



AVDS PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2009 - 2010

As I come to the end of my two year presidency, I have had time to reflect on where the AVDS is positioned today, compared to when I first started my presidency.

Well, I think that our SIG, although small in numbers, has punched well above its weight, if I can use this boxing metaphor.

Our committee has performed superbly, with a number of dental initiatives presented to the AVA, firstly through policy council, both in our equine dentistry policy submission which included a strong representation on animal welfare grounds, our submissions to veterinary practitioner boards throughout Australia re the threat from “lay dentists” and the use of scheduled drugs, our commitment to teaching best dental practice to veterinary undergraduates in ALL universities in Australia, our on line education initiative in conjunction with Illinois Compass and the American Veterinary Dental Society, and finally our policy council submissions on small animal dentistry and pocket pet dentistry.

Our joint venture with Hills Pet Nutrition/iM3 in the production of an educational DVD on dental procedures has broken through 60,000 copies and continues to showcase our “down under” expertise to the world.

Our society is now seen by AVA national as the SIG to come to for all things to do with oral health and welfare in ALL species. Pet Dental Health Month has seen fresh inputs from the AVDS and I believe that this oral health promotion has been and still is a huge success story for both AVDS and AVA and its members.

Our society now has a very close working relationship with AVA national and this I think is a huge positive compared to where we were many years ago.

Finally, as I start to pack up my bags with toothbrush and toothpaste in hand and leave the presidency, I would like to look through a crystal ball at the future of our SIG.

Our society’s commitment to continuing professional development has seen us go to the forefront in lectures/workshops. We continue to get enormous increases in numbers attending both. Our members are strongly represented on the lecture circuits of the Pacific, Asia and India. Industry is banging at our door to offer sponsorship because we are seen as a quality product that delivers the goods. I can see our membership increasing due to improving member benefits. Our committee will continue to be very approachable to our



membership, although it would be good to seek feedback from the members on our committee's performance.

I would like to think that as I hand over the reins to our new president Aaron Forsayeth, I deliver to Aaron, a SIG in good shape to react to the challenges that will be thrown up in the ensuing years.

One challenge that I see as crucial is the enticement of a new generation of enthusiastic "dentally aware" vets to run with the ball and let those oldies still on committee to take a step backwards and let new blood formulate our future directions.

Our annual meeting will be held in Brisbane at the Pan Pacific conference, Southbank during the lunch break on Tuesday 25th May (room TBA).

Anthony Caiafa (President of AVDS)