



CAAHTT/ACTTSA Annual Report – 2007



Exciting things are happening with CAAHTT!! Our membership increased again this year – to a total of 3,853. A very productive meeting was held in Ottawa, ON in July. Thank you to the OAVT for their wonderful hospitality at the Meet and Greet. Gifts were presented to the CAAHTT directors in attendance and a special presentation was made to out-going Executive Director, Sandy Hass.

New Executive Director

Phyllis Mierau worked closely with Sandy Hass RVT, Executive Director of CAAHTT from September 1, 2006 through to our AGM in July. As Phyllis assumes the Executive Director role, we thank Sandy for her never tiring years of service to CAAHTT.

Board Development Session

The CAAHTT Board of Directors held a strategic planning and governance session on July 11-12th in Ottawa, ON. Jim Pealow from Association Management Consulting and Evaluation Services (AMCES) ably led this session. He has more than thirty years experience in industry, three levels of government and served as a CEO with not-for-profit organizations. Jim has been a key leader in the not-for-profit community and has served as the chief volunteer for six organizations including a term as Chair of the Canadian Society of Association Executives.

We are very pleased to report that CAAHTT now has new Vision and Mission Statements, as follows:

VISION

“CAAHTT is the national voice providing leadership and resources to strengthen the Animal Health Technologist/Registered Veterinary Technician profession.”

MISSION

“To be the national and international voice providing coordination and resources to support our members in the delivery of animal health care services.”

CAAHTT also developed a new and exciting strategic plan to follow over the next three years. The **top three strategies** are:

- 1. Improve governance activities to reflect better practices with a view to attracting and retaining high quality people to serve on national board, providing a quality orientation, leadership development/mentoring, and clarify and define roles and responsibilities nationally and within the federation.*
- 2. Establish a Task Force to look at improving the finances of the association to support strategic initiatives. Activities could include developing a sponsorship policy and plan, exploring available grants, increasing membership, new services that generate non-dues revenue, and reviewing membership dues policies and arrangements.*
- 3. Develop a comprehensive and integrated Communications and Marketing Plan to support the strategic statements and other strategic initiatives (voice, image and awareness, branding, resources, member relations and education, etc.).*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Hill's Pet Nutrition for their financial contribution to this session.

Leadership Conference – February 15, 2007

Thirty individuals - AHT/RVTs, Executive Directors and office administrators, who serve national and/or provincial Animal Health Technology/Veterinary Technology Associations met in Toronto on February 15, 2007 to learn methods recommended for an effective Board of Directors. We thank the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT) and Merial for their co-sponsorship of this event.

There were several special guests in attendance with whom delegates networked – they included Teri Rafell, President of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) and Cate Daniels from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), a member of the team who prepares the VTNE for graduate veterinary technicians. Teri and Cate provided a truly international flavor to this workshop!

Jeff Pym, President of Clarity Consulting, empowered delegates with strategies for developing policies, setting goals and measuring progress in achieving goals, evaluating outcomes for initiatives approved by a Board of Directors and recruitment of “qualified” individuals for board positions. Jeff emphasized the importance of communication among directors serving on a board, appropriate behavior and discipline for directors and of sustaining positive relationships between Executive Directors and a Board of Directors.

Jeff identified and explored some of the biggest challenges faced by AHT/RVTs who volunteer or who are elected to positions on their provincial or national AHT/RVT association’s Board of Directors.

Wallace Pidgeon, President of Brick and Ball media, challenged delegates to understand that communication strategies are an important part of interacting with the media.

Letter Of Undertaking

A Letter of Undertaking was signed by the seven Canadian Animal Health Technologists and Veterinary Technician Associations on February 15, 2007 in Toronto, Ontario. Members can now continue to enjoy the transfer of professional status, with the following criteria.

- Being an Active member of a provincial association;
- Being a Canadian resident;
- Having passed the National Registration Exam;
- Being current with their Association dues;
- Accepting the Association’s Code of Ethics.

The Letter of Undertaking will make it clear if additional provisions are required by certain Associations.

CVMA’s Professional Development Committee (PDC)

Roberta Rouse AHT of the AAAHT joins Barb Donaldson RVT from the OAVT on this Committee. The primary responsibility of PDC members is to assist the CVMA in providing creative topics to enhance the national conference for animal health technologists/veterinary technicians.

Dog Bite Prevention – Doggone Safe Initiative

The Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists (AAAHT) has joined the Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technicians (SAVT), Manitoba Animal Health Technologists Association (MAHTA) and the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT) in promoting the Doggone Safe initiative. The CAAHTT Board has agreed to continue to promote this program to its member associations as an important tool to prevent dog bites in children. Visit their website; www.doggonessafe.com for complete details.

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) AND CAAHTT

Six CAAHTT representatives met with five members of CVMA council at the 11th Annual CVMA/CAAHTT Presidential Meeting on July 14th. Each group was up-dated on the other's activities, and items of mutual concern were discussed. A great rapport exists between the two national bodies.

The next conferences of the CVMA will take place:

Vancouver, British Columbia (World Veterinary Congress) – July 27-August 1, 2008

Halifax, Nova Scotia – July 15-18, 2009

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Accreditation of Animal Health Technology / Veterinary Technician Programs

In June 2006 the AVMA recommended that veterinary technician credentialing entities in the U.S. recognize graduates of CVMA accredited veterinary technology programs as eligible for credentialing, and in turn, the CVMA recommended that Canadian provincial licensing bodies recognize graduates of AVMA accredited VT programs as being eligible for licensure. As eligibility for licensure/registration/certification of veterinary technicians is the purview of each state and provincial credentialing agency, CAAHTT sent letters to all 51 state boards requesting that their Veterinary Medical State Board include graduates of CVMA accredited programs in their Membership By-Laws. We indicated that including Canadian technicians in their membership By-Laws would simplify cross border movement of technicians, recognize the increasing globalization of veterinary medicine and acknowledge the parity of the AVMA and CVMA accreditation processes. The responses to this request have varied. See the CAAHTT website (www.caahtt-acttsa.ca) for a listing of the states which accept graduates of a CVMA accredited program.

CVMA AHT/VT Program Accreditation Committee (PAC) – CAAHTT MEMBERS

CAAHTT has two committee members on the AHT/VT PAC – Lucille Landals AHT and Gillian Smith RVT. The AVMA CVTEA committee meetings will hold a special session on November 10th in Schaumburg, Chicago with invited guests; NAVTA, AVTE, AAVSB and CAAHTT to discuss areas of mutual concern about the profession. Lucille and Gillian will represent CAAHTT.

National Veterinary Technician Week (NVTW) – October 14-20, 2007

CAAHTT provided a poster for insertion into the summer issue of TECHNEWS, as well as CVMA Directories. This poster provides suggestions on how to celebrate NVTW – display it in your workplace and celebrate with PRIDE.

Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR) – Disaster Planning

In an effort to respond to the increasing demands of the public and government, November 2006 saw the establishment of a Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR) to provide surge capacity to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and provincial government authorities in responding to animal disease outbreaks (i.e. avian influenza) and civil emergencies (natural and manmade disasters) affecting animal health and welfare.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food came to an agreement where initial funding would be provided to design a Reserve which would provide both the structure, supplies and manpower to be able to respond to an emergency situation. The Advisory Board has established two “arms” of the Reserve – one is the CFIA and the ability to supply them with surge capacity in a reportable disease situation and the other is to respond in the event of a civil emergency or a disease outbreak of a non-reportable nature.

In addition to the Advisory Board, CAAHTT currently has representation on the Civil Emergencies Program sub-committee. Tara Sefton RVT is CAAHTT's representative on this Committee.

The immediate goal of the CVR is to establish a veterinary reserve with the long-term goal of also establishing a reserve of technicians.

National Job Listing

CAAHTT now offers employers of Animal Health Technologists/ Registered Veterinary Technicians the opportunity to post career advertisements on our national website (www.caahtt-acttsa.ca).

The purpose of this service is two-fold:

- 1) to provide a service for veterinarians who are recruiting technologists, and
- 2) a national venue for technologists to view current available career opportunities.

American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) and the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE)

Cathy Hall-Patch RAHT term on this Committee came to an end. Cathy was given the AAVSB Impact Award at the meeting held last September.

Susan Thiessen RVT and Laurel MacIntosh ACT now represent CAAHTT on the Veterinary Technician Testing Committee (VTTC). Charity Fancy RVT has been appointed as alternate representative.

The VTTC met in Kansas City, Missouri in September 2006. The AAVSB owns the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE). This examination is used to evaluate entry-level veterinary technicians' competency to practice and to be registered or licensed. AAVSB contracts with the administering agencies to provide the exam for their use. The AAVSB continues to partner with the Professional Examination Service (PES) for examination development and administration services regarding the VTNE.

The question bank is currently undergoing considerable updating. Item writing workshops and item writing reviews held in May 2006 yielded a large number of new questions for the question bank. The question bank is used to put together two exams each year. This is where VTTC representatives take part in the process. Both exams (January and June) are reviewed during the September meetings. Veterinary technicians and veterinarians representing all areas of expertise within the profession review the exams. The examinations for year 2008 will be prepared at VTTC meetings in Charleston, South Carolina in September 2007.

2007 CAAHTT Awards

At the 2007 CVMA Awards Luncheon, Sandy Hass RVT was presented with the CAAHTT Appreciation Award. The presenter, Becky Taylor, AHT, indicating that this Award will now be renamed the "*Sandy Hass Appreciation Award*" in recognition of Sandy's tremendous contributions to CAAHTT. Becky explained that Sandy had begun her longtime connection to CAAHTT in 1988 when she sat on the first Board of Directors. Since then she served in several capacities on the Board as well as being the first Executive Director from 1997 until this year.

Sandy has not only been active on a Canadian level – she has been an active member of the Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists. She has served on their board in many capacities, served on and chaired several committees, has organized annual conferences, and served on the advisory committee for SIAST.

Sandy has worked passionately and diligently to promote AHTs and RVTs across Canada. In doing so she has impacted and influenced many people along the way, while creating and maintaining important relationships within the veterinary industry. She has received multiple awards from her home association and college, from CAAHTT, and been featured on the cover of the Veterinary Technician magazine. She was recently awarded an honorary diploma from SIAST.

She is respected and appreciated by every group or person she encounters. She has inspired AHTs/RVTs across the nation to be better, to work harder, to be prouder, and to represent the veterinary technician profession with dignity and honor.

Appreciation Award

Sandy Hass RVT

'Making a Difference'

Recognition Award

Cathy Hall-Patch RAHT – AHTA of B.C.

CAAHTT/ACTTSA – Hills Pet Nutrition

'Canadian - Animal Health Technologist/ Registered Veterinary Technician of the Year'

Barb Donaldson RVT – OAVT

CAAHTT Board of Directors in Ottawa, Ontario



Back Row – left to right: Phyllis Mierau, Becky Taylor, Val Beaulieu, Kelly Tallon, Chantal Cormier, Sonia Thibodeau, Lois Ridgway, Claudia Roberge, Tamara Leader, Andrea Iwanusiw, Jacqueline Leach

Front Row – left to right: Michele Moroz, Jenn McDonnell, Sandy Hass, Bev MacDonald, Darcie Steffler, Taryn Smith

Lois Ridgway RVT was re-elected CAAHTT president, Chantal Cormier RVT was appointed Vice-President, and Taryn Smith AHT was elected Financial Officer.

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Thank-You!