

# news & notes

JULY/AUGUST 2007

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the summer heat comes on it's nice to have an indoor (air conditioned) job, especially when our work is moderately physical – that is, handling animals (some of which make it clear they don't wish to

be handled). We perform our job without breaking a sweat and I think that is a good thing. Or maybe breaking a sweat would show our clients how hard we actually work. Who knows?

Reports presented at our recent board meetings indicate that Missouri & Kansas VMAs are busy dealing with some legislative issues that have the potential to affect all of us in practice. Best we not stick our heads too deeply into the sand. Stay informed and assist your representatives in making the right choices. Visit your state's VMA website for the most current information.

Previously, I addressed my concerns about veterinarians who seem disinterested in having fun interaction with colleagues. Yet another thing puzzles me – the low response by practitioners to CE opportunities in this day and age.

I attended a fabulous program at a very nice restaurant with outstanding food a few weeks

ago. Perhaps eight veterinarians attended. From my perspective, a nice location, a great meal and a nationally recognized lecturer made for nearly painless learning. Seven area veterinarians besides me benefited significantly from this very small classroom CE experience. I'm just not sure what more the absent veterinarians might have wanted as there were numerous vacant seats. Possibly their mandatory CE requirements have already been met? I find motivation to attend from the fiscal benefits the CE programs frequently provide, such as new medications to offer, new diagnostic or treatment procedures to implement that go along with the added knowledge one should gain.

As a reminder, our November CE event will be held this year at the Bayer facility on Shawnee Mission Parkway. Program details are still being worked out but I hope attendance will be strong. Let's show appreciation for Bayer's support of our VMA. Remember to visit our website ([kcvma.com](http://kcvma.com)) for the most current CE information available.

Finally, I hope everyone enjoys the summer season serving animal kind and mankind in the world's greatest profession.

# GREENSBURG DISASTER SHOWS NEED FOR BETTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR PETS IN KANSAS

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS

For veterinarians, the tragic Greensburg, Kansas tornadoes of May 2007 brought home the same message as Hurricane Katrina two years earlier. That is, given the devotion many people feel for their pets, much more needs to be done to plan for the welfare of these animals in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency.

Like Katrina, the Greensburg tornadoes that destroyed or significantly damaged 1,100 of 1,700 homes in this rural southwestern Kansas town defied comprehension. Also as with Katrina, not just human lives, but beloved pets, were placed in harm's way.

The first in a series of tornadoes went straight through Greensburg and was the strongest magnitude tornado in the U.S. in eight years. Reaching wind speeds up to 205 miles per hour, this tornado was 1.7 miles wide and on the ground for 22 miles non-stop over 30 minutes. It struck at 9:04 p.m., Friday, May 4.

"When I arrived on Saturday, there was extreme chaos," recalls Dr. Christen Skaer of Skaer Veterinary Clinic in Wichita. "Animal control officials were attempting to organize search and rescue missions from their post in the Kansas Dept. of Transportation building. Dogs were running loose, many in a fenced-in area. There were some cats in carriers. But many animals needed to be corralled and put in cages."

First on the scene, the Pratt County Humane Society assumed a lead role in directing the situation. However, Kansas currently lacks a formal emergency response plan for pets – a shortcoming Dr. Skaer is committed to correcting.

She says Kansas needs a SART (State Animal Response Teams), like those active in North Carolina, Florida, New York, Illinois and other states. To date, 22 states nationwide have implemented or, as in



Kansas, are developing a SART, a private-public partnership. It functions according to the principles of the Incident Command System developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Some Kansas counties, have organized local response teams, such as PAW CART ([www.paws2love-pawcart.com](http://www.paws2love-pawcart.com)), which serves Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee counties in northeast Kansas. PAW CART responds with aid to all animals (owned, stray, companion, livestock, or wild) in the event of emergencies including ice storms, tornadoes, flooding, or more individualized situations, such as domestic violence or the hospitalization of the animal owner.

While efforts are under way to create a Kansas SART, Dr. Skaer says much remains to be done to assemble the administrative infrastructure that's needed.

"In the next few months, we will seek to execute Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with relevant government and animal agencies," she notes. "In addition, we need to complete a Code of Conduct and develop and implement training classes for veterinarians who step forward to help.

*(Continued on Back Page)*

# DERMATOLOGY CASE STUDY JUNE 2007

BY: DAVID SENTER, DVM, DACVD

A five-year-old spayed female Jack Russell terrier was referred for workup of a chronic dermatitis that had begun six months earlier in the Fall. The lesions began on the muzzle with alopecia, erythema, scaling and crusting. This slowly spread to involve the entire face and the medial surface of the pinnae and of one front leg. The lesions were significantly pruritic. Initially, corticosteroids at anti-inflammatory doses had decreased the pruritus somewhat but did not slow the progression of the disease. There had been no response to antibiotics or antihistamines.

A biopsy had been performed by the referring DVM and had revealed a chronic suppurative to pyogranulomatous interstitial to diffuse dermatitis. A fungal culture had also been performed and yielded only saprophytic growth. An immune-mediated condition was suspected by the pathologist and RDVM and the prednisone dose was increased for some time followed by a trial of cyclosporine (Atopica®) with no benefit.

At the time of referral (photo 1) the condition had become very pruritic to the point of marked self-mutilation. On examination, it was observed that the lesions were symmetrical overall except for the fact that only one leg was affected. It was also noted that the nasal planum was spared, which is unusual for most immune-mediated diseases that affect the face of dogs.

On the initial visit, impression smears of the face revealed pyogranulomatous inflammation and

eosinophils. Skin scrapings for ectoparasites were negative. Due to concern for infectious causes, the owners were questioned further about the habits of their dog. It was revealed that she did have a habit of chasing ground squirrels and moles in the back yard. She was then sedated for a repeat skin biopsy and fungal cultures.

Skin biopsy revealed a severe pyogranulomatous and mildly eosinophilic dermatitis with folliculitis and furunculosis. Due to my concern for fungal infection, I did perform a PAS and GMS stain on the biopsy and was able to find fungal hyphae within the stratum corneum (photo 2) and only rare organisms within the hair follicles. This is typical of *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, the rodent-borne dermatophyte. Ketoconazole was begun at 10 mg/kg SID along with topical miconazole crème and an E-collar. Fungal culture later confirmed the organism.

At the follow up visit four weeks later (photo 3) the condition was markedly improved, yet still somewhat pruritic. By 12 weeks, the condition had resolved.

*Trichophyton dermatophytosis* can be extremely inflammatory and can produce very dramatic lesions that mimic autoimmune disease. I commonly see it present in this fashion and Jack Russell terriers are predisposed. It can easily be missed on a fungal culture because, typically, only the hairs are taken for culture. However, with this fungus the surface scale must be cultured as well.



Fig. 1

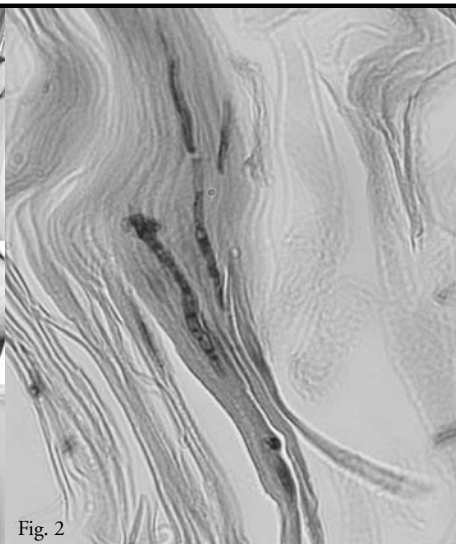


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

“In Kansas, we want to set up a Companion Animal Veterinary Corps so that veterinarians can put their names in and go through specialized training for emergency response,” she explains.

This type of strategic planning and organization, says Dr. Skaer, is just as necessary for efficient emergency response for animals as it is for people. Veterinarians and animal agencies frequently abound in volunteer spirit and goodwill. But the efforts that are most successful, she says, are those that are designed and coordinated based on internal command structure and emergency response strategy.

In Greensburg, veterinarians and animal agency personnel from across the state arrived to help, but the lack of an overall plan and command structure was apparent, she says. Animals rounded up by the Pratt County Humane Society needed to be put under quarantine until mid-June due to an outbreak of deadly parvovirus. This only adds to the heartbreak pet owners can feel when separated from their animals in a disaster.

Veterinarians who are interested in participating in the work to create a Kansas SART may contact Dr. Skaer by e-mail at [clskaer@aol.com](mailto:clskaer@aol.com). An excellent way to help – and the most immediate need to be met – is by making financial contributions to the effort, currently seeking approval under federal taxation charitable giving rules, as a 501(c)(3). Veterinarians are urged to inform their interested clients about this need and opportunity to contribute, as well.

Dr. Skaer’s vision of a top-notch Kansas SART is one that not only has an efficient administrative structure, a Code of Conduct, veterinarians’ support,

financial contributions and training classes and supplies – but also one that has a dedicated executive director. In North Carolina, SART Executive Director Dr. Leonard Bull of North Carolina State University has served a key role in his state being acknowledged as something of a model of emergency response for animals.

As these efforts progress, Dr. Skaer also urges veterinarians to address with their clients the steps below that will help save animal lives in the next emergency.

- Have proper, up -to-date identification for all your pets. This should include an ID tag on a collar, as well as microchip identification, which is now highly affordable, easy, safe and as minimally painful to animals as an injection. “Identification should list out-of-town contacts, as well,” says Dr. Skaer. She estimates that in Greensburg as few as ten percent of animals had any type of identification.
- Make sure you have a containment crate or carrier for each animal, along with food, bottled water, a manual can opener, a flashlight, basic first-aid supplies, and any medications your animals take.
- It’s also a good idea to have a copy of your animal’s health care record with a listing of all immunizations. Keep copies both at your home as well as at a more distant site, perhaps with a relative.
- Finally, develop a family evacuation/emergency response plan for your family that includes your pets so everyone is prepared in an emergency.

KCVMA

news&amp;notes

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All suggestions and comments are welcomed.  
Please write, call or fax Wanda Grindstaff.  
PO Box 12468  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468  
P 913-381-7823  
F 913-341-4225

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## August Continuing Education Event

*Speaker:* Dr. Wayne L. Hunthausen

*Topic:* New Answers for Canine Separation Anxiety

*Date:* August 16, 2007 (3rd Thursday of the Month)

*Time:* Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

*CE:* 2 Hours

*Lilly*  
**Answers That Matter.**

*Location:* Figlio Tower, 209 W. 46th Terrace, Kansas City, MO  
(Self parking is complimentary)

*Fee:* RSVP to receive FREE invitation.

**You must RSVP to attend this event: Contact Doug Brooks - 813-787-3559**

## September Continuing Education Event

*Schering-Plough*

*Speaker:* Amy DeClue, DVM, DACVIM

*CE:* 2 Hours

*Topic:* "Canine infectious respiratory disease - an update for practicing veterinarians from the front lines of infectious disease control."

*Location:* Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room  
Kansas City, MO (I-435 & State Line Rd)

*Date:* September 20, 2007 (3rd Thursday of the Month)

*Fee:* FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.

*Time:* Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

Dr. DeClue earned her DVM at the University of Illinois in 2000. She spent three years in private practice before completing a residency in Small Animal Internal Medicine at the University of Missouri. Dr DeClue is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Internal Medicine. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow in immunopathology at the University of Missouri.

Her research focuses on both basic science and clinical aspects of sepsis and pulmonary inflammatory disorders in small animals, with an emphasis on pathologic mechanisms and identification of novel therapeutics.

Dr DeClue's clinical interests include critical care, pulmonology, and endocrinology. She has lectured and presented research on a national and international level and has numerous publications and abstracts pertaining to her research and clinical interest areas.

## November Continuing Education Event

*Bayer*

*Speaker:* Edward C Feldman, DVM, DACVIM

*Location:* Bayer Animal Health

*Topic:* Endocrinology

12707 Shawnee Mission Parkway

*Date:* November 4, 2007

Shawnee Mission, KS 66216

*Fee:* FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.



Bayer has graciously agreed to let the KCVMA use their meeting facilities for our November continuing education meeting. In addition, the KCVMA membership will be given a brief tour of the Bayer facilities in Shawnee. A big thanks to our friends at Bayer Animal Health for their continued support of the KCVMA.

Dr. Feldman is a graduate of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. He completed an internship and residency in small animal medicine at the Animal Medical Center in New York City, and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. He is co-editor with Stephen Ettinger of The Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine, which is now in its sixth edition. He is co-author with Richard Nelson of Canine and Feline Endocrinology and Reproduction, now in its third edition. He is also the co-founder and Past President of the Society for Comparative Endocrinology. Currently, Dr. Feldman is a faculty member in small animal internal medicine at UC Davis, where he has been since 1980. He is a reviewer of JAVMA, and is a renowned speaker at national and international meetings on endocrinology.

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### KCVMA EVENTS

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**Kansas City T-Bones Baseball!** The KCVMA still has a limited number of tickets available for the Saturday, August 4th T-Bones game against the Winnipeg Goldeyes. It's Back To School Night at Community America Ballpark, and the T-Bones are celebrating by giving away special pencil pouches to the first 1000 kids through the gates. It's also the last night of the season to play catch on the field. E-mail Wanda Grindstaff (wgrindstaff@kcvma.com) to reserve your seats. Tickets will be given out on a first come, first served basis, so act now!



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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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Send your classified ads to: Wanda Grindstaff, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468 or fax them to her attention at 913-341-4225. Ads must not be over 100 words in length. Classified ads will be run at the sole discretion of the editor. Deadline for the next newsletter is 8/13/07.

**Veterinary Technician** wanted for a progressive 4-doctor AAHA accredited practice in Lee's Summit. We focus on quality, thorough medicine rather than high volume. Excellent clientele. Check us out at [www.lakewoodanimal.com](http://www.lakewoodanimal.com). Fax or e-mail resume to: 816-373-5176 or [lakewoodanimal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lakewoodanimal@sbcglobal.net), attn: KCVMA ad.

Animal Haven is looking for **animal care givers** to support our veterinary staff. This is an excellent opportunity to earn extra income with VERY flexible hours. Experience with medication administration, record keeping, and general health maintenance of dogs/cats/puppies/kittens required. Please apply in person at the shelter Monday through Friday. Animal Haven is located at 9800 West 67th street, two blocks west of I-35. 913-432-7548.

**Full-time Associate Veterinarian** needed for a rapidly growing small animal practice in affluent southern Johnson County. We provide high quality care and client communication. We have a friendly, professional and extremely proficient staff. No emergency hours. Salary commensurate with experience plus competitive benefits provided. Please contact Becky at 913-402-8300 or fax resume to 913-402-8945 or email resume to [lionsgatepet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lionsgatepet@sbcglobal.net).

Seeking **Experienced Full-Time Veterinary Technician/Assistant and Part-Time Groomer**. Contact Wendy at Mill Creek Animal Clinic, Shawnee, Kansas (913) 268-0900.

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## RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

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Michelle Chappell .....913-709-3077 KS/MO	Jim Garner .....913-620-8210 KS	Terry Patterson .....816-524-3296 KS/MO
Martin Drey .....785-887-6921	Maureen Gray .....913-538-6379 KS/MO	Elizabeth Robertson .....816-304-5164 KS/MO
Bridget Duroche .....913-488-8249 KS/MO	Tim Lyon .....913-782-1503 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth .....785-748-0055 KS/MO
		Dennis Smith .....913-636-4206 KS

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Linda Faris, DVM, CVM 816-640-5729, 913-341-4372	Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411	Eliza Sundahl, DVM, CVA, ABVP 816-361-4888
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## 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 913-722-5566

### Dermatology:

David Senter, DVM, ACVD 913-722-5566,  
913-642-9563

### Emergency and Critical Care:

Mark Brady, DVM, ACVECC 913-642-9563  
Robin Wall, DVM, ACVECC 913-722-5566

### Internal Medicine:

Tim Allen, DVM, DACVIM 785-841-3131  
Lisa Cellio, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563  
Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Bryan Harnett, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566  
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 816-554-4990  
Jennifer Hyman, DVM, ACVO 913-381-3937  
Susan Keil, DVM, MS, ACVO 913-722-5566  
Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO  
913-381-3937 or 800-776-3937

### Radiology/Ultrasound:

Joanne Burns, DVM, ACVR (local) 913-642-9563  
(Topeka) 785-478-9708  
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, ACVIM  
(Equine) 816-322-7722

Candace Layton, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563  
Steve Riley, DVM, DVSc, 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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## 2007 KCVMA OFFICERS...

<b>President</b> .....	Steve Smith .....816-363-2115/ <a href="mailto:ssmith@kcvma.com">ssmith@kcvma.com</a>
<b>President-Elect</b> .....	Larry Kovac .....816-616-2349/ <a href="mailto:lkovac@kcvma.com">lkovac@kcvma.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Kathleen Claussen .....913-897-2080/ <a href="mailto:kcclaussen@kcvma.com">kcclaussen@kcvma.com</a>
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<b>KS State Rep</b> .....	Josh Peterson .....913-432-7611/ <a href="mailto:jpeterson@kcvma.com">jpeterson@kcvma.com</a>

<b>Board Members</b> .....	Davinne Law .....816-781-0778/ <a href="mailto:dlaw@kcvma.com">dlaw@kcvma.com</a>
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	J.C. Burcham .....913-764-1415/ <a href="mailto:jburcham@kcvma.com">jburcham@kcvma.com</a>

**Exec. Secretary**..... Wanda Grindstaff .....913-381-7823, Fax: 913-341-4225  
[wgrindstaff@kcvma.com](mailto:wgrindstaff@kcvma.com)

**Public Relations**..... Darin Nadler .....913-859-9588/[dnadler@kcvma.com](mailto:dnadler@kcvma.com)