



## Pathology Biology Section – 2009

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### **G34 Veterinary Forensic Science: Documentation, Processing, and Interpretation of Physical Evidence at Scenes of Animal Crimes**

*Jason H. Byrd, PhD\*, University of Florida, Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, University of Florida, PO Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100; Kenneth F. Cohn, DDS\*, Heritage Dental of Central Florida, 422 Teague Trail, Lady Lake, FL 32159; Jeffery K. Tomberlin, PhD, Department of Entomology, TAMU 2475, College Station, TX 77843-2475; David W. Hall, PhD\*, David Hall Consultant, Inc., 3666 NW 13th Place, Gainesville, FL 32605; John J. Schultz, PhD\*, University of Central Florida, Department of Anthropology, PO Box 25000, Orlando, FL 32816; Melinda Merck, DVM\*, ASPCA, 6175 Hickory Flat Highway Suite 110-2, Canton, GA 30115; and Randall Lockwood, PhD\*, ASPCA, 2214 Tulip Drive, Falls Church, VA 22046; Micah Flores, BSc\*, Texas A&M, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77840*

After attending this presentation, attendees will gain an understanding of the current issues faced by prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials, and veterinarians when attempting to bring cases of animal cruelty and death to trial in the courtroom. Participants will also gain a more detailed understanding of how modern forensic science as practiced at scenes of human death can be readily applied to the animal crime scene.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by giving a more detailed description of current problems and issues involved in the application of forensic science techniques to scenes of animal crime. Additionally, the participant will gain an improved understanding of the needs within the veterinary community and will be better prepared to utilize their own knowledge and forensic specialty to provide assistance to those in the veterinary forensic science community.

With the passage of many animal cruelty laws, the need to apply current forensic science methodologies to these investigations has increased dramatically. Animals have many similarities to humans in their response to traumatic injury with some noted exceptions. Forensic science techniques utilized at human crime scenes and applied human victims can often be easily applied to scenes involving cruelty or death to animals. This symposium will address the application of forensic techniques developed for the investigation of human death to animal cases and unique findings at animal crime scenes.

**Veterinary Science, Veterinary Forensics, Animal Cruelty**