AHVMF Board Meeting Minutes

Dial 800-791-2345 Code is 52361

**Date: Jan 13, 2016**

**Time: 6 pm PST, 9 pm EST**

**Call to Order by Rick at 9:12 pm**

**Members present: Dr. Rick Palmquist, Dr. Marjorie Lewter, Dr. Barbara Royal, Dr. Jean Dodds, Dr. Nancy Scanlan, Dr. Larry Bernstein, Dr. Natasha Lilly, Darlene Knowles**

**President's Opening Remarks–**Barbara Royal thinks that we need more members of the board, and more energy to reach our goals. Things to learn, things to help, and things to enhance networking. She agreed to work up a blog for us. Ten(or six) things you can do to help holistic medicine. For example, learn about an herb, find a mentor, post a case, etc.

Discussion about getting help with social media was discussed. Natasha and Marge volunteered contacts.

**Approval of minutes**

**Financial Report** – Nancy sent basic report on fundraising campaign. There is money available for administrative purposes and to pay for the current grants. The dental study is still unfinished.

A discussion of anesthesia free dentistry ensued. It was noted that additional funds are needed to defend, and promote the research that we support. We can reach out to our advisory board for help on these issues.

**Committee Reports**

**Scholarship** – Marge no changes from last year’s scholarships, we hope to get a new sponsor for the Gloria Dodd scholarship as the family has not funded it for a few years.

**Grants** – Jean is still reviewing grant proposals as they come in.

**Research** – Rick is looking into corporate donations for a research fund or they can donate for a particular study.

**Executive Director's Report**- Nancy discussed how to increase the perpetual donors and the fact that research is of more interest to the general public than the subjects of education and Fellowships.

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The Foundation has supplied funding for 15 research studies. Of those, four have finished:

• Rodale study of baseline information on pastured hogs

• Coagulant properties of Yunnan Baiyao in horses, which characterizes increased action of

a number of items involved in coagulation.

• Equine Postural study, which provided information on a method to objectively measure

changes in posture before and after manipulative therapy

• Small dog half dose vaccine pilot study, to determine whether dogs weighing less than 10

pounds can mount an immune response with half the recommended dose of vaccine

In addiition, Dr. Dodds’ study on antibody detection for food allergies in equine saliva was

initially approved for funding by the Foundation. Dr. Dodd generously donated the cost back to

the Foundation.

Other studies currently still being carried out include:

• Aloe Vera compared to Omeprazole for Equine Ulcers

• GMOs in dog and cat food

• Comparison of non-anesthetic vs anesthetic teeth cleaning using technicians trained by

human dental technicians

• Use of Fat Stroma in cats with chronic kidney disease (similar to stem cells, but simpler

extraction)

• Use of the Banerii Protocol for canine osteosarcoma

• Action of low level lasers on equine tendon fibroblasts

• Acupuncgture to alleviate side effects of cancer chemotherapy

• Acupuncture for equine laminitis

• Acupuncture and Chinese Herbs with standard protocol for Lymphoma

The dental study is stalled because the University of Pennsylvania has refused to allow the next

phase to be continued there. They had originally signed a letter of agreement. No other

veterinary schools are willing to allow this. Preliminary evaluations by boarded veterinary

dentists in a blinded evaluation, have indicated that non-anesthetic teeth cleaning in dogs done

by properly trained technicians are just as good as those done under general anesthetic.

Unfortunately the initial number of dogs is enough for a small pilot study, and the second half

would have supplied enough dogs altogether to make a much stronger statement.

We have 2 studies which have been approved but not yet funded. These include use of Nagalase

as a test to follow success or failure of cancer treatments, and use of low level laser therapy for

canine acral lick granuloma.

January 15 is our next deadline for grant applications. We expect at least 2 more: one on the use

of low level laser therapy to reduce aggression in shelter dogs, and the other for the use of

Agmatine to help alleviate pain in intervertebral disc disease.

Our winter fundraiser was successful in raising over $72,000. We are starting to receive a

number of monthly and quarterly recurring donations, and average donation amounts are

beginning to increase. The Foundation’s fundraising seasons have been from spring/fall to

summer/winter. The next event will be from mid-May to mid-June.

Judging by the number of times our Facebook page is shared, we are reaching about one million

people.

Since we are relatively new, it is difficult to compare statistics from our organization to statistics

with other organizations. We have a greater percentage of new donors compared to continuing

donors. Our overall retention rate for all donors is 20%. Nationally, in 2013-2014, for every 100

donors gained, 103 were lost. For every $100 gained, $95 was lost. Some of our biggest

supporters in the past are having health problems or financial difficulties. On the other hand, we

gained Leslie Bogart, who donated $8,000 and promises to be an ongoing supporter of specific

projects of interest. Karen Becker’s support has brought many new donors again, also, as well as

strong financial support. As more people continue to hear about us, our donor base should grow.

**Old Business**

The new brochure is still in progress

Networking with vet schools- Natasha will re-send the document she and Marge worked on at the conference in this regard. Marge asked everyone to send their suggestions for the student essays to her by the end of the week.

**New Business**

All agreed that continuous campaign and sharing techniques from what Rick does on Facebook are needed to keep our exposure to the public and to gain support.

All agreed that we need ongoing new board member recruiting/nomination.

We re-iterated that we do not have “members” as in membership of the Foundation, but to have “donors”.

There was non-profit fundraising training information for board members/members sent from Barbara Royal. It is easy to learn about fundraising from webinars and we hope to sit down together toA educate ourselves on this.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Marjorie M. Lewter, DVM**

**Secretary**

**Future Board Meetings**

(Second Wednesday on alternate months starting in January)

March 16

May 11

July 13

September 9, 2016 at AHVMA conference