



## A Letter From The President

January/February 2010

Fellow KCVMA Members,

I hope this issue of KCVMA News and Notes finds you enjoying the new year. I always wonder with amazement where the previous year went so quickly. I would like to take a few moments to introduce myself. My name is Davinne Glenn and I am your 2010 KCVMA President. I am a 1999 University of Missouri veterinary graduate. Go Tigers! I moved to Liberty immediately following graduation and have been practicing at the Veterinary Center of Liberty for almost 11 years. I am a Missouri native, growing up in Maryville, which is located in the northwest corner of the state. From Maryville, I headed due east and attended Truman State University. Technically at that time it was still NMSU. I am excited to be KCVMA President and look forward to any suggestions you may have to make your membership more rewarding.

The KCVMA has so much to offer its members. I am proudest of the association's continuing education events and the resources our website has to offer. More than 80 members attended the November CE held at Bayer Animal Health. (I'm sure those of you who RSVP'd but couldn't attend are sorry to have missed out!) Dr. Cary Christensen and his staff did an amazing job with accommodations, audio-visual equipment and superior food! Dr. James Gaynor spoke for an entire day on pain management, specifically new ideas for managing chronic pain. I took home many pearls of his wisdom from his expertise. I encourage all of you to attend the monthly meetings planned and organized by the KCVMA. Remember to watch the website, [www.kcvma.com](http://www.kcvma.com), for specific information about CE events.

In addition to a great day of learning, KCVMA members voted in the slate of 2010 officers. They are:

*President Elect:* Dr. JC Burcham

*Vice-president:* Dr. Mary Hughes

*Immediate Past President and KS State Rep:*

Dr. Kathleen Claussen

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Dr. Amy Hunkeler

*Mo State Rep:* Dr. Allyson Cook and Dr. Mel Falk

*Board Members:* Dr. Susie Mikkelson, Dr. Keith Placke, Dr. Christy McPherson, Dr. Melissa Austin-Gundel and Dr. Allyson Bradshaw

*Historian:* Dr. Steve Joseph

*Exec Secretary:* Wanda Geis

*Public Relations:* Darin Nadler

I am excited to have a great board working beside me. If you have any interest in serving as a board member don't hesitate to contact any of us for more information. This is my 5th year with the board, and I promise you it has been a positive learning experience.

During November and December the KCVMA offered its first online survey to its members. The survey was a great success with over 60 responses. You named infectious disease, anesthesiology, and dermatology as your top three areas of interest. We learned most of the responding members choose their meetings based on topic; it follows, then, that your comments will help us select topics for future CE events. You told us location and food are also important in your selections. For the member who wanted milk with their cookies at the meeting...I will personally make sure this happens! The survey also asked if there is enough interest among members to have a KCVMA social gathering? 40% said yes, 33% were not sure. I take this as a challenge to find an event that will convert the 33% to a yes! The other hot topic: Would the KCVMA members benefit from a social networking presence on a site like Twitter or Facebook? 70% of the respondents are okay with the idea. There will be more details in the newsletters to follow as the board discusses these questions and takes action.

I look forward to a great year! Thank you for the opportunity to make this organization work for you!

Until next issue,

## FEELING THE PINCH: VETERINARIANS WEATHER ECONOMIC STORM

BY: JEN NIGRO

2009 was filled with news of job losses, lagging retail sales, and a bleak economic outlook. Consumers spent the year cutting back on spending, and businesses everywhere are feeling the pinch. That includes Kansas City area veterinarians.

According to the American Pet Products Association (APPA), nationwide spending on pets has actually continued to grow during the current recession. Studies show pet owners consider their animals a part of the family, and therefore are unwilling to sacrifice the many products and services that make their lives healthier and happier. However, at least two Johnson County veterinarians are seeing changes in their clients' habits when it comes to choosing care for their pets.

Dr. Mark Romain of Olathe Animal Hospital is one of those veterinarians. He says national statistics on sales of pet products and services may not tell the whole story. "What I have experienced is directly related to what is going on in our local community. We really started feeling the pinch only a few months ago. I know veterinarians that have been dealing with a down economy since 2007 in other parts of the country." Dr. Leslie Pelfrey of Stanley Veterinary Clinic says his practice has actually increased its growth by 9% over last year; still, he's seeing a difference in the way clients approach care for their pets. "Things that I have noticed are fewer dentals, and more pets that visit the emergency clinic and require expensive diagnostics and treatments either go untreated or are euthanized." Dr. Pelfrey has also seen an increase in the number of clients wanting to delay annual tests like fecal exams and heartworm tests. Dr. Romain says even vaccinations are sometimes being postponed. "We are not going to be as effective in dealing with pet health issues when we do not have the opportunity to identify problems in the early stages," he says. "We will see more medical emergencies and fewer wellness visits."

What about other services veterinarians provide? "Our boarding business is off, but grooming just keeps on cooking," says Dr. Romain. Dr. Pelfrey says his boarding and grooming numbers are as good as ever. "Daycare also seems to be busy, as people have busy lives and want to make sure they provide play time for their loved pets and family members," he says.

Still, both veterinarians are conscious of the continued impact the economic downturn will have not only on their clients, but their own practices. Dr. Romain says his clinic decided against reducing staff or freezing wage increases. However, they have let attrition reduce the number of staff members. He says there's also a greater focus on working with the client to balance the need for quality care with the client's financial situation.

"Better communication by the entire staff as to the value of our services leads to better compliance," he says. "We are not reducing our services; in fact, we are looking to add new services to offset our losses." Dr. Pelfrey agrees communication with the client is key to a successful outcome. "We always provide estimates for all procedures and spend more time explaining to the client exactly what we are going to do and why," he says. In fact, he recommends itemizing estimates. "This makes more sense to the owner and they appreciate more what they are getting for their money." Dr. Pelfrey says there are also steps veterinarians can take to minimize the impact of lower demand for services. "Manage only two weeks of inventory, utilize your website pharmacy and match other online pharmacy prices for highly shopped items."

Metro area shelters are also seeing changes due to the current economy. Trish Stinger, Web Marketing Manager for Wayside Waifs, says even though their overall intake number has gone down 4%, the number of people surrendering for economic reasons has increased. In fact, Wayside Waifs recently added economic reasons to its tracking categories for surrendered animals. The types of animals being surrendered has changed too. Stinger says normally, about 30% of the animals Wayside Waifs takes in are purebred. But that percentage has grown this year. They've seen dogs like the Party Schnauzer and Chinese Crested—expensive animals rarely found in shelters. "Before, we would maybe see a Chinese crested once a year, and we've had five come in," Stinger says. "You just don't see that." She also notes that the animal control agencies they contract with are finding animals abandoned by owners who have moved out of their houses, chaining the animal to the house rather than taking it to a shelter.

Stinger says there's also evidence of economic hardship in their veterinary clinic. Wayside Waifs employs two full-time veterinarians. They also have two veterinary students working for course credit through the shelter's Vet Receptorship Program. Stinger says she recalls a day not long ago when the staff performed 32 spay/neuter procedures in one day. Their average is 15-20. Stinger says like private veterinarians, their vets are seeing more animals in need of routine care like heartworm testing and dental cleanings. "Last year we treated 84 animals for heartworm. This year, it was 141."

Like Dr. Romain and Dr. Pelfrey, Stinger says Wayside Waifs also believes communication is key in helping pet owners weigh the costs of owning a pet against their financial situation. "We encourage people to be aware of the costs, take advantage of insurance and other resources."

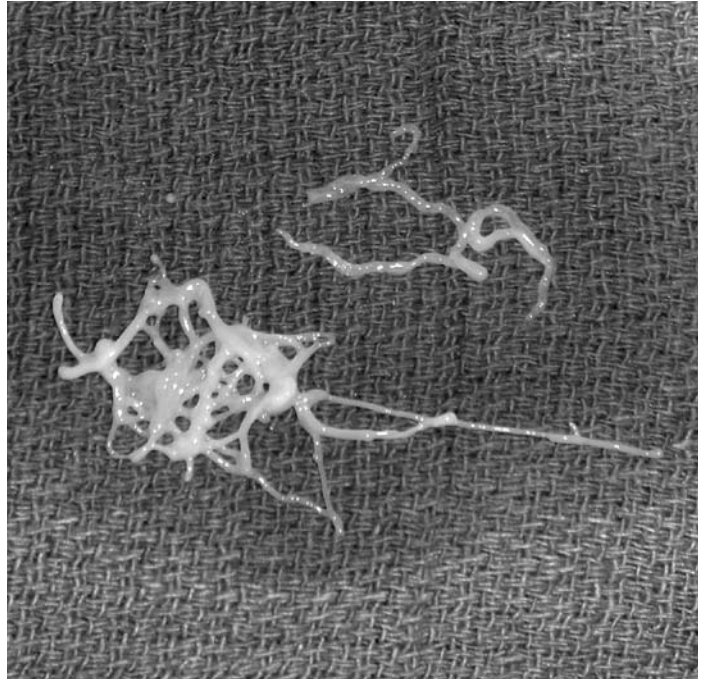
## SPAYS AND NEUTERS BORING??

BY: DR. SHEILA DODSON & DR. SUSIE MIKKELSON

People often comment how boring it must be to do only spays and neuters all day. Working at a high volume spay/neuter clinic has proved to be anything but boring. We routinely observe abnormal anatomy and pathology; such as mummified fetuses free floating in the abdomen and testicles in the most interesting locations.

The most unexpected surgical finding came one afternoon during a “routine” spay on a pregnant cat, performed by Dr. Susie Mikkelson. The patient was an 8 year old, DSH, intact female, whose physical exam was within normal limits. Upon removing the gravid uterus, Dr. Mikkelson noted some strange, stringy matter attached to the serosal surface of the uterus. Further investigation revealed copious amounts of this cheesy, stringy matter throughout the peritoneal cavity. It was moving and waving. It appeared to be fibrin clots, but had worm-like attributes. Dr. Mikkelson proceeded to remove as much of the unknown matter as possible. (It was everywhere). Examination of the material confirmed the “fibrin clots” were worms. The surgery and recovery were uneventful.

Several days later it was discovered the owner of this patient was a soldier who had just brought the cat back from duty in Iraq. After discussion with colleagues and reviewing reference materials, we identified the worms as *Mesocestoides*. *Mesocestoides* is a family of tapeworm contracted by ingestion of infected snakes, birds and small mammals. The third stage larvae are found in the



peritoneal cavity of mammals and reptiles and in the lungs of birds. This parasitic infection is treated with Fenbendazole, 100 mg/kg SID for 4-8 weeks. (Yes, 100 mg/kg and this was a cat!!)

Although *Mesocestoides* can be found in the U.S. and Canada, we have to assume (given her recent arrival from overseas) this parasite was contracted in Iraq.

Boring? Just another spay.

## KCVMA LIFE MEMBER DIES FROM CANCER

KCVMA members are mourning the loss of a life member and past president. Dr. Richard Frame died November 19, 2009 from brain cancer. He was 72.

Dr. Frame was a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia's veterinary school. He began his 30-year veterinary career in St. Joseph; after two years he joined Claycomo Animal Hospital in Kansas City where he finished out his career. Dr. Frame received many honors for his work. In 1981, the University of Missouri named him College of Veterinary Medicine Outstanding Alumni. In 1985, he was chosen as Missouri Veterinarian of the year. In 2007, Dr. Frame

and his wife, Judy, received the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation Distinguished Service award for their efforts to construct a new building and veterinary museum for the foundation. Dr. Frame served as President of the MVMA; he was also President of KCVMA in 1976. His wife Judy was on the MVMF board for several years as well.

Dr. Frame worked primarily with small animals, specializing in surgery. His love of animals started as a child, growing up on a farm near Hopkins, MO. Dr. Frame leaves behind his wife of 49 years, Judy, a daughter, two sons and several grandchildren.

## BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS

### Veterinary Leaders in Kansas City (Part One of Six)

### A Pillar of the Kansas City Veterinary College (KVCV)

BY: STEVE JOSEPH DVM – HISTORIAN

This year's historical articles consider veterinary leaders who have made their marks in Kansas City and nationally. These leaders were successful in private practice, academia, military and/or industry and veterinary associations. All were AVMA Presidents.

First to be considered is Dr. Sescio Stewart (1855 – 1918) who has been called "a Pillar of KVCV".

He was born in Canada in the early spring of 1855 and came to the US when he was seven years old. He earned an MD degree from Wooster University in Ohio and entered medical practice in Oakland, IA in 1885. Later, he graduated from Iowa State Agricultural College (ISU) with a degree in veterinary medicine. Others in his class included Dr. G.H. Glover who was a Dean at Colorado A&M (CSU); founder of Glover Laboratories in KC (a company distantly related to Bayer Animal Health); and AVMA President . Dr. W.B. Niles, a discoverer of hog cholera serum, was also a classmate.

After receiving his veterinary degree, Dr. Stewart was engaged in veterinary practice and government work in Iowa, Nebraska and KC.

Dr. Stewart took a keen interest in KVCV. So much so that he became a moving spirit in reorganization of the

College in 1895 becoming KVCV President the same year. Later, Dr. Stewart was named Secretary – Treasurer and then Dean of the College

Dr. Stewart served as Secretary of the AVMA from 1895 to 1902. He was elected AVMA President in 1902 – 1903.

He was the first of six AVMA Presidents from the Kansas City area between 1902 and 1992. The AVMA was 40 years old when the first Kansas City veterinarian was elected President. Additionally, he was the first President of the Missouri Valley Veterinary Medical Association.

After 23 years of service to the College, he died during the winter of 1918. This was the same year the KVCV closed its doors because of the establishment of state institutions offering veterinary education supported by public rather than private funds and the depletion of manpower during WW1.

It should be noted here that many administrative and faculty members of KVCV did not receive compensation. They earned their livelihood from other enterprises. Income to the College was applied to facilities and equipment . Their sacrifices and dedication influence our Professional lives today.

Dr. Stewart's biography is in the Main Public Library in Men of Affairs of Greater KC authored by the Press Club in 1912.





## Specialists in Kansas City 4th Annual Frostbite Seminar

**Date:** Sunday, February 21, 2010  
**Time:** 8am - 3pm  
**CE:** 7 (KS and MO)  
**Fee:** Seminar & Parking are FREE!

**Location:** Overland Park Convention Center  
 6000 College Blvd  
 Overland Park, KS 66211

For the past three 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 below. Snacks and lunch will be provided.



SPEAKER	TOPIC
Jayce Lineberger, DVM, Dipl. ACVS	Time, Tissue & Trauma: Tips for abdominal Surgery
Emily Medici, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM	Treatment of high blood pressure
David Senter, DVM, Dipl. ACVD	Diseases of the Foot Pads
David Pinson, PhD, DVM, Dipl. ACVP, Dipl. ACLAM	Pathologists Approach to Skin Biopsies
Heather Heeb, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM (oncology)	Soft Tissue Sarcomas
Rustin Sturgeon, DVM	Misnomers in Ophthalmology
Catherine Peace, DVM	Vaccine Reactions & the Immune System
Candace Layton, DVM, Dipl. ACVS	Perioperative Patient Care
Kevin Christiansen, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM (cardiology)	Consensus on Congestive Heart Failure
Brian Cellio, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM (neurology)	Treatment of Head Trauma
Gary Modrcin, DVM	Tooth resorptive lesions
William Suedemeyer, DVM, Dipl. ACZM	Avian restraint and clinical techniques
Steven Levy, DVM	Management of Tick Borne Disease
Fritz Wood, CPA, CFP	Prospering in difficult economic times, Business Unusual
Wayne Hunthausen, DVM	Dealing with Canine Aggression
Susan Crowder, DVM	Diagnosis and treatment of malocclusion
Steve Riley, DVM, Dipl. ACVS	Hips, Knees, and Elbows, Management of orthopedic abnormalities
Adam Ginman, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM	Diagnosis and treatment of pancreatitis
Laura Grigsby, DVM	Treatment of diabetes mellitus
Greg Dennis, MS, JD	Adequate Medical Record Keeping and Unpaid Bills
Andrea DeLuke, DVM	Surgical Correction of a New Urinary Opening

To RSVP by February 5, 2010, or if you have any questions, contact Georgia Flood (gflood@vseckc.com) at Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center: 913-642-9563.

## March 2010 Continuing Education Event

**Speaker:** Dr. Michael Dryden  
**Topic:** Update on Flea and Tick Control  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2010  
 (\*Please note, this is the Fourth Thursday of the Month)  
**Time:** Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm  
**CE:** 2 hours

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



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## CLASSIFIED ADS

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, 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 and may be edited for content. Deadline for the next newsletter is 2/13/10.

**Associate companion animal veterinarian** wanted in Blue Springs, MO. We are an AAHA accredited hospital. Position available now or in the near future for your schedule adaptation. This position can lead to buy-in or full purchase. Please write Dr. Galen Ericson at galen@ericsonvet.com or call 816 210-8293. Please leave a message. If discretion is necessary you will have that as you request.

**Registered Veterinary Technician** Wanted: Salary Top-End dependant on experience. Our Technicians utilize their skills to the best of their ability. We use the most current protocols for diagnostics, surgery, medicine, and records. We are paper-less with digital radiographs both dental and body. We are searching for pro-active candidates who will relate to current protocols and adapt to new equipment and medical procedures. Benefits are negotiable with contract commitment. Contact: e-mail - galen@ericsonvet.com, Phone - 816 210-8293, 816 229-8255, Mail - Dr. Ericson at 1000 NW South Outer Road Blue Springs, MO 64015, Resume - Please attach to e-mail if possible.

Spay & Neuter Kansas City is seeking **full time veterinarian** for high volume, high quality spay/neuter clinic in Kansas City, Missouri. SNKC is a nonprofit, rapidly growing organization that is making a difference in the Kansas City area with their targeted spay neuter approach to pet overpopulation. Experience with high-volume spay/neuter preferred. Excellent hours, competitive salary and benefits. Candidate must have great interpersonal skills and be a team player. Email resume and letters of interest directly to spayandneuterkc@aol.com For more information about Spay & Neuter Kansas City visit [www.snkc.net](http://www.snkc.net)

Wanted: **Practice Manager** for two doctor small animal practice in Lawrence, KS. Confident, outgoing, strong people skills, HR and basic accounting knowledge. Send resume to: Wakarusa Veterinary Hospital, 1825 Wakarusa Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047 or e-mail to [janewvh@hotmail.com](mailto:janewvh@hotmail.com)

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## RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Jerome Berkowitz .....913-515-3917 KS/MO	Kathy Kimber.....816-390-2704 KS/MO	Alice Shaffer .....910-261-1577 KS
Amy Bunck .....816-225-4082 KS/MO	Shelley Lake.....913-533-9905 KS	Dennis Smith.....913-636-4206 KS
Martin Drey.....785-218-9484 KS	Tim Lyon.....913-782-1503 KS/MO	Paula Vale.....913-484-7012 KS/MO
Daniel Frezza .....816-294-2256 MO	Korb Maxwell .....913-709-0208 KS	Dennis Weaver .....816-210-6769 KS/MO
Jim Garner.....913-620-8210 KS	Suzanne Ostle.....913-400-2059 KS	Krista Yencic .....816-522-3913 KS/MO
Maureen Gray .....913-538-6379 KS/MO	Terry Patterson.....816-524-3296 KS/MO	
Kimberly Kessler .....913-548-1686 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth .....785-748-0055 KS/MO	

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## CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

<b>Acupuncture:</b>	Linda Faris, DVM, CVM 816-640-5729, 913-341-4372	Mike Tarrant, DVM, CVA 913-764-9000
Michelle Chappell, DVM, CVA 913-825-3330	Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411	

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## VETERINARY DIPLOMATES...

<b>Anatomic/Surgical Pathology:</b>	Adam Ginman, BVSc, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563	Robert Dudley, DVM ACVS 913-642-9563
David Pinson, DVM, PhD, ACVP, ACLAM 913-568-7363	Emily Medici, DVM, DACVIM 913-722-5566	Karl Frees, DVM, MS, ACVS (Equine) 816-322-7722
<b>Anesthesiology:</b>	Stephanie Pierce, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563	Candace Layton, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563
Guy Watney, MA, VetMB, PhD, MRCVS, ACVA 913-491-4965	Michael Wasmer, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566	Jayne Lineberger, DVM ACVS 913-722-5566
<b>Cardiology:</b>	<b>Neurology:</b>	Steve Riley, DVM, DVSc, ACVS 913-642-9563
Kevin J. Christiansen, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566	Brian Cellio, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563	Eric Wilson, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-722-5566
<b>Dermatology:</b>	<b>Oncology:</b>	<b>Veterinary Practitioners:</b>
David Senter, DVM, ACVD 913-722-5566, 913-642-9563	Heather Heeb, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563	Vern Otte, DVM, ABVP 913-381-3272
<b>Emergency and Critical Care:</b>	<b>Ophthalmology:</b>	John S. Bradley, DVM, ABVP 785-843-9533
Mark Brady, DVM, DACVECC 800-548-8387	Amy Hunkeler, DVM, ACVO 816-554-4990	Thomas McKee, DVM, ABVP 816-341-9191
Robin Wall, DVM, ACVECC 913-722-5566	Susan Keil, DVM, MS, ACVO 913-722-5566	Richard Smith, DVM, ABVP 913-299-0010
<b>Internal Medicine:</b>	Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO 913-381-3937 or 800-776-3937	Eliza Sundahl, DVM, CVA, ABVP 816-361-4888
Tim Allen, DVM, DACVIM 913-647-2805	<b>Radiology/Ultrasound:</b>	Steve White, DVM, ABVP 913-432-7611
Lisa Cellio, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563	Joanne Burns, DVM, ACVR 785-221-0390	<b>Zoological Medicine:</b>
Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563	Loren Shaiken, DVM, ACVR 816-426-9896	Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, ACZM 816-513-4669
	<b>Surgery:</b>	
	D.A. Allen, DVM, PhD, ACVS 913-722-5566	
	Joseph P. Desch II, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563	