Dr. Douglas D. Kratt, a 1998 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, is one of 10 veterinarians selected to participate in the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Future Leaders Program.

This year-long program, created by the AVMA and supported by Pfizer Animal Health, will help develop leadership skills in the selected group of volunteer leaders for the future of the AVMA and other veterinary groups. This is the second class of 10 Future Leaders involved in the program. They were selected from approximately 60 AVMA member nominees who had graduated from veterinary school within the last 15 years.

"As a small animal practitioner and clinic owner, I think it is safe to say that veterinary medicine as a whole is a major driving force, influence and passion in my life. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association for the last 10 years, and although the vested time and effort necessary have been steep, the rewards of helping such a cause have been far greater," Dr. Kratt says. "Through my participation in the Future Leaders Program, I would like to continue to develop the skills that will make me successful with the AVMA and WVMA."

Dr. Kratt is a small animal veterinary and clinic owner in La Crosse, Wis., who has been involved in organized veterinary medicine since he graduated from veterinary school. Dr. Kratt has served as member and president of his local veterinary medical association, and then spent four years on the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA) Executive Board as well as three years progressing through the role of WVMA president.

The year-long Future Leaders Program will start at the AVMA Convention in San Diego, Calif. August 3-7. This select group will have the opportunity to work with a professional facilitator Dr. Ken Andrews of High Impact Facilitation to receive project management and leadership training. Over the year they will collaborate on a project to provide the AVMA with solutions to help increase the leadership skills develop valuable resources for of veterinarians nationwide to use. The final results of their efforts will be presented during the AVMA Convention in Chicago, July 19-23, 2013.

"The hardest part of picking each class over the past two years has been narrowing down the list of nominees to just 10 participants, because of the qualifications, diverse interests and

energy of all the outstanding nominees," said Dr. Ron DeHaven, chief executive officer of the AVMA. "Many of these Future Leaders are already leaders, having accepted leadership roles at the state and local levels, so we're excited by not only by what we can teach them but how much they'll be able to teach us. The inaugural class of Future Leaders was inspiring and accomplished so much, so I expect a lot from the second class."

The first class of Future Leaders focused on creating a web-based Future Leader Toolkit that uses videos, instructional tools, media materials and other information and instruments that AVMA members can use to improve their leadership skills on the job or within the profession.

For more information on the AVMA's Future Leaders Program, or to arrange interviews with Dr. Kratt or any of the participants, contact Tom McPheron at 847-285-6781 or at tmcpheron@avma.org . For general information about the AVMA and its convention, please visit www.avma.org , or www.avmaconvention.org .