



A Letter From The President

January/February 2011

Dear KCVMA Members and Honored Guests,

Thank you so much for this opportunity to serve our veterinary community as president of the KCVMA. I am indebted to our past president, Davinne Glenn, and all the members of the KCVMA Board who have demonstrated leadership and commitment above and beyond the call of duty. As someone who has always enjoyed volunteering and helping out in the community, I look forward to following in the footsteps of my predecessors by providing quality continuing education and networking opportunities, and keeping our members informed about relevant news and information.

I joined the KCVMA Board in 2006. I have found my years with the KCVMA to far surpass any expectations I had. I've met so many wonderful people, and I love feeling like I'm doing my part to serve our profession. I also greatly enjoy being a member of the Olathe Noon Rotary Club, and perhaps their Four-Way Test or my other Rotary experiences will appear in some of my future letters.

Because one of my goals as president is to meet and build relationships with our members, I would like to introduce myself. My name is J.C. Burcham, and I graduated from Iowa State University in 2004. Upon graduation I began working at Olathe Animal Hospital in Olathe, KS, and I feel fortunate to have been working there ever since. Professionally, I have an interest in exotic animal medicine (especially birds), behavioral medicine and pain management. Outside of work I enjoy swimming, running (finished my 4th marathon a year ago), volunteering my spaying and neutering skills for No More Homeless Pets KC and following social media trends. My family, including my two-year-old son, husband, and three dogs, lives in Overland Park, KS. My mother, a retired children's librarian, lives in Ames, IA where I grew up. Despite the fact that I grew up in Iowa and attended undergrad in Minneapolis (University of Minnesota) I would not have predicted that I would remain in the Midwest—I always pictured myself near mountains or an ocean. But the truth is, I absolutely love living and working here. Though I'm not originally from the Kansas City area, it most certainly is my home. I can't imagine a better place to live!

Another activity I have wormed my way into is emergency preparedness for animals. The PETS Act of 2006 mandates that all counties have plans in place to address the needs of household pets and service animals in the event of a disaster. This is because we have sadly learned that if people aren't allowed to take their animals with them during an evacuation, some people will choose to stay behind, putting themselves and rescue personnel at risk. You may have already read about the Johnson County Animal Response Team (JoCART) in previous KCVMA News & Notes newsletters, and I will keep you posted about upcoming developments.

During one of our recent staff meetings at work we each took a survey to help classify and understand our "behavioral style". It's called the "DISC Model" (stands for Dominance or Direct, Influencing, Conscientious and Stabilizing). Depending on how you answer the questions most people fall into one of these categories. It's interesting and helpful to know what behavioral styles your coworkers fall into because you can adjust how you interact with them based on this information. I apparently belong in the "C" category, or Conscientious. People in this category adhere to rules, regulations and structure. They like to do quality work and do it right the first time. High "C" people are careful, cautious, exacting, neat, systematic, diplomatic, accurate and tactful. I think that describes me pretty well, actually! "C" people may fear criticism and being wrong, and they may be limited by being overcritical, over-analyzing and isolating themselves. Unfortunately, I'm guilty of those things too. Have you taken the DISC test or other behavior assessment method? I'd love to hear about your experiences and how it has impacted your work and family relationships!

On a final note, I need to mention the passing of two veterinarians from our community: Dr. Daniel Gates and Dr. Jim McCrea. Our thoughts are with their friends and family.

FINDING FREEDOM: IRAQI VETERINARIAN BUILDS NEW LIFE IN AMERICA

BY: JEN NIGRO

Asaad al-Rekabi has just started a new job with Fed-Ex. This may come as a surprise considering the many years he has spent as a veterinarian, not only in his own practice, but training others in the field. But Asaad is not your typical veterinarian. He is an Iraqi refugee who came to Kansas City six months ago in hopes of rebuilding his professional life and finding a safe and secure existence for his family.

Although Asaad has always been interested in helping animals, he didn't choose a career in veterinary medicine for himself. "The system in Iraq is a little bit different than here," he says. "You get into the school based on your grade point average in the last year of high school. My GPA wasn't high enough to get me to medical school, which was my ultimate interest, so that's why I got into the college of veterinary medicine." But Asaad's disappointment was short-lived. "I reminded myself of my interests in scientific fields and medicine in general, and I already liked to deal with animals, and so I went with it."

Asaad soon found his love of animals didn't really matter. "We used to ask the professor specific questions about the animal behaviors. He used to tell us 'We're not focusing on this field as much as we're focusing on the production side.'" Asaad says he found the lack of training to deal with animals as creatures rather than products was frustrating. "If we saw any kind of cow or chicken actually limping then we would just go ahead and terminate it," he says.

Asaad's frustrations grew as he entered his first practice in a remote area of Iraq. He worked in a small room built of mud and made just enough money to keep himself alive. He didn't have the tools or equipment he needed. Still, he was happy to be able to help, until one particular case crossed his path. "I had to deal with a cow that had her eyeball actually come out. I had expired anesthesia, expired sutures, but I had to deal with it. I tried to do my best and I used the tools that I had, and then in the middle of the operation the cow actually woke up. I had to keep going because I had no chance to stop." The cow didn't survive the operation. "What killed me about that operation," says Asaad "was that was a cow a family in that village lived on. They were living on her for five years, and the owner was begging me to help that cow so bad. She expected me to be like a savior who was sent down by God to help her, to help their cow. So when it died, it really tore my heart." Between the lack of resources and the Iraqi government's requirement that all men serve in the military every three to four months, Asaad decided it was time to go, and he fled to Jordan.

Conditions improved slightly once Asaad arrived in Jordan. "Jordan was kind of like a window that brings the light to me," he says. Asaad was hopeful the move would allow him to help his family while he proved himself in the veterinary field. For the most part, he says, Jordanian authorities looked the other

way. "The Jordanians, they wanted our experience," says Asaad. "Iraqis actually left their fingerprints on the field in Jordan." Still, income was low. Asaad says he and other veterinarians lived in their clinics to save money, visiting each other on the weekends to break up the boredom. For the first five years, he says, the Iraqi veterinarians served as teachers. Then the tables turned. "We trained students from their veterinary school. Then two years after their graduation some became managers and became our boss. They started ordering us around. They would frighten us and threaten to fire us and have us deported."

After Saddam Hussein's regime fell in 2003 Asaad returned to Iraq where he married. But security was still unstable, so he and his wife fled back to Jordan. "I stopped thinking of going back to Iraq, so I had to think of a new way of improving my life," says Asaad. His five brothers were working for the coalition forces in Iraq as civilian contractors. Three had made it to the U.S. through their work with the U.S. Army. So when the opportunity came for Asaad to join a United Nations program that allowed him to stay in Jordan legally, he jumped at it. During this time he and his wife had two daughters. Then two years ago a new opportunity arose. "The UN started doing a background check on us to see if we are actually good enough to get over to the United States." Approval came through and Asaad and his family arrived in July. "I cannot explain to you my happiness and my pleasure when we received the package from the U.S. Ambassador telling us that yes, you guys are accepted to come to the United States."

Once here, Asaad's caseworker introduced him to Dr. Larry Kovac in Kansas City. Dr. Kovac, who has talked with foreign vets during visits to family in Croatia and met many refugees, took an immediate liking to Asaad and his family. Dr. Kovac is now working with Asaad to get him through the AVMA's Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates so he can practice in the U.S. Before he can enroll in the program, Asaad must be a graduate of or in his final year at an AVMA listed veterinary school. That's an expensive prospect, and the reason he's taken work at Fed-Ex. Once he's enrolled in the AVMA program, Asaad will have to pass one of three English language assessments. From there he will be tested on his basic and clinical veterinary science knowledge. This is done through a multiple-choice test. Finally, Asaad will have to go through a hands-on clinical assessment. His work will be evaluated over several days. Once certified Asaad will be able to practice veterinary medicine anywhere in the U.S. In the meantime, Dr. Kovac hopes to find a technician position or an internship where Asaad can continue to learn and keep his skills sharp. "My ultimate goal is to get my higher education, my Ph.D. here in the United States," says Asaad. "I just love the science field."

CASE STUDY

BY: DR. DAVINNE GLENN

As a veterinarian I think there is something you can learn from every case you have the opportunity to treat. The case I am about to detail was a wonderful learning case for me and hopefully you will also find it insightful. There were so many factors that worked in our favor: fantastic dog with educated yet laid back owner, great support staff at our facility and patience (this may have been the most important factor).

Ruger is a 11 year old neutered male Labrador Retriever weighing 80 pounds. Ruger presented to our hospital for evaluation of weakness with the rear legs. The owner also noted a 20 pound weight loss over an 8-month period, marked decrease in appetite over the previous few weeks, increased drinking with increased urination, decreased energy and some increased discharge from both eye. Initial physical examination: slightly depressed attitude, bilateral mucopurulent ocular discharge, Schmeirer Tear Test OU 14, severe periodontal disease, decreased muscle mass with rear legs, decreased range of motion with C-F palpation, pedunculated mass at 11 o'clock position on anus which did not extend into the rectum.

In clinic urinalysis revealed an impressive urinary tract infection with a USG of 1.016. Bloodwork abnormalities (and other pertinent numbers): Calcium 17.9 mg/dl (n: 8.9-11.4), Total Protein 7.7 g/dl (n: 5.0-7.4), Globulin 4.0 g/dl (n: 2.7-4.4), BUN 31 mg/dl (n: 6-31), Creatinine 1.5 mg/dl (n:0.5-1.6), Phosphorus 2.9 mg/dl (n: 2.5-6.0), HCT 53%.

My initial rule-out list: neoplasia (lymphosarcoma, anal gland apocrine adenocarcinoma, multiple myeloma, lymphocytic leukemia), primary hyperparathyroidism, renal failure, granulomatous disease and Addison's disease. Based on physical examination I recommend PTH level, ionized calcium, radiographs of thorax and abdomen to the owner.

Ruger came back into the clinic 48 hours later unable to stand. IV fluids were started to diuresis and lower the calcium level as we pended test results. Intact PTH 202 pg/ml (n: 5-58) and ionized calcium 2.77 μ mol/dl (n: 1.24-1.43) levels were obtained. Granted this is not a test result obtained in 2 hours. It takes a few days. So we continued IV fluids during the waiting period. Ruger responded wonderfully and his total calcium level slowly decreased and his clinical signs improved.

Based on test results we were comfortable diagnosing Ruger as a primary hyperparathyroid dog. Causes of this condition include: parathyroid

adenoma, parathyroid adenocarcinoma and parathyroid hyperplasia. We discussed options with the owner and surgical correction was elected. The surgical procedure was very uneventful and very rewarding. The right cranial parathyroid was 8 mm, round and white-pink. The left cranial parathyroid was 3 mm flat and gray. We excised the right gland and histopathology confirmed parathyroid adenoma.

Recovery the 48 hours post surgery was uneventful. Calcium levels were measured every 12 hours. IV fluids were continued. Ruger felt wonderful. He was a wild crazy 80 pound dog that pulled us around the clinic. His energy level was 100%. Therefore 48 hours post surgery we discharged him from the hospital. As he left his calcium was 9.6 mg/dl. Go home instructions were to watch carefully for clinical signs of hypocalcemia and return in 24 hours for the next blood draw.

Ruger returned 8 hours later: lateral recumbent, T=106.6°, severe muscle rigidity to limbs, minimal awareness of surroundings. Calcium level was 8.8 mg/dl. Technically this is still within the normal range. An IV catheter was set, fluids started, frantic calls to the local specialists trying to determine what was happening. Calcium gluconate was added to the IV fluids just in case 8.8 mg/dl was too low for Ruger, within 60 minutes he was more comfortable, muscles were relaxing and his body temperature was returning to normal. We decided Ruger was having complications from a too rapid decline in his serum calcium levels.

Oral calcitriol was started at 0.25 mcg BID and oral calcium carbonate at 1000 mg TID. Over the next 10 days Ruger waxed and waned from doing great to looking terrible. Copious amounts of IV fluids, calcium gluconate, calcium blood levels, physical examination, sleepless nights and fretting over his case occurred. On day 10 he took a very positive turn and decided he would start to regulate his own calcium. Slowly we discontinued the calcium carbonate and lowered to SID calcitriol.

At this current time he is doing great. He receives 0.25 mcg calcitriol SID and has a calcium level of 9.9 mg/dl. I expect eventually the atrophied remaining parathyroids will begin to function more and we will be able to discontinue the calcitriol. My take home message to DVM's surgically correcting a primary hyperparathyroid dog: start calcitriol before surgery (don't wait until they crash), keep the dog in your clinic for longer than 48 hours, have lots of patience and share your wisdom with your fellow colleagues.

BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS

Historical Veterinary Hospital

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

If you're planning a day trip to central Missouri in the future you'll find an historical veterinary site worth visiting. It's the G&G Veterinary Hospital at 711 West Main Street in Sedalia. There's a lot of veterinary history packed within the walls of the art deco building.

The current owner is KCVMA member Dr. Robert Neal Gouge, a 1973 graduate of MU CVM. Dr. Gouge represents the third successive generation of Gouge family members to have practiced in the building since it was built in 1935. Dr. Gouge believes this is the oldest veterinary practice offering continuous veterinary service from the same family and location west of the Mississippi.

The practice was opened by Robert's grandfather Dr. Mord Elmer Gouge, a 1910 graduate of the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC). The elder Gouge worked for the Department of Agriculture and practiced in Windsor before relocating to Sedalia in 1915. He established the M.E. Gouge Serum Company before work started on the veterinary hospital. Originally the practice served as a mixed animal practice.

M.E. Gouge was joined in the practice by his son, Dr. Robert Elmer Gouge, following his graduation from KSU CVM in 1936. Later his son, also Robert, entered the practice completing three generations. But, there's more. One of Robert's uncles practiced in the hospital too. He was Dr. Hardin

Gouge, a 1937 Texas A&M CVM graduate. Later, Hardin was Director of Veterinary Research for Philips Roxane (now Boehringer Ingelheim) in St. Joseph. Hardin's granddaughter is in the Oklahoma State CVM Class of 2012.

Significant improvements have been made to the building over the years, but its appearance is much like it was when Dr. Gouge's grandfather started the practice. The brick and stucco veneer art deco building has terrazzo flooring and

has survived two tornados. The famous Jim the Wonder Dog was treated several times and died in the hospital in the 1930's. Jim had a sixth sense and is a worthy candidate for a future article planned for later this year.

Dr. Mord Gouge was a KCVC classmate of Dr. Joseph Charles Flynn, who is considered the Father of Small Animal Practice. Two historical articles about Dr. Flynn can be located in our archives. (To find them go to

www.kcvma.com and click on the "about" button. Historical articles are in the right margin.). An article about Dr. Fredrick Cleveland Cater opened this series of articles in 2009. Dr. Cater had a veterinary practice a few blocks from the G&G Veterinary Hospital.

Last year, Dr. Gouge completed applications for the Heritage Veterinary Practice Registry with the American Veterinary Medical History Society and National Registry of Historical Locations.



Specialists in Kansas City 4th Annual Frostbite Seminar

Date: Sunday, February 20, 2011
 Time: 8am - 3pm
 CE: 7 KS and MO (Pending Approval)

Location: Overland Park Convention Center
 6000 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS 66211
 Fee: Seminar & Parking are FREE!



**RSVP TO GEORGIA FLOOD AT VETERINARY SPECIALTY AND EMERGENCY CENTER BY 2/1/11
 GFLOOD@VSECKC.COM OR 913-642-9563**

SPEAKER	TOPIC
Brian Cellio DVM, ACVIM	Treatment of Neuropathic Pain
Gary Modrcin DVM	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Options for Oral Disease
Cheryl Wood DVM, ACVIM Resident	Update on IMHA
Reuben Merideth DVM, ACVO	Glaucoma... Red and Blue are Never Good Eye Colors
Tamara MacDonald DVM, ACVS	Topical Wound Management
David Senter DVM, ACVD	Selected Topics in Feline Dermatology
Crystal Hoh DVM, ACVIM	Parvo Virus 2b and 2c
Emily Medici DVM, ACVIM	Review of Cytauxzoonosis
Candy Layton DVM, ACVS	What's New with Portosystemic Shunts
Trent Tuttle DVM, ACVS	Oral Surgical Diseases and Techniques
Heather Heeb DVM, ACVIM	Palliative Cancer Care
Laura Grigsby DVM, ACVIM Resident	Zinc Toxicosis
Kirk Suedmeyer DVM, ACZM	All Creatures Great and Small... How Do We Do It?
Kevin Christiansen DVM, ACVIM	What is Pulmonary Hypertension
Joanne Burns DVM, ACVR	Ultrasound of the Bladder and Caudal Abdomen
David Pinson PhD, DVM, ACVP, ACLAM	A Review of Leptospirosis
Scott Macgee DVM	Local Dental Nerve Blocks
Fritz Wood CPA, CFP	Practice Growth 2011- Your Biggest Profit Centers Revealed
Greg Dennis MS, JD	What's the Deal with Controlled Drugs
Kathy King DVM	Natural Therapies for Degenerative Joint Disease

IN MEMORIAM

Since the last issue of *News and Notes* two KCVMA Members have died.

KCVMA Life Member Dr. James McCrea passed away December 2. He will be remembered for his strong support of his alma mater. Dr. McCrea was proud to have been a member of the first graduating class of MU CVM in 1950. He earned a degree in the 1940's from the School of Agriculture. Between those years, he served the United States in the Army Air Corp.

Dr. McCrea found great pleasure in mentoring younger veterinarians, supporting several veterinary associations and in his friends and family. He was widely known as the "county vet" practicing in eastern Kansas before opening McCrea Veterinary Establishment near Platte City in the mid 50's. He loved equine and was a member of the Kansas City Carriage Club.

His motto was "52 - 52 - 52" which means work 52 hours a week for 52 weeks a year over 52 years. Actually, his strong work ethic lasted 60 years.

We also remember Dr. Daniel Gates who died October 29. He is remembered by his family, friends, veterinary college classmates and clients as a caring veterinarian with a gentle spirit. Over the years Dr. Gates was recognized as a wonderful and unique person. He was a strong advocate of pet population control. Memorial contributions to Animal Haven and Humane Societies are suggested.

Dr. Gates was a 1975 graduate of KSU CVM, and he established a mobile veterinary practice. He was an Army Veteran of the Vietnam War. Burial took place the Leavenworth National Cemetery.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, fax them to her attention at 913-341-4225 or email them to classifieds@kcvma.com. 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 2/13/11.

Seeking **full time veterinarian** for AAHA small animal practice, state of the art 12,000 sq ft facility, 40+ staff, ultrasound, video endoscopy, chemotherapy, dermatology, internal medicine, advanced orthopedic surgery. Excellent mentorship for new/recent graduates within a positive teamwork environment. Strong emphasis on continuing education and development of professional skills. Our staff and veterinarians stay long term due to a great work environment and our commitment to high quality, compassionate care. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. View our website at www.bluespringsanimalhospital.com. Contact Dr. Joe Rodier (816) 229-1544; drjoerodier@gmail.com, or mail resume to 1201 W. 40 Highway, Blue Springs, MO 64015

The University of Kansas Medical Center, a premier employer in the Kansas City Metropolitan area seeks a **Clinical Veterinarian** for its Department of Lab Animal Resources. Responsibilities include participating in clinical, surgical, and post-surgical care for all species housed in the animal facilities. The incumbent will also provide professional and technical support relative to humane animal care and use for faculty and staff involved in animal research, particularly in the development of new research projects. Additionally, the ideal candidate will provide professional support for all surgical training laboratories and maintain all medical records required by federal law. Competitive salary, excellent benefits package. View the complete position description and apply online only at the following direct link: <http://jobs.kumc.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=180267>

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Jerome Berkowitz913-515-3917 KS/MO	Shelley Lake.....913-533-9905 KS	Dennis Smith.....913-636-4206 KS
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Erin Evans.....913-339-8733 KS/MO	Susan Mikkelson.....913 596-0499 KS/MO	Paula Vale.....913-484-7012 KS/MO
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Kimberly Kessler913-548-1686 KS/MO	Donna Romanzi816-588-2392 MO	

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Michelle Chappell, DVM, CVA 913-825-3330
Linda Faris, DVM, CVM 816-640-3155

Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411
Michelle Rhoades, DVM, CVA 816-252-5105

Mike Tarrant, DVM, CVA 913-764-9000
Susan Vodraska, DVM, CVA 816-255-8361

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David Pinson, DVM, PhD, ACVP, ACLAM
913-568-7363

Anesthesiology:

Guy Watney, MA, VetMB, PhD, MRCVS,
ACVA 913-491-4965

Cardiology:

Kevin J. Christiansen, DVM, ACVIM
913-722-5566, 913-642-9563

Dermatology:

David Senter, DVM, ACVD 913-722-5566,
913-381-3937

Emergency and Critical Care:

Mark Brady, DVM, DACVECC 800-548-8387
Robin Wall, DVM, ACVECC 913-722-5566

Internal Medicine:

Tim Allen, DVM, DACVIM 913-647-2805

Lisa Cellio, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Crystal Hoh, DVM, MS, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Emily Medici, DVM, DACVIM 913-722-5566

Stephanie Pierce, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563

Michael Wasmer, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566

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Brian Cellio, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563

Oncology:

Heather Heeb, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Ophthalmology:

Brian Hunkeler, DVM, ACVO 816-554-4990

Susan Keil, DVM, MS, ACVO 913-722-5566

Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO

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Surgery:

D.A. Allen, DVM, PhD, ACVS 913-722-5566

Joseph P. Desch II, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563

Karl Frees, DVM, MS, ACVS

(Equine) 816-322-7722

Candace Layton, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563

Jayne Lineberger, DVM ACVS 913-722-5566

Steve Riley, DVM, DVSc, ACVS 913-642-9563

Eric Wilson, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-722-5566

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John S. Bradley, DVM, ABVP 785-843-9533

Thomas McKee, DVM, ABVP 816-341-9191

Richard Smith, DVM, ABVP 913-299-0010

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

Steve White, DVM, ABVP 913-432-7611

Zoological Medicine:

Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, ACZM 816-513-4669

2010 KCVMA OFFICERS...

President	Dr. J.C. Burcham	913-764-1415/ jburcham@kcvma.com
President-Elect	Dr. Mary Hughes	913-829-7387/ mhughes@kcvma.com
Vice President	Dr. Melissa Austin-Gundel.....	636-541-0352/ maustin-gundel@kcvma.com
Past President	Dr. Davinne Glenn.....	816-781-0778/ dglenn@kcvma.com
KS State Rep	Dr. Kathleen Claussen.....	913-897-2080/ kclaussen@kcvma.com
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Public Relations	Darin Nadler.....	800-409-5188 ext.103/ dnadler@kcvma.com