Frequently asked Questions about the Foundation Plan………

What are the Advantages and Disadvantages?

For the Society:
Advantages: Increased attention from across the veterinary dental community on issues important to current Society members and Society Board members, such as Outreach and Education. See separate Society FAQ. Although it may be uncomfortable for some individuals to accept that the venerable Society, the organization that fostered their entry into veterinary dentistry, will no longer be around, they can rest assured that the Society missions that they consider critical, and in many cases have volunteered time to support, will grow in effectiveness and reach as a result of the increased resources that will be available. The soul of the Society will thrive in the Foundation.

Disadvantages: Loss of the ‘Society’, the pioneering group in organized veterinary dentistry worldwide. As noted above, the legacy of the Society will be the enhancements in educational and outreach programs that will result from integration of resources and effort.

For the Forum:
Advantages: Fully integrated into the activities of veterinary dentistry as a whole, both programmatically and administratively. Rather than the Forum being a stand-alone enterprise, there will be cross-activity with the Foundation Education Committee to consider the optimal package of educational programs (at the Forum, at specific locations for seminar or wet-lab programs sponsored by the Foundation and College, and online). The Forum registration data-base will be fully integrated with the journal distribution list and lists of registration for other veterinary dental educational programs.

Disadvantages: None apparent, provided that the Foundation Board takes a balanced view of its responsibilities to the full range of activities under its direction, including enhancements to the Forum SOP.

For the Foundation:
Advantages:
➢ Full integration into fund-raising and sponsorship-seeking activities, resulting in increased funds becoming available for research and related projects.
➢ Wide-spread awareness of how to leverage the tax-deductible donation option for fund-raising, for example: Coordinated campaigns on specific issues with periodic email and other communications to interested individuals; having fund-raising opportunities readily available at potential points-of-giving, such as boiler-plate language for insertion in client discharge instructions.
➢ In depth, cross-discipline consideration of fund-raising priorities that can then be molded into specific campaigns with well-written web pages that can be inserted as links onto practice websites, Forum announcements and J Vet Dentistry News items.

Disadvantages: Risk of its charitable purpose, and IRS status, being subsumed by an imbalance in apportionment of resources by the Board.

The disadvantages for the Forum, Foundation and Society can be summed-up as the risk of imbalance in apportionment of resources among the Foundation’s programs. Because the Academy and College corporations are separate corporations, there is no risk of Foundation assets being drained off to support the Academy or College certification programs. The balance of certified to non-certified veterinarians/non-veterinarians on the Foundation Board that evolved during the discussions that led to the Foundation Plan still has people on either side somewhat anxious as we head into the implementation stage. Note that the Revised Foundation Bylaws include Article 4,
Section 4.13: **Evaluation**: The Directors shall at least every other year evaluate their own performance and the composition of the Board in terms of the skills, experience, diversity, and contributions of its members to identify ways it may improve its effectiveness by selection of new Directors and otherwise. The use of ex-officio status for appointment of the Officers at the time of establishment of the revised, enlarged Foundation is deliberate, to ensure that there will be stability in the first several years. The Board structure can be amended if this ex-officio method of appointment becomes burdensome or is ineffective for some other reason.

**For the Academy and College:**

**Advantages**: The Academy and College Boards and committees can continue to take care of their primary activity (certification of knowledge and expertise in veterinary dentistry), knowing that there is an integrated approach guided by board-certified peer-review for public information, educational opportunities, and outreach to veterinarians in general practice and to veterinary technicians and others.

**Disadvantages**: Because the **IRS 501 (c) 3 status** of the Foundation rules out joint financial management, and the College’s historical receipt of one third of the net Forum proceeds will end, there is a potential risk of there being insufficient College-generated funds for costs (direct and central administration) of its certification process. This risk was examined by generating a five-year financial projection that showed that this is highly unlikely even if only fees and dues income is considered. VOHC net income will remain with the College, which provides a readily available cushion, and the College currently has more than two years of total expenses as net assets (i.e. double the usual definition of self-insurance).

**For the Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians:**

**Advantages**: A seat at the table as decisions on outreach (to non-dental-certified registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants), education and overall policy on veterinary dentistry are discussed and adopted. Issues such as overall policy on who can perform extractions, anesthesia-free dentistry etc. need input from a wide range of interests in order to develop a balanced unified voice.

**Disadvantages**: None apparent.

**For Veterinarians in General Practice:**

**Advantages**: Availability of integrated availability of staged-level post-graduate veterinary dental educational opportunities that are coordinated and peer-reviewed, plus a welcome into veterinary dental organizational activities at the informal Thursday late afternoon meeting at the Forum.

**Disadvantages**: The ‘Society’ disappears, after many people having known the Society as a welcoming space in organized veterinary dentistry. The welcome can be there, whether the name changes or not.

**For the Science of Veterinary Dentistry:**

**Advantages**: Enlarged opportunities for funded research, and a Journal that will develop its status both within the field of veterinary dentistry, and in the recognition of veterinary dentistry by other disciplines as an evidence-based clinical discipline.

**Disadvantages**: None apparent.

**For human dentists, dental hygienists and other non-veterinarians:**

**Advantages**: An integrated organizational approach for those who appreciate the professional fulfillment to be had from involvement in veterinary dentistry, an opportunity to make their interest and expertise known and to become ‘part of the family’, within the constraints of veterinary practice regulations.

**Disadvantages**: None apparent.