

news & notes

A Letter From The President

July/August 2011

Shatto Dairy Tour Success!

Thank you to our members (and their families and friends) who joined us for the Shatto Dairy tour on May 22nd. Our group of nearly 50 enjoyed watching dairy cows get milked, learning about the milk processing, and best of all, tasting cheeses and flavored milks. I know my family and I had



a great time, and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet the families of fellow KCVMA members. You can view more pictures from this event on our Facebook page.

First Clinic Hop

The KCVMA also hosted its first Clinic Hop on June 3rd, which was a great way to visit several veterinary hospitals in an area. Thanks to Blackbob Pet Hospital, Olathe Animal Hospital and Stanley Veterinary Clinic for participating in the first event of this kind! Each stop included a tour of the clinic, light refreshments and an opportunity to see different ways of doing things. As someone who really loves learning, I found this experience quite refreshing, and I hope to bring you more Clinic Hops later this year. If your clinic is interested in getting involved, please send me an e-mail at jburcham@kcvma.com!

CVC is Coming!

Whether it's your first visit to the CVC or your second, third or even 17th, you'll find practical information you need to excel in medicine and business. We're lucky to have such a top-notch conference available to us year after year, right here in our own backyard! Be sure to check out the registration program for a wide selection of lectures, practical labs, and vendors in the exhibit hall. If you need more information, e-mail cvc@advanstar.com, or you can check out the entire program at www.thecvc.com. You still have time to register!

Hold on to Clients!

No one likes to be put on hold, but sometimes it's necessary to keep a client waiting. However, putting

music on the line isn't your only option. The American Veterinary Medical Association has produced several audio files that can be used in place of hold music. Each one covers a different topic of interest to clients, and is designed to educate, entertain and keep them on the line. AVMA members can download digital files for free, or purchase a CD-Rom containing an entire year's worth of files. Go to www.avma.org for more information.

Natural Disasters Strike the Midwest

The Midwest has been pummeled by tragic weather, and you can read about the disaster response to tornadoes that struck Reading, KS and Joplin, MO in this issue. We also face ongoing flooding in multiple Midwestern states, and more unpredictable weather lies ahead. The desire to help individuals in my community understand

the importance of disaster preparedness, especially as it relates to pets is why I founded the Johnson County Animal Response Team (JoCART). For more information about JoCART, search for us on Facebook and "Like" us to stay informed.

Johnson County Animal Response Team

Last but Not Least

A great advocate for veterinary medicine, Maxine Caley of Manhattan, KS recently passed away at the



age of 91. She was instrumental in the development of the AVMA Auxiliary, as well as National Pet Week, among other great accomplishments. The field of veterinary medicine will be forever indebted to her service.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer—try to stay cool!

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Animal Response Teams Key to Successful Disaster Response BY: JEN NIGRO

Imagine returning home to find your apartment destroyed, your business heavily damaged and your family missing. That's the situation Dr. Ben Leavens, a veterinarian in Joplin, MO found himself in the evening of May 22nd when he and one of his five children returned from a trip to Dallas. Dr. Leavens had heard the tornado warnings for Joplin on the radio and stopped to call his wife. That's the last contact he had with his family before the tornado struck. As soon as he reached town he headed for the apartment his family was renting due to flooding at their house. Not seeing his daughters, he headed for the clubhouse, but it was completely gone. The rest of the complex was destroyed or heavily damaged.

Despite his concern for his family, Dr. Leavens saw his neighbors in need of medical attention and got to work. "I knew the worst injured guy and I checked him over and prayed with him. Then I had to find out what happened to my daughters." He was able to learn from others that two girls who had been in the clubhouse were taken away with minor injuries after the tornado. That put his mind at ease enough for him to return to helping those who had gotten caught in the storm. That included taking ladders from the nearby Wal-mart, also destroyed, to help rescue people trapped on the upper floors of the ravaged apartment building. Later that night, he got word the rest of his family was safe. "My wife got my daughters out with about 20 seconds to spare," he says. "She drove as fast as she could away from the path of the tornado to safety."

The next morning Dr. Leavens went to check on the state of his clinic, Main Street Pet Care. "We had about 50 animals and two staff members there. All were safe, but most of the roof was torn off and part of it had 20 to 30 penetrations of flying objects," he says. "It rained intensely for a day or two after the tornado so we had a lot of water damage at the clinic." The staff worked in the rain without electricity for about three days, making sure all of the animals had a safe, dry place. In the meantime, others came to them for help. "The clinic is a half-block from total destruction, so we took in any comers and made a promise that we would take care of their animals until we could get them somewhere safe," he says. "People won't go into shelters without their animals, and some shelters won't take animals, so we had people living out here under tarps rather than leave their pets."

Dr. Leavens knew help was on the way. It wasn't long before the ASPCA and the Humane Society of Missouri arrived on the scene with supplies and manpower. Both agencies are capable of a national



response. Debbie Hill is Vice President of Operations for the Missouri Humane Society, which started its disaster response team in 1999. She was among those who responded to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, and says the disasters were eerily similar. "You'd see a foundation standing and no house or blocks where there were just piles of sticks, and that's what was left of the homes," she says. "That's not what you typically

see in the tornadoes we've responded to in the past. It just obliterated some of the homes."

Hill says the Humane Society of Missouri is designated as the lead animal welfare agency in the state. They are activated by state or local authorities. The core team is made up of 10 investigators from the Animal Cruelty Task Force. Others from the agency's sheltering teams as well as trained community volunteers can also be called in as-needed. "Everyone was on the phone that night and everyone was getting packed and plans were being made even before the request came in to deploy," she says. "We wouldn't have it any other way."

Even as Joplin was beginning disaster response efforts, similar work was already underway in Reading, KS where a less powerful but still devastating tornado struck just one day earlier. "The fact that the town was smaller in population meant it got overshadowed in the press by larger disasters, but it was no less devastating to the residents of Reading," says Dr. Christen Skaer, who was among those who responded to the Reading tornado. As in Joplin, she and other members of the Kansas State Animal Response Team (KSSART) were activated by emergency management officials, this time in Lyon County. Teams from five different counties responded. "We received a call the morning after the tornado asking us to take the lead on animal sheltering in the area because they don't have an active local team in Lyon County," says Skaer. KSSART has been in existence for about five years. In that time, its volunteers have responded to the Greensburg, KS tornado and flooding in South Dakota, among other disasters.

But there was little time to absorb the sheer impact of the twisters. Both teams had work to do. Dr. Skaer says that begins with coordination between the response team and local law enforcement. "We asked the Sheriff's office to help us identify a location for a shelter and we gathered our supplies." Both KSSART and the Missouri Humane Society have those supplies pre-placed in trailers so they can respond quickly in the event of a disaster. "We have also purchased veterinary 'go-bags' with grant money and we are placing them throughout Kansas to provide a more coordinated response," She says. Hill adds that gaining access to the disaster area and setting up a communication system are also critical first steps in a response. "We have to get maps of the affected area, get the vehicles marked and get people a means of communication because most of the cell towers are down." Hill says they try to work on a grid system. Teams are assigned to specific areas so responders can ensure good coverage. "Animals coming out of their houses are being tagged so people know where to reclaim their animal if we're able to bring them out."

The responders in both Reading and Joplin picked up right where people like Dr. Leavens left off. "We housed several animals for owners who just needed some time to get things together, arrange a place to live and try to make sense of things," says Dr. Skaer. But that's no easy task. "The animals have been traumatized just like the people have," says Hill. "Sometimes the pets, especially the cats, are so freaked out by the event they won't even come to their owners any more." And just like human rescues, Hill says, time is of the essence. "You have about a week before they start talking about demolition. You have asbestos in the building material, power lines down, sewer material, all of these things in the

news¬es

middle of town and they want to clean that up as fast as possible."

These teams overcome all of these obstacles to reunite pets with their owners. While they don't always get to witness the reunion, rescuers feel good when they're able to help. "It's very fulfilling to be able to provide assistance to an owner of a beloved pet and assure them that their pet will be well cared for while they make arrangements for a new life," says Dr. Skaer. But she says that can be difficult without proper planning on the pet owner's part. She recommends pet owners never leave home without their animals in a disaster, as they likely won't survive on their own. "Animals that are included in disaster plans and have proper identification on them are much more likely to be reunited with their owners following a disaster," she says.

Even though the pressure of taking care of the animals at his own clinic was off, Dr. Leavens' work was also far from over. "We couldn't just stand there and do nothing," he says. Shortly after help arrived, Main Street Pet Care got a call from search and rescue headquarters asking if they could provide veterinary care for the search dogs. Of course, they said yes. "We set up a complete veterinary hospital near where St. John's Hospital used to be," he says. Dr. Leavens decided to move all of his clinic's equipment to the site, even though it was a huge financial risk. "The only thing insurance doesn't cover is if we move equipment off site and it gets destroyed. That wasn't going to stop me, but it was in the back of my brain." But Dr. Leavens' concerns were soon allayed. Dr. Paul Pion, co-founder of the Veterinary Information Network, called to offer assistance. Dr. Leavens asked if VIN would be willing to cover equipment losses if necessary, and Dr. Pion agreed.

There was another obstacle. While Dr. Leavens had trained with the Incident Command System, he and his staff had never done search and rescue and weren't familiar with the specific needs of the animals involved. He says within 24 hours, they had been given access to both the commander of veterinary services in Iraq and search and rescue care expert Melissa Nixon. "The first thing we learned was that the dogs were working too hard," says Dr. Leavens. "They were collapsing, literally falling over in the field with exhaustion and dehydration. We also set up a human clinic right next to ours because search and rescue handlers needed medical care too. He says it's a natural reaction to overdo it, and Hill agrees. "Most of our folks are die-hard responders," she says. "If something ever happens you can tell our people because they're the ones running toward the event. They don't want to leave until it's over." But Dr. Leavens says it was necessary to make them slow down. They put them on two four hour shifts, one in the morning, one in the afternoon, then used the heat of the day to provide needed medical care. "We found in the course of treatment that many of the really good dogs are nine to 12 years old and they have severe arthritis and spinal syndrome," says Dr. Leavens. And because the rescue teams are responsible for their own veterinary care, like other pet owners, they can't always afford the medications that can help alleviate pain caused by those conditions. "We did complete lab work on every dog and provided them with treatment for their arthritic problems and other issues," says Dr. Leavens. "Novartis Animal Health was amazing. They sent people all over the state of Missouri to get medicine from other clinics. The owners couldn't believe the difference it made."

And Dr. Leavens wants to continue to make a difference in the lives of search and rescue dogs. While in the midst of repairing his own clinic, he's building a new one. "It will be called the Search and

Rescue Veterinary Clinic and search and rescue dogs from anywhere will be able to come here and have their routine exams." In addition, Dr. Leavens says several national companies have agreed to provide medication and lab work



for the clinic, which will make the cost of treatment little or nothing. It's one of many ministries provided by Main Street Pet Care. Dr. Leavens hopes it will be up and running by the end of August. He says it's one small thing he can do for the new heroes in his life. "They come on their own dime; they drop everything they're doing. One of the guys from the Eureka Fire Department who searched my apartment complex said he blew his engine on the way over. When I told him it was too bad, he said, 'It doesn't matter! It totally doesn't matter. I'm just telling you so you know why it took me so long to get here." But Hill says it's all in a day's work. "We're so grateful for the opportunity to be there for the animals and make sure they don't suffer needlessly. We want to make sure they have the chance to survive and get reunited with their owners."

All told, Dr. Leavens says the ASPCA and the Humane Society of Missouri will likely spend at least \$200,000-\$300,000 on this disaster alone, taking in more than 1300 dogs. But hundreds of animals are still homeless, and new calls for help keep coming in. "We're in the process of deactivating from the tornado in Joplin, packing our supplies and resources, and deploying for the floods along the Missouri River," says Hill. She says it's only with the support of their donors that the Humane Society of Missouri is able to continue response efforts like this.

Reading and Joplin still have a long road as they pick up the pieces and put their towns back together. But Dr. Leavens says there's hope. "Over and over the responders said two things. They say they have never seen destruction of this nature before, and they've never seen a community pull together like Joplin has. We're doing good here."

How to Help

If you are interested in acquiring the training and preparation needed to be able to respond to a disaster in your area, consider joining the AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams

(VMAT): www.avma.org/vmat



In Missouri, contact the Humane Society of Missouri at (314) 647-4400 to discover ways in which you can help. General information can be found on their website: www.hsmo.org/animal-rescue



The Kansas State Animal Response Team (KSSART) has a wealth of resources available to help interested communities establish their own County or Community Animal Response Teams (CART). For a complete list of CARTs in KS, e-mail clskaer@kssart.org or request a list from the KSSART website: www.kssart.org

BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS: "THE WONDER DOG" BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Jim was quite a dog (1925 - 1937). He was believed by some to be a clairvoyant. Others are skeptical. You be the judge.

The Llewellyn Setter was born of championship hunting stock in Louisiana. However, it's said he was the worst pup in the litter. As the story goes, Jim was purchased by Sam VanArsdale of Marshall, MO for less than half of what his more promising litter mates brought. For a reason that follows, Sam started to wonder if half payment wasn't too much.

Yes, the dog was warm and friendly, but as for hunting Jim would lie in the shade of the tree line as other dogs jumped to the chase. As time passed, Sam began to notice Jim indeed was a proficient hunter only when birds were present. In fact, *Outdoor Life* magazine reported Jim successfully tracked over 5,000 birds. That was when Sam stopped counting. This remarkable achievement led Jim to be called the "Hunting Dog of the Country".

Stranger things were about to happen. During a walk, Sam said "Let's rest under that Hickory tree." Obediently, Jim went to the Hickory in a forest treed with many varieties. Sam asked him to go to a Walnut, then a Cedar, a stump and a tin can. It's said that Jim did so perfectly.

Jim lived in Marshall's Ruff Hotel (not a pun!), which was owned by VanArsdale. Regularly, Jim performed his talents for guests by going to cars on commands such as "Find the car from Mississippi" and other locations, vehicle colors and owner occupations. Sam did this without error. He predicted the sex of babies to be born, Kentucky Derby winners (seven for seven), World Series winners and more. Of course, Jim didn't talk, but he could paw at pictures and words. Skeptics are laughing. Read on!

Sam took Jim to MU for a demonstration.

He passed each command with flying colors. He appeared before the Missouri Legislature and at the State Fair. His fame began to spread across the country. After a 1935 performance in Wyoming Jim was called "The Wonder Dog" and he was featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not.

Sadly, following a serious accident in the Ozarks, Jim was taken to the G&G Veterinary Hospital in Sedalia where he died. This is the same hospital we featured in *News and Notes* in January and mentioned in this issue. Jim is buried in Marshall's Ridge Park Cemetery. A Memorial Park on the grounds of the old Ruff Hotel was built in Jim's honor. Perhaps you'll plan a visit.

Read and watch more about Jim at his web site: www.jimthewonderdog.com.

HISTORICAL REGISTRY WELCOMES VETERINARY HOSPITAL BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

G&G Veterinary Hospital in Sedalia, MO has been added to the National Registry of Historical Places. Earlier the practice was accepted by the American Veterinary Medical History Society as a Heritage Practice.

The practice is owned by KCVMA Member Dr. Robert Neal Gouge, a 1973 graduate of MU CVM. Dr. Gouge represents the third generation of the Gouge family to have practiced there.

Improvements have been made to the building over the years, but its appearance is much like it was when Dr. Gouge's grandfather (a 1910 graduate of the KC Veterinary College) opened the practice in 1937. The brick and stucco art deco building has original terrazzo

flooring, windows, doors and hardware.

According to several veterinary historians, it is believed the hospital is one of the oldest practices to offer continuous veterinary service from the same family and facility in the US.

There are 25 Heritage Practices in the U.S. In this area four are located in Iowa, three in Kansas, two in Nebraska and one in Missouri. Few veterinary practices or buildings are listed in the National Registry. In addition to the G&G Veterinary Hospital, Jensen-Salsbery Laboratories in Kansas City is listed. An article about that building is planned for a 2012 *News and Notes* issue.



Published by the

Kansas City Veterinary Medical Association for its members and guests.

All suggestions and comments are welcomed. Please write, call or fax Wanda Geis. PO Box 12468
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Design and Production By:

Nadler & Associates, Inc., Overland Park, KS www.nadlerassociates.com

Printing By:

Shawnee Copy Center, Shawnee Mission, KS.

CVC Central

Location: Kansas City Convention and Entertainment Facilities, 301 W 13th St., Kansas City, Missouri 64105, (816) 513-5000

Schedule:	Sessions	Wet Labs	Trade Show
Wed. Aug 24	9am – 7:30pm		
Thurs. Aug 25	7:30am – 7pm		
Fri. Aug 26	7:30am – 6pm	8:30am – 5:30pm	
Sat. Aug 27	7:30am – 5:30pm, 7pm – 9pm	8am – 5:30pm	10am – 7pm
Sun. Aug 28	8am – 5:45pm, 6pm – 8pm	8am – 5pm	9am – 5pm
Mon. Aug 29	8am – 5:30pm, 6pm – 8pm	8:30am – Noon	9am – 5pm
Tues. Aug 30	8am – 3pm		
Available CE:	Veterinarians	Practice Managers	Technicians
Full Convention	66 CE Hours	42 CE Hours	42 CE Hours
One-Day Convention	5 – 12 CE Hours	5 – 12 CE Hours	11 – 12 CE Hours

Visit www.thecvc.com to learn more about speakers and topics, registration fees, entertainment options, and much more!

September 2011 Continuing Education Event

Topic: Urinary Health Location: Saint Joseph Health Center

Date: Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011 (Third Thursday of the Month) Community Center for Health & Education

Time: Dinner: 6:30pm - 9pm Alex George Memorial Auditorium

CE: 2 hours I-435 & State Line Road

Fee: No fee to attend this event. Current Sponsor: Royal Canin

membership dues cover all CE.

Please register for the September CE event at kcvma.com or http://conta.cc/l8o08P

Local Animal Hospital Receives National Award

The Olathe Animal Hospital was honored by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) as the second place winner of the 2011 AAHA-Accredited Practice of the Year award, during the AAHA/OVMA-Conference in Toronto, Ontario. This is not the first time a Kansas City-area hospital was recognized by AAHA. Blue Springs Animal Hospital received Honorable Mention during last year's inaugural AAHA Practice of the Year Awards.

The goal of these awards is to recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements of accredited practice teams. Practices are evaluated on such things as mission and vision, quality care and standards, continuing education and training, community service and accreditation scores.

First place was awarded to Norwalk Veterinary Medical Center in Norwalk, OH. Additional information is available on AAHA's website: http://aahanet.org/about/aaha_awards.aspx

Legislative Notes: KVMA Takes Steps to Protect Efficiency and Funding BY: JEN NIGRO

As the state of Kansas took steps to streamline government and cut costs during the past legislative session, the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association pushed legislation to protect the efficiency of agencies that regulate veterinarians in the state. KVMA Executive Director Gary Reser says the organization has long opposed a merger between the Kansas Animal Health Department and the Kansas Department of Agriculture. But when it became apparent the merger was going to happen, Reser says the KVMA pushed for the adoption of eight measures designed to protect the KAHD's efficiency. Among other things, the legislation will keep the KAHD board intact and the current Animal Livestock Commissioner at the helm; it ensures the Commissioner will serve not only at the pleasure of the Secretary of Agriculture, but also with board approval; and it maintains all KAHD rules and regulations as they are now. "We wanted to make sure the Kansas Animal Health Department would be able to respond quickly and effectively to a food animal disease outbreak and not be subject to bureaucracy or anything that would interfere with very timely action," says Reser.

Efforts to keep fee funded state agencies like the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners from being subject to decisions made by a proposed commission to streamline state government were also successful. "We were concerned about the Commission perhaps combining all these various state regulatory and licensing agencies into one super or mega agency," says Reser. "That has happened in other states and has proved to be very public unfriendly in states that have tried it." The KVMA introduced legislation to keep this from happening, citing the fact that fee funded agencies take no state general fund money and even contribute 20% to the general fund. The measure made it through the House before the bill proposing The Kansas Streamlining State Government Commission died completely in the Senate.

And fee funded agencies will no longer have to contribute to the state general fund thanks to legislation supported by the KVMA along with the Kansas Association of Realtors and the Kansas Bankers Association. "They've only transferred 20% but by doing so the state is using fee funds intended for regulation, licensing and inspection to pay for something the individuals and institutions paying the fees didn't intend," says Reser. While the change could be reversed, Reser says, it's a step in the right direction.

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 8/13/11.

Emergency doctor position. Mission MedVet is a multispecialty and emergency critical care facility located in the center of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Our state of the art hospital provides emergency services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We are seeking a qualified emergency doctor to join our group. Our emergency doctors are supported by on-call board-certified specialists in surgery, internal medicine, emergency critical care, cardiology, and ophthalmology. Mission MedVet provides an outstanding professional experience, compensation package, and benefits. Please contact Dr. Dave Allen at 913 722 5566 or e-mail d.allen@mmv-kc.com if you are interested.

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