

A Letter From The President

March/April 2011

As I was driving northbound on I-35 one recent January afternoon, with my two-and-a-half year-old son in the back car seat, a localized patch of freezing rain developed. Within seconds, my Subaru Outback lost its contact with the road and I lost all control of driving. We glided smoothly across the ice, first one way, and then another as I tried carefully not to over-steer but refused to accept that we were headed for the ditch. Although the entire event probably took less than 10 seconds, I remember what I saw and thought with great clarity. For a moment the car faced west, and I looked to the south to assess oncoming traffic—*no cars*. We continued westward but faced north, into the southbound lane. *One semi-truck coming towards me, far back—wait, no, we're going to collide*. I could see we were headed directly for his rear set of wheels, and I issued a quick apology to my mother, who had made me promise not to make the trip unless the road conditions were clear because “it’s not worth the risk.” Then a scream and the thought that never even made it into words in my head—*let it be quick*.

And then the truck passed and we came to rest smoothly and gently in a patch of grass on the other side of the interstate. I turned off the engine and looked back at my son, who wasn’t quite sure what had just happened, but didn’t look the least bit scared. “We’re okay,” I said aloud. I kept repeating those words, in shock and disbelief considering what had just happened.

Within minutes, a police car, an ambulance and a fire truck showed up—but not for me. Another driver lost control and hit a snow fence causing his air bag to deploy. I later learned he was okay, too. A brief ride in the fire truck—a dream come true for my son—and another ride in a deputy’s police car, and we found ourselves warm and safe with our essentials at a Casey’s gas station several exits up the road.

My car, it turned out, had minimal damage, and I was able to drive it home the next day.

We all know life is full of surprises—some good, some not. We know that our lives can change in the blink of an

eye. I can’t even really say that this experience has radically changed my perspective at all. Perhaps that’s because another one of life’s brutal lessons is, “Life goes on,” even when tragedy or great shock or sadness befalls us.

Our experiences shape us, however. You may set new goals for yourself, try to spend more time with loved ones or practice taking a deep breath when faced with a new (or, in some cases, an ongoing) conflict, rather than respond with frustration and tense words.

One of my goals for 2011 is to learn new swim strokes, like the breast stroke and butterfly. My freestyle stroke is proficient but boring, and my early morning swims give me a chance to start each day fresh. Now, with three swimming lessons down and one to go, I can add some variety to this routine.

Another one of my goals for 2011 is to meet and get to know other Kansas City-area veterinarians. With this in mind, I’d like to propose an experimental “**Clinic Hop**”. The idea goes like this: If we mentally section the Kansas City area into quadrants, like Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and Northwest, veterinarians can join us onsite at a veterinary clinic that has volunteered to participate, then we can “hop” to other veterinary clinics in the selected area for a brief tour and to get to know our colleagues. Lastly, we could meet at a bar and grill for food, drinks, and to share stories from the past week. If you are interested in this idea and want to be included, please send me an e-mail! Tell me where your clinic is located (and if you’re not the owner, please check with the owner first!) and perhaps a good, local bar and grill-type establishment. If this idea gains momentum, I think we could make this a regular thing! Let me know what you think!



President
jburcham@kcvma.com

NEW BOARD MEMBER Q&A

Kara Ballenger

School: University of Missouri **Specialty:** General Practice

Current Work: relief work through self-owned company, Ballenger Veterinary Resources; Vet Tech teacher at Brown Mackie College

Professional Organizations: AVMA, MVMA

Family: husband Mike, dog Kingsley and cats, BB, Bailey and Tanzey

Hobbies: running, travel

Most Memorable Case: “Happy” presented with vague gastrointestinal symptoms which were later confirmed as hydronephrosis. His owners couldn’t afford surgery with the specialist but didn’t want to euthanize, so Dr. Ballenger performed her first nephrectomy since school, as well as a gastrotomy to remove a Kong toy. “Happy’s” story had a happy ending!

Goals for KCVMA: “I want to contribute new ideas to KCVMA and create awareness of the organization through the community.”



Christi Belew

School: University of Missouri **Specialty:** General Practice with interest in Dentistry and Ophthalmology

Current Work: Associate Veterinarian, Amity Woods Animal Hospital, North Kansas City

Professional Organizations: AVMA, MVMA, Kansas City Young Professionals Networking Society

Family: two dogs, Ralphie and Tali; close immediate family known as “The Belew Crew”

Hobbies: exploring new restaurants, watching the KC Roller Warriors, spending time with family and friends

Most Memorable Case: Blood work on a middle-aged Shar Pei diagnosed with heartworms after 11 months off preventative also revealed a marked azotemia and hyperphosphatemia, indicating kidney disease. “We wouldn’t have discovered the kidney disease right away if it weren’t for the heartworms.” The dog lived an additional eight months with aggressive kidney therapy.

Goals for KCVMA: “I have recently come to realize that KCVMA is a great networking tool. I believe camaraderie and teamwork as colleagues is necessary. My goal is to be one of many voices for the betterment of veterinary medicine.”



Tony DeMarco

School: University of Missouri **Specialty:** heavy concentration in soft tissue and orthopedic surgery

Current Work: Blue Springs Animal Hospital and Pet Resort

Family: Oldest of three brothers, parents still nearby

Hobbies: watching MU sports, Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals; playing basketball and other sports

Most Memorable Case: A 10-year-old Golden Retriever presented with a large fluid-distended abdomen. The dog was diagnosed with lymphosarcoma. A splenectomy was performed and the dog lived 59 days. “It was an emotional roller coaster with a heart-ripping ending.”

Goals for KCVMA: “I want to meet new people and help with important issues surrounding our community and veterinary relations.”



Matt Peuser

School: Kansas State University **Specialty:** focus on small animal medicine and exotics

Current Work: Olathe Animal Hospital

Professional/Community Organizations: AVMA, KVMA, AAHA, International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAPM), Olathe Sunrise Speakers, Toastmasters International

Family: wife Jill (who was his high school sweetheart!), two sons, Dylan and Zachary

Hobbies: golfing, going to the lake, poker, X-Box

Most Memorable Case: “One case I won’t forget came from my first job as an assistant at Mesa Veterinary Hospital. A Sheltie had fluoroscopy guided bougienage to relieve an esophageal stricture. At the time that was one of the coolest things I had seen and helped me decide to become a veterinarian.”

Goals for KCVMA: “I hope to make a difference in our local veterinary community, even if it’s a small one. I also look forward to meeting and interacting with local colleagues.”



PROPOSITION B MAY NOT BE IN FINAL FORM

BY: JEN NIGRO

Missouri voters may have passed Proposition B, but the fight to improve animal welfare in Missouri isn't over yet. Proposition B is scheduled to take effect this coming November. Among other things, it would limit breeders to no more than 50 breeding dogs and require annual veterinary examinations, constant access to both the indoors and outdoors and extra space for dogs depending on their size. But lawmakers opposed to some of the provisions in Proposition B say they can improve upon the regulations and still keep constituents who favor stronger animal welfare laws happy. "Proposition B passed by a very narrow margin, much narrower than most would have guessed," says Richard Antweiler, Executive Director of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association. "That has given the legislative bodies some confidence that a large number of Missourians feel like it should not stand as passed." Antweiler says there are several bills under consideration by the House and Senate that would tweak the provisions to protect animals without penalizing reputable breeders. Senator Bill Stouffer (R, Napton) is backing a proposal by fellow Senator Mike Parson (R, Bolivar). "We've tried to address both sides of the issue," says Senator Stouffer. "We've tried to make it so that you can still breed dogs and tried to incorporate some of the changes that folks against Prop B wanted."



Some of the proposed changes include:

- No limit on the number of breeding dogs in a properly operated and licensed facility.
- A veterinary site examination would be added as an option to the requirement for an annual veterinary exam.
- The Missouri Department of Agriculture would work with facility veterinarians to establish and enforce housing requirements. Facilities would have to provide enough space for each animal to turn around freely, stand, sit, lie comfortably and walk in a normal manner.
- Stricter feeding and watering rules, including requiring twice-daily feedings. All food and water would need to be provided in safe receptacles, dishes or containers. These are currently the standards under the Animal Care Facilities Act.
- Breeders charged with a second offense may face a Class A misdemeanor, depending on the offense and its impact on animal welfare.
- Removing exemptions to Proposition B so it covers not only breeders but dogs in shelters and pet stores.

While these proposals to change Proposition B have yet to make it to the House or Senate floors for debate, Antweiler is hopeful lawmakers will be successful in making changes. "I believe the wording they're talking about, if that wording had been initially proposed as a proposition to the people, I think it would have passed by 90%," he says. "So I don't think the majority of those who voted for Prop B would disagree with the changes that we are proposing to make." Senator Stouffer shares that sentiment. "The truth of the matter is we pass statutes every year and come back the next year and modify it, because sometimes the meaning goes through and you get an unintended consequence. The perfect statute has never been written." In fact, Antweiler believes things are working out better than anyone, whether or not they supported Proposition B, could have imagined. "We may come out of this with the best of all possible worlds. If we had defeated Prop B none of this would be talked about, and it would be difficult to implement any changes. But because it passed we've got a lot of talk about how to improve it and we're going to come out with something much better than either before Proposition B or with the current Proposition B. And I think it's going to be the best thing for the dogs that could happen."

Both Antweiler and Senator Stouffer admit the proposals to change Proposition B will face opposition as they move to the House and Senate floors for debate. But Antweiler cites the recent success of Missouri's Operation Bark Alert program as evidence that cracking down on unlicensed breeders rather than penalizing reputable breeders who operate large facilities is the way to go. Since the Bark Alert program began in 2009, nearly 350 commercial breeders have been taken out of business. "We (the MVMA) have stood on principle through the entire Proposition B debate, it's the welfare of the animals and enforcement we should be concerned with, not arbitrary limitations on breeders," says Antweiler.

SEEKING SUPPORT

BY: JEN NIGRO

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association is seeking the support of all Missouri veterinarians for legislation that would return the oversight of veterinary prescriptions to the state's pharmacy board. Senator Dan Brown (R, Rolla), himself a veterinarian, introduced the bill. While efforts to make this change have been ongoing, Richard Antweiler, Executive Director of the MVMA, says this time may have an even greater chance of success. "We've got the players in place in the leadership of the House and Senate that we feel we can work with and maybe finally get this fixed," he says. Antweiler is encouraging all Missouri veterinarians to contact their lawmakers to voice their support for the measure. You can also participate in the MVMA's Advocacy Day on March 15. To sign up go to www.movma.org.

BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS

“It Just Looks Good!”

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Last year we considered six veterinarians from Kansas City who were AVMA Presidents. Here’s a follow-up article to one of them.

Dr. Joseph Charles Flynn (1878 – 1954) is described by veterinary historians as the Father of the Pet Animal Practice. In addition to his hospital at 3038 Main Street, he used a pet ambulance that in many ways is the predecessor of today’s mobile practice vehicle. The ambulance was manufactured here in Kansas City by the Holcker Company, which at the time was located on the northwest corner of 10th and Grand. A local publication said the conveyance was “...the latest type of limousine for dogs and cats.”

Dr. Flynn described the role of the ambulance. “Clients want modern and up-to-date methods when caring for their pets. With the ambulance...the patient can be transported to the hospital where prompt, efficient and immediate service is provided....”

Dr. Flynn didn’t feel cars offered comfort or safety for the sick or injured pet. He was sure that clients didn’t want their pet placed on the floor or “...in the turtleback of a Ford roadster in a cramped, uncomfortable and unclean place.”

Dr. Flynn added “...In a car without restraints, pets may jump out resulting in further injury causing anxiety for the pet owner and embarrassment for the veterinarian.”

I don’t know if Dr. Flynn was trying to market his skills or practice, but he did say “...a well kept ambulance is an ethical and common sense method of promoting veterinary medicine and the individual hospital.” He added “It just looks good!”

Children see the ambulance and talk about it. “When the child’s pet is sick or injured what parent will resist pleadings that the ambulance should be called?”

He added “...not only does the ambulance look good in front of the hospital, but it looks good in front of neighbors too.” As an example he said, “...the pet owner may be told they should be caring for orphans rather than pets. The client knows the neighbor doesn’t

give a hoot for orphans let alone dogs and cats. When the ambulance is called it is proof the client cares about their pet.”

Dr. Flynn is Father of the Pet Animal Practice and was President of the AVMA from 1935 – 1936.



March 2011 Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Stephanie Pierce, DVM, Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, from BluePearl Veterinary Speciality and Emergency Center (VSEC) in Kansas City
Location: Islamorada Fish Company (Inside Bass Pro) 18001 Bass Pro Drive, Independence MO, 64055
Office: (816) 795-4200
Topic: Clinical Approach to Increased Liver Enzymes in Canine and Feline Patients
CE: 2 hours
Fee: No fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Date: Thursday March 17th, 2011 (St. Patrick's Day!)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Presentation: 7-9pm

Dr. Pierce joined Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center of Kansas City, now renamed BluePearl Veterinary Partners, in 2003 as an emergency veterinarian. She worked for a year as a family veterinarian in Kansas, the year after graduation. Before veterinary school, Dr. Pierce worked as a veterinary assistant for an equine hospital in Kentucky.

Dr. Pierce enjoys spending time with her family, which includes a Golden Retriever and a three-legged cattle dog. Her hobbies include scrap-booking, card making and traveling.

RSVP at KCVMA.com or <http://conta.cc/e3FQ0L> by March 10th, 2011

April 2011 Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Clarke Atkins, DVM, DACVIM, Professor of Medicine and Cardiology, North Carolina State University
Location: Lidia's Kansas City, 101 W 22nd St. Kansas City, MO 64108, PH: (816) 221-3722
Topic: Current Controversies, Breakthroughs and Dilemmas In Treatment and Prevention Of Heartworm Disease
CE: 2 hours
Fee: No fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Date: Thursday April 21st, 2011 (3rd Thursday of the month)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Presentation: 7-9pm
Sponsor: Elanco

Clarke Atkins, DVM, is Professor of Medicine and Cardiology at North Carolina State University. A 1972 graduate of the University of California, Davis, Dr. Atkins completed his internship at the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. He became board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in internal medicine in 1978 and in cardiology in 1992.

Dr. Atkins is known for his research and teaching in small animal cardiology, having authored more than 150 publications. He is also the author of a multimedia interactive computer program in canine cardiology and numerous textbook chapters. In addition, he has spoken extensively in the United States, as well as in many countries around the world.

RSVP by April 18, 2011

Mia Briones, Senior Sales Representative, Elanco Companion Animal: brionesmi@lilly.com or 913-207-4838

NEW ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS NOW IN EFFECT

BY: JEN NIGRO

If you're currently accredited to issue health certificates for clients travelling abroad, take note: your accreditation will expire if you don't take action to renew it. According to new regulations put in place by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, all practitioners accredited by the National Veterinary Accreditation Program will have to reapply, but due to high demand, the original August 2, 2010 deadline was extended indefinitely. The new requirement is a change from earlier rules, which required veterinarians to apply just once in order to maintain accreditation for life. In addition to the reapplication process, veterinarians will have to complete three hours of training over the next three to five years. The training requirement will be based on which of two animal categories you request accreditation for: non-food animals or all animals. Those seeking accreditation will need to keep in mind not all animals kept as pets will fall into the non-food animal category, because they are susceptible to diseases carried by livestock.

Both the application and training are free, and training will be available online after March of this year through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service website, www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation. NVAP says it will also work with professional organizations to provide training in other forms for those who don't have computer access (though you'll be charged the cost of production and mailing for CD and paper formats). Once your application is processed you will be issued a renewal date three to five years in the future. You will have until that date to complete your training. In addition, NVAP says it's willing to work with state licensing boards to obtain approval to use supplemental accreditation training for continuing education credit as well.

Veterinarians who are seeking accreditation for the first time will have different requirements, including passing specific courses and completing a core orientation.

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 4/13/11.

Small animal/exotic practice in Shawnee, Kansas is looking to add a **veterinary technician** to our staff immediately. This is a full time position; hourly wage is based on experience. For information please call Monticello Animal Hospital at 913-422-0301 or send resume to 913-422-0302.

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE! '81 Missouri DVM seeking part time employment in greater Kansas City metro area. Mo & KS license. Dr. Lucy Hirsch, Smithville, Mo. 816-830-8816 Lucyhirsch@aol.com

Bannister Veterinary Clinic is looking for a **part-time veterinarian** to join our group as one of our members has retired. With the new vet this will be 3 vets total. Bannister provides a fun and fast paced clinic with a huge clientele. Please call or come by to meet us or bring a resume. We are looking for someone to join us asap.

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Kara Ballenger816-256-8680 MO	Kathy Kimber.....816-390-2704 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth.....785-748-0055 KS/MO
Jerome Berkowitz913-515-3917 KS/MO	Julie Koupal816-590-0802 KS/MO	Alice Shaffer910-261-1577 KS
Amy Bunc816-225-4082 KS/MO	Shelley Lake.....913-533-9905 KS	Dennis Smith.....913-636-4206 KS
Martin Drey.....785-218-9484 KS	Tim Lyon.....913-244-9961 KS/MO	Shana Stelzer.....913-707-0906 KS/MO
Erin Evans.....913-339-8733 KS/MO	Korb Maxwell913-709-0208 KS	Andrea Straub-Kennedy...913-558-5882 KS/MO
Daniel Frezza816-294-2256 MO	Susan Mikkelson.....913 596-0499 KS/MO	Paula Vale.....913-484-7012 KS/MO
Jim Garner.....913-620-8210 KS	Suzanne Ostle.....913-400-2059 KS	Susan Vodraska816-255-8361 KS/MO
Maureen Gray913-538-6379 KS/MO	Terry Patterson816-524-3296 KS/MO	Dennis Weaver816-210-6769 KS/MO
Kevin Harsha816-898-4530 KS/MO	Elizabeth Anne Phares913-271-8959 KS	
Kimberly Kessler913-548-1686 KS/MO	Donna Romanzi816-588-2392 MO	

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Leanne Landow Kasitz 913-897-5595

Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411
Michelle Rhoades, DVM, CVA 816-252-5105

Mike Tarrant, DVM, CVA 913-764-9000
Susan Vodraska, DVM, CVA 816-255-8361

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, ACVIM
913-722-5566, 913-642-9563

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913-381-3937

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Susan Keil, DVM, MS, ACVO 913-722-5566

Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO

913-381-3937 or 800-776-3937

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