

# Vision for Animals Foundation

## Annual Meeting

### In Attendance:

Jim Swanson            Reuben Merideth  
Mike Davidson        Kirk Gelatt  
Ken Abrams            Mark Nasisse

### Absent:

Roy Bellhorn  
Joan Dziezyc  
Greg Ackland

### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes were not available at the time of this meeting.

### 2. Treasurer's Report:

See attachment

### 3. Committee Reports:

#### a. Grants committee – Kirk Gelatt

- i. Six new grants will be awarded this year at the annual scientific meeting. The recipients of these grants are *(Stacy, if you can include the names and the titles of grants in this location.)*
- ii. The Grants committee continues to refine the methodology for evaluating grants Announcements and information concerning grants is being made available on the ACVO and linked VFA web as well as in the Veterinary Ophthalmology Journal and newsletters from the ACVO.

#### b. Public Relations

- i. The Public Relations committee continues to work on refining the Foundation brochure and through the administrative office the webpage has been implemented.

#### c. Legal Status

- i. Ongoing work is being accomplished to try to make available information on estate planning to membership and interested friends of the Foundation.

### 4. Old Business:

- a. Dr. Kaswan has been contacted concerning her pledge to the Foundation. She reports that due to personal financial difficulties at this time the pledge will not be made for 2004.

### 5. New Business:

- a. **Grant committee** – The Grant committee will work to develop a new grant category for a young researchers. This award will be in the amount of \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually. The requirements and methods to evaluate the grant proposals will be developed by the Grant committee over the next year.

- b. **Public Relations Committee** – Dr. Ken Abrams will work with Dr. Mark Nasisse over the next year to co-chair the Public Relations Committee. They will develop a logo for the Foundation and a budget of \$2,500 was given for the development cost.
- c. The board approved two new methods for allowing members to meet their annual pledge:
  - i. One will be donations made in memory of deceased pets. A form will be developed to allow members to make these donations and the donating member and the owner of the memorialized pet will both receive letters from the Foundation recognizing the gift.
  - ii. A special embossed CERF forms will be made available to members who would like to donate the proceeds from CERF exams to the Foundation to meet their annual pledge. A form letter from the foundation will be developed to recognize the ophthalmologist's contribution
- d. **Legal Status Committee** – It was recommended that we work through our Foundation attorney and accountant and make available to members information about estate planning.

**6. New Business:**

- a. **New Committee Members** – It was voted to ask Dr. Carmen Colitz to become a member of the Board and she accepted this nomination.
- b. **Board Membership** – Members with a one year remaining term are; Reuben Merideth, Kirk Gelatt and Mark Nasisse. Members with two year remaining term are; Roy Bellhorn, Joan Dziezyc and Mike Davidson. Members with three years remaining term are; Carmen Colitz, Ken Abrams and Jim Swanson.