

AVMA



American Veterinary Medical Association

Office of the Executive Vice President

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February 1, 2013

The Honorable Deval Laurdine Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts
Office of the Governor
Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

FEB - 4 2013

Dear Governor Patrick:

This year marks the 150th anniversary of organized veterinary medicine in the United States and the founding of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), which represents veterinarians across your great state. From the companion animal veterinarian who cares for our beloved pets to the food animal veterinarian who safeguards the health and safety of your state's food supply, your veterinary constituents will be celebrating this auspicious occasion.

On their behalf, I respectfully request that you join your gubernatorial colleagues around the country in declaring 2013 the "Year of the Veterinarian" in Massachusetts.

As you are well aware, veterinarians play a significant role in the health and well-being of humans and animals in your state and are stewards of the environment as well. They are on the front lines of disease surveillance and bioterrorism detection, and in research labs developing cures to diseases that prey on both man and beast – such as cancer and diabetes. They participate in the National Guard, work on state environmental issues and work in your academic communities as leading scholars and scientists.

We are hopeful that this anniversary will help educate the people of Massachusetts about the many faces of veterinary medicine and how it impacts their everyday lives. We would be proud to include the state of Massachusetts on the roster of those states that recognize the value veterinary medicine brings to their citizens.

A sample proclamation is enclosed. We encourage your office to send us copies of official proclamations so that we can publicize your support to veterinarians in your state. Please send a copy of the document to the attention of Adrian Hochstadt, Assistant Director for State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, AVMA, 1931 N. Meacham Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173, fax: 847-925-1329, email: ahochstadt@avma.org.

Thank you for giving veterinarians of your state the recognition they deserve.

Sincerely,

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
American Veterinary Medical Association

c: Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association

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150th Anniversary of the American Veterinary Medical Association

Supporting recognition of the American Veterinary Medical Association to bring attention to and show appreciation for the veterinary profession on the 150th anniversary of organized veterinary medicine in the United States of America.

- WHEREAS,** the American Veterinary Medical Association was founded in 1863 as the U.S. Veterinary Medical Association in New York City, New York; and
- WHEREAS,** 2013 will mark the 150th anniversary of organized veterinary medicine in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** veterinarians have played an integral role in discovering the causes of numerous diseases that affect our state's citizens such as salmonellosis, West Nile infection, yellow fever and malaria; and
- WHEREAS,** veterinarians provide valuable public health service through preventive medicine, control of zoonotic diseases and scientific research; and
- WHEREAS,** veterinarians have advanced human and animal health by inventing and refining techniques and instrumentations such as artificial hips, bone plates, splints and arthroscopy; and
- WHEREAS,** veterinarians play an integral role in protecting the quality and security of our nation's national herd and food supply; and
- WHEREAS,** military veterinarians provide crucial support to our nation's military and assistance to the agricultural independence of developing nations around the world; and
- WHEREAS,** disaster relief veterinarians provide public health service and veterinary medical support to animals and humans displaced and ravaged by disasters; and
- WHEREAS,** veterinarians are dedicated to preserving the human-animal bond and promoting the highest standards of science-based, ethical animal welfare; and
- WHEREAS,** colleagues from around the world will join veterinarians in the United States to celebrate this momentous occasion: Now, therefore be it

Resolved that _____

- (1) designates 2013 as "The Year of the Veterinarian;" and
- (2) supports the goals and ideals of Veterinary Medicine Year by bringing attention to and expressing appreciation for the contributions that the veterinary profession and American Veterinary Medical Association have made and continue to make to animal health, public health, animal welfare, and food safety in our state; and
- (3) issues a proclamation calling upon the people of the state of _____ to observe 2013 as Veterinary Medicine Year with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.