

# news & notes

MARCH/APRIL 2006

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I heard an interesting story recently. It was told by a self-proclaimed redneck from the South after he had a fearful experience in the desert with his geriatric yellow lab. He had recently been to the vet and found that she was suffering from dementia and had a threatening heart condition. He and the dog were ambling through the Arizona desert, his attention drifted, and he lost track of her. He thought maybe she was dead from the heart condition since she didn't come to his whistle. Calling for her became frantic as he ran to and fro and in desperation he turned to God and prayed for help finding the old yellow dog. Soon after that a biker rode up out of the desolated landscape. He shouted at the biker, breathlessly describing the dog and asking if he had seen her out in the desert.

"No, I haven't seen a dog out in the desert, but there is one like that sitting next to a white pick-up truck in the parking lot over there," replied the biker.

When the redneck told his vet the story about how God had answered his prayers and directed his dog to the truck, the vet told him he had it all wrong. The vet said that he was pretty darn sure that it was the dog, sitting next to that pick-up, who's prayer had been answered, "Dear God, could you please help my stupid redneck friend find his way out of the desert?"

In the story, the vet then proceeded to describe to this guy how risky it was to take a dog with dementia into the wilds without having the dog leashed, but I was really struck by the notion of a dog praying.

So much for anthropomorphism; the fact is, that whether we pray for stability or change, a big influence on how we will live in the near future is what happens this year legislatively and politically; a lot's going on in Kansas and Missouri right now. On page 3 Gregory Dennis reviews a bill in Missouri that will make it more difficult to initiate a frivolous veterinary malpractice suit. Gary Reser discusses legislative changes to the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act on page 2. As a member of the KVMA Legislative Committee, I've been privileged to witness the commitment that committee members bring to their duties and, as a private citizen contacting my representatives in

the Kansas House and Senate, I've been pleasantly surprised by the compassion displayed by our state legislators. The discussions I've had with Gregory Dennis, Gary Reser, Dr. Ralph Richardson, legislators, and KCVMA members surrounding currently proposed changes to the Animal Cruelty law have been particularly insightful. Another issue to keep your eyes on in Kansas is the State Board of Education and the inclusion of the Intelligent Design "theory" in the science curriculum taught to students. At our last CE meeting Dr. Bud Hertzog reminded us of the importance of exercising our right to vote in the current AVMA district representative election. I concur with Bud and strongly encourage you to investigate these issues, vote whenever possible, and contact your representatives regarding these legislative matters. Participation is paramount.

Participation will also be the key to successful KCVMA involvement in the upcoming KC Pet Expo. See Dr. Amy Hunkeler's article on the event on page 2. You'll also want to check out the CE insert for the current line up of events. Coming right up on Thursday, March 9th is Dr. David Twedt, a veterinary internist, who will speak at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel on the diagnostic and therapeutic considerations of common liver diseases. You'll need to RSVP by March 7th. The next week, on March 16th, Mike Schumacher, Manager of the KCMO Animal Control, and Michele Dormady, of Spay/Neuter KC, will be with us at the Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Meeting Room to discuss the KC Pet Program goals and methods. On April 20th we have Dr. Laura Armbrust, a veterinary radiologist, who will discuss digital radiography equipment and review her top-ten list of practical radiography tips.

Speaking of participation, don't forget to send in your KCVMA dues ASAP.

Yours in service,



## KVMA NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH VETERINARY LEGISLATION

BY GARY RESER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KVMA

The KVMA, after an almost six month review, took formal action on Friday, Jan. 20 in Topeka to support six changes in the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act.

Those changes are now found in H. B. 2833, H. B. 2834, and H. B. 2835 and now it is your turn to help.

Contact your own Kansas Senator and tell him or her to vote "YES" on these three bills when they are considered on the Senate floor.

Hopefully, the bills will be passed by the Kansas House the week this newsletter is being printed. By the time you receive it, it will be time for you to help the KVMA in the Kansas Senate.

The following is a summary of the changes in the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act found in H. B. 2833, H. B. 2834, and H. B. 2835:

**1. HB 2833** - The specific requirement for the licensing of an applicant who is not a graduate of a school of veterinary medicine which is recognized and approved by the board is that they "possess a certificate issued by the educational commission for foreign veterinary graduates." This specific requirement already currently exists in both statute 47-824 and regulation 70-4-8 (d). The statute is being changed to simply say that any such applicant must meet the "education requirements prescribed by the board in rules and regulations." Since the specific "educational requirements currently prescribed by the board" are already established in regulation 70-4-8 (d), the regulation will remain unchanged.

**2. HB 2833** - Allow the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners to determine by regulation how many times a person can retake the national examination.

**3. HB 2833** - Clarifies that a veterinary premise is audited and registered when there is a change of the licensed veterinarian who is responsible for the operation and management of the premises.

**4. HB 2834** - Allow the board in cases of a lay person practicing veterinary medicine unlawfully to: 1) issue cease and desist orders, 2) issue a citation and fine, 3) issue subpoenas to, and 4) bring an injunction action against such person. Such person would include anyone who is unlawfully practicing veterinary medicine in Kansas even from a location outside Kansas, such as via the internet.

**5. HB 2835** - "Violation of a board order" would be added as grounds for disciplinary action under the category of unprofessional conduct.

**6. HB 2835** - Add the following waivers to the confidentiality privilege: 1) when information is necessary to provide care in an emergency where the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to place the animal's health in serious jeopardy or impair bodily function; 2) when the failure to disclose vaccination information may endanger the public's health, safety, and welfare; 3) when reporting cruel or inhumane treatment of an animal to federal, state, or local government agencies.



## JOIN US AT THE 2ND ANNUAL PET EXPO

BY DR. AMY HUNKELER

As a KCVMA member you have an excellent opportunity to educate the public and promote veterinary medicine on May 6th and 7th at the 2nd Annual Pet Expo. The KCVMA Board has secured booth space at the Kemper Arena Complex, the location of the event. We are offering our members and their clinic employees a chance to staff the KCVMA exhibit booth for 2-hour sessions.

The booth will be set-up for you with the KCVMA banner and a variety of freebies. You can hand out business cards, brochures, coupons, treats for pets or people, and any promotional or educational material you want to

distribute to the public. Some topics of discussion you might want to prepare for include the importance of biannual wellness exams, proper pet selection, post-purchase exams, and spay/neuter programs. As an exhibitor you will be able to enter for free and a limited number of additional tickets will be available to participating clinics.

The Pet Expo is co-sponsored by the No More Homeless Pets coalition and proceeds benefit Animal Haven, Humane Society of GKC, Kansas City Animal Control and Wayside Waifs. The inaugural show attracted more than...*(Continued On Page 3)*

## MISSOURI CONSIDERS EXPERT AFFIDAVIT OF MERIT FOR VETERINARY MALPRACTICE ACTIONS

BY GREGORY M. DENNIS

Since 1986, Missouri physicians and other human health care providers cannot be sued for professional malpractice unless the plaintiff files an affidavit with the court within ninety-days of the lawsuit being commenced saying it has a written opinion from an expert medical witness that the plaintiff's human health care provider failed to use such care as a reasonably prudent and careful health care provider would have under similar circumstances provided and that such failure directly caused or contributed to the plaintiff's damages. If the plaintiff does not timely file such an affidavit, its lawsuit will be dismissed. R.S. Mo. § 538.225.

Unfortunately, while this has been the law in Missouri for twenty-years for human medical malpractice actions, it has not been for veterinary malpractice actions. This has led to Missouri veterinarians having to go through a malpractice proceeding longer as the plaintiff has effectively been given more time to identify its expert witness. Some times, when the deadline eventually comes about for the plaintiff to identify its expert, it has no one or has an unqualified individual.

To correct this omission in Missouri professional malpractice law is Senate Bill 729 pending before the 2006 Missouri General Assembly. This Bill, like the current law for human medical malpractice actions, would require the plaintiff to file within ninety-days of the commencement of a lawsuit an affidavit stating it has a written opinion from a veterinary expert witness that the defendant-veterinarian deviated from the

standard of professional care for veterinarians and that deviation directly caused or contributed to the damages claimed by the plaintiff. The plaintiff's expert witness will have to be a veterinarian who either is actively practicing veterinary medicine or has retired within the last five-years from practicing veterinary medicine. These requirements would apply to any malpractice action against a veterinarian alleging more than \$3,000.00 in damages.

Senate Bill 729 would bring Missouri in line with a growing number of states that require expert witness affidavits to be filed at or shortly after the commencement of a professional malpractice action regardless of whether it be against a human health care provider, a veterinarian or another professional.

Missouri veterinarians should contact their Senators in the Missouri Senate and Representatives in the Missouri House to support Senate Bill 729.

There is no similar law or bill pending in Kansas for human or veterinary medical malpractice actions.

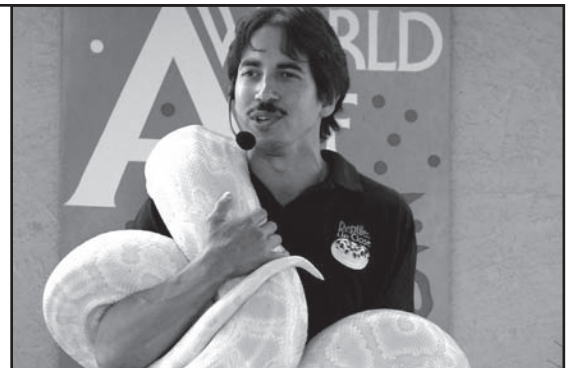
*Gregory M. Dennis is Legal Counsel for the Kansas and Missouri Veterinary Medical Associations. He is also a charter member of the American Veterinary Medical Law Association and a former president of that organization. He represents veterinarians in Kansas and Missouri and for many years has written and spoken extensively on legal issues affecting the veterinary profession.*



12,000 people interested in pets (dogs, cats, and other) who passed through the gates last year to see canine agility demonstrations, learn about the various breeds and species, sample and purchase new pet products, and meet fellow pet lovers

To sign-up for a time slot, please visit our website ([www.KCVMA.com](http://www.KCVMA.com)) for online instructions or mark your top 3 choices and fax the form found on the insert page to Wanda Grindstaff at 913-341-4225. Parking will be on your own. If you have questions, contact Amy Hunkeler at 816-554-4990.

A list of current dues-paying KCVMA members will be on hand for distribution to the general public—so if you want to be listed, please mail in your dues today!.



*David Nieves, Star of "Reptiles, Up Close And Personal" One of the many attractions at this year's KC Pet Expo.*

## LOCAL VETERINARY STUDENT WINS BIG IN FLORIDA

BY DARIN NADLER

Shelly Adrian is a third-year veterinary student at Kansas State University (KSU) and hopes to eventually become a specialist in small animal critical care. Originally from Southern California, Shelly graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS, with a degree in Biology. She is the current president of both the Canine Club and the Student Chapter of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society at K-State. She is also the campus representative for Nestle Purina (purely by coincidence). Clearly, Shelly Adrian is a busy person. So it seems like quite the feat to take a week away from classes to attend the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC) and participate in the Nestle Purina-sponsored College Challenge game show.

College Challenge pits veterinary students from all over the United States and Canada against one another in friendly competition. They answer multiple choice questions commonly found on board exams. Typically, the students who participate are also campus ambassadors to the NAVC. Kansas State is no different, and uses an essay contest to select their campus representative. Shelly says it is not unusual for participating students to become good friends because they have similar schedules all day long, and many are even roommates. She says this opportunity presents a wonderful way to network and a great way to discover how other veterinary schools work.

Shelly was a contestant in 2005 as well, but did not make it past the first round. Not only was she a participant again in 2006, but she survived four rounds of tough competition to win the \$2,500 grand prize. In



*Shelly Adrian, Kansas State University*

addition, she won \$2,500 for the KSU Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association. When asked what her plans were for the prize money, she said that part will help pay for her husband's new computer and part will go towards a much needed vacation.

Shelly Adrian will attend the NAVC again in 2007 as a student representative, but she hopes someone else takes her spot at the Nestle Purina College Challenge. She says it's time for someone else to get a chance. After all, it's best to go out on top, as a champion.

KCVMA

news&notes

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All suggestions and comments are welcomed.  
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## March Continuing Education Event

*Speaker:* David C. Twedt, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM  
Colorado State University  
*Topic:* Common Liver Diseases - Diagnostic and  
Therapeutic Considerations  
*Date:* March 9, 2006  
*Time:* Registration: 6:30pm, Dinner & Seminar: 7pm

*Location:* \*Sheraton Overland Park Hotel  
6100 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS  
*CE Hours:* 2.0  
*Fee:* FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.  
Technicians free with a dues paid veterinarian.

All Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians Welcome. **Please RSVP to Meaghan Whalen at (800) 925-5187 by March 7, 2006.**

**\*Please note location**

## March Continuing Education Event

*Speaker:* Mike Schumacher, Manager of Animal Control, KCMO  
Michelle Dormady, Spay/Neuter KC  
*Topic:* KC Pet Program  
*Date:* March 16, 2006 (3rd Thursday of the Month)  
*Time:* Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

*Location:* Saint Joseph Health Center's Community  
Center for Health and Education,  
Community Meeting Room  
*CE Hours:* 2.0  
*Fee:* FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.  
Technicians free with a dues paid veterinarian.

The KC Pet Program was established to encourage pet owners to get their animals vaccinated, licensed, and altered. One of the primary goals of this program is to decrease the number of homeless pets by forming partnerships with the animal welfare community.

The KC Pet Program started as "Pets Helping People" in Grandview Missouri in 2002 and was intended to offer a low cost clinic for pet owners to assist them in complying with city ordinances requiring the animals to be vaccinated and licensed. The overall goal was to increase the vaccination rate among low income pet owners with public safety being the primary concern.

Once the program was moved to Kansas City the focus broadened to include animal altering at low to zero cost with a focus on the urban core of Kansas City. The program has been refined several times and residents who live in certain zip codes receive free animal altering, while animals that live outside these areas do not. Our focus is on animals at high risk which are the most likely to become pregnant, and least likely to ever be seen by a private veterinarian.

It is estimated there are approximately 25,000 pets euthanized each year in the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Municipal animal shelters, licensed rescue groups, private shelters, and the veterinarian community play a critical role in decreasing the number of animals euthanized and increasing the number of vaccinated animals. If programs such as the KC Pet Program are to succeed it will take the support and cooperation of the entire animal welfare community.

## April Continuing Education Event

*Speaker:* Laura Ambrust, DVM, DACVR  
*Topic:* Digital Radiography Equipment: Is It Really Worth It?  
Top 10 Practical Radiography Tips  
*Date:* April 20, 2006 (3rd Thursday of the Month)  
*Time:* Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

*Location:* Saint Joseph Health Center's Community  
Center for Health and Education, Comm. Meeting Room  
*CE Hours:* 2.0  
*Fee:* FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.  
Technicians free with a dues paid veterinarian.

Dr. Ambrust received her DVM from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1996. She was in a mixed animal practice in Wisconsin for two years. Laura completed her residency and board certification in Radiology at Kansas State University in 2001. Dr. Ambrust is currently an Associate Professor of Radiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University. Laura has authored numerous publications, book chapters, and proceedings; plus, presented at state and national continuing education programs. Dr. Ambrust has clinical and research interests in all types of diagnostic imaging.

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## 2nd Annual Pet Expo Registration Form

To sign-up for a time slot, please visit our website ([www.KCVMA.com](http://www.KCVMA.com)) for online instructions or mark your top 3 choices and fax this form to Wanda Grindstaff at 913-341-4225. Parking will be on your own. If you have questions, contact Amy Hunkeler at 816-554-4990.

A list of current dues-paying KCVMA members will be on hand for distribution to the general public—so if you want to be listed, please mail in your dues today!

### SATURDAY MAY 6th:

11am-1pm  
1pm-3pm  
3pm-5pm  
5pm-7pm

### SUNDAY MAY 7th:

10am-12pm  
12pm-2pm  
2pm-4pm  
4pm-6pm

KCVMA Member or Clinic Staff Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## CLASSIFIED ADS...

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. Deadline for the next newsletter is 4/13/06.

**Full And/Or Part Time Associate** needed for South Kansas City SA practice. We are looking for compassionate veterinarians with strong communication skills who want to make a difference with pets and their owners. Competitive salary and benefits based on experience. Contact John Lyle @ 816.763.1313 or Fax resume to 816.763.8225. E-mail at crazydog@kc.rr.com

**Full time associate** desired for busy six doctor AAHA accredited companion animal practice in western Wyandotte County. Hospital is well equipped, including CO2 laser and video otoscopy. Competitive salary and benefits, no emergencies. Experience preferred, new graduates considered. Contact Curtis Bock or Jim Swanson at 913-334-6770. Fax resume to 913-334-6770 or email to welborn2@swbell.net. See website @welbornpet.com.

Shoal Creek Animal Hospital is seeking a **Full Time Veterinary Technician** for a 1 doctor, newly opened, small animal practice. Experience preferred. Must have good client communication skills, great work ethics and team spirit. Contact Kimbra at 476.4046 or Kimv@shoalcreekanimalhospital.com

Busy, progressive small animal practice in suburban Kansas City, Northland seeks a **Full Time Associate Veterinarian**. Candidate must possess strong communication skills and an interest in practicing high quality, compassionate medicine. Our well equipped, modern facilities attract clients who want the best. 4 1/2 day work week. No on call emergency or Saturday clinic hours. Competitive salary with production based bonuses. Contact Stacey at 816.880.6650 or staceyg@amity-woods.com if interested in this excellent opportunity.

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Billi Arthur..... 816-862-6214 MO	Martin Drey..... 785-887-6921	Tim Lyon..... 913-782-1503 KS/MO
Jerome Berkowitz..... 913-239-9353 KS/MO	Susan Hopper..... 816-813-4734 KS/MO	Wayne Meyer..... 785-442-3868
Donn I. Blevins..... 660-656-3832 MO	Maureen Gray..... 913-538-6379 KS/MO	Melissa Ovel..... 913-432-2354 KS
Tirsten Brockmeier..... 913-221-4426 KS/MO	Will Heeb..... 913-515-6785 KS/MO	Terry Patterson..... 816-524-3296 KS/MO
Alicia Boyce..... 913-651-6023 KS/MO	Rod Jantz..... 816-868-2332 MO	Chris Peterson..... 816-580-4047 KS/MO
Michelle Chappell..... 913-709-3077 KS/MO	Linda Kalmar..... 913-557-9224 KS	Harris Tate..... 785-841-8946 KS
James B. Cornelius..... 630-734-1760 MO	Kimberly Kessler..... 913-548-1686 KS/MO	Kenneth Van Sickle..... 816-331-7972 KS/MO
	Heather Lewellen..... 816-941-0408	

## CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

### Acupuncture:

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

## 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

### Dermatology:

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

### Emergency and Critical Care:

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### Internal Medicine:

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Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563  
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### 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  
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Loren Shaiken, DVM, ACVR 816-426-9896  
Todd Henrikson, DVM, ACVR 913-722-5566

### Surgery:

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Joseph P. Desch II, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563

Karl Frees, DVM, MS, ACVIM  
(Equine) 816-322-7722

Nathan Klocke, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-722-5566  
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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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