



## **Member Spotlight: Dr. Chambreau**

### **Background & Career**

#### **What inspired you to become a veterinarian, and how did your journey lead you into holistic veterinary medicine?**

I had no idea as a child what I wanted to be when I grew up. At 75 years of age, I am content. I am joyful. I am productive. I know that I have made and continue to make a difference for people, animals, and for the planet. My path, in retrospect, is amazing, and I have always felt that I am guided—or even pushed. How did I get here? In retrospect, and with my now-belief in synchronicities and life journey, there are some amazing events. For middle school, my Air Force father was stationed in Tokyo, Japan. In sixth grade, I was part of a TV show teaching English to the Japanese. Being assistant editor to our elementary school paper, the *Yoyogi Crusader*, started me on my editing path.

For my sixth-grade science fair I demonstrated parasite life cycles using big jars of helminths. The next year, still in Japan, but at a different base middle school, I expanded my parasite demonstration by going to the base veterinary clinic. I learned how to run fecals, took microphotographs of the ova to enhance the fair project, became interested in what else was happening at the clinic, and started working there. My boss, a UGA graduate, exposed me to the joys of helping animals, even allowing me to do some suturing and assisting in surgery as well as cage cleaning. I was now determined to go to veterinary college.

Traveling to my dad's next duty station in New Jersey, we visited several veterinary clinics, zoos, and veterinary colleges. In high school, retiring to a farm, our neighbor was the equine veterinarian at the practice I biked to daily. Our horses, dogs, and cats gave many opportunities to love and learn. After a gap year, Colorado State was home for my pre-vet training. However, in 1970, when ready to apply, my advisor said not to bother as they only took two women from a pool of 400 applicants, and GPAs of 4.0 or higher were needed by women.

Many twists and turns of fun, getting my pilot's license, and helping with family problems while seeking an alternative to a veterinary career led me to the University of Georgia's pharmacy school. One future could be to make money just working and then have fun spending the money traveling, skiing, eating out. My other possibility could be educating several veterinary clinics about the new drugs that were coming out, then buying drugs in bulk to save money. And I would apply again. When I applied in the spring of 1975, several miraculous things happened. Most importantly, Title 9 was now being enforced, so the interview team was comprised of faculty open to having women. And for that one year, the only admission test they required was the graduate record exam, which I could ace, and not the veterinary aptitude test, which would have been a challenge. One man on my interview committee was a private pilot, and we talked more about planes than anything else. I was in!

Starting me on the holistic path in 1978, I attended one of the first United States acupuncture workshops in Chattanooga. I have no memory of how I heard about it or how I created a clinical trial at the college treating glaucoma in Beagles with different acupuncture protocols, one from Grady Young and Marvin Cain. None of the Beagles responded to my very limited knowledge, so Chinese Medicine was not pursued.

Working at many veterinary clinics doing relief work in the DC area was stimulating and puzzling. Some conditions, like kennel cough, seemed to get different treatments at each clinic, and none helped a lot. Taking EST training, rebirthing, Neurolinguistic Programming, and other energy healing classes made me begin to suspect my medical training might be narrow and there were energetic components to health.

Homeopathy beckoned me when a cat who had been on antibiotics for three years without being able to stop was completely fine for nine months after two weeks of a homeopathic medicine a colleague had recommended. I took the

second ever class held in the United States for the use of homeopathy in animals. Further study at human-based classes and Dr. Pitcairn's annual veterinary homeopathy retreats, while still working in conventional practices, shifted my approach permanently.

While working at an open-minded clinic as I began to learn homeopathy, I became firmly committed to this approach. A dachshund with spondylosis—so severe she could not lick her feet or rear—totally recovered, and the excess calcium resolved per radiographs. Megacolon, hypothyroidism, aggression resolved. By 1989 I began a 100% homeopathic practice, mostly by phone.

The universe needed me to love speaking to promote homeopathy. Volunteering with The Hunger Project in the early 80s, I enjoyed and was good at leading the Ending Hunger Briefing and then training new Briefing leaders. When a client in the late 80s asked me to speak about homeopathy and natural health to her church group, I knew this was my path. Months later even speaking to over 100 people for PETA did not scare me. I had so much fun teaching and eventually connecting with the universe/higher self/angels to better answer questions. Practicing homeopathy, traveling the world speaking, helping launch the Academy of Veterinary Homeopathy (AVH) with Dr. Pitcairn, volunteering in many roles with AHVMA, still working with The Hunger Project, and being a wife and mother filled me with joy.

My mission became clear: to empower people to heal their animals and themselves in ways that heal the planet.

Fulfilling this mission has, and still is, giving me an incredible life full of joy and learning more and more energetic ways to heal. In person speaking and teaching for veterinarians (at both integrative and conventional conferences) fed my love of travel over the years—to Bali, Hong Kong, Prague, Toronto, Ottawa, and all over the United States—and enriched my life. Speaking at conventional and holistic veterinary conferences, giving seminars for pet professionals, classes for the Maryland Veterinary Technician program, and small to large classes and summits for 40 years, is joyful, fun, and so rewarding.

From veterinary conferences to environmental groups, my goal has been to be supportive and say yes as often as possible. Yes, I will manage the booth to promote the Environmental Learning Center. Yes, I will answer animal questions at the virtual joint homeopathic conference. Yes, I will introduce holistic veterinary students to the vendors.

### **Tell us about your current practice or professional focus.**

After 35 years of practice, I stopped being “the vet” and am now doing what I love most—virtual pet health coaching, summits and classes, writing, and editing. For over 8 years I've been serving as faculty for the Holistic Actions Academy where members are empowered to have healthier, happier family lives, and veterinarians sending clients there are relieved of restating basic holistic tenets. I have joined Dr. Palmquist as one of four panelists on the continuing TV show *Smart Pet Talk TV*.

Living in Florida, summering on an island in Washington State, and driving back and forth visiting veterinarians, teaching in person, attending conferences—travel that I love while continuing to introduce more people to truly energetic ways of healing that also help the planet. Spreading the word, making a difference, relaxing, having fun—life is wonderful.

### **AHVMA Involvement**

#### **How did you first get involved with AHVMA, and what has your membership meant to you?**

Though fuzzy on details, somehow conversations at a Western States Conference in 1982 led me to join a group visiting my first holistic practice—that of Joanne Stefanatos. The amazing healings Joanne could help stimulate with Reife machines, pot-to-pot, homeopathy, acupuncture, muscle testing, and more in her small clinic confirmed my early thoughts that there was much more than merely stopping symptoms. In 1984, I attended the first AHVMA conference in Austin, Texas and have missed only a few since then. Over the years, I remember wrestling with our decision to go with **H**olistic rather than **W**holistic, which hotels could best support our member needs, and other decisions demonstrating the value to me of membership—being a part of a leading-edge organization committed to community, fellowship, learning, and physical and spiritual healing for all species. And lots and lots of hugs.

#### **Do you have a favorite AHVMA conference memory or takeaway?**

The look of awe and surprise, often with tears, as stellar individuals are awarded the Carvel Tiekert Lifetime Achievement Award or one of the other awards given out by the Council of Elders.

**Have you served on any committees or the board during your membership?**

Conference, Council of Elders for decades, helping with the journal.

**Professional Highlights**

**What's one of the most rewarding cases or patient stories from your career?**

A beloved toy poodle from Savannah had been diagnosed with a splenic hemangiosarcoma at age 10. She had had one bleed, and the guardian wanted homeopathy and no splenectomy. With homeopathic medicines matched to her individual characteristics and an occasional dose of Yunnan Baio when gums were pale, she lived another 10 years, dying peacefully in her sleep.

**Which holistic modalities or techniques do you find yourself using most often?**

In practice, homeopathy was my prime modality, supported with diet, vibrational essences, and a few supplements. I often referred for chiropractic or osteopathic care. I supported with energy healing (Reiki, Eden, TTouch, Bengston Method, WEBB, etc.), or referred to TCVM if I was not making progress. More and more important has been encouraging humans to work on their emotions and thoughts to send clear health building intentions.

**What advice would you give to veterinarians or students just beginning to explore holistic medicine?**

Never stop exploring. If you need to work conventionally for the income, pay attention to what is really helping the animals and what is not. Learn an energy technique that will keep you centered and stress free as well as help heal the patients. Keep a notebook of successes and failures. As soon as possible begin to work with a holistic practice (they are desperate for more holistic veterinarians) and discover the joy of assuming every family can have improved quality of life for all.

**Personal Touch**

**What are some hobbies or passions outside of your practice?**

Volunteering to help the environment and to have every person on the planet know there are many ways to build health and to heal animals and people that can actually help the planet. Reading novels, traveling, kayaking, folk dancing, learning indigenous ways of living sustainably, foraging, eating, and finding joy in every moment.

**Do you have a favorite book, podcast, or resource you'd recommend to fellow veterinarians?**

CIVT (College of Integrative Veterinary Therapies). Herb Tanzer's book *Your Pet Isn't Sick, He Just Wants You to Think He Is and Homeopathy, What to Expect: 101 Cured Cases* by Ed DeBeukelaer. Listen to your colleagues' webinars at Holistic Actions Academy for a wide range of opinions and knowledge.

**Share a fun or surprising fact about yourself that your colleagues may not know.**

I have my pilot's license and had amazing adventures for about 7 years of flying. I am still in awe every time a plane takes off—metal, plastic, gas, and we are soaring above the clouds.

**Looking Ahead**

**What goals or projects are you currently working on, either personally or professionally?**

Rebuilding my health so ample energy will allow me to continue to empower more and more veterinarians (especially students), pet professionals, and all who love their animals to be the best possible advocate for health as they make health care choices.

**How do you see holistic veterinary medicine evolving in the next few years, and what excites you most about the future?**

Increasingly, direct ways to access the body's energy field are becoming popular. In the 2025 conference, many healing approaches discussed used only one's hands, movements, and intention—nothing material is taken from the planet and good energy is sent back to Gaia. Huge numbers of pet parents are attending conferences, joining study groups, and demanding different care levels for their animal companions. AHVMA is reinvigorating its outreach to students which will continue to address the increasing demand for true healing.

What an honor to be asked to share my holistic and spiritual journey with AHVMA members.