



Have you heard the exciting news from our Canadian members? The Ontario Shelter Medicine Association (OSMA) has recently expanded into a national organization, now the Canadian Animal Shelter & Community Medicine Association (join at CASCMA.org). The ASV welcomes and supports members around the world organizing to address their unique governance and policies, history, cultural diversity, and regional variations in animal populations and disease impacts. We are excited for the animals and communities in Canada to have this new resource!

When ASV was founded by pioneers in shelter medicine in 2001, conditions for loosely-owned, unowned and owned animals seemed quite distinct. Thanks to the work of our members and many others, the field of shelter medicine has grown from initially focusing on improving conditions for shelter-housed animals and developing high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN), to appreciating the importance and impact of comprehensive, community-based preventive medicine, outreach and interventional services. Today, ASV recognizes that "shelter medicine" may not always perfectly describe what we do. For example:

- Many ASV members frequently (or only) serve animals who do not live in a "shelter" facility, including owned animals living with families and free-roaming community animals
- ASV's open access *Journal of Shelter Medicine and Community Animal Health* was named to explicitly invite community medicine topics in alignment with our mission: *to advance and support the practice of shelter medicine in order to improve community animal health and well-being*
- ASV's strategic goals and [resources](#) now include this wider scope of work that our veterinarian members provide in shelter and community medicine spaces.

ASV membership represents so many aspects of veterinary practice, including shelter, community and access-to-care medicine; HQHVSN; academic practice and consultations; and animal welfare policy and administration (join ASV [here!](#)) As the field changes, ASV too will continue to grow and evolve. We are excited for what the future holds for our field.