

news & notes

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The New Year holiday begs time for planning and reflection. Last year was marked by ongoing development of services provided to the KCVMA membership and this year promises more. For example, by the time you read this you will be able to access a new KCVMA presence on the Internet! Check it out at www.kcvma.com. We all make plans, but it is hard to predict the future; easier to review the past and let imagination have its way.

The Board has been guided for many years by the sage advice of a true veterinary statesman, Steve Joseph. He previously served as the KCVMA Treasurer and is currently the KVMA President and KCVMA Historian, the later a position created to maintain continuity with the past as we move forward. Steve asked me to join the Board in 2000 and I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve with a brilliant, eclectic group of individuals since that time, especially last year's vigorous crowd.

David Hertzog, the outgoing President, encouraged us to remember that the Board works for you and made sure that we knew what the membership wanted by providing a member survey and nudging us to respond to your direction. A true leader with calm, understated strength, he lightly held the reins on the energetic Board, whose members rallied to his challenge, going above and beyond duty's call.

Steve Smith, 2006 KCVMA President-Elect, joined the Board a few years ago with an agenda to encourage member interaction and contribute to the CE program. During the last two years he facilitated presentations by high quality CE speakers including sit-down meals designed to promote friendly conversation. He also coordinated last year's KCVMA Family Picnic. Vice-president, Kirk Suedmeyer, planned and hosted the 2nd annual Fall Social at the Kansas City Zoo last year. Kirk wants to encourage increased member-Board interaction as he takes the lead this year regarding planning CE events. Curtis Bock planned the 1st annual KCVMA T-Bones Family Night Out, while watching over the bottom line as the Treasurer, a position he retains. Last year's Immediate Past President, Karola Swan, stayed involved as the Ethics Committee Chairperson and wrote an excellent overview of pesticide repackaging issues. Allyson Cook served us well as the Missouri State Representative and Sheila Dodson served as the Kansas State

Representative and made rabies titer and vaccination available to you at a significant savings.

Larry Kovac cut his teeth on planning and executing a CE event with the appearance of Howard Rubin at Maple Woods. This affair was so successful that we plan to provide more CE at Maple Woods to better serve those of you living on the north side of the city. Davinne Law encouraged Lori Rohlfing to write an article in KCVMA *news¬es* on how Lori helped Hurricane Katrina pets. Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine's hurricane relief effort was supported with \$1000.00 of KCVMA funds. In their first year on the 2005 Board, Kathleen Claussen and Davinne Law worked hard contributing to every project mentioned above. Amy Hunkeler is new to the 2006 Board and she submitted the case study on the back page.

Also involved with every project were our Executive Secretary, Wanda Grindstaff, and our Public Relations Consultant, Darin Nadler. These two people do the lion's share of the work. Wanda was at every meeting, recording the minutes, providing CE documentation, and so on. Darin's guidance was invaluable. He facilitated the new look to KCVMA *news¬es* and will guide us through implementation of a first for the KCVMA – a website!

The Board works as an active team providing a dizzying array of services for KCVMA members. The world-class quality CE provided last year is reviewed later in this newsletter and rivals that of any local VMA. You get opportunities to relax and share with fellow veterinarians, their staff, and families. You get updates on Kansas and Missouri legislative issues. You get added bonuses, such as last year's rabies titer and vaccination clinic for veterinarians and their staff. You get a Board committed to improving the excellent quality of service provided and you get it all for \$100/year.

This year I suggest you consider doing more than just paying your dues. Consider making a commitment to show up to a few CE events and a social event, then let a Board member know what you like and don't like. Become an active part of this organization and it will pay back in dividends you cannot imagine. That has been my experience. It is an experience you do not want to miss.



REMEMBER LAKESIDE NATURE CENTER THIS SPRING

BY DEBBY BARKER, FRIENDS OF LAKESIDE NATURE CENTER

Where can you ... see hawks, owls and other Missouri wildlife up close ... go on a hike along a marsh or glade ... learn about wildlife and wild places ... get involved in wildlife conservation ... or take an injured animal for emergency help? Lakeside Nature Center (LNC), located in Swope Park (4701 E. Gregory Blvd), offers education programs using live native wildlife for face-to-face learning experiences both in the Center and in schools. Owned and operated by the Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department, LNC provides for the rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned Missouri wildlife.

The LNC is the only wildlife rehabilitation center in western Missouri. Our knowledgeable staff and

volunteers have federal and state permits that allow us to care for all injured and orphaned Missouri wildlife. In the past year, we have cared for and released raptors (including bald and golden eagles, hawks, owls and falcons), songbirds, water birds, barn swallows, foxes, bobcats, skunks, raccoons, opossums, coyotes, deer, squirrels, and bunnies. In previous years, we rehabilitated and successfully released beavers and river otters.

Last year (2004) the LNC received over 3000 animals, nearly 50% of which were released. The release rate rises to 55% if those that arrived dead or died soon after admission are removed from the computation.

So when you find a native Missouri animal in need of care, you can transfer it to LNC. The

Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. On Sunday, the hours are noon to 4:00 pm. The Center is closed to the public on Mondays. Even when the Center is closed it is staffed from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and the phone is answered until 9:00 pm each evening. Our experienced rehabilitators (both Center staff and highly trained volunteers) will make every effort to nurse the animal back to good health with an ultimate goal of releasing it back to the wild.

Friends of Lakeside Nature Center (FOLNC) supports the Center by providing volunteers and funding to assist with exhibits, programs, and wildlife rehabilitation. This spring FOLNC will offer several intensive classes for veterinarians and their

staff. Topics will include: stabilizing injured raptors, emergency diets, zoonotic diseases, handling mammals, recommendations for confinement (foxes and raccoons can let themselves out of many standard veterinary cages), first response treatment by species, and proper handling of rabies vector animals. At the

end of each session

there will be a question and answer roundtable and a tour of the hospital facilities. For more information and to have your clinic added to the enrollment list for classes please contact the Center (816/513-8960) or Ann Hoelzel at (816/761-4912).

In closing, we ask that you consider donating unused supplies and equipment to the LNC. Your castoffs may have a useful purpose. Our wish list is online at <http://www.lakesidenaturecenter.org/donations.html>.



Lakeside Nature Center, 4701 East Gregory Blvd., Kansas City, MO

HELPING LOST PETS RECONNECT WITH FAMILIES

BY DR. TAD COLES

We've all seen and felt the anguish of an owner searching for a beloved lost pet. Occasionally, we witness the tearful joy of a family reuniting with a dog or cat, but we all know that the odds of such a favorable outcome are not good. The KCVMA has found something that you can do to increase the odds of a happy reunion, and your clients will appreciate your effort.

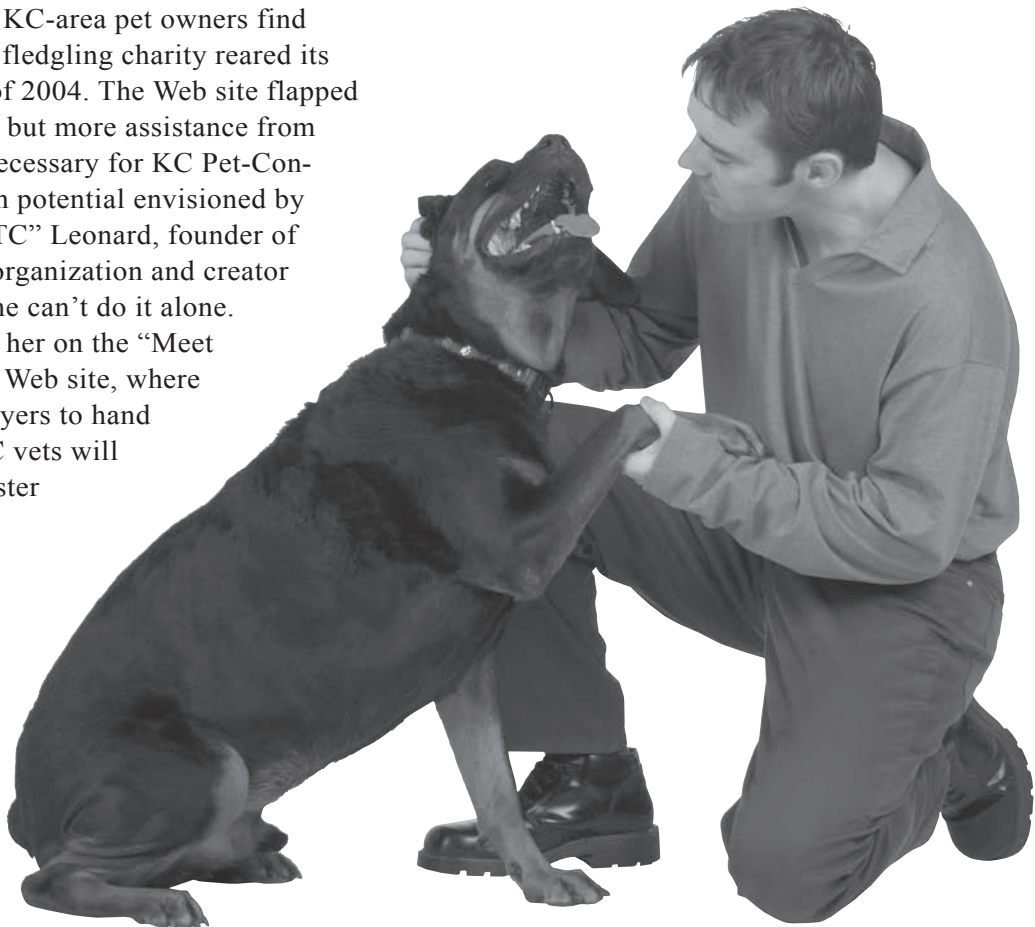
You can help by spreading the word about a local nonprofit organization, KC Pet-Connect. It needs your support. First, check out their Web site at <http://www.kcpetconnect.com>. You'll find a plethora of helpful information, including answers to frequently asked questions, local animal control and shelter phone numbers, tips, tactics, suggestions, and success stories that provide much-needed hope. You'll notice there is no charge to list or search for a lost or found pet on the site. Next, consider giving clients who call looking for a lost pet the organization's phone numbers (913-538-5739 or 800-213-8350) and Web address.

Dedicated to helping KC-area pet owners find their lost loved ones, the fledgling charity reared its Internet head in the fall of 2004. The Web site flapped its wings and took flight, but more assistance from the local community is necessary for KC Pet-Connect to reach the sky-high potential envisioned by its organizers. Theresa "TC" Leonard, founder of the 501(c)(3) charitable organization and creator of the Web site, knows she can't do it alone. You can read more about her on the "Meet the Founder" page of the Web site, where you can also download flyers to hand out. TC hopes, "more KC vets will spread the word and register for the 'Lassie Alert' program."

A "Lassie Alert" is an e-mail sent by KC Pet-Connect to people who sign up and want to know about pets lost in their neighborhood. Registering to receive "Lassie Alerts" takes less

than a minute and is simply a matter of entering your name, e-mail address, zip code and county. There is no charge to receive the e-mail. Owners of lost pets only pay \$25 to have KC Pet-Connect send the alert, which is a real bargain considering it costs TC over twice that amount to get the e-mail sent out.

You can also spread the word by talking about the service to local animal control officers and shelter personnel. A recent phone survey of these resources revealed most are not aware of the organization. We hope you and your staff will encourage animal control and shelter personnel to occasionally scan the lost-pets report, especially when euthanasia is imminent. The next time a stray shows up at your door, why not take a look on the lost-pets page yourself? Who knows, besides arranging a happy reunion, you might even pick up a new client!



KCVMA CASE STUDY - CORNEAL SEQUESTRA

BY DR. AMY HUNKELER

Marnie—4 year-old spayed female Himalayan cat

Marnie had chronic, intermittent, bilateral, brown mucoid discharge and intermittent blepharospasm for more than 10 months. She received treatment with topical antibiotic-steroid ointments, after which the color, but not the quantity or character of the discharge, changed. Her veterinarian noted a black spot on the left cornea while performing routine examination. The cornea did not retain fluorescein dye. Antibiotic ointment was dispensed. Four months later, a similar black spot, also negative for fluorescein dye retention, was noted on the right cornea. The cat was referred for ophthalmic examination and treatment.

Ophthalmic examination revealed bilateral, dark brown, mucoid discharge; severe blepharospasm; medial entropion; and flat, black, ovoid, pigmented corneal lesions. The 7mm x 4mm lesion on the left eye showed vascularization from the limbus, a narrow lip of over-riding loose epithelium, perilesional edema, and keratitis. The lesion was visibly deep in the stroma; depth confirmed by slit-lamp biomicroscopy. The right eye had a superficial, 5mm x 4mm black spot with a narrow lip of epithelium around the edge. The spots were in the central cornea and had the typical appearance of corneal sequestra. Menace responses and palpebral reflexes were intact bilaterally. Schirmer tear test and intraocular pressure test results were within normal limits and intraocular examination was unremarkable.

Corneal sequestra are areas of stained degenerated collagen associated with variable degrees of pain and inflammation. They appear to occur secondary to chronic microtrauma and ulceration, perhaps secondary to a combination of factors, such as viral keratoconjunctivitis (ie, feline herpes virus), entropion, trichiasis, lagophthalmia, tear-film abnormality, and breed-related conformation (eg, Persian, Himalayan, and Burmese cats are over-repre-

sented). The lesions seem to start as superficial non-healing ulcers in the central cornea that slowly absorb pigment, progressing from light amber to a well-defined brown to black. A vascular response may extend from the limbus to the lesion. Affected tissue is slowly extruded, over weeks to months, and remaining tissue may heal with a focal scar. Most ophthalmologists recommend early keratectomy to ease discomfort, hasten the healing process, and minimize scarring. Sequestra typically extend only to mid-stroma, but those remaining for months can reach Descemet's membrane. When degeneration involves more than half of the stromal depth, a sliding corneal-conjunctival or conjunctival graft should be placed to support the weakened cornea.

Marnie was scheduled for bilateral keratectomy. A sliding corneal-conjunctival transposition was performed on the left eye as degenerated tissue extended to Descemet's membrane. Postoperative medication included oral amoxicillin and topical gentamicin and atropine. At examination, 2 weeks after surgery, the right cornea had epithelialized and the graft on the left eye was vascularized, becoming incorporated into the cornea. Long-term monitoring is advised as sequestra can recur in either the immediate postoperative period or months to years later. Grafted tissue is not immune to degeneration, especially if microtrauma persists. Underlying conditions causing trauma, such as entropion or keratoconjunctivitis, should be addressed to reduce recurrence. Medical therapy can include topical nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory, antibiotic, and antiviral medications, based on clinical conditions. Other supplemental therapies endorsed by veterinary ophthalmologists include topical and oral interferon, oral azithromycin, and oral lysine. In Marnie's case, topical gentamicin drops were continued twice daily until sutures completely resorbed.

KCVMA

news¬es

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for its members and guests.

All suggestions and comments are welcomed.
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February Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Dirk A. Hanson, DVM
Topic: Looking at Product Dispensing and Its Associated Revenues from the Practitioner's Perspective
Date: February 16, 2006 (3rd Thursday of the Month)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

Location: Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health and Education, Community Meeting Room
CE Hours: 2.0
Fee: FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE. Technicians free with a dues paid veterinarian.

Dr. Hanson will look at what practitioners should know about 1) state veterinary and pharmacy act language relative to medical product dispensing and prescribing, 2) the revenues relative to these activities, and 3) recent legislative efforts to change this language at the state level which will have an unfavorable impact on the veterinary profession at the national level. Dr. Hanson will also outline the Limited Partnership practitioner-ownership model of MyVetsMeds and the advantages of using its product dispensing approach to strengthen your veterinary-client-patient relationship, improve client compliance, enhance patient wellness, decrease practice overheads, and increase veterinary revenues.

March Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Mike Schumacher, Manager of Animal Control, KCMO
 Michelle Dormady, Spay/Neuter KC
Topic: KC Pet Program
Date: March 16, 2006 (3rd Thursday of the Month)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

Location: Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health and Education, Community Meeting Room
CE Hours: 2.0
Fee: FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE. Technicians free with a dues paid veterinarian.

The KC Pet Program was established to encourage pet owners to get their animals vaccinated, licensed, and altered. One of the primary goals of this program is to decrease the number of homeless pets by forming partnerships with the animal welfare community.

The KC Pet Program started as "Pets Helping People" in Grandview Missouri in 2002 and was intended to offer a low cost clinic for pet owners to assist them in complying with city ordinances requiring the animals to be vaccinated and licensed. The overall goal was to increase the vaccination rate among low income pet owners with public safety being the primary concern.

Once the program was moved to Kansas City the focus broadened to include animal altering at low to zero cost with a focus on the urban core of Kansas City. The program has been refined several times and residents who live in certain zip codes receive free animal altering, while animals that live outside these areas do not. Our focus is on animals at high risk which are the most likely to become pregnant, and least likely to ever be seen by a private veterinarian.

It is estimated there are approximately 25,000 pets euthanized each year in the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Municipal animal shelters, licensed rescue groups, private shelters, and the veterinarian community play a critical role in decreasing the number of animals euthanized and increasing the number of vaccinated animals. If programs such as the KC Pet Program are to succeed it will take the support and cooperation of the entire animal welfare community.

RECORD OF KCVMA CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS FOR 2005

DATE	SPEAKER / TOPIC	C.E. CREDIT
March 17	Dr. Diane E. Mason Monitoring Anesthesia: What You Should Be Doing; What You Could Be Doing	3 Hours
April 21	Dr. Dennis Macy Injection site Tumors: What We Know Ten Years Later	2 Hours
May 19	Dr. Keith Hnilica Treating Allergy In 10 Steps	2 Hours
June 16	Dr. Mike Rehm Wellness Program: Implementation and Maintenance	2 Hours
July 28	Dr. Chris Ludlow An Update on Feline Urinary Tract Disease	2 Hours
October 20	Howard Rubin Benchmarking Your Practice to Improve the Delivery of Quality Care	2 Hours
November 13	Dr. Kevin R. Kazacos Topic #1: Zoonotic Helminths from Pets and Wildlife: An Emerging Public Health Issue Topic #2: New Guidelines for Diagnosis, Treatment, and Control of Intestinal Parasites	7 Hours
	Dr. Charlotte A. Lacroix Topic #1: Internal Parasites: A Legal Land Mine Waiting to Explode Topic #2: Internet Sales: Dealing with the Enemy	

CLASSIFIED ADS...

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Grindstaff, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468 or fax them to her attention at 913-341-4225. Ads must not be over 100 words in length. Deadline for the next newsletter is 2/13/06.

Full-time Associate needed for established, 3 doctor SA practice in Kansas City suburb. Operating in well-equipped new building with dedicated and very knowledgeable support staff. We strive to provide compassionate, quality patient care with emphasis on client satisfaction. We are looking for a self-motivated individual with excellent people and medical skills to be part of our team. Competitive salary based on experience, excellent benefits package, no emergency hours. Contact us at 816-252-5105; Fax 816-252-6037 or E-mail rschrock@threetrailsah.com

Lee's Summit, MO. Set Your Own Hours Practice High Quality medicine at your own pace! Immediate opening for motivated, skilled and personable veterinarian for steady part-time work at a well equipped small animal suburban hospital. Free standing building on major highway with easy access, fully computerized, experienced support staff, no off-hours emergencies and access to good referral consultation services. Partnership opportunity available to the right candidate! Fax resume to 816-524-8736; Contact Dr. Marjara Tel. 816-524-9536.

Associate Veterinarian. Full time associate veterinarian needed to join 2 doctor AAHA practice in Lawrence, KS. Benefits and ownership opportunities available. Experience preferred. Please contact Dr. William Bayouth at 785-842-6988 or fax resume to 785-842-1707.

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Yousef Abdou..... 913-334-4346	Amanda Donnelly 913-583-1716 KS/MO	Keith Longhofer..... 816-896-8040 KS/MO
Billi Arthur 816-862-6214 MO	Martin Drey..... 785-887-6921	Tim Lyon..... 913-782-1503 KS/MO
Jerome Berkowitz 913-239-9353 KS/MO	Maureen Gray 913-538-6379 KS/MO	Wayne Meyer 785-442-3868
Donn I. Blevins 660-656-3832 MO	Will Heeb 913-515-6785 KS/MO	Melissa Ovel 913-432-2354 KS
Alicia Boyce..... 913-651-6023 KS/MO	Rod Jantz..... 816-868-2332 MO	Terry Patterson 816-524-3296 KS/MO
Michelle Chappell 913-709-3077 KS/MO	Linda Kalmar 913-557-9224 KS	Chris Peterson 816-580-4047 KS/MO
James B. Cornelius..... 630-734-1760 MO	Kimberly Kessler 913-548-1686 KS/MO	Harris Tate..... 785-841-8946 KS
G. Mark Daniels..... 816-537-8483 MO	Heather Lewellen 816-941-0408	Kenneth Van Sickle..... 816-331-7972 KS/MO

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Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411

Eliza Sundahl, DVM, CVA, ABVP 816-361-4888

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