



# March Updates



## LET'S GO FAR, TOGETHER.

ARVMA BOARD 2025

A new year for the Association is here and I am truly honored to be serving as your President. I have been thinking a lot lately about the future of veterinary medicine here in Arkansas and that is what we, as an Association, are here to protect and preserve.

I was a member of ArVMA's first Power of Five class, which is a big reason for where I am today. That class led me to get more involved in the Association as a new veterinarian and grow with my colleagues. One of my goals this year, with your support, will be to get the Power of Five leadership group started again. I think it's extremely important to get new veterinarians in Arkansas involved in the happenings of the board. This will support the longevity and protection of our profession.

Being a practice owner in a small town in Arkansas myself, I feel like I can relate to most of our membership and am in a great position to advocate for our profession in this great state. If you ever have any issues or questions, please reach out to me and I would be happy to help.

I am not saying we can fix everything, but if we do not know about it then we definitely can't help.

An African proverb I once read says **"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."** So let's all communicate and work together to further our success!

We are in legislative session right now and plan to keep a close eye on any new developments there that may involve us. We will continue to make new relationships with legislators, as well as continue to strengthen relationships with others.

As we move forward with this Association, I promise to put our members first and to always communicate and stay transparent with what is going on.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President this year.

*Brennan Pitard, DVM*

ArVMA President 2025- 2026

ArVMA's mission is to **improve** animal and human health, and the environment, by **protecting** and **advancing** the veterinary medical profession.

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## Legislative Updates

Rob Conner has been elected ArVMA's legislative liaison and will continue to communicate with our lobbyist on legislative changes and points of interest for veterinarians in our state. For regular legislative updates, please see the weekly legislative email newsletter with updates from ArVMA's current lobbyist.

## Dates to Know

- **MARCH 12** - Groundbreaking Arkansas State University School of Veterinary Medicine
- **APRIL 16** - Close of legislative session
- **May 8** - Groundbreaking Lyon College School of Veterinary Medicine
- **SEPT 25-28** - Southwest Veterinary Symposium (SWVS) 2025- Fort Worth, TX



Our groundbreaking ceremony for our new, 56,000 square foot teaching building, located on the A-State campus in Jonesboro, is March 12, 2025. Our building includes state-of-the-art laboratory spaces, including an anatomy lab, a clinical skills lab, and a surgical skills training area. Additionally, it will have a dedicated clinical skills practice space, available 24/7, allowing students to develop their examination and procedural skills. Our building will also include two flexible use classrooms, study spaces, and faculty and administrative offices.

Our Associate Dean for Student Programs and Admissions, Dr. Sarah Hooper, started with us March 1. Dr. Hooper is a graduate of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and completed a residency and PhD at the University of Missouri. She comes to us from Ross University, where she was an Associate Professor and Director of the Research Center for Veterinary Education, Diversity and Data Analytics.

We currently have over 80 Arkansas practices and 170 practices nationally to train our fourth year students in 2 or 4 week hands-on clinical experiences. Thank you for your support of our students! To learn more about hosting students, contact Dr. John Weale – [jweale@astate.edu](mailto:jweale@astate.edu) or visit the A-State website.



Lyon College SVM was a silver sponsor for the second year of the ArVMA Winter Meeting. The college was well represented at the event and hosted a dinner for the ArVMA Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Olivia Edwards, a vet tech student from Beebee, won the exhibit hall booth raffle for an engraved AI powered Eko Digital Stethoscope.

The design for LCSVM Veterinary Learning Facilities is near completion, and a Rendering Reveal was held in Cabot on February 4, 2025, with over one hundred people in attendance.

The LCSVM groundbreaking is scheduled for May 8, 2025 in Cabot, Arkansas. Save the date and watch for the official announcement!

An AVMA COE Comprehensive Site Visit request was submitted for the Council's review at its upcoming March meeting. We should hear back in April 2025. LCSVM received its first student scholarship donation.

If you are interested in becoming a clinical affiliate for the Lyon College School of Veterinary Medicine, please contact Dr. Ashley Mounts-  
[ashley.mounts@lyon.edu](mailto:ashley.mounts@lyon.edu)

These are exciting times for Lyon College! Go Scots!

# Winter Meeting 2025 Highlights



## Vet of the Year: Dr. Everett Rogers

This year we had the extreme honor of presenting the 2024 Veterinarian of the Year award to **Dr. Everett Rogers** from Jonesboro. Dr. Rogers is a superb leader, mentor and friend. He has served his profession and association in many ways and we are all better because of him. Congratulations, Dr. Rogers!



## Pet of the Year: Dobby

Meet **Dobby!** Despite numerous challenges, Dobby's unyielding spirit and determination have touched the hearts of many. From surviving a perilous rescue to recovering from a severe injury where three of his paws were amputated to learning to walk with prosthetic feet, Dobby has triumphed over adversity, becoming an inspiration to all who know his incredible journey. Learn more about Dobby on LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's Facebook.



## License Renewal Changes

The new and improved **licensing portal** allows you to access all of your information. It will be used for updating continuing education (CE) hours, renewing annual licenses and making necessary changes to account information. *When logging in for the first time, please select Login at top right and then "Forgot Password" to set your initial password. Scan QR above or visit link below: <https://mip.agri.arkansas.gov/VetLicensingPortal>*

## 2025 ARVMA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**President Elect- Sarah Shedenhelm**  
**Vice President- Kristie Coley**  
**Secretary/ Treasurer- Bridger Smithers**

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**AVMA Delegate- Lindy O'Neal**  
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ARVMA PAC FUND

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