



## A Letter From The President

March/April 2009

Dear KCVMA Members and Honored Guests,

As I settle into my new position as KCVMA President, I have to say I am touched by the warm welcome I have received from our membership. In the January/February edition of *KCVMA News and Notes*, I had a lot of people to thank for their service to KCVMA. This month, I have even more people to recognize. I appreciate all of you who acknowledged my first President's Letter. The comments were very heartfelt and humbling! I would also like to thank those new members who picked up the phone to introduce themselves. We have several accomplished veterinarians joining our community. Welcome! Finally, I want to thank the specialists of Kansas City for once again giving up a day off to host a great day of education and fellowship at the recent Frostbite Seminar. I hope this will become an annual tradition!

Speaking of continuing education please note the following change on your calendar. Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the May meeting will be held Thursday, May 14th rather than the 21st. Hopefully, some of you will be able to enjoy a long weekend!

I would like to announce the newest KCVMA Board members. Doctors Mel Falk and Keith Placke have agreed to help out for the next two years. Dr. Falk, a 1974 Kansas State graduate, comes to us from the Hidden Valley Animal Hospital in Independence, Missouri. He has owned his practice since 1993 and is currently active with his church, several veterinary organizations and his four sons. Dr. Placke, a 2004 graduate of Kansas State University, owns Raintree Animal Health Center in Lee's Summit, Missouri. Dr. Placke grew up in Central Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln prior to journeying to Kansas. When not at work, you can find him trout fishing and skiing. I appreciate them both volunteering to join the KCVMA Board!

In our last newsletter, there was so much to cover I failed to tell you about my own background. I grew up in the Overland Park/Olathe area. I graduated from Olathe

South high school (Go Falcons!), then headed west to Manhattan, Kansas. I graduated from Kansas State with an undergraduate degree in Animal Sciences and Industry prior to being accepted to the great veterinary program in the Land of Oz. I managed to do a little in swine research during vet school (yes, pigs!). Dr. Finland finally said it was time to go in 2000, so my husband and I packed the U-haul and headed north to the Windy City, Chicago. We had a six month "vacation" eating deep-dish pizza and seeing the sights before we were transferred back to Kansas. I spent some time doing relief work before I managed to get hired by the great Doctors Ken Huggins and F. M. Gaddie. And the rest, they say, is history!

"Historically speaking", you'll find an update from the KCVMA Historian, Dr. Steve Joseph, on the back page of this newsletter. Dr. Joseph has been in contact with Meg Barrian, the granddaughter of Dr. Fred Cater. Dr. Cater graduated from the Kansas City Veterinary College in 1904. Ms. Barrian has donated some of his veterinary documents, which are over 100 years old!!! These items have been handed over to Dr. Erickson where they will be preserved by the veterinary staff at Kansas State University. We are truly lucky to be involved!

On a final note, if you decide to give your office a good spring-cleaning this year, don't head straight for the recycle bin with your old books and journals. Instead, consider donating them for others to use. You can visit the AVMA website at [http://www.avma.org/myavma/donate\\_books.asp](http://www.avma.org/myavma/donate_books.asp). The website lists multiple contacts for various books, journals and supplies. This would be a great way to build our global veterinary community, and to get your office cleaned all at the same time!

Respectfully till next time,

## SMALL BUNNY, BIG LESSONS

BY: JEN NIGRO



Few of us will soon forget the pets that inhabited our classrooms when we were children. Whether it was a hamster or a guinea pig, these animals no doubt made a big impression on all of us. But few classroom pets have had as huge an impact on learning as Daisy.

Daisy, a Holland lop-eared rabbit, started life as many animals do, in the care of a breeder. Her adoptive owner, Miko Kooken, teaches children with behavior challenges and developmental and physical disabilities. She had raised bunnies as a little girl, and knew she wanted one in her classroom. When Kooken met with Daisy's breeder, she was assured Daisy would be a good fit. And ironically, Daisy herself was considered "disfigured" by breeding standards because one ear stood up when it should have lay down. Because of that, the breeder was going to give Daisy to Kooken at a reduced price. But once she found out Daisy would be working with kids with their own challenges, she decided to waive the fee completely.

It didn't take Daisy long to prove herself remarkable. The morning after she came home, that troubled ear fell into the proper position. (Kooken called the breeder and offered payment, but the breeder didn't back out of the deal.) Soon, Daisy was in Kooken's classroom, first in an Olathe school, then in Kansas City, Kansas. Right away, Kooken saw changes in her students. Many had problems with aggression. But Daisy was persistent. Unlike most small animals she did not shy away from rough handling. "She was so accepting and so forgiving," says Kooken. "Kids would hurt her intentionally and she always came back and gave them another chance."

But that was just the beginning. Kooken says one girl in particular made amazing progress thanks to Daisy. Allie was left immobile by a devastating brain disease when she was a small child. She was in a wheelchair, unable to even raise her head. But when Daisy entered the picture, Kooken says the girl started tracking the bunny with her eyes. After several months, the girl was able to raise her head to watch Daisy. Over the course of three years, Daisy helped many children reach new milestones.

Then, Daisy came up against her own health challenges. Kooken remembers well the Friday night she first noticed something was wrong with Daisy. It started with what appeared to be an eye infection, something Daisy was prone to. Kooken began giving her eye drops. But by Saturday evening, Daisy's head was severely tilted to one side. By Sunday night, she couldn't even lift her head. "When she did try to get up," Kooken says, "she would just spin around." Monday morning, Kooken rushed Daisy to the vet.

Daisy's regular vet wasn't available, so they saw Dr. J.C. Burcham at Olathe Animal Hospital. Kooken says from the start, Dr. Burcham was knowledgeable and compassionate. She diagnosed Daisy with otitis interna, a severe ear infection. She began treating Daisy with antibiotics right away, and set to keeping her comfortable while her body fought off the infection. "When Miko came to visit, she told me this was the most special bunny she's ever had, and that she didn't seem to mind the erratic and potentially frightening behavior of her students," says Dr. Burcham. "That's when I realized Daisy was not 'just a classroom pet' but a once-in-a-lifetime rabbit."

Unfortunately, Daisy's recovery didn't progress as Dr. Burcham and Kooken had hoped. Even though Daisy remained alert, even trying to groom herself, her symptoms didn't improve. After three days, Kooken couldn't stand it anymore. She asked Dr. Burcham to put her suffering bunny to sleep. But Dr. Burcham wasn't ready to give up on Daisy yet. She asked Kooken for permission to try a prednisone treatment. While the anti-inflammatory drug is often used on dogs and cats, it is potentially dangerous for rabbits. But it was their final hope for saving Daisy.

By Thursday, Daisy was worse. Because her office doesn't charge to treat school pets, cost was not an issue. After considering a myringotomy or total ear canal ablation, Dr. Burcham and Kooken decided it was time to let Daisy go. Dr. Burcham says it was a frustrating turn of events. "I could do anything and everything that I thought was appropriate, and I still couldn't get her better." Dr. Burcham says she couldn't help crying as she gave Daisy the injection that would relieve her finally of her misery.

Kooken says in many ways, Dr. Burcham's tears made it easier on her. "She (Daisy) wasn't just an animal. She was a living, breathing creature that mattered. She was important to her, too." Dr. Burcham admits this case touched her deeply. "Much of my grief for the loss of Daisy is related to the lives she never got to touch. Everyone who met Daisy learned from her. There are so many people who never even got to meet her."

It has only been a few weeks since Daisy died, and the void she left is felt strongly not only by Kooken, but by her students. Kooken says Allie definitely knows something is different. "She looks over there every day to see if Daisy is back. I haven't found a way to help her understand." Dr. Burcham was so touched by the case, she wrote a tribute to Daisy. "I want Daisy's memory to live on and hopefully touch the lives of others, since she was not able to do so herself," she says.

Kooken says finding another rabbit to do what Daisy did won't be easy. "Daisy was one in a million," she says. "I've had rabbits and other animals my whole life and I've never had one that acted like she did." And, Kooken says her students aren't the only ones who benefited from Daisy. "She taught me that everyone deserves a second chance no matter what they've done in the past. She also taught me you don't give up."

## CASE REPORT: KITTENS WITH PORPHYRIA

BY: DAVINNE GLENN, DVM

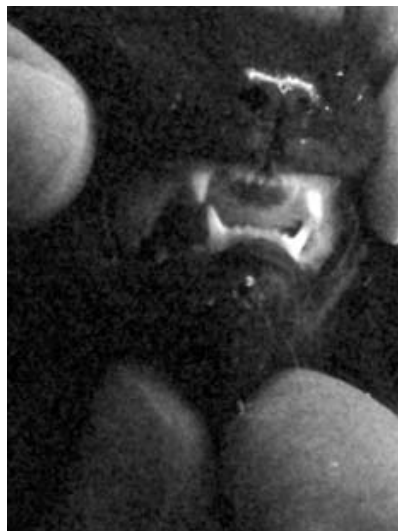
We've all heard how good it feels to be a Good Samaritan. And after experiencing the following, I couldn't agree more. You never know what you will learn.

Earlier this spring one of our veterinary technicians rescued two infant kittens. The kittens appeared to be thriving and doing well during their first few weeks in our care. But as their deciduous teeth erupted our RVT noticed each tooth had a dark brown hue to the tip. We turned to VIN for answers. Initial tests ruled out tetracycline exposure, liver problems and porphyria. We tested again for porphyria, placing a black light near the teeth to see if they fluoresce. The teeth glowed bright pink, indicating a positive test.

Having never dealt with feline porphyria in our clinic before, we decided to consult Dr. Urs Giger from the University of Pennsylvania who has expertise in this area. We sent blood and urine samples to his laboratory and he is currently running tests to determine which type of porphyria these kittens have so we will have a better indication of their long term health.

Through this first-time experience, we learned several interesting facts. First of all there are several forms of feline porphyria and at least two known mutations in cats. The disease can manifest in varying degrees of severity; some cats that have the disease live very long healthy lives while others experience problems with bones and teeth. Others suffer from anemia, cutaneous lesions or hepatic dysfunction. We also learned certain medications, like barbiturates, lidocaine and certain antibiotics, can be detrimental to animals with this disease. Animals with cutaneous lesions should avoid sunlight exposure. Finally, we learned porphyria could occur in humans, cats, dogs and numerous other species.

These kittens have been a great learning experience (and a ton of fun to watch grow and play). We are anxiously awaiting the results from Dr. Giger's laboratory, and hoping these kittens have a healthy future ahead.



## BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS

BY: STEVE JOSEPH, DVM

Dr. Frederick Cleveland Cater graduated from the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC) in 1904. Recently, his granddaughter, Meg Berrian of Webb City, MO, shared historical documents with the KCVMA, including a composite picture of his graduating class, his veterinary license and his diploma.

These papers link today's Association with the beginnings of organized veterinary medicine in Kansas City.

One of his early positions was Inspector with the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1910. He lived with his wife Alma at 3120 Woodland Avenue in Kansas City, MO.

Papers indicate Dr. Cater served during WWI in the Philippines where he may have acquired a lifelong disease that may have claimed his life in 1939.

Dr. Cater was the Deputy State Veterinarian with the Missouri State Board of Agriculture in 1919 and 1920. He had practices in Sedalia and Neosho.

Records indicate Dr. Cater presented a paper titled "The Revision of Ethics to Meet the Needs of the Modern Veterinarian" in 1921 to the Missouri Valley Medical Association. This organization may have been larger than the AVMA at that time.

Meg Berrian has requested that her grandfather's historical documents be placed with other documents from the KCVC archived at the Kansas State University CVM. When the College closed its doors in 1918, all available papers and documents were sent to the CVM.

His papers were hand delivered to Dr. Howard Erickson, KSU CVM professor and President – elect of the American Veterinary Medical History Society. Dr. Erickson is planning a day long series of lectures on veterinary history during the Annual Conference for Veterinarians at K-State in June. Dr. Erickson will make a presentation about the KCVC.

Dr. Erickson has said of Dr. Cater that his granddaughter "...should be proud of her grandfather in that he was...one of the early pioneers in Veterinary Medicine." Indeed we are built on the shoulders of veterinary giants. I'll share more information with you regarding the KCVC and two other veterinary colleges that existed in Kansas City until the early 1900's in the next issue of *News and Notes*.

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93-year-old Dr. "Mac" McCann was granted Life Membership in the KCVMA recently. Dr. McCann practiced in California, MO and now resides in Leawood.

He is a 1947 graduate of Iowa State University and is the oldest of three living graduates from that class. He is a veteran of WWII serving in the Pacific Theatre. Mac, as he likes to be called, is proud of his written memories about his life and Veterinary Medicine.

KCVMA now has one 1943 graduate, one 1945 graduate and one 1947 graduate among our Life Members. They are our most senior veterinarians in the Association.

Dr. McCann looks forward to visiting with KCVMA colleagues when he attends future CE meetings.



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for its members and guests.

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

Speaker:	Stacey Holz, DVM, Head of Dermatology, Mt. Diablo Veterinary Medical Center Lafayette, California	Location:	Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room I-435 & State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO
Topic:	How to Manage Allergic Skin Disease - It's Everywhere	CE:	2 Hours
Date:	Thursday, March 19th, 2009 (Third Thursday of the Month)	Fee:	No fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Time:	Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm	Sponsor:	Novartis

After practicing small animal medicine at hospitals for three years, Dr. Stacey Holz became fascinated with dermatology cases. This interest led to a dermatology residency program in northern California, and to publishing research on the "Long-term use of Cyclosporine in the treatment of Canine Atopic Dermatitis."



Currently head of Dermatology at Mt. Diablo Veterinary Medical Center, Lafayette, California, Dr. Holz continues to work with dermatology cases and to explore special interests in the treatment of AD and immune-mediated skin disease. She also lectures monthly and provides dermatology support to veterinarians throughout the United States.

A graduate of Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, she completed her ACVD veterinary dermatology residency at Dermatology for Animals, Campbell, California. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology (AAVD).

## April Continuing Education Event

Speaker:	Timothy Allen, D.V.M., DACVIM (SAIM)	Location:	Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room I-435 & State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO
Topic:	What's New in the Treatment of Endocrine Diseases	Fee:	No fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Date:	Thursday, April 16th, 2009 (Third Thursday of the Month)	Sponsor:	Dechra Veterinary Products
Time:	Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm		
CE:	2 Hours		



Dr. Allen is an experienced speaker with extensive knowledge of small animal therapeutics. He has experience in small animal practice (specialty and general), academia, industry and research. He will review canine hyperadrenocorticism, including a discussion of confirmatory tests and new treatment options, as well as treatment options for feline hyperthyroidism.

## May Continuing Education Event

Speaker:	Nancy S. Taylor DVM	Location:	Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room I-435 & State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO
Topic:	Chronic Renal Disease - Review and Treatment	Fee:	No fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Date:	Thursday, May 14th, 2009 (Second Thursday of the Month)	Sponsor:	Vétoquinol
Time:	Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm		
CE:	2 Hours		

Dr. Taylor will present an engaging and interactive lecture on the diagnosis and treatment options for chronic renal disease in dogs and cats, including guidelines of the International Renal Interest Society (IRIS). She is a 1992 graduate of Tufts University and has been published in *Compendium*, *Secrets of Emergency Medicine*, and others.



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## 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. Classified ads will be run at the sole discretion of the editor. Deadline for the next newsletter is 4/13/09.

Spay & Neuter Kansas City is looking to fill **2 Veterinary Technician positions** with their organization. Ideal candidate should have experience in high volume spay/neuter surgery assistance, handling of animals and must be multi-tasked. This is a growing organization with opportunities for advancement. Starting salary \$10-\$12 pending experience. Health insurance after 90 days. Position is full time Monday through Friday as well as some Saturdays. Applicants should submit resumes to mdoor956252@aol.com or mail to PO BOX 410303, KCMO 64141. Spay & Neuter Kansas City is a 501 C 3 organization. 816-353-0940 www.snkc.net

We are seeking an **associate veterinarian** to join our two doctor practice. our practice is primarily small animal and equine, however, we also treat some exotics, reptiles and small ruminants. Interest in surgery is a plus. Our hospital is very well equipped and our clients allow us to practice quality veterinary medicine and preventive care. Interested applicants may send their resume to PO Box 67, Stilwell, KS 66085, or fax their information to 913-897-9561 (attention Leanne Landau Kasitz, DVM). We look forward to hearing from anyone interested in this opportunity.

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## RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Jerome Berkowitz .....913-515-3917 KS/MO	Kimberly Kessler .....913-548-1686 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth .....785-748-0055 KS/MO
Amy Bunck .....816-225-4082 KS/MO	Kathy Kimber.....1-816-390-2704 MO	Alice Shaffer .....910-261-1577 KS
Martin Drey .....785-218-9484 KS	Shelley Lake.....913-533-9905 KS	Dennis Smith.....913-636-4206 KS
Daniel Frezza .....816-294-2256 MO	Tim Lyon .....913-782-1503 KS/MO	Paula Vale.....913-484-7012 KS/MO
Jim Garner.....913-620-8210 KS	Susie Mikkelson.....913-648-3920 KS/MO	Dennis Weaver .....816-210-6769 MO/KS
Maureen Gray .....913-538-6379 KS/MO	Terry Patterson .....816-524-3296 KS/MO	

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## CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

### Acupuncture:

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Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411

Mike Tarrant, DVM, CVA 913-764-9000

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## VETERINARY DIPLOMATES...

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### Anesthesiology:

Guy Watney, MA, VetMB, PhD, MRCVS,  
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816-513-4669

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