

# Newsletter

## Minnesota Branch AALAS, Inc.

Promoting Training and Education of Laboratory Animal Technicians and the Public in the  
Use of Laboratory Animals in Research

[www.ahc.umn.edu/rar/MNAALAS/](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/rar/MNAALAS/)

[www.aalas.org](http://www.aalas.org)

Publisher: Terrie Grove

Volume No. 25

Issue No. #3

Date: October 2001

### **2002 MN Branch Board Member Ballots Enclosed**

**Please vote and reply by November 09, 2001.**

**MN Branch AALAS 2002 Application for Membership Enclosed.**



## Editors Notes

Dead line for the next issue of our newsletter is November 21, 2001. (Articles for submission can be mailed to Terrie Grove, 1385 115<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 or e-mail to; [grovet1@medtronic.com](mailto:grovet1@medtronic.com))

We would like to invite all who support this mission to join the Minnesota Branch.

## About Minnesota AALAS

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**The Minnesota Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science Inc. was established in 1965 as an organization of laboratory animal professionals, including researchers, veterinarians, veterinarian technicians, and animal care technicians.**

**Our motto, “Promoting Training and Education of Laboratory Animal Technicians and the Public in the use of Laboratory Animals in research” reflects our commitment to both science and animal welfare.**

**We accomplish our goals by providing a social and professional network for people working with laboratory animals; training programs; informational articles in our quarterly newsletter; access to vendors of laboratory animals, and research and animal care products; and public outreach programs.**

### Tech Tips

Veterinary Technician April 2001

#### **In the Bag**

To Hang a bottle of fluids, cut the injection port end off an empty 1-L IV fluid bag. Then cut a 1 inch hole in the other end, and place the neck of the 250-ml saline bottle through the hole. Finally, cut two small holes at the cut-off end and hang with string. (Kim Leffingwell, Meadville, PA)

Make a reusable cold compress by taking a full unopened 1-L bag of fluids. Dray out and replace two thirds of the fluid with rubbing alcohol. The rubbing alcohol prevents the fluid from freezing, and the fluid bag is tough enough to resist tears. (Kristie Ryder-Slater, LVT, Lake Ann, MI)

#### **Money Savers**

Crib and playpen padding with ties-(items found in second hand stores) make great padding wen tied to cage doors to protect animals recovering from anesthesia. (Linda Crittenden, AHT, Bellingham, WA)

Instead of buying “simple syrup” for compounding medications, use generic pancake syrup. The syrup mixes well, and animals like the taste. (Tracie Holloway, CVT, Chino Valley, AZ)

Break tongue depressors into quarters (first in half, then length wise) to make cheap, disposable fecal float stir sticks. (Janie Cain, CVT, Grafton, WI)

#### **Cleaning Gems**

To make a handy, absorbant and flexible “wand” to clean hard to reach places on equipment, thread a 4X4 inch square of gauze through a clean, large fecal loop. Finish it off by wrapping tape around the bottom of the gauze to it in place (Christine Ronan, Centerville, OH)

Use chenille stem (pipe cleaners) to clean the inside surface of endotracheal tubes. One stem is the perfect size for smaller tubes, and a group of three to four works well on larger-sized tubes. Pipe cleaners can be purchased at craft/hobby stores or in the craft department of discount stores such as Kmart. (Kristin Wescott, RVT, Clearlake, CA)

#### **Simple Solutions**

A wire coat hanger can be stretched out to use as a long handles hook to grab the collars of uncooperative dogs and cats. A short piece can also be cut from a hanger and used as a stylet in a small endotracheal tubes. The wire should not be too sharp or long and should have a hooked end. (The technicians at Lakewood Animal Hospital, Regina, SK, Canada)