

ANIMAL REHABILITATION

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

The 6th annual International Association of Veterinary Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy (IAVRPT) conference was recently held August 4-7th at Auburn University, in Auburn, AL. Wednesday was devoted to preconference “hands-on” courses, followed by a wine/cheese reception.

The Thursday morning session included both the equine and canine practitioners, and the talks were centered on regenerative medicine, including the use of stem and progenitor cells, to aid in healing of damaged or injured tissues. In the afternoon, the equine and canine practitioners split up for talks related to their particular species of interest.

On Friday, the groups convened for discussions regarding the importance of evidence-based medicine and legislative issues facing practitioners in the animal rehabilitation field. Representatives of the IAVRPT, the AARV (American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians) and our own Animal Rehab SIG spoke briefly about their respective organizations, membership, and the goals of each group. It was very informative for all the participants, and an underlying theme expressed by each group was their interest in collaborating with other professionals in order to provide high quality care to their animal patients. The afternoon sessions were again split between equine and canine talks. New to this year’s symposium was a more “basic” track of programming for those recently entering the field, and a more “advanced” track for those practitioners who have been performing hands-on treatment for awhile. Friday night was “Gala Night,” where all the participants could network and enjoy an evening of live music, hors d’oeuvres, and good companionship.

On Saturday, the theme focused on “How I Treat,” where speakers gave their rationale for treating different neurologic and orthopaedic cases. In the afternoon, awards were presented for the best research podium and poster presentations, and closing remarks were given by the new IAVRPT President, May Romer.

In all, it was well-attended, with over 250 participants from 14 different countries represented. There was also good representation from the vendors, both with educational resources as well as equipment and supplies. The next IAVRPT conference will be held in 2012, and will most likely be overseas. At the time of this writing, there had been applications put in to host from facilities in Italy and Austria, so start saving and get your passport!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

New Hampshire: House bill 1525 went into effect July 1st. It allows physical therapists who have met the requirements to register under the state Veterinary board as an “Animal Physical Therapist” in order to practice with animals.

Nebraska: There is a veterinary board meeting 8/17/10 to discuss finalizing the rules and regulations in the draft proposal that would allow other practitioners such as physical therapists

and chiropractors to register with the veterinary board upon completing the competency requirements. If the rules and regulations are finalized, then it will be submitted for a public hearing.

California: There was recently a motion made to restrict the ability of physical therapists to treat animals in the state, but practitioners successfully lobbied to have the motion come to a public hearing, where further input can be given to lawmakers about the qualifications that PTs have in order to work collaboratively with veterinarians.

ARSIG BUSINESS MEETING

6th International Symposium on Veterinary Rehabilitation & Physical Therapy

August 7, 2010

AGENDA

Updates

- Updates:
 - Practice Analysis – in progress
 - Model language
 - Received transcript from legislative meeting on 8/3/10
 - Draft reviewed by Ortho Section BOD; distributed to membership for review
 - Sign up to receive a draft for review: tfred@orthopt.org
 - Discuss w/ AARV
 - > Legislative support from veterinarians/ AARV – letters/statement from AAR in support of PTs doing rehab
 - CSM 2011: New Orleans
 - Dr. Jan Van Dyke
 - > Veterinary Zoonoses, What You Need to Know Before You Treat That Puppy!
 - > Veterinary Red Flags, Endocrine, Metabolic, and Medical Syndromes That Might Be Lurking in Your Canine Rehab Patient
- Tasks:
 - Clinical coordinator educational resources for PTs (C. Riegger-Krugh)
 - Third Party Payment Resources (D. Rogers)
 - Liaison Coordinator (C. Evans)
 - Within the AARV, develop a co-existing veterinary liaison in each state to work side by side with each PT liaison
 - Newsletter (L. Bedenbaugh)
 - Read for credit – being investigated with Ortho Section board
 - Send publications to Lisa: lhinerman2@aol.com; we always need material!

- Residency/Education (**need member volunteers**)
 - Advanced courses – possibly include vets, depending on what type of course it is
- Member resources (**need member volunteers**)
 - Clipboard – okay for Jennifer to get started on this; Carrie to send her a copy of the canine board
 - Exercise cards (combine efforts from practicing PTs around the country)
 - Home care programs, handouts, etc. – compile from practicing PTs around the country to avoid ‘reinventing the wheel’
 - Legislative efforts
 - Links to legislative documents, model language (once approved), how to approach vet/PT boards, etc.
 - Ideas?
 - Combine efforts with AARV for newsletter submissions – case studies, what is a PT?, etc.
 - ‘Find a PT’ on AARV website / ‘Find a vet’ on SIG website to encourage/promote collaboration and mentorships
 - Powerpoint / document for members to ‘borrow’ to educate their local veterinarian – “who we are, what we do” [Amie to draft a letter for AARV, per Jan Van Dyke]
- AARV collaboration – items for discussion:
 - Co-host meeting at NAVC/CSM – have an ‘all association’ meeting – collaborative discussions addressing a variety of legislative topics, policies, position statements
 - 15 hours CE each year – AARV needs to consider that not all states may recognize animal CEs. many states need 30 ‘human’ CEs, and an additional 15 CEs/year is not feasible geographically and/or financially, as well as acquiring ‘time off’ to attend these courses
 - Consideration: PTs may get slammed with registration fees if they want to attend different veterinary conferences; one vet stated they also have the high registration fees if they are not members (but PTs cannot be members of many vet organizations)
 - VOS has a reasonable membership fee (\$25) – many different professionals may join
 - List members geographically to develop reciprocal mentorship program / cross training
 - Vets support PT legislative efforts
 - Does AARV have direct communication with VMAs and Vet Boards? Send support letter to them on behalf of AARV
- Competencies – document is complete (first draft); update and distribute to membership for review
- Open discussion

The task list continues to grow and we need your help! Please contact Amie or Carrie if you are interested in joining one of the above task forces.