



## A Letter From The President

January/February 2013

Hello. I hope all of you had an enjoyable holiday season. It was especially memorable for me since my husband and I were celebrating with our new baby. I loved watching him take part in all of our traditions. It really is amazing to see him experience things for the first time.



*Braeden Ballenger*

Recently, we took him to the beach in Florida and he had the most curious look on his face when the water touched his toes. And all of this is just the beginning! I know I could go on and on about the ups and downs of being a new parent, but I should probably tell you a little about myself.

I have lived the majority of my life in the Northland. I started working with animals when I was around 12 or 13-years-old, operating a pet sitting "business" for my neighbors. Surprisingly, it was pretty successful. I then volunteered at an animal hospital and went on to work there in the kennel throughout high school and into college. This triggered my interest in becoming a veterinarian. I then spent seven years at Mizzou for undergraduate and veterinary school. I have many fond memories of my time in Columbia because that is where I met my husband and formed many lifelong friendships. For many years now we have returned every fall with a group of friends as football season ticket holders. I always look forward to the cooler weather because I know I'll be traveling to Columbia for fun-filled Saturdays tailgating and cheering for the Tigers.

Also during my college years, I spent my summer and winter breaks in Singapore and England since my parents lived abroad. One summer I worked with the veterinarians at the Singapore Zoo which was an extraordinary experience. I'll never forget the time my husband and I were at the zoo and

a monkey escaped its quarters and was roaming freely on the pedestrian paths. I'm sure this was not the first time, since the zoo prides itself on having an open concept. I really hope to visit again with my baby boy someday.

After graduating, I returned to the Northland. Though I now work at one practice, a couple of years ago I made the decision to do relief work. While traveling around the city I met many KCVMA members. I will always appreciate how you welcomed me into your practices. That experience allowed me to learn new techniques while sharing some of my own. I hope many of you now feel familiar with me and are comfortable approaching me with any new ideas or concerns.

One concern that has been brought to my attention is the issue of human pharmacies filling veterinary medications. While this is convenient for owners, some pharmacies are giving incorrect information about the prescribed drug, and in some cases, suggesting alternatives that are not safe without consulting a veterinarian first. I personally have not come across this but I know that many of you have. One of our board members took the initiative to contact the Kansas Board of Pharmacy to address this issue. Be sure to read the article in this newsletter for information on how to report problems on both sides of the state line.

I know we have an exciting year of continuing education and social events to come. I look forward to meeting many more KCVMA members at these gatherings. Meanwhile, please feel free to contact me or any of the board members with questions, comments, or ideas. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

*Kara Ballenger, DVM*

President - [kballenger@kcvma.com](mailto:kballenger@kcvma.com)

## UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHINESE VETERINARY STUDENTS

BY: JEN NIGRO

A new partnership involving Kansas State University is giving Chinese veterinary students the opportunity of a lifetime, while making a positive impact on the animal health industry worldwide. On October 28, 2012, K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) to create a program for Chinese students wishing to study veterinary medicine in the U.S. Under the agreement, as many as ten Chinese students would be chosen each academic year for five years, with their first year spent entirely at K-State. From there, students will apply to enter the veterinary medicine program at K-State, the University of California-Davis, Iowa State, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri, or Oklahoma State. Dr. Jishu Shi, Director of K-State's U.S.-China Center for Animal Health, says the partnership is a rare opportunity for Chinese students. "Since 1949 no Chinese citizen in mainland China was able to enroll in DVM programs in the U.S.," he says. "That's partly because they do not have the pre-veterinary preparation in the colleges in China, but also the cost is very expensive and most of them cannot afford to come here." The partnership overcomes those obstacles by offering Chinese students the pre-veterinary education they lack in China, while the CSC supports them financially, including tuition, fees, living expenses, and airline tickets to and from China. No U.S. or state tax dollars are used to fund the program.

Jing Li is one of four Chinese students studying at K-State this year under the program. He started as a veterinary medicine student at China Agricultural University. He has worked in a veterinary hospital in China and visited a vaccine factory, chicken farms, pig farms, and horse stables to learn more about how they operate. "I wanted to further my veterinary study," he says. But opportunities are limited in China. "CAU has the best vet school of my home country, so if I wanted to improve, the only way was to learn abroad." His professor told him about the program, and he decided to go through the rigorous application process. "It required my TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score to be above 100, a high GPA, and a very formal interview about my perspectives on veterinary science both in China and the U.S." Applicants also have to write an essay explaining why they want a CSC position and their career goals, as well as provide two recommendation letters.

But the program is about more than providing Chinese students the opportunity to earn a DVM degree in America.



From L to R: Bo Liu, Dr. Ralph Richardson, Jing Li prior to a KSU football game

"This is economically very important to both Kansas and Missouri," says Dr. Shi. "Kansas City, with its Animal Health Corridor, has a very strong presence in the animal health industry. Half the pigs in the world are in China, so a lot of companies in the Kansas City area are interested in China," he says. "Students who train at K-State will have the opportunity to get to know those companies and learn from them. Once they go back to China they will be able to help those companies, because they'll be familiar with both countries."

Critics have raised concerns that the partnership is taking opportunities away from U.S. students and workers. But Dr. Shi says that is not the case. "All of those students will have to go back to China after they complete their DVM studies in the U.S. They're not competing with any U.S. students to stay here to work." He says that's one of the other benefits to the program: students who study here will be able to go back and make improvements to China's veterinary medicine profession. Li agrees there will be plenty of work to do. "China faces many big issues like food safety, production efficiency, and infectious diseases among farm animals," he says. "These problems are largely due to deficient processing, examination, and veterinary systems." He says low pay also drives good veterinarians away. He hopes he can go back and use what he learned in the U.S. to change some of that. "The things I'm learning here cannot be totally applied to China," he says. "I need to find where the adjustments should be made. But the most important thing to deal with in China, I think, is raising the professional level of veterinarians and lifting their social status."

Meantime, Dr. Shi hopes the partnership between K-State and the CSC might one day lead to similar programs involving other countries. He is already working with the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health Foundation at Washington State University to see if they can help countries like Africa and Southeast Asia. "I see the need," he says. "The challenge is financial. Most students in those

developing countries do not have the financial means to pay out of state tuition, and if their government doesn't support them it can be very difficult to set up a program." Still, he says there's hope. "To be honest, it was really beyond my expectation that the Chinese government would pay all tuition and living expenses when we set up this program."

Li says so far, he and his classmates-- Bo Liu, Yi Ding and Yaoquin Shen—are adapting well to life at K-State. "The classes are easy to me because I have had five years of

study," he says. "People here are so nice and they are always willing to help. I meet friends from all over the world." In addition, he and Bo, who also happens to be his girlfriend, are becoming quite the Wildcat football fans. "We had never seen an American football game before coming to Manhattan. It is really fantastic!"

For more information about K-State's U.S.-China Center for Animal Health, visit <http://www.vet.k-state.edu/international/USCCA/index.htm>.

## VETERINARIANS, CLIENTS KEY TO PREVENTING PRESCRIPTION ERRORS

BY: JEN NIGRO

Chances are when you send a client home with a prescription for their pet, you have checked and double-checked to make sure the type and dosage of the medication are correct. You trust the pharmacist to follow your instructions to the letter- but that may not always happen. The Kansas Veterinary Medical Association has received several reports recently of human pharmacists making changes to veterinary prescriptions. They, in conjunction with the American Veterinary Medical Association, are working with the Kansas Board of Pharmacy to make sure action is taken when this happens.

The push started last summer when the AVMA sent a letter to all 50 state boards of pharmacy expressing concern over reports of pharmacists changing dosages or drugs on veterinary prescriptions without consulting the prescribing veterinarian. The KVMA then sent a letter of its own to the state board detailing several examples. One involved a pharmacist in the Johnson County area reducing the dosage on a thyroid medication to meet human standards, thereby rendering it ineffective for the animal receiving it. Another involved a Kansas City, Kan., pharmacist telling a client they could substitute Ibuprofen for Rimadyl after the client expressed concern at the cost.

The KVMA letter, written by Dr. Tom Jernigan, DVM and KVMA President, noted that though human pharmacists are uniquely educated to deal with humans, they aren't specifically trained to treat non-human species. "The KVMA respectfully requests that pharmacists be directed to communicate directly with referring veterinarians before making any therapeutic or management recommendations or suggestions for alternative animal medications or dosages," he wrote. In addition to contacting the Kansas Board of Pharmacy, Gary Reser, Executive Director of the KVMA, met with the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners along with Dr. Beth Davis, Dr. Shirley Arck, and Dr. Marty Vanier.

Board President Jim Garrelts responded to the KVMA's concerns with a letter of his own, stating the board would take the concerns seriously and investigate any complaints filed with them. He also expressed a willingness to collaborate with the veterinary profession to educate Kansas pharmacists about medication dosing and use in animals. "The Kansas Board of Pharmacy reaction to the KVMA letter and visit was

extremely enthusiastic," said Reser. "We are very pleased with how it turned out."

Mr. Richard Antweiler, Executive Director of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, says he has not heard of any recent cases like those seen in Kansas, but he says it's definitely something veterinarians and pet owners should watch for. "Usually human pharmacists will do what's on the script," he says. "But if they're not familiar and they think they know better than the veterinarian, that's when you have problems."

Regardless of which side of the state line you live on, complaints should be made to your state's Board of Pharmacy. On the Kansas side, you can do that by visiting <http://www.kansas.gov/pharmacy>. Click on the Legal Division link on the left side of the page, then Consumer Complaint Form. Once filled out, send the form to Kansas Board of Pharmacy, 800 SW Jackson, Ste. 1414, Topeka, KS 66612. Complaints can also be emailed to Debra Billingsley at [pharmacy@pharmacy.ks.gov](mailto:pharmacy@pharmacy.ks.gov). Though the Pharmacy Board only meets four times in a given year, complaints are investigated throughout the year. In Missouri, go to <http://www.pr.mo.gov/pharmacists.asp>. Choose the "Complaint Form" link on the right side of the page. Once filled out, send the form to Missouri Board of Pharmacy, 3605 Missouri Boulevard, P.O. Box 625, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0625. The Missouri Board of Pharmacy typically meets five times per year, but like Kansas, complaints are investigated year-round.

In addition to encouraging clients to file complaints, the Food and Drug Administration encourages veterinarians to make sure their clients know:

- The name of the drug their pet is getting and what it is supposed to do
- How much of the medication should be given each time
- How many times a day the medication should be given
- Any reactions their pet may have to the medication

Making sure clients have this information before they visit the pharmacy can help them detect any discrepancies between the veterinarian's instructions and the filled prescriptions.

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for its members and guests.

All suggestions and comments are welcomed.  
Please write or call Wanda Geis.  
PO Box 12468  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468

P 913-381-7823  
www.kcvma.com

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## BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS THE PRESIDENT'S UNCLE BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

The veterinarian looked at a picture of his favorite nephew and said, "God has his hand on this boy. You will live to see him President of the United States." The veterinarian was Dr. Abraham Lincoln Eisenhower and his nephew was our 34th President.

Dr. Eisenhower – or Abe as he was called – was born in the wake of his namesake's assassination in 1865. David was Abe's brother and the President's father.

As a boy, Abe spent long days working on his father's farm near Abilene, Kan. On weekends he would ride fast ponies over the prairie in a light buggy. His love of animals was characteristic of the Eisenhower family.

At that time, it wasn't unusual for the formally untrained to act as professionals. Abe did the same and placed a shingle over his father's mercantile in nearby Hope, Kan., calling himself a veterinarian.

Two nearby practitioners provided practical instruction and before long young Eisenhower was in business.

As a way to promote his practice, Abe would drive his buggy over Dickinson County roads as fast as possible creating a dusty sight. Farmers who watched must have thought he was a busy doctor who was in demand and must be good -- which he was.

When the mercantile closed Abe decided to seek formal

veterinary training. He attended classes at the Chicago Veterinary College during the winter and spring of 1889 and 1890. He received the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science the following March. The list of graduates showed him as "A.L. Eisenhoever" of "Abilene IL". The training he received was apparently better than the mistaken listing.

Following graduation, Abe returned to Abilene and opened a practice on the grounds of what is today the

Eisenhower Library and Museum. Over the barn a large sign read "Dr. A.L. Eisenhower, Veterinarian". The sign must have been visible over all of Abilene as it hung 30 feet high on the impressive barn.

The President's boyhood home remains on the property. The 818 square foot home was called "a mansion" although it housed six boys, including the President and their folks.

Dr. Eisenhower attended an evangelistic tent meeting in Abilene and received a calling to the ministry. Later, he was ordained as a minister and served churches in Oklahoma, Ohio and Iowa before retiring and moving to California.

The veterinarian died in 1944 and did not see his nephew sworn in as President of the United States.

*Regards to Dr. Ron Elmore, Associate Dean at KSU CVM, for lecture notes and to the Eisenhower Library and Museum for the image.*





# 7th Annual Frostbite Continuing Education Symposium

Date: Sunday, February 24, 2013  
 Time: 8:00am - 3:00pm  
 (A light continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.)  
 CE: 7 hours KS/MO (Pending Approval)

Fee: Seminar and parking are complimentary, thanks to several generous partners.  
 Location: Overland Park Convention Center  
 6000 College Blvd.,  
 Overland Park, KS 66211

TOPIC	SPEAKER
Missed Charges are Painful	Fritz Wood
Canine Aggression: Assessing the Danger	Wayne Hunthausen
Red Eye: Where to Start	Heather Kaese
Approaches to Polyarthropathy	Catherine Peace
Piroxicam vs Prednisone for Cancer Treatment	Heather Heeb
Management of Benign Oral Tumors	Gary Modrcin
Treatment of Refractory Epilepsy	Brian Cellio
Otitis Externa and Media	David Senter
Stabilization of the GDV patient	Ryan Bragg
Concealed Weapons in Veterinary Practices	Greg Dennis
Hip Certification Radiology	Joanne Burns
Laryngeal Paralysis	Trent Tuttle
Head Trauma and Traumatic Brain Injury	Kim Gugler
Everything I Needed to Know in Surgery (I learned the hard way)	Candy Layton
Hormone Therapy in Renal Disease	Crystal Hoh
Updates on Treatments for Urinary Stones	Nicole Smee
Vestibular Disease: An Overview	Nora Ortinau
Upper Airway Disease	Jayce Lineberger
CPR Update	Robin Wall
Managing Bug-Eyed Corneal Cases	Susan Keil

## March CE

Speaker: Gary I. Glassman, CPA, Burzenski & Company, P.C.  
 Topic: The Great Market Shift – effects that the flea and tick market have had on your bottom line  
 Date: Thursday, March 21st, 2013  
 Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Presentation: 7pm  
 CE: 2 hours

Location: Brio Tuscan Grille  
 500 Nichols Road  
 Kansas City, MO 64112  
 816-561-5888

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required.  
 Current membership dues cover all CE.  
 Sponsor: Elanco

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RSVP by contacting Mia Briones (brionesmi@elanco.com / 913-207-4838) or Lyndsay Farnsworth-Dick (farnsworth-dickle@elanco.com / 913-481-3857)

Gary I. Glassman, CPA, has been a practicing Certified Public Accountant since 1976. In 1988, he became a partner of Burzenski & Company, P.C. Mr. Glassman focuses on the field of veterinary practice management, and specializes in financial management and tax planning for veterinary practices and their owners. Additionally, he has extensive experience in the areas of practice valuation, related practice sale, merger and acquisition activity, structuring buy/sell agreements as well as hospital expansion and financing.

A graduate of the University of Bridgeport with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Mr. Glassman is a regular instructor at the Veterinary Management Consultation, Inc. School for Veterinary Practice Management. He regularly speaks at national veterinary conferences on financial and tax topics, including "Tax Tips for the Practice Owner" and "Financial Reporting to Improve Practice Results". He is frequently quoted in national veterinary publications.

He is a member of the Veterinary Hospital Managers Association, American Animal Hospital Association and National Association of Certified Valuators & Analysts. He is a charter member of VetPartners™, a national organization of veterinary advisors and consultants. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Serving on the editorial board of Veterinary Economics magazine, Mr. Glassman contributes regular articles, including the column "Tax Strategies". Other bylined articles featured in Veterinary Economics have included "Pump it UP; Overcoming Stagnated Growth" and "Stay Straight with the IRS" and "The Great American Loan Proposal."

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, or email them to [classifieds@kcvma.com](mailto: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 2/13/13.

Clinic looking to add a new doctor to our growing business. Fun business, great family atmosphere. Also seeking a kennel care person with great patience and a eye for detail in every direction. Please email if interested at [kklnorris@yahoo.com](mailto:kklnorris@yahoo.com). Raytown/Kansas City area.

Blue Springs Animal Hospital & Pet Resort is seeking an associate veterinarian. Excellent mentorship for new/recent graduates in a positive teamwork environment where "It's All About Caring!". State of the art 12,000 sq ft AAHA practice, 45+ support staff, ultrasound, video endoscopy, digital radiography, chemotherapy, advanced orthopedic and soft tissue surgery. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Contact Dr. Nikki Stark (816) 229-1544 or send resume to 1201 SW US Highway 40, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

\*81 MU Grad seeking steady part-time position. MO and KS license. Call Lucy Hirsch at 816-830-8816.

Veterinary Technician, full-time position available at Lakewood Animal Health Center, a progressive four-doctor AAHA accredited practice in Lee's Summit. We focus on quality, thorough medicine rather than high volume. Excellent clientele and support staff. Check us out at [www.lakewoodanimal.com](http://www.lakewoodanimal.com) Fax or email resume and application to: 816-373-5176 or [lakewoodanimal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lakewoodanimal@sbcglobal.net), subject line: RVT Position. Mail information to: Kathy Moore, DVM, Lakewood Animal Health Center, 5001 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit MO 64064.

Noah's Ark Animal Clinic, a high quality small animal clinic is seeking a full-time Veterinary Technician to become a member of our health care team. Responsibilities include exam room and surgery support, post-surgical care and laboratory diagnostics. Work with veterinarians committed to excellence. Successful candidates must possess proven client service and communication skills, strong technical skills and compassion. Certified technician preferred, but 2+ years experience as a technician may be substituted for certification. We offer a competitive salary along with numerous benefits including subsidized health and dental, reduced veterinary rates and employee incentive bonuses. To apply, send resume with cover letter and salary requirements as follows: Mail to 6305 Main St. Kansas City, MO 64113. Email to [jobs@noahsarkanimalclinic.com](mailto:jobs@noahsarkanimalclinic.com) or Fax to 816-361-2920. No phone calls please.

## RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

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Martin Drey .....785-218-9484 KS	Kimberly Kessler ..... 913-548-1686 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth .....785-748-0055 KS/MO
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Paula Gibson .....605-254-6014 KS/MO	Tim Lyon ..... 913-244-9961 KS/MO	Paula Vale .....913-484-7012 KS/MO
Sarah Golladay .....816-726-9471 MO	Korb Maxwell ..... 913-709-0208 KS	Kenneth VanSickle .....816-331-7972 KS/MO
Maureen Gray .....913-538-6379 KS/MO	Susie Mikkelsen ..... smikkelsen85@gmail.com	Dennis Weaver .....816-210-6769 KS/MO
Randy Hamilton .....913-927-9088 KS	KS/MO	

## CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

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Cheri Jones, DVM, CVA 913-381-3272  
Leanne Landau Kasitz, DVM, CVA 913-897-5595  
Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA, CVFT, CAC  
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Michelle Rhodes, DVM, CVA 816-252-5105  
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Heather Kaese, DVM, MS, DACVIM, DACVO  
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Susan Keil, DVM, MS, DACVO 785-331-4600

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913-381-3937 or 800-776-3937

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Karl Frees, DVM, MS, ACVS

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Steve White, DVM, ABVP 913-432-7611

### Zoological Medicine:

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

Gregory Dennis has served and represented the KCVMA and Kansas City area veterinarians for 25 years.  
To reach Mr. Dennis, contact: Leongatha Law, LLC | 14801 E 42nd Street, Suite 600 | Independence, MO 64055-4776

P: 816-373-8100 | F: 816-373-8102 | [gdennis@leongathalaw.com](mailto:gdennis@leongathalaw.com)