



Hello everyone-

It has been a busy year since the 2008 Veterinary Forensic Sciences Conference. The University of Florida's William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine has been working to create and incorporate the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association (IVFSA). The IVFSA website is www.ivfisa.org. We will be adding additional content to the website soon as it is developed as a resource for professionals involved in the veterinary forensic sciences. The IVFSA was created in response to your suggestions and requests submitted at the 2008 conference. We thank you for your enthusiasm and constructive comments. From your suggestions, the IVFSA has been created to be your organization, and all organizational business will be from majority votes of the full and associate members.

Officer Nominations:

In order to create membership directed leadership, we are currently accepting nominations for the Executive Officer positions of President, President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary. We hope you take a few moments to nominate individuals with the professional responsibility and dedication to continue this new and rapidly growing organization. Nominations should be sent via email to Dr. Melinda Merck at melinda.merck@ivfisa.org prior to February 28th, 2009.

Board of Directors:

To provide initial organizational and business leadership for the IVFSA, a Board of Directors has been formed. The Directors will appoint the Charter Executive Officers from the nominees and work with the Executive Officers to facilitate the working relationship previously established between the IVFSA and the ASPCA Program for Veterinary Forensic Sciences at the University of Florida. To learn more about the Board of Directors, visit <http://www.ivfisa.org/directors.htm>

IVFSA Membership:

The IVFSA is now accepting annual membership applications. All membership dues paid prior to the 2nd Annual meeting (May 13-15, 2009) will receive the special designation as “Charter Member”. All charter members will receive a certificate of this special designation. Membership categories, instructions, and dues information can be found at <http://www.ivfisa.org/membership.htm>

IVFSA Annual Conference:

The 2nd Annual Conference has been scheduled for May 13-15, 2009 to be held at the Buena Vista Palace and Spa, in Orlando, Florida. Meeting registration is online at <http://conferences.dce.ufl.edu/vetforensics/>, and hotel reservations can be made individually by calling 1-866-397-6516 (**Group Name: Vet Forensics**). This year, we have a special activity planned on Saturday May 16th, 2009 at Disney’s Animal Kingdom. We embark on a “Backstage Safari”, with a specially scheduled tour of the Postmortem Facility. The fee for this three hour tour (including transportation) is \$90 per person and limited to the first 100 registrants. You can register for the Backstage Safari at <http://www.ivfisa.org/safari.htm>

The 2nd annual conference will also host the IVFSA Business Meeting May 15th, 2009 5:30-7:30pm. The newly appointed IVFSA Officers will be announced, and planning committees formed for the 3rd Annual Veterinary Forensic Sciences Conference in 2010. Your newly appointed officers will determine the 2010 meeting location, and everyone is invited to attend the Business Meeting!

Workshops:

The IVFSA, in conjunction with the William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine and the ASPCA are sponsoring the second “Animal Crime Scene” workshop to be held in Gainesville, Florida, June 3-5, 2009. The brochure for this workshop is sent as an attachment to this email. Also planned are workshops on Bite Mark Analysis, Shooting Reconstruction, Forensic Photography, and Bloodstain Pattern Analysis.

We hope you will join us in our endeavor to advance veterinary forensic science!

Melinda Merck, DVM
Chairperson of the Board