



A Letter From The President

January/February 2009

Dear KCVMA Members and Honored Guests,

It is with great amazement and humility that I find myself taking over as President of the KCVMA. I originally joined the organization as a way to network after I moved back to the area from Chicago. But I have found my participation in the organization goes beyond making business contacts! I have formed friendships, received an education and enjoyed fun throughout this journey. I expect the next year to be just as eventful!!

I would not be here without the help of a lot of folks. I owe a huge thanks to our immediate past-president, Dr. Larry Kovac, for all of his assistance, leadership and kind words during the recent transition of the executive board. I would also like to say thank-you to Dr. Curtis Bock and Dr. Tad Coles who are both stepping down from their board positions after many long and dedicated years of service. I would like to also recognize Dr. Steve Joseph for all of his hard work this past year on organizing the substantial KCVMA archives!

Speaking of the archives, I would like to put in a plug for "historical donations." If anyone has photos of past events (the infamous canoe trips, barbeques at the Davis Ranch, Christmas socials, etc.) or written records of the happenings of the KCVMA, please send us a copy. It is hard to know where we are going without a clear picture of the past!

I would like to introduce your new KCVMA board members. Dr. Davinne Glenn, Liberty, Missouri, is my second in command. She will be gearing up to take the reigns next year. Dr. J. C. Burcham, Olathe, Kansas, has the very difficult job of planning the continuing education meetings this year. If you have any suggestions or recommendations, please let her know. We want the meetings to be informative, relative, and above all, enjoyable. Dr. Amy Hunkeler, Lee's Summit, Missouri, has graciously accepted the Secretary/Treasurer position following Dr. Curtis Bock's retirement from the organization. She has been hard at work counting all of our pennies.

Dr. Sheila Dodson, Merriam, Kansas, is continuing as Director at Large (2nd year). Sheila was instrumental in getting me involved with the KCVMA so many years ago. I thank her for that! Dr. Susan Mikkelsen, Kansas City, Missouri, is a newcomer to the KCVMA board. She serves as Director at Large

(1st year). I met Susie during my first years practicing in the Kansas City area. I am glad to have her enthusiasm and creativity with us this year. Dr. Mary Hughes, Olathe, Kansas, will serve as our liaison to the KVMA for the next two years. I have known Mary since veterinary school. The KCVMA is fortunate to have her skills and experience aiding our association. Last, but certainly not least, is Dr. Steve Joseph. He has agreed to stay on as the KCVMA Historian. He keeps us abreast of past activities and protocols. There are still two Director at Large positions to be filled. The time commitment is small: just a couple hours a month. You know it would look good on your resume!

The board will be as busy as ever this coming year. As some of you may know, we are looking at the possibility of incorporating the association. Please be aware that we are reviewing all of the pros and cons before undertaking this huge task. We want the association to be protected so it may continue to support the local veterinary community. The board will keep you informed of developments regarding this ongoing issue.

Other important matters at hand include improving the findavetkc.com function of our website. Please pay attention to the dues renewal form so that the correct information is released to the public. In addition, the KCVMA continues to seek out high-quality educational programs. Please let us know your preferences for speakers and topics so we can continue to increase the attendance at these events. Also, mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Frostbite Seminar at the end of February—more details are listed inside.

In closing, I remind you all to get involved, whether it be coming to a continuing education meeting, attending a social event or joining the executive board in one of the two available board member positions. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, comments or concerns! I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year!!!

Respectfully,

ON THE AGENDA: 2009 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BY: JEN NIGRO



Lawmakers in Kansas and Missouri will soon begin a new legislative session, but many of the issues up for debate this time around will have been seen before. However, that doesn't mean they're old news. In fact, there are several issues that could have a

major impact on the way veterinarians run their practices.

Gary Reser, Executive Director of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, says he's keeping an especially close eye on a law that could, if lawmakers deem it necessary, require Kansas veterinarians to participate in a prescription monitoring program. When the legislation was drafted in the 2008 session, veterinarians were included in a law that would require health care providers to report dispensing of schedule two through four drugs to the Kansas Board of Pharmacy every two weeks. However, the KVMA lobbied to make veterinarians exempt from the requirement. Now, it's a matter of watching to make sure veterinarians aren't added back in.

Reser says while it may help law enforcement track prescription drug abuse through additional reporting, there are several reasons why veterinarians don't need to be included in a monitoring program with doctors, dentists, pharmacists and others in the medical profession. He says for one, the problem of so-called "doc hopping," or visiting several doctors to get duplicate prescriptions, is virtually non-existent in the veterinary field. He also says because doses for animals are much smaller, there is little benefit to a "doc hopper" trying to sell such drugs illegally. Reser also cites cost as a major drawback to implementing such a program. There is currently no funding for the Pharmacy Board to begin monitoring physicians and pharmacists. Reser says costs on the practitioner's end will also be high. "They would have to hire additional people, they would have to do additional record-keeping, this is an additional reporting requirement, and it would require a lot of paperwork, certainly new software." And, Reser says in states that do require veterinarians to take part in prescription monitoring programs, there have been problems enforcing the law.

While Reser is confident lawmakers will leave Kansas veterinarians out of the monitoring program in the long run, he says it's important to watch it closely. In the meantime, a task force has been created to undertake a five-year study to determine whether veterinarians should be included in the prescription monitoring program.

Another issue to watch when Kansas lawmakers reconvene on January 13 is a proposal to stop veterinary regulators from presiding over administrative hearings. Reser says it's not clear whether the bill will actually come up for discussion, but the KVMA is keeping an eye on it. Currently, the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners has two separate entities: one that handles investigations into complaints against practitioners, and one that handles disciplinary hearings. The two entities do not overlap in any way. But, because of concern over the procedures of other regulatory boards in the state, lawmakers are looking at restricting their ability to preside over their own administrative hearings. Reser says like the prescription monitoring program, limiting the abilities of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners would increase costs and create additional enforcement problems. "If this continued on for a period of time, veterinarians in Kansas would say, 'Well, maybe I don't have to be quite as careful. Maybe I don't always have to do the proper thing. Because if there's a complaint, it's never going to be handled anyway.'" Reser believes these delays could impact the quality of care.

Finally, Reser says the KVMA will be keeping a close eye on Kansas' budget situation. He says there have been three attempts over the last 14 years alone to remove sales tax exemptions for veterinary services as well as products used by veterinarians. He says while these attempts have all been unsuccessful, California lawmakers are trying a new approach: picking professional groups off one by one, rather than lumping them together in a single piece of legislation. Reser says by splitting these groups up, it may be easier to convince lawmakers to eliminate exemptions. Interestingly enough, Reser says veterinarians are the first group on the California agenda. But he says for now, the issue is just one to keep an eye on in Kansas.



Veterinarians on the Missouri side have no shortage of issues to keep tabs on either. Richard Antweiler, Executive Director of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, says debate over who has jurisdiction over veterinary prescription medications is foremost on his radar. Antweiler says the wording of the original statute inadvertently omitted language that would give the state's Pharmacy Board authority over veterinary prescription drugs. The error came to light in 2000, when the Missouri Board of Pharmacy launched an investigation against St. Joseph-based

United Pharmacal Company of Missouri, Inc., for various infractions. In 2007, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in favor of UPCO, because language in the legislation referred only to patient, not client-patient as would pertain to animals. Legislation was introduced that year to fix the wording, but unanticipated opposition arose and the issue went unresolved through 2007 and 2008. However, developments at the end of the 2008 session gave the MVMA hope of a resolution in 2009. “Hopefully this is the year that we’re going to be able to get this simply fixed. But because of that long-term history, it is a high priority for us to finally put it to rest,” says Antweiler.

Antweiler says as the law stands now, anyone without a veterinary license who wants to sell prescription drugs outside of a veterinary clinic can do so without any retribution. While some of these pet med retailers have been put on probation, the pharmacy board doesn’t have the power to stop them. “Unfortunately, a lot of promotion is being done to the general public without any kind of oversight, and who knows what’s going on out there,” says Antweiler. “The pharmacy board at this point doesn’t even take complaints about it because they have no jurisdiction.” According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, Missouri is currently the only state with such a lapse in authority. Antweiler has high hopes of seeing the issue resolved by the end of the session.

Also on the 2009 agenda: a proposal to allow the state veterinary licensing board to issue citations and fines for people

practicing veterinary medicine without a license. Currently, the board can only issue a cease and desist order, which is difficult to enforce. The legislation would allow the board to fine chiropractors, dentists, massage therapists and physical therapists that practice on animals without oversight from a licensed veterinarian.

As with Kansas, budget issues could be big when the session begins January 7th. Antweiler is looking specifically at funding for the University of Missouri-Columbia’s College of Veterinary Medicine. The College is currently graduating 80 students—the maximum it can support. But, Antweiler says in order to meet the state’s needs for veterinary care that class size needs to increase to over 100. “To do that, and to maintain the integrity of the education, we’re going to solicit funding from the General Assembly.” Antweiler says the request would involve the allocation of more than \$87 million dollars for building upgrades and additional labs, buildings and an ambulatory facility. With the current budget climate, that could be tough, but not impossible. “Even though on the ground it doesn’t look good, we’re told not to lose hope, to pursue it, so that’s our plan at this time,” says Antweiler.

While there are other issues on the agenda that could impact veterinarians in Kansas and Missouri, Antweiler and Reser say these seem to be most pressing. But, they say they’ll be keeping their eyes and ears open for developments throughout the session.

MANHATTAN CLOSE TO CLAIMING NEW NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

BY: JEN NIGRO

Kansas State University is nearing the end of a quest to bring the Department of Homeland Security’s National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility to Kansas. In December, the DHS released its final Environmental Impact Statement, naming KSU as the preferred site. While it’s by no means a done deal—the department won’t make a final decision until a 30-day public comment period ends in mid-January—KSU officials are optimistic. “Very rarely are the recommendations of an Environmental Impact Statement overturned, says Dr. James Guikema, Associate Vice President for Research at K-State. While there have been media reports of concern over the potentially dangerous pathogens the lab will handle, Dr. Guikema says there has been very little opposition to the project.

Other sites up for consideration were in Athens, Georgia, Flora, Mississippi, Plum Island, New York, Butner, North Carolina and San Antonio, Texas. While all had their strengths,

Dr. Guikema believes Kansas had a leg up on the competition because of its proximity to ongoing research in the area of large animal infectious disease. But, Dr. Guikema says the entire state had a hand in getting the K-State site this far in the selection process. “This facility truly is needed,” he says. “We believe that K-State and the Manhattan community and the State of Kansas and this area of the Midwest really won the bidding on the merits of what we have to offer.”

The NBAF will not only put Kansas in the center of agro-defense research, it will also boost the state’s economy. State leaders say the facility will bring hundreds of new jobs to Manhattan; Dr. Guikema says 50 to 60 of those jobs could be as adjunct faculty members in different research departments at K-State. Once the 30-day comment period ends, plans for the project can begin moving forward. Construction is expected to begin in 2010.



HOUSES FOR HOUNDS

Last fall, Dr. Susie Mikkelson, along with a hard-working crew of family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers, designed and built twelve dog houses for dogs without adequate shelter for the winter months. Pictured here are the dog houses at different stages of construction. The first of the houses was delivered to Brownie, shown below with her pups. Brownie was living, and gave birth, on some sheets under a broken down truck. Thank you to Dr. Mikkelson and her dedicated crew for helping make the lives of these dogs better.



Specialists in Kansas City 3rd Annual Frostbite Seminar

Date: Sunday, February 22, 2009
Time: 8am - 3pm
CE: 7 ss(KS and MO)
Fee: Seminar & Parking are FREE!

Location: Overland Park Marriott
 10800 Metcalf Avenue
 Overland Park, KS 66210

Sponsors: Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer, Covidien, Virbac, Novartis Animal Health, Hills Pet Nutrition, Merial, Smiths Medical, Stark Apothecary, IDEXX, Bank of America, Webster

EXTRA NO CHARGE EVENT: Physical Therapy WetLab (underwater treadmill demonstration)

Time: 4pm - 5pm **Given by:** Sandy Brown, MSPT, CCRP **Location:** VSEC/TheraPet, 11950 W 110th, Lower Level, Overland Park, KS 66210

For the past two years, Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center and Mission MedVet have sponsored a day-long continuing education symposium for area veterinarians. Nearly 250 veterinarians from Kansas City and the surrounding region attended last year. Important topics in veterinary medicine will be presented in 3 different meetings rooms – each running 30 minutes in length with a brief question-and-answer period. See below for the agenda. There is no cost to attend, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors listed above. A continental breakfast, snacks, and lunch will be provided.

8:00am	8:30am	<i>Registration; Meet with Sponsors; Continental Breakfast</i>	
8:30am	9:05am	Challenging Cases of Chronic Vomiting in Dogs and Cats	Michael Wasmer, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM
		The Dilemma of Difficult Diagnosis: Thoughtful Approaches to Medical Problem Solving	David M. Pinson, DVM, PhD, ACVP, ACLAM
		Recognizing Signs of Pain and Pain Management in Exotics	Teresa Bradley Bays, DVM
9:10am	9:45am	Current Topics in Veterinary Dermatology	David Senter, DVM, Dipl. ACVD
		Gingivostomatitis	Gary Modrcin, DVM
		Minimally Invasive Surgery: Part 1	Robert Dudley, DVM, MS, ACV
9:45am	10:10am	<i>Break with Snacks: Meet with Sponsors</i>	
10:10am	10:45am	Encephalitis: To Tap or Not to Tap?	Brian Cellio, DVM, ACVIM
		An Update on Human Cancer Prevention and Survivorship Research	Brian Petroff, DVM, PhD
		Minimally Invasive Surgery: Part 2	Candace Layton, DVM, MS, ACVS
10:50am	11:25am	Common Cardiac Misconceptions	Kevin Christiansen, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM
		Physical Rehabilitation: Improving Mobility Through Slings, Carts, & the Underwater Treadmill	Sandy Brown, MSPT, CCRP
		Diagnostic Approach to Hypercalcemia	Catherine Peace, DVM, Resident ACVIM
11:25am	11:40am	<i>Break with Sodas : Meet with Sponsors</i>	
11:40am	12:15pm	Disorders of the Canine Lens	Rustin Sturgeon, DVM
		The Treatment of Renal Failure Using Acupuncture and Herbs	Linda L. Faris, DVM
		Melanoma and Mast Cell Tumors - New Therapies	Heather Heeb, DVM, ACVIM
12:15pm	1:40pm	<i>Lunch: K-State Olathe Innovation Campus: Food Safety & Animal Health - Dan Richardson, DVM, Dipl. ACVS & Lisa Freeman, DVM, PhD and Meet with Sponsors</i>	
1:40pm	2:15pm	High Liver Enzymes: What Next?	Brian Lucas, DVM, Resident ACVIM
		Diagnostic and Treatment of Cranial Cruciate Ligament Ruptures	Jayne Lineberger, DVM
		Advances in Veterinary Dentistry	Scott MacGee, DVM
2:20pm	3:00pm	Skull Radiography	Loren Shaiken, DVM, Dipl. ACVR
		Melanoma and Mast Cell Tumors - New Therapies	Heather Heeb, DVM, ACVIM
		Clinical Techniques and Practice Tips in Small Exotic Animals	Wm. "Kirk" Suedmeyer, DVM, Dipl. ACZM

*RSVP to Jenny Beers at Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center: 913-642-9563 by 2/2/09
 If you have any questions, contact Laura Olvera of Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center: 913-642-9563.*

March Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Stacey Holz, DVM, Head of Dermatology, Mt. Diablo Veterinary Medical Center, Lafayette, California
Topic: How to Manage Allergic Skin Disease - It's Everywhere
Date: Thursday, March 19th, 2009
 (Third Thursday of the Month)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

Location: Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room
 I-435 & State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO
CE: 2 Hours
Fee: No fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Sponsor: Novartis

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. Classified ads will be run at the sole discretion of the editor. Deadline for the next newsletter is 2/13/09.

For Sale : New, still in the box, GE Logiq 200 Pro Digital Ultrasound System. Half retail price plus tax and shipping. Also AGFA automatic processor \$1000. AGFA chemicals. Contact Vern Otte, 913-381-3272

Full or part-time associate needed for rapidly growing small animal practice in Lee's Summit, MO. Practice in a state-of-the-art facility that strives to provide compassionate, quality patient care with emphasis on client communication and satisfaction. Welcome experienced practitioner or new graduate. Competitive salary based on experience, competitive benefits, no emergency hours. Fax or E-mail resume: (816) 537-6711 or schurch3@gmail.com or contact Steve at (816) 537-6626. Visit our website at greensummitanimalclinic.com

High quality, progressive small animal hospital in south Kansas City seeking an **associate veterinarian** for full or part-time position. We treat our patients like family offering advanced surgery and medicine tailored to meet the owner's needs. Competitive salary and benefits package. Contact John Lyle, DVM. Phone: (816) 763-1313, Fax: (816) 763-8225. Email: crazydog@kc.rr.com

We are interested in hiring a **full-time experienced registered Veterinary Technician** to join our fast paced small animal practice in Liberty. We are looking for an individual who is compassionate, motivated, willing to learn, positive, able to multi-task and self-motivated. Salary based on experience and individual. If interested please contact: Davinne Glenn at 816 781-0778.

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Jerome Berkowitz913-515-3917 KS/MO	Maureen Gray913-538-6379 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth785-748-0055 KS/MO
Amy Bunck816-225-4082 KS/MO	Kimberly Kessler913-548-1686 KS/MO	Alice Shaffer910-261-1577 KS
Martin Drey785-887-6921 KS	Tim Lyon913-782-1503 KS/MO	Dennis Smith913-636-4206 KS
Daniel Frezza816-294-2256 MO	Susie Mikkelson913-648-3920 KS/MO	Paula Vale913-484-7012 KS/MO
Jim Garner913-620-8210 KS	Terry Patterson816-524-3296 KS/MO	Dennis Weaver816-210-6769 MO/KS

CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

Acupuncture:

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Linda Faris, DVM, CVM 816-640-5729, 913-341-4372

Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411

Mike Tarrant, DVM, CVA 913-764-9000

VETERINARY DIPLOMATES...

Anatomic/Surgical Pathology:

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913-568-7363

Anesthesiology:

Guy Watney, MA, VetMB, PhD, MRCVS,
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Cardiology:

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Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO
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