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February 5, 2010

Dear Students:

This past fall the AVMA was approached by students from multiple veterinary schools/colleges who were interested in sharing questions, concerns, knowledge, and resources related to animal welfare. In response to their requests staff from the AVMA's Animal Welfare, Membership and Field Services, and Communications Divisions began working on ideas as to how to facilitate such communications.

The result is a discussion group that has been set up on NOAH, the AVMA's online discussion board. The group is titled "Student Animal Welfare." All AVMA members and Student AVMA (SAVMA) members can access NOAH and join the discussion. To do so visit the AVMA homepage (www.avma.org) and look for the tab labeled "My AVMA." Under that tab, click on "NOAH discussion groups." You will be asked to sign in, once you do this you will see the NOAH welcome page. On the right side of the page click on the button "Enter NOAH discussion groups." On the left side of this page is a list of discussion groups where you will see the new discussion group "Student Animal Welfare." Clicking on the discussion group title will show all open threads as a list below the group heading. If you would like to start a new thread you may do so by clicking on "Post a new topic to this discussion group" on the right side of the page.

An alternative way of viewing posts instead of logging in to NOAH each time is to subscribe to the discussion groups mailing list. To subscribe, first log into NOAH. Once on the homepage, click "More" on the WebBoard menubar. In the "More Options" menu select "Mailing Lists." On the "Mailing Lists" page check the box for the discussion group to which you wish to subscribe, then click "Save." New posts to that discussion group will now be sent to the email you have listed in your NOAH Profile, which can also be found in the "More Options" menu.

Information about how to join the new "Student Animal Welfare" discussion group is being distributed to all Student Chapters of the AVMA (SCAVMA), veterinary schools/colleges in Canada, the non-accredited veterinary schools in the Caribbean, and the Royal Veterinary College in the UK. Veterinary students who participated in the Animal Welfare Assessment and Judging Competition held at Michigan State University this past November will also receive this information. We hope this new discussion group will allow its participants to have engaging and thoughtful communication about animal welfare topics.

Veterinary students who are not a current member of the SAVMA and wish to join may do so by visiting the SAVMA homepage www.avma.org/savma. At the top of the page, under SAVMA membership, click on the link inviting you to join and follow the online instructions. Students from colleges/schools with existing SCAVMA chapters should contact their local officers for instructions on how to join the SAVMA. Students from non-AVMA-accredited veterinary colleges/schools in the Caribbean may join SAVMA by following the SAAVMA Member link. Students from other schools/colleges that do not have SCAVMA chapters may join SAVMA by using the Student Associate Member link.

As always we appreciate your interest in protecting animal welfare. If you have questions or need more information about particular animal welfare topics, please do not hesitate to contact the AVMA's Animal Welfare Division by e-mailing animalwelfare@avma.org.

Sincerely,

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