



The Louisiana VETERINARIAN

Vol. 35 No. 2 The Official Publication of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Qt 2 - 2025

President's Report



Dear LVMA Members,

Hurricane Season 2025 is underway, accompanied by higher temperatures and humidity. In Louisiana,

we don't need to wait until Summer officially begins on June 20 to know summer is here!

We are fortunate to have the LSART (Louisiana State Animal Response Team), comprised of veterinarians, humane organizations, animal control officers, and citizen volunteers, who work throughout the state to help prepare for and respond to various types of emergencies and disasters. LSART is a division of the WJE (Walter J Ernst Veterinary Memorial Foundation), the non-profit foundation associated with the LVMA. Please visit their website for additional information, training events, and resources. <https://www.lsart.org/>

Additionally, the AVMA offers resources for veterinarians and animal owners to plan and respond to disasters. <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/disaster-preparedness>

Dr. Bob Gros and I will represent the LVMA at the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) on July 17 and 18, in conjunction with the AVMA Convention in Washington,

DC. This year is unique, as the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) and Political Action Committee (PAC) will visit Capitol Hill. We will have over 200 veterinarians and veterinary students conducting hundreds of meetings!

The legislation we will be advocating for is the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act (H.R. 1266/S. 545) and the Rural Veterinary Workforce Act (H.R. 2398/S. 2398). The AVMA has been working to ensure that policymakers understand the critical role veterinarians play in protecting animal health, public health, and food safety, as well as the essential functions carried out by federal agencies.

This year is also noteworthy in that Dr Gros will be recognized for the years of service representing the LVMA in the HOD. He will retire as the Delegate for Louisiana at the end of the Convention year. Before his role as Delegate, he served as our Alternate Delegate to the House of Delegates. Dr. Gros served the LVMA as District 8 representative and as President (2005). Please join me in recognizing Bob for his dedication and service to our profession and the LVMA!

Your LVMA is strongly advocating for you at the Louisiana State Capitol! Louisiana Senator Bill Wheat, DVM; Representative Wayne McMahan, DVM; LDAF

Inside This Issue:	
Executive Director's Report	2
Upcoming Events	4
Classified Ads	4
WJE Donations	4
New World Screwworm	8
SWVS 2025	10

Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM; and the LVMA Legislative Advocacy Action Committee, led by Dr. Paul Ritch, along with Executive Director Melanie Talley and our lobbyists, ensure that Louisiana veterinarians and their concerns are addressed. Please get in touch with me, your District Representatives, and Melanie with questions and concerns.

The LVMA Strategic Plan for 2023-2026 comprises five pillars: Influence, Career Support, Value and Engagement, Outreach, and Leadership. Working Groups, with an LVMA Board Member Liaison, are established to reach our goals of growing our organization and awareness. We encourage each of you to contact the Board to express your interest in volunteering! The LA Veterinarian Impact Statement Working Group remains an opportunity for volunteers. Contact me and all of us for opportunities to support Veterinary Medicine in Louisiana!

On May 16, I had the honor and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3





Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Phone: (225) 928-5862
FAX: (225) 408-4422
office@lvma.org | www.lvma.org

President

Dr. Pamela Mitchell,
Member-at-Large

President Elect

Dr. Clare Scully, District 9

Vice President

Dr. Clark Cooper, District 2

Treasurer

Dr. Dale Peyroux

Immediate Past President

Dr. Adrianna Smith, District 8

Board Members

Dr. Glen Ritter, District 1
Dr. Monique Matherne, District 3
Dr. Jason Poynter, District 4
Dr. Katie Habetz, District 5
Dr. John Mauterer, District 6
Dr. Paul Ritch, District 7
Dr. Lindsey Boudreaux, Member-at-Large

LSU SAVMA President

Kiersten Boss

Committee Chairs

Emergency Management
& LSART Director: Dr. Renee Poirrier
Political Action: Dr. Paul Ritch

WJE Foundation Trustees

Dr. Kathleen Elstrott, President
Dr. Kathleen Mullins
Dr. Amy Christ
Dr. Jackie Simon
Dr. Elizabeth Wright

AVMA Delegate

Dr. Robert C. Gros

AVMA Alternative Delegate

Dr. Pamela Mitchell

Executive Director

Melanie Talley, CAE

Submit articles and advertisements to the LVMA office as follows:

Quarter 1 Newsletter - February 15th
Quarter 2 Newsletter - May 15th
Quarter 3 Newsletter - August 15th
Quarter 4 Newsletter - November 15th

Executive Director's Report

Summer is here and the 2025 Louisiana Legislative Session will be coming to an end. The LVMA lobbying team was hard at work this session – we met with legislators, legislative staff and lobbyists to position bills to minimize negative impact to the veterinary profession as well as support legislation looking to protect veterinarians. The work never ends but the 2025 legislative session will indeed end on June 12th.

Please take the time to consider nominating a deserving individual for the 2025 LVMA Awards. Nomination Forms are located on our website at www.lvma.org. Each year the LVMA recognizes and honors people that have made important contributions to veterinary medicine, the veterinary community and/or animal health, as well as an animal that has distinguished itself in a special way.

Also, be sure to check out the 2025 SWVS Meeting in Fort Worth this year – September 25-28th. This meeting not only provides over 400 hours of Continuing Education over 13 specialized tracks – but your attendance financially benefits the LVMA through the SWVS VMA Partnership. This program is nationally recognized and I hope to see a strong Louisiana representation in Fort Worth!

Registration will also be available soon for the 2026 LVMA Winterish Meeting at the Doubletree Lafayette - March 27-29, 2026. Our Program Committee, led by Drs. John Mauterer, Dale Peyroux, Jon Fletcher, and Clare Scully are working hard to assemble a great program. We hope to see you there.

I would also like to encourage all Louisiana veterinarians to attend Commissioner Mike Strain's Fall Ball which will be held at the Old Governor's Mansion on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Information on tickets and sponsorships is available at www.mikestrain.org/fallball and the Campaign office's telephone number is 225-771-8942. I urge our members to help pack the room with veterinarians and their spouses in support of the strongest voice veterinary medicine has in the Louisiana halls of government.

Take care,

Melanie Talley, CAE

Welcome New Members!

Tara Falgoust
Baton Rouge, LA

N'Dea Alese Stewart
Shreveport, LA

President's Report Continued

privilege of welcoming the LSU SVM Class of 2025 to our great profession and the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association. This marked the 49th Annual LSU Veterinary Medicine Commencement, conferring 120 Veterinary Medicine degrees. Dr Brennan Pitard (LSU 2016), President of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association, was a program speaker. Dr Jose Arce (LSU 1997), Past President of the AVMA, was the special guest, delivering the keynote remarks at the ceremony.

I urge each of us to remember 'Your Why'- the passion and calling that drives us to become veterinarians. As veterinarians, we are fortunate to have numerous pathways to deliver services and responsibilities to clients and communities. The supportive relationships with colleagues across our profession are crucial for us to love our profession. We must all "Be the Veterinarian" who supports colleagues, particularly those who are new to our astounding profession. Welcome them and

show them why veterinary medicine is the most rewarding career. Welcome them to the LVMA!

Lastly, I encourage you to register for the Southwest Veterinary Symposium, taking place from September 25 to 28 in Fort Worth. This is an excellent opportunity for "Continuing Education with Southern Hospitality" for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and team members. The LVMA receives revenue from each of the Louisiana veterinarians, technicians, and practice managers who attend.

Sincerely,



**Pam Mitchell, MS, DVM
President**

Congrats
LSU SVM CLASS OF 2025



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 120 GRADUATES OF
THE LSU SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE CLASS OF 2025!

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Host	Location	For More Info
July 18 - 22, 2025	AVMA Convention	AVMA	Washington, DC	www.avma.org
Sept. 25 - 28, 2025	SWVS	SWVS	Fort Worth, TX	www.swvs.org
Jan. 8 - 10, 2026	AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference	AVMA	Chicago, IL	www.avma.org
March 27 - 29, 2026	LVMA Winter Meeting	LVMA	Lafayette, LA	www.lvma.org

Classifieds

ATTENTION NEW ORLEANS & Surrounding Practices - ReviewTree is a platform that helps veterinary practices to automatically collect client feedback and generate positive online reviews. We will be attending the Vet Together conference in New Orleans in October and are looking for a few hospitals in the area to use our system FREE OF CHARGE. The goal is to be able to showcase how much ReviewTree helped to improve your ratings and reviews, before the conference. This is a \$1,600 value that you get for free, in exchange for your feedback. If interested, please contact us at info@reviewtree.com, or visit us at www.ReviewTree.com/Vets

Companion Animal Practice for Sale: Pine Ridge Veterinary Center, 939 Highway 171, Stonewall, LA 71078. Practice established in 1984. Very progressive practice in growing community just south of Shreveport, LA. No solicitors/Buyers only. Contact Neil Henderson at prvc@comcast.net

AMAZING OPPORTUNITY! Come be part of LAVet Hospital in Thibodaux, LA. We are looking for a Veterinary Associate in Small Animal practice. Brand new Facility with five exam rooms, treatment area, digital x-ray, Ultrasound and a Surgical suite. We strive to create an amazing work atmosphere being family owned and operated along with a benefits package including 401k retirement plans, C.E. hours and more. Please contact Dr. Marcello at Blake@marcellovet.com

Mixed animal practice in central Louisiana. Digital x-ray, new dental machine, therapy laser, Idexx lasercyte CBC, and Catalyst I machines. Predominantly small animal, but I have developed an equine clientele. Building is older, but in good shape. Plenty of runs and cages for day boarding and regular boarding. About 25 large runs with 3 large cage banks for small dogs and cats. Isolation area away from other parts of clinic. Working about 35 hours/wk and gross is about 675,000.00. No emergencies, unless you want them. Contact Doug at (318)332-2221.

Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation

Thanks to the following people, clinics, and all past contributors, the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation continues to grow. Your continued support will help the Foundation to reach new heights. Please Consider a contribution today and encourage your clients to participate in our memorial program.

Mark Gentry

Casi Alleman

Carter Ward

Paul DaCosta

Billy Odom

Kylie Chenier-Carlson

Billie Zeller-Barrett

Amanda Foxworth

Virginia Brookings

All donations received will be recognized. Family members will receive a card notifying them of the donation and the individual or clinic that made the donation in honor of a pet or loved one.



24/7 Emergency & Specialty Care

Refer A Patient for Care:

Specialty Service	Mandeville	New Orleans
24/7 Emergency	✓	✓
Anesthesia & Analgesia		✓
Cardiology	✓	✓
Critical Care	✓	✓
Dermatology	✓	✓
Integrative Medicine		✓
Internal Medicine	✓	✓
Medical Oncology	✓	✓
Radiology		✓
Rehabilitation		✓
Surgery	✓	✓



Join Our Communication List

itl.ink/Join-Our-List

medvet.com/refer-a-patient



VESPECON

Your comprehensive specialty network.

Get concierge advisory support, and more, for small, large and exotic animals. Specialist level care delivered locally by you with our support. Access to specialists can be difficult for your patients. We make it easy!



- Anesthesia & Analgesia
- Avian & Exotics
- Behavior
- Cardiology
- Clinical Pathology
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Emergency & Critical Care (LA & SA)
- Internal Medicine (LA & SA)
- Neurology
- Nutrition
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Poultry Medicine
- Radiology
- Radiation Oncology
- Small Ruminant Medicine
- Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation (LA)
- Surgery (LA & SA)
- Theriogenology (LA & SA)



Continuing Education



Consult today at VESPECON.com

Call: 623-267-5474



ABBY'S Plan

Individual thinkers deserve individual business insurance.

Your veterinary practice is as individual as the animals you treat, so don't settle for a one-size fits all business insurance plan. You deserve a plan custom designed to address your specific needs.

American National agents will build a plan tailored to you including specialty coverages that address the needs of vets, such as:

- Professional Liability
- Animal Bailee
- Mobile Equipment

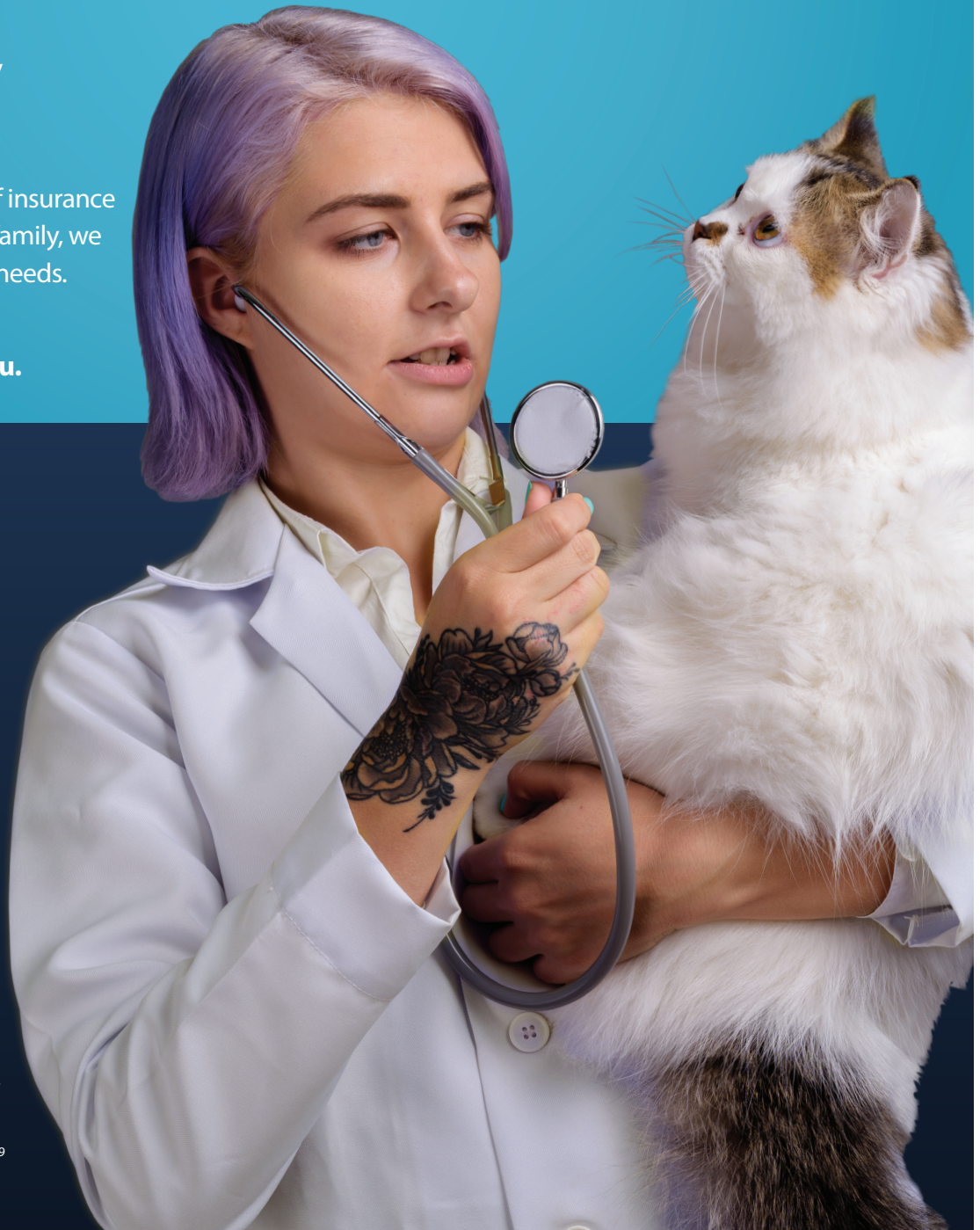
With a coordinated array of insurance coverage for business and family, we can service your insurance needs.

Visit [an.insure/vet](https://www.american-national.com/insure/vet) to contact an agent near you.



American National is a group of companies writing a broad array of insurance products and services. Products and services may not be available in all states. Terms, conditions and eligibility requirements will apply. Property and casualty products and services may be underwritten in Louisiana by ANPAC Louisiana Insurance Company, Springfield, Missouri.

19-314914.V1.12.19



Veterinary Specialists of Greater New Orleans



Our Address

1937 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70005



Contact Us

(504) 510-3300



Our Website

www.gnovetspecialists.com

Advanced Specialty Care with
Compassionate Expertise

Capital Area Veterinary Specialists



Our Address

2380 O'Neal Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70816



Contact Us

(225) 424-6712



Our Website

www.cavsla.com



Our Services

- Surgery
- Dermatology
- Internal Medicine
- CT Scan
- Advanced Diagnostics
- Specialized Care

Office Hours



Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM



Saturday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM



A LETTER FROM STATE VETERINARIAN ON NEW WORLD SCREWWORM

May 12, 2025

Dear Veterinary Colleagues,

The United States is facing an emerging threat from our southern border. On Sunday, May 11, 2025, United States Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins announced the immediate suspension of live cattle, horse and bison imports through U.S. ports along the U.S. southern border due to the continued and rapid northward movement of New World Screwworm (NWS, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*) in Mexico. NWS can infest livestock, pets, wildlife, occasionally birds, and in rare cases, people. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry encourages you and your staff to be aware of the current New World screwworm (NWS) situation progressively moving through Central America and Mexico. The re-emergence of NWS in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala beginning in mid-2023 and early 2024, and the detections emerging

in Southern Mexico increases the threat of reintroduction to the United States markedly.

This pest is an extreme threat to the health of U.S. livestock, companion animals and wildlife. New World Screwworm larvae (maggots) feed on living tissue, causing painful infected wounds; and left untreated, the infestation can be deadly. Adult flies are slightly larger than houseflies, with metallic blue/green bodies, orange eyes, and three dark stripes on their backs. The fly deposits larvae in broken skin, so even minor abrasions create susceptibility. NWS is not currently in Louisiana, but because of the known proximity of the pest in Mexico, and Louisiana's proximity to major travel and trade routes **vigilance is essential.**

Signs/Symptoms to look for include:

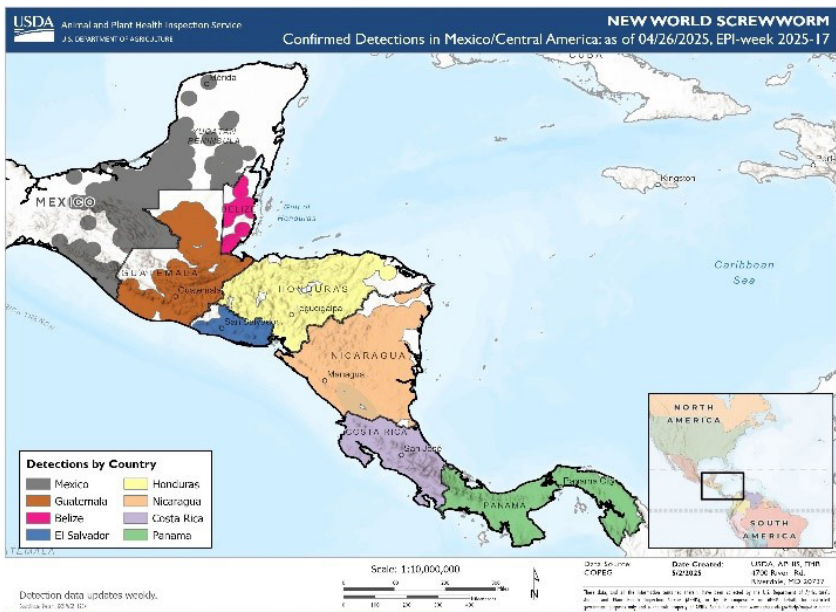
- Unusual behavior or head shaking
- Evidence of fly strike
- Bad odor (smell of decay)
- Wounds that worsen over time
- Visible maggots in or around wounds

Additionally, in accordance with state law, NWS is a Foreign Animal Disease and is reportable to the Louisiana State Veterinarian. Veterinarians, diagnostic laboratories, and others must notify the office of the state veterinarian within

24 hours of suspected and/or confirmed cases of NWS. Immediately reporting suspected cases will aid in rapid detection, response, and help prevent further spread of the pest. If you suspect New World Screwworm, please contact the State Vet's Office at 225-925-3980 or the Area Veterinarian in Charge for USDA at 337-441-1635.

Please encourage animal owners to be vigilant for New World Screwworm by:

- Checking animals regularly, especially if you or they have



traveled internationally.

- Owners should inspect animals for wounds and treat them promptly.
- If owners/producers are moving pets and livestock across borders, ensure the animals are properly inspected and obtain appropriate movement permits/documents.
- Be alert when returning from affected regions (Central/South America, Mexico).

The following are USDA information links on New World Screwworm:

Pest Alert: New World Screwworm
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pest-alert-new-world-screwworm.pdf>

New World Screwworm: What You Need To Know
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/bro-new-world-screwworm.pdf>

Standard Operating Procedure for Possible Detections of New World Screwworm in Animals
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/aphis-sop-detection-nws-in-animals.pdf>

Standard Operating Procedure for Possible Detections of New World Screwworm in Dogs

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sop-detection-of-nws-in-dogs.pdf>

Sincerely,

**Daniel Myrick DVM
State Veterinarian**

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry

5825 Florida Blvd, STE 4000

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

(225)925-3980 office

(225)237-5588 fax



**LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE
& FORESTRY**

MIKE STRAIN, DVM Commissioner
LDAF.LA.GOV

A dark blue poster with white stars and sparkles. At the top, it says 'SAVE THE DATE'. In the center, '2026' is in a light blue oval, followed by 'WINTER MEETING' in large, bold, white letters. Below that, 'MARCH 27-29' and 'LAFAYETTE' are in light blue ovals. At the bottom, the LVMA logo (Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association) is shown, featuring a yellow and red shield with a white caduceus and the text 'LVMA' and 'LOUISIANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'.



Why Attend

SWVS 2025

SOUTHWEST VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM

SEPT 25-28 / FORT WORTH, TX

REGISTER ONLINE | WWW.SWVS.ORG

20% OFF

**4 OR MORE FULL
CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS**

4 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS OF LEARNING

Immerse yourself in live lectures & ticketed events designed to inspire.

AFFORDABLE CE

Bring your whole staff—DVMs, technicians, assistants, managers & office staff—for low-cost, high-impact continuing education.

14 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Companion Animal
- Equine
- Food Animal
- Integrative Medicine
- Multitrack/Cross Species
- Non-Traditional/Exotics
- Practice Management/Office Personnel
- Professional Development/Wellness
- Technician
- Technology
- Interactive Labs & Master Classes
- Exhibitor Lunch & Learns
- Exhibitor Education Sessions

250+ EXHIBITORS

Discover cutting-edge products, services & technologies to take your practice to the next level.

UP TO 28 CE CREDITS

Choose from over 400 hours of RACE-approved sessions tailored to your professional growth.

EASY-TO-NAVIGATE FROM START TO FINISH

Online registration & check-in.

INVALUABLE TRAINING FOR ALL VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS

Gain practical skills & insights from expert practitioners to elevate your practice.

INTERACTIVE LABS & MASTER CLASSES

Enhance your expertise with interactive labs & in-depth sessions led by top veterinary educators.

JULY 31
EARLY BIRD Registration Deadline

AUGUST 1
Final day to cancel Ticketed Events

AUGUST 1
Final day to cancel registration

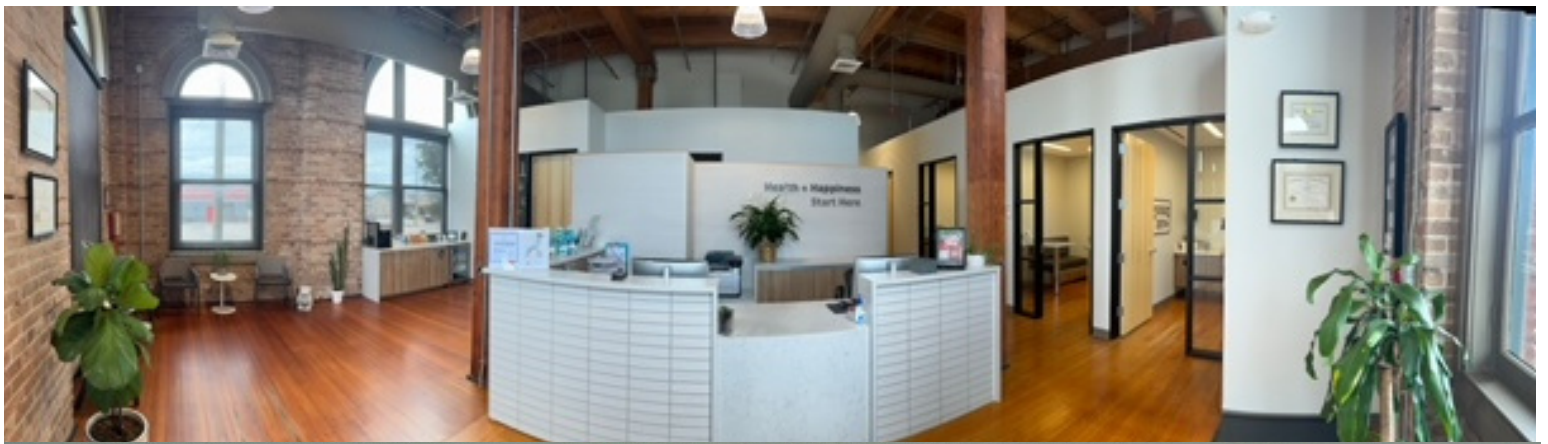
AUGUST 31
Final day to book official SWVS hotel



*Saddle Up and
Join Us in Fort Worth!*

PARTNER STATE VMAs





OPEN WIDE GULF SOUTH

REFER YOUR PATIENTS TO THE ONLY
DEDICATED VETERINARY DENTAL
SPECIALTY IN THE STATE



VETERINARY
DENTAL
SPECIALTIES

NEW
ORLEANS

8300 EARHART BLVD. STE 101,
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118



EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS OF OUR
EXPANDED CLINIC, INCLUDING:

VIRTUAL CONSULTS,
RELAXING CLIENT LOUNGE,
ENHANCED CBCT SCANNING,
HIGHEST-QUALITY DENTAL CARE





Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



**Few things feel as
good as freedom.**



- Buy a practice.
- Sell a practice (corporate or private).
- Get a management appraisal.
- Secure an appraisal for exit planning.


Veterinary Practice Sales & Appraisals

Contact Simmons today.
(256) 650-8387
midsouth@simmonsinc.com