

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY
1965 to 1985

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The Society's name was the American Society of Veterinary
Clinical Pathologists from July 13, 1965, to July 16, 1978.

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INTRODUCTION

During a meeting of teachers of veterinary clinical pathology on July 13, 1965, Dr. Harry H. Berrier moved "The group be formally organized with a new name of the American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathologists. Dr. H.A. Carper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously." The other teachers were Drs. Clarence R. Cole, Embert H. Coles, Donald E. Jasper, Horace C. Morgan, Harry C. Mussman, Victor Perman, Jay H. Sautter, Oscar W. Schalm, Margaret W. Sloss and John B. Tasker. This motion has greatly influenced professional careers of veterinary clinical pathologists and the veterinary medical profession.

In 1972, the Society passed a motion for the President to appoint a Historian to keep all permanent records and maintain a continuing history of the Society. Dr. Harry H. Berrier was appointed as the Historian and distributed the "History of the American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathologists" to members in 1974.

The purpose of this "History.." is to record events that led to the origin of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) and to record activities and policies of the ASVCP. This "History.." is an update of the previous document written by Dr. Harry H. Berrier in 1974.

The ORIGIN section recounts events from 1958 to 1965 which lead to Dr. Berrier's motion in 1965. The content was originally written in an earlier version of the "History..".

The ANNUAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS section is a recount of the Society's activities and policies and is recorded by fiscal years of the Society from 1965 to 1985.

The CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS section contains the original and current Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

The PUBLICATIONS section contains a listing of publications of the Society from 1972 to 1985. Articles, abstracts of scientific meeting presentations, editorials, and other original scientific material are included under each listed publication. An author index is also included.

The SITES OF MEETINGS section is a tabulation of the cities (and years) where business and scientific meetings of the Society were held.

The OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, HISTORIANS, AND EDITORS section contains a tabulation of members who have held elected offices or appointed positions in the Society.

The MEMBERS section is a list of names of the Society's members as of December 9, 1985. The year each member joined the Society is noted.

The SOURCES OF MATERIAL section contains lists of documents used for the "History.." including minutes of annual business meetings, minutes of Executive Board meetings, letters, and other correspondence to members. Dr. Keith W. Prasse provided supplemental information regarding activities of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and the ASVCP during the early 1970's. If members have Society documents not listed in this Section, the Historian would appreciate a copy of the document for the Historian's File.

In a clinical laboratory, results of a laboratory assay can only be as good as the sample analyzed. In context of this document, the "History of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology" can only be as good as the written records of the Society. The Historians wish to acknowledge the contributions of the Society's officers, particularly those which have held the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Without their efforts, this "History.." would not have been possible.

"The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know."

From Merle Miller, Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman (1974), ch. 23.

ORIGIN

History of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) began on February 4, 1958, when Dr. Harry H. Berrier (University of Missouri) wrote a letter to all clinical pathology teachers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. At that time, there were seventeen schools or colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States, two in Canada, and one in Mexico. For those schools or colleges that did not have a formal course in clinical pathology, the letter was sent to the dean asking him to refer it to the proper person on his staff. Twenty-four letters were sent. Dr. Berrier's letter is transcribed below.

* * * * *
4 Feb. 1958

Dear Clinical Pathology Teacher:

The clinical laboratory is a diagnostic instrument of established value, shared in varying degree and inflection by every branch and specialty of medicine.

In evaluating our work in clinical pathology we find that veterinary medicine has been slow in accepting and applying the most practical and simplified rapid field laboratory procedures, largely due to the lack of training in technique and interpretation.

Veterinarians everywhere are learning that a broad and detailed knowledge of clinical laboratory work is indispensable to good practice. We feel now, more than ever before, that from the rapidly increasing interest expressed by practicing veterinarians they are using laboratory facilities at a rapidly increasing rate. Their future demands and usage will be only in proportion to their training received in school.

For some time I have been thinking that perhaps we should have an organization such as the "American College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology" since this specialized field of pathology is fast becoming a definite specialized part of the field of veterinary medicine.

It seems to me that the entire scope of all branches or phases of veterinary pathology are entirely too great to lump them all into the American College of Veterinary Pathology and do justice to the field of clinical pathology. Pathology and clinical pathology are separate and specific fields in human medicine even though there is some overlapping of the two.

Would you be interested in helping to set up an organization in clinical pathology comparable to the American College of Veterinary Pathology? About the only way we can emphasize its comparable importance with pathology is to unify and improve our standards.

In the February, 1958, Veterinary Medicine Magazine, Page 106, there are two short articles about the two new organizations "American Board of Laboratory Animal Medicine" and "American Board of Veterinary Toxicology".