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[WBAALAS.org](http://WBAALAS.org)

# Washington Branch American Association Laboratory Animal Science

May 2008

## District 8 Meeting in Seattle a Huge Success

The Annual District 8 Meeting is now behind us. It was a lot of work, and a lot of fun. The talks and presentations were varied, including a session titled "America's Next Top Presenter" led by Kim Saunders, Andrew J. Burich and Claire Hankenson.



## Congratulations

to Grace Arnada, University of Arizona,  
for being the first recipient of the Ron Orta Humanitarian Award

[Click here for more photos.](#)

## Thanks from the D8 '08 Program Committee

On behalf of the District 8 AALAS Meeting 2008 Program Committee, I send sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped us put on a successful meeting. Speakers took the time to prepare exciting presentations, and travel to share their information. Workshop instructors provided many hour's-worth of educational hands-on interaction, plus they put in set-up and clean-up time. Animal care staff at Harborview and the UW Primate Center graciously put up with the hassle of lots of people coming thru their facilities. Committee members really put in great effort, often traveling long distances to attend meetings and brainstorm cool ideas. They made calls and sent e-mails, persuaded others to participate, and then attended to the other myriad details involved in putting a meeting together.

I send special heartfelt thanks to the group with whom I worked most closely, the Program Committee. This group gets a gold star (and extra chocolate) for keeping a sense of humor, and making the whole process fun.

To the D8 '09 Program Committee and volunteers: It's a lot of work but a whole lot of fun. Advice: keep chocolate handy.

Thanks to all involved,  
Cindy Pekow

D8 '08 Program Committee Chair

D8 '08 Program Committee Members:

Andrew Burich, Katy Marshall, Gwen Maginnis, Sayed Ahmadi, Kim Saunders, and Amber Carte

# Announcements

- 🐭 The deadline for Annual Lab Products Animal Technician Award is **June 16, 2008** (the nomination must be received by that date). For more information, see [Lab Products Award](#).
  - 🐭 The Annual Washington Branch Summer Picnic will be **Saturday August 9, 2008** at Lower Woodland Park, Spot #3. For more information, see [Picnic](#).
  - 🐭 Ballots for Washington Branch elections will go out **Wednesday June 3, 2008**. See [Elections](#).
  - 🐭 The deadline for nominations for the *Betty J. Varnam Memorial Washington Branch Animal Technician of the Year Award* and *The Ron Orta Memorial Washington Branch Member of the Year Award* is **July 1, 2008**. Awards will be presented at the picnic in August. See [WBAALAS Awards](#) for more information.
- The deadline for nominations for the Purina Mills Laboratory Animal Technician Award is **July 1, 2008**. For more information, see [Purina Mills Award](#).
- 🐭 Advertisers have been added. See the Advertisers' Pages, starting on [Advertisers](#).
  - 🐭 Job Opening [click here](#).



## VIVARIUM SPACE AVAILABE FOR RENT OR LEASE

State of the Art Facility Located on First Hill  
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Interested parties please contact:  
Winston Wicomb, Ph.D., LATG  
Phone: 206-330-2558  
E-mail: [wwicomb@idri.org](mailto:wwicomb@idri.org)





# Annual Summer Picnic

Beverages and coolers have been generously donated by Animal Specialties, Inc. Coolers will be raffled off during the picnic.



Date: August 9, 2008 (Saturday)

Time: Noon

Location: Lower Woodland Park, Shelter #3  
(west of Woodland Park Zoo and Aurora)

Activities: Food, Fun, Raffle

Bring: Your family, your appetite, your dog (on a leash), a blanket or chair to sit on, a Frisbee to toss, and any other picnic stuff you can think of.

What not to bring: Alcohol (not allowed in city parks), fireworks, and any other illegal stuff.



This is a fun annual event. A great time for our members to get together and just hang out. There is always lots of food. Last year a few people brought their dogs and others wish they had known it was OK. It is OK, as long as they are on a leash (park rules).

Parking is right by the picnic shelter and restrooms are close by. We'll have a bar-becue fired up and we supply all the food too.

We will be presenting two members with awards. The *Betty J. Varnam Memorial Animal Technician of the Year Award* and *The Ron Orta Memorial Washington Branch Member of the Year Award*.

And we will be raffling off items donated by our generous commercial members.

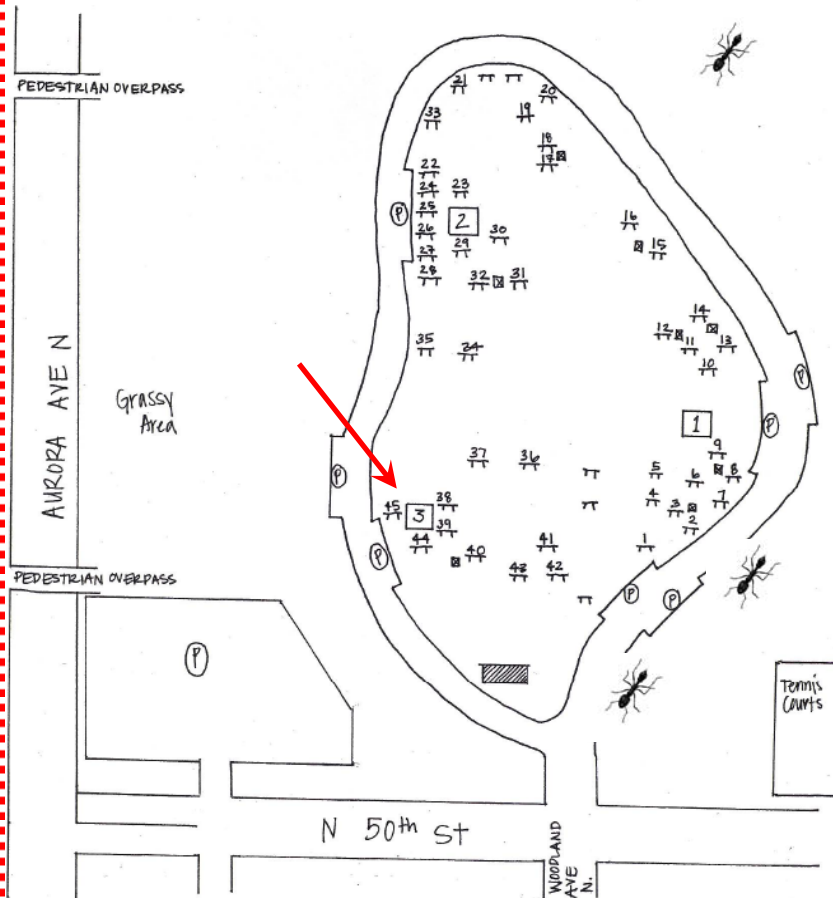
This picnic site is not part of the zoo, but the zoo is close by, if you wish to visit it while you're in the neighborhood. Zoo admission is not included in the picnic activities.

Mark your calendars now for a fun event in August.



**WOODLAND PARK**  
Shelters 1, 2, 3  
1000 N 50th St  
Seattle 98103

TT Picnic Table    Restroom  
X BBQ Grill    P Parking  
1 Picnic Shelter    Pathway



# Awards



Washington Branch AALAS presents two awards annually. This is an opportunity to recognize and nominate a staff member, fellow co-worker, friend, or acquaintance within the local research community that meets the spirit and intent of each of these awards. Recipients of either of these awards receive a plaque and a \$100 check.

**The Bette J. Varnam Memorial Washington Branch AALAS Animal Technician of the Year Award** is presented to an individual **directly involved** in lab animal care who performs daily husbandry duties, handling/restraint, feeding and water, room sanitation, health observation, etc., and has demonstrated a sincere concern for the well being of the animals under his/her charge. [Nomination Form](#).

The Branch Technician of the Year Award was re-named in 1993 as a tribute to Bette J. Varnam. Bette was an Animal Technician with the Division of Animal Medicine (now the Department of Comparative Medicine) at the University of Washington for 14 years and lost her fight with cancer in June 1991. Bette defined the true meaning of why many of us entered the field of Laboratory Animal Science and have remained in it for so many years; she loved the animals and they were her first priority. Throughout her struggles and challenges, Bette never lost sight of her devotion and commitment to being an advocate for those that could not fend for themselves—the animals. The recipients' of this Award carry on a legacy of a true professional and compassionate colleague.

**The Ron Orta Memorial Washington Branch AALAS Member of the Year Award** (formerly the Washington Branch Member of the Year Award) was recently renamed to honor of our friend and colleague who died earlier this year. The Award is presented to an individual who has **actively participated** in the Washington Branch and encourages participation by others in activities which promote Washington Branch AALAS and laboratory animal science in general. [Nomination Form](#).

Ron had a brilliant career in Laboratory Animal Management and later sales, but his true calling was that of a teacher. He was an active member and participant in the Washington Branch and hosted many Branch Picnics. Because of his commitment of personal time and resources he was honored as an Honorary Lifetime Washington Branch Member. Ron never excluded anyone from anything. In his world there was never an uninvited guest. Ron was very compassionate about helping and fulfilling the needs of those less fortunate. Ron mentored, encouraged, and challenged everyone to achieve high standards in animal care, facility management, self worth and esteem. His memory continues to remain with us through this Award.

If you need further information about either of these awards, contact [awardschair@wbaalas.org](mailto:awardschair@wbaalas.org).



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lab Products Animal Technician Award



**A laboratory animals best friend is a healthy, caring Animal Technician**

Lab Products, Inc. is pleased to announce the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lab Products Animal Technician Award Program. This program is intended to reward a deserving animal care technician from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada with the opportunity to attend their first National AALAS Meeting. One award recipient will be selected yearly from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada. The award will be limited to animal care personnel, with at least one year of laboratory animal care experience, that have never attended a National AALAS Meeting. The recipients of the Lab Products Animal Technician Award will each receive an award recognition plaque; airfare, hotel and registration for the National AALAS Meeting; one year membership to National AALAS and \$250 to cover incidentals while attending the AALAS Meeting. For more information write Lab Products, Inc., P.O. Box 639, Seaford, DE 19973, or see the award description and nomination information on CompMed or Techlink.

**Award Benefits: (participation, recognition, public speaking, and decision making).** This award will:

- 1) Allow a deserving animal care worker from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada to attend a National AALAS Meeting for the first time.
- 2) Publicly recognize the recipient at a social function of the AALAS membership.
- 3) Encourage the recipient to speak at a Branch Meeting on their experiences at AALAS, thereby allowing them to gain experience in public speaking and to promote the AALAS experience to other technicians.
- 4) The recipient will serve as a member of the Lab Products Animal Technician Award Selection Committee for the next year. This will allow them the experience and involvement in a decision making process that will affect their peers.

**Award Selection Committee:**

- 1) Nominees for this year's awards will be submitted to Lab Products, Inc. An Award Selection Committee will then consider all nominations and select one nominee from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada to receive the award.
- 2) The 2007 Award recipients will form the Award Selection Committee for selection of the 2008 Award Recipients.

**Award Selection Criteria:**

- 1) Nominee must have a minimum of 1 years work experience in a laboratory animal facility.

- 2) Nominee must be a working supervisor, animal care worker or animal health technician. (Managers, Assistant Directors, etc. are not eligible).
- 3) The nominee must be someone that actually performs hands on animal care work or works in the cage wash area.
- 4) The nominee must be someone that would not be eligible for travel funds (from the University, Institution or Company) to attend a National AALAS meeting.
- 5) This award is intended to provide deserving animal care technicians with the opportunity to attend their first National AALAS Meeting. Therefore, only nominees that have never attended a National AALAS Meeting will be eligible.

**Nomination Process: (Nominations must be RECEIVED BY June 16, 2008)**

- 1) Nominations are to be submitted by letter, detailing the Technicians' work history, accomplishments, community involvement, and describing how this travel award will benefit the technician and their facility. AALAS/CALAS Branch membership, and involvement in branch AALAS/CALAS activities, will be considered in the award selection.
- 2) Supporting letters are encouraged and will be considered, but are not required.
- 3) Send nominations to:  
Attn: Awards Selection Committee  
Lab Products, Inc.  
P.O. Box 639,  
Seaford, DE 19973  
Ph. 800-528-0469  
Fax 302-628-4309
- 4) Award recipients will be notified by August 1, 2008.

**Award Recipient Requirements:**

- 1) After attending the National AALAS Meeting, the award recipients must present a paper at their next annual Branch or District AALAS meeting on how the AALAS Meeting experience affected them.
- 2) Award recipient agrees to attend the Lab Products, Inc., Tuesday night social during the National AALAS Meeting for a formal award presentation.
- 3) Award recipient agrees to be a judge for the selection of the next years award recipients.

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 16, 2008**



*Purina Mills  
Laboratory Animal Technician Award  
Call for Nominations*

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The Purina Mills Laboratory Animal Technician Award is one of the most time honored, respected and prestigious awards in the AALAS community. Purina Mills LabDiet® invites you, your colleagues or associates to submit nominations for this award. The unique feature of this annual award is that the winner is chosen by his or her peers. The winner of the award will receive \$500 and the distinguished 2008 Purina Mills Laboratory Animal Technician Award Plaque presented at our Technician Award Dinner during National AALAS.

Nominee's will be considered on the basis of experience, animal care activities and contributions to the advancement of all aspects of the animal technician field. The selection committee will comprise of the three most recent award winners.

If you feel the work and achievement of a Laboratory Animal Technician from your organization merits the national recognition of the Purina Mills Laboratory Animal Technician Award, your submission must be completed and returned by July 1, 2008. Your submission must detail the nominee's professional experience; contributions to the advancement of technicians; a list of his or her published works; presentations and awards; national, state and local animal care activities; and a summary of "why you believe the nominee should receive the award". Please also include nominee's telephone number and e-mail address, for ease of contact should your nominee become the 2008 award winner.

All nominees will receive the same careful and professional consideration. Please don't delay.

Send your nomination to:

Purina Mills, LLC  
Attn: Tricia Lutman  
P.O. Box 66812  
St. Louis, MO. 63166-6812



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# Elections

Ballots will be going out soon for the  
2008 Board of Directors.

The two open positions and nominees are:

## **President Elect**

(this person becomes President in 2009)

*Tom Olson*

Colony Manager

Washington National Primate Research Center  
University of Washington

## **Board Member**

(this is a two year position)

*Cindy Pekow, DVM*

Chief, Veterinary Medical Unit, Research  
Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System

## 2008 WBAALAS Board

### **Officers**

Past President- Tim Dawe

President- Laurie Wilcox

President Elect- open

Treasurer- Jennifer Sweet

Secretary- Susan Bell

### **Board Members**

Board Member 2006-2007- Cindy Pekow

Board Member 2007-2008- Amber Carte

Awards Chair- Gary Millen

## *Photos from the District 8 Meeting in Seattle*





# In The News

Reprinted with permission from  
Hillsdale College  
Office of External Affairs.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Amy Fultz and Her "Retirement Community"

## A Safe Haven for Chimpanzees

### IT'S EARLY

January in Keithville, Louisiana, just south of Shreveport, and local media have gathered to celebrate the first birthday of Keithville's miracle baby, Tracy. Tracy and her friends and family chomp on red licorice

and swing from trees that have been draped with colorful streamers for the occasion. Sound a bit wild? It's all in a day's work for animal behaviorist Amy Fultz, '88, the co-founder of Chimp Haven, Inc., where Tracy and 131 other chimpanzees reside.

Chimp Haven is the only sanctuary of its kind in the United States. Here, chimps who have been used for biomedical research or entertainment but are no longer needed come to live out their days doing what they want to do. As an animal behaviorist, Fultz works to integrate the chimps into their new community, which can be a challenge given that many of the chimps have only known a laboratory environment.



"Many of these chimps have not been socialized," she said. "Some have never had their feet on the grass and don't know how to climb a tree or build a nest." Les, for example, still will not walk more than a footstep or two on grass even after two years of living at Chimp Haven.

Fultz follows new chimps around the sanctuary, recording her observations on a laptop computer. In addition to her work in assimilating new chimps into the sanctuary, she oversees enrichment activities and also trains the chimps, mainly for management purposes.

"I use positive reinforcement, such as giving a chimp a goodie if he does something right," she said. In the event of a storm, for example, the chimps will respond to a cowbell to come inside for shelter.

A native of Comstock Park, near Grand Rapids, Fultz has always loved animals. Attracted to Hillsdale's small size and family atmosphere, she majored in biol-

ogy and also took many psychology classes. A field study course during her sophomore year ignited her passion for working with primates. "Two other biology students and I went to the Panama jungle, where we observed Panamanian Tamarin monkeys," she recalled. Fultz debated about her career choices in the years following her Hillsdale graduation. "I stayed a fifth year to earn my teaching certificate, thinking I might teach biology," she said. She pondered veterinary school and took classes toward a master's degree. She landed a job as a research assistant studying small monkeys but always felt a pull toward working with chimpanzees.

The path to Chimp Haven began in the mid-1990s, when Fultz was working with Dr. Linda Brent at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas. "We had a lot of chimps that had been bred for HIV research, but they proved not to be a good model for human AIDS," Fultz said. "So then we had this surplus of chimps no longer useful for research and with nowhere to go."

Chimp Haven was incorporated in 1995. In 2005, the first two chimps arrived there. As a nonprofit sanctuary partially funded by the federal government, Fultz and the staff of Chimp Haven must raise money through private donations and generate awareness about Chimp Haven. Discovery Days are held one Saturday each month, during which the public can observe the chimps. Chimp Haven has also received international exposure through a number of publications, especially with last year's birth of Tracy, the first infant chimp raised in a forested habitat with a large chimpanzee family. Her birth came as a surprise because



Left: Keith enjoys eating a pomegranate.  
Right: Amy Fultz trains Mason, her favorite chimp.

Continued on next page

# In The News

Fultz continued from previous page

all the male chimps at Chimp Haven are supposed to have had vasectomies prior to their arrival.

It's the things like Tracy's story that continually delight Fultz. "I'm always learning something new here," she said. "The chimps teach us every day."

Fultz credits her Hillsdale experience in building a strong foundation for her work. She remembers Dr. Sam Townsend and the late Dr. Chuck Ransford for "keeping

my interest up" in biology and psychology. Her advisor, Dr. Don Heckenlively, helped her to realize she could have a career in animal behavior. "All my professors, regardless of subject, always encouraged me to look more broadly at the world," she recalled. "I think that has helped me immensely in my work."

That bigger picture helps Fultz put her work into perspective. "Chimpanzees have been used in countless medical research projects, from vaccines to heart

disease to cancer medications, because they are genetically similar to humans," she said. "Everybody knows someone who has benefited from chimp research. We never would have gone to the moon if it hadn't been for chimps going into space first. Chimps have given so much to society, and this is a way for me to give back to them."

■ Monica VanDerWeide, '95

88 Local | The Seattle Times | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2008

## Looks like at least one dog has 9 lives

### AVALANCHE SURVIVOR

Lab swept away by slide in Montana survives week in backcountry before reunion with owner

BY AMY BIRTH HANSON  
The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — Tom Pick was backcountry skiing with his 3-year-old black Labrador, Lizzie, in southwestern Montana when a small avalanche carried the dog down the side of the mountain.

She disappeared from his reach and into the swirling snow. Pick searched for two days with no sign of Lizzie — haunted by the sight of the dog's eyes gazing up at him as she fell.

"I'll probably always see her eyes just looking up at me as she slid down into that thing," Pick said in an interview this week. "You could tell that she was scared."



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lizzie was swept away from her owner on a skiing trek Jan. 27 and failed to turn up in two days of searches. She was found at a lake in the area Sunday.

Pick eventually gave up on the search and assumed the dog was gone. So when the phone rang on Super Bowl Sunday and the caller told him Lizzie had been found, Pick assumed it was her body. She had been

gone for a week.

Instead, it was a tale of dogged survival. Lizzie had managed to survive not only the avalanche, but a week in the snowy backcountry before walking down the mountain and being spotted at a lake about 5 miles away.

Pick said he and his wife, Kathleen Williams, are "both still kind of pinching ourselves."

Doug Chabot, an avalanche forecaster with Gallatin National Forest, noted Lizzie's safe return in his daily avalanche report Tuesday.

"If the dog could talk, there would be a made-for-TV movie, motivational speaking tour and best-selling book," Chabot said.

Since Lizzie can't talk, Pick tells the story.

The last time Pick saw Lizzie was Jan. 27 as the two were moving up a ridge on Mount Blackmore, south of Bozeman. Lizzie had moved ahead of him when a cornice broke 8 to 10 feet from the edge, sparking the avalanche.

"Once the snow cleared on the bot-

tom, I couldn't see anything. There was no response, there was nothing moving around. It was about as helpless a feeling as you could experience," Pick said.

The 58-year-old state water-quality specialist made his way down the mountain and back up the avalanche chute to search for the dog. The next day, Chabot, the avalanche forecaster, tried to ski into the slide area, but a blizzard forced him to turn around.

Pick searched the day after that but still could not find Lizzie. Then, on Super Bowl Sunday, Pick's cellphone rang. The caller, Jess Sullivan, told Pick that he and his family had been riding snowmobiles and ice fishing at Hyalite Reservoir and found the dog hanging around.

"It turned out they live less than a mile from where we do," Pick said. "We were right over there and picked her up. Other than a pretty good cut on her head that had already started to heal, other smaller cuts and losing somewhere between 5 and 10 pounds, she looked great."



# Job Opening

The University of California, Riverside (UCR), a campus of the preeminent University of California is a 1,112 acre, park-like campus and located in the heart of inland Southern California. The campus seeks an Animal Facility Manager within the Office of Research.

The Animal Resources Manager (ARM) is responsible for the independent overall management and operation of an animal care facility, including management of all facility personnel. The incumbent performs the full complement of managerial functions; oversees and coordinates the acquisition and disposition of all animals, supplies and equipment for the facility; serves as the department liaison between faculty and research technicians and the animal care service department; develops and delivers mandated training; ensures compliance with all applicable federal and state regulatory agencies; has primary responsibility for developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for animal husbandry methods; provides input into the formation of departmental policies, operations and safety guidelines; oversees facility expenditures, costs and budget reporting; implements long- and short-range facility and personnel management strategies and problem-solving techniques; manages quality assurance programs and general maintenance of the animal facility; ensures United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection-readiness and Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC) accreditation inspection-readiness levels at all times. The Animal Resources Manager (ARM) reports to the Campus Veterinarian. The incumbent makes technical judgments and recommendations to the Veterinarian that may have programmatic impact. Suggested novel and innovative solutions comply with federal and state rules and regulations governing the care and use of laboratory animals in research, instruction, and testing.

In general the incumbent plans, coordinates, organizes and evaluates staff, finances, and other resources in the achievement of organizational goals. The incumbent develops, implements, monitors, and revises procedures and processes necessary to attain unit goals. For this level, in addition to meeting supervisory criteria, the incumbent must identify objectives, direct programs, manage human and financial (and often physical) resources, and function with a high degree of autonomy.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

College degree in an area of biological science, or high school graduation plus completion of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATg) certification (preferred level); minimum 5 years of related laboratory animal facility management with supervisory experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience; and knowledge and abilities essential to the successful performance of the duties assigned to the position. Computer competency required.

Please submit a cover letter and Curriculum Vitae with three references to Dr. Akiko Sato, Campus Veterinarian, University Office Building 215, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521 or email same to [akiko.sato@ucr.edu](mailto:akiko.sato@ucr.edu). To apply on-line, please visit our web site at <http://humanresources.ucr.edu/jobs/> and reference position # 07-06-017.

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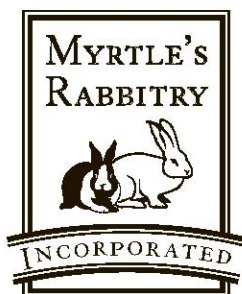
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Occupational Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check those that apply/fill in the blanks:

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- ☐ Held office in National AALAS past 3 years
- ☐ Presentations at National AALAS past 3 years
  
- ☐ Member Washington Branch AALAS
- ☐ Held Office in Washington Branch past 3 years
- ☐ Active participant in Washington Branch

Membership in other scientific organizations:

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**Please attach a short narrative** to include but not limited to the following: Personal or professional accomplishments; contributions to the Washington Branch AALAS and to the field of laboratory animal medicine/management, innovative approaches to animal care problems, examples of concern for animal welfare, duties, and demonstrated examples of exceptional performance.

Please use a separate form for each nominee and return the nomination form(s) by July 1, 2008 to [award-schair@wbaalas.org](mailto:award-schair@wbaalas.org)

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- ☐ Held Office in Washington Branch past 3 years
- ☐ Active participant in Washington Branch

Membership in other scientific organizations:

List organization(s) with position's:

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