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**Contact: Dr. Guy Pidgeon, WVC CEO
guy@wvc.org or 702.739.6698**

Western Veterinary Conference 2011 raises the bar in world-class education and popular innovation

This year's attendees enjoyed new programming, extra amenities, a hugely expanded Exhibit Hall, and improved navigation

LAS VEGAS, March 2, 2011 — **The 83rd Annual Western Veterinary Conference (WVC) held February 20-24 at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino wowed nearly 15,000 attendees (a WVC attendance record) with innovations in programming, amenities, and organization.** As the leading veterinary meeting in the world, WVC registered over 6,000 veterinarians, over 1,500 veterinary technicians, hundreds of practice managers, and several thousand other attendees directly linked to the animal health industry.

During this year's Conference a variety of additions and advances enhanced the meeting experience for attendees, tremendously increasing its educational impact, convenience, and total appeal. **The 2011 Annual Western Veterinary Conference featured more than 875 hours of AAVSB RACE approved CE instruction in small animal, large animal, exotics, and other species areas as well as practice management.** A recently formed WVC educational task force concentrated on the carefully targeted **veterinary technician program**, which was well received. Over 30 hands-on labs were conducted at WVC's Oquendo Center for Clinical Education. More than 30 focused symposia and 18 Industry Seminars also contributed to the abundance of learning opportunities at the Conference.

"I am thrilled with our attendees' reactions to this year's Conference," said Manolita Moore, Annual Conference Director. "Along with their comments about the immediate practical value of the CE we provided, they expressed their delight over the complimentary massages in our new Wellness Zone and mentioned their appreciation of our free WiFi and mobile charging stations. Our most dramatic change was, of course, the amazing 2011 Exhibit Hall, which we moved to Level 2 and increased in size by 65%. By introducing the Hall's Grand Pavilion for easy access to exhibitor information plus our New Product Showcase, the trade show became the 'highlight' of this year's Annual Conference."

In 2011, lecture rooms were concentrated on Convention Center Levels 2 and 3, which streamlined access to sessions and simplified visits to the Exhibit Hall on Level 2. WVC added nearly 100 more exhibitors in 2011 (total: 550) enabling attendees to interact with representatives that have not been available previously. Joel Altman, WVC Exhibits Manager, said, "Our enhanced 2011 Exhibit Hall also allowed us to provide extra amenities for attendees,

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such as responsive food service, lounges, and both electronic and person-to-person information points that really enhanced the WVC exhibit experience. The feedback we've received is off the charts."

"It will be many years, if ever, before any other conference can come close to equaling the WVC. Your vision for the type of facilities that you needed to make this meeting superior to all has served you well. But not only are the facilities top notch, the way everything ran was first class as well. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of it," said, Dr. Kathy Gloyd, President, The Gloyd Group, Inc.

Five veterinary postgraduates received Food Animal Incentive Awards for their dedication to food animal practice: Dr. Leslie N. Charles, University of Florida; Dr. Brandon C. Fraser, Kansas State University; Dr. Amanda M. Kowalski, University of Illinois; Dr. Rachel Record, University of Prince Edward Island; and Dr. Aaron S. Lucas, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

WVC Special Recognition Awards were presented on Tuesday night, February 22, to Dr. Kathy Gloyd, Dr. Jerry Vestweber, and Dr. Rochen Heers for their unique leadership, service and assistance to the Conference over many years. The 2010 Continuing Educators of the Year, selected by Conference attendees, were also honored: Dr. James Carpenter, Avian & Exotics; Dr. Debra Taylor, Equine; Dr. Kevin Washburn, Food Animal; Katherine Dobbs, RVT, CVPM, PHR, Practice Management; Dr. Tony Johnson, Small Animal; and Brenda Feller, RVT, VTS, VCA, Technician.

Online registration for the 84th Annual Western Veterinary Conference in 2012 opens soon at wvc.org. For additional information about WVC or the Oquendo Center for Clinical Education, which offers year-round courses, please call: 866.800.7326 (toll-free) or 702.739.6698 or access the websites at wvc.org and oquendocenter.org.

About Western Veterinary Conference

WVC provides comprehensive continuing education for veterinary professionals and related groups in a world-class destination – Las Vegas, The Entertainment Capital of the World. International authorities and emerging speakers present advanced instruction in first-class convention facilities and hands-on labs in the state-of-the-art Oquendo Center for Clinical Education. WVC is an annual interactive CE opportunity and a networking event for the progressive veterinary community. For information, visit wvc.org.

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