



A Letter From The President

January/February 2012

Hello everyone. As you all know, this is my first president's letter. So I thought I would start off by introducing myself. I grew up in California, the youngest of four children and the only girl. My father was a teacher and my mother worked for the Department of Social Services. For as long as I can remember I have always wanted to be a veterinarian, except for the time when I was delusional and thought I could dance my way to Broadway. I brought my first cat home when I was three. Duchess, as she was named, was pregnant and had three kittens shortly after I brought her home. Jasper, Mamie, and Twerp became my first patients. Thank the Lord that those cats were so even-tempered, otherwise I would have more scars. This was just the beginning of the animals that I would bring home. During high school I branched out into large animals and raised a sheep for FFA. After high school I went to California State University at Fresno. I had planned on being a mixed animal veterinarian and returning to California. I graduated with a degree in animal science and then started work on my Masters degree while I applied to vet schools. I was accepted at KSU into the class of 1999. Those four years hold very fond memories for me. Our class was wonderful. They were a second family for me. I met and married my husband, Jed, while in Manhattan. Jed and I have three wonderful children and several critters. I have been an associate at Blackbob Pet Hospital in Olathe since April of 2000.

As I look back on the past 12 years, I am struck by so many memories. I will spare you most of them but want to share just a few. My first is of an eccentric technician who wore cat-eyed glasses and had a few cats as well. I met Melissa the first day of work. She was warm, welcoming and an amazing technician. I was fresh out of school, scared, and intimidated by her skills. I know she sensed my insecurities but never let on, and she helped me through those first scary days. She helped me to realize that it is okay not to know everything.

My next memory is one, that I am sure, is not unique to me, but one that I will not forget. One day at the clinic, I had a patient that was having a bit of a scooting issue. I went into the exam room to explain to the owner what was happening and found out I don't always speak as clearly or as slowly as I should. When I started to explain that her dog was having problems with his anal sacs, the owner recoiled and informed me that her dog did not do

that. It took me a few seconds to realize what had just transpired. I was bright red and thoroughly embarrassed. I still chuckle when I think of that day.

The last memory I want to share is about a wonderful chocolate lab named Boomer. Boomer survived an intestinal torsion and lived with terrible atopy. No matter what came his way, his owner always did everything he could for Boomer. They were truly the best of friends. Recently, Boomer was diagnosed with lymphoma. He went down hill very quickly and I had to euthanize him last week. Boomer was lateral when he came in, but as I said my tearful goodbyes he wagged his tail. This is the part of the job that never gets easier for me, and I hope it never does.

While in vet school I was active in the student chapter of the AVMA, so when my husband mentioned that Kathleen (Claussen) was looking for board members for the KCVMA I was excited about the opportunity. I started out as the KCVMA representative to the KVMA. That position was fun and very educational since I got to see how the KVMA functions as well. The day at the capitol was a day I will always remember. I was then vice-president and in charge of setting up our continuing education meetings. This position was challenging but I learned so much from it. Last year I was president-elect and now I am honored to be your president. During my years on the board, I have met many wonderful colleagues that I am now happy to call friends. I am also excited about getting to know the new board members in the coming year.

There are two last things I would like to leave you with. The first is to remind everyone that Dr. Whitehair is running for AVMA Executive Board Representative for District IX. Ballots come out March 1st and are due at the end of March. Another area candidate, Dr. Fobian, is seeking the office of President-elect. You'll find more information about both candidates and the issues they will be working on if elected to office on page two of this newsletter. The second is, if you are interested in serving on the KCVMA board please feel free to attend one of our meetings.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful year.

President - mhughes@kcvma.com

SEEKING SUPPORT: AREA CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR AVMA OFFICE

BY: JEN NIGRO

The campaign period is well underway for several elected positions with the American Veterinary Medical Association. This year, two area veterinarians, one from Sedalia, MO and the other from Abilene, KS, are seeking higher office with the association. Both have previous experience in working with the AVMA, and hope that experience combined with their practice experience will catapult them into their next office.

Dr. Clark Fobian, DVM, is running for President-Elect of the AVMA for 2012-2013. He has operated the Thompson Hills Animal Clinic, a small animal practice, since 1981, and is wrapping up the last year of a six-year term on the AVMA's Executive Board, representing District VII (Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa). Dr. Fobian is also active with the MVMA, serving as President in 2003 as well as Chairman of the Board. The MVMA named him Veterinarian of the Year in 2006, and the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine recently named him Alumnus of the Year.

Dr. Fobian says the main issues he would like to continue to address as President-Elect are educational and economic. He notes that veterinary visits have been declining since before the recession hit, and veterinary practices are suffering because of it. "I have talked with veterinarians from around the country, and we're talking about younger veterinarians who have been through veterinary school and incurred a substantial debt," he says. "They are now having difficulty finding positions. This is something that was rarely seen ten to 20 years ago in our profession." Dr. Fobian says he hopes to use his AVMA office to investigate how educations are obtained and at what cost, how veterinary services are utilized, how they are competitively priced and what kind of income a practicing veterinarian can expect. "Unless we bring some balances to all of those dynamics, I am really worried about the well-being of a significant number of graduates over the next five to ten years."

Although no one is running against Dr. Fobian at this time, he says his background has prepared him to advocate for veterinarians across the country. "I would position myself as an officer who is very much in touch with the real issues being faced by real practitioners," he says. "It's not that the leadership of the AVMA is out of touch or doesn't know

what's really happening out among our profession. That couldn't be further from the truth."

Meanwhile, Dr. Michael Whitehair, DVM, is running for the Executive Board of the AVMA, representing District IX (Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.) He joined Abilene Animal Hospital, a practice that caters to both companion and agricultural animals, in 1975. Dr. Whitehair has spent the last 14 years in the AVMA's House of Delegates, serving seven of those years on the AVMA's House Advisory Committee and one as Chairman of the committee. In 2002, he received Kansas State University's CVM Alumni Recognition Award. He has also served on the KVMA Board of Directors.

Dr. Whitehair's focus is on the future of veterinary medicine. He says keeping the profession relevant is the key. "Without relevancy, it is difficult for us to attract a client base that allows us to provide a high level of care," he says. He's already been working on that issue as a member of the AVMA's 2020 Vision Committee. "The future will bring transformational change to our profession. Having been able to be a part of these

in-depth discussions about the future of veterinary medicine, I recognize that the work of change will never be finished." Dr. Whitehair says one of the key issues he will continue to pursue is the enhanced education of veterinary students. As a practitioner, he has already participated in a program that allows students from K-State to visit his practice and learn about all aspects, from medicine to business. But he says without broad action, the current situation is unsustainable, with students leaving school carrying high debt loads and unable to generate enough income to pay off those loans.

While there is a second contender seeking the District IX seat, Dr. Whitehair feels his ability to listen sets him apart. "We may think we have all the right answers, but often times we just didn't listen very well to what are membership concerns, hopes and dreams. In my mind, that's what should be the role of leadership in organized veterinary medicine."

Dr. Whitehair says members will get a ballot for the Executive Board election in the mail in early March. Election results will be announced in the first part of April. The House of Delegates will choose a President-Elect at the national convention in August.



Dr. Clark Fobian, DVM

Dr. Michael Whitehair, DVM

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY: JEN NIGRO

A new legislative session gets underway this month, and both the MVMA and KVMA are preparing to take a stand on important issues. Richard Antweiler, Executive Director of the MVMA, identifies two issues his members will be working on during the upcoming session. The first deals with efforts to change the definition of veterinary medicine to remove certain practices from that umbrella. This issue, which also came up last year, is expected to arise again due to a lawsuit between Brooke Gray of B&B Equine Dentistry and the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board. The board is seeking to stop Gray from sedating horses and filing down sharp enamel points on horse teeth with power tools, arguing the practice falls under the umbrella of veterinary medicine (Gray is not a DVM). Antweiler says the MVMA worked with Farm Bureau as they developed a policy on husbandry versus veterinary medicine practices. "We have held the position that the status quo is good," says Antweiler. "The licensing board has not been on any witch hunt against non-vets but has only appropriately applied cease and desist letters to a small number of individuals who were obviously breaking the law." Antweiler says area veterinarians can help the effort by responding to legislative alerts or testifying before legislative committees on the topic.

The second issue the MVMA is working on is an effort to even the playing field between veterinarians and medical doctors when it comes to malpractice liability. Currently, human medical doctors face a two-year statute of limitations on malpractice lawsuits. But veterinarians have a five-year window during which they can be sued. "It makes no sense," says Antweiler, "especially when the longevity of an animal is much less than a human." The MVMA contends that veterinarians, like human doctors, should be subject to no more than a two-year statute of limitations on malpractice suits. "We're continuing to try to get that through and this year, with the help of our members calling their legislators, we'll hopefully be successful. It is an uphill battle," says Antweiler.

On the Kansas side, the KVMA will throw its support behind a proposal by the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners that would make several changes to the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act. Gary Reser, Executive Director of

the KVMA, says most of the changes are updates designed to bring the act more in line with what is actually happening on the board. The proposal includes several changes in language that would:

- Give the board the authority to assess a \$5,000 fine against a licensee for each violation of a statute. Current language says the \$5,000 fine can be assessed for any violation, which may limit the fine.
- Allow the board to not only register veterinary technicians in Kansas, but also determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants for registration.
- Allow the audit of mobile veterinary practices for compliance with minimum standards of practice. Currently, only premise-based practices are audited.
- Establish the fee range for an audit for compliance with minimum standards of practice at between \$50 and \$150 dollars.
- Allow the board to sanction a practitioner's license if they enter a diversion in lieu of a felony.

In addition, Reser says the KVMA is considering a request from the Kansas Medical Society to support potential legislation that would allow veterinarians licensed in other states to become licensed in Kansas when they come to help in the event of a natural disaster like the Reading tornado. KVMA officers and legal council have reviewed the request, as has the Kansas Statewide Animal Response Team (K-SART). While it still needs to pass muster with the legislative committee and board of directors, Reser anticipates the measure will garner KVMA support. "Kansas veterinarians who want to weigh in on the issue should contact the KVMA," says Reser.

Finally, Reser says there are rumors that legislation might be proposed that would remove agricultural sales tax exemptions in an effort to increase state revenues. Sales tax exemptions on all veterinary professional services may also be in danger. Reser says he and his staff will continue to monitor the situation. "The KVMA is always vigilant of such things that could be a problem for the profession."

2012 DUES

Be on the lookout for your 2012 KCVMA Dues Statement in the mail. Those members who have provided an e-mail address will also receive an e-mail, linked to our online payment system. We encourage all members to pay online, but as always, we accept checks payable to KCVMA as well.

BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS THE GAME

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

The date was October 19, 1907 when the Kansas City Veterinary College (KVCV) traveled to Manhattan to play football against the Aggies, as the Wildcats were called then.

The private KC college grew from humble beginnings in 1891 to the fourth-largest veterinary college in the world and one of the two largest in the U.S. Historians believe the KVCV was the finest veterinary college on earth at that time. Nonetheless, a shortage of students caused by WWI and the growth of state-supported veterinary colleges forced the KVCV to close in 1918. KVCV records are archived at KSU.

By 1907, the KVCV was in its final home after growing out of three previous locations. This was a proud facility with several classrooms, a spacious library, a four story auditorium, a judging arena and a large gym. It was located near what was then 15th Street and Lydia Avenue.

The KVCV *Quarterly Bulletin* reported the team traveled from its swank downtown facility to play "The Farmers." However, the *Quarterly* concluded "the outcome was realized early." The Aggies won 33 to 0.

The Manhattan team was coached by the legendary Mike Ahearn. Ahearn holds the greatest winning percentage among all KSU coaches. Between 1905 and 1910 he coached 39 wins against 12 losses for a .765 winning percentage.

The *Quarterly* reported, "The game was an ideal one with regard to wrangling and slugging." That statement may have been a bit PC. Julius Willard indicates in his book *History of the Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science* that games were "rough and tumble," and without the gear players had when Willard wrote his book there were numerous injuries on both sides. It's reported that one Aggie player's leg was broken "by players falling across the leg when his foot was held above the ground." One professor was heard to say, "One does not have to sound the depths of infamy to know what infamy is." Later, the Board of Regents resolved, "We endorse to make the game less brutal."

Games were played at City Square located between Vattier and Ninth Streets and Juliette and Bluemont Avenues. Pictures are a courtesy of the KSU Archives. Today, that area houses Bluemont School and a residential area.

Other facts include: Season tickets were one dollar. The first out-of-state game was played in Nebraska against Creighton. In 1907, the College had 2,192 students. Basketball was first played on the Manhattan campus by young women. CVM professor and football official Dan Upson was run over by Mean Joe Green. Ouch!

Last year, Dr. Upson was named to the bovine practitioners Hall of Fame.



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 2/15/12.

Historical Small Animal Practice and Facility for Sale/Lease: The oldest continuing practice in Missouri, listed on the National Registry of Historical Places and listed as a 'Heritage Practice' by the American Veterinary Medical Historical Society. Located in central Missouri. Own and practice from a piece of history. For more information call 660-221-5747

Veterinarian Needed: Associate Veterinarian needed to join a busy small animal hospital located in Independence, MO. Hidden Valley Animal Hospital is a state-of-the-art, full service, primary care hospital with a very large active patient base and a great team to help you succeed in private practice! For more information contact Dr. Mel Falk, 816-795-7387 or fax your resume to 816-795-933.

Veterinary Hospital Manager – Kansas City, KS (Western Wyandotte County near the Legends.) Minimum of 3 years experience in medical care facility operations and have thorough knowledge of the veterinary profession. Email resume to lg222@q.com

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Kara Ballenger816-256-8680 KS/MO	Kevin Harsha816-898-4530 KS/MO	Terry Patterson816-524-3296 KS/MO
Jerome Berkowitz913-515-3917 KS/MO	Lucy Hirsch816-830-8816 KS/MO	Elizabeth Anne Phares913-271-8959 KS
Cathy Boyett816-315-9666 KS/MO	Kimberly Kessler913-548-1686 KS/MO	Amy Roberts816-205-0077 KS/MO
Amy Buncck816-225-4082 KS/MO	Kathy Kimber816-390-2704 KS/MO	Donna Romanzi816-588-2392 KS/MO
Tad Coles913-381-6444 KS	Julie Koupal816-590-0802 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth785-748-0055 KS/MO
Martin Drey785-218-9484 KS	Shelley Lake913-533-9905 KS	Alice Shaffer910-261-1577 KS
Erin Evans913-339-8733 KS/MO	Tim Lyon913-244-9961 KS/MO	Dennis Smith913-636-4206 KS
Daniel Frezza816-294-2256 MO	Korb Maxwell913-709-0208 KS	Shana Stelzer913-707-0906 KS/MO
Jim Garner913-620-8210 KS	Shawn McCracken417-399-3932 MO	Paula Vale913-484-7012 KS/MO
Maureen Gray913-538-6379 KS/MO	Susan Mikkelson913-596-0499 KS/MO	Susan Vodraska816-255-8361 KS/MO
Ryan Guldenpfennig515-451-4329 MO	Suzanne Ostle913-400-2059 KS	Dennis Weaver816-210-6769 KS/MO

CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

Acupuncture:

Teresa Bradley-Bays, DVM, CVA 816-331-3120
Pamela Deutsch DVM CVA 816-363-4922
Linda Faris, DVM, CVM 816-640-3155

Leanne Landau Kasitz, DVM, CVA 913-897-5595
Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411
Michelle Rhoades, DVM, CVA 816-252-5105

John Rowe, DVM CVA 816-363-4922
Mike Tarrant, DVM, CVA 913-764-9000
Susan Vodraska, DVM, CVA 816-255-8361

VETERINARY DIPLOMATES...

Anatomic/Surgical Pathology:

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 785-979-0227
Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563
Crystal Hoh, DVM, MS, ACVIM 913-642-9563

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Stephanie Pierce, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563
Michael Wasmer, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566

Neurology:

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

Oncology:

Heather Heeb, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Ophthalmology:

Amy Hunkeler, DVM, ACVO 913-381-3937
Susan Keil, DVM, MS, ACVO 913-722-5566
Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO
913-381-3937 or 800-776-3937

Rustin Sturgeon, DVM, ACVO 913-381-3937

Radiology/Ultrasound:

Joanne Burns, DVM, ACVR 785-221-0390
Loren Shaiken, DVM, ACVR 816-426-9896

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

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Steve Riley, DVM, DVSc, ACVS 913-642-9563
Trent Tuttle, DVM, ACVS 913-642-9563
Eric Wilson, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-722-5566

Veterinary Practitioners:

Vern Otte, DVM, ABVP 913-381-3272
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

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Public Relations	Darin Nadler.....	800-409-5188 ext.103/dnadler@kcvma.com

Specialists in Kansas City 5th annual Frostbite Seminar

RSVP to Georgia Flood at BluePearl Veterinary Partners by 2/1/12. georgia.flood@bluepearlvet.com or 913-642-9563

Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012

Time: 8:00am - 3:00pm

(A light continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.)

CE: 7 hours (Pending Approval)

Fee: Seminar and parking are complimentary

Location: Overland Park Convention Center

6000 College Blvd

Overland Park, KS 66211

Platinum Sponsors: Antech Diagnostics, Boehringer Ingelheim, Hill's, Novartis Animal Health, Pfizer, Webster Veterinary

TIME	RM.	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:00am – 8:30am	Registration; Meet with Sponsors; Continental Breakfast		
8:30am – 9:05am	1	Are you Fiscally Fit?	Fritz Wood CPA, CFP
	2	How to Approach Forelimb Lameness in Dogs	Steve Riley, DVM, ACVS
	3	Oh My, My Pet is Squinting	Amy Hunkeler, DVM, ACVO
9:10am – 9:45am	1	Juvenile Dentistry	Gary Modrcin, DVM
	2	Acute Pain Management	Robin Wall, DVM ACVECC
	3	Nasal Discharge	Brian Lucas, DVM
9:45am – 10:10am	Break and Meet with Sponsors / Snacks		
10:10am – 10:45am	1	Controlled Substances, ME, the Board and the DEA	Greg Dennis, MS, JD
	2	Elbows: Hygromas, Pressure Sores and such	Jayce Lineberger, DVM, ACVS
	3	Interpreting Aggressive Bone Lesions	Joanne Burns, DVM, ACVR
10:50am – 11:25am	1	Luxating Patellas	Kara Forsee, DVM
	2	Mammary Gland Tumors	Heather Heeb, DVM, ACVIM (Oncology)
	3	Toxic Soup for the Soul (Common Toxicities)	Kim Gugler, DVM
11:25am – 11:40am	Break: Meet with Sponsors / Snacks		
11:40am – 12:15pm	1	Trivial Pursuit – Dermatology Edition	David Senter DVM, ACVD
	2	Veterinary Dental Emergencies	Susan Crowder, DVM
	3	Hard to Swallow (Diseases of the Esophagus)	Stephanie Pierce, DVM, ACVIM
12:15pm – 1:40pm	4-7	Lunch: Meet with Sponsors	
1:40pm – 2:15pm	1	From Big Cat to Little Cat, What's the Difference?	Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, ACZM
	2	Radiographs of the Coughing Dog	Loren Shaiken, DVM, ACVR
	3	The Acute Abdomen: To Cut or Not to Cut	Tamara McDonald, DVM, Surgery Resident
2:20pm – 3:00pm	1	Cardiac Misconceptions	Kevin Christiansen, DVM, ACVIM (Cardiology)
	2	Practical Ophthalmic Considerations for Pediatrics and Geriatrics	Rustin Sturgeon, DVM, ACVO

March CE

Speaker: Tiffany Tapp, DVM,

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Dermatology

Topic: Pitfalls to Avoid in Veterinary Dermatology: Common errors made in working up dermatology cases and how to avoid them.

Date: March 15th, 2012 (3rd Thursday of the Month)

Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Presentation: 7pm

CE: 2 hours

Location: Boulevard Brewery

2501 Southwest Boulevard

Kansas City, MO 64108

816-474-7095

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required.

Current membership dues cover all CE.

*Boulevard Brewery has a maximum capacity of 100 guests

Sponsor: Elanco



RSVP by March 9, 2012 by contacting Mia Briones (brionesmi@elanco.com / 913-207-4838) or Lyndsay Farnsworth-Dick (913-481-3857)

Dr. Tapp is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology, and her special interests include the diagnoses and management of immune mediated and allergic dermatoses of dogs and cats. Dr. Tapp received her DVM in 1991 from Oklahoma State University and completed an internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at Auburn University. Her subsequent experience in private practice for four years influenced her selection to enter into a private practice residency with Drs. Griffin and Rosenkrantz at Animal Dermatology Clinic in Southern California. Following her residency, she established Veterinary Healing Arts in Rhode Island along with her husband, veterinary behaviorist, Dr. Vint Virga.