



WCABP

Western Canadian Association
of Bovine Practitioners



newsletter

Volume 10 No.1 March 2005

President's Message: March 2005

Veterinarians need to have a visible role as advisors in all aspects of animal health and welfare. We need to maintain our role as gatekeepers of food safety in the eyes of both the beef industry and the consumer. The presentation given by Jean Szkotnicki during the Thursday lunch at the WCABP conference was very informative as to what exactly are the regulations regarding the "Owners Use Policy" (OUP). The OUP was designed to allow travellers that are coming into Canada to bring up to three months worth of prescription medication with them. This would mean they did not have to visit a doctor and renew prescription supplies for this time period after they arrive in Canada. Although this policy was never intended to be exploited to allow cattle producers to import unregistered pharmaceuticals into Canada from the United States, this is exactly what is happening. For the immediate future, there are unlikely to be any changes to the OUP that will curtail this northern migration of veterinary pharmaceuticals. Most veterinarians are firmly opposed to this exploitation of the OUP, but there are a few that encourage their producers to take advantage of it. The rationale for both sides of the argument usually involves the economics of the situation, either the potential loss of pharmaceutical sales for a veterinarian or the savings a producer can create.

Ultimately, as a profession this is about doing the right thing. This is an opportunity for our profession to take a stand and not support this misuse of the OUP. Producers need verification of herd inventory in order to bring their

three months supply of veterinary pharmaceuticals into Canada. Many are asking their veterinarian to provide the required documentation. By providing this, we as a profession are condoning the use of unregistered pharmaceuticals in food animals. After all the work that has been done, and all the scrutiny our livestock industry has received in order to re-establish trade with our foreign markets we cannot afford to make a mistake like this. These US based pharmaceutical companies are welcome to sell their products into Canada at reduced prices, we just ask that they register them here first.



The WCABP Board of Directors will be discussing developing a position statement on the use of unregistered pharmaceuticals at our next meeting. We encourage your input and can be contacted through the WCABP web site.

By all accounts, the WCABP conference held in Saskatoon last January was a success. Attendance exceeded expectations and many positive comments were received regarding the entire program. A big thank you to Ray, Phyllis, Cheryl, Deborah, and Murray for all their efforts.

Craig Dorin

www.wcabp.com

TO KEEP TABS ON

YOUR ASSOCIATION & YOUR INDUSTRY

- 2005 Conference Proceedings
- Numerous links to sites of interest
- Latest industry information
- Vet Advice columns (contributed by WCABP members, and published in the Canadian Cattleman)

NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Have you renewed your membership? By now you should have received the 2nd Notice - Membership Renewal Form. If you have not already sent it in please do so today. Please send the updated form with your payment or payment instructions to:

Deborah Beddome - WCABP
112G-116 Research Dr.
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R3

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The Board held four meetings since the publication of the last Newsletter. The first of these was held on December 7, with the main order of business being to review the draft By-Law changes that were subsequently presented and passed at the January 2005 AGM. The second meeting was held one week later, on December 14, and was devoted to reviewing the 2005-2006 Budget; reviewing nominations to the Board and the position of Vice-President; as well as a number of house-keeping issues. The Board met again on January 13, 2005 to review the audited statements for 2004-2005 and to accept the 2005-2006 budget. Dr. Campbell also reported that the Forward Planning Committee (FPC) had met on January 11. Briefly, the FPC was supportive of the Board's initiative to look into holding one to two regional meetings between now and the 2006 Conference. The FPC also suggested that the Board, along with some additional key members, meet annually for a strategic planning session. One member of the FPC voiced concerns regarding the format of the Newsletter, specifically; the Newsletter should contain more information on emerging issues rather than member profiles. This same member also felt that the membership should have more input into the letters and position statements being promulgated by the Board. The Board responded to the first concern by including a question in the Conference questionnaire regarding the current format of the Newsletter.

The Board has met once since the AGM; this meeting was on February 11 and was dedicated solely to choosing the dates for next year's Conference. There was some urgency to locking-in these dates because there are a number of other veterinary and agricultural related events that create conflicts for our members at this time of the year. You can now mark down on your calendar that the 2006 Conference will be held in Calgary on January 19-21, 2006. Many of the members used their questionnaire to provide suggestions for next year's conference; we would appreciate hearing from all the members in regards to what they would like to see for Conference content. If you have any ideas, please give us a call or send us an email.✉

The draft minutes from the 2005 AGM can be accessed through our website (www.wcabp.com).

Murray Jelinski



Ray Butler 'Seeing Practice' Bursary Program

Have you considered a donation to the Ray Butler 'Seeing Practice' Bursary? Donations are used to provide bursaries to budding veterinarians who have shown an interest in large animal practice. The future of your practice may well depend upon someone who has taken up large animal practice as a result of a Bursary.

Otto Radostits

December 20, 2004 marked a special occasion for Dr. Otto Radostits, *professor emeritus*, WCVM when the Governor General presented him with the Order of Canada.

This prestigious award recognizes outstanding achievement and service to Canadian society in a particular field. Radostits has been a teacher, mentor, author and clinician in his career and continues to work on the 10th edition of the textbook *Veterinary Medicine*.✉

2005 Boehringer-Ingelheim WCABP Veterinarian of the Year



Dr. Gordon Atkins grew up on a farm west of Calgary. He attended the University of Calgary for pre-veterinary studies and received his DVM degree from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1973, graduating with distinction.

Dr. Atkins joined the staff of Moore & Co. Veterinary Clinic in Calgary following graduation and became a partner in 1975. He practiced with this group for 24 years before setting up his own Calgary based dairy practice in 1997.

Dr. Atkins has devoted his career to large animal medicine with a major emphasis on dairy production medicine. He has provided comprehensive herd health programs to his dairy clients for over 30 years. For the rest of us in dairy practice, Gord has been the "gold standard" for a dairy veterinarian, and he has been an excellent role model and mentor. Every time I visit with Gord I am impressed with his enthusiasm for his profession and I always learn something new. He is the definition of dedication and client service and he has established a reputation among his clients second to none. In his client's eyes he is a trusted advisor, a highly skilled practitioner, and a good friend.

Gord is a gifted surgeon and many animals, including numerous horses, have benefited from his surgical skills. One of the most famous Holstein cows in the world, Acme Star Lily, owes her life to Gord's surgical talents. As Gord puts it, he had her intestines in his lap when he treated her for an intestinal torsion as a promising 2 year old.

As one former co-worker, an AHT, put it, "If I had a cow that needed surgery, there is no one I would rather have work on my animal than Dr. Atkins. I have seen him save many animals that looked like hopeless cases."

Dr. Atkins has also served his profession as the AABP District 13 director for 6 years, and then as President of the AABP in 1992. He also chaired the AABP Nutrition Committee. Gord has served on the AVMA continuing education committee for several years. Gord has delivered countless presentations to farmer's groups and veterinary groups throughout the world. This past

February he presented to a group of extension people and veterinarians in Japan. Dr. Atkins received one of the highest honors awarded by the AABP - The Bovine Practitioner of the Year in 1988. He was also awarded the AVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award in 1996.

Dr. Atkins is a member of the Holstein Association of Canada and the Alberta Holstein Association. He is an official judge with Holstein Canada and has judged many shows in Alberta and around the world. He has been very active in 4-H work and has served as a judge for many Achievement Days and judging schools. Also, he has been a Senior Associate Director with the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Board for almost 30 years and has served as a veterinarian at the Calgary Stampede for much of his career.

Gord and his wife Jo Anne have three children, Douglas, Kerry and Christy. The old saying, "behind every good man is a good woman" is very appropriate when describing Gord. Jo Anne is a very supportive partner who truly enables Gord to do what he does so well. She does much of the "behind the scenes" work managing the office and allowing Gord to perform at such a high level.

Unfortunately, in the winter of 2003, Gord underwent back surgery to treat a lower back injury sustained the year before. As a result, he has been forced to reduce his traditional veterinary workload and move to a consulting role in the industry he loves so much. When not consulting, he is kept busy serving as a Board Member for the National Resources Conservation Board, an organization that oversees land use and livestock permits for the Alberta Government.

In summary, his veterinary career has been very distinguished and he has served and represented the veterinary profession extremely well. He is a community minded, extremely competent veterinarian whose commitment to excellence and whose knowledge, expertise, and dedication have made him a remarkable asset to his clients, his practice, his community, and to organized veterinary medicine.✉

Dr. David Hamilton
Morden, Manitoba



WCABP 2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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RETIRING BOARD MEMBER John Campbell

My time on the WCABP board has been a very enjoyable one overall. The chance to get to know and interact with my colleagues on the board has been very gratifying. As I reflect on all of the changes that have occurred in the WCABP over the last three years, I have no doubt that our organization is in a stronger position than ever before. The challenge for our membership and our board in the future is to discover new directions in which the WCABP can make an impact for its members in terms of continuing education and lobbying. Our organization is in very capable hands with a dedicated group of board members, Dr. Murray Jelinski's competent leadership, and the superb administrative back-up of the K3 group. I owe a great deal of thanks to Dr. Ray Butler, Dr. Murray Jelinski and Phyllis and Cheryl at K3 for keeping me organized during my time as President and Past President. I would encourage all of our members to consider how they can become more involved in the WCABP. 🐄



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MISSION STATEMENT

The objectives of the Association are:

1. To elevate standards of bovine veterinary practice by:
 - a. presenting one or more continuing education conferences on bovine practice each year;
 - b. preparing and distributing information bulletins;
 - c. otherwise encouraging a personal professional development program on the part of each member.
2. To promote research into bovine diseases by:
 - a. identifying areas of needed research of special interest to the bovine industry;
 - b. bringing this information to the attention of the Dean of the WCVN, and any other appropriate organizations,
 - c. otherwise encouraging research into bovine production.
3. To establish and maintain liaison with appropriate organizations as designated by the Board.



WCABP

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 of Bovine Practitioners

The WCABP Newsletter is published by the Association as a service to its members. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of WCABP. Correspondence concerning the Newsletter should be directed to the WCABP Office.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY VETERINARY SCHOOL

Please visit www.vet.ucalgary.ca in order to obtain the latest information as well as questions and answers regarding the establishment of the University of Calgary Veterinary School.

Member News

VAL SMID - Began her role as Clinical Veterinarian at the University of Manitoba on January 5, 2005. Along with another veterinarian and two Animal Health Technician Practitioners, Val helps with the veterinary care of all research animals and monitoring of all the animal facilities at The University of Manitoba (both at the Fort Garry campus and Gleanlea Research farm as well as at the Medical School downtown). This includes monitoring of surgery areas and surgeries performed by investigators and those working for them, as well as performing some surgeries if required. This group are also responsible for reviewing all animal use protocols submitted by researchers and are part of various committees overseeing animal use and care. Val has expanded her species range from primarily cattle to anything from rats and mice to snakes (yes, I said snakes!) and cattle, swine and poultry. They know that her first love is still cows and try to let her see them as much as possible! Val says that it has been really interesting to see a different side of veterinary medicine, and though she sits at a desk more than she did before and gets buried in a bit more paperwork than previously, it is an extremely interesting and valuable experience. Val has no doubt that she will continue to stay involved in the cattle industry, and the dairy industry in particular, through the contacts she made over the years....and says "you never know what the future holds". 🐾

Report From the WCVM Bovine Club

The students of the WCVM Bovine Club have settled back into our books after enjoying a top notch WCABP Conference this year. We greatly enjoyed having the Conference in Saskatoon, which was demonstrated by setting a record for highest student attendance at a WCABP Conference! 89 students participated in the Conference, and I have heard nothing but extremely positive feedback.

In conjunction with this year's Conference, we held the first WCABP Student Seminar. The event was generously sponsored by Novartis and the WCABP, and was held at the WCVM. The topic of the seminar was "Branding Your Practice" with speakers Tenna Derdall, Dr. Craig Dorin, and Dr. Andy Acton. The students were treated to an excellent seminar, and we would like to thank the speakers for their interesting and informative presentations, as well as Novartis and the WCABP for their support in hosting this event.

The WCVM Bovine Club held their annual Lung Pathology Lab earlier this month. Students were able to get a comprehensive look at fresh specimens affected by various lung pathogens (especially important to those 2nd years who are currently tackling their pathology course!). Thank you to Dr. Fritz Schumann, Dr. John Campbell, and Dr. Jennifer Davies for their help with this lab.

We continue to enjoy good attendance at our weekly Bovine Rounds with Dr. Chris Clark, and have been fortunate to have many guest speakers

host a session of Bovine Rounds, including Dr. Albert Barth, Dr. Reuben Mapletoft, and Dr. John Campbell.

Due to popular demand from the students, the Bovine Club is working to organize a Necropsy Seminar with Dr. Ted Clark. This event is planned for March, and will be made possible only through the very generous offer of support from the WCABP.

The WCVM Bovine Club is currently seeking sponsorship for a raffle in association with our Year End Banquet in April. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle, which is to help raise money for the Bovine Club, please contact me at dorothy.krysak@usask.ca. All sponsors will be recognized at the Year End Banquet.

As this will be my last report as WCVM Bovine Club President, I would like to extend thanks to everyone from the WCABP who I have had the opportunity to work with this year. The wonderful people of the WCABP have helped make my job much easier, and allowed the Bovine Club to explore new and exciting events and opportunities. The increasing level of support from the WCABP has been much appreciated, and the WCVM Bovine Club looks forward to further building this relationship. 🐾

Dorothy Krysak
President, WCVM Bovine Club

FOR SALE - Small veterinary equipment for sale at a reasonable price. Contact: Dr. Sye Van Maanen, Grenfell, SK. Phone: 306-697-2636

Meetings of Interest

ATLANTIC PROVINCES VETERINARY CONFERENCE. April 22-24, 2005 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Contact: tel.: (902) 787-2531; e-mail: b.sutherland@ns.sympatico.ca; Web site: www.apvc.ca

WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, June 9-11, 2005, at the University of Saskatchewan to celebrate "forty years of excellence", from the date students were first admitted to the College. Scientific sessions, social and alumni events are planned. All alumni, former faculty and staff, stakeholders, supporters and friends of the College are invited to come and share this important anniversary with the current faculty, staff and students. Contact: Ernie Olfert - Tel.: 306-966-4124 Email: ernest.olfert@usask.ca or Anne Ruholl Tel.: 306-966-7267 Email: anne.ruholl@usask.ca. Website: <http://www.usask.ca/wcvm/alumni/general.php>

THE 57TH ANNUAL CANADIAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (CVMA) CONVENTION. July 13-16, 2005 at the Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, British Columbia. Contact: Ms. Linda B. Huskins, CMP, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, 339 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7K1; tel.: (613) 236-1162, ext. 126 or 1-800-567-2862, ext. 126; e-mail: lhuskins@cvma-acmv.org; Web site: <http://www.canadianveterinarians.net>

October 15 - 18, 2005 **2005 CANWEST VETERINARY CONFERENCE** at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel 405 Spray Avenue, Banff, Alberta. <http://www.fairmont.com/>

NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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Deborah Beddome - WCABP 112G-116 Research Dr. Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R3

Request for Assistance

The following email was received by the WCABP. If you are able to be of assistance, please contact Stephen directly.

I am a fourth (penultimate) year undergraduate at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. I am in the process of planning a trip to Alberta, which will take place in and around July this year, when I plan to see cattle practices then travel around Canada for a short period afterwards. I hope to be a large animal practitioner when I qualify in 16 month's time, so it would be great to learn a few things I can bring back with me to Britain.

However, I do not have any contacts in Canada. Therefore, I am hoping that you would be so kind as to put me into contact with a cattle practitioner of your Association, located in Alberta who may be willing for me to shadow them at work for two or three weeks to further my experience. It would be very helpful if they are accessible from the international airport at Calgary or Edmonton, with somewhere inexpensive to stay locally; but I would be most grateful for any assistance you can provide me with.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Ashman
s.d.ashman@sms.ed.ac.uk

2005 Conference Summary

By Murray Jelinski and Ray Butler

The 2005 Conference, which was held in Saskatoon, is now part of our history. Special thanks and congratulations to Craig Dorin (Conference Chair); Phyllis, Deborah and Cheryl of K3 Consulting Inc.; and Ray Butler for making this Conference such a great success. Our commercial supporters continue to be major players in WCABP Conferences and we thank them for their interest and support.

The total attendance figures of 242, which set a new record for WCABP conferences, included: 114 veterinarians and 91 student members. These numbers challenge two commonly held beliefs: 1) that young graduates are not interested in rural practice, and 2) that Saskatoon cannot draw enough attendees. On that note, we will resume our rotation back to Calgary for 2006, and in fact, the dates have already been set - January 19 to 21, 2006.

Thanks to the 92 attendees who completed the conference questionnaire, and to Phyllis for collating these results. The old adage of, "you can't please everyone", certainly applied for the Beef and Dairy sessions; however, this was not true of Saturday's session - the two speakers, Drs. Bruce Hull and Allan Roussel appeared to please everyone! The WCABP thanks the organizing committee of the Dr. O.M. Radostits Legacy Fund for providing us with an outstanding pair of lecturers. And, the WCABP thanks Dr. Radostits for suggesting, and contacting, Drs. Hull and Roussel.

The following is a brief summary of the questionnaire data along with a smattering of the comments that we received.

PRE-CONFERENCE BEEF

Excellent - 4

Very Good - 15

Good - 2

Fair - 16

Needs Improvement - 1

- Too much research detail in several presentations. Need to cut to the applied/practical portion. Need some computer software portion.
- Really enjoyed Barry Robinson. I think we need new nutrition in the practical sense.
- Quite detailed but very informative and useful.
- I thought part of the seminar were very good and practical, however, I was disappointed with the trace mineral session as it was NOT applicable to Western Canada and was also much too detailed vs. practical.

PRE-CONFERENCE DAIRY

Excellent - 5

Very Good - 18

Fair - 1

Needs Improvement - 1

- Good information to take home and use.
- Dairy feeding behaviour talk was oversimplified.
- Dr. Fricke was a very good speaker! Very informative and well presented.
- Dr. Paul Fricke was excellent! Barry Robinson was good, concise speaker, good info presented.
- Good practical ideas, enthusiastic speaker, interaction with audience

FRIDAY PROGRAM

Excellent - 11

Very Good - 56

Fair - 10

Needs Improvement - 1

- Allen Roussel presentation worth the trip! Also Trish Dowling and Joe Stookey's!
- Tim McAllister was excellent. Very exciting to think someone of his ability is close to home!
- Excellent speakers.
- The WCABP should become a leader in animal welfare. We cannot let non-veterinarians become the voice of the industry from a veterinarian's viewpoint.
- Sometimes tedious/boring, too scientific.
- Nice diversity of topics - all good speakers.
- I was only here for the morning session. It was refreshing to have talks noting the association between human medicine and veterinary medicine as we are in a prime position to be a liaison between animal scientists, doctors and the public.

SATURDAY PROGRAM

Excellent - 55

Very Good - 23

- Really enjoyed the oral and IV fluid therapy talks. Allen Roussel was an excellent speaker. Dr. Hull excellent as well. Both were easy to understand, even for a student.
- Dr. Hull was excellent - very interesting and relevant topics.
- Bruce Hull was excellent speaker.
- Dr. Roussel was a very good speaker. Enjoyed the review of common procedures.
- Very knowledgeable dynamic speakers, which was good when they speak extensively.
- Both speakers were fabulous - one of the most enjoyable and practical seminars I've attended
- Great speakers, especially Dr. Hull.
- Roussel's talk was excellent. Very hands on and useful. Ditto for Bruce Hull. Both of these speakers were wonderful. Easy to listen to and very practical.
- Think Allen Roussel's presentation was AAA.

We also asked the attendees to complete some additional questions to assist us in planning for future conferences. The questions and responses are as follows:

Did you Find the Conference Binder a Necessary Tool?

Yes - 87 No - 3

Is it important to have these materials with you, or is the ability to download the presentations after the Conference, from the Association website, sufficient for your needs?

- It is important to have.
- It is important to have notes available during the presentation. This makes it a greater learning experience with the oral presentation
- Very helpful to have at the Conference. It is extremely high quality. Excellent job!
- It is important to have the material at the Conference.

Comments on the location, facilities and organization of the Conference

- Excellent but don't need as many snacks! Room temperature too hot at times.
- Fabulous but freezing.
- Very nice and well organized.
- Excellent - I think it should be alternated every year between Calgary/Saskatoon



Western Canadian Association
of Bovine Practitioners

IN APPRECIATION

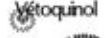
The interest and support of the following organizations are gratefully acknowledged.



Bayer HealthCare
Animal Health Division

The Dr. O.M. Radostits
Legacy Fund

Wyeth
Animal Health



Next Year's Conference Topics:

- More theriogenology/anesthesia. Practice tips (very popular when we used to do this). How about pre-conference E.T. Day with Reuben Mapletoft (could make it from basic to advanced for all levels of E.T.).
- Pathology and trends in feedlot diseases in Western Canada (Ted Clark).
- More surgical stuff - it was great!
- Whatever is current, whatever is "hot".
- Management topics, succession planning.
- Dairy nutrition balancing rations (lactating, dry, transition). Parasitology review - zoonosis, prevalence in Western Canada.

Suggestions regarding the Association's quarterly newsletter:

- It is excellent - member profiles are intriguing and lets you see what is going on.
- More scientific content.
- Continue with profiles for practitioners. What about classified advertisements in newsletter and website?
- The newsletter is doing well and in my opinion improves with every issue.
- Think it is in the upper quartile compared to other newsletters - well done!
- Very good newsletter - keep up member bio column - good idea.
- I like the new member profile section.

Would you be supportive of regional CE meetings in addition to the Annual Conference?

- Yes, great idea and maybe would be a good opportunity for some wet labs.
- Only in emergency situations.
- Yes, we are desperate for any continuing education hours that are available.
- Yes, sometimes more practical/economical than sending employee vets, etc. to these major centers. Many female vets have young families and it is tough for them to commit to long(er) distance venues.
- Yes, definitely.
- Absolutely.
- No - have quality conference.

Any Other Comments:

- This was the first conference I attended and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Being in attendance made me excited about my future as a veterinarian.
- Best conference I have been to - great topics.
- Conference binder containing PowerPoint slides is absolutely useless. I did not pay for overheads. I would like comprehensive notes put together by speakers. Referring back to these notes in one year will be a waste of time - a useless piece of reference material.
- I've never been disappointed at attending the WCABP conference yet! Good job.
- Excellent job putting everything together. 🐾

2006 Conference

It is not too early to start planning for the 2006 WCABP Conference, which will be held in Calgary (venue to be determined) from Thursday through Saturday, January 19 to 21.

Dr. Doug Mann, WCABP President-Elect and Chair for the 2006 meeting, ably assisted by Phyllis Mierau, Cheryl Pasulyko and Deborah Beddome of the WCABP office staff and Ray Butler will be striving to make next year's meeting 'the best yet'.

WCABP members should not hesitate to contact any of the above to offer suggestions, such as themes, topics or speakers, that should be considered. These can be e-mailed to info@wcabp.com or by calling the WCABP office at 1 866 269 8387.

Current plans are to follow the general format of split sessions (beef and dairy) for the Thursday followed by single sessions on the Friday and Saturday. The AGM will again be in the form of a luncheon meeting on the Friday.

Following on a suggestion received through the 2005 Conference survey, the Saturday session will be compressed to end at 3:00 p.m. to facilitate home travel for those attending from distant locations.

So mark your calendars now and book time to attend "WCABP '06".

Ray Butler

Administrator's Report

Since printing of the 2004 December newsletter our energy has been devoted to preparing for the 14th Annual WCABP Conference that was held in Saskatoon January 20-22, 2005. Hats off to our loyal members, who despite the unseasonable weather, showed up in full force. We truly enjoyed our involvement with the Conference and the pleasure of seeing so many of you again. We also enjoyed making several new acquaintances.

This year Conference presentations were pre-loaded onto the computers making for a smooth-flowing program. An electronic version of the Conference notes is now available on the WCABP website (www.wcabp.com). Contact us for directions on how to access this Members Only section.

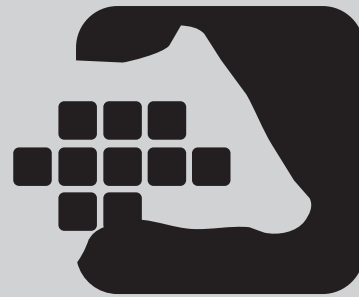
If you have occasion to be in Saskatoon please feel free to drop by our office at any time (112G - 116 Research Drive) - we would be more than happy to see you!

Phyllis Mierau/Cheryl Pasulyko



WCABP

Western Canadian Association
of Bovine Practitioners



PROFILE #1 Craig Dorin

The WCABP's new President, Dr. Craig Dorin originates from Innisfail, Alberta. Following graduation from the WCVN in 1985 Craig practiced in Kamloops, B.C. for 12 years. After this he moved to Calgary and was employed for two years by Hoechst Animal Health as Tech Services Vet. Craig joined Veterinary Agri-Health Services in Airdrie, AB in 1998 and is now a partner with Dr. Michael Jelinski. This practice provides health management programs to cow-calf and feedlot clients. Craig married his classmate, Michelle Anholt and they have two sons, Bryce and Marshall.

VIEWPOINT

The purpose of this column is to generate thought and discussion on issues of significance to WCABP members, and may not reflect the opinion of the Board or the membership. I invite members to either respond to this article, or to write an unrelated article worthy of discussion or debate. All responses to this article, within reason and subject to minor editing, will be printed in the next newsletter.

Based on the feedback provided in the Conference questionnaires, it appears that a certain constituency of the membership would like to see the WCABP become more engaged in debating issues that impact our Association. Those who attended the AGM can attest to that fact that talk of an Alberta Veterinary School continues to evoke a visceral response. I'm uncertain as to how many people are accepting of the new college, but I suspect that what appears to be acceptance is really resignation, and that the initiative has a very thin level of support.

It strikes me that there is something terribly wrong when a government wants to pour millions of dollars into veterinary education; yet, the people (veterinarians) who it will ostensibly help the most have rallied against it. Why is this? Perhaps, opposition to this initiative arose from the fact that only a handful of people were privy to the decision-making process. Or, opposition may emanate from the feeling that no one has advanced a cogent rationale for establishing a fifth veterinary college in Canada. In my view the Alberta initiative is really a political play, and it makes absolutely no sense from an economic perspective.

Economics is loosely defined as a social science that studies the choices that we make as we cope with scarcity, that is, our inability to satisfy all our wants. Essentially all our decisions involve a trade-off in the allocation of resources (money, time, effort). How many times have you faced the decision of whether to go on a call or forego a family event; buy more inventory or pay-down debt; or choose one vacation destination over another? With every decision there is an opportunity cost, which economists define as the highest-valued alternative that we give up to get something ("there is no free lunch"). Every decision has an opportunity cost and ideally all our decisions should be based on the premise of maximizing returns. Personally, I think the Alberta government did a disservice to our profession and the agriculture industry at large when it elected to establish its own school. And, not because of the potential negative ramifications to the long-term stability of the WCVN, but more importantly, the inherent opportunity costs associated with this decision are far too high.

The establishment of the Alberta veterinary school will initially cost tens of millions of dollars. For a fraction of this cost the WCVN could have established a teaching/research facility in Alberta, modelled after Clay Center. But the lump-sum start-up costs pale in comparison to the opportunity costs associated with the annual operating budget. The Alberta government projects operations to cost \$8.4-\$12.4 million annually, and these will be incurred in perpetuity. Ostensibly, one of the reasons for establishing another college is to address what is perceived to be a severe shortage of food animal veterinarians. How many people appreciate that the WCVN has THE lowest cost-structure of any veterinary college in North America, and its graduates consistently score in the top percentile

on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). For the cost of an additional \$3-\$4 million annually, Alberta could create enough new positions at the WCVN to meet its needs. This would still leave another \$5.4-\$9.4 million for research, post-graduate training, and the operation of a satellite facility in Alberta. Or, Alberta could establish a veterinary science program at the U of C that is dedicated to post-graduate education. Just imagine if the Alberta government had shown some creativity, how this money could have been better spent. Western Canada could have established a food animal program that would have been the envy of every veterinary college in North America.

I appreciate that Alberta is awash in money and that legacies must be built, especially in a centennial year. But, in the end, we, the veterinary profession, will have paid the highest opportunity costs. Yes, we will have a fifth veterinary college, but by all accounts, the undergraduate program will essentially be an experiment in veterinary education. No other veterinary college in North America operates a three-year program: I've been told it was tried in the United States but failed. Similarly, there is nothing to suggest that the proposed case-based teaching model will provide a student that is as good, let alone better than a WCVN graduate. But this aside, it all comes down to opportunity costs - over the next ten years Alberta will commit well over a \$100 million dollars to its new college. Is this really the best use of funds?

Now you know my viewpoint.

Murray Jelinski



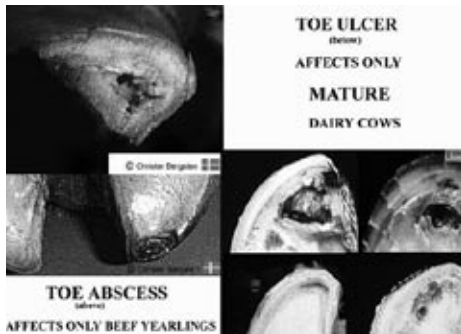
Toe Abscesses and Ulcers

By Paul Greenough

The toe ulcer which occurs at the apex of the sole of the claws of mature dairy cows is a phenomenon that has been reported in relatively recent years (Greenough and Weaver, 1997. van Amstel and Shearer, 2000, Apley, 1997). There is a consensus of anecdotal opinion that there is a laminitis-related etiology. Most workers consider the pathogenesis of the toe ulcer involves the activation of Matrix Metalloproteinase (MMP) which disrupt the reticular network of the suspensory apparatus of the claw. Failure of the suspensory apparatus allows the apex of the distal phalanx to sink and in some cases to prolapse through the white line at the apex of the claw. Acuña (2002) has described toe ulcers in the claws of recently calved dairy heifers. Although these animals were pasture fed they were also given substantial quantities of cereals.

The toe "abscess" is very similar in appearance to the "ulcer" but it is only found in yearling beef calves. The condition has been well documented in the literature (Miskimins, 1994 & 2002; Griffin et al., 1993; Smith and Broderson, 1998; Stokka et al., 2001). Toe abscesses were first reported in the feedlots of Nebraska. Today, there is a high mortality reported in the United States and many thousands of animals are being lost in some feedlots. In recent months I have received several contacts from feedlot veterinarians in Alberta about the increasing number of yearlings affected by this problem.

Because the two conditions appear to be clinically very similar it is useful to consider them together.



CLINICAL SIGNS OF TOE ABSCESSES

Affected cattle develop severe lameness three days to three weeks after admission to the feedlot (Miskimins, 1994). The lateral claws of the hind feet are most commonly affected. An affected animal is reluctant to move, rapidly loses condition, and is often found recumbent. Many animals contract pneumonia accounting for the high mortality from this disorder. Early examination may reveal what appears to be abnormal wear of the apex of the sole, swelling, and tenderness around the coronary band. The body temperature is usually elevated. An opening may be found at the apex of the sole with drainage of a foul-smelling liquid. In some cases, infection may spread up the limbs causing cellulitis. The morbidity rate can reach 50% of the animals in a lot (Kofler, 1999). If this condition is found in a batch of cattle other sick animals particularly if they are recumbent should be examined with hoof testers to test for pain in their claws.

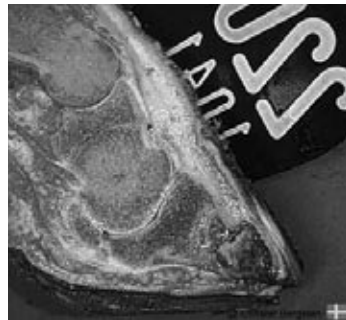
ETIOPATHOLOGY

Trauma Hypothesis

There is a strongly held opinion among feedlot operators that the excessive wear associated with this disorder is caused by contact with rough abrasive concrete or rough frozen surfaces. Excitability of animals, particularly when being loaded up ramps with metallic "grips," has also been implicated. Very low ambient temperatures may contribute to the pathologic changes observed.

Laminitis theory

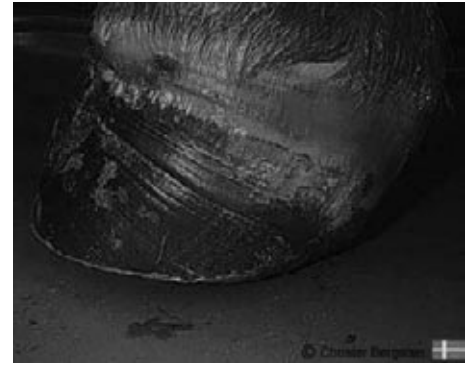
Dr. Christer Bergsten, visiting Nebraska from Sweden, took a number of photographs of lesions found at autopsy. The picture below shows the cross section of a claw with a typical open lesion.



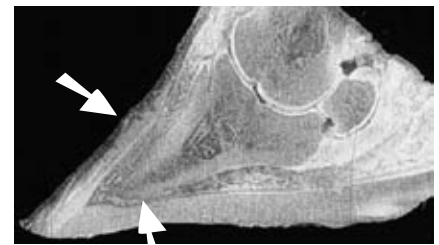
At the apex of the distal phalanx there appears to be a sequestrum of necrotic bone.



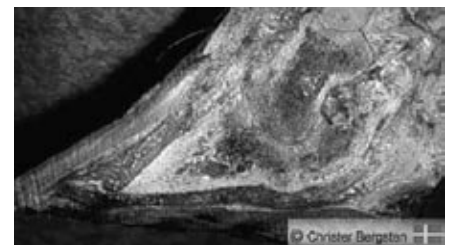
In this cross section there is no opening at the apex and it can be referred to as a "closed" lesion. It is difficult to determine if there is any sinkage of the apex if the distal phalanx but bone necrosis is present. The important thing to note here is the presence of a double sole. Double soles have, for some time, been considered as an occasional complication of subclinical laminitis. However, the lesion can also have a traumatic etiology and has been observed in animals forced to walk some distance daily on very hard surfaces.



The above picture shows the exterior surface of one of the Nebraska claws. Note that a ridge is present. Ridges sometimes are seen in feedlot cattle that are undergoing "compensatory growth". The next slide is an example of this lesion which occurred in a batch of animals in a feeding trial.



This was a frequent finding among 200 steers that were "backgrounded" on hay over winter then fed intensively starting when they were 13 months of age and continuing for five to eight weeks before they were finished. The upper white arrow indicates the point at which the apex of the distal phalanx is slightly depressing the sole. The lower white arrow points to a ridge on the exterior surface of the wall. The sinking seen here could represent the earliest stage of the phenomenon observed in the next picture which shows typical dropping of the apex of the claw caused by failure of the suspensory apparatus in a dairy cow with subclinical laminitis.



Are toe abscesses and toe ulcers different manifestations of the same syndrome?

The pathology observed in the Nebraska calves resulted from insults which occurred during a maximum period of the three or four days and could possibly have occurred over a period of hours. In these cases it is difficult to determine if sinking of the distal phalanx occurred. Sinking of the apex of the distal phalanx in the feedlot trial was a slower process while that seen in the dairy cow was likely to have been the result of repeated insults.

Bull Evaluation and Barth Manuals

Now is the time to check your inventory of WCABP forms and manuals. Please email/fax/or call the WCABP office to place your order for the following:

BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EVALUATION OR BARTH MANUALS @ \$20.00 per manual

BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EVALUATION FORMS @ \$10.00 for books of 25 and \$20.00 for books of 50.

A small shipping charge will be added to all orders to cover shipping and handling.

BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EVALUATION FORMS are also available at Western Drug Distribution Center and Mid West Veterinary Drug Distribution Center. Please note that the books available at these locations have a tracking number printed on the form.

DISCUSSION

The etiology of the toe abscess is controversial with traumatic and nutritional risk factors being proposed as possible causal agents.

The condition is clearly associated with new arrivals in a feedlot. It is easy to jump to the conclusion that a sudden change of feed is the cause, however, nutritional acclimatization of steers for 30 days after arrival has not produced convincing results. It is also unconvincing to argue that loading excitable animals could cause the degree of trauma required to produce the same pathology in so many different locations. Perhaps the answer may lie elsewhere?

Canadian regulations for transporting ruminants require cattle to be watered and fed for five hours prior to transportation. The animals must be watered and fed every 48 hours while being transported unless they can reach their destination in 52 hours. Similar regulations exist in the United States but there are so many exceptions that transportation of cattle is probably poorly controlled in that country. The incidence of toe abscesses is probably higher in the US than in Canada and distances travelled by cattle are probably greater in the US.

Under ideal conditions cattle lie down for 11-14 hours per day. This is the time during which cattle prefer to ruminate. Rumination produces copious saliva having high bicarbonate content which effectively controls ruminal acidosis. Exercise has the effect of pumping blood up from the feet back into the systemic circulation. This arrangement brings oxygen and nutrients to the dermis of the claw and removes CO₂ and other waste products. Standing for long periods causes blood to pool in the feet and intraangular pressure to increase. High intraangular pressure together with haemostasis could account for the lesions seen in the cross section of claws affected with sole abscess.

The characteristics of transportation should be considered in the context of the etiology of toe abscesses. A number of variables could play a part in predisposing or precipitating this disease.

1. If an animal starts its journey with a full rumen the contents will continue to ferment throughout the journey and as the animal dehydrates acidosis, if present, will slowly increase. The critical variable would be the quantity and quality of feed consumed prior to the journey. The rumen pH (obtained by rumenocentesis) on arrival at the destination would be the critical indicator of the nutrition factor. In dairy cows the threshold for laminitis is about pH 5.0.

2. The effects of acidosis will be exacerbated if the animals are stressed by the multiplicity of unfamiliar conditions associated with transportation such as the speed of the vehicle, the road surfaces over which the

vehicle travels and the duration of the transportation.

3. Cattle that are overcrowded in a truck may not be able to lie down and other circumstances may not be conducive to rumination. There is probably an optimal square footage per animal in the truck bed. The appropriate minimum allowance of space for a dairy cow is about four square feet for example.

4. Probably the majority of young cattle are transported in the fall when ambient temperatures are low. Climatic conditions could be a contributory factor.

It is unlikely that sufficient data exists concerning the above variables. However, specifying 48-52 hours must have been based on sound scientific information.

The maximum range for a single trucker could be around 600 miles or a period of 12 hours during which there would be several rest periods. It seems illogical that cattle should be expected to remain in good condition for a period longer than 12 hours. It should not be too difficult to conduct a trial in which the incidence of toe abscesses is related to the estimated number of hours in transit, the density of the load and time of year when the condition is most prevalent. Toe abscesses are causing considerable economic losses to the feedlot industry in the United States. Preventive measures could be quite simple. However, the risk of changing regulations would increase the cost of transportation which would be unpopular with the livestock industry. On the other hand objective information could place the liability in the hands of the transporter.

Collecting exhaustive information would not be easy. A simple study might justify the cost of a comprehensive investigation. There must be an epidemiological pattern associated with the disease.

At the present time there is little advice to be given to control this problem. Quiet handling of the animals on arrival, avoidance of abrasive surfaces, and strict acclimatization feed is recommended (Edwards, 1984).

TREATMENT

A) Beef Calves

Various feed and injectable antibiotics have been tried with little success.

Topical treatment consists of removing, under regional anesthesia, the apex of the claw with hoof cutters. A sequestrum of necrotic bone may be shed. Topical dressing with antibiotic and protection of the wound with a waterproof bandage is appropriate. Whether such a procedure is cost effective is debatable. 🐾

PROFILE #2 Paul Christiansen

We welcome Dr. Paul Christiansen as the newest member of the WCABP Board of Directors. He was born and raised on a ranch in Western Montana. Paul received his DVM from Washington State University in 1968. From 1968 to 1999 he had a mixed practice in Kamloops, B.C. with beef cattle as his main interest. In 2000 Paul joined Pfizer Animal Health as Market Support Specialist. He has two daughters, Kim and Cortie. Paul's interests include skiing, golf, roller blading, Rotary and Toastmasters. 🐾

B) Dairy Cows

If a toe ulcer in a dairy cow has progressed to the point of prolapse of the distal phalanx, it is probable that the condition will be irreversible. However, if the disorder is recognised early, a technique described by van Amstel and Shearer (2000) may be useful. A plastic "slipper" with a closed toe cup is used for this procedure. An insert is cut from ±5 mm inner tubing and placed inside on the sole of the shoe. This will provide better cushioning during weight bearing. Adhesive is applied to the inside of the toecap but not to the sole. After the affected claw has been inserted into the shoe, adhesive should be applied to the sole wall and overlapped onto the toe cap.

If necrotic corium protrudes through the opening in the sole, radiographic examination is recommended. There may be evidence of a physiological fracture and some degree of osteolysis. In these cases if the animal is particularly valuable, it is possible to amputate the toe (not the whole digit). The first step would be to immediately institute the aggressive use of systemic antibiotics. Under regional anaesthesia, a section of the apex of the toe can be removed. Removing the distal 3 cm will usually be sufficient to extract the necrotic sequestrum. The lesion should be packed with a hygroscopic mixture (50% magnesium sulphate and 50% glycerine) and left bandaged for a maximum period of 24 hours. The lesion should be thoroughly dried, dressed with antibiotic powder, and closed with methyl methacrylate. A block should be applied to the unaffected claw in order to relieve undue flexor influence on the rotated phalanx. Unless secondary infection occurs, the defective area will eventually become covered with horn. When considering this procedure the client should be warned that if this type of pathology has occurred in one claw it could have occurred in other digits.

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WCVM Begins \$43-million Transformation

By Myrna MacDonald

The staccato beat of jackhammers and the rumble of heavy equipment have become part of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's (WCVM) ambiance, but no one is complaining.

Those sounds mean the college's \$43-million transformation has begun: in the next three years, construction workers will add more than 11,000 square metres to WCVM's original 25,290-square-metre building and renovate nearly 6,900 square metres of existing facilities. Projects include a two-storey addition to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), a food animal clinical teaching facility, consolidated research animal housing, additional research laboratories and an upgraded diagnostic services area.

"This project is complex with more than two dozen 'sub-projects' combining renovations with new space. Mixed into that, we're planning construction in phases since our teaching, research, clinics and diagnostic laboratories must continue operating throughout the project," explains WCVM Dean Dr. Charles Rhodes.

One sub-project is the teaching hospital's addition on the college's east side. In the Large Animal Clinic, additional space will house client consultation rooms, a field service office and storage room, improved animal isolation rooms and better large animal handling facilities. The entire hospital will also have heightened biosecurity and personal security for clients, students and employees.

"One challenge is deciding how we can operate in one part of the hospital that shares air, light and power with another area under construction," says VTH director Dr. Stan Rubin. "But it's going to be beautiful when it's done: we'll be able to serve our clients so much better, and we'll be able to teach so much better."



Construction crews initiated WCVM's infrastructure project just weeks after its environmental assessment received federal approval in October 2004. Five months earlier, the University of Saskatchewan's Board of Governors gave WCVM final approval for architect drawings and construction plans.

These last steps put the college's plans into action after two years of preparation by college faculty, staff and U of S project specialists. Last year, the team expanded to include AODBT, a Saskatoon-based architectural firm, and UMA Engineering as project manager. In September 2004, WCVM selected Graham Construction as construction manager – partially because the Saskatoon company has experience with the "construction management process."

This staggered approach to multi-phase projects allows planning to continue on one part of the building site while construction is underway at another site. "It's more time-efficient, it's easier to stay on budget, and if we have late-stage changes, it's more flexible than the traditional, single-tender approach," explains Rhodes.

Phased construction is also less disruptive for lectures, research and clinical services: "It's 'business as usual' during construction, and we need to communicate that message to our clients and referring veterinarians," says Rubin.

The federal government has already provided \$22.2 million in funding, and the Saskatchewan government added its support by committing \$15 million to the project in November 2004. WCVM plans to raise the final \$5 million through its Veterinary Teaching Hospital fund raising campaign.

Visit www.wcvm.com/supportus to learn about the College's expansion project and donation options. Check for construction updates at www.wcvm.com.

EXPANDING ON THE DETAILS

- Four WCVM planning teams represent different aspects of the College: one team, led by Dr. Bruce Grahn, is in charge of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital; Dr. Norman Rawlings leads the team dealing with research facilities; Dr. Dorothy Middleton is responsible for the College's diagnostic areas; and Dr. Jeremy Bailey leads the focus on educational space. WCVM Dean Dr. Charles Rhodes is responsible for the overall planning, budgeting and implementation of the WCVM infrastructure project.
- The College's 40-year-old "body" has posed some challenges: electrical services, ventilation and plumbing must be upgraded to meet today's fire codes, occupational health and safety regulations and biosecurity issues. Still, the original college has "worn very well," points out Rhodes. "As much as possible, we're trying to maintain the aesthetics of the original architecture and some of the building's unique features so the existing design isn't lost."

- Around the College: A new food animal clinical teaching facility just north of the current college building is planned. Another project will expand and consolidate conventional and Level II housing for research animals into a single wing in WCVM's northwest corner (including the old Interim Housing Unit). Vacated space will be renovated for new laboratories. Crews will build a new "multi-user" research laboratory wing on the southern side of WCVM, parallel to the college's entrance ramp. Planning is also underway for a major upgrade of the diagnostic services area in the college's southeast corner. As well, WCVM plans to replace its existing incinerator with a new disposal system.
- Student locker rooms will undergo renovations to improve space needs and student safety. All of the locker space will be consolidated on the first floor to address further biosecurity issues in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and in the rest of the college.
- Large and Small Clinics: Construction crews will do an extensive renovation of the Veterinary

Teaching Hospital's (VTH) small animal surgery and related service areas. "Some of the main functioning areas of the hospital – the small animal treatment room, anesthesia, intensive care – will be closer together, meaning that our staff will be able to function better," says VTH director Dr. Stan Rubin. In the Large Animal Clinic, changes will improve the safety of the chute complex in the clinic's animal handling area, plus modifications are planned to make the large animal surgery more functional.

- Upstairs, downstairs: The new VTH addition's basement will become Hospital Central for janitorial services, storage and materials management processing (including the autoclaves). The addition's second floor will make room for new teaching spaces and offices, plus a renovated medical records area.
- Biosecurity: Incorporating current knowledge and guidelines related to biosecurity and safety have been key aspects of WCVM's plans. "But this process is always more challenging to implement in an existing building," points out Rhodes.

The renovated college will have isolation facilities for small and large animals on the building's periphery, and the teaching hospital will have different entry points depending on the type of species and whether the animals are deemed potentially infectious. "Before the animal even comes into the building, we will know where it should be going," says Rubin.

Saskatchewan Commits \$15 Million to WCVM Expansion

A \$15 million injection from the Saskatchewan government boosted the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) into the final stage of fund raising for its four-year, \$43-million expansion project.

Last November, Saskatchewan Learning Minister Andrew Thomson announced the province's significant support for the extensive expansion and upgrade of WCVM's facilities: "Our government made a commitment to strengthen the learning sector and through this expansion we will provide students with greater access to technology and to specialized areas of veterinary medicine."

WCVM's multi-stage expansion project includes a two-storey addition to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, additional space for research laboratories, a consolidated research animal housing unit and an upgraded diagnostic services area.

These plans will ensure that WCVM continues to have some of the most advanced facilities and technological resources in North America and that its veterinary students gain exposure to the latest in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. The expansion will also ensure that the College continues to meet the profession's accreditation standards well into the future.

"In the end it is about people – and this project will help us to attract outstanding faculty, researchers, staff and students," WCVM Dean Dr. Charles Rhodes said.

WCVM and Canada's three other regional veterinary colleges received a \$113-million capital funding package from the federal government in

PROFILE #3 Walter Wigmore

An easterner turned western!

Born in Windsor, Ontario and raised in nearby London, Walter obtained his DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario in 1968.

Wanting to “get out of Ontario and do things his way” Walter took a very bold step for a young man and signed up with the then “Subsidized Practice Program” and set up a large animal veterinary clinic in Vanderhoof, British Columbia. “I signed up sight unseen!”

Talk about building a practice from the ground up; Walter started his practice in the kitchen of one of the first log cabins to be built in Vanderhoof, a town of some 2,500 in the late 60’s (now some 5,000). Initially the Vanderhoof Veterinary Clinic was predominantly a large animal (beef, dairy, and horse) clinic. Over time, however, the emphasis has changed and today the clinic deals mostly in small animals. “The shift to small animals has not been by design, but more a function of the economic times in the area” offers Walter.

Needless to say over his 37 years of veterinary practice, Walter has experienced many interesting situations.

There was the time he got lost in -20° weather in the middle of a snowstorm. “There were no roads to one farm so I went by ski-doo” notes Walter. “One day on my way back from doing some tuberculosis testing I got totally lost in a winter snow storm; couldn’t see where I was going and drove off a 20 foot cliff. Somehow I managed to find my way home - thought for sure that I was a goner!” To add insult to injury, after this harrowing experience the government for whom he was doing the testing, scolded Walter for only collecting 6 samples in an 8-hour day.

In the fall Walter travelled to many of his clients by airplane to pregnancy test cows. He operated his own

65 H.P. Luscombe aircraft, often landing in farmer’s fields. On more than one occasion Walter’s return flights were filled with anticipation. “One time I had to land at the Vanderhoof airport by memory” offers Walter. “You see, by the time I completed all my work and headed for home it was dark and with the airport having no lights, I had no choice but to land by memory.”

After this experience, the next time Walter didn’t return home before dusk, his wife Judy alerted several of the neighbours who all headed out to the airport to light up the runway. “Imagine my surprise when I approached the airport and the runway was all lit up; what a wonderful reception - and what a party we had right on the runway after I landed safely.”

Walter’s wife, Judy, was born in Prince Rupert and was familiar with Vanderhoof, as her grandfather was the first doctor in the town. Walter met Judy during her teaching practicum, which she took in Vanderhoof.

Walter and Judy have four children, two sons, Jamie who is currently finishing his Masters degree and David who is an animator in Vancouver and two daughters, Susie, a teacher in Fort St James and Jill, currently working at getting her teaching certificate so she can teach in Prince George. In addition to four children, the Wigmore’s are blessed with three grandchildren.

Outside of the clinic, Walter and Judy have experienced a number of interesting family vacations. They’ve taken a camping trip to Disneyland, and they’ve travelled across Canada in a tent trailer. “Now that was an experience!” says Walter.

“One of our best vacation was a two month camping experience through 9 or 10 countries in Europe” offers Walter, “There were seven of us; Judy and I, our four kids and another teenager” says Walter. “With all five children being between 10-15 years of age we had a truly amazing time”. This experience firmly instilled the travel bug in the Wigmore children as they have all travelled extensively since that time.

Walter estimates that in his time as a veterinarian he has personally treated around 225,000 animals. “My practice was pretty much a fire engine practice - I spent most of my time responding to emergencies.” One such emergency was the calving of a buffalo at a nearby buffalo ranch. “This buffalo was a particularly miserable critter, she kicked like a mule and had a bad temper to boot.”

Walter doesn’t recommend veterinarians become cowboy - he’s still suffering from a knee injury he obtained from his first rodeo experience. Shortly after setting up practice in Vanderhoof, Walter was talked into entering the local rodeo. “I started my rodeo experience riding bareback. I made the 8 seconds crowd hopping then jumped off and got sandwiched between the pickup horse and the bucking horse, wrenching my knee in the process.”

“I also rode one bull!” recalls Walter. “It was a week before my wedding. The bull jumped a couple of times and on the third jump my tailbone hit the bulls backbone breaking my tailbone and bucking me off in the process.”

To make matters worse, “later that week I re-injured my tailbone skydiving and on Wednesday before the wedding I got sprayed by a skunk” recalls Walter “I was a real mess for the wedding”. Giving up rodeo didn’t take much convincing. Skydiving was another matter. “I compromised with Judy, after 25 jumps, I gave up skydiving and in return she gave up smoking”.

After a very interesting and rewarding career, Walter has (the day before the interview for this profile) decided to retire and spend more time woodworking and travelling.

Interested parties can contact Walter at the Vanderhoof Veterinary Clinic (Phone: 250-567-4694) to lease or buy the practice. 🐾

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December 2002. WCVM’s share of the funding – \$22.2 million – was contingent upon the College’s success in securing matching support

“The Government of Saskatchewan’s contribution means we can now concentrate on raising the final \$5 million needed to complete the funding for this extremely important, multi-million dollar project,” said Rhodes.

To meet that objective, WCVM has developed a comprehensive fund raising campaign aimed at the College’s stakeholders and friends across Western Canada. Besides livestock industries, corporate donors and private individuals, the campaign’s list includes WCVM’s students, faculty, staff and more than 2,200 alumni.

“The moral and financial support of alumni signifies to others that this expansion project is valuable and necessary,” said Rhodes, noting that this is the first time the College has ever asked its graduates for financial support in an organized campaign.

“Our efforts reflect a changing world where WCVM can no longer rely solely on government agencies for support of its facilities and activities. If we want to strengthen our role as a national centre for veterinary education, expertise and research, we will need the support of all of our stakeholders –including our alumni.”

Since the alumni portion of the fund raising campaign began in September 2004, Rhodes said

the enthusiasm of WCVM alumni volunteers and the positive response from former graduates across North America has inspired organizers

He added that it’s not too late to become involved: “If you’re a WCVM graduate who hasn’t participated in the campaign yet, I encourage you to contact the College and discover how you can contribute to the future of your alma mater.”

Visit www.wcvm.com/supportus or contact WCVM development officer Joanne Wurmlinger (306-966-7450; joanne.wurmlinger@usask.ca) for more details about WCVM’s VTH expansion campaign. 🐾

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