Annual Meeting September 22, 2012

The NBVMA Annual Meeting was held September 22, 2012 at the Ramada Plaza Crystal Palace, Dieppe, NB.

Thirty-two members and one guest were present at the meeting. Dr. Ernie Prowse, representing the Atlantic Provinces Veterinary Conference was present as guest.

Dr. Melanie Hicks called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved with power to add. (Themens/Berry)

The minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting were discussed. Dr. R. Grignon-Boutet moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Berry. Passed.

Atlantic Provinces Veterinary Conference

Dr. Prowse reported that there would be a wider range of topics for technicians at the 2013 conference. He informed members that Dr. Bert Stevenson has stepped down from the APVC committee after many years of dedicated service. The current committee includes Dr. Jack Cameron, Peter Ainslie, Steve Myette, Dr. Don Rushton, and Dr. Donna Spracklin.

National Examining Board

Dr. Whittle read the NEB report on behalf of Dr. Jack Cameron. The report stated that AVC has achieved a renewal of NEB accreditation. He also states that some provincial associations have been approached by their provincial governments to provide accountability guidelines regarding fairness in their licensing processes. This may mean that in future the licensing bodies may not be able to refer all such enquiries to the NEB. They may be required to provide their own licensing guidelines, which could present a significant challenge to smaller licensing bodies such as ours.

Reports

President

Dr. Melanie Hicks reported that this had been an extremely productive year for the NBVMA. With the establishment of clear mandates for Council and each committee, many goals were achieved. Council worked with Dean Reynolds of AVC to strive for renewal of the interprovincial funding agreement. Council representatives met with the Minister of Agriculture and Aquaculture in July/12. A wide range of topics were discussed, including the long-term vision for provincial veterinary services, the initiatives for recruiting aquatic and large animal veterinarians to the province, and the possibility of the provincial government helping fund rabies testing. Dr. Hicks reported that over the past year there has been an increasing drive for collaboration between all regulatory bodies to have one voice for all veterinarians in Canada. (i.e. drug dispensing, extra-label
drug use, trade/labour mobility, animal welfare standards etc.). Recently the regulatory body Presidents approved the development of a joint provincial position statement for canine ear cropping and tail docking.

Treasurer

Dr. George Whittle presented the interim 2012 Financial Statement, showing a current bank balance of $31,114.72, and total assets of $314,615.72. Dr. Whittle stated that seemingly higher than normal legal fees showing were partially a result of a large payment of some 2011 legal fees early in 2012. The interim financial statement was accepted as circulated. (Goltz/Themens).

Complaints

Dr. Whittle reported on behalf of Dr. T. Mouris. There were no complaints dealt with the committee in the past year, but there have recently been two submissions to be reviewed.

Discipline

Dr. Whittle reported on behalf of Dr. R. Hartt. There were no complaints dealt with by the Discipline Committee this past year.

CVMA

Dr. J. Berry reported that this past year has been a very interesting year for the CVMA and for the future of veterinary medicine in Canada, as there are many international and federal government policies and actions that have the potential to significantly affect the way that veterinarians are able to practice in Canada. Dr. Berry gave an update on the number of provinces that have bylaws or provincial legislation that restricts cosmetic surgery. Dr. Berry wanted to remind all members of the 2013 CVMA convention in Victoria, BC, from July 10-13, 2013.

AVC Advisory

Dr. E. Leger reported that at the November 2011 meeting, time was spent re-defining the role of the Advisory Council. The new hospital director, Dr. Tracy Mathews, was introduced, and Dr. Leger had discussions with him regarding problems with communication delays between the AVC clinicians and referring practitioners. Dr. Leger stated that AVC received full accreditation from its most recent inspection, and also AVC has announced that they will have an in-house CT machine this fall. It will be able to accommodate both large and small animal cases.

Orientation Committee

Dr. A. Saindon reported that it was a very busy year for the Orientation Committee, with 24 new members joining the NBVMA since the last AGM. Dr. Saindon wanted to remind members, and particularly practice owners who hire new graduates, that one cannot practice veterinary medicine until they have officially graduated and gone through the interview process.
Newsletter

Dr. Whittle reported that there was only one issue of the NBVMA Newsletter since the last AGM. He hopes to have another issue out in the next few months.

Drug and Food Safety Committee

Dr. Themens reported that this committee resolved to generate columns for the NBVMA Newsletter pertaining to the common problems encountered with drug dispensing. Two articles were written so far, with the second due to appear in the next newsletter issue. Provincial meat inspection is an ongoing concern, which was presented to the Minister of Agriculture at the meeting on July/12. In August, the Committee was asked to comment on new prescription templates, proposed by ANAC (Animal Nutrition Association of Canada). The Committee is planning on updating the language in Bylaw 22 this coming year.

Animal Welfare

Dr. Themens stated that the Committee met several times this past year in anticipation of holding another shelter attendant euthanasia training weekend. The weekend was held in June, and they are in the process of doing the in-house evaluations. The feasibility of inserting portions of the euthanasia training course in a protected area of our website is being assessed.

Practice Standards Committee

Dr. Themens reported that the Committee spent much time revising the Advertising bylaws and guidelines. After review by the NBVMA legal counsel, the bylaw 20 and guidelines were forwarded to the Registrar for voting at the AGM. A sub-committee was formed whose mandate was to focus on clarifying language in CAVM bylaws/position statements. Definitions for specialists, consulting veterinarians and emergency facilities will be looked at in the coming year, as well as the role of AHT’s in the veterinary health care team.

Act Committee

Dr. Themens reported that the Committee members examined the Act in detail, identifying items that were of concern, or problematic to the membership. When the comprehensive list was compiled, the NBVMA legal counsel was consulted. Two main options were identified: a) Open the Act and make changes within the Act. b) Work within our present Act and modify our existing bylaws to better serve the membership’s needs. The recommendations and options will be presented at this AGM for a vote.

NBVMA/DHW Liaison Committee

Dr. Themens reported that the Committee members actively communicated and corresponded with various levels of government regarding the current CFIA policy regarding rabies submissions.
Economics

Dr. F. Arsenault reported that the Committee reviewed the 2012 NBVMA Suggested Fee Guide and is currently soliciting input from NBVMA members on areas of the guide that can be expanded or made clearer. The Marketing Strategies Sub-Committee was given a mandate to explore how to promote the profession. They were also given the mandate to develop a survey to determine a) if the membership wanted to go forward with a marketing campaign, b) what the membership wanted as a focus for a marketing campaign, and c) what they would be willing to spend on a marketing campaign.

Old Business

There was no Old Business submitted.

New Business

1. Nomination of new Committee members:
   AVC Advisory - Liane Nelson
   CVMA – J. Berry (Themens/Paul Boutet) (until July 14/13)
   M. Hicks (July 14/13 until Dec. 31/16)
   Discipline – C. Adams
   Orientation - A. Saindon
   Practice Standards – S. Moskovits, P. Moffett, M. Trenholm, R. Hayward, A. Rossignol

2. Nomination of new Council members: There were 6 nominations (Drs. L. Nelson, D. Cartwright, A. Crandlemire, M. Trenholm, R. Hayward, and L. Freeze) for the 3 open positions. Drs. L. Nelson, M. Trenholm, and L. Freeze) were elected.

3. Nomination of a new President and Vice-President: There were 2 Council members that agreed to let their names stand for the position of President and Vice-President (Drs. M. E. Themens and L. Freeze). Dr. M. E. Themens was elected as President, and Dr. L. Freeze became Vice-President.

4. Recommendation for NEB Atlantic Representative: Council had recommended that Dr. Jack Cameron from Nova Scotia be recommended to continue for one more term as the Atlantic NEB representative. Dr. Themens moved that membership accept this recommendation and forward it to the CVMA. Seconded by Dr. Paul Boutet. Passed.
5. Proposal regarding opening of the NBVMA Act: After brief discussion of comments from the Act committee and NBVMA legal counsel, Dr. J. Goltz moved to not open the Act. Seconded by Dr. M.E. Themens. Passed.

6. Proposed amendments to Bylaw 20 (Advertising – see attachment #1): Dr. M. E. Themens moved that the amendments pass as presented. Seconded by Dr. J. Berry. Passed.

7. Proposed Advertising Guidelines: After discussion, Dr. J. Goltz moved that the guidelines be passed with the following changes: a) Delete 20.02 (f)  b) Delete the portion of 20.02 (g) in bold: “Veterinarians shall disclose specific limitations when advertising emergency service so as to avoid confusion for individuals seeking aid in the case of an emergency. If there are restrictions, they should be clearly indicated so that, as an example, a client with a dog hit by a car doesn’t call a feline only specialty practice”. (see attachment #2) Seconded by A. Saindon. Passed.

8. Proposed amendments to Bylaw 15.03 g) (iv): that “the designated 180 day timeframe is to be interpreted as being 180 business days from date of death, or 30 days from time that probate is issued, whichever is longer. Council will grant extensions, if the timeframe presents hardships to the surviving family.” Dr. M. E. Themens moved that the amendment pass as presented. Seconded by Dr. J. Goltz. Passed.

9. Proposed amendment to Bylaw 14 (Rules of Professional Conduct): I Responsibility to the Client 14.01 a) “In the event of suspected animal cruelty/neglect a member should/must contact the Animal Welfare Committee, with the particulars of the case. The Committee will then forward the file to the NBSPCA who are mandated to investigate and prosecute cases of animal cruelty/neglect. Members are protected from discipline for breach of confidentiality”. After discussion Dr. J. Goltz moved that the following amendments be made: “In the event of suspected animal cruelty/neglect a member must contact the Registrar, with the particulars of the case. The Registrar will then forward the file to the NBSPCA who are mandated to investigate and prosecute cases of animal cruelty/neglect. Members are protected from discipline for breach of confidentiality”. Seconded by Dr. Themens. Passed.

10. Proposed amendment to Bylaw 8.01: “Mandatory annual membership or license fees for practicing veterinarians and professional corporations shall be in such amounts as may from time to time be determined by an ordinary resolution of the Council and shall, except as provided in the rules, include the annual fees payable for membership in the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.” Dr. G. Whittle moved that the amendment pass as presented. Seconded by Dr. Paul Boutet. Passed.
11. Proposed CAVM Position Statement: After discussion, Dr. J. Goltz moved that the definition of CAVM be changed from “Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine (CAVM) is a term to describe treatments, therapies and modalities that are not currently accepted as components of mainstream veterinary medicine and may differ from current scientific knowledge.” to “is a term used to describe treatments, therapies, and modalities that may complement veterinary knowledge and medicine.” Seconded by Dr. J. Berry. Dr. J. Berry moved that the position statement be accepted as amended. (see attachment # 3 a) Seconded by Dr. J. Goltz. Passed.

12. Proposed Conflict of Interest Position Statement: Dr. M.E. Themens moved that the position statement be accepted as presented. Seconded by Dr. S. Justason. Passed.

13. 2013 Membership dues: After discussion, Dr. G. Whittle moved that the 2013 dues be increased by 2.9% from the present amount. Seconded by Dr. Paul Boutet. Passed. The total dues, including HST on the CVMA portion will thus be $765.68.

14. Location of the 2013 Annual General meeting: Dr. F. Arsenault moved that the 2013 AGM be held in Moncton. Seconded by Dr. J. Berry. Passed. Drs. Erica Allen and Liane Nelson agreed to co-chair the meeting.

Adjournment.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned (Berry/Goltz)