EARTHQUAKES AND ANIMAL CARE
The SBCV Chapter was recently invited to provide feedback and information to Emergency Management British Columbia staff regarding earthquake preparedness. During such a disaster, the health and welfare of animals, as well as the welfare of those who care for animals, can be a significant issue. As a result, the SBCV Chapter is looking for a member who might take the lead on this issue in the future. If you have some experience or interest in emergency response and wish to volunteer for this purpose, please let us know by emailing cvma-sbcv@cvma-acmv.org.

NOTICE OF AGM AND NOMINATIONS
The Notice of Annual General Meeting and Nominations will be emailed at the end of June. Important dates are August 10, 2014 (deadline for nominations) and November 8, 2014 (Annual General Meeting beginning at 2 PM at the River Rock Casino Resort in Richmond, BC).

BCCDC NEEDS YOUR OPINION
The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is inviting BC veterinarians to participate in an interview or survey to gain their insight into the development of resources to inform veterinarians of new rabies and other zoonotic disease protocols. The rationale for this project is that the animal rabies program has recently been devolved from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to the province and to veterinarians in BC. Additionally, regulations will be revised so that rabies and other zoonotic diseases will become reportable.

The information you provide will help us determine the knowledge needs of veterinarians with regards to these changes. From this we can determine the most appropriate content and delivery method for learning materials.

Depending on location, the interviews will take place in person, over the phone or by email, will take 10 minutes, and will occur in June and July. Interview times will be coordinated individually with respondents. The identity of all participants will remain confidential.

If you are interested in participating in the interview or would like additional information on this needs assessment, please contact Rebecca Shalansky at rebecca.shalansky@bccdc.ca by Monday June 23rd.

CFIA RABIES PROGRAM CLARIFICATION
Section 5.(1) of the Health of Animals Act states: “a person who owns or has the possession, care or control of an animal shall notify the nearest veterinary inspector of the presence of a reportable disease or any fact indicating its presence, in or around the animal, immediately after the person becomes aware of the presence or fact.”
For the purposes of the rabies program in Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) policy is that it will be the various laboratories (both CFIA and some provincial and private labs) that will become aware of the presence of rabies. The CFIA will consider the submission of suspect samples that test positive at CFIA laboratories and the forwarding of presumptive positive samples from provincial or private labs as fulfilling the duty to notify the presence of rabies. Section 5(2) of the Health of Animals Act states: “Immediately after a person who is a veterinarian or who analyses animal specimens suspects that an animal is affected or contaminated by a reportable disease or toxic substance, the person shall so notify a veterinary inspector.” Veterinary practitioners who are involved with live animal cases for which rabies is a disease on their differential diagnostic list should continue to manage the case appropriately in accordance with their professional expertise and any provincial guidelines. If the animal either dies or is euthanized, then the subsequent submission of the sample to one of the CFIA rabies laboratories, either directly or via a non-CFIA laboratory with or without preliminary testing, will serve as notification to “a veterinary inspector” of the suspicion of rabies. The diagnostic result will confirm the presence or absence of rabies. Any CFIA district inspection staff who receives calls from any member of the public or a veterinarian regarding notification of suspicion of rabies will not act upon them other than to refer the person to the appropriate provincial contacts provided to the CFIA or the appropriate public health authority if no provincial contacts have been provided.

TV VETERINARIANS WANTED

Julie at Jules Casting is working with CMT Network seeking veterinary clinics in BC (and other provinces) for a new reality show in development. She’s looking for fun personalities who have unique stories or animals that they treat, which would interest viewers. www.julescasting.com/content/opencalls

VETERINARY CE OPPORTUNITIES

August 2 – 6, 2014
Association of Avian Veterinarians 35th Annual Conference and Expo in New Orleans, LA
608-268-4714 or registraav.org

August 10-12, 2014
International Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man in Vancouver, BC (UBC)
https://sites.google.com/site/incdncm/

August 13, 2014
13th BC Zoonoses Symposium in Vancouver, BC (UBC)
http://www.bccdc.ca/cond/types/Zoonotic/13thZoonotic+DiseaseSymposium.htm

September 21, 2014
Pearls of GIT/Adrenals Ultrasound Course in Kelowna, BC. Instructor: Dr. Bob Hylands.
www.scilvet.com or infoca@scilvet.com or 1.866.382.6937.

Sept. 27/28, 2014
Basic Ultrasound Course in Victoria, BC. Instructor Lisa Jones-Bogie RDMS.
www.scilvet.com or infoca@scilvet.com or 1.866.382.6937.