

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF VETERINARY  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES



UNITING THE  
VETERINARY PROFESSION

# ASVMAE ThinkWORKS: Animal Welfare

April 23-25, 2010

JW Marriott Denver at Cherry Creek  
150 Clayton Lane  
Denver, Colorado 80206





## ASVMAE ThinkWORKS

Following the tradition of ASVMAE gatherings – such as the scope of veterinary practice and the recent graduate initiatives – that collaboratively explore contemporary issues in veterinary medicine, interested members and issue illuminators will come together for the 2010 edition of ASVMAE ThinkWORKS on the issue of animal welfare.

### Questions, so many questions



A number of recent, high-profile legislative proposals and ballot initiatives have focused attention on livestock animal welfare, challenging the veterinary profession to clarify its attitudes, actions, and leadership role. VMA executives have also been challenged – to find consensus within the membership and with external stakeholders, and to operate effectively in an environment that is frequently polarized.

Though much of the attention has been directed at food production practices, reflection about related facets and other species raises additional questions about a practical animal welfare ethic:

- Are VMAs being effective in educating and informing members about animal welfare issues?
- Do the profession and/or the VMA have a responsibility in seeing that economically disadvantaged owners of both small and large animals have access to veterinary medical care?
- Is euthanasia for population control an unavoidable but dignified end – or an unjustifiable outcome?
- Can the profession and/or the VMA more effectively partner with public and private animal shelters, breed rescue groups, and animal control agencies to advance practices that enrich animal welfare?
- Should the VMA be more energetic in the legislative arena to tackle issues such as licensing of pet animal care facilities (from shelters to breeders) and mechanisms for investigation of suspected cases of animal cruelty?
- Do terminal procedures in healthy animals remain acceptable in veterinary education?
- Are veterinary students adequately prepared for the complex and emotionally draining animal welfare issues awaiting them after graduation?
- Should veterinarians and their VMAs press for change or follow?
- How does a VMA develop effective messaging on these issues, and are there messaging examples?
- Are there best practices that can guide the VMA's way in addressing animal welfare issues? Where's the reliable information, and who's done the great stuff?



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## About ASVMAE ThinkWORKS

ThinkWORKS is about ideas and dialog and discovering your personal philosophy and strategy for leadership on this issue. ThinkWORKS is about colleagues thinking together on shared interests, concerns, and challenges. And ThinkWORKS is about developing guidance, models, and content that ASVMAE members can put to work in their VMAs.

The people who come to ThinkWORKS are there because they have a keen interest in the topic, wish to immerse themselves in a think-tank environment, and desire to engage with colleagues in probing the issue – and as a result gain insight and understanding into one of the key issues facing the veterinary profession and society.

The ThinkWORKS structure is open. ThinkWORKS will utilize a facilitator to guide discussion, invite issue illuminators to share their perspective and expertise, and stimulate lots of dialog amongst all the participants. It's an engaging experience and an intimate gathering of colleagues who respect and trust one another – just the right learning environment to test new ideas and enrich your understanding of a challenging topic.

Our facilitator will be Jon Klingborg, DVM, who is in private clinical practice at Valley Animal Hospital in Merced, California. He served as president of the California VMA in 2004-2005, where he guided development of their principles of animal welfare and who, as spokesperson for the association on several highly visible issues, received death threats from members of the public. He's no shrinking violet – but he is a thoughtful guy who will bring keen insight and high value to ThinkWORKS.

Our issue illuminators include:

- Gail Golab, DVM – American Veterinary Medical Association
- Jim Humphries, DVM – Veterinary News Network
- Tom Parks, DVM – Sun Prairie Farms, Yuma, Colorado (not pictured)
- Bernard Rollin, PhD – Colorado State University





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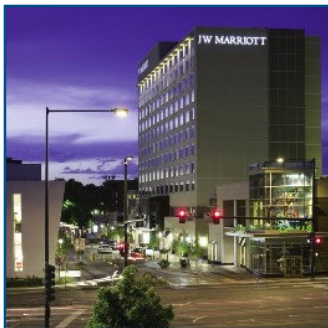
## The Details

ASVMAE ThinkWORKS is open to any ASVMAE member. In exchange for the registration fee of \$295, ASVMAE provides the facilitator, issue illuminators, Friday reception, Saturday continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and Sunday's hearty breakfast. Enrollment is limited to 25 participants; ASVMAE members only, one representative per VMA.

The program will begin on Friday, April 23rd at 1:00pm and end on Sunday, April 25th at Noon.

ASVMAE ThinkWORKS: Animal Welfare will be held in the Cherry Creek North area of Denver, Colorado – an area filled with restaurants and boutiques and nightlife (tempting, eh?). The meeting will take place at the JW Marriott in Cherry Creek, a small, upscale property bearing the flagship moniker – and Tesha has wrestled them down for a great rate of \$179 (single or double) on top of it all.

To make your hotel reservation call the hotel at 866-706-7814 by March 31 and let them know you are with ASVMAE. Cherry Creek is in central Denver, accessible from Denver International Airport by cab, rental car, or airport shuttle; Tesha will provide complete details on these options when your registration is confirmed.



## Scholarships

Thanks to the support provided by ASVMAE Strategic Initiative Partners, ASVMAE is able to offer three scholarships to ASVMAE ThinkWORKS: Animal Welfare. The scholarship is intended to support the attendance of an ASVMAE member who would not be able to otherwise participate due to the association's limited operating budget. The scholarship will waive the \$295 registration fee and provide a stipend up to \$500 for travel and lodging costs.

To be considered for a scholarship, please write a brief (1-2 paragraph) explanation of your financial need and your desire to participate in the ThinkWORKS: Animal Welfare session; email your information to Tesha Hoff at [tesha.hoff@att.net](mailto:tesha.hoff@att.net) by close of business on Friday, March 5. Scholarship applicants will be notified promptly thereafter.



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## REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE **\$295**

Check (enclosed payable to ASVMAE)

Visa

MasterCard

American Express

Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name printed: \_\_\_\_\_ CW # (3 digits back of card): \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Province, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW TO REGISTER

#### ONLINE

Visit [www.vmaexecs.org](http://www.vmaexecs.org)

#### BY FAX

Send registration  
form to  
866-593-3892

#### BY MAIL

Send registration form to  
ASVMAE  
PO Box 280425  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 26**

ASVMAE Strategic Initiative Partner

PLATINUM LEVEL

