



Federal Veterinarian

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REMINDER

Members,
Our new website hastons of
information for you on:

- Upcoming CE
- Financial wellness
- Latest news
- Public Veterinary Jobs
- New Legal Service

To make sure you're getting
the most out of your
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you have access to our
member-only portal on our
site. You'll be able to access
the information listed

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The Role of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians on Members Morale

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) measures employee engagement and satisfaction with their workplaces, or in other words morale. The FEVS serves as a tool for employees to share their perceptions in many critical areas including their work experiences, their agency, and their leadership.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) and its Office of Employee Experience (OEX) use the results of FEVS to inform efforts and the initiatives currently underway with the "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" ranking according to the Partnership for Public Service on employee satisfaction, engagement, and morale—all of which support and inform USDA's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and the Secretary and Deputy Secretary's FY2022 priority to "Make USDA a Best Place to Work."

And this is where an association such as the National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) can come in.

Today's veterinarians are the only doctors educated to protect the health of both animals and people. These dedicated professionals apply their medical skills not in "private practice" but in "public practice" in the service of every American through the many programs administered by the federal government. Though federal veterinarians touch the lives of every American every day, many feel undercompensated, underappreciated, and overworked. These feelings can contribute to high employee turnover rates, which impact overall morale of the team, the health and wellness of Americans, and the agency's bottom line. Many times, there are significant gaps between the perceptions of an agency's executive leadership and the realities of mid-level management. This can be even

Key Points:

PSLF Summary of Changes

New Rules for Qualifying
Payments

Which PSLF Requirements are
Waived

How to Find Out if You Qualify
for Additional Payments

Next Steps: How to See if You
Qualify

Q & As

worse when including agencies rank and file grassroots employees. The majority of NAFV members (and most of the veterinarians employed by the federal government) work for the USDA. The results of FEVS indicated that morale is USDA is low, ranked 16 of 17 large federal agencies, only slightly better than the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). When you look at the sub-agency rankings our major membership comes from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (ranked 298 out of 411) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (ranked 294 out of 411).

For those working there, this may not come as a surprise. But, how can these agencies benefit from working with NAFV, as an association of managers and supervisors? There are finer points of job satisfaction that the FEVS cannot measure. The impact of mandatory deployments on people's job satisfaction, for example. When that

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Executive Vice President
National Association of
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Any veterinarian employed full time by the federal government may become an active member. Dues are \$260.00 annually, payable annually, semiannually, PayPal (annually or monthly), or by federal payroll deductions (eligibility for payroll deduction is limited to USDA veterinarians --of \$10.00 authorized by signing USDA Form AD 1054 (FSIS) or SF 1187 (APHIS)). Uniformed veterinarians' dues are \$160.00 annually. Active-duty uniformed veterinarians- please contact the NAFV office. Associate membership is granted to active members when they retire from federal service. Associate members pay no dues. Associate members receive the NAFV newsletter by email.

The National Association of Federal Veterinarians is a non-profit corporation and the purposes for which it is formed are to promote the veterinary profession, to improve the professional efficiency and material interests of the members, to acquaint the public with the activities of veterinarians in the federal service, and to cooperate with the American Veterinary Medical Association, the United States Animal Health Association and other similar groups with common interests.

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deployment is seen as furthering the mission of the agency, it can be a positive motivating factor; however, if that mandatory deployment is seen as making up for an agencies failure to fill critical vacancies, it has just the opposite effect on morale.

When deployments are viewed as on people's job satisfaction, for example. When that deployment is seen as furthering the mission of the agency, it can be a positive motivating factor; however, if that mandatory deployment is seen as making up for an agencies failure to fill critical vacancies, it has just the opposite effect on morale. When deployments are viewed as employed

where certain individuals seem to be exempt from deployment, then it can destroy the sense of accomplishment. This level of detail can't be reached by the FEVS, but through consultations with our members and executive leadership these insights can be addressed. In many cases, just hearing a third party explain the situation can make all the difference in how the issue is perceived.

In service of these public servants, the NAFV strives to serve both veterinarians and the agencies they work for by facilitating communication, making suggestions for improvements, and working collaboratively to address issues of concern.

This advocacy includes emphasizing professionalism and expertise in federal service, but also promoting continuing education, teamwork and morale, and a standard of excellence. NAFV can work with you to improve it and your professional working environment.

NAFV can approach senior leadership in the department with your concerns and possible solutions not as a union but as an organization that represent you medical / scientific professionals.

Our goal is to enhance the productivity and impact of your work life, which instills a positive sense of accomplishment. When a veterinarian is lifted, that positively reflects the team, and that morale boost translates into increased productivity and pride in your work which makes all the difference.

Avian Influenza Resources



[- Vaccine makers prep bird flu shot for humans 'just in case'; rich nations lock in supplies](#)

Reuters

One current outbreak of avian flu known as H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b has killed record numbers of birds and infected mammals.

[- Bird flu outbreak: Will it cause the next pandemic? | Health - Hindustan Times](#)

Hindustan Times

There are several different types of avian influenza that can infect birds. One of them is called avian flu H5N1. It first emerged in 1997 and in ...

[- H5N1 bird flu kills thousands of New England seals - News Medical](#)

News Medical

A recent study published in the United States (U.S.) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) journal Emerging Infectious Diseases ...

[- New study describes HPAI infections in wild mammals in US - USGS.gov](#)

USGS.gov

Avian Influenza. Avian influenza is a viral disease caused by various strains of avian influenza viruses that can be classified as low pathogenic ...

[- With Bird Flu Threat On Horizon, Drugmakers Prepare Vaccines For Humans](#)

Kaiser Health News

Two vaccines for poultry tested by a Dutch facility, meanwhile, have proved effective against highly infectious bird flu.

[- Could bird flu start a human pandemic?](#)

- RACGP

An outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza that started in 2021 has become the largest bird flu outbreak in history.

Candidates for AVMA President-elect

Sandra Faeh Butler

Dr. Sandra Faeh began her journey in organized veterinary medicine in 1995 as the National SAVMA President. Since then, she has been president of her local VMA (Chicago), state VMA (Illinois), AVMA delegate for Illinois, chair of the AVMA House Advisory Committee, and most recently Vice-President of the AVMA.



Her volunteer services have been very diverse, giving her a broad range of experiences. She acted as treasurer of the Chicago VMA, chair of Illinois' Political Action Committee; chair of Illinois' Education Committee, and chair of Illinois' Student Engagement Committee.



During her time in the House Advisory Committee, she was instrumental in the development of the Veterinary Information Forum. During her term as AVMA Vice President, she founded the Online Educator Community. She most recently finished her term as the chair of AVMA's Working Group on Membership Engagement.

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Throughout our profession, and especially over the last few years, we have been met with many challenges. While some of these challenges may seem to be insurmountable, we can't give up. We must persevere and continue to improve upon things for our generation and for those to come.

I believe that every challenge is an opportunity to improve. Every challenge is an opportunity for success. I am confident that together we can make it happen.

Over the past 28 years, I have worked diligently to create opportunities for the veterinary profession. As the SAVMA president, I saw a need for students to be heard and was instrumental in getting the students a vote in the House of Delegates. I revitalized a stagnant Illinois Political Action Committee and created an online resource for veterinary faculty to engage with each other and discuss the important issues of veterinary education.

Most recently, I spearheaded a national mentorship program to ensure that our new graduates receive exceptional training both clinically and for mental health. These are just a few of the challenges I have tackled in my veterinary career.

Our profession is filled with amazing individuals and resources. I truly believe anything is possible and together we can succeed.

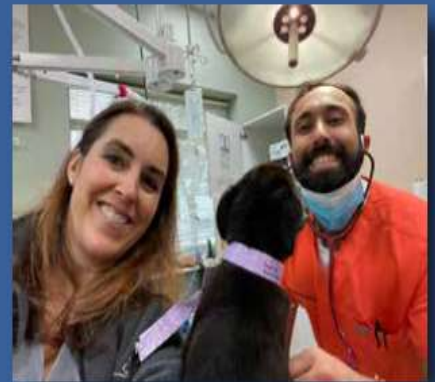
With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Sandra Faeh Butler'.

Sandra Faeh Butler



In her professional career, Dr Faeh has been part-owner of 4 small animal clinics in the Chicago suburbs. She currently serves as NYA's first veterinary mentor, and is instrumental in helping to develop this new and exciting national program.



Dr. Faeh lives in River Forest, IL with her husband Marshall and their three boys: Pierce, Aidan and Alex. Their family also includes 2 canines: Tobe (Bernese Mountain Dog) and Rigi (Great Pyrenees); 2 felines: Rafi and Gizmo; bunny Ollie, and Ace, a Canadian warmblood. In her free time, she enjoys showing Ace, traveling (especially to visit family in Switzerland) skiing, reading and running.



I am honored to be a candidate for AVMA President-Elect.

We are in an exciting time in our profession, with so many opportunities and challenges.

We must work together, listen to our members and develop effective communication strategies. Our responsibility is to keep advancing this great profession and to leave it better than we found it.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- AVMA Vice President - 2020-2022
- Chair - AVMA House Advisory Committee - 2018-2019
- Non-voting Member - AVMA Budget and Finance Review Committee - 2018-2019
- Member - Task Force on the Office of Vice President Review Committee - 2017-2018
- Chair - ISVMA Political Action Committee - 2017-2018
- Member - AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference Planning Committee - 2016-2020
- AVMA Delegate, IL - 2016-2020
- President - Illinois State VMA - 2016-2017
- President - Chicago VMA - 2004-2005
- Treasurer - Chicago VMA - 2001
- Member - AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference Planning Committee as Emerging Leader - 2000-2005
- SAVMA President - 1995-1996

Challenging people to step into the unknown so they can realize their full potential.



Sandra Faeh Butler, DVM for AVMA President-Elect

AWARDS

- Erwin Small First Decade Illinois State VMA Award
- Chicago VMA Merit Award

EDUCATION

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Bachelors of Veterinary Medicine - May 1994
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Doctor of Veterinary Medicine - May 1996

CERTIFICATES

- AVMA Brave Space Certificate
- Certificate for Diversity and Inclusion from Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine

Sandra Faeh Butler, DVM
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Arnie Goldman

January 21, 2023

Dr. Joseph F. Anelli, Executive Vice President
National Association of Federal Veterinarians

Dear Dr. Anelli,

Thank you for the invitation to offer my thoughts as a candidate for AVMA president-elect to the members of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians. While the profession's challenges do not necessarily affect Federal veterinarians in exactly the same manner as other cohorts, it is nevertheless true that we are all in this profession together!

I'll preface my comments by clarifying what the role of an AVMA president entails. I think this worthwhile because as served, the office differs qualitatively from what the AVMA Bylaws state, and at times I've observed this to be incompletely understood. Much of the president's role as described in the Bylaws is actually carried out collectively by the Board of Directors with input from the House of Delegates and the AVMA's professional staff.

The AVMA president has two main functions, the first being as a co-equal member of the AVMA Board of Directors. Here, the president exerts influence equal to that of other Board members, and leadership experience, institutional knowledge of the AVMA and the ability to articulate and persuade, are qualities essential to success in serving members.

The second and arguably more consequential role, is in acting as AVMA's principal spokesperson, a "chief communicator", if you will. The president is tasked with delivering clear and consistent messaging to all AVMA audiences, and in particular to its members. To do that well, they must humbly set aside their biases, and accurately communicate the reasoning behind AVMA policy and Board decisions to members and the world. In this most critical role, and especially when our advocacy is involved, it is the individual members' perceptions that count the most. Today, with so many stakeholders with goals of their own active in veterinary medicine, it's important that the AVMA's communications with its individual members be delivered with the necessary aplomb.

The message I conveyed in my two candidate's addresses to the AVMA House of Delegates, our need to embrace "*unity, professionalism & service*", is based on principles derived from the Veterinarian's Oath, and are what I believe our profession and the AVMA should re-emphasize. I believed this throughout my own years serving in the AVMA House of Delegates, as well as during my career in clinical practice, and still do. It is true the profession faces many challenges, and yes, they are different in nature from those faced by previous generations, yet our profession is still deeply valued by society and not in any way diminished. The intangible elements of veterinary medicine ought not be undersold or ignored, as so many of us came to veterinary medicine in pursuit of those same intangibles. We play essential roles in society and in doing so gain, not just in material wealth, but in the satisfaction and pride of knowing we serve a purpose greater than ourselves. Career satisfaction and fulfillment in life are both enhanced by this truth and we are justified in being optimistic about our future.

Today's personal challenges, including managing debt, as well as concerns with workplace culture, work-life balance and mental health are being addressed by AVMA. Alongside these, the AVMA is also studying our broader threats, including workforce instability, disruptive technologies and staff under-utilization. Despite all of these challenges, it remains a great accomplishment to become a veterinarian and we must continue to remind our youngest colleagues of this fact, and of the fulfillment that can follow that achievement. It is our role, as their mentors, teachers and leaders to do so.

It would also be helpful to rededicate our professional societies and our colleges and schools of veterinary medicine, to transmitting that "service before self" professional ethic, one that earlier generations perhaps more intuitively understood. That mentorship should begin at least as early as the undergraduate level with pre-veterinary students, then continue during the application & admissions process and throughout veterinary medical education. Doing so may help our graduates gain more realistic expectations and develop a more optimistic outlook towards their career choice. For veterinarians considering public practice, with the importance of the functions these niche's perform for society, emphasizing the intangibles may push more of them toward those roles. As an AVMA president, I will articulate not only what AVMA is doing about our challenges, but also optimism, gratitude and awareness of the enduring value of the intangibles our profession offers, as we strive to help every veterinarian achieve satisfaction in their careers and their lives.

In closing, I believe that personal and professional satisfaction as a veterinarian cannot solely be measured by assessing what one tangibly receives, but also by valuing how well we serve others. If elected I'll do my part to communicate on behalf of our members, in every niche of our profession and corner of our country, with clarity, optimism and gratitude, as together we seek unity, model professionalism and serve society. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these thoughts.

Kind regards and sincerely,

Arnie Goldman

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EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF HYDRATED LIME ON THE SCAVENGING OF FERAL SWINE (*SUS SCROFA*) CARCASSES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGING CARCASS-BASED TRANSMISSION OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VIRUS



pathogens



Article

Composting of Wild Boar Carcasses in Lithuania Leads to Inactivation of African Swine Fever Virus in Wintertime

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Abstract: African swine fever (ASF) continues to spread and persist in the Eurasian wild boar population. The infection pressure resulting from infected carcasses in the environment can be a major contributor to disease persistence and spread. For this reason, it is crucial to find a safe and efficient method of carcass disposal under different circumstances. In the presented study, we investigated open-air composting of carcasses under winter conditions in northeastern Europe, i.e., Lithuania. We can demonstrate that the ASF virus (ASFV) is inactivated in both entire wild boar carcasses and pieces thereof in a time- and temperature-dependent manner. Composting piles reached up to 59.0 °C, and ASFV was shown to be inactivated. However, the ASFV genome was still present until the end of the 112-day sampling period. While further studies are needed to explore potential risk factors (and their mitigation), such as destruction of composting piles by scavengers or harsh weather conditions, composting seems to present a valid method to inactivate the ASFV in wild boar carcasses where rendering or other disposal methods are not feasible. In summary, composting provides a new tool in our toolbox of ASF control in wild boar and can be considered for carcass disposal.

Keywords: African swine fever; African swine fever virus; wild boar; carcass disposal; composting; virus inactivation

1. Introduction

African swine fever (ASF) is an infectious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs caused by a virus belonging to the *Asfivirus* family, genus *Asfivirus*, with high lethality rates independently of age and sex leading to serious economic and production losses. Genotype II is responsible for the current panzootic that started in Georgia in 2007 and is still actively spreading throughout Eurasia and the Caribbean. The African swine fever virus (ASFV) can be sustained by wild boar populations for long periods without any involvement of domestic pigs, in what is considered a new transmission cycle not previously described [1,2].

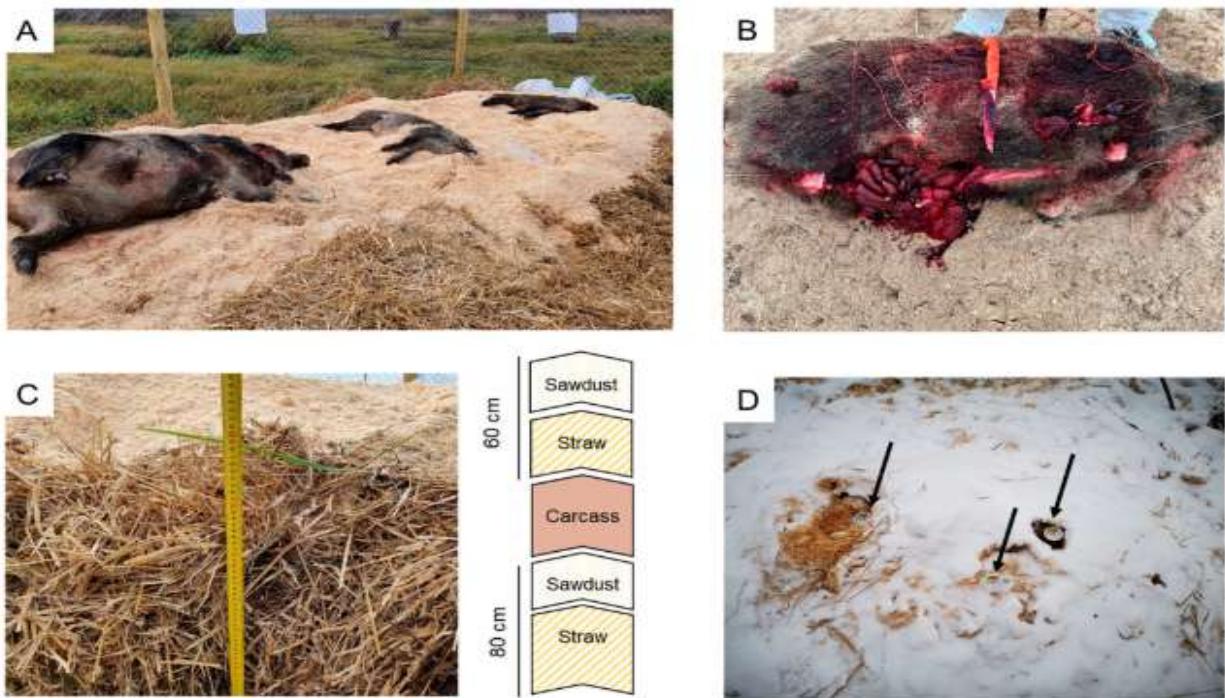


Figure 1. Composting piles for ASFV-infected wild boar carcasses. Two different approaches were carried out: in the first (A), uncut carcasses were placed on the sawdust, while in the second approach (B), carcasses were cut for later sampling before finishing the formation of a pile. In both studies, (C) straw of 60 cm high was placed in the base, and the carcasses were covered with approx. 40 cm of straw and 20 cm sawdust. (D) During the study, the temperature in the pile was regularly monitored using stainless steel compost thermometer probes (arrows).

2.1.1. Study 1

On 4 November 2021, for study 1, $n = 3$ wild boar carcasses were obtained from a hunting ground in the Kretinga district municipality in the western part of Lithuania, where mass mortality of wild boar due to ASF had occurred for several months. Carcasses 1 and 2 belonged to young animals (less than 12 months of age; approx. 50 kg) and carcass 3 to an adult sow (over 24 months of age; approx. 100 kg) as shown in Figure 1A. For the purpose of this study, all carcasses were laid uncut on the compost pile, with the exception of two superficial incisions aimed to sample the inguinal lymph nodes at composting day 1. On the same day, blood and oro-nasal swabs were collected, and ASFV positivity was confirmed via PCR.

Once compost piles were established, sampling was conducted within 7-day intervals as follows:

- For carcass no. 1, samples were obtained on days 7, 14, 21, and 28 post-composting.
- For carcass no. 2, samples were obtained on days 14, 21, 28, and 35 post-composting.
- For carcass no. 3, samples were obtained on days 21, 28, 35, and 42 post-composting.

On each sampling day, the following matrices were collected: bone marrow, kidney, spleen, abdominal fluid, and sawdust from underneath the carcass, as listed in Table S2. At each sampling, only part of the spleen and kidney were taken. The sampling was performed aiming for minimal carcass and pile disturbance. In the event of sawdust and/or straw removal, layers were restored after the sampling was finished. On day 112 (February

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FEDERAL VETERINARIANS

ARE YOU PREPARED?

As you know, Federal Veterinarians are critical in ensuring the nation's food safety and animal/livestock health with innumerable food safety initiatives, guidelines through FSIS, APHIS, DHS, CDC, and FDA, and various animal health programs. Many federal veterinarians also have the dual role of a manager, supervisor or officer within their respective agency. **This leaves you extremely susceptible to allegations, complaints, or potential lawsuits- just for doing your job.** Are you emotionally, financially and legally prepared to become the subject of an adverse administrative action, disciplinary proceeding, or civil lawsuit?

The following is based off a real claims scenario from a federal veterinarian

Picture this: You are the subject of an Internal Controls Staff investigation of employee accountability for the unsanitary conditions found at one of the meat processing plants you supervise, which had its operations suspended and resulted in the agency recalling over 50,000 lbs. of meat. The findings of the investigation lead the agency to propose your removal from federal service based on a charge of neglect of duty, alleging that you failed to perform your regulatory and supervisory duties at the meat processing plant. While you argue that your actions were consistent with sanitation guidelines, the agency maintains its position and issues a final decision to sustain that charge. You are forced to appeal and litigate your removal before the Merit Systems Protection Board, or risk losing your livelihood.

WITHOUT FEDS PROTECTION

For several months paying out hourly fees to expensive federal employment attorneys in an attempt to defend yourself against the charges. The stress of the unknown begins to take a toll on your personal life, and as your savings begin to dwindle, you are forced to make the difficult decision to resign from federal employment in the best interest of your family's needs and finances and must begin looking for a new career.

WITH FEDS PROTECTION

You are assigned your own personal attorney specializing in federal employment law and MSPB appeals, paid for entirely by your PLI policy. Although it still takes months, your attorney handles all of the stressful paperwork and procedures, and succeeds in winning the appeal. You continue to be gainfully employed by your federal agency without loss in pay or grade.

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Enroll today at www.fedprotection.com or call 866.955.FEDS.



Obituary



Donald Randall Jr.

Ames, Iowa

May 27, 1936 - September 9, 2022

Donald Randall, Jr, age 86, passed away on September 9, 2022, at Maui Memorial Medical Center in Maui, Hawaii. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, May 27, 1936 and spent most of his youth at the Outdoor Education Center (Clear Lake Camp) where his father was

director. Being taller than his father, Donald's friends lovingly nick-named him "Lil Don." Donald graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1954 where he played in the marching band, and orchestra. He attended Michigan State University and was accepted into the School of Veterinarian Medicine as a junior. While at MSU he was active in the Chorale program and the Square/Folk Dance group. He graduated from MSU with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1960.

Donald spent most of his career in Ames, Iowa with Veterinary Services becoming the Inspection and Compliance Director at the USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics. He was instrumental in establishing much of the structure and functions of the federal veterinary biologics program and received a Superior Service Award for his work in biologics. After his retirement in 1998, he started a second career as a consultant to animal vaccine manufacturers seeking certification, traveling the United States and to countries around the world. In Ames, Donald was on the board of the Ames International Orchestra Association and prominent in Ames community theater ACTORS, Inc.

Donald and his life partner and companion, Carmon Slater, celebrated their 50th anniversary together in May 2022. After his retirement, Donald and Carmon moved to Colorado, built a home in Evergreen, then moved to Wheat Ridge and Maui. His love for the outdoors, and for all animals, large and small, was acquired in his youth. Throughout his life he loved to hike and camp and was an active volunteer at the Evergreen Audubon Nature Center and the Denver Zoo. Donald, along with Carmon, was an active "Birder" and could often be seen checking his list and one of many bird identification guides on his phone. Birding trips to exotic locations were regular travel destinations, the latest being a birding trip to Panama just 6 weeks ago.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Donald C. Randall, Sr, and Alice (Furlong) Randall. He is survived by his partner, Dr. Carmon Slater, his brother, David M. Randall (Laurie), his nephews, Tom Gibb-Randall (Shannan), Mike Randall (Ann), and five grand nephews and niece. His life was a gift to us all and his example of love and compassion will be a constant in our ever changing lives.



Obituary

Dr. Delorias Macon Lenard

Passed 12/26/2020



Dr. Delorias Macon Lenard was born September 20, 1954 in Donalsonville, GA to the late Benjamin Macon, Sr. and Ruby Roach Macon. She was educated in the public schools of Houston County, graduating from Ashford High School in 1972. Delorias went on to matriculate at Tuskegee Institute and graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She furthered her education by graduating from the School of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee Institute with a Bachelor of Science in Poultry and Animal Science degree and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1980.

Dr. Lenard began her career with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a port veterinarian on the U.S./Canadian border in Detroit, MI. In 1989 she transferred to the Agency's headquarters staff and led two swine programs. In 1993, she became the Area Veterinarian in Charge for South Carolina (AVIC). In 2014, she was also given leadership responsibility for the U.S. Virgin Islands animal health programs. During this 25 year period, she provided leadership for animal health programs with the national herd in South Carolina and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2018, she retired after more than 36 years with one employer. Delorias was a mentored many employees during her tenure at USDA. She also co-founded the Partners book club in 1997. The book club served as a forum for discussion of current events; as well as an adhoc vehicle for counseling. Delorias was predeceased by her parents and siblings: Infant Jenile Macon and Randolph "Randy" Macon. Dr. Lenard leaves behind, those to cherish many wonderful memories: her wonderful and supportive husband, Willie J. Lenard of Pike Road, AL; son, William Lenard (Stephania); daughter, Shana Lenard, Fayetteville, GA; several stepchildren, Dannie Jones (Cory), Minneola, FL; Napoleon Robinson (Charlene), Austell, GA; Sabrina Sulton, Columbia, SC; and Katrina Fulton, Jamaica, NY; seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. She also leaves to cherish fond memories, one sister, Jennifer Macon, Florissant, MO; four brothers; Hildreth Macon (Carolyn), Dallas, TX; Benjamin Macon, Jr, Fayetteville, GA; Jeffery Macon (Theresa), Ashford, AL; and Jonathan Macon (Kim), Keller, TX. She also leaves to cherish warm memories, one brother-in-law, Douglas Lonton (Julia), Winter Haven, FL, two sisters-in-laws Darlene Ellis and Rachel Johnson both of Las Vegas, Nevada. She also has a host of nephews, nieces and friends, other relatives and colleagues to revisit and recapture wonderfully warm memories.

Rest in Peace

You will always be among us. It's just
the graveyard where you lay to rest.

On Remembering Dr. Roger James Odenweller

Good afternoon, everybody! It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the passing of Dr. Roger James Odenweller on Sunday, March 19 at the age of 83 after an October diagnosis of Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Chemo and radiation were not particularly effective and made him feel worse, so Roger stopped treatment in January.

Dr. Odenweller, affectionately known as "Dr. O" or just "O," was an Ohio native and a graduate of THE Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He was a Vietnam Veteran serving as a Captain in the Veterinary Corps. He was a field VMO in Kentucky, got his MPVM (Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine) from UC Davis and was AVIC in West Virginia before coming back as the AVIC in Kentucky 1989. He hired me in 1990 after I had spent two years with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) working on Rinderpest in sub Saharan Africa as the first (and only) African American VMO in Kentucky. But the facts just scratch the surface of who he was. He was a loving husband to Deloris and loving father to Matthew and Patrick. Roger began his vet career in a practice in Ohio his grandfather had started in the early 1900s. And probably against his advice, Patrick also became a veterinarian graduating from Auburn.

O was, to me, one of the best examples of what an AVIC should be. He stood up for his employees, treated them with respect and supported them in their efforts to improve their situations in VS. He was one of a group AVICs like Dr. Bill Smith and Dr. Terry Taylor, his cohorts and peers. They would express their beliefs and opinions freely (if not always expletive-free ☺) and sometimes drew the ire of regional and headquarters staff in the process. But they were respected for their honesty and steadfastness. In the 1990s until he retired in 2005, the Kentucky Area office was like one big family. And like family we didn't always all get along. But under Dr. Odenweller's leadership, we celebrated birthdays, retirements, births, marriages together. We had holidays meals in the office and at Christmas time, people signed up to bring baked goods (mostly homemade) almost every day in December. When his roses had bloomed, Roger was known to cut some blossoms and bring them in to the office.

Though he didn't get a lot of recognition for it, Roger was a loyal and dedicated member of the VS workforce. He was one of the Incident Commanders at the Garden Grove ICP during the Exotic Newcastle Disease outbreak in 2002 – 2003 in California. One of his most lasting accomplishments was working with the group that put together the standards for the Area Epidemiologist position. This was created as alternate non-management route for field VMOs to get promoted.

O was more than a supervisor to me and others. He was a mentor and friend. And though sad, I am happy that his earthly struggles are over and look forward to the day we meet again. If anyone has any stories that they'd like to share, I'd love to hear them. And to our current supervisors, work to be the kind of supervisor that will have former co-workers singing your praises. 'nuff said. Have a great evening!

- John P Hollis

ACTIVE MEMBERS WE HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH

We have lost touch with the following list of members. If you know them, please prompt them to reach out to us at 202-223-4878.

La Ria Robinson
Kevin C Ehlers
Jonathan B Coleman
Douglas W Carmichael
Donna Malloy
Gleen C Fler
Greg A Lawrence
Daniel A Novilla
Christyn Stumps
Carlos A Diaz

John D Long
John M Huie
Lindsey Garber
Leela Noronha
Gary Rotenberger
Karl Hochstein
Alexandra Newman
Matthew Eagen
Lyla G. Monell
Lori Gabri

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