



# Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 1  
January 2008

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

**Have you sent in your membership renewal? If not, see form on last page.**

## Don't Forget to Order Your Tech Week Certificates and See You at One of Our Regional Celebrations!

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### President's Message

Happy New Year Arizona Branch members and winners of the National Branch Challenge. It was a surprise and honor to accept this recognition for our branch for exceeding the percentage of AALAS national members over last year and therefore achieving the largest percentage growth in 2007.

Congratulations to our new roster of officers: Jane Criswell, President-Elect; Stephanie Munger, Secretary; Grace Aranda, returning as Treasurer; and Chrystal Redding, returning as Northern Board Member. A special thank you to Sandra Schenone and all of last years board for all their efforts over the past year.

Looks like this year will be exciting, with International Technician Week this month - see the website for particulars; the always fun Sally Ride Science Festival at ASU and the MSMR/SwAEBR Shaping Our Future conference in February; the District 8 Meeting in Seattle in April, the Spring video conference from U of A; the Fall Fun Event in Phoenix and last, but not least, the Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle and Installation Event in Tucson at the end of the year.

The past year has seen phenomenal growth in the Laboratory research field in Arizona. 2008 will bring more of the same, with a collaborative effort in Phoenix between U of A and ASU, and the new Covance facility opening later this year. Hopefully the Branch will be

### Important Branch Dates

- Tech Week** - Jan 27- Feb 2, 2008
- MSMR/SWAEBR Conference** - Feb 14-15/08 at Tempe Palms Resort
- Sally Ride Science Festival** at ASU - 3/1/08
- District 8 Meeting** - 4/23-24/2008 in Seattle, WA
- Installation Event** - 12/6/08 in Tucson
- TBA Events**
  - Spring Video Conference
  - Summer Fun Event in Phoenix
  - Fall Video Conference

able to recruit new members from this large research facility.

We are looking to our membership to let us know where you would like to see the branch go from here and look to our members to come out to events and get more involved. Our branch is only as good as its members make it and we want to remain a presence not only in the district but nationally as well

I look forward to working with all of you this year to ensure another "Banner" year for AZAALAS. Happy New Year - If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me. Jeff Williams - (480)734-6523 or [charles.j.williams@asu.edu](mailto:charles.j.williams@asu.edu)

### Arizona Branch AALAS News Your Board of Directors

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## Member Profile

### Barbara McNally, Animal Technologist for ASU DACT

Barbara received the AZAALAS Animal Technician of the Year award in 2007. She has worked at ASU for the past two and a half years and is an Animal technologist. She is both a National and Arizona AALAS member and received her RLAT in July of last year. Barbara has a Bachelors of Science degree in biology from Ball State University in Muncie, IN and has completed field research in Central America on Green Sea Turtles with Dr. Archie Carr and Jaguars with Dr. David Rabinowitz. She became interested in animal care and research in her senior year at Ball State when she got a job taking care of the exotic and experimental colonies. She is particularly interested in Alzheimer's research because it is something that will ultimately affect many loved ones and is a disease with a good chance for a cure with time and money.

Barbara has had dreams of being everything from an astronaut to deep sea diver. She was a member of the Southwest Shakespeare Company and can spout iambic pentameter at the drop of a hat. At home she takes care of one dog, two cats, a bearded dragon, a boa constrictor, and four "hens a-laying." House work is not high on her list of favorite things, but enjoys anything that gets her out of the house, e.g. dancing, hiking, travel. She says, "I try not to influence others to follow. Everyone needs to find their own way in this world. Just figure out what makes you happy and try to make a living at it. That's what I tell my [two] boys."

### Celebrate Tech Week: January 27-February 2, 2008

International Laboratory Animal Technician Week is scheduled for January 27–February 2, 2008. This is the ideal opportunity to offer special recognition to those hardworking individuals at your institution. This year's theme is "Laboratory Animal Technicians: ...Heroes behind the Science."

We have once again purchased posters, pins and calendar strips for Arizona members and will be distributing them through your regional board member in time for your institutional events. We will also be offering to print up certificates of appreciation and you will be getting more word of this as it becomes available or go to the website [www.azaalas.org](http://www.azaalas.org) where the form is already up and running.

Lets make this the best Tech week yet!

### District 8 Meeting Seattle, WA, April 23-24

It's time to start focusing on new goals and opportunities. The D8 Planning Committee has been working very hard to create an informative and fun meeting for us in April, and it's time for you to start making plans to attend. This is a

great chance for our managers to give back to those hard working technicians by rewarding them with this educational opportunity to experience lab animal science outside of their own facility. Technicians, this is the time for you to go to your managers and ask for the chance to get some continuing education and possibly create new friendships with other technicians outside of your area. If you are interested, don't be afraid to ask!

We have an incredible line-up of speakers that Cindy Pekow and her crew have been working on that I know you won't want to miss out on! Have you ever wondered what it was like at the very beginnings of animal research before there were regulations, PPE requirements, or when a mouse was a mouse and a rat was a rat without a million nomenclatures? Well, you are in luck, because Helen Diggs from the University of California will be our keynote speaker and will be giving us a very informative and interesting talk on the humble beginnings in animal research.

We will be offering several workshops which include: Rodent Necropsy, Humane Handling and Blood Draw Techniques in Rodents, (which includes a rat tickling session!), Anesthesia, It's a Gas, Xenopus Frog Handling and Techniques, Rodent Imaging, and Lab Animal Management. I also

heard we will have a talk on spiders from a speaker who actually works in a spider vivarium! Some other topics include: Humor in the workplace, a Gecko talk and many more interesting subjects. We will also be featuring a Technician Fun Fair, and a tour of the Washington Regional Primate Research Center.

If you are interested in submitting an abstract or you need more information please visit the District 8 website at: [www.district8.org](http://www.district8.org)

Again, please consider attending or sending someone from your facility to the District 8 meeting in Seattle this year. You will have a great time meeting people who do what you do and at the same time learn something new to bring back to your co-workers! - Vickie Riojas, 2008 D8 Publicity Chair

### A First View of the Horizon...the new national presidents message

By Chris E. Newcomer, VMD

Serving in the AALAS executive leadership team is analogous to mountain climbing. You loosen up and build your wind on the lower and mid-mountain hike under the protection of tree cover during the first two years as vice president-elect and vice president. Then you push to the top with less cover, more

### **We are Looking for Volunteers!**

A Z A A L A S and SwAEBR will once again be taking part in the Sally Ride Science Festival March 1<sup>st</sup> at ASU in Tempe. We are hoping you might be interested and available to help us man the booths.

The festival is geared towards middle school age girls interested in the science, math, technology, and engineering fields with many parents and educators also in attendance.

We would love to have you join us. If you are interested email [azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu)

exposure, and the dizziness of altitude during the presidential year. I am having a great time with this climb, and I am anxious to appreciate the best view while I have it. The view is becoming clearer and sharper to me now, and I am thankful I can share it with you. Here's the first glimpse.

AALAS is in terrific shape! The operations of the national office are outstanding, our volunteers are enthusiastic and highly effective, and the organization's financial picture is very solid, thanks in large part to the success of the National Meeting, which is a major contributor to our revenue. This year we achieved a record attendance of 4,724 in Charlotte, thanks to our membership from the United States and participants from around the globe. Our financial success enables AALAS to consider new initiatives, and I have the pleasure of announcing a new AALAS initiative in this article.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) has approved and adopted an important new AALAS goal: to collaborate with the global community to advance laboratory

animal science. This goal encapsulates the view of the AALAS leadership and the growing realization of our membership that AALAS contains a diverse and rich pool of talent and expertise in laboratory animal science, and greater efforts should be made by the organization to engage, invest, and grow our talents and expertise by reaching out to our colleagues throughout the world. This collaborative process should impel us to direct the best AALAS has to offer in science, education, training, technical skill development and assessment, technology, management, and organizational operations to our colleagues abroad in new ways. In return, we hope to attract the best science, new ideas, approaches, and perspectives from abroad to accelerate the development of laboratory animal science and medicine and to create new venues for the exchange of information and viewpoints.

By some measures we are already successful in our global outreach efforts in AALAS. AALAS already has a substantial international membership of approximately 500 individuals; our International Relations Advisory Committee is very active, and our publications, particularly *Comparative Medicine*, frequently feature articles from authors around the world. The AALAS BOT has provided support for the formation of a task force of a small group of experts with international experience among the AALAS membership who will review our existing efforts, policies, and procedures; survey the environment; and recommend additional steps we can take to advance this initiative. Here are a few of the issues that will be included in the charge for this task force. Should AALAS consider changes to its constitution and bylaws to recognize non- U.S. members formally through the development of a new district and through the development of new type of member branch? What additional measures should be taken to enhance scientific and educational exchange? Does the National Meeting serve the

needs of the global laboratory animal science community? Should AALAS seek to participate more visibly in meetings held abroad by attaining formal co-sponsor status or by organizing and presenting specialty topics focused on the regional interests of our global membership? Should AALAS seek an active role in a science-based harmonization of animal care and use regulations and standards to enhance animal welfare and promote consistency and comparability of research findings derived from animal models?

I would like to invite the membership to share any thoughts you may have on the AALAS global outreach initiative with me or other colleagues serving in the AALAS leadership. I wish a terrific holiday season and Happy New Year to all!

### **New LATG Materials Available**

Are you preparing to certify as a Laboratory Animal Technologist? If so, you'll want to check out the new versions of the LATG resources. The AALAS Educational Resources Committee (ERC) extensively reviewed, reorganized, and updated the LATG Training Manual, Companion CD, and *LATG Workbook*.

The manual contains new information and many fresh images. For example, the previous Regulations and Security chapter is now split into two separate chapters in the new edition—Facility Security and Disaster Planning and Regulations. Some manual content was moved to another certification level; for example, Structure and Function of Cells and Tissues and Unique Anatomical Features of Some Laboratory Species were shifted to the future LAT revision (to be published in 2009). Several chapters were expanded. Genetic Engineering now offers more information on the production of transgenic and chimeric mice. The previous Statistics chapter was revamped into Experimental Design and Data Handling, which includes the basic principles of statistics and

more information about the research process.

The LATG Companion CD matches the new manual and includes audio for the presentations, practice tests, a final exam, and even a glossary!

*The LATG Workbook* has been completely revised, with new questions to help you think through and learn the content of the manual chapters.

### Which LATG manual version should you study?

Which manual version you should study depends on when you plan on taking the exam. Until May 2008, either edition of the manual can be used in preparing for the certification exam. The LATG exam questions during this period will cover material that is referenced in both the old and new manual. Beginning in May, the LATG exam will have some items based on the new content in the revised manual. It is therefore recommended that any candidate studying from the 2000 manual should plan to take the LATG certification exam prior to May 2008.

(AALAS in Action, December 2007)

### 2007 Arizona Branch AALAS Awards

**Thanks to this years Judging Panel for their willingness to serve:** Brenda De la Rosa, Justin McAndrew, Frank McFadden, Chrystal Redding, Vickie Riojas

### Nominees for Technician of the Year must:

- Demonstrate a positive attitude and dedicated approach to the betterment of animal care through technical performance and education;
- Participate in the AALAS Certification process;
- Assist in training of fellow technicians;
- Promote and participates in continuing animal care related education;

- Suggest ideas to alleviate animal distress, enhance facility management, and decrease animal numbers.

### Our 2007 Technician of the Year Nominees are:

**Randal Dalbey** - Randy worked at Petsmart for two years, handling a variety of domestic animals and exotic pets, and interacting with the public. He has progressed from caretaker status to Technician quickly and efficiently. Randy took his ALAT certification test as soon as he was qualified and passed it. He is currently taking classes at ASU, working towards a degree in life sciences/biology. Randy has worked very hard this year, he has increased both his knowledge of rodents, reptiles, birds and NHP's, as well as his proficiency with caring for them. He has shown his adaptability by quickly and efficiently learning not just the complex workings of one building that houses multiple species but 6 others buildings as well. He is a quick learner, very proficient in his duties, reliable, enthusiastic, gaining more knowledge every day and can work at all the ASU animal holding facilities on campus.

**Heather Davies** - Heather volunteered and worked at a shelter for unwanted animals prior to moving to Arizona. She adopted a dog that lived in the shelter the entire 5 years she was there and recently adopted a retired research pigeon. Heather has given up a piece of her back yard to a tortoise that was living in an apartment for 3 years so that he could have an outdoor habitat. Heather attends school 4 nights a week and continues her on the job training. She is cross trained and proficient at every facility ASU DACT has and passed the ALAT exam earlier this year. Heather is one of a few of the 21 technicians that is approved to work in all the DACT animal research buildings. She is studying for her LAT exam while enrolled as a full time student at ASU. Heather is a young, energetic technician who contributes to AZAALAS more than she knows. I

### Many thanks to the following sponsors who generously donated to the Louise Brooks memorial raffle

- Arizona Cardinals** - T-shirt, hat
- Arizona on the Rocks** - One month family membership
- Charles River Labs** - 2, \$25 Amazon.com gift cards
- Colossal Cave Mountain Park** - Guided tour for a Family of 4
- Colorado Rockies Baseball Club** - 3, 4 tickets to 2008 Rockies Spring Training
- DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun** - \$145 Framed, numbered print
- Desert Botanical Garden** - 2, \$50 family admissions
- Embassy Suites Phoenix Airport** - 2 night stay
- Enterprise rent-a-car** - 3 day weekend rental
- Grand Canyon Deer Farm** - 2, 2 free admissions
- Hilton Sedona Resort & Spa** - \$250 One Night Stay
- Joes Real BBQ** - \$15 gift card
- Lab Products** - \$50 Best Buy gift card
- Magpies Pizza** - \$16 take & bake pizza
- McCormick & Schmick's** - \$50 gift certificate
- Phoenix Art Museum** - 4 complimentary guest passes
- Phoenix Zoo** - 2, one year family memberships
- Quik Trip Corporation** - 4, \$50 gift cards
- Residence Inn by Marriott-Tucson** - One night stay
- Southern AZ Attractions Alliance** - 2 attractions passports
- Tecniplast** - 2, \$15 Starbucks cards
- Thermocare** - Schuco Compressor for Use with Nebulizers
- Valle Luna Mexican Restaurants y Cantinas** - 2, \$25 certificate
- Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa** - One Night Stay

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**Allentown Inc**  
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**Thoren Caging Systems**

think this nomination will encourage her, and show her all the opportunities offered by AALAS and may serve on the board as well as present papers at meetings. Heather is very conscientious towards the animals in her care. She is a team player and is always willing to assist others or work in other buildings when they are short staffed. This award would validate all her efforts and accomplishments these past two years while employed at ASU.

**Lani Rathcke** - Lani presented at the AZAALAS 2007 Symposium. She has attended the Charles River Short Course and presented her experience relating to the course at a DACT in-service. She has numerous exotic pets and plants at her home and attends courses in the animal care field regularly. Lani is currently a registered LAT and is scheduled to take the LATG exam soon. Lani oversees the Bio B Knockout breeding colony. She trains staff on tattooing, toe clipping and ear tagging. Her enthusiasm is contagious. Lani is always willing to help others when they are having difficulties and has been a "Lead Animal Technologist" for almost three years now. Lani exemplifies all the qualities that are needed as an Animal Technologist. Lani, participated in the commissioning of the largest vivarium at ASU, The Bio-Design Institute. She has formatted a spread sheet to record the breeding colony, supervises up to 8 staff members on a daily basis and is able to train all staff at Bio B in the care of all the species housed in the vivarium. Lani's positive attitude contributes greatly to the morale of her staff.

**Our Technician of the Year is Barbara MacNally** - Barbara has completed ALAT & LAT certification. She attended the Arizona Branch AALAS Spring Symposium and even stepped in to help at the registration table when she saw that she could help during set up. She started as an Animal Technician and recently was promoted to Animal Technologist. Barbara provides outstanding performance in the maintenance of

animal welfare and husbandry and maintains high professional standards at our animal care facility. In the past 2 years Barbara has increased her knowledge in the Lab Animal Field. She's very observant in the animals welfare and enrichment. Barbara is very creative with our enrichment for the rabbits, but one memorable incident was when she found an ailing Yucatan pig. Our pigs are housed in our outside pig facility; in which the pigs are given straw for bedding and enrichment. During her daily routine she noticed a pig having difficulty standing and notified her supervisor. She then began looking around the pen to see if there was anything the pig had eaten to cause his symptoms. Inside the straw there was a weed mixed in that the pig had been chewing on. The veterinarian was informed and we sent off the weed to be tested. The results came back as pigweed which can cause the exact symptoms. It was due to her observation of a health issue, notifying the proper people and taking the initiative to find the cause that the pig was aided.

**Nominees for Member of the Year must:**

- Encourage active participation within the branch;
- Work diligently to meet deadlines, regardless of other daily obligations;
- Volunteer to assist fellow members and provide support when needed;
- Promote education through meeting attendance along with active membership in the branch.

**Our 2007 Member of the Year Nominees are:**

**Colleen Benton** - Colleen has assisted in all ASU functions and helps all employees submit AALAS certification paperwork. She assisted over 15 technicians to get their certification in the past 3 years.

**Bob Perrill** - Bob helps edit the branch newsletter. He takes pride in doing a very thorough job and is a

## 2008 SwAEBR Essay Contest

**Essay Winners Receive Paid Summer Internships in a Research Institution**

Just write an essay on:  
**"How Has Biomedical Research Using Animals Benefited a Pet, You, or Someone You Know?"**

**Entries Due 3/14/08**

See the Website for Information & Rules [www.swaebr.org](http://www.swaebr.org)

**For Questions Contact:**  
Ms. Grace Aranda  
520-621-3931 or  
[swaebr@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:swaebr@ahsc.arizona.edu)

skilled writer. We are lucky to have his expertise at our disposal. Bob worked with the Desert Museum for a number of years and worked for University Animal Care in Husbandry and surgery before working in Vet Science with Valley fever research.

**Sandra Schenone** - Sandra is the branch Secretary. She participated in the past two public outreach Sally Ride Festivals at ASU, attends the AZAALAS functions and presented a poster at the Spring Symposium. Sandra oversees the husbandry of the venomous reptiles at ASU, is the training coordinator for the department and interfaces with the Arizona Fish & Game department on a regular basis.

**April Wagner** - Although April is no longer an officer of the branch, she is still always willing to lend a hand on any branch issue or business. She always attends AALAS meetings and functions and often encourages others to attend as well. She has been a presenter of several posters and has mentored others in her area to present posters as well. She has volunteered as a member of the

newsletter publications committee for several years now and always does so in a thorough and professional manner. It is a pleasure to work with her not only in the branch but in the workplace as well. She is a key member of the Diagnostic Services. She is a central figure in performing research experiments, many of which involve working with animals. She has participated in presentations to local schools during National Pet Week. She volunteers as a member of the editorial board for the Arizona CFAAR organization as well.

**Jaime White-James** - Jaime is the Central Branch Board Member. To the best of my knowledge she has participated in all Board Meetings and other AZAALAS events. Jaime has presented posters twice at various AALAS sponsored activities. She oversees the most diverse research animal population at the University. She is routinely praised for her care, knowledge and expertise by the PIs which house their animals in the buildings she is responsible for supervising. Jaime recently passed the LATG exam and is preparing to enroll in the CMAR program, as soon as she meets the time requirements.

**Jeff Williams** - Jeff has taken his membership and president elect position seriously and does all he can to promote events and the Arizona branch in general. He has joined the D8 council as our alternate representative to help improve future D8 meetings. He worked the Sally Ride event to promote science and research.

**Our Member of the Year is Grace Aranda** - Grace is devoted to the Arizona Branch and has worked countless hours for us. She continues to infuse the branch with energy and keep national AALAS aware of all the branch does, so much so that this year we won the Branch Challenge for the first time ever. Grace is involved at every level and assists members with anything needed. She is a force in our branch as web master, news editor, treasurer, assistant to the secretary,

coordinator of meetings, symposiums, video conferences, tours and events. Grace is active in supporting science and research and works to inform research institutions and police across the state and nationally of security issues with research. She is also active in public outreach with teachers, schools, and the community at large so they are aware of the importance of biomedical research. She also produces newsletters on current research so that all of us in research can be aware and proud of the accomplishments being made.

**A very special thanks to those who took the time to nominate someone for office or an award this year:** Grace Aranda, Jane Criswell, Paula Johnson, Tim Martin, Caroline Mead, Frank McFadden, Susan Neil-Eastwood, Bob Perrill, Michael Rand, Chrystal Redding, April Wagner, Jaime White-James, Jeff Williams

### **Ron Orta Humanitarian Award**

Established in memory of a compassionate man who devoted his life to the furtherance of laboratory animal science, the Ron Orta Humanitarian Award will be awarded each year to the professional who:

- exhibits extraordinary compassion towards their peers.
- displays a spirit of cooperation and involvement in the activities of their local community.
- participates in continuing education; either as an educator or student in the field of laboratory animal science.

**Selection Process:** A council appointed by District 8 Council will review nominations and select a final recipient.

**Nomination Process:** All members of District 8 are eligible. Nominations will be in letter form describing in detail the nominee's participation in local events, their compassion towards their peers and their pursuit of continuing education. Special consideration will be given to

instances where the nominee has gone above and beyond the scope of their regular duties to help their peers. Reference letters are encouraged but are not mandatory.

**Submissions:** Ron Orta Humanitarian Award, 8414 West Farm Road #180-225, Las Vegas NV 89131-8170.

**Deadline: Postmarked by February 15th, 2008.**

Award: Given each year at the District 8 meeting, the award will consist of \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque provided by Allentown, Inc.

### **A New Year Is Here - Let's Get More Involved**

We just had our Holiday Installation Event held in Mesa this past weekend where Jeff and Dona opened their beautiful home to us and it was great to see everyone outside the workplace: [http://www.azaalas.org/Events/Installation/2007\\_Holiday\\_Installation\\_Event.html](http://www.azaalas.org/Events/Installation/2007_Holiday_Installation_Event.html). Our Emcee Dr Martin announced this years award winners: Technician of the Year Barbara McNally and Member of the Year Grace Aranda. He also announced our new board: Jeff Williams, President; Jeri Ellis, Past President; Jane Criswell, President-elect; Stephanie Munger, Secretary; Grace Aranda, Treasurer; Regional Board Members: Chrystal Redding, Jaime White-James, and Paula Johnson; Cindy Madura, TBR; Frank McFadden, Vendor Liaison; and Tim Martin, SwAEER Representative.

Now is a good time to make a difference in AZAALAS. Ask a co-worker if they are a member, if not, encourage them to join and volunteer to sponsor them. You can find our membership brochure at (<http://www.azaalas.org/brochure.pdf>). Things to stress to new members include: Quarterly newsletters; Credits for continuing education; Reduced symposium registration fees; Recognition awards;

Educational programs; Voting privileges; AALAS certification information and guidance; Networking through Buyers Guide membership directory; Commercial vendor contacts who provide the latest & greatest ideas, methods & material in Lab Animal Science; Symposium with scientific and technical platform and poster sessions, workshops, field trips, vendor exhibits, general membership meeting, awards and socials events; Local video conference meetings geared towards technicians on a variety of topics; Professional social contacts to advance your career, and more, all for only \$10 a year (<http://www.azaalas.org/Forms/membership-form.htm>). Renew your membership today!

International Technician Week will be celebrated the week of January 27 - February 2. Location and times will be announced soon. Bring a friend, everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments and a chance to learn more about AALAS. You can print a flyer for Tech Week ([http://www.azaalas.org/Events/Intl\\_tech\\_wk.htm](http://www.azaalas.org/Events/Intl_tech_wk.htm)). We will distribute Certificates of Appreciation (recipients need not be AzAALAS members): Contact us today ([azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu)) to let a co-worker or boss know how much you appreciate all they do for you!

Volunteers will be needed throughout the year for:

1. Envelope stuffing parties (over lunch). Once or twice a year your hands, humor and good company will be greatly appreciated.
2. Finding and/or creating short informative or interesting blurbs for the newsletter.
3. On-line editing of newsletter.
4. Assistance with meetings, raffle, and events.
5. Coming up with ideas or possible speakers for lectures, workshops, and wetlabs or for any other projects you would like to see the branch be involved in.

It's worth it to you, to your co-workers and to AzAALAS. For more

information, go to the Arizona Branch AALAS Homepage (<http://www.azaalas.org/>).

We are all looking forward to another successful year.

### **Inexpensive Idea for Feline Enrichment**

*By Laurie Severson, CVT, Cam North, Fort Dodge Animal Health*

Feline enrichment can be a difficult endeavor for research technicians and supervisors alike. Most items available are not sturdy enough to endure the rigors of daily sanitation or the felines themselves. Items that are sanitation-resistant may be cost prohibitive. At Fort Dodge Animal Health, we are always searching for ways to use what we have available to us. One enrichment device developed at Fort Dodge Animal Health is a cat shelter.

Detergents and disinfectants are purchased in 5-gallon round or square pails. Until recently, these items have been recycled, but with a drill and zip ties, the pails can be changed into a resting place. We have installed these shelters in various locations in the feline enclosures; some had been placed on elevated resting boards, and others are mounted to the side of the enclosure. The shelters that are mounted on the elevated boards have four holes drilled into the bottom of the pail. Zip ties are then threaded through the holes and secured to the resting board. The shelters that are mounted on the side of the enclosure have zip ties wrapped around the outside of the pail. They are then secured to the chain link panel of the enclosure. Zip ties are inspected daily to prevent breakage and possible injury to the cats.

In these shelters, the cats can relax while resting or sleeping. We have even had to awaken sleeping cats. The cats seem to enjoy the privacy these shelters provide; some cats seek to be inside the pail, while others sit on top to have a more advantageous view. Often, more than one cat will be inside at one

## **Soak up the Knowledge!**

**AALAS  
District 8 Meeting  
Seattle, WA  
April 23-24, 2008**

### **Topics to Absorb:**

Geckos  
Humor in the Workplace  
Murine Norovirus  
Rodent Colony  
Management  
Humane DNA Sampling  
"Lean" Management

### **Get Wet Workshops:**

Xenopus Frogs Handling  
Rodent Handling  
Blood Draw Techniques  
Rodent Necropsy  
Gas Anesthesia  
Rodent Imaging  
Technology

### **Also Featuring:**

Technician Fun Fair  
AALAS Certification Exams

**Vendor registration is  
already available online  
and payable with a credit  
card**

**A call for abstracts has  
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time. The cats are not the only ones that benefit from this type of enrichment—researchers do too, as it is relaxing to watch the cats enjoying themselves!

(Tech Talk, December 2007)

**About Tech Talk** - *Tech Talk promotes the dissemination of professional information and technology to all persons interested in laboratory animal science and facilitates a worldwide pursuit of knowledge of animal care methodology. For more information about Tech Talk email [journals@aalas.org](mailto:journals@aalas.org)*

**Shaping Our Future Conference: Bringing IACUCs, IRBs and IBCs Together February 14 & 15, 2008**

The Massachusetts Society for Medical Research and the Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research have teamed up to produce this groundbreaking two-day IACUC, IBC & IRB conference. The conference goals are to encourage open dialogue on common ground areas among these three vital institutional oversight committees.

The Three I's conference platform is designed to help research organizations confront tough issues and develop new approaches to enhancing the entire research process through interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration. The conference serves as a platform for the improvement of communication and understanding via the sharing of viewpoints, ideas and information.

Capping the opening night of the conference on February 14, 2008 is the elegant MSMR – SwAEBR rooftop reception sponsored by TOPAZ Technologies!

**For details, conference agendas, and registration:** <http://www.msmr.org/Shaping-Conference-Registration.htm>

**KEYNOTE Speaker ... Jeannie M. Perron, JD, DVM, RESEARCH ANIMAL LAW**

In addition to being an attorney, Dr. Perron also holds a degree in veterinary medicine and has practiced as a veterinarian. She specializes in food and drug law, with a sub-specialty in animal food and drug law. In this capacity, she represents companies that manufacture feed, feed ingredients, drugs, biologics and medical devices for animals, as well as clients in related industries. Her specialties also include advising clients and providing representation on matters before the United States Department of Agriculture arising under the Animal Welfare Act. Her clients are animal research companies, pharmaceutical companies, and animal dealers and exhibitors. Another specialized area of practice relates to the importation of animal-derived ingredients and products. Dr. Perron advises clients on USDA regulations and procedures in this area and assists clients in securing the required permits and certifications.

**REGULATORS ROUND TABLE & Breakout sessions ... OLAW USDA OBA OHRP**

- Axel Wolff, MS, DVM, Director, Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW
- Kathleen M. Garland, DVM, VMO, APHIS, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist, USDA
- Allan Shipp, MHA, Director of Outreach, NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities
- Dr. Melody Lin, Associate Director, OHRP/IRB – IRBs & Protection of Human Subjects

**Regulation of Select Agents in the United States**

- Robbin S. Weyant, PhD, Captain, USPHS, Director, Division of Select Agents and Toxins

Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**The Art & Science of Persuasive Communication: Working**

**Together and Crisis Communications**

- Donna Marie Artuso, Principal, Affairs of the Art

**We have received approval for CEs through RACE**, a national clearinghouse for approval of continuing education providers and their programs.

**Conference Exhibitors:** Allentown, Inc., Key Solutions, Rees Scientific, Purina Lab Diet, Topaz Technologies ... Want to know how you can join our sponsors and exhibitors list? Email: [swaebr@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:swaebr@ahsc.arizona.edu)

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You can find a membership form on the last page of this newsletter for Arizona AALAS, but don't forget other important groups: CFAAR, LAWTE and SwAEBR too. There are links on the AZAALAS Forms page for your convenience:  
[www.azaalas.org](http://www.azaalas.org)

**If you dont see your company listed here you must have missed our due date to submit your company info...dont miss out this year, go to the forms page of our website: [www.azaalas.org](http://www.azaalas.org) and be sure to submit your forms by May 1st.**

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