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Student Organizations in the College of Veterinary Medicine at ISU

Glenna Rasmussen*

Although academics play a major role in any college curriculum, special interest groups are fast becoming an important part of today's veterinary student's education. What is even more interesting is that most of these groups at the Iowa State Veterinary College have become organized only very recently. This is illustrated by the fact that seven out of the eleven groups, or 64%, were established within the last 1978-79 school year. The oldest group is the Iowa State University Veterinarian, founded in 1938, and the youngest is the Exotic, Wildlife, and Lab Animal Organization that was begun just last spring.

Average membership in each club varies but the majority range anywhere from twenty to forty members. The exception to this is the American Association of Beef Practitioners which by recent counts will have close to 150 members this year. Considering the 481 student enrollment of the Veterinary College, this is an impressive membership.

Membership fees also vary. Two groups require no dues and, since some are still in the organizational stage, they have not established an amount as of yet. In those that are organized, the fees range anywhere from $3.00 to $75.00 per academic year, the majority being between $5.00 and $20.00. Most dues go toward membership in the national organization and allow the student to receive monthly newsletters and journals published by the parent organization or special interest groups.

With such a varied range of programs, one cannot help but believe that today's veterinary graduate will be better prepared than ever to meet the challenges that face him or her in the veterinary medical profession.

*AABP

The Student Chapter of the American Association of Beef Practitioners was first organized at Iowa State in 1975, being one of sixteen chapters established at veterinary schools in the United States. It is the largest student organization (besides the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association) at the ISU veterinary school, with last year's membership at 110, approximately twenty-five per cent of the entire student body. This year they expect to have close to 150.

Third year veterinary student Alden Frischmeyer is president of the group and Dr. Paul G. Eness, Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences, serves as the faculty advisor. Informal style meetings are held each month over the noon hour to accommodate the veterinary student's schedule. Speakers include practitioners, faculty and extension veterinarians, and animal science extensionists. The club tries to get the best authority on topics of interest ranging from biologics, health, nutrition, and management, to laws concerning the handling and selling of cattle. In the past the chapter has sponsored tours to Woodland Dairy near Story City, Ia., and the Iowa Cattleman Association headquarters. It plans future trips to packing plants, beef confinement and feeding operations, and various places of interest relating to bovine medicine.

Mr. Frischmeyer stated that the objectives of the club are to expand and develop the knowledge of veterinary students interested in the field of bovine medicine, to attract attention to the relationship between bovine practice and the public interest, to cooperate with the national AABP, to encourage cooperation, participation, and membership in SCFAVMA, and to promote the exchange of professional knowledge among students and

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practitioners for advancements in bovine health.

**AAHA**

Veterinary students at Iowa State are now in the process of establishing a student chapter of the American Animal Hospital Association. Third year vet student Jim Wahl, spokesman and organizer of the group begun last spring, stated that Oklahoma State has the only other established student chapter of AAHA. Dr. Daniel M. Betts, Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, and Dr. William D. Hoefle, Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences, are faculty advisors; there are no elected officers as of yet.

The group plans to join the national organization and establish regular meetings during fall quarter of 1979. The objective of the student AAHA is "to serve the professional interests of all veterinarians engaged in applying the principles and techniques of medicine and surgery to the care of dogs, cats, caged birds and other species by establishing and promoting the universal acceptance of high standards for the veterinary clinic and animal hospital including equipment, management and procedures."

**AAEP**

The Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners was approved at Iowa State in July of 1978. The ISU veterinary school is one of five veterinary schools to organize chapters. Third year veterinary student Nancy Bohnhoff is president of the group; and Dr. Larry Jackson, Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences, and Dr. Eric Rhinertson, Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, serve as faculty advisors.

Meetings usually feature a speaker or a clinical case and literature review plus a short business meeting. Past activities have been limited to monthly meetings with topics ranging greatly from post-graduate internships and residencies to equine practice and specific equine diseases.

The objectives of the club are to provide an organization specifically limited to equine medicine, surgery, and husbandry for those veterinary students with an interest in equine practice.

**AAFP**

Established in January of 1979, the American Association of Feline Practitioners at Iowa State has the privileged distinction of being the first and only student chapter in the nation. There is no official group at any other veterinary school. The parent AAFP is a relatively new organization in itself and has been very enthusiastic and supportive in the establishment of this chapter. Dr. Carol Runyon, Surgery Resident, is the faculty advisor and fourth year veterinary student Patty Hogen is serving as president. Meetings are held once a month, usually featuring a speaker who talks on various aspects of feline medicine. Ms. Hogen said that seminars were given last spring on handling and restraint of cats, feline dermatology, neurology, and reproduction. They have had only noon meetings so far but hopefully plan to hold evening meetings featuring out-of-town speakers.

Ms. Hogen stated that the goals and objectives of the group are to promote and encourage interest and education in the area of feline medicine and surgery. Since cats are becoming a larger percentage of the veterinarian's patient load, the group would like to expose the veterinary student "not only to the information already known about feline diseases and treatments, but also to current findings and research in progress at this time."

**AASP**

The Student Chapter of the American Association of Swine Practitioners was organized at the ISU veterinary school last year; fifteen other vet schools across the nation have also started such a group. Meetings are held once a month during the school year as well as anytime a swine specialist is visiting Iowa State and agrees to speak to the group. There are no elected officers as such but Eldon Madison, a third year veterinary student, is chairman of the group. Dr. Robert Glock, Professor of Veterinary Pathology, is the faculty advisor. Meetings usually revolve around a guest speaker with a question and answer period following the end of the discussion. Herd health and pork production from both a practitioner's and producer's viewpoint have been some of the previous topics. Mr.
Madison said he tries to schedule a variety of subjects that are of both current and practical interest to the veterinary student interested in swine medicine.

**AASGP**

Established in early 1979, the Iowa State Student Chapter of the American Association of Sheep and Goat Practitioners is one of several such chapters started by veterinary students. Lamont Gray, a fourth year veterinary student, is president of the group and Dr. Paul G. Eness, Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences, serves as faculty advisor.

Meetings are usually held once a month over the noon hour and follow the format of a speaker or video tape dealing with production and management of sheep and goats as well as related veterinary aspects. Topics have ranged from a discussion of sheep breeds and talks from both the practitioner’s and producer’s viewpoint, to selection of sheep dogs and a demonstration of these dogs at work. The goal of this group is to expand and develop the knowledge of veterinary students interested in sheep and goat production and development.

**CVF**

Christian Veterinary Fellowship was organized here at Iowa State in 1973. Almost all of the other veterinary schools in the nation have such a group on their campus. CVF is open to any individual who is in agreement with the statement of belief of the CVF, who supports the purpose of CVF, and whose primary professional interest is in the field of veterinary medicine. Members consist of students and their spouses, veterinarians, and veterinary medical staff persons.

A noon meeting, as well as a 7:00 a.m. prayer meeting, is held once each week; many people in the organization are also involved in smaller Bible study groups. The group tries to make each meeting a little different, emphasizing Bible study, prayer, and Christian fellowship.

Dr. Melvin J. Swenson, Professor of Veterinary Physiology, is the group’s faculty advisor. Bob Erickson and Scott Hurd, second year veterinary students, are chairpersons of the group. The primary objective of CVF is “to glorify God in and through the veterinary profession.” Their main goal is to have fun being a Christian and a veterinary student. They stated that being a Christian makes it easier and more fun to be a veterinary student because many of the problems that a student has are related to the pressures he is under at school. The CVF, although not a part of the AVMA, has organizations at the local, national, and international level.

**ISU Veterinarian**

*The Veterinary Student*, the original publication of this group, was first published in the fall of 1938 and continued under that name until 1950 when its name was changed to the *Iowa State College Veterinarian*. In 1959 Iowa State became classified as a university and since that time the magazine has been known as the *Iowa State University Veterinarian*. It is the official publication of the ISU Student Chapter of the AVMA and is published three times a year at Ames, Iowa.

The organization consists of an editorial and business staff and a publication board. Co-editors are Jim Seaton and Joni Woodbridge, fourth year veterinary students; Dr. John H. Greve, Professor of Veterinary Pathology, serves as the faculty advisor. Meetings are usually held two times a month over the noon hour and involve discussion of progress on present articles, ideas for future ones, and financial and business matters. All veterinary students are eligible and encouraged to join the staff. Students deal with every aspect of journalism involved in the publication of a magazine: writing, editing, proof reading, photography, layout, business, advertising, and circulation.

The *ISU Veterinarian* is entirely student staffed and operated and strives to maintain the highest standard of journalistic excellence possible. It is not only distributed nationally but internationally. The objectives of this publication are to stimulate interest in the field of veterinary medicine outside of academic endeavor, to provide a medium whereby students may express themselves, and to promote a closer relationship between the College of Veterinary Medicine and its alumni.

**Exotic, Wildlife, and Lab Animal Organization**

This organization is perhaps the newest of all the organizations at the ISU veterinary
school, being first organized in the spring of 1979. The objective of the group is to facilitate exchange of information and promote the study of non-domestic species in veterinary medicine. A Student AVMA committee on Wildlife, Zoo, and Exotic Animal Medicine was established at the student symposium at Iowa State last April. It was decided that the group should be a broad based organization covering a wide range of interests, and since it is often difficult to learn what may be available in these fields and how to obtain such information, they further decided to establish lines of communication between all chapters.

Future plans for the Iowa State chapter include work projects at the Des Moines Zoo, presentations by veterinary students dealing with exotic and wildlife cases in the clinics, as well as teaching husbandry and routine handling of exotic, wild and laboratory animals. Mark Weisman, a second year veterinary student, is heading the new organization; and Tom Dose, fourth year veterinary student, is the Iowa representative to the SAVMA committee.

ΩΤΣ

Omega Tau Sigma was first organized in 1906 with the first chapter being established in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania. Since then, eight more chapters have been formed. The Kappa Chapter in Ames, being the youngest one, was established in 1965.

Meetings are held two evenings a month and include a business discussion as well as plans for social events, public service projects, and study aides. There is a speaker at each meeting who speaks on topics ranging from “How to Study” to “Mobile Small Animal Practice” to “Veterinary Medicine in Africa.”

Their service projects have included such activities as the program at Woodward State Hospital (vaccination of pet dogs), work days at the Living History Farm in Des Moines, Iowa, talks and demonstrations at 4-H meetings on animal care, microscope display for incoming vet students, and a yearly seminar for practitioners. This summer they purchased a new house which (as the old one did) serves as a meeting place and study area for all members, as well as housing for some members.

Dr. John H. Greve, Professor of Veterinary Pathology, and Dr. James R. Thompson, Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, are faculty advisors; third year veterinary student Karen Baum is president. Ms. Baum stated that “the purpose of ΩΤΣ is to help veterinary students receive a well rounded education and to teach members how to work together. Since all members are associated with the veterinary profession, everyone strives for the same goals, that of creating a better profession on the basis of friendship, cooperation, and respect for fellow man.”

WVM

At present the Women in Veterinary Medicine is in the organizational stage at Iowa State. The group was begun in early 1979 but as yet has no affiliation with the national organization; members are inquiring into this and plan to get an active chapter started. So far, meetings have been held over the noon hour with women veterinarians from the ISU Veterinary Clinic and National Animal Disease Lab speaking on their work and how they have incorporated their professional and personal lives. Various committees were also set up to discuss topics dealing with the role of women in the veterinary profession.

The purpose of WVM is to provide sororal relationship among women veterinary students and to encourage them in their pursuit of veterinary medicine. It strives to improve communication among women veterinarians and students, thereby stimulating awareness and discussions of the problems (and the solutions to these problems) that professional women face in a traditionally male-oriented profession.

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