

STANDING COMMITTEES

Defined in Bylaws, Articles IX and X

(text begins on next page)

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Julie Dinnage, D.V.M.
MSPCA Shelter and Adoption Center
617-541-5006
animalwelfarechair@massvet.org

Members: Various members participating - 75 have indicated interest; members have included veterinarians from the Bureau of Animal Health and MA Racing Commission; also representatives from MSPCA and MA Fish & Wildlife.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Committee shall be responsible for liaison between the corporation and humane organizations. The Committee shall monitor issues and activities in this field and formulate positions on controversial subjects to better inform the public, humane groups and the Steering Committee.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Select a minimum of 3 animal welfare topics annually that are pertinent to MVMA members and/or veterinary practice in Massachusetts; after in-depth study, prepare newsletter article.
2. Develop an animal welfare column for the newsletter, to be published monthly.
3. Alert the Steering Committee to any pending or impending “hot” issues and provide timely written summaries of such issues for the membership.
4. With the President-Elect, explore the possibility of developing an Animal Welfare/Shelter Medicine CE track.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

A,B,D, & H.

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

1. 2 telephone conferences with the committee annually
2. 2 meetings at the office with snacks, lunch, or dinner annually

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chairperson: James N. Ross, Jr., D.V.M., D.A.C.V.I.M. , D.A.C.V.E.C.C.
Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, North Grafton
508-887-4633
president-elect@massvet.org

Members: Any interested member, but generally including the Executive Board and Steering Committee.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Budget Committee shall be responsible for assisting the treasurer with planning the corporation's expenditures for the coming year. The president-elect of the corporation shall serve as chairperson of the Budget Committee. (Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOAL

1. Meet yearly to develop a balanced budget for the Association.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

G.

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING YEAR

One meeting at the office with dinner

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Gwendolyn A. Myers, D.V.M., M.P.H.
Acambis, Inc., Cambridge
617-761-4272
commdiseasechair@massvet.org

Members: 60 members have expressed interest, including the State Public Health Veterinarian, several veterinarians from TUSVM, and several members in laboratory animal medicine

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Communicable Diseases & Public Health Committee shall be responsible for collecting and distributing information concerning these areas to the membership.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Monitor the area of communicable disease and public health as it relates to animals and report concerns to the Steering Committee and membership.

COMMITTEE'S GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

D

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

None

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chairperson: James N. Ross, Jr., D.V.M., D.A.C.V.I.M. , D.A.C.V.E.C.C.
Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, North Grafton
508-887-4633
presidentelect@massvet.org

Members: 60 members have expressed interest; requires collaboration with chairs of the Large Animal, Veterinary Technician, Animal Welfare, and Communicable Diseases Committees.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Continuing Education and Program Committee shall be responsible for assessing the needs and desires of the veterinarians and their assistants in the area of continuing education. The committee will arrange scientific programs for the members of the association. The president shall appoint the president-elect of the association to chair the Committee.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR (AND BEYOND)

1. Develop CE programs for Fall 2005 and Winter and Spring 2006
2. With Animal Welfare Committee Chair, explore feasibility of animal welfare and/or shelter medicine track and program accordingly.
3. With Communicable Diseases and Public Health Committee Chair and/or relevant individual members, explore feasibility of laboratory animal medicine track and program accordingly.
4. Explore collaboration with Massachusetts Medical Society, veterinary school, and governmental entities on zoonotic disease and/or public health symposium.
5. Provide assistance to staff in soliciting and securing sponsorship of CE sessions.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

A, B, & E

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Resources associated with presentation of at least 3 CE conferences per year.

CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Mary Anna Labato, D.V.M., D.A.C.V.I.M.
TUSVM - Foster Animal Hospital, North Grafton
508-839-5395 ext. 84825
educationchair@massvet.org

Members:

From membership at large, by application. Currently includes Adam Arzt, John Berg, Virender Chandna, Alison Gaynor, Linda Henderson, Jeffrey Philibert, Karen Purcell, William Rosenblad, and Sheri Siegel.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Education Committee shall be responsible for liaison between the corporation and schools of veterinary medicine or animal technology. It shall be responsible for investigating new programs offered by local schools and report its findings to the Steering Committee. It shall also determine whether programs qualify for continuing education credits.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Evaluate programs submitted for continuing education credits in accordance with Board of Registration policy.
2. Make recommendations to Steering Committee with regard to Board of Registration policy and regulations on CE.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

A & B

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Staff administrative support.

ETHICS & GRIEVANCES COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Kenneth M. Goddard, D.V.M.
Franklin
508-528-0714
e-gchair@massvet.org

Members:

Dr. Alexandra Kilgore Littleton Animal Hospital 978-486-3101	Dr. Bonnie J. Smith Crosscountry Veterinary Service 413-245-3592	Dr. Gerald E. Pietsch Anchor Animal Hospital 508-996-3731
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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Ethics & Grievances Committee shall consist of three members and a chairperson, the chairperson not voting. These members shall be appointed by the president of the corporation for one, two, three, and four years, and thereafter one member appointed annually for a four-year term. Appointments shall be made with a view to having the Committee represent all phases of veterinary practice and all areas of the state.

The Committee shall be charged with the investigation of all violations of the A.V.M.A. Code of Ethics presented to it. In the case of a complaint by a lay person against a member of the Association, a fifth member in the person of some prominent individual chosen by mutual consent of all parties may upon request be added to the Committee.

The Committee will work upon request with the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine. All complaints must be presented to the Committee in writing by the injured party or his or her representative. A resume of any testimony must be recorded in the minutes of the Committee by a member acting as secretary, and such testimony together with recommendations of the Committee shall be available to the Steering Committee or members of the Board of Registration.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, shall be that determined by the Committee with the proviso that if either party is dissatisfied, appeal to the Steering Committee shall be possible. Such disciplinary action, when indicated, shall in general take one of the following courses:

- (1) apology by the accused to the parties concerned with retribution and correction of the situation within the guidelines of the AVMA liability insurance policy;
- (2) suspension of the accused from the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association by a two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee.

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

To respond to all submissions.

COMMITTEE'S GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

E

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

To respond to all submissions in a timely manner
Staff administrative support and executive director review

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Joseph G. (Jay) Merriam, Jr., D.V.M., M.S.
Massachusetts Equine Clinic, Uxbridge
508-278-6511
internationalchair@massvet.org

Other Contacts: Robert A. Labdon, Jr., D.V.M.
Veterinary Associates of Cape Cod, South Yarmouth
508-394-3566
samanacoordinator@massvet.org

Richard F. Rodger, D.V.M.
North Grafton
508-839-2293
mazuntecoordinator@massvet.org

Members: More than 50 members have expressed interest.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The committee shall be responsible for establishing liaison with veterinarians or other individuals or groups related to animal husbandry and welfare in countries other than the United States. The goal of the committee is to assist the local community in developing programs, training personnel, implementing programs and when appropriate to provide resources for the betterment of both the animals and the people of the community. It shall, in conjunction with the Steering Committee consider, approve, and establish policies for the committee.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Conduct 2 Samana trips yearly.
2. Conduct 1 Mazunte trip yearly.
3. Explore fundraising opportunities.
4. Develop guidelines for grants to subsidize participation, particularly by MVMA members who are recent graduates.
5. Apprise the Steering Committee of its activities.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

B

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Two Samana trips each year, with subsidies
One Mazunte trip each year, with subsidies
Staff administrative support for charitable fund and development

LARGE ANIMAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mark T. Reilly, D.V.M.
Mid-Cape Animal Hospital, Marstons Mills
508-428-2989
largeanimalchair@massvet.org

Members: Nearly 20 members have expressed interest in the committee.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Large Animal Committee shall be responsible for collecting and distributing information concerning this area to the membership. The Committee will work with the Continuing Education and Program Committee to plan continuing education programs on large animal topics.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOAL FOR THE COMING YEAR

Work with the CE Committee to provide at least 2 Large Animal programs in the year.

COMMITTEE GOAL MEETS STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

A & G

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Funding for speakers, publicity, facility; staff support

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Julie Haller, D.V.M.
Bulger Animal Hospital, North Andover
978-682-9905
legislativechair@massvet.org

Members: Nearly 20 members have expressed interest in the committee.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

It shall be the duty of the Legislative Committee to examine each bill filed in the Massachusetts House and Senate having to do with animals or veterinary medicine. The Committee shall report its recommendations to the Steering Committee for its consideration of either favoring or opposing a particular bill. (Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Monitor the state legislature and alert the association to any impending legislation that would impact the association membership.
2. Explore development of a legislative response network and report recommendations to the Steering Committee.
3. Develop a legislation action committee.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

F & G

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Use of paid monitoring service, if requested and approved, would cost approximately \$4,000 annually (not currently contemplated).

Use of legislative advocate, if approved, would incur a cost to be determined.

Financial contributions to elected officials and candidates, if approved, would incur a cost to be determined.

Staff administrative support and collaboration with executive director.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Kathleen M. Reilly, D.V.M.
Plymouth Animal Hospital, Plymouth
508-746-4232
membershipchair@massvet.org

Members: Nearly 20 members have expressed interest in the committee.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to actively recruit veterinarians who are eligible for membership in the Association. They shall also invite membership applications from all newly registered veterinarians. They shall perform such other duties and functions as may be from time to time designated by the Steering Committee, including maintenance of the membership directory. (Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Contact each newly-licensed Massachusetts veterinarian and invite them by letter to join the MVMA. Follow with a personal welcome.
2. Develop a process and timeline to be followed each year.
3. Expand Membership benefits, especially focusing on benefits for associate veterinarians, as most of our benefits are for practice owners.
4. Review contracts of institutions with which we have agreements on a yearly basis to assure the benefits offered are still in the best interest of our members.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

B, C, and H

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

\$100 each year for list of veterinarians from Board of Registration.
Staff administrative support.
Executive Director's participation in matters of member benefits.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carol A. Cookingham, D.V.M.
Linwood Animal Hospital, Lowell
978-453-1784
newsletterchair@massvet.org

Members: Approximately 15 members have volunteered for the committee.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

It shall be the duty of the Newsletter Committee to oversee the publication of the newsletter. It shall, together with the Steering Committee, consider and approve the established policy of the newsletter.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Work with staff to publish 11 newsletters yearly.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

A, B, & D

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Funding and staff time for creation and production of 11 newsletters per year.

CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. Unsure of impact of website and electronic delivery of newsletters.
2. Need greater commitment and follow-through from Steering Committee members to keep membership apprised of MVMA activities.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairperson: John H. de Jong, D.V.M.
Boston Mobile Veterinary Clinic, Chestnut Hill
617-278-6000
pastpresident@massvet.org

Members:

Berkshire County Veterinarians
John C. Reynolds, D.V.M.
Pittsfield Veterinary Hospital, Pittsfield
413-499-1580; bcvrep@massvet.org

Cape Cod Veterinary Medical Association
Tom Burns, D.V.M.
Veterinary Associates of Cape Cod, South Yarmouth
508-394-3566; cvmarep@massvet.org

MetroWest Veterinary Medical Association
David J. Schwarz, D.V.M.
Ashland Animal Care Center, Ashland
508-881-2400; mwvmarep@massvet.org

South Shore Veterinary Association
J. Paige Pongratz, D.V.M.
Plymouth County Animal Hospital, Marshfield
781-837-1141; SSVArep@massvet.org

Veterinary Association of the North Shore
Phoebe Hoyt, D.V.M.
Marblehead Animal Hospital, Marblehead
781-639-1300; VANSrep@massvet.org

Western Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Patti Calarese, D.V.M.
Quabbin Animal Hospital, Inc., Belchertown
413-323-7203; wvmarep@massvet.org

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The president shall appoint the immediate past president as chairman of the Nominating Committee. The Committee shall consist of MVMA representatives of the local associations appointed by the president. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to submit not later than sixty days prior to the annual meeting of slate of nominees for the offices designated in these Bylaws for election by the membership. They shall also propose nominees for an AVMA delegate and alternate. If vacancies of elected officers occur during the year, the Nominating Committee will be requested to propose new nominees to fill the vacancies. The Nominating Committee shall use all reasonable endeavors to seek out and select those members of the Association who have performed diligently and who have shown the capabilities for leadership most desired in the offices of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall submit its report and the slate of nominees to the Steering Committee 90 days prior to the annual meeting.(bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Offer a slate of nominations at the December Steering Committee meeting

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

C

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Meeting possible, though contact likely limited to telephone and email.

PAST PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson: John H. de Jong, D.V.M.
Boston Mobile Veterinary Clinic, Chestnut Hill
617-278-6000
pastpresident@massvet.org

Members: Roster of 25 past presidents as potential members

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Past President's Advisory Council shall be made up of past presidents willing to provide input, advice and counsel to be drawn upon by the president as he/she sees fit. The immediate past president shall serve as chairperson for this council.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Inform the past presidents of the Association's activities.
2. Chair a past presidents' event during the year.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

B&C

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Staff administrative support.
Funding to support past presidents' event(s).

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Robert J. Murtaugh, D.V.M., D.A.C.V.I.M., D.A.C.V.E.C.C.
VCA South Shore Animal Hospital, South Weymouth
781-337-6622 ext. 727
PRchair@massvet.org

Members: Nearly 30 members have expressed interest in the committee.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

It shall be the duty of the Public Relations Committee to educate the public as to the function of the veterinarian and create a favorable opinion for the Association and its membership.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Develop a roster of MVMA spokespeople.
2. Explore media training for leadership and spokespeople.
3. Develop and implement a process that will guide an ongoing Public Relations project.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

B,D, & E

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

2 meetings per year with food

If approved, media training for selected members would incur cost to be determined.

RESOLUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Vacant

Members: 7 members have expressed interest in the committee.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

It shall be the duty of the Resolution and Bylaws Committee to update and re-write the corporation's Bylaws as necessary. Proposed changes must be presented to the Steering Committee for its consideration. If the Steering Committee favorably passes the recommendations of the committee, the change will be presented as outlined in Article XII.(Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

None.

STATE BOARD AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Raymond Russo, D.V.M.
Kingston Animal Hospital, Kingston
781-585-6525
boardaffairschair@massvet.org

Members: *This has been treated as a liaison position. However, 10 members have expressed interest in the committee.*

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

This committee shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a liaison with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine. The committee shall inform the Steering Committee on all issues and activities pertaining to the veterinary community. (Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Monitor the activities of the MA Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine and report concerns and information important to the licensure of veterinarians to the Steering Committee.

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

B

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Staff administrative support

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN COMMITTEE

Chairperson: James Q. Knight, D.V.M.
Becker College Veterinary Technology Program, Leicester
508-791-9241 ext. 540
vettechchair@massvet.org

Members: More than 20 members have expressed interest in the committee.
MVTA representatives are invited to participate.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Veterinary Technician Committee shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of liaison between the corporation and schools or groups of Veterinary Technicians. The Committee shall also plan continuing education programs for Veterinary Technicians in coordination with the Continuing Education and Program Committee. (Bylaws)

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. To liaison with the Massachusetts Veterinary Technician Association
2. To act as a resource for the Massachusetts Veterinary Technician Association

COMMITTEE GOALS MEET STRATEGIC CONSENSUS

B & G

COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS

Staff administrative support; possible meeting, with refreshments. Funding to support speakers, publicity, and facilities for veterinary technician CE.