



ARAV Monthly Herp Blerp

Issue 4, May 2013

Greetings from the ARAV Technician Liaison

Hello my Reptilian and Amphibian Cohorts,

Before we start I just want to say congratulations to all the ARAV member speakers at ICARE! You did us proud!!

Every year when we head into the spring and summer seasons we encounter misinformed good Samaritans. These are loving folks who have the best interest of reptiles and amphibians in their hearts BUT sometimes that leads to the unnecessary "rescue" of hatchlings. Remember to gently let educate these tender hearted folk and show them how exceptional ARAV members treat conservation and the public :) Maybe, have on hand some information on our conservation efforts and let them know that ARAV welcomes support and donations to help conserve the sweet little hatchling they just tried to save!

This newsletter is for you because ARAV wants to hear what you have to say! Help us continue to inspire with our dedication to up to date herpetological medicine.

Your Herp Blerpin' Tech,

Erica Mede, CVT

You are the Key to Legislation Change

Reptile and amphibian keepers have faced an unprecedented and increasing onslaught of ballot initiatives during the past five years that seek to impact the private keeping and breeding of these amazing animals which are valuable to human beings. They are ecologically, medically, and educationally significant and they are cherished pets. However, these animals continue to be misunderstood and vilified by the general public and by legislatures at the state and federal levels with bills that have the potential for grave impact on their conservation, husbandry and welfare.

For these reasons, it is imperative that professionals and experts who are knowledgeable about these animals provide input when legislation is proposed affecting herpetoculture. This input must necessarily include input from veterinary professionals (veterinarians and technicians) whose daily practice includes the veterinary care of reptiles and amphibians.

Input on pending legislation from qualified and experienced veterinary professionals must be considered for the welfare of the animals. Veterinarians and technicians who specialize in treating reptiles and amphibians are uniquely informed about issues affecting their health, from caging size to temperature and lighting requirements to diet and disease. They may be the first to note trends in illnesses and the possible causes of those illnesses. Veterinarians and technicians may have information regarding the numbers and species of animals kept in a particular area and along with rescues, they may be the first line of contact when people surrender their animals.

Veterinary professionals are also uniquely qualified to impact and influence the rights of private parties to keep these animals. Legislators find expert witness testimony to be more credible than that of interested parties and veterinarians who can proffer testimony regarding responsible husbandry practices can help to provide a reasoned voice in a legislative dispute.

- Erika Chen-Walsh

Herp Alliance

Student Chapters Corner

Externships and internships that deal with exotic animal medicine is sometimes a real chore to find! Each month we will be highlighting a veterinary practice that offers externships or internships!

This month we are featuring **The Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria, Australia**. They offer veterinary externships.

The program is offered to students completing their final (clinical) years. A covering letter and CV are submitted 12-18 months in advance of the nominated placement periods, and placements are allocated on the basis of the written application. Applications are accepted all year round. Students should be aware that there is strong competition for these placements, as they are offered to students at all vet schools in Australia. A basic knowledge of the principles of wildlife and exotic animal medicine is assumed.

Check out their website at: www.zoo.org.au/healesville

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Save the Date:

First International Conference on Avian, Herpetological, and Exotic Mammal Medicine will be held **April 20-26, 2013**.

Conservation Medicine and Diseases of Amphibians and Reptiles Course will be held **June 23-29, 2013**

Annual Conference of the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians will be hosting their 33rd conference **September 5-9, 2013**.

20th Annual ARAV conference in conjunction with the **AEMV** (Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians) will be held **September 14-19, 2013** in **Indianapolis, Indiana, USA**.

Tips, Tricks, and Toys

For snakes that are bitey or difficult to restrain use a syringe case! Works the same way as a snake tube but is easier for owners to handle and almost every clinic has these laying around! A 35 ml syringe case easily fits a large adult ball python head!

- Rachel W.

Have a helpful tip? A fun trick? Or a review on a new machine? Submit them to us!

ARAV Trivia

The answer to last month's question is, A! True, North American box turtle gender is temperature dependent during incubation.

True or False: The Australian Black-Headed python (*Aspidites melanocephalus*) is the only python species that does not have heat pits.

A. True

B. False

Check the newsletter next month for the answer!

Questions, comments, or just wish to submit something to the newsletter?

E-Mail Erica at: e.medecvt@gmail.com