



# LGVMA Good News!

Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association

Volume 17 No. 2



The Garnier-Evans Family at the 2009 White House Easter Egg Roll

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## Details

### **LGVMA Membership Drive**

Our recent membership survey revealed most members know non-member LGBT veterinarians, students and veterinary technicians, and are willing to invite them to join LGVMA. As a group, we will create a bigger presence and input for veterinary medicine.

To encourage members to pass the word, we will start keeping track of referrals and award a prize for bringing in the most new members!

### **Nominations for LGVMA Achievement Award**

Submit your nomination for LGVMA's 2009 Achievement Award for an individual or organization that promotes our identity and purpose. Send letter of nomination to [lgvma@lgvma.org](mailto:lgvma@lgvma.org).

### **LGVMA is on Facebook!**

Sign up with Facebook and search for LGVMA. Currently, there are 82 LGVMA members on Facebook—come join us!

This great networking site is open to anyone worldwide. Just log-on to Facebook, do a search for LGVMA and you will find us.

To make suggestions for content or to post event pictures, feel free to contact Vince Thawley (Penn Vet 09) [vthawley@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:vthawley@vet.upenn.edu).

### **Scholarship Deadline Extended for Veterinary Technician Students—New Deadline:**

**September 30, 2009**

Apply now for the \$750 veterinary technician student scholarship.

Check the LGVMA website for application information.

### **Change of address or E-mail?**

It is up to you to keep your membership profile up-to-date online at [www.LGVMA.org](http://www.LGVMA.org).

Update today—we don't want to lose touch with you!

LGVMA's **GOOD NEWS!** is published quarterly by the Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association, originally founded as the International Membership of Gay and Lesbian Animal Doctors (I'm Glad). The opinions expressed in GOOD NEWS! belong to the contributing authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the LGVMA. For submissions, contact Good News! at [newsletter@lgvma.org](mailto:newsletter@lgvma.org).

### **LGVMA Officers 2008 to 2010:**

President	Jennifer Thomas, DVM— Ferndale, MI
Vice President	Chip Wells, DVM— Washington, DC
Executive Secretary	Ken Gorczyca, DVM— San Francisco, CA
Secretary	Karen Hull, DVM— Gosport, IN
Treasurer	Michael Miller, DVM— Alameda, CA

### **At-Large Board Members:**

Ted Eudy, DVM— Santa Fe, NM  
Nick DePompa (Auburn 2011) Student Representative— Auburn, AL  
Lyn T. Garson, CVT— Technician Representative— Enfield, CT  
E. Scott Weber, VMD— West Sacramento, CA

### **GOOD NEWS! Staff:**

Lyn T. Garson, CVT— Enfield, CT

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E-mail: [info@lgvma.org](mailto:info@lgvma.org)

For membership information please E-mail: [secretary@lgvma.org](mailto:secretary@lgvma.org) or visit our website at: [www.lgvma.org](http://www.lgvma.org).

# Letter from LGVMA President

Jennifer Thomas, DVM

Greetings!

It has been an exciting year so far for LGVMA. I want to welcome all of our new members!

We have developed a new logo and created a banner for our first ever conference exhibit hall booth at the ACVIM/Canadian VMA in Montreal, which gave LGVMA lots of interest. The banner went to Pride in Toronto before its next showing at our booth at the AVMA convention in Seattle--be sure to stop in and see us if you will be attending, or, better yet, sign up to help us staff the booth.

Speaking of the AVMA conference, we will be holding our annual meeting there on Sunday, July 12, 12:00-1:00 pm, in the Elliott Bay room of the Westin. Please join us! We are also hosting our Annual Dinner on Sunday at 7PM. Check the LGVMA booth or our website for location.

We are also moving forward in our veterinary technician outreach. We have established our first scholarship for technician students, and we are in the process of updating our bylaws and constitution to, among other things, make technicians full voting members. Much thanks to Lyn Garson, CVT, our technician representative to the board, and Wayne Hollingshead DVM, our Canadian representative, for their dedication and outreach efforts.

We have also been busy drafting a response letter to JAVMA regarding the

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) diversity symposium that was recently featured in the journal. To read the original article published in JAVMA regarding the Iverson Bell Symposium 2009 follow this link: <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/may09/090515a.asp>

Look for our response letter to be published soon in JAVMA. See full copy of our letter on page 4 of Good News! Already, in response to our letter, the AAVMC has invited LGVMA to be a co-sponsor of a North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium, which will develop a plan to address the future diversity needs of the veterinary profession. We have finally been offered a place at the table!

Let's keep the momentum moving forward into the rest of the year. For LGVMA to continue representing the issues important to our members and our profession, we need each of your continued support. This includes volunteering when possible, encouraging your LGBT and straight-supporting colleagues to become members and continued donations to our general and student scholarship funds. We appreciate your support!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Thomas, DVM  
President LGVMA

## Special Thank You For Supporting LGVMA

Shane Bateman, DVM  
(SAVMA Symposium panel, Montreal booth, Toronto Gay Pride)

Michael Chaddock, DVM  
(donation)

Mathieu Chéhadé (Montreal 2010)  
(Helped translate brochure into French for Montreal)

Larry Dawson, DVM  
(scholarship committee)

Linda Detwiller, DVM  
(SAVMA Symposium panel)

Mathew Hamilton, DVM  
(scholarship committee)

Wayne Hollingshead, DVM  
(Montreal booth)

Jenni Huelsman (Ohio)  
(SAVMA Symposium 2009)

Lesbian Connection Magazine

Michael McGuill, DVM  
(JAVMA letter)

Helen Platt  
(banner design)

Morris Samson, DVM  
(LGVMA supporter in Toronto who displayed banner with Shane)

Ilana Strubel, DVM  
(donation)

Jennifer Thomas, DVM  
(SAVMA Symposium panel)

Scott Weber, VMD  
(scholarship committee-chair)

Tim Withers, DVM  
(JAVMA letter)

American College of Veterinary  
Internal Medicine

Canadian Veterinary Medical  
Association

Montreal, Canada

Association of American Veterinary  
Medical Colleges  
(for inviting LGVMA to be co-partners)

JAVMA  
(for publishing our letter)

# LGVMA's Letter to JAVMA

June 1, 2009

Dear JAVMA Editor,

The Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA) applauds the 2009 Iverson Bell Symposium and AAVMC for advocating college-wide education and diversity training in veterinary medicine (JAVMA, May 15, 2009). We have common goals.

As lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals, we wholeheartedly agree that understanding and achieving diversity within the veterinary profession “provides improved educational and professional experiences, making everyone better practitioners.” We also agree it is vital for our profession – to meet the racial, ethnic and cultural needs of society – to produce veterinary graduates and faculty who possess diverse perspectives. As Dr. Nivet pointed out during the symposium, doing so provides a strategy for our profession to achieve excellence.

We believe Dr. Pappaioanou offered the answer when she told symposium attendees “education is the key . . . and that AAVMC is moving ahead on that front.” Indeed, we are grateful AAVMC is committed to this process. But we encourage the discussion be expanded beyond the racial and ethnic perspectives presented at the symposium by including the experiences of other “hidden” communities within the profession.

Of course, total equality will not occur until boards, committees, faculty and clinic ownership mirror the diversity of our profession – and our society. To illustrate this point, we share some insights obtained from our 2009 membership survey of LGBT veterinarians and technicians: Twenty percent reported experiencing prejudicial attitudes and behaviors from within the profession, either in academia or business, by other veterinarians. Additionally, a study of discrimination conducted by the British Medical Association, (British Medical Association, *Career Barriers in Medicine: Doctors Experiences*, June 2004), revealed the following<sup>1</sup>:

- LGBT doctors commonly experience homophobia in the workplace
- LGBT doctors routinely fear and experience discrimination in their work environments
- Incidents of LGBT discrimination are often unnoticed and unchallenged
- Those in authority often cannot be relied upon for support
- A supportive environment or person can make a genuine difference and benefit the doctor

Over the last 20 years, as society has taken progressive steps toward greater acceptance of LGBT individuals, the veterinary profession has been slow to keep pace. Perhaps our profession can follow the example set by the American Medical Association, and the corporate world, by recognizing the value of diversity training for employees to include LGBT perspectives as part of this education. We call upon the veterinary profession, and all of its institutions of higher learning, to do the same.

Because we look no different from the rest of society, LGBT individuals often go unnoticed. But we have always been members of your community and the veterinary profession. We are friends, family, faculty, staff, students, clients, practitioners, leaders and colleagues. Despite differences, we are one profession joined in the pursuit of excellence. One day soon, like the Association of Woman Veterinarians, we hope the LGVMA will be incorporated and welcomed into the greater veterinary profession.

On behalf of the LGVMA Board of Directors, respectfully,  
Jennifer Thomas, DVM  
President

Ted Eudy, DVM  
Lyn T. Garson, CVT  
Ken Gorczyca, DVM  
Wayne Hollingshead, DVM  
Michael McGill, DVM, DMP, DACVPM  
Scott Weber, VMD, MCs  
Tim Withers, DVM

<sup>1</sup>Source: [http://www.bma.org.uk/images/CareerBarriers\\_tcm41-20743.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/CareerBarriers_tcm41-20743.pdf)

# LGVMA User Guide

Our move to MemberClicks is complete. As an all volunteer organization, we hope our new online membership services will help cut down on volunteer hours by shifting the responsibility of updating profile information to our members. Please remember to ensure your E-mail address is kept up-to-date in our online system so we can avoid losing track of you— especially our student members who may no longer hold a school E-mail account after graduation.

In the past, all memberships were renewed in January of each year. Members will now receive an e-renewal one year from the last payment date. Although we prefer that members pay on-line, we will accept checks for those who prefer.

Below are some of the many features to help you navigate our new MemberClicks online system:

## 1. Communication

You can contact an individual LGVMA member through the online directory by going to the person's profile, or you can communicate to all members by clicking the "contact" button. Members can also elect to stop receiving group messages by accessing and updating your profile. LGVMA uses the online directory to send important messages and our e-newsletter, Good News! Be sure your E-mail address and all contact info is accurate so we can reach you.

## 2. E-listserves

For group communication and discussions.  
[general-lgvma@memberclicks.com](mailto:general-lgvma@memberclicks.com)—  
entire membership  
[vetstuds-lgvma@memberclicks.com](mailto:vetstuds-lgvma@memberclicks.com)—  
veterinary students  
[vettechs-lgvma@memberclicks.com](mailto:vettechs-lgvma@memberclicks.com)—  
technicians/technician students

You can access your personal profile to turn on or off any of these e-lists. Currently, all members are signed

up for the general E-list, and only vet students and vet techs are signed up to the other E-lists. Make sure your spam filter does not keep out these messages.

## 3. Worldwide Yahoo Listserve

LGVMA has decided to keep our Yahoo listserve, which we have utilized in the past. This list will be for individuals worldwide who are not LGVMA members, but want to receive information and notices. LGVMA is the only group of LGBT veterinarians, veterinary technicians and students in the world. We have individual e-list members from Africa, Asia, Europe, the South Pacific and South America. To sign up for the Yahoo listserve, go to [www.lgvma.org](http://www.lgvma.org) and follow posted instructions.

## 4. Calendar of Events

You will find a calendar of events on our members-only section and a similar public calendar on our public website. To add an event to the calendar, send event information to [lgvma@lgvma.org](mailto:lgvma@lgvma.org).

## 5. Discussion Boards

Our members-only section offers discussion boards for communication and education.

## 6. LGVMA Newsletter

We recently moved to an E-newsletter to save costs. Our membership survey indicated that nearly half of you prefer a paper newsletter, so the board will be revisiting this option. Current and past newsletters can be found in our library in the members-only section. To request an E-newsletter directly to you as an attachment contact [newsletter@lgvma.org](mailto:newsletter@lgvma.org).

## 7. Board Minutes

Members can read board minutes to understand the process and decisions. All members are always invited to join our board meetings.

# One Member's List of Ways to Move Forward

By Michael McGuill, DVM

Last month in JAVMA (May 15, 2009), I eagerly read the article summary of the 2009 Iverson Bell Symposium, a recent diversity conference hosted by the Association for American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). The symposium's intention was to strategize about how to increase diversity in veterinary schools, to reflect the diversity of veterinary clients and of the population in general. I read with interest about the conference to the last word. There was no mention of the words "gay" or "lesbian."

I thought about the article, and about the ways in which our profession has failed to support us, and I reached two conclusions. The first is that, left to themselves, the leaders of our profession and its umbrella organizations seem to have little interest for inclusion of LGBT individuals or issues. Despite the leaps that the LGBT community has made in our society and every other health profession in our nation, and despite the tireless years of efforts made by LGVMA to open doors, veterinary medicine remains in the "dark ages" about LGBT inclusion. As much as our wishes to stand tall beside other health professions and demand that we be included under the "One Health" umbrella, its retrograde politics, at least regarding LGBT matters, makes it look more like a third world country than an organization poised to join elbows with the zeitgeist.

The second conclusion is that the field of veterinary medicine will not change unless we demand it. I am not

advocating radical political action. I am simply saying that it's up to those of us in the LGBT veterinary community to hold our profession's leaders and organizations accountable; to speak up on behalf of LGBT inclusion at every opportunity; and, in general, to take actions that will ensure that our profession, our employers, and our vet schools understand and support LGBT veterinarians, technicians and LGBT veterinary clients.

We have all recently witnessed the historic election of our Nation's first African-American President, who speaks openly about LGBT rights as part of his agenda, and we've either watched or participated in a growing momentum to legalize gay marriage. I live in Massachusetts, and our six-year-old son now has two dads who are married. It's a great feeling, but many who watched from other states may not realize that the struggle took years of intense coalition-building, strategy, and truth-telling by tens of thousands of Massachusetts residents. Recently someone from the LGBT veterinary community suggested to me that it's our profession's turn to "ride the wave" of progress. Unfortunately, it's not as if we can effortlessly ask for doors to open, and watch them do so. We can be emboldened by the knowledge that LGBT support is growing, especially amongst the younger generation, but we must accept that if change is to occur in our profession, we must lead it.

I came up with a list of ways we might promote LGBT visibility within our

profession and encourage our profession's leaders and organizations to include us. These are my suggestions, not necessarily those of LGVMA. My intention is not to find a list that everyone can agree on; I encourage each of you to create your own lists, and share them with us. Here it goes:

1. Make a list of everyone you knew from your vet school who is a LGBT individual, and ask each one to join LGVMA (if they don't already belong). Send each an email or note, mention LGVMA's recent letter in JAVMA, our co-sponsorship of the newly-formed North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium (see below), and ask them to be part of a growing movement to increase our presence and acceptance in the veterinary profession. Give them all the information they need to join LGVMA.
2. If you know LGBT faculty at your vet school or other vet schools, do the same. If you know LGBT pharmacy representatives or distributors, tell them about LGVMA and encourage them to join.
3. Make a list of non-LGBT individuals you know who support LGVMA's professional struggle. LGVMA needs to broaden its organization to include many more non-LGBT, supportive veterinarians and non-veterinarians. All civil rights movements have understood the need to build friendships with others who support their rights. LGVMA members should include vet school deans, members of AVMA's

## Ways to Move Forward— *continued*

executive team, veterinary pharmacy company executives, and countless others. Currently, a class of membership within LGVMA exists which is called “Friend.” Only three people have joined LGVMA in this category— three people! I suggest that LGVMA think about ways to make membership for non-LGBT supporters more attractive. Once they do, we should all begin asking non-LGBT leaders in our profession who support our rights for full inclusion in our profession to join our organization. LGVMA, please help us figure this out!

4. If you are looking for new career opportunities, find out if potential employers offer domestic partner benefits and if their nondiscriminatory policies include sexual orientation. Speak openly about how you’ll be considering such benefits and policies when deciding on your next career choice.

5. If you’re not out at work, come out.

6. If you work in a practice that doesn’t offer domestic partner benefits or a nondiscrimination policy that doesn’t include sexual orientation, speak with the owners to encourage them to change such benefits and policies.

7. If you’re involved in your state VMA (and many of us are or have been), find out if they offer domestic partner benefits and if their nondiscriminatory policies include sexual orientation. If they don’t, come out to them and let them know

they should. The Executive Director of our VMA in Massachusetts is an out lesbian, who speaks and writes about her partner and two kids often; she is also a lawyer, and she may be an ally to LGVMA in thinking about ways to include LGBT and non-LGBT veterinary professions in our organization.

7. As an alumni of your vet school, offer to participate in diversity workshops and training to offer the perspective of a LGBT veterinary professional. Ask if your school has an LGVMA chapter; offer to participate in it.

8. The next time someone speaks about their family, and you “zip your lips up” before speaking about your own, think again and, if you can, mention your family. The more we speak about our lives, partners, and families as a part of regular conversation, the more likely others are to see us as part of the culture.

9. If it seems appropriate, come out to your LGBT and straight clients. Be respectful; avoid mentioning your sexual orientation in a way that might be perceived as sexual harassment. Coming out to clients in a friendly, subtle way may be especially helpful to clients in areas that are not known to be friendly toward LGBT individuals. Perhaps place a subtle rainbow symbol in your waiting room.

As you’ve read in this issue of the LGVMA’s Good News!, LGVMA wrote a formal response to JAVMA

regarding the Iverson Bell Symposium’s exclusion of LGBT issues. As a result of that letter, the Executive Director of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges has invited LGVMA to become a co-sponsor and participant in the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium, which plans to create a national plan for the societal needs of our profession. As one of several who participated in creating the letter to JAVMA, and who signed it, I’m excited to learn of other reactions to our letter.

I have one final suggestion. I’d like to ask LGVMA to offer a place on our website for everyone to list their own ideas, and to tell stories about how others within and outside of the LGBT veterinary community have responded to our efforts to invite their participation in LGVMA, or ask for equal treatment at work, or in other ways act on any item in this list or items added to the online list by LGVMA members. I am excited about the new energy I sense within LGVMA, and I look forward to the next months and years ahead as a time when we will be leading the profession into a new era of acceptance and inclusion of LGBT individuals and issues.

*Editor’s note- LGVMA has started a discussion board in our Members Only section for a continuation of this important and timely issue.*

# LGVMA Updates Logo

By Ken Gorczyca, DVM

The original LGVMA logo was developed in 1991 under the wings of the International Membership of Gay and Lesbian Animal Doctors, nicknamed "I'M GLAD." We choose to use the veterinary medical symbol, which is the staff of Aesculapius with the letter "V," overlaid onto the pink triangle which is the historic symbol that gay men were forced to wear in the concentration camps of Germany (lesbians were forced to wear the black triangle).

The pink triangle has become a symbol of gay rights. Our logo has served us well during our "teenage" years of growth. Now that we are 18 years old, the board felt it was time to update our image within the veterinary profession.

The staff of Aesculapius is an ancient symbol associated with the Greek god Asclepius and with medicine and healing. It consists of a single serpent entwined around a rod. The addition of the letter "V" to the rod of Asclepius is the symbol used most commonly to represent veterinary medicine, especially in North America. The wand of Hermes (Greek) or Mercury (Roman) is the symbol of commerce. The caduceus is depicted as a short herald's staff entwined by two serpents in the form of a double helix, and sometimes surmounted by wings. Both the staff of Aesculapius and the caduceus are referred to as the "caduceus." In 1902, the U.S. Army selected the winged staff with two snakes as its symbol. There are no guidelines or rules as to the forms that they may take.

The rainbow gay flag was first flown in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade on June 25, 1978 and designed by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist. Baker dyed and sewed the material for the first flag himself --in the true spirit of Betsy Ross. The original flag consisted of eight colored stripes. Each color represented a special quality—hot pink: sexuality; red: life; orange: healing; yellow: sunlight; green: nature; turquoise: magic/art; indigo: serenity/harmony; violet: spirit. The current gay rainbow flag has only six colors. Hot pink was removed due to lack of availability of colors during future flag making, and indigo was removed to make an even six colors. Today, the rainbow is one of the most commonly recognized international symbols of gay pride.

LGVMA has updated our logo to include the rainbow colors. The new logo keeps our historic triangle outline and incorporates the rainbow in the "V" on top of the rod of Asclepius.

Several versions of the LGVMA logo will be available for merchandise and organizational communication and recognition. We are excited to introduce our new logo as LGVMA has become more accepted within the veterinary community. We also hope that our symbol will spark purchase of LGVMA merchandise at Café Press located on our website at [www.lgvma.org](http://www.lgvma.org). We hope you will purchase a t-shirt or two!



Our new LGVMA logo.



Variations, shown below, of the logo are available on T-shirts and LGVMA merchandise online at CafePress: [www.cafepress.com/lgvma](http://www.cafepress.com/lgvma)

# Vet Tech Outreach

LGVMA is reaching out to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician students with the hope of expanding our membership in 2009. Although we have always welcomed technician members, we are enhancing our efforts through an active outreach program.

Lyn Garson, CVT, was elected last year as LGVMA's veterinary technician representative and board member. She is leading these exciting outreach efforts and is in the process of collaborating with veterinary technician schools and associations throughout North America to spread the word about LGVMA. Lyn is looking for volunteers to join in this outreach work. If you are interested please contact Lyn at [vettech@lgvma.org](mailto:vettech@lgvma.org).

Another exciting initiative targeted at veterinary technicians is the development of a pilot veterinary technician student scholarship program, which the board recently voted to begin in 2009. The application deadline has been extended to **September 30, 2009**. Scholarship information can be found on the LGVMA website.

Finally, in an effort to be more inclusive to all veterinary professionals, the LGVMA bylaws and constitution are being updated to reflect our commitment to diversifying our membership.



Please join **Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS)** as we go for a walk (or a run) and take our leashes to the **San Francisco AIDS Walk on Sunday, July 19th** in Golden Gate Park.

**Team PAWS: Doggone Fun Run** is an officially registered team at the San Francisco AIDS Walk. We'll be back in the park and all the pledges collected by our team members will help support the vital services of PAWS.

To sign up and start collecting pledges, visit us at [www.doggonefunrun.org](http://www.doggonefunrun.org) or call 415-979-9550 x309 today or sponsor John Lipp, President of PAWS.

## LGVMA Five-Year Plan

Doubling the budget in five years

Board development and expansion

Become North American organization - include Canada, Caribbean and Mexico

Active chapters in 75% of North American veterinary schools

Diversity— increase participation in discussions

Update LGVMA image

LGVMA major event— LGBT cruise

75% of members “out” at workplace

Hire paid staff

750 members by the year 2014

Scholarships:  
three veterinary student  
and three technician student  
scholarships at \$1000 each

Major educational project

Increase value of website

Annual World AIDS Day as a  
LGVMA project

Work to convince AVMA/CVMA  
to recognize our World AIDS  
Day program

# Montreal– The New Beginning

By Wayne Hollingshead, DVM

The ACVIM/CVMA meeting was our first true “out” event for LGVMA. We displayed our new banner at the LGVMA booth, which was staffed by two volunteers, besides me, over the three days of the conference. We found that staffing the booth at all times became important rather than just at coffee breaks. Thanks Ken and Shane.

We produced business cards to hand out, as well as an informational sheet in both English and French. The majority of these were given to interested gay and lesbian individuals as well as supportive straight people.

There was no negativity toward us, and in fact, those that stopped by kept saying “I did not know you existed! I am glad you are here.” A positive, supportive comment came from a well-known Canadian veterinarian who said, “I am so glad you are here to push our conservative profession.” We received an honest “Thank you for being part of the exhibits” from the President of ACVIM.

Another of the unknown bonuses was the presence of many faculty members from various veterinary colleges. Many who stopped by showed interest in helping to promote our association to veterinary students.

While at the conference we developed a good rapport with the Canadian Veterinary Technician Association (CAAHT). They also offered to help with some of the translation work that may need to be done.

Our presence also helped a few transgendered students who presently struggle in vet schools as well as the many vet and tech students who also stopped by to say “glad you are here and glad we have a group to associate with.”



Wayne Hollingshead and Ken Gorczyca show off our new LGVMA banner at the booth in Montreal.

Another positive experience was an inquiry from Veterinary Economics magazine.

Our experience culminated with a Friday night dinner for 20 people. Everyone had a great time at the dinner with some new people interested in joining and some that had let their membership lapse but wanted to come back.

Some of the lessons learned by staffing the booth include: when someone approached the booth we used the non-threatening phrase: “Do you know anyone who might benefit from knowing about LGVMA's existence?”

The booth needs to be staffed during the entire convention time - it can be as busy in between breaks as during a break.

The dinner should be planned well ahead of the conference, with day and time posted on our website- actual place to be determined once the organizers are there. This allows for people to plan ahead if they would like to join us.

I hope we can continue to participate over the next few years at major conventions- it is truly a rewarding experience for our association, as well as for the lesbian/gay/transgendered/bisexual veterinary professionals who are out there.

Thanks Canada for your open arms and hospitality!

# Toronto Pride 2009

By Shane Bateman, DVM

On Saturday, June 27, 2009, the newly christened LGVMA banner was invited to join in Toronto's Pride Celebration.

Dr. Morris Samson, a local veterinarian and LGBT ally, saw the banner and was introduced to our organization during the promotional activities at CVMA/ACVIM in Montreal. Dr. Samson, his family, and some of his staff members, participate annually in Toronto Pride's community festival, both to increase exposure of his clinic to LGBT clientele and also as a tribute to his late classmate and friend, Martin DeForest. Dr. Samson made arrangements with LGVMA to have the banner participate jointly with his community festival booth.

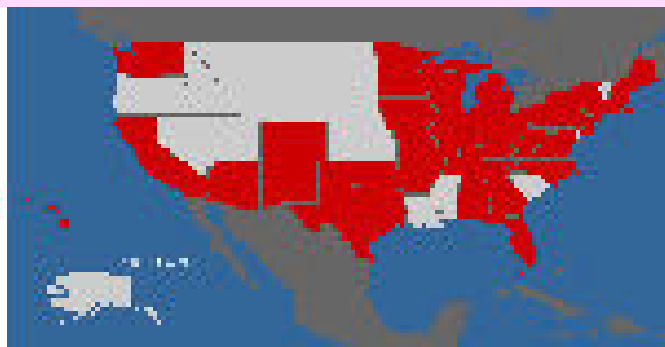
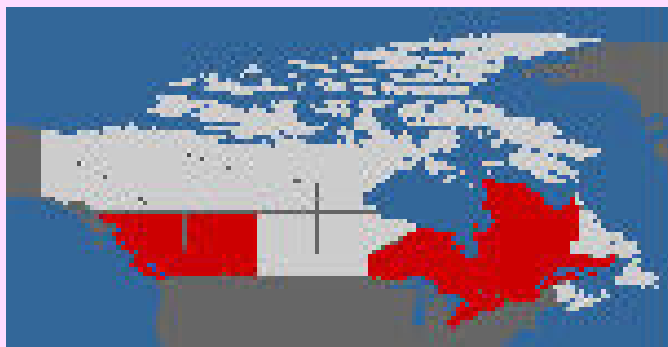
Dr. Shane Bateman volunteered to be the official banner monitor and made this a part of his own Pride celebrations this year in Toronto. For those unfamiliar with Toronto Pride, it is frequently considered one of the top three Pride celebrations to attend in North America, after San Francisco and New York.

The parade is the culminating event of the week long celebrations and frequently garners 800,000 to 1,000,000 gay and straight spectators. Although the weather was not ideal this year, the parade was a great success. The community festival occurs in the heart of the gay village/ghetto in Toronto where several blocks are closed to traffic but open to all sorts of revelry and great fun. LGVMA participation



in the event this year was a great start, we had lots of traffic and are hopeful we increased awareness and possibly increased membership too. Happy Pride from Toronto!

## LGVMA Members Are Everywhere



Besides the United States and Canada, LGVMA is proud to have members from Australia, New Zealand, St. Kitts, and France. We truly are everywhere— come join us!

## Weddings are everywhere too— announce yours here!

LGVMA member Daniel K. Edge, DVM and AJ Wolff Edge of Lewisville, NC will be legally married on July 20th, 2009 in the attendance of friends and family in Des Moines, Iowa.

# LGVMA Student Chapter News

## Two Successful Student Events SAVMA Symposium 2009

On March 27, 2009 over 30 students attended the 2nd Annual LGVMA SAVMA Social. A panel of "out" veterinarians from private practice, public practice and academia were present to interact with students about their experiences as "out" veterinarians. Our thanks to panelists Shane Bateman, DVM, Linda Detwiller, DVM, and Jennifer Thomas, DVM. It seems most of the students' questions involved general job search advice; it's encouraging that not many involved issues of discrimination or coming out in the workplace. A huge thank you to Lemongrass Fusion restaurant and also to Jenni Huelsman (OSU '10) and everyone else who coordinated and/or attended the event.

Now is the time to start planning for next year's event which will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin from March 10-14, 2010. If you are planning on attending or are a UW student please contact us so that we can form the planning committee for 2010!

## World AIDS DAY 2008

The First Annual World AIDS Day event at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, held on December 1st, 2008, was a huge success. Over 600 informational packets and red ribbons were distributed to students and faculty. Nearly 200 guests attended the lecture on the Veterinarian's Continuing Role in the HIV/AIDS epidemic, presented by Dr. Caroline Schaffer. The one-of-a-kind event brought together health professionals, and students, from

both the human and veterinary fields to discuss the veterinarian's role in the healthcare team necessary to help HIV/AIDS patients establish and maintain safe relationships with their animal companions.

Following the lecture, attendees were provided lunch and offered the opportunity to rotate through several booths with additional information. Representatives from East Alabama Medical Center AIDS Outreach program as well as a number of Auburn faculty members were available with additional information on zoonotic diseases, the global impact of HIV/AIDS and much more. This student-led initiative was the result of numerous organizations coming together and collaborating in an effort to raise awareness and improve the lives of humans and animals alike. The feedback from event attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and several individuals asked what the plans are for next year!

Nick De Pompa  
Auburn University  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
DVM Student - 2011  
depompa@auburn.edu

## Ross University

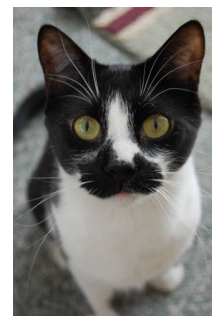
Hello, LGVMA members!  
I am a new LGVMA member and first year student at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine on the Caribbean isle of St. Kitts.

I arrived at Ross in January and found the campus LGBT group was inactive.

The club, which is rumored to have once been very active with a healthy membership, had not met for some time, and there seemed to be no initiative to revive it. Since then, with minimal effort, I received assistance from a faculty member, along with a few outgoing students, and we've begun holding small social gatherings.

I hope that with a little more time and exposure we will see membership grow again. My goal is to develop a community-minded social group that can reach out to the campus, and perhaps even the St. Kitts community, to help increase awareness and to encourage tolerance and understanding.

Melissa J. Ryce  
Ross University School of Veterinary  
Medicine— Class of 2012  
mryce@rossvet.edu.kn



## Got Student News?

Send it to  
[lgvma@lgvma.org](mailto:lgvma@lgvma.org)

# LGVMA Student Scholarship Update

We received 14 qualified applications for the 2009 LGVMA Vet Student Scholarship Program. This number is up from applications received in 2008! The committee will choose two outstanding applicants and announce them at our Annual Meeting in Seattle. The awards were raised to \$750 this year.

## **Veterinary Technician Students!**

Our first Veterinary Technician Student Scholarship deadline has been extended to September 30, 2009 to allow for greater publicity and participation. We have done outreach to American and Canadian veterinary technician schools and associations to get the word out about our new technician scholarship. We also need your help to get the word

out and encourage qualified technician student applicants to apply.

Check our website at [www.lgvma.org](http://www.lgvma.org) to find out more about the LGVMA student scholarship programs.

LGVMA depends on your generous donations to help fund our student scholarship programs. You can donate directly on-line by visiting us at [www.lgvma.org](http://www.lgvma.org) or send a check to LGVMA, 584 Castro Street # 492, San Francisco, CA 94114.

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## 5 Ways You Can Help LGVMA

1. Volunteer to help staff our information booth at conferences
2. Bring our banner to a local event
3. Donate airline miles or hotel extras
4. Donate to our general fund and/or student scholarship funds
5. Encourage your friends and colleagues to become LGVMA members

## LGVMA Volunteer Opportunities— Work From Home Using Your Computer

### **Student Scholarship Committee**

Review veterinary student and veterinary technician student scholarship applications from the comfort of your home!

### **Yahoo Listserv Moderator**

Help LGVMA moderate our public listserv from home by reviewing membership applications and guiding discussions.

### **Newsletter Writer**

Submit an essay or article.

### **Bylaw and Constitution Update Committee**

Help with our official organizational paperwork.

### **Veterinary Technician Outreach Committee**

Help LGVMA outreach to the veterinary technician community.

### **Board Development**

Join our board of directors. You are not required to attend board meetings in person, but can join us via teleconference.

### **LGVMA Special Event**

Help us organize an educational LGBT cruise event.

Contact us at [lgvma@lgvma.org](mailto:lgvma@lgvma.org) to volunteer or for more information on these exciting opportunities.

# Upcoming Events

## AVMA Annual Convention

Seattle, Washington

July 11 to 14, 2009

While attending the conference in Seattle, come join LGVMA for a networking dinner and other events...

Planning meeting—

Saturday, July 11 at 10AM to 4PM

Hotel and room on [www.lgvma.org](http://www.lgvma.org)

LGVMA annual meeting—

Sunday, July 12 noon to 1PM followed by board meeting from 1 to 2PM

Educational booth planned for exhibit hall— volunteers are needed to staff our booth during peak hours. Please contact us at [info@lgvma.org](mailto:info@lgvma.org) if you are interested in helping.

## Emergency and Critical Care Conference

Hyatt Regency- downtown Chicago

Sept 9 to 13, 2009

LGVMA needs volunteers to organize networking dinners at these conferences.



## The 27th Annual Conference of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association Sept 30-October 3, 2009

Washington, DC

[www.glma.org](http://www.glma.org)

Many of LGVMA members have physician spouses!



Two sequential conferences jointly sponsored by:

University of Missouri

[www.missouri.edu](http://www.missouri.edu)

## International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ)

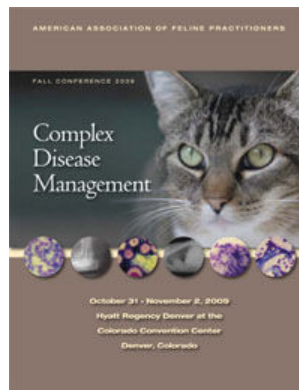
18th Annual Conference

Oct. 20 to 23, 2009

Kansas City, Missouri

## Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction (ReCHAI) 1st Human Animal Interaction Conference

Oct. 22 to 25, 2009



## Complex Disease Management American Association of Feline Practitioners

October 30 - November 2, 2009

Hyatt Regency Denver at  
Colorado Convention Center  
Denver, CO

More information click [here...](#)

## World AIDS Day

December 1, 2009

(Auburn and beyond)

Come join us for the second annual World AIDS Day events. Watch for updates and information as this event gets closer.

## LGVMA 2010

LGVMA will be hosting networking social opportunities at NAVC, WSVC, MWVC, SAVMA Symposium, AVMA, Canadian VMA and ACVIM in 2010. Please contact us if you are interesting in helping at any of these exciting events.

If you would like to organize an LGVMA event at another conference, we can help you do this. Contact us at [info@lgvma.org](mailto:info@lgvma.org)

Check our website at [www.lgvma.org](http://www.lgvma.org) for all the latest conference event updates.

# LGVMA Networking Cards

LGVMA networking cards are a great way to introduce your friends and colleagues to our organization and encourage membership. Simply send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will send you a packet of 5 cards (or more if you request number).

LGVMA Networking Cards, 584 Castro Street #492, San Francisco, CA 94114

Card Back



## 16th Annual Pride of Pets Fund Dog Show

PETS-DC 16<sup>th</sup> Annual "Pride of Pets" Fun Dog Show took place at Dupont Circle on June 21, 2009. Founded in October 1990 as a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with HIV/AIDS or other disabling conditions and their companion animals, PETS-DC also provides public health education, exercise, pet food, veterinary care, grooming, foster care, and adoptions at no cost to individuals in the Metropolitan Washington DC area. Chip Wells, DVM is founder and has helped run this organization.

Description of categories included: Best Tail Wagging, Most Affectionate, Best Mirror Image, Most Obedient, Most Original Costume, Least Obedient, Most Mysterious Heritage, Terrific Pet Tricks, Best Puppy, Best Senior Dog, Best Pairs, Most Glamorous, Best Vocal Performance, Most Adorable, Peoples Choice of Best of Show Award.



Bryan, the handler, and "Diesel", the dog, (owned by Daniel Sadory and Matt Baty) as First Place Winner of Peoples Choice/Best of Show. Photo by Elvert Xaview Barnes Photography

You can advertise in LGVMA's Good News! quarterly newsletter.

Current members receive complementary classified ads for job listings in the newsletter and on our website.

Non-members can advertise job listings for \$30 per issue (includes website post).

1/4 page business ad for one newsletter issue is \$100 and includes free link on our website. Members receive 50% discount. Contact us for 1/2 page and full page ad prices.

# cafépress®

## LGVMA store open at CafePress

visit [www.cafepress.com/lgvma](http://www.cafepress.com/lgvma)

Check out LGVMA wear and LGVMA wares. 100% of all proceeds from the sale of LGVMA products will go directly into our General Fund.

# DON'T GIVE AWAY BUSINESS!

Offer your clients everything they need to get rid of fleas.

## WONDERCIDE FACTS

- Specially formulated for the Veterinary and Animal health industry
- Replaces toxic prescription spot drop treatments and pesticide use on property
- Kills fleas, eggs, and larvae on contact
- Use for pre or post infestation
- EPA Exempt Bio-solution and listed NON TOXIC
- FDA certified human food grade ingredients
- USDA National Organics Program

All neurotoxins are banned in the U.S. as of 2011



**BREAK THE CYCLE.** Treat the environment to protect the ones you are responsible for. Neurotoxic Spot On Flea and Tick treatments are known carcinogens that poison animals and humans. Most drops and pills are only effective in killing the parasites that bite the animal. The life cycle must be eliminated to safely and logically protect animals from being hosts. Known side effects include liver, kidney, thyroid, heart and lung damage, dry, itchy skin, and erratic behavior.

## Wondercide™ is the answer.

Unlike spot on treatments, Wondercide™ products are nontoxic and completely safe for use on pets, including puppies, kittens, and nursing mothers. It's time to **stop poisoning pets** with pesticides and start eliminating harmful parasites with a safe, organic alternative.

See the whole line of Wondercide™ products for pets, people, and property at [wondercide.com](http://wondercide.com) or call toll free (877) TX-ORGANIC for information.

