

Veterinary Service Challenges

Provincial efforts so far

- 1947 started the veterinary sciences scholarship
- 1963 with the 3 other western provinces agreed to build WCVM
- 1965 1st class at WCVM started
- 1970 started the Rural Manitoba Animal Hospital Program
- 1990's went from 10 to 12 students, started the VTEG program
- 2005 added 13th student, LAVR scholarship

Rural Veterinary Clinics

- 27 veterinary service districts
 - Employing approx. 52 veterinarians
- 35 private practices
 - employing approx. 75-80 veterinarians
 - 4 practices are based in Sask.
- Exact number of veterinarians and practices hard to quantify as there is overlap

Private Veterinary practices

- Most are located in eastern part of province
- Some were previously VSD's
- Larger centers – Brandon, Portage
- Some around “home” –Gladstone, Rossburn, Waskada etc.

Veterinary Service Districts

- Program started in 1970 by J McPhedran
- 32 VSD's at one time
- 27 VSD's presently
- VSD's are about 1 hour apart
- Receive grants from local and provincial government
- Veterinary Services Commission (VSC) is responsible for the establishment or dissolution of districts

Role of the VSD's

- Attract and maintain veterinary service in rural Manitoba
- Provide veterinary service to all areas of the district at the same cost

VSD Funding

- Regular or special plan – Prov. match up to \$15,000.
- Supplementary plan – Prov. match up to \$5000.
- Veterinary Technical Enhancement Grant
 - \$300k for equipment and \$300k for facility upgrades in year one (1999)
 - Reduced to \$300k in 2000
 - Presently \$2000k

VSD Boards

- Responsible for maintenance, equipping and upgrading Veterinary Hospital
- Pay taxes, utilities, insurance, etc.
- Attract and “hire” a veterinarian
- Sign a form 2 agreement with the veterinarian
- Assist and encourage the veterinarian to practice vet med and surgery

Veterinarian

- Must be a member of the MVMA
- Abide by all the rules of the MVMA
- Sign the form 2 agreement
- Follow the provisions in the form 2 agreement including the fee schedule
- Provide service to all ratepayers in the district at a uniform rate

Current VSD DVM compliment

- 1 clinic open in 2008 – Killarney
- 4 clinics run as satellites by non VSD vets
 - Ste. Pierre – Basinet
 - Vita – Basinet
 - Southwest (Melita) – Griffin – Carnduff
 - Souris – Grand Valley (Brandon)
- Interlake – run by Gimli but employee in Arborg
- Ste. Rose - VSD vet but lives in Neepawa
- Glenboro – satellite of Morden, no vet in town

VSD DVM's Cont.

- Fisher – vet moving to Fisher from P. la P.
- Single vet practices
 - Ashern – Hudson Reykdal (00)
 - Ethelbert – Chang (75)
 - Gladstone – Anderson (93)
 - Inter-ridge (Alonsa) – Thomson (72)
 - Lundar – Perlikowski (90)
 - Neepawa – Taylor (83)
 - St. Claude – Phillipot (01)
 - Russell – Clements (85)

Multi-person practices

- Boissevain – 2 husband/wife
- Pembina Valley – 2 satellite of Morden
- Dauphin – 3
- Minnedosa – 3
- Roblin – 2
- Swan Valley (Swan River) - 3
- South Central (Notre Dame) – 3
- Shoal Lake – 5
- Virden – 5
- Morden - 10



One True Need; Dr. B. Evans

- Expectations of Canada's animal health system.
 - The industry expects there will be domestic and international **confidence** in the **integrity**, **transparency** and **competency** of the system to protect and maintain animal and public health.
 - The animal health system must also operate in a manner that is **consistent** with society's values and expectations.

Role of Government

- Protect public
 - Food safety
 - Zoonoses
- Protect the industries
 - Maintain markets
 - Fads
 - Emerging diseases
- Protect the Animals
 - Inhumane treatment
 - Disease
- Rural development

Role of the Veterinarian

- Prevent abuse of animals
- Cure disease
- Help producer increase production
- Food safety

New Graduates

- Very few (any?) capable of running a practice on their own
 - » Skill
 - » Confidence
 - » Business ability
- Desire to operate own clinic?
- Desire to be in one person practice?

Clinic Profitability

- Certain areas dependant on one species
- Some districts number of clients is shrinking
 - By choice of the veterinary practitioner
 - Due to expansion by neighboring practices
 - Decrease in number of producers
 - Decrease in rural population
- How do we make them more profitable?
 - Increase market share
 - Increase prices / subsidize