

Animal Welfare

This committee deals with issues related to animal welfare on behalf of the SVMA regardless of whether the issues arise from within the profession or from the general public. The committee responsibilities are as follows:

- Advise SVMA Council on animal welfare issues and present appropriate information and responses for council's consideration. Propose animal welfare Bylaw changes for approval by the general membership as required.
- Liaise with other veterinary associations, the provincial government, local authorities and other legitimate groups on animal welfare matters. Inform and promote existing definitions of abuse and neglect. Promote understanding of existing local, provincial and national standards of animal welfare.
- Summarize and publish or otherwise share high priority issues with the membership. Raise awareness among SK veterinarians of the role they play in the animal welfare process and their professional responsibility for animal welfare, including sometimes acting as an expert witness. Encourage veterinarians to be proactive in their approach to animal welfare issues.
- Distribute information about animal protection laws and current animal welfare issues, including solutions to problems, to the public. Foster public awareness and nurture a culture of respect and compassion between people and animals.
- Provide our members with resources that allow them to take an informed and leading role in improving the welfare of animals. Develop training materials, where applicable, for veterinarians, organizations and the public. Provide information, resources and guidance for veterinarians with questions about animal welfare.
- Formally address inquiries or concerns originating from the public or other veterinarians, with records of communication kept by the committee. Regard opinions and communications as being of the committee and of the SVMA, not of individual committee members.
- As a guideline, SVMA committee member veterinarians are expected to be the principal agents of committee projects and initiatives. Ex-officio representatives may assist, be involved in projects and advise the regular committee members, but it is not their function to carry the weight of the committee's work.

Awards

This committee's mandate is to promote and facilitate the recognition of achievements and contributions of SVMA members and celebrate those achievements and contributions in a manner that will motivate others. The committee:

- regularly reviews all SVMA awards including the J.J. Murison Distinguished Veterinarian of the Year award for criteria, nomination and selection process
- recommends other methods of recognizing individual members achievements and contributions to the profession
- consults with members and identifies criteria and procedures related to awards and promotes increased member awareness of SVMA awards

- reviews the nomination process, receives nominations and participates in the selection process for the various awards
- considers information presented to the committee by Council or individual members that may help promote the profession or foster pride in our members

Current policy states the committee be comprised of the SVMA past president, two (2) immediate past award recipients of any major award and two members appointed at large plus an SVMA staff member serving as a resource/council liaison.

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education committee identifies and delivers information to the membership on current scientific developments, emerging diseases and practice management. The committee responsibilities are as follows:

- plan and develop the scientific and non-scientific program for seminars, conferences, regional meetings and wet labs organized or sponsored by the Association
- establish a roster of speakers and topics for regional meetings
- write, or cause to be written, topical articles suitable for publication in SVMA News
- review materials and course content for suitability and use by members and potential members interested in upgrading specific skills

Ethics

An Ethics committee was struck in 2018 to act in an advisory capacity to the Professional Conduct and Discipline Committees.

Finance

The Finance committee consists of the current Council president, vice president and past president. The function for the Finance committee is reviewing financial reports on a regular basis to verify consistency, authenticity and accuracy.

Legislation

The mandate of the legislation committee is established in the Bylaws of the SVMA, in particular to review the Bylaws on a regular basis and to make recommendations to Council regarding same. The committee will consist of one to four members, plus the registrar. Members of this committee will be veterinarians with experience in the Association's governance and/or who have had relevant legislative experience.

Practice Economics

This committee investigates issues important to maintaining and/or improving financial returns available to members in private practice. The committee responsibilities are as follows:

- promote on a regular basis, the use of, and assist in the preparation of, guides listing suggested fees for professional services for veterinary services offered by members
- ensure any guidelines for practice fees are kept current and adjusted for changing costs including inflation
- provide analyses of long- and short-term business and economic trends, with the intent of developing strategies that will promote or enhance efficient business management practices amongst members
- assist in creating compensation guides for associate veterinarians and other practice employees as well as members working in non-practice occupations develop and recommend to SVMA council programs, survey suggestions, management seminars, speakers and other resources that will help members to develop sound and profitable business practice

Practice Standards

The mandate of the Practice Standards committee is established, in part, in the Bylaws and Policies of the SVMA. Other responsibilities may be assigned to this committee at Council's discretion. Specifically, the committee is mandated to:

- Review the Practice Standards & Guidelines
- Recommend new practice standards to Council
- Recommend changes to existing practice standards to Council
- Assist the inspector(s) in providing interpretation of the practice standards when necessary

Members of this committee will be veterinarians and veterinary technologists who are actively engaged in private practice. Attempts are made to ensure companion animal, mixed animal and large animal practice members are represented.

Wellness

The Wellness committee's mandate is to promote and support the balance of physical, mental and professional well being of all members of the veterinary health care team and their families by providing information, resources and support.

The committee responsibilities are as follows:

- Actively promote wellness in the veterinary profession by providing easy, confidential access to information related to personal financial management, stress management work/life balance, mental illness, grief counseling and substance abuse
- Provide an up-to-date section of the SVMA that lists resources that are available to members, their families and staff
- Provide articles related to wellness for SVMA News
- Suggest speakers for the annual conference
- Promote the concept of an even work/life balance for members and their families where work is stress-free, drug-free and harassment free
- To make resources available which promote and support both the professional and personal well-being of members, their employees and families.