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***Byron Blagburn of Auburn University Named 2007 President
of the Companion Animal Parasite Council***

BEL AIR, Md. (December 21, 2006) – Byron Blagburn, MS, PhD, Auburn University Department of Pathobiology, was recently named 2007 President of the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC). Blagburn has served on the CAPC board of directors since its inception in 2002 and will assume duties from Dr. Kevin Kazacos, Purdue University.

Dr. Blagburn received his doctorate in parasitology from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. At the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, he serves as director of the university's clinical parasitology diagnostic laboratory and oversees a research program that focuses on parasite-induced diseases of food and companion animals.

Dr. Blagburn currently serves on the editorial board of *Veterinary Therapeutics* and has authored more than 225 publications. A speaker at more than 250 national or international meetings, Blagburn was the 2001 recipient of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award, the highest honor bestowed by this international scientific society.

“The CAPC continues to advocate best parasite management practices through implementation of educational outreach, research and community awareness programs,” said Dr. Blagburn. “In the coming year, it is my personal undertaking to lead our organization in the areas of increasing awareness of our CAPC guidelines; increasing the implementation of those guidelines among

veterinarians and pet owners as a part of best medicine for pets; and increasing guideline compliance among pet owners. By taking these actions, we are taking the appropriate steps toward controlling parasites in dogs and cats for the greater good of both pet and human health.”

Michael Thomas, DVM, Noah’s Animal Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind., will serve as president-elect. Jay Stewart, DVM, Aumsville Animal Clinic, Aumsville, Ore., will serve as secretary/treasurer.

Additional CAPC board members include: Dwight Bowman, MS, PhD, Professor of Parasitology, Cornell University; Jeanne Eisenhour, DVM, South Suburban Animal Clinic, Perrysburg, Ohio; Gary Holfinger, DVM, East Suburban Animal Clinic, Toledo, Ohio; Kevin R. Kazacos, DVM, PhD, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Purdue University; Susan E. Little, DVM, PhD, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Oklahoma State University; Tom Nelson, DVM, American Heartworm Society president, Animal Medical Center, Anniston, Ala.; Mike Paul, DVM, executive director, CAPC; and Peter M. Schantz, VMD, PhD, Division of Parasitic Diseases, NCID, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Ga.

For more information about the CAPC, visit www.petsandparasites.org or www.capcvet.org.

About CAPC

The mission of the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) is to foster animal and human health, while preserving the human-animal bond, through recommendations for the diagnosis and year-round management of parasitic infections in dogs and cats. The CAPC is an independent council of veterinarians and other animal health care professionals established to create guidelines for the optimal control of internal and external parasites that threaten the health of pets and people. Its membership represents broad expertise in parasitology, human medicine, public health, veterinary law, private practice and association leadership.

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