Frequently Asked Questions about the Foundation Plan…..

Why Bother?

1. **Self-insurance:** Under the Foundation Plan, the net financial assets of the Foundation will be more than sufficient to ‘self-insure’ all of the enlarged Foundation activities. ‘Self-insurance’ for non-profit organizations is usually defined as having one full year of costs available in the bank as net assets, in case of a catastrophic financial event. As of the end of 2014, the Forum did not yet have sufficient net assets to be self-insured, so the pay-out to the Forum partners (Academy, College and Society) has been significantly lower than total net profit, in order to allow the Forum to accumulate sufficient assets to be self-insured.

2. **The Journal:** There will be significant changes in the editing and management of the Journal in 2016 (new Editor – John Lewis, new publisher – search is underway, new owner – the Foundation). There is a separate Journal FAQ with more detailed information.

3. **Program Overlap:** There is significant overlap in several current program areas.
   a. Information for veterinarians and animal owners is currently present on the Academy, College and Society websites. Combined resources will result in an integrated and significantly improved site that will be a polished, comprehensive and peer-reviewed source of information that we can all be proud of.
   b. Out-reach activities to veterinary schools. The Society has a program that is strong on enthusiasm but is insufficiently funded. A comprehensive, well-funded approach that includes consistent College diplomate involvement would likely be more effective.
   c. Out-reach activities to veterinarians and non-veterinarians are currently undertaken by the Academy, College and Society, and in a shared manner by the Forum; these efforts will benefit from an integrated approach and enhanced funding, which may permit additional educational formats (web or on location) to be offered.

4. **Administration:** Veterinary Dental organizations currently have separate administrative mechanisms. The Society membership and the Forum registration lists have a lot of overlap. The College and the Academy have considerable overlap in membership, but separate administrative mechanisms. A single, professionally run administration would integrate current administration efforts and increase efficiency. The funds currently paid for Society membership management costs, Forum expenses and College Executive Secretary expenses will likely cover the cost of integrated professional management, and would result in seamless management.

5. **Sponsorship:** Organizations will no longer be competing with each other in seeking commercial sponsorship for various activities. Companies will likely prefer a coordinated approach rather than the current haphazard system, and packages could be made available to potential sponsors, which could include, for example, further opportunities in the Journal and at the Forum. This combined approach could include the Foundation for Veterinary Dentistry, with the potential for automatic contributions to the Foundation endowment from any sponsorship arrangement.