



# Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Summer Newsletter

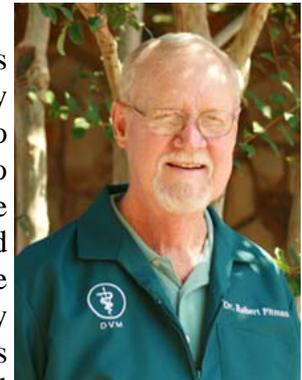
June, 2013

## Inside this issue:

Attention County Rabies Officers	2
How To Get Started On A Drug Free Workplace	3
ASBVME Board Members	3
Continuing Education And You	4
ASBVME New Board Member Bio's	6

## THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING!

Since the last writing, we have had four new members come onto the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. They are: Dr. Patrick Trotter who replaced Dr. William Sternenber, Dr. Sam Eidt who replaced Dr. Bobby Horne, Dr. T.C. Branch serving the remainder of the late Dr. Lewis McCurdy's term and Dr. Bobby Martin who replaced Dr. John Grider. These gentlemen have big shoes to fill since the parties they replace served a total of thirty years. Our new members bring a lot of practical experience to the table and will certainly be an asset to the Board and its mission.



Dr. Robert E. Pitman  
ASBVME President

Generally speaking, veterinarians are hardworking, public serving deliverers of animal health care. They want to be left alone and be allowed to serve their clients, their communities and enjoy their families and churches. When asked to become active in various veterinary associations, by and large the response is "I just don't have time!" Folks, if you do not make time NOW, your profession as you know it will be gone and you will have plenty of time to ponder what happened. Our profession is under attack by groups that want what you have and they don't care what laws are broken, what lies have to be told or what groups that have to be run over to accomplish their goals. You can believe that AVRAL, HSUS, 501c3's and various so called rescues and humane groups want the same privileges that you enjoy as a licensed veterinarian. This affects every veterinarian, whether you are an owner or associate.

There are three major players involved in changes to our profession this summer. The Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is charged with protecting the public and enforcing the Veterinary Practice Act as mandated by legislature.

*Continued on Page 2*

The ASBVME hopes you and your family have a Happy and Safe Summer.



## **THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING!** *Continued from front page*

The Alabama Veterinary Practice Owners Association was born out of necessity last year when the ALVMA refused to take a stand with the ASBVME to oppose spay/neuter clinics offering full service while enjoying tax exempt status. The ALVPOA sided with the ASBVME and thwarted changes to the practice act. The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association has come under fire recently concerning leadership issues. In fact several constituent associations have recommended changing the Executive Director position from Franz Management. You as a practitioner owe it to your profession to become informed and express your wishes. Seek out a practitioner that you trust to be informed and honest to answer your questions. It is imperative that you veterinarians on the front line and behind the exam tables everyday have input in the way these issues are resolved.

It has never been more important than now for these three groups to agree on what is best for our profession. Let your voice be heard!

Dr. Robert E. Pitman  
President, ASBVME

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## **ATTENTION COUNTY RABIES OFFICERS**

Please be aware that the Rabies Clinics you conduct each year should be restricted to providing **RABIES VACCINE ONLY**. To offer other veterinary services (example other vaccines) or products will be in violation of the Veterinary Practice Act.



## *How To Get Started On A Drug Free Workplace*

*By Dr. Robert E. Pitman*

Did you know that Article 13 Section 25-5-330 of the Alabama Code allows for a 5% discount for a certified drug-free work place for workers compensation insurance premium? Workmen's Compensation providers have different criteria to certify a drug free workplace so call your provider to find out what they require.

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### **ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS BOARD MEMBERS**

**Dr. Robert E. Pitman**  
Athens, AL

**President**

**Dr. William Ronald Welch**  
Wetumpka, AL

**Vice President**

**Dr. Thomas C. Branch**  
Birmingham, AL

**Board Member**

**Dr. Sam J. Eidt**  
Huntsville, AL

**Board Member**

**Dr. Robert E. Martin**  
Dothan, AL

**Board Member**

**Dr. Patrick N. Trotter**  
Prattville, AL

**Board Member**

**Ms. Debbie S. Whitten**  
Birmingham, AL

**Board Member**

**Mrs. Nancy D. Pett**  
Decatur, AL

**Board Member**

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## *CONTINUING VETERINARY EDUCATION AND YOU*

*By Dr. Sam J. Edit*

To paraphrase Mark Twain, misinformation can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes. As Chairman of the Continuing Education (CE) Committee I have been questioned by concerned veterinarians within Alabama regarding CE. All CE has to be approved by the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (ASBVME). That sounds fairly straight forward and not much different from the accounting board and public accountants. But suddenly, as Chairman of the committee responsible for approval of the courses available, I became a little uneasy. To be sure, I would readily approve an orthopedic course presented by Dr. Robert Horne or a colic lecture by Dr. Tom Vaughan. But what about a meeting on the subject of **Veterinary Marijuana** (see June 01, 2013 AVMA News Express)?

Since no individual (especially me) or committee can know the quality/content of every meeting in North America, much less if it would qualify for legitimate CE, help is needed. Remember that the BOARD has a **legal and professional duty** to protect the license of the Alabama veterinarian as well as protecting the public and their animals. Our BOARD is a member of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY STATE BOARDS ([www.aavsb.org](http://www.aavsb.org)). Their REGISTRY OF APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION (**RACE**) serves as a **recognized and respected clearinghouse** for the review and approval of continuing education providers/speakers and their programs. Remember, veterinary CE is **not** standardized among all state veterinary boards.

RACE approved CE consists of educational activities that serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a veterinary professional uses to provide services for patients, the public or the profession.

If a faculty member from Oregon State University is presenting a lecture on the zebra fish (widely used in research) at an **event that is not RACE** approved, you can relax because he/she is more than likely a diplomat of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. The ASBVME will gladly approve this meeting for the appropriate CE hours for you.

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If you have followed current events facing our Alabama profession you realize how quickly misunderstandings and ill will can occur. Look at the national association and their questions and concerns on holistic medicine or animal welfare/animal rights. The ASBVME is being proactive in anticipation of potential problems regarding CE. “The future is not what it used to be,” to quote Yogi Berra.

I hope this brief explanation of our CE requirements eliminates any worry you may have about any upcoming meeting you may wish to attend for CE hours. If you have specific questions about a course, please submit them to the CE Committee in writing so that they may be properly addressed.

Sam Eidt, DVM  
Chairman, CE Committee

Ronald Welch, DVM  
Member, CE Committee

Pat Trotter, DVM  
Member, CE Committee

**\*\*Note from the Board - This is nothing new! You will need to check with your CE Provider and ask them if their courses have been approved by the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.**



## ***NEW ASBVME BOARD MEMBERS***



Dr. Sam J. Edit  
1039 Carters Gin Road  
Toney, AL 35773

*Term: March 15th, 2012 through March 16th, 2016*

### **Education/Experience**

B.S. Degree, Animal Science, Mississippi State University, 1966

D.V.M. Degree, Auburn University, 1970

1970-2002 Owner/Operator, Huntsville Animal Clinic

2002-2006, Associate Veterinarian, Huntsville Animal Clinic

2006-Present, Associate Veterinarian, Whitesburg Animal Hospital

### **Professional Organizations**

American Veterinary Association, (42 years)

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, (42 years)

Madison County Veterinary Association, (42 years)

Past President, North Alabama Veterinary Association

Past President, Madison County Veterinary Association

Past Board Member (10+ years), Animal Emergency Clinic of North Alabama

Advisory Board, Huntsville Animal Services, (Mayors Hettinger, Spencer, Battle).

### **Civic Organizations**

Explorer Scouts of America (past)

Boys Club of Huntsville (past)

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Board (past)

Randolph School Board (past)

Huntsville Rotary Club

### **Huntsville Business Associations**

E Gen (EXPRESSION GENETICS)

Chairman and Veterinary Member of the Institutional Animal Use  
and Care Committee

Hudson Alpha Veterinary Member of the Institutional Animal Care  
and Use Committee

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Dr. Robert E. Martin  
385 Creekside Drive  
Dothan, AL 36305

*Term: August 28th, 2012 through August 28th, 2016*

**Education/Experience**

Geneva High School, Graduated 1973  
Enterprise Community College, 1973-1974  
Auburn University, 1974-1976  
Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine, 1976-1980

**Professional Experience**

Westside Animal Hospital - Associate, Pensacola, Florida, 1980-1981  
Town and County Animal Hospital - Associate, Dothan, Alabama, 1981-1982  
Central Animal Hospital - Owner, Phenix City, Alabama, 1982-1983  
Care Animal Center - Co Owner, Dothan, Alabama, 1983 - Present

**Veterinary Medical Licensure**

Alabama  
Florida

**Professional Associations:**

Past President, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, 1999  
Past President, Greater Dothan VMA  
Past President, Southeast Alabama VMA  
Member of the American Veterinary Medical Association  
Member of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association  
Member of the Greater Dothan VMA  
Member of the Southeast Alabama VMA

**Community Associations:**

Dothan Kiwanis Club  
Mount Gilead Baptist Church - Deacon  
Gideons

**Family:**

Married - Liz Martin - Since 1979  
Children and Spouses - Robert (Casey); Joshua (Amy); Nanette (Ben)  
Grandchildren: Emma and Jude

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Dr. Patrick N. Trotter  
407 East Main Street  
Prattville, AL 36067

*Term: June 1st, 2012 through June 1st, 2016*

**Education/Experience**

Montgomery County High School, Graduated 1966  
Auburn University, CVM, Graduated 1972

**Professional Experience**

Started own practice with partner, Dr. George Seir, in Prattville, 1974  
After selling my portion of the partnership in 2012, I still practice in Prattville, Alabama

**Veterinary Medical Licensure**

Alabama

**Professional Associations:**

Former Member of the Alabama State Board of Public Health  
Former Member of the Alabama Dairy Commission  
Member of the AVMA, ALVMA & ALAPP  
Former Member of AAHA

**Community Associations:**

Member of First United Methodist Church of Prattville  
for more than 20 years.

**Family:**

Married to former Deborah Cauthen of Sprague, Alabama for 43 years  
I have two children and two grandchildren

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Dr. Thomas C. Branch  
6912 Oporto Madrid Blvd. South  
Birmingham, AL 35206

*Term: July 12th, 2012 through March 14th, 2014*

**No Bio Currently Available**

**ALABAMA STATE BOARD  
OF VETERINARY  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

8 Commerce Street - Suite 910  
Montgomery, AL 36130-5330  
Phone: 334/262-8068  
Fax: 334/262-8716

[Www.ASBVME.Alabama.gov](http://www.ASBVME.Alabama.gov)

## 2014 License Renewals

This is just a friendly reminder that starting in October, you will be able to go to our website, [www.ASBVME.alabama.gov](http://www.ASBVME.alabama.gov), and renew your DVM license or your LVT license, just like you did last year.

We would like to remind all of our new graduates that after December 31st of each year your license will be considered late, and you will incur a late penalty. This Board by law can not waive any late fees, no matter the circumstances.

Also you need to make sure that you have your 20 hours of continuing education if you are a veterinarian, and 8 hours of continuing education if your are a licensed veterinary technician, before December 31st.

If you do not have access to a computer or you are unable to pay online, you may contact the ASBVME Office and we will mail to you a hard copy of your license renewal and continuing education form. You need to contact this office by December 1st, 2013 in order to insure that we may receive your renewal by December 31st, 2013.

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