

news & notes

A Letter From The President

January/February 2015

Hello everyone and welcome to my first President's letter! I hope you have had a great holiday season and New Year's celebration. I felt like the time flew by.

With the KCVMA's transition to online management for our membership and dues, many of you should have received an email about online renewal for 2015. Our goal is to achieve 100% online renewal, both to reduce paper waste and streamline the process. If you haven't renewed yet you can visit www.kcvma.com, click on the "Membership" link and follow the instructions provided. It is very easy and ensures you receive our emails regarding CE, social events and member surveys.

Speaking of continuing education, our first event of the year is on Thursday, January 15. Dr. Lisa Miller will present "An Introduction to Laser Therapy and How to Integrate the Technology". Dr. Miller's lecture will be at Boulevard Brewing, and we expect to fill all the seats. Space is limited, so be sure and register today! Keep in mind – membership dues must be paid before you will be able to register for CE. More information can be found on the KCVMA website.

One of my favorite parts of KCVMA is the networking and socializing. I have to apologize for dropping the ball this year on planning the social events (as you will see later in the letter, clinic co-ownership can be all-consuming). We do have a spring social in the works, most likely a Roasterie coffee company tour with a weekend lunch. The Sporting KC game we did previously was a HUGE hit, so we have already submitted a deposit to ensure we have top bid for group tickets. More details will follow, but you are welcome to check the website for updates. We are always open to suggestions when it comes to the socials, so feel free to email me!

I would like to finish by letting you know a little about me. I am a 2008 MU graduate (Go Tigers!) and have practiced in the Kansas City area since graduation. I made a huge change in my professional life mid-2014, transitioning from an associate to co-owner of a practice (Union Hill Animal Hospital). For those who have gone down that path, you can understand what a huge, stressful, exciting step this is!

My family has been wonderfully supportive of this decision and patient with the (hopefully) temporary shift in my work-life balance. As veterinarians, we tend to work long hours and give too much of ourselves emotionally, and often our personal lives



suffer. This may be why the recent articles questioning the ethics of our profession and our integrity have upset me. The most recent one of note is the Reuters article *Vets face conflicting loyalties to animals, farmers – and drug firms*. If you're not familiar, the article asserts that pharmaceutical companies are able to influence veterinarians' decisions and recommendations with financial contributions to sponsorships, training programs, veterinary schools, etc. (The full article can be found here: http://bit.ly/kcvmareuters.) Thankfully, the AVMA responded to this assault on the integrity of our profession (http://bit.ly/avma-reuters).

One of my New Year's resolutions (I know, I know, does anyone really keep theirs?) is to improve my work-life balance. What is this I speak of? Oh, you know, actually leaving work on time, enjoying my day off (That laundry can wait!) and making sure I stay connected to my family and friends beyond a Facebook post. I challenge you to do the same this year.

Christi Belew President - cbelew@kcvma.com



Going Green in 2015

BY: JEN NIGRO

From the installation of vehicle charging stations in store parking lots to the growing popularity of LED lightbulbs, 2015 promises to bring a continued focus on reducing carbon footprints. Making your veterinary practice more environmentally friendly may seem like a daunting task, but there are things you can do, large and small, to make a difference.

First Things First: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

The American Veterinary Medical Association says recycling can be a big step for practices looking to become more sustainable. Small things like printing documents double-sided to reduce paper use and asking your suppliers to minimize packaging whenever possible will make a big difference in the amount of waste your practice produces. Ordering supplies in larger quantities can also help decrease the amount of packaging that flows through your practice. Dr. Sheila Dodson, owner of Mariposa Veterinary Wellness Center in Lenexa, a clinic built in 2007 with the environment in mind, says recycling is a huge part of the clinic's mission to reduce its carbon footprint. "We convinced our trash collector to let us have recycling bins, even though it's not a regular service they provide to businesses, so we can recycle all the cardboard, paper and plastic we get from our suppliers," she says. You can also reduce the amount of waste you produce by digitizing medical records. "We scan any records sent to us from other clinics into the computerized form, so we are trying to minimize as much paper as we can. That's been a wonderful way to run a practice," notes Dr. Dodson. The AVMA suggests it may be helpful to put a single staff member in charge of recycling efforts to help other employees make the most of the recycling program.

Step Two: Increase Energy Efficiency

The lighting you choose can impact your carbon footprint as well. Dr. Dodson notes the full-spectrum fluorescent lighting used at Mariposa not only makes the building more energy-efficient, but supports the well-being of all who work and visit there by emitting fewer chemicals. Other ways to reduce energy consumption include turning off computers and/or monitors when not in use, installing timers or motion sensors on lights in low-traffic areas and replacing appliances with more energy-efficient models when possible.

A climate-controlled building is also a must when it comes to conserving energy. Because the Mariposa clinic was designed with energy-efficiency in mind, it is situated to take full advantage of winter sun. The building itself is constructed from stucco-covered straw bales (a method that dates back to the late 1800s), which keep the building well-insulated. The building also uses passive solar heating and radiant tubing in the floors. While most practices weren't built with these features, they can be incorporated into new construction or expansions to your existing location. Dr. Dodson recently converted an open front area into two additional exam rooms and added a Chinese herbal pharmacy that use the same straw bale construction, fluorescent lighting and passive solar heating methods as the original construction. "We've upheld the way the building was designed and established and continue to do that in the new addition," she says. "We're all committed to that as part of what we do because our focus is on a healthy life for pets."

Not looking to remodel? Simple changes like installing programmable thermostats can make a big difference. Consumer Reports recommends installing thermostats away from heating or cooling vents as well as direct sunlight. It's best to keep the temperature constant for long periods of time (for instance a daytime setting and a nighttime setting) to maximize the benefits.

Kick Chemicals to the Curb

A fresh coat of paint can make your clinic more attractive and healthier. Choose paint without volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to keep your air quality healthy. "We use low-VOC paint that has low off-gassing just to protect the environment and the people here," says Dr. Dodson. "We're all committed to that as part of what we do." Using digital radiography eliminates the need for chemical processing and silver recycling. Choose eco-friendly cleaning supplies. And, if a chemical spill does happen, make sure your staff knows the proper procedure for cleaning it up safely.

Go with the (Water) Flow

Low-flow faucets and toilets will help you cut down your water consumption. You can also reduce the amount of packaging you use by installing a water filter on drinking fountains instead of offering bottled water. And don't forget to look at water usage outside. A landscape designed with native, drought-resistant plants will mean little or no watering come summer.

For more tips on making your practice environmentally friendly, visit https://www.avma.org/PracticeManagement/Facilities/Pages/Options-for-integrating-eco-friendly-features-into-veterinary-practices.aspx.

Slowing Down: How to Keep Staff Busy During the Winter Months

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, everyone is ready for a break—but that often translates into fewer veterinary visits during the early winter months. Drs. Matt Peuser of Olathe Animal Hospital and Kathleen Claussen of Stanley Veterinary Clinic have both seen business slow during January and even into February. "A lot has to do with the holidays and the weather," says Dr. Peuser. "You wouldn't think it, but our businesses are seasonal. This year hasn't slowed down yet, which is obviously a great thing." Dr. Claussen adds, "Most people are busier with family, friends and travel. I'm always surprised at the people who do come in for their pets' vaccinations on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. I think some people are taking advantage of having a day off work."

In anticipation of fewer appointments, both of these veterinarians come up with ways to keep their staff busy, as well as encourage clients to come in the door. Cleaning is always a priority. "Each of our team members is in charge of a specific area of the hospital or specific service, like dentistry or outpatient care, for cleaning, stocking products, and making sure everything is up-to-date," explains Dr. Peuser. Both veterinarians find it's a great time to catch up on projects like continuing education and paperwork. Dr. Peuser notes, "There are always handouts to work on, discharge instructions or other client-centered things that can be done." That includes checking in with clients they haven't seen in awhile. "We have technicians contact clients by phone about overdue preventative care in an effort to generate additional appointments," says Dr. Claussen.

With fewer clients coming in the door, now may also be a great time to implement some new marketing strategies for your business. Dr. Peuser says Olathe Animal Hospital participates in National Pet Dental Health month in February, and has considered doing a Facebook promotion for discounted services to help bring in more pet owners. "So far, we haven't had to," he says.

Still, this may be the perfect time to try new marketing ideas for your clinic. www.DVM360.com offers several suggestions for bringing in new clients:

- Bundle services together and provide a discount. This
 could be done in conjunction with dental health month or
 other national promotions.
- Sponsor a contest or competition, either through your social media accounts (be sure to check the rules for each platform) or through texts, emails or client visits to promote the specials you are offering.
- Include information about other services when you send out appointment reminders and call lapsed clients.
- Consider extending your practice hours to evenings and weekends. Stanley veterinarian Dr. Claussen has recently done this to better accommodate clients.
- Offer a monthly coupon for services you want to promote.

- Become a donation site for your local humane society.
 Your clinic name and location will be listed in their promotional materials!
- Host a special event for clients. It could be educational
 in nature, or an open house to simply say thank you and
 show off the "behind the scenes" areas of your clinic.
 Have some small giveaways on hand and give clients an
 opportunity to enter prize drawings to introduce them to
 new products or services.
- Start a rewards program to keep customers coming back.
 Offer clients a punch card treating them to a free nail trim when they buy nine, or a free box of treats when they come in for their pet's annual preventative care appointment.

As Dr. Peuser points out, slow is a relative term. "We are never at a loss for things to do. There is always work to be done," he notes. But putting a plan of action in place for the winter months will ensure your staff stays busy, whether they are working on something new, or playing catch-up.

It's Time to Renew Your KCVMA Membership!

As we celebrate a new year, the KCVMA would like to express our appreciation for each of our members. Our goals as an organization are simple - to support and celebrate Kansas City-area veterinarians through continuing education, networking opportunities and informative publications. Your membership in the KCVMA allows us to strive for the best quality speakers, venues and resources possible. Without you, the KCVMA wouldn't be what it is today.

If you have not renewed your KCVMA membership for 2015, please visit http://members.kcvma.com and follow the instructions provided. Remember – only dues-paid members may attend continuing education opportunities, including the event on January 15. If you have questions about the renewal process, contact our website administrator (Darin Nadler, dnadler@kcvma.com, 913-324-5961).

Note to Life Members: Even though your membership is complimentary, we ask that you complete the renewal process. This critical step keeps you in our system as an active member. If you choose not to renew, we'll assume you no longer wish be an active member and we'll remove you from our contact lists. If you would prefer to renew via email or over the phone, please contact Darin Nadler (dnadler@kcvma.com / 913-324-5961) or Wanda Geis (wgeis@kcvma.com / 913-381-7823).



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

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Built on the Shoulders of Veterinary Giants: Early Veterinary Education in the US BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Between 1852 and 1938, 41 mostly private institutions of veterinary medicine opened in the United States. The Veterinary College of Philadelphia was the first. Middlesex University SVM in Waltham, MA, was the last to close in 1947. The first two institutions, including the college in Philadelphia and the Boston Veterinary Institute (1854), did not list their graduates. For this reason, the NYC College of Veterinary Surgeons (1857) may have been the first institution to have graduates. Nonetheless, AVMA recognizes the Philadelphia facility as the first college or school of veterinary medicine in the US.

Veterinary College of Philadelphia

Early advocates for veterinary education were associated with the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, founded in 1785. Judge Richard Peters, described as a "patriot, lawyer and country gentleman", was the first advocate to promote veterinary medicine as president of the Philadelphia Society in 1805. Later he was awarded a gold medal for his efforts. Dr. Benjamin Rush addressed medical students at the University of Pennsylvania in 1807 on "The Duty and Advantages of Studying the Diseases of Domestic Animals and Remedies Proper to Remove Them". It's interesting to note that Dr. Rush signed the Declaration of Independence. Dr. James Mease realized the need for veterinary education, presenting lectures to medical students in 1813 regarding comparative anatomy and diseases of domestic animals.

The Veterinary College of Philadelphia closed in 1866 after 14 years of operation. Why the college did not list their graduates is a mystery.

Other Early Private Colleges

The majority of these private institutions were located in the eastern half of the US.

Three of the 41 aforementioned institutions graduated more than 1,000 students. Between 1893 and 1920 the Chicago Veterinary College educated 2,320 veterinarians. Close behind was the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC) with 1,857 graduates. In its day the KCVC (1891 – 1918) was considered the finest veterinary college in the world, and today is considered the foundation of the veterinary corridor between KSU and MU. The McKillip Veterinary College, also in Chicago, graduated 1,223 veterinarians between 1894 and 1920.

In addition to KCVC, Missouri was home for four other veterinary institutions. In Kansas City, Western Veterinary College graduated 178 students between 1897 and 1908. University Veterinary College graduated 53 students during its four years of operation beginning in 1902. The St. Joseph Veterinary College had 421 graduates between 1905 and 1923. The St. Louis Veterinary College lasted one year in 1875.

Early Public Colleges

Public funding of veterinary education is cited as one reason for ending the role of the private institutions.

The earliest public institutions were Iowa State (1879), University of Pennsylvania (1883), Ohio State (1885), Cornell (1894), Washington State (1899) and KSU (1905). The UP SVM was the first accredited veterinary college in the US that had its origin in medicine rather than agriculture. The first dean was Rush Shippen Huidekoper, a descendent of the aforementioned Benjamin Rush. Dr. Huidenkoper was president of the AVMA from 1887 to 1892.

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

January CE

Speaker: Lisa A Miller, DVM, CCRT, CVA (pending), LiteCure, LLC /

Companion Therapy Laser

Topic: An Introduction to Laser Therapy & How to Integrate the Technology

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015

Time: 6pm – Registration and Dinner, 7pm – Program

CE: 2 hours

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

Location: Boulevard Brewing Company

2501 Southwest Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64108

816-221-4286 / 816-585-7757

AAHA Market Link, MWI, Companion Therapy Laser









Dr. Miller is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. After graduation in 2003, Dr. Miller completed an internship in internal medicine, then became certified in canine rehabilitation therapy at the Canine Rehabilitation Institute. Working in a large referral practice, she practiced canine rehabilitation, sports medicine, neurological rehabilitation and acupuncture for several years before returning to general practice.

Sponsors:

Currently working for Companion Therapy Laser, she is quite pleased to have found a place in industry that allows her to still be actively involved in treating patients as well as in learning about the latest technology in therapeutic lasers and helping veterinarians incorporate the technology successfully into their practices.

9th Annual Frostbite Continuing Education Symposium

Date: Sunday, March 1, 2015 Time: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Fee: Seminar and parking are complimentary, thanks to

several generous partners.

CE: 6 hours KS/MO (Pending Approval) Location: Overland Park Convention Center

6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211















		VETERINARY		
TIME	RM.	TOPIC	SPEAKER	
8:00am – 8:30am		Registration; Meet with Sponsors; Continental Breakfast		
8:30am – 9:05am	Α	Surgery of the Bladder	Kara Forsee, DVM – (Surgery)	
	В	Artificial Tears (Cry Me a River)	Amy Hunkeler, DVM, DACVO, MBA	
	С	It's 2015: Time for Your Annual Fiscal Exam	Fritz Wood, CPA, CFP	
9:10am – 9:45am	Α	Complicated Urinary Tract Infections	Crystal Hoh, DVM, DACVIM	
	В	Interrelationship of Diabetes and Periodontal Disease	Scott MacGee, DVM, DAVDC	
	С	Paraphimosis, Ureteoliths, and Ectopic Ureters	Heather Millard, DVM, MS, DACVS-SA	
9:45am – 10:15am		Break and Meet with Sponsors / Snacks		
10:15am – 10:50am	А	Walking the Dog: Solutions for Reactive Dogs on Lead	Wayne Hunthausen, DVM	
	В	Heart Murmurs Where, Why, and Now What	Lauren Hatton, DVM, DACVIM - (Cardiology)	
	С	Update on Feline Hyperthyroidism	Alicia Barngert, DVM - (Internal Medicine)	
10:55am – 11:30am	А	Commonly Used Medications in Neurology	David Weinstein, DVM - (Neurology)	
	В	What Special Stains Can Do for You	Heather Heeb, DVM, DACVIM - (Oncology)	
	С	Bacterial Resistance in Dentistry, Now Which Antibiotic Do I Choose?	Gary Modrcin, DVM, DAVDC	
11:35am – 12:10pm	А	Trivial Pursuit ® Dermatology Edition Part II	David Senter, DVM, DACVD	
	В	Laryngeal Paralysis	Kurt Hazenfield DVM, MS - (Surgery)	
	С	Protein Losing Nephropathy	Catherine Peace, DVM - (Internal Medicine)	
12:10pm – 1:45pm		Sponsor Presentations (Lunch)		
1:45pm – 2:20pm	B/C	Room B&C: Panel Discussion: What Would You Do With This Patient? Panel discussion to include how each clinician approaches and treats patients presenting for various clinical conditions including dyspnea, vomiting, diarrea, bleeding, urinary obstruction, seizures and dysuria. Scenarios and questions will be presented by a moderator. Attendees will be encouraged to participate in the discussion and will have the opportunity to ask questions.	Jeff Dennis, DVM, DACVIM Stephanie Pierce, DVM, DACVIM Ryan Bragg, DVM, MS, DACVECC Laura Grigsby, DVM - (Internal Medicine) Robin Wall, DVM, DACVECC	

CLASSIFIED ADS

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, 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 2/13/15.

Oxford Animal Hospital is currently in search of a full-time or part-time small animal veterinary associate. We are looking for someone who is experienced, compassionate, and has excellent client communication skills. Other desired personality traits include someone who thrives in a fast-paced environment, and who enjoys working as a member of the team in a busy multi-doctor practice, but would have great confidence if working alone. We offer state of the art equipment including ultrasound, therapy laser, co2 laser and digital radiology including dental. Please send resume to oah@oxfordanimalhospital.com.

For Sale - Dental Radiograph Machine. 16-year-old DentX Image - X70 system. You will certainly get better films with a new unit, but this is better than nothing if you're not doing dental X-rays. FREE TO GOOD HOME. Call for more information. KC Cat Clinic 816-361-4888.

Hidden Valley Animal Hospital is in need of an experienced, full-time, registered veterinary technician. HVAH is a progressive, two-doctor, AAHA accredited practice in Independence. Competitive salary and benefits are being offered for the right individual. Check out our website at www.hvahpets.com. Call (816.759.7387, ask for Carolyn), come by the clinic for an application or email your resume to carolynvill@gmail.com.

Maple Woods Veterinary Technology Program is currently seeking adjunct instructors. If you have a desire to teach the next generation of veterinary technicians, please send your resume to Dr. Chris Morrow at chris.morrow@mcckc.edu.

KC Pet Project, the largest No Kill shelter in Kansas City, is hiring a full-time shelter veterinarian. We operate the Kansas City, MO, animal shelter and two satellite adoption centers; one in Zona Rosa and inside the Petco in Overland Park, KS. Expertise in a shelter setting and performing high volume spay/neuter surgeries preferred. Must believe in the mission of KCPP, be comfortable working in a fast environment, and be willing to work one weekend day as a part of the standard workweek. Must have a MO license. Send letter of interest, resume and references to Teresa Johnson, CEO to Teresa Johnson@kcmo.org.

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1 Practitioner at BluePearl Veterinary Partners