Special Interest Groups

AVA-VSSV members also have the opportunity to join special interest groups free of charge. Below are descriptions of the special interest groups.

Horse Appreciation Group (HAG)

HAG - Stands for Horse Appreciation Group (not a bunch of croaky old women!)

We are a special interest group of the VSSV brought together by our passion for all things EQUINE. Our aim is to expand the veterinary repertoire of students interested in equine medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry and horsemanship in general. We don't care if you don't own a horse or have hundreds and we don't care if you've ridden none or were born on the back of a horse! If you are enthusiastic about expanding your equestrian horizons and you want to have fun doing it then we want you in HAG.

Some of the events we organise include lunch time seminars at Werribee during first semester, vet checking opportunities for students at Horse Trials and a night at the races sponsored by the EVA(SIG of the AVA) to meet vets in private practice. Other events are in the pipeline so we encourage all students with an interest in horses (or any other equid) to join the VSSV and HAG. You can never know all there is to know about horses and horse people so you could be a cowgirl, a grand prix dressage rider or have no horse experience at all and we still want you. Whether you want to brush up on veterinary skills or simply learn some bizarre horse dialogue, HAG is a great way to do it. It is a forum for all vet students with an interest in horses to meet new people, learn and have fun in the process.

Look forward to meeting you all in '09,

Lisa Muscat
HAG President
l.muscat2@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au

Representatives of the Blood Bank Cats and Canines (RBC)

Representatives of the Blood Bank Cats and Canines (RBC) The RBC is a non-profit group affiliated with the AVA- VSSV and run by students of the University of Melbourne Veterinary Science faculty to actively promote the welfare, care and on-going training of the animals on campus who regularly donate blood for the benefit of pets throughout Victoria. Our dogs are greyhounds, which may have been previously part of the greyhound racing industry. They have all been rejected from the Greyhound Adoption Program, but many are candidates for retesting at the end of their stay as blood donors. As such, our aims include: ensuring all dogs are regularly walked, socialized and given the care they deserve, working towards correcting or reducing the minor behavioural problems that have led these dogs to be rejected from the GAP program, to provide them with the best grounding possible if they are retested and improving their conditions and quality of life while they are in the care of the university. The RBC will be fundraising through out the year at events and around campus, so please support a great cause. We have irregular meetings (often when we walk our dogs) but we're always open to suggestions, comments and new members, so for more information please contact Kathryn or Simone.

Kathryn - khogan@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au
Simone - s.gruca@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au
Or donordogs@gmail.com

Bovine Appreciation Group (BAG)

BOVINE APPRECIATION GROUP

The Bovine Appreciation Group or BAG as it is affectionately known is for students who have an interest in cattle and rural practice. BAG organises two main events each year – the B&S early in semester one is a chance for students to get together and have a great time over a BBQ and get involved in competitions throughout the night including the iron gut. The Cattle Dinner in semester two is a chance to learn more about life as a cattle vet and make connections in the industry over a 3 course meal with cattle veterinarians from across Victoria attending.

Throughout the year BAG also sells merchandise at cost that comes in handy on farm work and vet placements such as waterproof vests and aims to provide additional skills that may be required at some stage in their future careers by organising events like a firearms training course specifically tailored for vet students. Such events have limited places and priority is given to BAG members. BAG has a facebook group where members can post photos, suggestions for the committee and share experiences on placements. Make sure you join us for what will be a fantastic year

For more information contact,
Renee Nesser
BAG President
r.nesser@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au

Wildlife Appreciation Group (WAG)

The WAG special interest group aims to promote students' interest in all aspects of wildlife. During the year it runs talks from various vets and other professionals in the industry. This year we also hope to get a reptile handling prac back up and running. The group is also a source of information for wildlife activities occurring outside the University, including training days run by Wildlife Victoria, and helping treat wildlife affected by bushfires.

Many students participate in work experience at shelters and zoos, and some undertake the (optional) Bachelor of Animal Science research year in their chosen area of wildlife. Annually a tour of Healesville Sanctuary's Australian Wildlife Health Centre, a purpose-built veterinary care facility, is organised by WAG. The group also helps promote a fantastic trip to South Africa where students learn about game capture and management.

Small Animal Appreciation Group (Smallies)

Smallies is the largest of the SIGs, with our focus for those interested in small animals: dogs, cats and pocket pets. We have a five person final year committee plus two representatives in 3rd year and one each in 1st and 2nd year to ensure all levels are catered for. Our events include educational and inspirational seminars, both in Werribee and Parkville, for example Dr Chris Preston, specialist surgeon has held a seminar for us the past few years in March. We also hold an Annual Speakers Night (formerly known as Cocktail Night) held in May where we have 5 courses of drinks and nibbles to accompany each of our 5 guest speakers. We also have tours to the Southern Animal Referral Centre (SARC), Animal Emergency Centre (AEC) and Melbourne Veterinary Referral Centre (MVRC). Each year there is also Smallies merchandise for sale, for example hoodies, mugs, polo shirts and vests. For a nominal membership fee, entry to seminars and tours are free (and include food, drinks and

transport where required!) and Annual Speakers Night tickets and merchandise are heavily subsidised. You can contact Smallies at smallies@hotmail.com or speak to your year rep if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, and check out our Smallies group on Facebook.

Porcine Interest Group (PIG)

The porcine interest group is a relatively new group concerned with pigs. Join us if you like pigs.

Sheep Appreciation Group (SHAG)

SHAG is one of the more relaxed SIGs. During the year they organise a number of informal gatherings such as a barbecue at the Parkville campus and a Toga Party at Werribee at the beginning of the year.

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