



# Association of Shelter Veterinarians Annual Report



2009

## Mission Statement

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians seeks to improve the health and well being of animals in shelters through the advancement of shelter medicine.

### ASV 2009 EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### President

**Miranda Spindel, DVM, MS**  
ASPCA  
Fort Collins, CO

#### Vice President

**Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM**  
Animal Rescue League of Boston  
Boston, MA

#### Secretary

**Jeanette O'Quin, DVM**  
Ohio Department of Health  
Columbus, OH

#### Treasurer

**Mary Blinn, DVM**  
Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control  
Charlotte, NC

#### Members-at-Large

**Cynthia Barker Cox, DVM**  
MSPCA Animal Care & Adoption Center  
Boston, MA

#### Phil Bushby, DVM, MS, DACVS

Mississippi State University  
Mississippi State, MS

#### Brenda Griffin, DVM, MS, DACVIM

College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Florida

#### Kate Hurley, DVM, MPVM

UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program  
Davis, CA

#### Natalie Isaza, DVM

University of Florida Shelter Medicine Program  
Gainesville, FL

#### Sandra Newbury, DVM

UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program  
Davis, CA

#### ASV Staff

**Julie Dinnage, DVM**  
Executive Director

#### Tesha Hoff

Administrative Assistant

### COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

#### Nominating Committee

Brenda Griffin, DVM, MS, DACVIM

#### Continuing Education Committee

Jeanette O'Quin, DVM

#### Student Chapter Committee

Natalie Isaza, DVM

#### Scholarship Committee

Mary Blinn, DVM

#### Board Specialty Task Force

Kate Hurley, DVM, MPVM

#### Shelter Standards Task Force

Sandra Newbury, DVM

#### Veterinary Task Force to Advance

#### Spay-Neuter

Phil Bushby, DVM, MS, DACVS

#### Newest Member of ASV Board—2009

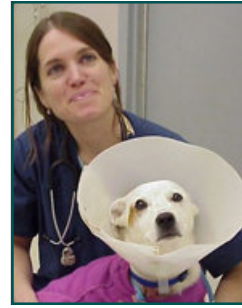


Dr. Phil Bushby is a 1972 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a Board Certified Veterinary Surgeon and holds the Marcia Lane Endowed Professorship of Humane Ethics and

Animal Welfare at Mississippi State University where he has been on the faculty for 32 years. For the past 17 years his primary focus has been spay/neuter and taking veterinary students to shelters across north Mississippi. His interest in shelter medicine and spay/neuter dates back to his internship and surgical residency at the Henry Bergh Memorial Hospital of the ASPCA in New York City. Dr. Bushby's primary goal is to make sure the next generation of veterinarians understand the problem of overpopulation of unwanted dogs and cats and recognize their role in assisting in addressing this problem.

# From the ASV President

2009



**Miranda Spindel, DVM**  
President 2008-10

It is with great pride and excitement, and perhaps a bit of nostalgia, that I write this letter for inclusion in the Association of Shelter Veterinarian's inaugural annual report. At the time of print, I'll be stepping away from the role of President and transitioning with the Board of Directors into a new year with an infusion of bright leaders, fresh ideas, and top-notch energy. Even as I look toward the future and celebrate what is certain to be a year of growth and success for the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, I cannot help but look back to appreciate the phenomenal year we have had! The Association of Shelter Veterinarians experienced many milestones in growth this year that are further highlighted in the accompanying pages of this report.

The Board of Directors kicked off the year with the ASV's first ever strategic planning session. With planning for the organization's future in mind, two staff positions were created this year – an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant. Both positions will perpetuate, with a fortuitous grant from the Maddie's Fund assisting with salary for the administrative position. Although their work is not always visible, the organization is growing and will

continue to develop because of the efforts of the dedicated professional staff of the ASV. Due many thanks are Dr. Julie Dinnage, Executive Director and Ms. Tesha Hoff, Administrative Assistant.

I would also like to call attention to the dedicated efforts of the entire Board of Directors. These individuals give willingly of their time to help shape the future of the ASV. In addition to the myriad of issues that Directors provide input on, most also chair committees, serve on more than one ASV Task Force, are authors of the shelter standards paper, aid in monitoring the list-serve, and also hold full-time shelter related jobs! Their commitment and collegial efforts for the ASV are deeply appreciated.

The ASV is still a very young organization and shelter medicine is a burgeoning field with many challenges awaiting our focused efforts. I anticipate that over the next few years, we will continue to think and plan strategically and our collective work will increasingly impact *"the health and well being of animals in shelters through the advancement of shelter medicine"*. As a supporter of the ASV, a member of the ASV, perhaps a shelter

veterinarian – you make that possible. I invite you to read and experience for yourself how the ASV is earning national recognition, planning for the future, working to meet the unique needs of a growing membership and defining shelter medicine. While there is still much to do – we are, in the words of Jim Collins, going from "Good to Great"!

It has certainly been a great privilege to work alongside each of you in the fine work you do every day as the President of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. I look forward to working together next year as past-President, and beyond, for there are truly exciting times ahead!

Take care of yourselves and the animals,

**While there is still much to do – we are, in the words of Jim Collins, going from "Good to Great"!**

# Task Force and Committee Reports

## Continuing Education Committee

Jeanette O'Quin, DVM

The CE committee has been hard at work planning shelter medicine lectures and recommending speakers for conferences such as NAVC, CVC, WVC, HSUS expo, and SAVMA. It is very encouraging to see both large and small veterinary conferences adding shelter medicine topics to their continuing education meetings. Several ASV student chapters also requested speakers for their meetings.

In 2009, ASV expanded its presence at NAVC from a 1-day track to a 2-day symposium. All sessions were well attended as was the second pediatric spay/neuter wet lab held in conjunction with the University of Florida. Special thanks to Intervet/Schering-Plough for again funding the shelter medicine program at NAVC including a reception for ASV members. The second day of the symposium was recorded and is available for online viewing or downloading from NAVC Primetime Presentations.

The CE committee maintains a display booth for ASV which was updated with new photos and information earlier this year. This display was set up at a few conferences in 2009 with ASV members generously donating their time to share information about ASV. The CE committee also updated a list of externships for veterinary students and postgraduate training opportunities for veterinarians, which are available on the ASV website. Plans to update the speaker's bureau are being discussed, and it is hoped that our improved web technology may make this possible in the near future.

## Nomination Committee

Brenda Griffin, DVM, MS, DACVIM

The Nominations Committee streamlined its procedures for applicants and elections this year, culminating in the development of a leadership manual for Board members and a detailed written protocol designed to facilitate committee operations in the future. The quantity and caliber of nominees to the Board were never higher than this year. We are very excited to welcome four new Board members in January: Drs. Stephanie Janeczko, Karter Neal, Kathy Tyson, and Sara White. We look forward to working with them in their new capacity as Board members as we continue to strive to improve the health and well being of animals in shelters.

## Student Chapter Committee

Natalie Isaza, DVM

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians has had an exceptional year assisting veterinary students and faculty advisors to form new ASV student chapters at a number of veterinary colleges. To date, the association has 13 paid ASV student chapters in veterinary colleges in the US, Canada, and the Caribbean and an additional seven more are awaiting dues updates. This is an increase of six total chapters in 2009! In addition, many of these chapters have applied for and received funding for student wet labs and invited speakers through the generosity of Schering-Plough Home Again®. Tesha Hoff of the ASV has been extremely helpful in handling requests for chapter information, and has made the process of forming a student chapter very smooth and easy for the students and faculty involved. Every month we receive more requests for information, which reinforces what we already knew: the interest in shelter medicine is growing every day, and the future looks bright with the help of our wonderful student membership!

## Shelter Standards Task Force

Sandra Newbury, DVM

After much hard work, the shelter standards committee is in the process of finalizing a document outlining guidelines for standards of care in animal shelters. A great deal of enthusiasm has been expressed for this committee project from many parts of the animal welfare field. The project will be presented this year at the North American Veterinary Conference, Western Veterinary Conference, and HSUS Expo. We would like to thank the ASPCA for their ongoing support of the project and the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust for a grant to help cover costs associated with editing, layout, and design of the document.



# Task Force and Committee Reports

## Veterinary Task Force to Advance Spay/Neuter Phil Bushby, DVM

The VTFASN completed another successful year, albeit one with more limited activities. The July 2008 publication of the *Guidelines* was the capstone event for the group and the projects from 2009 reflected the continued promotion of high quality, high-volume spay neuter.

The Standards Committee of the task force continued to solicit official endorsements from other recognized veterinary organizations but met with resistance most often because these organizations had policies against endorsements. The committee was able to add significant new materials to the task force information on the ASV site. The information on the site is comprehensive and current as of December 2009.

The Training/Recruitment Committee worked with Humane Alliance to promote Humane Alliance's new vet and student extern training program by hand delivering program information to key personnel at all veterinary colleges and universities. A VTFASN speakers bureau listing and sample high-volume spay/neuter presentations are work products of this committee and are available within the VTFASN information on the ASV site. There are no new projects at this time.

The Data/Research Committee completed a detailed, multi-stage test of a survey of a "typical" client and patients at various high-volume spay/neuter clinics around the country. The survey itself was revised numerous times based on feedback and has also been reviewed by outside research experts. Results and data from the test market have been analyzed in depth. The committee has a proposal pending with ASV for continuation of this project into 2010.

The following committees are no longer active within the VTFASN due to completion of goals or lack of new initiatives: pitch committee, steering committee, and funding/development committee. Paid administration in support of the VTFASN in 2009 was thanks to a grant from the ASPCA and has been completed as of 12/31/2009. This grant also paid for the purchase of an additional 500 printed/bound copies of the *Guidelines* for distribution at conferences or other training events.

## Board Specialty Task Force Kate Hurley, DVM, MPVM

ASV formed a 17 member organizing committee according to the American Board of Veterinary Specialties guidelines, with a subset of seven members of the organizing committee serving on the steering committee. Drs. Brenda Griffin and Kate Hurley volunteered to co-chair the organizing committee and serve as co-liaisons to the ABVS. Dr. Jeanette O'Quin volunteered to assist with initial steering committee work.

We received encouragement from the ABVS to evaluate forming under an existing specialty. We developed a mission statement in order to clarify how our mission would mesh with the proposed umbrella specialties:

*"The mission of the veterinary shelter medicine specialty is to improve animal and human health and wellbeing through education, discovery, and the promotion of clinical excellence in shelter medicine."*

We extensively researched and discussed formation under potential umbrella organizations. We also contacted other small specialty colleges to evaluate logistical and financial implications of operating a stand alone specialty. After a series of meetings, the task force decided to further evaluate potential for forming under the umbrella of ACPVM.

The final deadline for submission of a successful petition was clarified. For a stand alone specialty, the final date for submission is September, 2011. An earlier submission would allow more time for us to receive feedback and make suggested improvements.

### ASV By the Numbers for 2009...

#### ASV Yahoo Listserv Statistics

1,981 - Total posts  
165 - Average posts per month  
227 - March 2009, highest month

#### Membership

700 - Active Veterinarians  
18 - Affiliates (non-veterinarian)  
46 - Students  
13 - Student Chapters  
777 Total Members

#### Members in seven countries:

Australia, Canada, St Kitts and Nevis,  
Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, and the  
United States (49 states and the US Virgin Islands)

## Meet ASV's Newest Staff Member...



The ASV, through the generous support of Maddie's Fund, expanded its administrative support in 2009 with the addition of Ms. Tesha Hoff as Administrative Assistant.

Tesha Hoff began working for veterinary associations in 2001 as an administrative assistant at the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society (DAVMS). She quickly began to take on additional responsibilities and created a new position as a project manager. While working for CVMA/DAVMS she assisted in the Spay/Neuter Incentive Program to provide low-income households a voucher to receive spay/neuters for pets at no-cost.

In 2004 she left the CVMA/DAVMS to begin a family. Her time away from work was short lived when in 2005 she began to work part-time from her home office for the American Society of Veterinary Medical Association Executives (ASVMAE) as the administrative support person. Currently she continues her position with ASVMAE in addition to her position with ASV. She lives in Denver, Colorado with her husband, two sons, and their cat, Riley.

The ASV is truly fortunate to have Tesha Hoff on the administrative team. The experience and professionalism she brings to the position enhances the quality of service the ASV offers its membership.

## From the 2010 Incoming ASV President

Jeanette O'Quin, DVM

It has been an honor to serve on the Association of Shelter Veterinarians Board of Directors since 2005 and I look forward to serving as president for the coming year. Looking back at the last several years, and even just the last year as summarized in this annual report, I am amazed at how much ASV and its membership have accomplished. And excited at the thought of what we can yet achieve.

One priority of this organization is to provide resources for our members. We recently launched our new website which offers improved functionality, ultimately making it a better communication tool. Members are encouraged to send suggestions for content to [admin@shelternvet.com](mailto:admin@shelternvet.com) and volunteers are, of course, welcome. ASV board members have worked with conference planners and the number of shelter medicine continuing education tracks offered each year is increasing. In addition to keeping up with the latest and greatest in shelter medicine, these conferences provide an excellent opportunity for shelter veterinarians to meet and develop new relationships.

ASV's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of animals in shelters through the advancement of shelter medicine. In the coming year a new publication will be joining the "ASV Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Clinics". As this goes to press, an ASV task force is finalizing a paper that will establish standards of care for shelter animals. We hope this will be a valuable resource for all shelter professionals. Like the spay-neuter guidelines, the standards document and supporting information will be available for download from the ASV website. On behalf of millions of shelter animals, I would like to thank the ASPCA and the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust who provided support for the shelter standards project.

The development of a board specialty in shelter medicine is also moving forward. ABVS accepted our letter of intent a few years ago and creating, submitting, and gaining approval of a formal petition is expected to take a couple of more years. This task force is meeting regularly and you can expect updates on this and many other exciting developments in 2010. I wish you all personal and professional success in the New Year.

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## NAVC Scholarship Recipients

Mary Blinn, DVM

The ASV received a record number of applications for the four scholarships to the 2010 North American Veterinary Conference making the decision of the selection committee very difficult. There are many veterinarians doing exceptional work in the field of shelter medicine and student interest is at an all-time high. After careful consideration the scholarship committee chose the following recipients:

Students-	Taylor Williams- Cornell Jaimi Johnson- University of Minnesota
Veterinarians-	Catherine Pienkos, DVM- City of Tulsa Animal Shelter Margaret Lee, DVM- Central Missouri Humane Society

We look forward to meeting them at the conference.

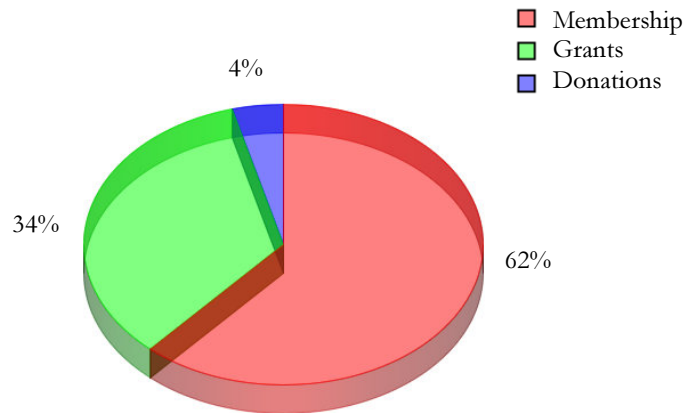
# Treasurer Report

## ASV Statement of Activities

Beginning Balance	\$	86,770
Revenue		59,895
Expenditures		<u>(53,571)</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b><u>\$93,094</u></b>

### Revenue

Membership	\$	36,880
Grants		20,500
Donations		2,475
Other		<u>40</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b><u>\$59,895</u></b>



### Expenditures

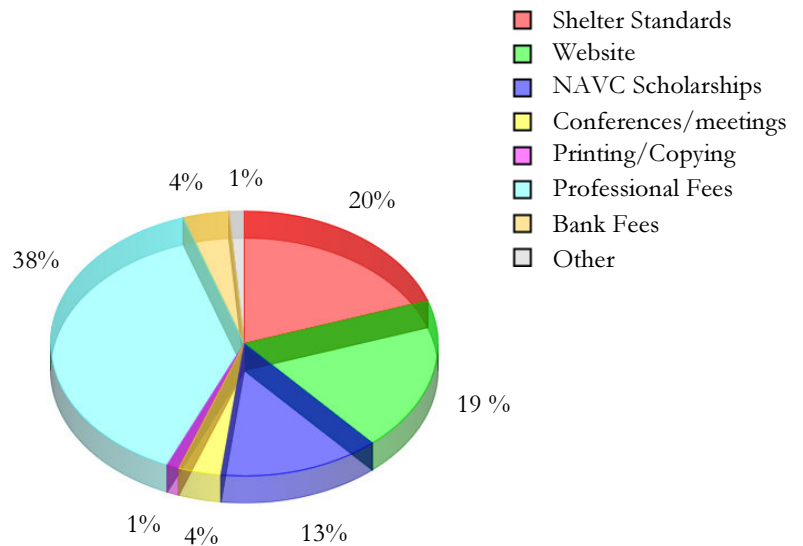
#### Program Services:

Shelter Standards Project	\$	10,585
Website		10,049
NAVC Scholarships		7,186
Conferences/Meetings		1,907
Printing/Copying		553

#### Supporting Services:

Professional Fees		20,559
Bank Fees		2,050
Other		<u>683</u>

**Total Expenses** **\$53,571**



## ASV Website

The ASV unveiled the new website at the end of 2009. Please visit [www.sheltervet.org](http://www.sheltervet.org) to find many great resources available to both members and non-members including:

- Job Listings
- Internship and Externship Opportunities
- Veterinary Task Force to Advance Spay/Neuter
- Online Directory (members only)

You can also find the following ASV Position Statements:

- Euthanasia of Shelter Animals
- FeLV and FIV Testing in an Animal Shelter
- Feral Cat Management
- Infectious Disease Outbreak Management
- Management of Cats Who Test Positive for FeLV and FIV in an Animal Shelter
- Medical Treatment of Shelter Animals
- Pound Seizure
- Timing of Spay-Neuter Surgery and Early-Age Spay-Neuter of Dogs and Cats
- Use of Shelter Animal Cadavers for Teaching Purposes
- Veterinary Supervision in Animal Shelters



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