business meetings, practitioner exam and coordinated a portion of the Pain Management program.

The theme for IVECCS 2015 was “Respiratory Critical Care” which was the focus of many of the lecture modules as well as several laboratory and small group interactive workshops. Over 430 hours of scientific program presentations by 150 speakers were provided to attendees while still emphasizing the latest in therapeutic interventions utilized in day-to-day practice. Additionally, four special “daybreak sessions” were presented to packed rooms.
Symposium program highlights:

Multidisciplinary Review sessions - attended by 250 vets and 85 techs.

- Nearly 100 ACVECC (SA & LA) and ACVAA research abstracts and 40 poster abstracts.
- Several lecture blocks on acute respiratory dysfunction syndrome (ARDS), ventilation therapy, thoracic trauma and critical care management of respiratory patients.
- Updates on Clinical Cardiology, Sepsis, Coagulation, Trauma Management, and Fluid therapy: Crystalloid vs Colloid Controversies.
- ACVECC Year-in-Review - Overflow sessions providing in-depth literature reviews.
- Practice management program included a full-day of high energy motivational sessions on leadership and challenging personnel issues. Program also included three days of lectures and a day of interactive workshops.
- Technician lectures and workshops presented all four days, with three tracks each day—nearly 900 techs (largest ever at IVECCS) participated
- Wet labs on Cardiac Output Measurements, Monitoring Arterial Catheterization, Emergency Surgery, Endoscopy, AFAST/TFAST and more.
- Ventilation training utilizing advanced ventilation simulators were conducted in both vet and tech workshops registrants.
- Welcome Reception held outside on the grassy lawn overlooking the Potomac River, a breathtaking event attended by over 2500.
- Organizational meeting of RECOVER joint committee held to kick-off phase two of this internationally acclaimed work.
- General Session & Awards Ceremony
  - Dr Jonathon Sevransky delivered a thought provoking lecture on “Prevention of Sepsis Induced ARDS”
  - Awards Ceremony – Dr Jen Devey received the Zaslow VECCS Distinguished Service Award.
  - Dr John Rush received the ACVECC Achievement Award for his longtime work and accomplishments in the field of Critical Care Cardiology.
  - VECCF announced the formation of “Dougies Fund” a disaster relief support fund named for Dr Dougie Macintire, a Founding Member of the VECCF and devoted member of VECCS.
  - Best Abstract and Case report award winners also announced.

Symposium surveys showed very strong satisfaction with IVECCS as 98% of attendees responding said they would recommend IVECCS to a colleague and over 97% indicated they would attended another IVECCS within two years.

**IVECCS 2016 will be held September 7-11 at the Gaylord Texan outside Dallas - Fort Worth (Grapevine), Texas.**

http://www.2015.iveccs.org
University of Minnesota
By Debra Chen
SVECCS President

This past semester, the University of Minnesota chapter of SVECCS held many talks with speakers from within and outside of our College of Veterinary Medicine. We've had a veterinarian from the Pet Poison Helpline speak to us about common toxins, a Resident from our CVM speak about common ER drugs used, and a collaboration between three different clubs to bring in a speaker from BART (Basic Animal Rescue Training), among others.

In addition to talks, we have also had some wet labs such as our FAST scan and blood pressure lab, which was popular among members and the general student body.

Finally, we were invited to set up a booth at an annual Dog Olympics event that is put on by SCAVMA each year. This event is attended by students, veterinarians, and the local community. To fundraise and increase awareness of our club among the local community, we decided to sell first aid kits for pets. These kits included some essentials needed to stabilize injuries so that pet owners can get their pets to veterinarians for evaluation. Included were bandages, gauze, gloves, and alcohol wipes, as well as pamphlets and refrigerator magnets that provided information on how to spot emergencies and what pet owners can do, and contact information for local veterinarians and the Pet Poison Helpline. We sold many of the first aid kits and our fundraiser was definitely a success.

We thank last year’s board for handing over this club with such a solid foundation. We’ve got some big ideas for next year, and we can’t wait to make them happen!

Please email us with any questions or concerns. We are here to help you and your chapter!