



A Letter From The President

March/April 2014



I hope this issue of News and Notes finds everyone well and your practices busy. Our practice certainly was busier than normal for a January and February and that's obviously a good thing. February being National Pet Dental Health Month leads to an increased focus

on dentistry at many of our practices. I'd encourage each and every one of us to continue to focus on dentistry throughout the year. Treating advanced periodontal disease, broken teeth, tooth resorption, and other conditions can be life-changing for many of our patients as these are painful conditions. One well known dental specialist is fond of saying that cats and dogs don't need teeth, they need a mouth free of pain and infection. Don't overlook this important part of our patients' health! We are lucky to have three local dental specialists available who are willing to give advice any time.

February is also a special month for me as the 27th is my oldest son's birthday. He was born during my senior year of vet school and now he's seven. Boy how time flies. One really cool thing that happened to him recently was in his first grade basketball league. He's a huge basketball fan (Go 'Cats!) and watches many games with me. He saw Syracuse beat Pitt with a long three-pointer at the buzzer and talked about it for days. He also talked about hitting a buzzer beater himself in his game. Then in a recent game, he got a rebound, dribbled down the court, and swished a really long jumper at the buzzer. Everyone in the gym was going crazy cheering for him. It was a great moment for him and he still talks about "his shot" even though it's been a few weeks.

All eyes may be on basketball this time of year, but the KCVMA is also watching the legislature closely. Specifically, we are keeping tabs on Kansas Senate Bill 278. This bill, introduced January 16, would temporarily merge the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners and the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The two year trial would run

from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016. The Senate passed the bill unanimously on February 20; it went to the House on February 21 and was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget a few days later. We'll continue to monitor its status.

As March and April arrive, hopefully the weather improves and we can start to get outside more. We have some great CE events planned for these months. As a reminder, the March CE is on a Monday and available at no extra cost to KCVMA members. If you enjoyed last year's CE, now is a great time to renew your membership for 2014 so you can continue to attend these great events as well as keep up-to-date on important issues through the newsletter. Visit the CE page for more information on completing online registration. Our new system has been working fairly well thus far but if you are having any problems don't hesitate to contact us. Almost all of the problems we have encountered have been minor and quick fixes. The grace period for 2014 dues ends May 1st. If you have already renewed, thank you. You're in for another great year of CE, special events, and informative newsletters.

Our first two board meetings of the year have had many topics of discussion. One topic that I'd like to bring attention to is a new amendment to the KCVMA bylaws. This amendment affects the requirements to become a new life member of the KCVMA (it will not affect current life members). For more information, see the amendment and accompanying information online at kcvma.org. We will be voting on this at an upcoming CE meeting.

We are also continuing to deliberate about how to spend the extra funds with which we find ourselves. We have many ideas on the table and hope to come up with some other ideas that may warrant a donation or expenditure. I again encourage our membership to contact the board with any ideas about this, or any other concerns, questions, or topics for discussion. Thanks!

President - mpeuser@kcvma.com

AREA VETERINARIANS FIND FULFILLMENT AS VOLUNTEERS

BY: JEN NIGRO

The Northland Therapeutic Riding Center in Kearney, MO, is a busy place. The center, which provides Equine Therapy for nearly 80 special needs children and adults, also has 18 horses to care for. That's where Dr. David Leighr of Long Veterinary Clinic comes in. A member of the board, Dr. Leighr provides care at a reduced cost to the center's horses. "A lot of the horses in the program are older horses with moderate dental problems that require once or twice a year work, so I felt like being a part of the board would give me an opportunity to help those horses as well as the program itself," he says. In addition, Dr. Leighr evaluates horses prior to accepting them into the program. He says making sure the horses are sound, both prior to acceptance and during their use in the program, is of the utmost importance for both horse and rider safety. "I was involved in a therapeutic riding program elsewhere several years ago," he says. "During that time we had one older horse collapse with a rider, and since that, I have been pretty adamant that the horses be evaluated." Those evaluations include regular checkups that look at the horse's structure, teeth, diet, and overall health. He looks for joint problems, metabolic problems, and lameness issues such as laminitis. Dr. Leighr doesn't spend a set number of hours per week with the program, instead choosing to work on an as-needed basis. As NTRC prepares for the spring session, which begins in March, he says his time there will increase. "We will float teeth, vaccinate, examine horses for lameness and perform pre-acceptance exams and radiographs on new arrivals," he says.

Dr. Leighr isn't the only area veterinarian spending his time at the Northland Therapeutic Riding Center. Dr. Larry Kovac, owner of Northland Mobile Veterinary Clinic, has been a volunteer since the fall of 2013. He, along with his wife Julia, works directly with the clients. Depending on the student's abilities, each has one to three volunteers assisting them through the class. Those who need the most help have one person leading the horse while two side walkers assist. Dr. Kovac serves as a leader. "My job is primarily to make sure the horse stays under control and the side walkers are there to make sure the student doesn't fall off," he says. "Some of the students have to have an arm over their leg, others have a side walker holding their ankle for extra security." With the help of these volunteers, the students are able to take their horses through exercises designed to help students physically and cognitively. Dr. Kovac says watching their progress is inspiring. "Watching them go from being really nervous to where they can take these horses at a walk and a trot on their own with us on the sides, that's a heck of a reward not only for them, but for me," he says.

Jennifer Lowrey, Volunteer Coordinator for Northland Therapeutic Riding Center, says the organization started in 2000 with a mission to improve the quality of life for children and adults through equine assistance therapy and other activities. They started out with just four horses and two riders, and the organization

has grown by leaps and bounds. The riders have challenges ranging from Down syndrome and autism to blindness and stroke.

There are two types of therapy: therapeutic riding, which is a group class led by a certified therapeutic riding instructor, and Hippotherapy, which allows students to work one on one with a physical or occupational therapist or a speech/language pathologist. "There are very specific lesson plans that are made with goals designed for the rider to meet," says Lowrey. "They involve stretching physical limits as well as social activities to get their brains and bodies working together in ways that they don't always get to." Lowrey says horses are an integral part of the therapy, because the movement of a horse's pelvis is very similar to a human's. Individuals who have difficulty with walking feel that motion over and over, giving them stimulus input. Placing people in different positions lengthens and stretches specific muscles, and exercises completed while riding improve strength in a person's core. Dr. Kovac adds that working with a horse also give riders immediate feedback on their behavior. "The horses pick up on sensations from the student, such as whether he's upset or happy. As the instructor points that out to the student they can change their attitude, and the horse picks up on that immediately and responds," he says. "They work on changing their behavior just because they want to be a friend of the horse all the time." Dr. Leighr says the program also increases self-esteem, something very important to him. "I was born with a birth defect known as brachydactyly, where my fingers were fused together and shortened," he says. "I had not considered it a disability, but a lot of people did. I feel like there are a lot of people out there who have special needs that are labeled inappropriately, and they need someplace they can go where they can be comfortable with themselves, not judged."

Northland Therapeutic Riding Center is a non-profit organization that relies not only on donations and grants, but volunteers. They currently have a roster of 169 volunteers who served a total of 4,725 hours in 2013, and they are always looking for more. "They will teach you everything you need to know as far as working with the horses and clients," says Dr. Kovac. "The saying is volunteers receive much more than they give, and I think this is an example of that. To have a kiddo with autism who is nervous about you at first because you're new to her, and six weeks into the program before she leaves one night she wants to give you a hug, that's the stuff the volunteers get back."

For more information about Northland Therapeutic Riding Center, including volunteering, visit www.northlandtrc.org.



DYSPNEA IN A YOUNG FERRET

BY: JOSEPH SIPE, DVM, MS

A one-year-old female/spayed ferret presented to Olathe Animal Hospital with a two day history of anorexia and open-mouth breathing. The owner feeds the ferret a high-protein ferret diet with minimal treats. The pet is exclusively kept indoors, has no other animal housemates and is not currently on any heartworm or flea preventative. The ferret has never been vaccinated and has never been seen by a veterinarian for regular care.

Initial physical examination findings demonstrated a dyspneic ferret with normal body condition. The pet was afebrile and demonstrated palpable tachycardia and noticeable tachypnea. Heart sounds were muffled upon auscultation and lung sounds were harsh and abnormal. Blood work demonstrated a mild monocytosis, a slight elevation in alkaline phosphatase activity and a negative result for heartworm antigen testing. Full body radiographs revealed a severe effusion of the thoracic cavity with displacement of the lungs caudally, rendering the cardiac silhouette unrecognizable. Thoracic ultrasonography demonstrated a cavitory mediastinal mass and copious effusion in the mid-to-caudal pleural space.

Ultrasound-guided thoracocentesis was performed to further the diagnosis and to alleviate the pet's dyspnea. 50

ml of red-tinged fluid was removed and slides were made for further diagnosis. Fine needle aspiration of the mediastinal mass using ultrasound guidance was performed and the samples were made into slide preparations for diagnosis. Cytological analysis of the sample taken from the mass demonstrated numerous lymphocytes with marked anisocytosis and anisokaryosis. A presumptive diagnosis of lymphoma was made and the owner was given a poor prognosis with the options of referral to a veterinary oncologist or humane euthanasia. The owner elected referral and the pet was transferred to Kansas State University's emergency care service for continued therapy.

Kansas State University confirmed the diagnosis of lymphoma in this ferret from examination of the aspirate samples, and the owner elected euthanasia due to declining health status of the pet and poor prognosis.

Lymphoma is the third most common neoplasm in ferrets, following islet cell tumors and adrenocortical neoplasia.¹ The most commonly seen form of lymphoma in ferrets is the lymphocytic form, represented by generalized peripheral lymphadenopathy with visceral spread late in the disease course.¹ The current case study represents a second variant of ferret lymphoma-- a lymphoblastic or juvenile form. Juvenile ferret lymphoma presents as a visceral neoplasm usually affecting the thymus, liver and spleen. This form is more common in young ferrets under the age of two years.^{1,2}

Treatment of lymphoma in ferrets is usually unrewarding as only about 10% of cases treated with chemotherapy experience remission.^{1,2} Those that do respond to chemotherapeutic treatment demonstrate mean survival times of six to 10 months.³ The silver lining to the lack of chemoresponsiveness by ferrets is that they do tend to tolerate chemotherapy well, with minimal side-effects aside from mild gastrointestinal side effect (nausea, vomiting, anorexia) and loss of tactile hairs. Several chemotherapy protocols have been proposed, with their derivation stemming from chemotherapeutic protocols used in canine and feline lymphoma cases.

As the number of exotic pets in American households increases, veterinarians find themselves with the need to be more aware of exotic animal diseases and the treatment options available for these diseases. Though the outcome for this particular case was euthanasia, treatment options for neoplasia in ferrets do exist and these options should be discussed with the owner at length prior to any final decision.

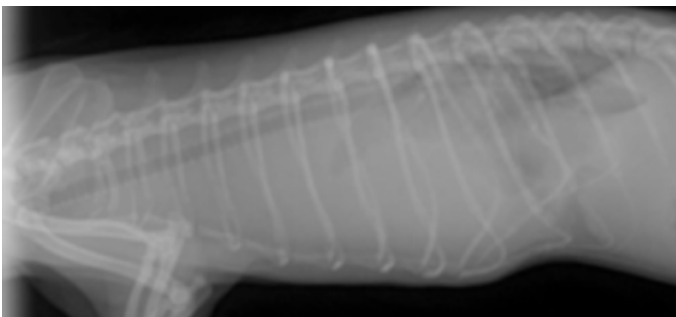
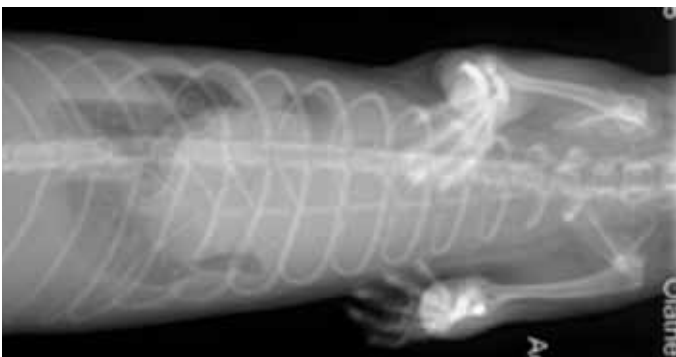


Figure 1 (above) and figure 2 (below): Lateral and ventrodorsal views of ferret with pleural effusion and poor mediastinal detail.



References:

1. Katherine E. Quesenberry and James W. Carpenter. *Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents: Clinical Medicine and Surgery*. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 2004, pp. 96-100.
2. Natalie Antinoff, DVM, et al. *Ferret oncology: diseases, diagnostics, and therapeutics*. *Veterinary Clinics: Exotic Animal Practice*. 2004. Pp. 579-625.
3. Erdman, SE, et al. *Clinical and pathological findings in ferrets with lymphoma: 60 cases (1982-1994)*. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 1996; 208(8): 1285-9.

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BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS: JACK LONDON KINDA' GUY

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Dr. Charles Reid (1894 – 1979) was a 1918 graduate of the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC) who gained fame as the “Hollywood Veterinarian”. But his story is bigger than the silver screen.

He was the son of a strict British Army officer and was raised in the aristocratic settings of England. With everything in life in his favor he nonetheless convinced his father that he wanted a rough and independent life and immigrated to the United States at age 15.

He embarked on a Jack London lifestyle; crossing the country and making ends meet as a lumberjack, railroad worker, cowboy, coal miner, farm hand and oil driller. To get around he rode the rails.

Dr. Reid’s skill and interest in horses led him to enroll at KCVC and graduated in the final year of the college’s impressive 27 year run. This started a long and illustrious career in veterinary medicine. He cared for 2000 horses near Chicago and then served as a deputy veterinarian in Oklahoma.

Always looking for new challenges he headed west to the farms and ranches of California’s San Fernando Valley. As the region developed he took on the role of veterinarian to the stars. He was given charge of movie sets when animals were involved and worked with famous productions such as *Samson and Delilah*, *The Egyptian*, *Ben Hur* and countless westerns.

He was veterinarian for Roy Rogers’ Trigger, Lassie, Elsie the Cow and Francis the Talking Mule while treating many of the pets of the stars.

Dr. Reid’s interests were many and he was the driving force behind obtaining funds to get UC Davis’ SVM off the ground in 1948. He served in many veterinary leadership roles at the local, state and national levels and served as President of the California VMA in the middle 1940s. He was named Veterinarian of the Year in California and Nevada and he received the first out-of-state honorary membership in the Hawaii VMA.

His first visit to the islands with his wife Jewell came in the early 1970s. He continued to visit the state after her death and was a regular attendee at annual meetings hosted by the HVMA. He was welcomed by friends and mentored pre-veterinary students. He addressed their club on his last visit to the state in 1978.

Dr. Reid died in 1979 at the age of 85 leaving a substantial scholarship fund to pre-veterinary students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. That fund has awarded hundreds of scholarships totaling nearly a half-million dollars.



An historical article regarding animal film stars can be found at kcvma.com under the “about” button titled *Animal Film Stars*.

March CE

Speaker: Margie Scherk, DVM, DipABVP (feline practice)
Topic: Growing a feline friendly practice: Improved compliance and less stress
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014
Location: Brio Tuscan Grille - (816) 561-5888
502 Nichols Drive
Kansas City, MO 64112

Time: Check-In: 6:30pm, Dinner and Presentation: 7pm
Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by Wednesday, March 19th. Current membership dues cover all CE.
CE: 2 hours
Sponsor: CEVA Animal Health



Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 19th by registering at KCVMA.com

Two weeks before graduating from OVC in 1982, Margie Scherk packed all of her worldly belongings into her rusty, yellow Honda Civic named Jaundice and drove west to take her last two weeks of school at WCVI. Moving to a place she could see the mountains and ocean every day, she opened Cats Only Veterinary Clinic in 1982, at that time the second feline specific clinic in Canada. The first time they became available to sit, she sat and passed ABVP Feline boards in 1995. Since 2008 she has been teaching, writing and editing exclusively. This takes her around the world where, like a locum, she gets to see how other people practice, only in this case, under some very different circumstances and in different cultures. She is the North American editor of the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, and serves on a whole bunch of committees on national, international and feline projects. As a break, she loves to cook.

April CE

Speaker: Jim Kallman, DVM
Technical Services Veterinarian, Merck Animal Health
Topic: Current Therapies for Common Endocrine Diseases, Diabetes Mellitus, Canine Hypothyroidism, and Canine Spayed Female Urinary Incontinence
Date: Thursday, April 17, 2014
Time: Check-In: 6:30pm, Dinner and Presentation: 7pm

Location: Hereford House: Leawood - (913) 327-0800
5001 Town Center Drive
Leawood, KS 66211
Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by Monday, April 14th. Current membership dues cover all CE.
CE: 2 hours
Sponsor: Merck Animal Health



Please RSVP by Monday, April 14th by registering at KCVMA.com

Dr Kallman graduated from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990. He spent 16 years in practice and continues to do relief work on weekends in the Omaha area. His working knowledge of endocrine disease brings a unique perspective on the practical application of current therapies.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR KCVMA MEMBERSHIP?

If you have renewed your KCVMA membership for 2014, thank you! If not, there's still time to renew before the grace period ends on April 30. Remember, all KCVMA members (including our life members) are required to renew each year. This ensures we have accurate contact information for all members. **An important note: Each member must have a unique email address.** To renew, simply follow these instructions.

- Using the credentials we sent via email on January 8, login at <http://members.kcvma.com>.
 - If you don't know your password, click the "Forgot Password" link and enter your email address. A link will be sent to your email address with instructions on resetting your password.
 - If your email address is not recognized, you will need to either fill out a new membership application, or contact Darin Nadler (dnadler@kcvma.com) with your correct email address.
- If necessary, check the box stating that you agree to terms of use for the website.
- Click the "View Profile" link in the upper right corner of the screen.
- Click the gray button labeled, "Renew until Thursday, January 1, 2015"
- Make any necessary changes to your profile. Please note the options for opting in (or out) of CE email/fax alerts.
- Review your membership details, and then click the gray button labeled, "Confirm and proceed to payment."
- If you choose to pay with a check, please make it payable to KCVMA, and mail it to the address on the payment screen. Please be sure to write your invoice number on the check. **Note: Your membership will not be active until we receive your payment.**
- If you choose to pay with credit card, click the gray button labeled, "Pay Online." You will be redirected to a secure payment site at PayPal. **Note: A PayPal account is NOT required.** Simply click the "Check Out as Guest" button. Complete your payment details, and submit payment.
- This will complete the renewal process.

If you have trouble renewing, or just have questions, please contact Darin Nadler, PR Representative and Website Administrator (dnadler@kcvma.com, 913-324-5961).

CLASSIFIED ADS

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, 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 04/13/14.

Our team is looking for an additional exceptional, experienced RVT who fits the mission and environment of our progressive, full-service, award winning AAHA hospital. The right addition to our team will thrive on client contact, superior customer service, client education, and thorough, preventive and diagnostic medicine. Technicians are utilized to perform those tasks for which they were trained. If you want to build a long-term career this position is for you. Excellent compensation and benefits package. Submit resume and cover letter to: Olathe Animal Hospital, 13800 W. 135th St., Olathe, Ks. 66062, fax to (913)764-7010, or email to potter@olatheanimalhospital.com.

Westwood Animal Hospital is seeking a full-time veterinary receptionist to join our team. Job responsibilities include answering telephone calls, scheduling appointments, checking patients in/out, opening/closing the clinic, handling payments, and other general clerical/hospitality duties. Some veterinary experience and availability to work Saturdays is REQUIRED. Knowledge of AVIMARK software is much preferred. JOB REFERENCES ARE REQUIRED UPON APPLYING. To apply, visit our website, www.westwoodanimalhospital.com. Click on the "FORMS" link. The application for employment is located at the bottom of the drop down menu. Please fill out the application and email it, along with a resume, ATTN: Emily. Our email address, and more information about our practice, is available on our website.

Medical Director: KC Pet Project is looking for a Medical Director to provide leadership in the delivery of veterinary care and lifesaving medical services for over 8,500 animals annually in shelter. We operate the KCMO Animal Shelter and are the fourth largest open admission, no kill shelter in the US. Leadership experience, expertise in establishing treatment protocols in a shelter setting, and performing high volume spay/neuter surgeries required. Full-time; salary and benefits are negotiable. Must have MO license and be able to obtain a DEA license. Salary range \$80,000 - \$90,000. Send letter of interest and references to Teresa Johnson, CEO at teresa.johnson@kcmo.org.

Amity Woods Animal Hospital is seeking an experienced RVT for our busy, two doctor practice near Zona Rosa. We are looking for someone with a fun, outgoing personality who can multi-task. Leadership skills are preferred, as there is potential for transition to a head technician position. Excellent opportunity to maximize your skills. Please send cover letter and resume to dr.belew@amitywoods.com.

Qualifications: 1+ years experience as CVT/LVT preferred. Seeking an exceptional CVT and quality employee to join our team. This person will understand the importance of each client and patient to our business and treat both with the highest level of care, competence, warmth and professionalism. Duties include performing all the technical aspects of surgical, laboratory, radiography, dental, in-patient and out-patient care and assistance to the veterinarian and the education of our clients. This opening is for part time and must be able to work Saturdays. Email resume to kennedysanimalclinic@gmail.com or fax to 816-358-5998.

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