

Spring 2005  
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# News & Views



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## President's Corner

I have been working on a vaccine field trial on numerous goat farms in Kentucky this spring (yes—Kentucky has become #3 for goat numbers in the US)! This has been hard work (have you ever tried to move goats around?!) and very time consuming.

ACVPM is very fortunate to have so many talented members who share their time and effort in many areas:

- I continue to greatly appreciate Dr. Kevin Grayson's excellent work on the ACVPM *News & Views* and patience with me around deadlines. Kevin is also on the Examinations Committee representing Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and will be Chair next year. Thanks Kevin for ALL of your contributions!
- Dr. Gary Bowman has continued for the second year as the Examinations Committee Chair. He also provided the facts and figures for the Executive Board to decide on the Board Certification Examination site for 2006. Dr. Dave Dreesen outlines in his comments the reasons that the EB decided to conduct the examinations at The Ohio State University. Sincere thanks to Gary!

### ACVPM Councilor Position

There is an election this year for a Councilor to replace out-going Dr. Kelley Donham. Please send your nominations (with a short bio) to Dr. Dave Dreesen now. If you are interested in running for the office then simply nominate yourself. Nominees must be a member in good standing, have been a member for three years, and must have agreed to serve.



- This spring the ACVPM Secretary, Dr. Candace Jacobs, coordinated an ad-hoc Residency Review Committee to implement evaluation of residency programs. Dr. Dale Moore (past Chair of the Continuing Education Committee), Dr. Terry Lehenbauer (CE Committee Chair), and others have been involved in conference calls to put this important program into operation.
- Dr. Gary Gackstetter has been gathering information on how to best implement a psychometric evaluation of our certification examination. This is another important step in our strategic plan to better align the ACVPM with American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS) requirements.

ACVPM will have a presence at the 2005 USAHA/AAVLD conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The ACVPM will be part of the program on Sunday morning, November 6th. Drs. Paul Sundberg and John Herbold are coordinating our participation. Plan to attend this session if you will be at the USAHA/AAVLD meeting.

This year our financial situation has greatly improved as we work to meet ABVS requirements for financial security. Thanks for your 2005 membership renewal and for Dr. Dave Dreesen's efforts to keep expenses down! Please see our Executive Vice President's note and review the list for members who have not yet paid their 2005 dues.

Dr. Stan Hewins was reappointed to represent the ACVPM on the AVMA Council on Environmental Issues. It is great to know that we are well represented by his presence.

I hope to see you in Minneapolis for the General Membership meeting on Monday, July 18. Please let me know how the ACVPM can best serve you and our membership!

Ruminating,  
Patty Scharko



## AVMA Sessions of Potential Interest

Date	Time	Section	Topic
Saturday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Current Topics	Train-the-Trainer (Agroterrorism)
Saturday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Food Safety	Food Safety and International Trade
Saturday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Public Health/Corporate	Global Disease Surveillance
Sunday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Current Topics	Disaster Preparedness: State Animal Response Teams
Sunday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	Food Safety	Food Safety and International Trade
Sunday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Food Safety	Attribution of Foodborne Diseases
Sunday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Public Health/Corporate	Global Food Safety
Sunday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Public Health/Corporate	Iraq/Afghanistan Assistance Strategies Working Groups
Sunday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Food Safety	Preharvest Food Safety Centers, Networks, And Consortia: Do They Work?
Monday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Public Health/Corporate	Military Medicine/Military Deployments
Monday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Food Safety	Latest Epidemiologic Research In Antimicrobial Resistance
Monday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	Public Health Practice	Animal Industry, Agriculture, And Biosecurity
Tuesday, July 19 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Advances in Veterinary Medicine	Real Time Zoonoses Surveillance
Tuesday, July 19 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Public Health/Corporate	Animal Disease Surveillance And Control
Wednesday, July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	Food Safety	Food Emergency Response Network
Wednesday, July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	Advances in Veterinary Medicine	Infectious Disease Informatics Development

## Annual ACVPM Meetings

All meetings will be held in the Minneapolis Hyatt Hotel.

DATE		MEETING	Location
Tuesday	July 12th	Examinations	Greenway G
Wednesday	July 13th	Examinations	Greenway G
Wednesday	July 13th	Examinations Committee	Skyway Suite A
Thursday	July 14th	Examinations Committee	Skyway Suite A
Friday (AM)	July 15th	Examinations Committee	Skyway Suite A
Friday	July 15th	Epi Specialty Examination	Lake of Isles
Friday (PM)	July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Residency Review Committee	Skyway Suite A
Saturday	July 16th	Executive Board	Mirage
Sunday	July 17th	Executive Board	Mirage
Monday	July 18th	Epidemiology Specialty	Lake Calhoun
Monday	July 18th	General Membership	Greenway B

## Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to represent the ACVPM in the College information booth at the annual AVMA meeting in Minneapolis this summer.

Please contact Dr. Dave Dreesen, EVP, to select a time, or stop by the booth to sign up for a time when you arrive at the convention.

## Members of the College at Work



Dr. Dale Moore using ultrasound for an epidemiologic study of early fetal loss in dairy cattle



President Dr. Patty Scharko at work "in the field"



[Editor's Note: The following advice on cleaning up raccoon latrines (and why they are a problem) comes courtesy of the Santa Barbara County Animal Services by way of Dr. Peter Schantz at the CDC].

### What is a raccoon latrine?

Raccoons establish community latrines—sites where they repeatedly deposit fresh feces (droppings or scat) on top of old feces in a particular area in the environment.

### What do raccoon latrines look like?

Raccoon latrines consist of piles of raccoon feces of different ages. Fresh raccoon feces are tubular with blunt ends, and about the same diameter as a dime or nickel. Generally, fresh raccoon feces are dark, but it depends on what the animal was eating. Seeds or shells may be seen in the feces. As feces age, they weather and decompose. Old feces may look like dried leaves or debris.

### Where are raccoon latrines found?

Raccoons prefer sites that are flat and raised off the ground, but they also use the base of trees, and occasionally, open areas. Common sites for raccoon latrines are roofs, decks, unsealed attics, haylofts, forks of trees, fence lines, woodpiles, fallen logs, and large rocks.

### Why should I clean up a raccoon latrine?

A raccoon latrine may contain roundworm eggs that can be hazardous to human health. The adult stage of the raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) lives in the raccoon's intestine and produces microscopic eggs that are shed in the raccoon's feces. One raccoon roundworm can produce more than 100,000 eggs a day. A raccoon can pass millions of eggs in its feces every day, depending on how many worms are in its intestines. Once deposited in the environment, the eggs develop into the infectious form in 2-4 weeks, and can survive in the soil for several years. If the infectious form of the eggs is inadvertently swallowed by humans, other mammals, or birds, larvae (immature stage of worms) hatch out of the eggs and move into the organs of the body. The larvae travel throughout the body and, on rare occasions, may cause serious eye disease, spinal cord or brain damage, or death.

### Is it dangerous to clean up a raccoon latrine?

*Serious roundworm disease is rare* (11 cases reported in the United States to date), but because the disease can be severe, special precautions should be taken when cleaning up raccoon latrines. If you do not ingest developed eggs, you cannot get the disease. Taking special precautions will help reduce the chance that you will accidentally swallow eggs or contaminate other surfaces or objects. Be sure to avoid spreading eggs further when you clean up a latrine, and keep pets and children away from the latrine area until the cleanup is finished.

### How do I protect myself while cleaning up a raccoon latrine?

- ◆ Wear disposable gloves—rubber, plastic, or latex.
- ◆ Wear disposable booties or rubber boots that can be left outside.
- ◆ If working in a confined area, such as an attic or crawl space, wear an N95-rated particle mask (home renovation or safety supply stores carry them) to prevent accidental ingestion of eggs or inhalation of fungal spores or dust.
- ◆ Thoroughly launder your clothes with hot water and detergent.
- ◆ Read the instructions below and follow the instructions carefully.

#### Necessary Supplies

- ◆ Disposable latex or rubber gloves
- ◆ Particle mask
- ◆ Rubber boots
- ◆ Heavy-duty plastic garbage bag
- ◆ Shovel or metal scoop
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Portable propane torch
- ◆ Boiling water
- ◆ Bucket of hot, soapy water
- ◆ Sponge

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### How do I clean up outdoor raccoon latrines?

- ◆ Avoid stirring up dust and debris. You can lightly mist the latrine area with a little water from a spray bottle to reduce the amount of dust.
- ◆ Use a shovel or disposable rigid scoop to gently lift feces and any other contaminated material and place it into a heavy-duty plastic garbage bag.
- ◆ Close the plastic bag tightly with a “twist-tie” or tape, and place it into another garbage bag (“double-bagging”), discard it in your garbage collection can, and make sure that raccoons cannot get into the can.
- ◆ Disinfect hard, smooth surfaces (including shovel blades) with boiling water. If the latrine is on the ground and the soil is heavily contaminated with feces, you may want to remove and discard the top 2-4” of soil and replace it. Large quantities of removed soil are best discarded in landfill disposal sites.



### Should I flame the latrine site with a propane torch?

Most chemicals do not kill roundworm eggs and are not suitable for outdoor use. Extreme heat will kill eggs instantly. Flaming with a propane torch is effective, but could cause a fire, burn injury, or surface damage. **Before flaming any latrine site, call your local fire department for details on local regulations and safety practices.** Concrete pads, bricks, and metal shovels or garden implements can be flamed without damage. Do not attempt to flame surfaces that can melt or catch fire. Break up and turn over contaminated soil several times, flaming each time.

### How do I clean up indoor raccoon latrines?

To clean up an indoor latrine:

- ◆ Wear the protective clothing recommended for cleaning up outdoor latrines.
- ◆ Wear an N95-rated particle mask if cleaning up a latrine in a confined space such as an attic or crawl space.
- ◆ Avoid stirring up dust and debris – you can lightly mist the latrine area with a little water from a spray bottle to reduce the amount of dust.
- ◆ Remove feces as directed in cleaning up outdoor latrines.
- ◆ If you cannot use heat (flame, boiling water), use hot soapy water and a damp (not wet) sponge to wipe up residual fecal material. Rinse often.
- ◆ Flush dirty rinse water down the toilet.
- ◆ Place the sponge in a plastic bag and put the plastic bag in the garbage.
- ◆ Disinfect the wash and rinse water containers with boiling water.

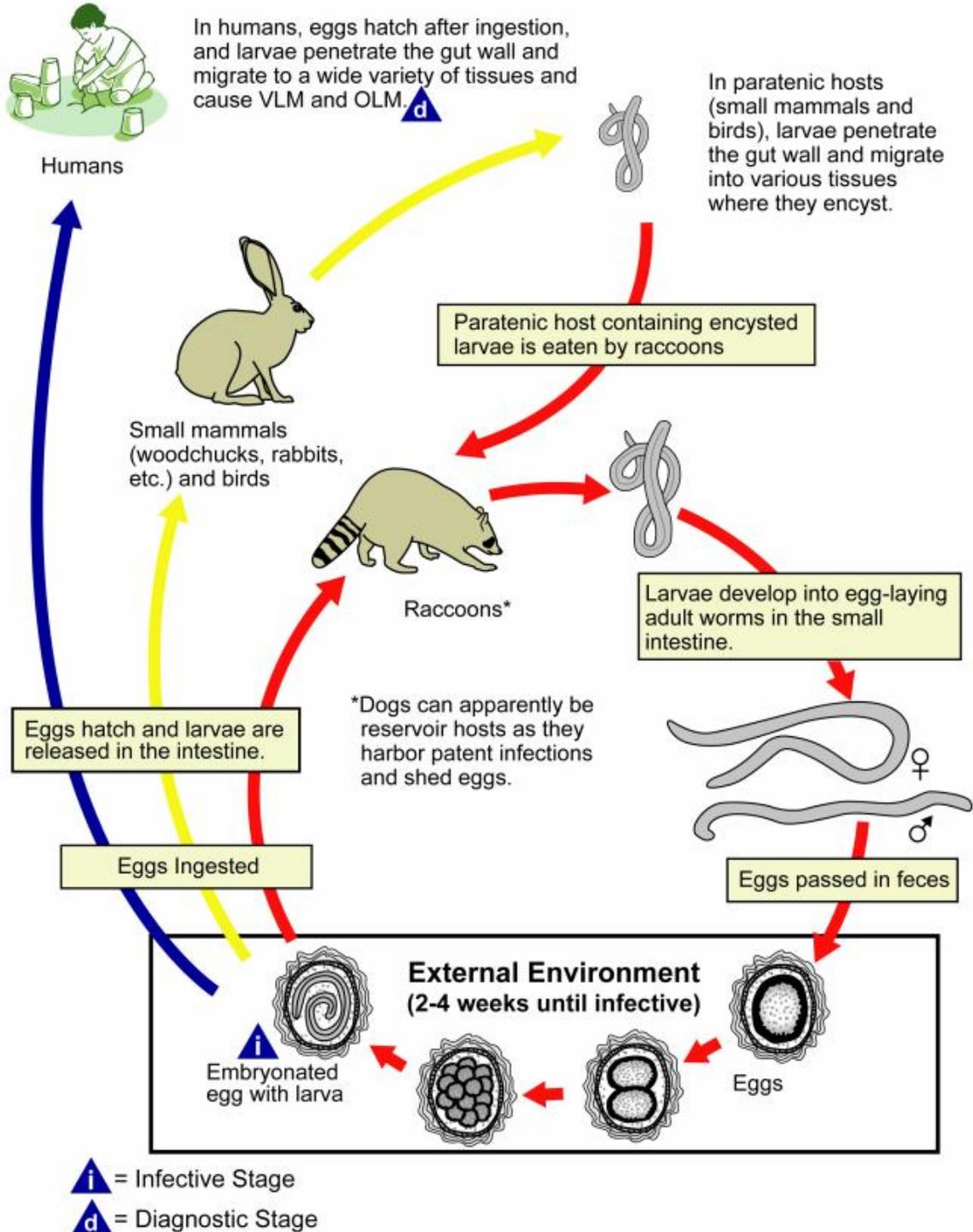
### What do I do if I get raccoon feces on my skin or clothes?

- ◆ Wash skin with plain soap and warm water—clean thoroughly under your nails with a brush.
- ◆ Wash clothes separately in very hot, soapy water; bleach is not required but can be used if desired.

***Cleaning up latrines helps deter raccoons, but removal of attractants (such as pet food, accessible garbage cans, shelter under decks, etc.) and exclusion methods are necessary to prevent raccoons from returning. If you have questions or concerns about excluding raccoons, consult your local animal control agency or professional pest management company.***

# Baylisascariasis

(*Baylisascaris procyonis*)



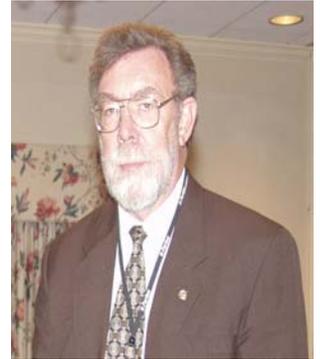
Graphic courtesy of Alexander J. da Silva, Melanie Moser. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

## From the Desk of the EVP

Nearly everyone has paid their 2005 dues. However, due to address problems or simply over-looking the bill, several have yet to pay. The list of those from whom we have yet to receive a dues payment is on the last page of this issue of the *News & Views*. If you know someone on the list, please give them a gentle reminder. If you are on the list, it would be helpful to hear from you. You can pay by check or by credit card. If by card, go to the Members Only page on our website and follow the instructions. If you have problems, contact Joe Adam, the College Webmaster, at <[webmaster@acvpm.org](mailto:webmaster@acvpm.org)>. The College is in very good financial shape now after a few years of 'red-ink'. I personally wish to thank all of you for allowing your Executive Board to increase dues to permit the College to operate in your best interest without constantly being concerned with budgetary deficits. I also thank you for paying your dues in a prompt manner.

The quarterly reminder – repeated *ad nauseam*. Please, whenever a change occurs; up-date your directory information simply by going to the Members Only page of the College website, enter your password, go to the Menu Choices, and you will see "Edit Your Personal Information," open this link and follow the instructions. Be sure to save all changes by clicking the "Save" button found on any screen. Help us out here – thanks. Again, ask the Webmaster for help as necessary.

The Executive Board has voted to conduct the 2006 Board Certification Examination at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, on June 15 and 16. There were two reasons to deviate from the long-standing tradition of conducting the exam in conjunction with the annual AVMA convention. Primarily, by using the OSU computer laboratory facilities, the candidates will no longer have to hand-write two sections of the exam.



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This has been a real bone of contention with the candidates over the years as all now use computers for 'writing.' The pen, though it may be mightier than the sword, is no longer used for writing by most. We have been assured that all of the machines will be secure as to the possibility of being compromised by anyone during the exam. The second reason is that the annual AVMA meeting will be in Hawaii in 2006 and there was concern expressed as to cost to the candidates for travel to Hawaii. The Epidemiology Specialty examinations, however, will be held in Hawaii.

After a number of years of discussion, the Executive Board is placing the review and approval by the College of VPH residency programs on the front burner. The first program that will be used as a litmus test will be the one at the University of Minnesota. This review will be conducted in conjunction with the AVMA Convention in order to save the College travel money for a site visit. Such reviews of residency programs are called for in the ACVPM By-laws. It is the intention of the Executive Board to have most residency programs reviewed during the next fiscal year.

The College is also moving ahead with a psychometric evaluation of some sections of our certification exam. We hope to have this completed early in the next fiscal year. A job description will also be a part of this evaluation to determine what work our Diplomates do in their professional activities. This will help to determine if we are asking questions on the exam that are relevant to what Diplomates do in their daily work.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Minneapolis next month. ACVPM meetings times and dates and room assignments can be found elsewhere in this issue of *News & Views*. As always, contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Most especially I would like some feed-back on the E-news and E-jobs list serve news letters.

All the best,  
Dave

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## Epidemiology Specialty Report



The Epidemiology Specialty of the ACVPM will hold its annual meeting at the AVMA meeting in Minneapolis. It is currently scheduled for Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 1:00 in the Lake Calhoun room at the Minneapolis Hyatt Hotel. Dr. Millicent Eidson will chair the meeting as the final duty of her three years as Specialty President. Dr. James R. Riddle, current Nominations Committee Chair, along with Committee members Dr. Mark Starr and Dr. Roger Gibson, are conducting an election for her replacement, who will take office at the end of the annual meeting. Dr. Wayne Schlosser will continue in the second year of his term as Secretary.

The Credentials Committee, chaired by Dr. Sam Groseclose, with members Dr. Eric Ebel and Dr. Kay D. Burkman, approved the credentials of six new candidates for the Epidemiology examination. On Friday, July 15, in Minneapolis, Dr. George Moore, Examinations Committee Chair, will be conducting the Epidemiology Exam, as developed with committee members Dr. Linda Schlater and Dr. Sue Trock, for seven candidates (including one who previously deferred the examination).

All Specialty members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting and volunteer for one of the committee assignments. Input will be particularly welcome by Continuing Education Committee Chair Dr. Terry Lehenbauer and member Dr. Kimberly Orr, regarding the future role of the Epidemiology Specialty in meeting sponsorship. A number of Specialty members have been individually involved in helping to organize sessions at upcoming national meetings, but the Specialty may wish to discuss whether to sponsor or provide CE in a more formal manner. If unable to attend the meeting, volunteers may also express their committee interest to Dr. Schlosser at [Wayne.Schlosser@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Wayne.Schlosser@fsis.usda.gov), and he can coordinate final committee assignments with the incoming President.

Elections for President of the Epidemiology Specialty will be held in June. An electronic vote will be held on the ACVPM website, from June 1-10, 2005. Only Epidemiology Specialty members are eligible for the office and to vote.



I would like to start this column by expressing my appreciation to Dr Bob Garrison who completes his service to AAPHV as treasurer next month. Though our membership numbers outside of ACVPM Diplomates are modest (we currently have an additional 73 individuals)—our lists are current and dues all paid up. Our financial accounts are in order and we have funds available to help increase our visibility and outreach to our non-veterinary colleagues in the public health practice community. Thank you Bob for your commitment and support. Though you have returned to your clinical roots in Michigan—I am sure that you will remain both a most important contributor as well as advocate for all that we do, profess, and administer as public health veterinarians.

Dr Garrison's transition provides me with a great segue for this issue's reflections. During my undergraduate years in the early 80's, summers were spent earning money and living at home (to save what I earned) in Stamford, Connecticut. While overnight duty as a security guard brought in the majority of my modest resource pool—my true joy was working weekends as a "kennel maintenance engineer" and vet assistant at a local two doctor animal hospital. During the course of my employment, my boss and teacher, Dr. Melvin Grove often mentioned the adventures and exploits of one of his friends, a veterinarian, outside of the traditional practice domain. Having read and enjoyed Berton Rouche's "Eleven Blue Men"—I was intrigued by this disease detective business. In 1983, I finally made an appointment to meet Dr Jim Lieberman, a retired USPHS Assistant Surgeon General who was serving as director of health for the neighboring town of Greenwich. For almost two hours we talked about his history (another article in itself) and about the business of practicing public health. As a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician—I was most impressed that it was a veterinarian who understood the need for, prioritized, organized, and provided resources for one of the first professional pre-hospital advanced life support emergency medical systems in Southwest Connecticut. He also directed the childhood immunization clinics, ran the programs to certify new home septic systems, responded to complaints about restaurant cleanliness, and provided health guidance for community

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senior adult programs as well as school health nurses. Needless to say, I was most impressed and more importantly motivated to start looking for ways that I too, could be part of this larger world of public health. It was veterinarians like James Steele, William McCulloch, Leon Russell, Leonard Marcus, George Sapperstein, those in the CDC EIS program, and countless others in veterinary school who filled my “public health medical bag” with the tools of our trade. Jim Lieberman, a quiet, confident, and accomplished veterinarian who passed away less than two weeks after the Twin Towers fell in September of 2001 was the one who filled my mind with the perspective of what public health means to everyday people living everywhere. Shamefully, I have been “too busy” to mourn his passing—but I am continually thankful for the insight and inspiration that he gave to me.

Today, society is faced with issues related to terrorism preparedness and disaster response, emerging and re-emerging environmental and infectious disease threats, behavioral and mental health, chronic disease concerns, and priorities related to the safety of the food we eat, the quality of air we breathe, the purity of the water we drink, and the quantity of the wastes and by-products we produce. The majority of us who read these items may have carved out a segment of expertise in one or more of these niches. We serve and think globally. I would argue that we need to help apply our expertise a bit more locally. We need to support and encourage those among our professional ranks who work in our cities, counties, towns, bases, and tribal lands- to protect the health of our communities. There are some among the readership who are on the true frontiers and front lines of public health practice. You are the true heroes of public health as the impacts of disease, injury and disability literally start and end at your doorstep. It is you who have to reach the most vulnerable populations and teach the most unconvinced minds. I need to hear your stories. We need to share your priorities and successes and to encourage you to serve as role models and teachers to the veterinary community-to expand our meager ranks. We need help to understand your needs and to translate our rules and facts to more usable guidance and meaningful programs. More importantly, we still need to remember to flash our “credentials” when it comes time to seek resources, to create or change legislation, or to further the art and science of organized public health practice as seen through the senses, intellect, and soul of a veterinarian.

Yours in health and prevention,

Hugh

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

**www.acvpm.org**

### Late Breakers

The 26 May 2005 issue of *Nature* focuses on avian influenza. There's also an interesting article on cattle movements and badgers (yes, badgers!) influencing the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in Great Britain. You can access the table of contents at: [www..nature.com/nature/journal/v435/n7041/index.html](http://www..nature.com/nature/journal/v435/n7041/index.html)

### 2005 Dues

Our records show that the following individuals have not paid their 2005 dues after two past due notices. Dues are \$125 for Diplomates plus \$30 for Epidemiology Specialty members. In addition, there is a 50% surcharge for late payment. If you feel this is in error and your dues have been paid, please let me know when you paid and your check number. Don't forget - you can pay by credit card. Details are on the Members Only page of the Web site. Thanks, Dave

Kevin J. Anderson  
Karyn L. Armstrong  
James A. Blagg  
Robert W. Botard  
Edward J. Briand  
Paul L. Caron  
Barbara E. Mize-Davis  
Charles C. Dodd  
John H. Fournier  
Robert L. Gilmore  
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