



NEWSLETTER

Trade Fair Trade Fair Trade Fair

2009 SPRING EDUCATIONAL TRADE FAIR

Bigger and Better!

After a one year break, the Trade Fair is back. Mark your calendars for March 25, 2009 8 AM to 2 PM. It will be held at the Center for Urban Horticulture University of Washington, the same as in past years. This year however, we have more space!

Several speakers are already scheduled, covering a variety of topics: ergonomics, canine socialization, non-human primates and "what's your diagnosis?"

There will be close to 30 vendors at tables showing their wares and plenty of time to check them out and attend the talks.

And of course there will be lunch, awards and raffles (and coffee all day).

Registration is on-line and open now at www.wbaalas.org and is still at the low low price of only \$10 per person if you are a member (\$20 if you are not a member, which includes membership). For more information please contact Amber at programchair@wbaalas.org

The Trade Fair is a fun, educational, social event. You don't want to miss out!

Registration

Registration for 2009 membership AND the 2009 Trade Fair are now open. Go to www.wbaalas.org and register for both. It's quick, it's easy and it's secure.

Vendors-registration for Trade Fair tables is open now too.

Calendar

February 15, 2009

Deadline for Abstracts for D8 Meeting
Page 5

February 27, 2009

Deadline for Registering for Paper & Pencil Certification Exam at D8 Mtg.
Page 5

March 2, 2009

Deadline for Branch Award Nominations
Page 3

March 4, 2009

IACUC Regional Education Conference
Seattle, WA
Page 4

March 25, 2009

Spring Educational Trade Fair
Seattle, WA

April 30 to May 1, 2009

District 8 Meeting
San Francisco, CA
Page 5 <http://www.district8.org/>

November 8-12, 2009

AALAS National Meeting
Denver, CO

SHARE YOUR STORIES

(AND PHOTOS)

Do you have any good facility related stories



about the snow in December? Anyone go above and beyond that you would like mentioned here? Any misses or near misses as a result of the weather (power outages, burst pipes, flooding after the thaw)? Interesting snow creations? Or were you able to make it to the zoo? Send whatever you would like to share to:

newsletter@wbaalas.org.



NEW WEB ADDRESSES

Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association

has a new web address:

www.washbio.org.

WaBio.com is now

WashingtonLifeSciences.com and the web address is:

www.washingtonlifesciences.com.



LabDiet
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3. Management of Laboratory Animals: Rodents and Rabbits.
4. Management of Laboratory Animals: Intermediate Size.
5. Management of Laboratory Animals: Hoofed Stock and Other, Including Exotics.
6. Facilities, Personnel and Environmental Management.

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Laboratory Animal Care Course, PMI® LabDiet®

Attn: Tricia A. Lutman

PO Box 19798 St. Louis, MO 63166

Any Questions? Call (636)742-6295

SORRY NO C.O.D.S OR PURCHASE ORDERS ACCEPTED

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AND TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS OPEN

The Bette J. Varnam Memorial Washington Branch AALAS Animal Technician of the Year Award

is named 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 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 is named to honor of our friend and colleague who died in 2007. 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.

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.

Nominations are open for both awards and the honorees will be announced at the Spring Trade Fair. The deadline for nominations is March 2, 2009. Nomination forms are at the end of this newsletter and online at <http://www.wbaalas.org/awards.html>

10TH ANNUAL IACUC REGIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Register now for the 10th annual IACUC Regional Education Conference!
Wednesday – March 4, 2009

Bell Harbor Conference Center on Seattle's waterfront

IACUC "Basics": 7:00-9:30 am
General Conference: 8:00 am – 4:15 pm

Join your colleagues from around the Northwest for a day of informative presentations, small group discussions, and networking at NWABR's IACUC Regional Education Conference on March 4th.

Who should attend? Animal care technicians, researchers, veterinarians, IACUC members

Conference highlights include

Outstanding speakers:

Linda Toth, DVM, PhD, Southern Illinois University Medical School
Defining an endpoint for euthanasia and animal model refinement

Larry Carbone, DVM, University of California, San Francisco
Veterinary ethics

Michael Conn, PhD, Oregon National Primate Research Center, Oregon Health & Sciences University
Animal extremism and the law

Bradley Younggren, MD, Medical Director, Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis
Simulations and Animal Reduction

Christian Newcomer, VMD, Executive Director, AAALAC International
Changes and challenges at AAALAC International

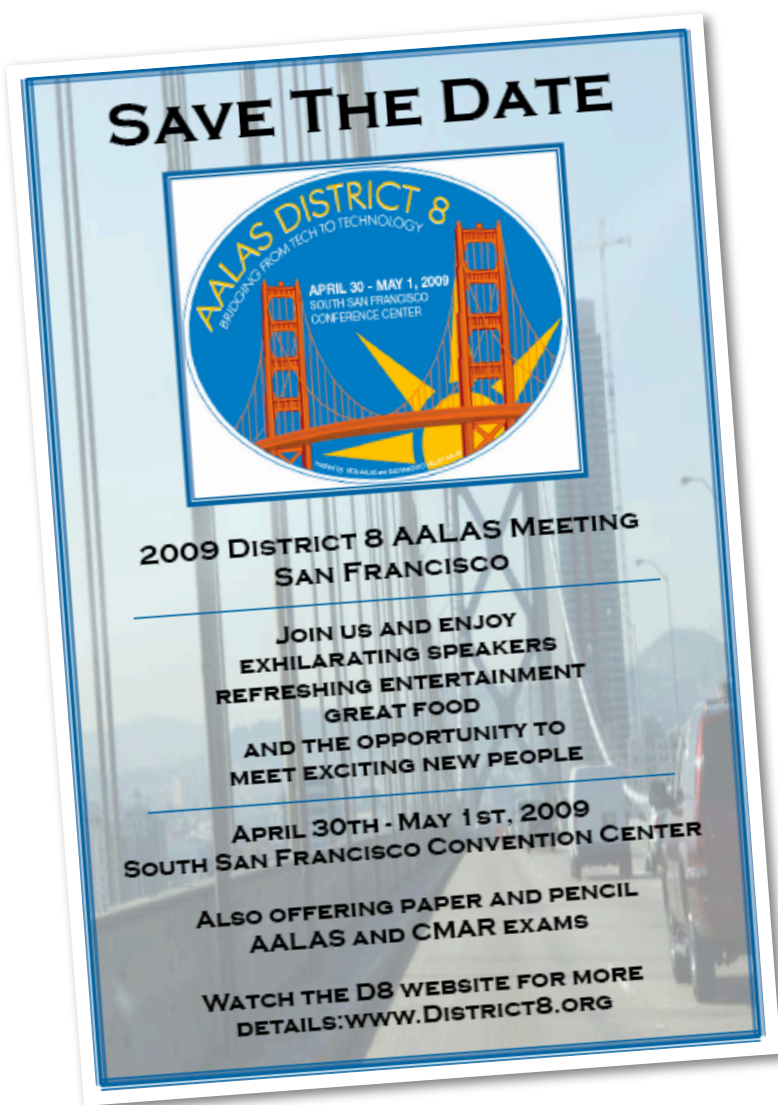
Q&A with Regulatory Officials from NIH OLAW, USDA, and AAALAC International**Problem-solving, scenario-based discussions covering common IACUC topics**

REGISTER NOW! The link to online registration can be found at www.nwabr.org

CONFERENCE FEE: \$250 for employees of NWABR member institutions
\$200 group rate (10 or more people) for member institutions
\$300 for employees of non-NWABR member institutions
SPECIAL: Half-day (morning) for \$150

Contact Reitha Weeks at rweeks@nwabr.org for more information.
Visit www.nwabr.org/takepart/iacuc.htm for more conference information.

2009 DISTRICT 8 MEETING



Dear District 8 Members,

The District 8 Meeting Committee would like to invite you to submit an abstract for a poster and/or a 15-minute platform presentation at the upcoming District 8 annual meeting April 30 to May 1 in South San Francisco. If you have come up with new, unusual or interesting results, a new idea, method or an improvement that pertains to your work in Animal Science, then you can share it with your peers by presenting a Poster and/or a Platform Presentation.

Abstracts are due by February 15, 2009 and may be submitted by email to Eric Ibsen at eibsen@studylog.com by completing the Abstract Submission Form. Please call Eric at 650.219.4055 with any questions.



Thinking about taking an AALAS Certification Exam the old fashioned way (paper and pencil) at the District 8 Meeting? The deadline to register is February 27, 2009.

Visit <http://www.district8.org/> for more information.

PRO-files in LAS

Name:

Tim Dawe

Facility:

SNBL USA, Ltd, Everett, WA

Job Title:

Research Manager

Years in animal science:

17 years

How long have you been a national AALAS member?

10 years

What branch(es) have you belonged to?

Washington

What is your level of AALAS certification?

LAT, preparing to take the LATG exam

What awards have you received?

Bette J. Varnam Memorial Washington Branch Member of the Year, 2004

How did you get in this field?

Actually, I got into this field by accident. After being in the grain business for several years, I found myself unexpectedly unemployed. At that time, I decided that I would like to return to working with animals and took an animal technician job at the University of Washington.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

As a kid I bounced back and forth between a veterinarian and a forest ranger. Wanting to be a vet came from being surrounded by animals as a kid. The desire to be a forest ranger came as a result of spending a lot of time in Glacier and Yellowstone National Park as a kid—I thought they would be great places to live.

Who were your mentors?

Gary Millen gave me my start in the field. I learned a lot about supervising and management from him. Joan Carpenter taught me a lot about rodent care, breeding, and colony management.

What are your current interests in animal science?

My current interests are in personnel management, staff training, and using the most current techniques on a daily basis.

What is one thing no one would guess about you?

In order to pay for college, among other things, I made western saddles and belts. Also, I lived for four years in the basement of a veterinary clinic.

What companion animals do you have?

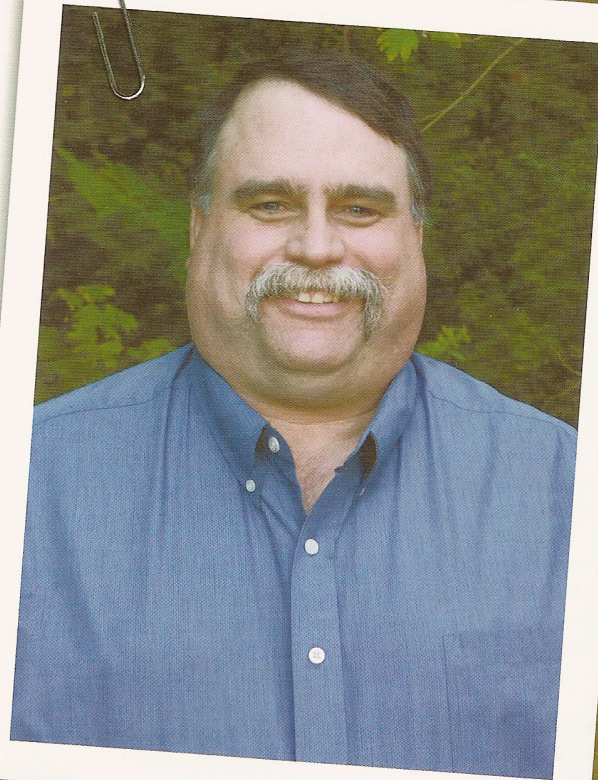
We currently have a purebred Corgi and a long-haired cat of questionable background.

What are your career goals?

My current goals are to improve my management and leadership skills. I would also like to take the CMAR in the future.

What advice do you have for others entering this field?

I would suggest from day one to ask questions and learn as much as you can from the people around you. Be involved in your local branch and national meetings. It's a great place to network and get leadership experience. Lastly, and most importantly, have empathy for the animals we come into contact with on a daily basis.



Know someone who would make a great PRO-file in Laboratory Animal Science? Nominate them today! Just send an e-mail to techtalk@aalas.org, and your recommendation might be a future person honored.

The cat with purr-fect vision! Almost-blind moggie Ernest has his life transformed by wearing CONTACT LENS

By [DAILY MAIL REPORTER](#)

Last updated at 1:24 PM on 16th December 2008

Most contact lens wearers have had trouble putting them in their eyes at some point - so the idea of putting them on a cat might seem ridiculous.

But that is exactly what the owners of Ernest - a 15-year-old black and white cat - have found themselves doing.

And from these pictures the elderly moggie looks like he has plenty to purr about after the lens have transformed him from a squinting cat unable to see where he was going.



What a sight: Ernest the Cat has his contact lenses put in

The contact lens, fitted by a vet, have saved Ernest from a life-threatening operation.

The old pet, suffers from entropion - an inward rolling of the eyelids, which causes inflammation and hinders sight.

He has lived at the RSPCA rescue centre in Godshill, Isle of Wight, for 13 years after he was injured in a car accident.



'I see you now': RSPCA Centre resident staff cat Ernest looks happy with his new lease of sight

Centre manager Paula Sadler, 56, said: 'Before Earnest was given the contact lenses he was quite squinty and had trouble seeing where he was going.

'Now his eyes have opened up and he has a new lease of life.

'Given his old age it would have been very risky giving him an operation because there is no telling how he would have reacted to the anaesthetic.

'The lenses have worked wonders.'

'Pied Piper' needed to lure rats from Hamelin

A modern-day pied piper is needed to repel a rodent invasion in Hamelin, more than 700 years after the town's rats were lured away by a travelling rat catcher's tunes.

Last Updated: 12:36AM GMT 20 Nov 2008

Town officials have reported an "explosion" in the rat population of the north German town best known for its fairy tale about a mystery piper who once got rid of them all. A makeshift rubbish dump on the town's fringes is blamed as being a "takeaway" food centre for the rats, as the invasion threatens to overshadow preparations for the town's 725th anniversary celebrations. Thomas Wahmes, a town spokesman, said the land had become a "real refuge" for the unwanted rodents.

According to the famous legend, a colourful – or "pied" – rat catcher lured all the rats out of town in 1284 by playing his pipe.

When the townspeople refused to pay him, he did the same with Hamelin's children.

On St John's Day while the inhabitants were in church, he played his pipe, attracting the children of Hamelin.

One hundred and thirty boys and girls followed him out of the town, where they

were lured into a cave and disappeared, never to be seen again.

Famous versions of 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' have been written by the



According to legend, the Pied Piper led all the children of Hamelin into a cave

Brothers Grimm and Robert Browning. Although extensive research has been conducted no explanation for the event or whether it happened has been given.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

Nomination Application for:

The Bette J. Varnam Memorial
Washington Branch AALAS Technician of the Year

Name of Nominee: _____

Occupational Title: _____

Employer: _____

Please check those that apply/fill in the blanks:

- _____ Member of National AALAS
- _____ 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:

List organization(s) with position(s):

AALAS Certification: List current Level: _____

Degree(s): _____

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 March 2, 2009 to awardschair@wbaalas.org

Nomination Application for:

**The Ron Orta Memorial
Washington Branch AALAS Member of the Year**

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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
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Selection of the proper cabinet

should be based upon the safety and application required: sensitive handling of small animals, cage changing or disposal of bedding materials, procedures, surgeries, necropsy, or transfers. NuAire has the right product to meet your applications.

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