

news & notes

MAY/JUNE 2006

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kansas Governor Sebelius has been busy signing bills into law that affect veterinarians and animal owners. The new measures provide substantial improvement and I'm pleased to report this summary of them to you.

Revisions to the Veterinary Practice Act

Extensive changes to the Veterinary Practice Act (as discussed by Gary Reser on page 2) give the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners some teeth to go with their growl when dealing with unlicensed individuals practicing veterinary medicine.

Senate Bill 408

The legislature responded to public pressure following a host of animal cruelty cases including the "Scruffy" case in Kansas City, Kansas, and the "Magnum" case in Wichita, by amending The Animal Cruelty Act with Senate Bill 408. The bill makes the first offense of "intentionally and maliciously killing, injuring, maiming, torturing, burning or mutilating any animal" a felony. It also mandates a psychological evaluation to determine if conditions for probation should include enrollment in special programs such as anger management. In addition, SB 408 makes lesser animal cruelty offenses — such as intentionally failing to provide food, water, and protection from the elements — a Class A nonperson misdemeanor for the first offense and a felony for subsequent offenses.

I was particularly concerned with including a psychological evaluation in the sentencing and allowing the first conviction for lesser animal cruelty offenses to be considered a misdemeanor. As such, the passage of this bill represents a big step in the right direction.

I appreciate Gary Reser, Ralph Richardson, and the many KVMA officers and legislative committee members who worked with me on this bill. Thanks also to my representative in the Kansas House, Thomas "Tim" Owens, who was particularly helpful in offering suggestions that helped me lobby more efficiently. His input on the most

important people to contact and guidance on the workings of the legislative process were invaluable.

Senate Bill 578

The Kansas Legislature approved Senate Bill 578 to regulate the possession and ownership of exotic animals such as tigers, lions, bears, and venomous nonnative snakes. The need for this measure was painfully demonstrated last year by the tragic death of a 17-year-old southeast Kansas girl who was attacked while posing in front of a tiger for high school photographs. The girl's family and friends were among those who turned out for the hearing by the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

On an unrelated front, the KVMA provided information to the Kansas Department of Revenue (DOR) that was instrumental in convincing the DOR to reverse its earlier position on the sales tax status of small animal vaccines. Sales tax exempt status for small animal vaccines is a significant accomplishment for the KVMA and demonstrates the kind of benefits you can receive through your participation and membership in organized veterinary medicine.

Closing with some KCVMA business, and speaking of membership, if your newsletter includes an envelope, our records indicate you still need to pay your dues. When paying, please include your e-mail address and fax number so we can reach you for Continuing Education announcements and industry alerts.

A broadcast fax and e-mail were sent April 19 to remind you of the April CE by Dr. Armbrust. If you did not receive those messages, let us know. The easiest way to update your contact information is through Darin Nadler by fax 913-859-9665 or e-mail (dnadler@nadlerassociates.com).

All the best,



KVMA ACCOMPLISHES ALL OF ITS 2006 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

BY GARY RESER, KVMA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



The Kansas Veterinary Medical Association accomplished its entire legislative agenda for 2006. Our success was punctuated on Wednesday, March 29 when the Kansas House acceded to Senate changes in HB 2833 by a vote of 121-4. HB 2833, which amends four sections of the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act, was signed into law by the Governor the week of April 10.

Legislation was enacted to address changes we wanted in seven Kansas statutes. One of the most important changes in the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act was initially addressed in HB 2834 to give the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) the power to react appropriately to lay persons practicing veterinary medicine (issue cease and desist orders, subpoenas, fines, etc.). Although HB 2834 was not passed in the House, a House-Senate conference committee agreed to Senate changes to HB 2833, which incorporated the essence of HB 2834 into the measure after the addition of new “companion animal” language. HB 2833 passed the full Senate 40-0 with the amended language.

HB 2833 states that a licensure applicant who is not a graduate of a recognized and approved school of veterinary medicine must meet the “education requirements prescribed by the board in rules and regulations.” It also allows the board to determine by regulation how many times a person can retake the national examination and clarifies that a veterinary premise is audited when there is a change of the licensed veterinarian who is responsible for the operation of the premises.

Amended HB 2833 allows the KBVE to issue cease and desist orders, citations and fines, subpoenas, and injunctions against lay persons’ unlawfully practicing veterinary medicine. This includes both practitioners in Kansas and outside Kansas, with the latter operating via the Internet.

The new legislation makes Kansas one of only five states nationwide to authorize the state veterinary regulatory board to take disciplinary action against lay persons unlawfully practicing veterinary medicine.

The other measure targeted in the Association’s 2006 legislative agenda, HB 2835, was signed into law by Governor Sebelius on Monday, March 27. HB 2835 makes “violation of a board order” grounds for disciplinary action. It also adds three waivers to the confidentiality privilege.

Our legislative accomplishments this term are due to tenacious lobbying by the KVMA staff and Dr. Dirk Hanson of the KBVE. This included one-on-one discussions with members of the House and Senate Agriculture committees and the conference committee. Dr. Marty Vanier, chair of the KVMA Legislative Committee, contributed yeoman work on all three bills in the legislative package. Thank you to members of the KVMA Legislative Committee (Dr. Tad Coles, in particular) for their assistance. Thank you also to Drs. Steve Joseph, Chuck Stinchcomb, Richard Barta, Billy LaRue, Candy Layton and others who contacted their lawmakers.

2006 KANSAS LEGISLATURE: VETERINARY/ANIMAL-RELATED LEGISLATION	
SB 408	Amends Animal Cruelty Act to increase penalties for animal cruelty
SB 578	Regulates the possession and ownership of exotic animals
HB 2833	Amends four sections of the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act. Provisions include: definition of companion animal; educational and (re)examination requirements; clinic inspections when there is a change in responsible veterinarian; changes in registration applications/fees; clarifies that it’s unlawful to practice veterinary medicine without a license unless individual is exempt; makes it a Class B felony to unlawfully practice or manage a veterinary facility; allows Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners to issue subpoenas
HB 2834	House version (not passed) of a measure giving the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners the power to take action against people practicing veterinary medicine without a license. Provisions were folded into HB 2833
HB 2835	Enacts new provisions to the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act, specifically on conduct of veterinarians and responses to request by the board. Outlines circumstances under which confidentiality privilege can be waived; increases fines

KCVMA SECURES ASSISTANCE ON FINANCIAL ISSUES FOR MEMBERS

BY DR. ALLYSON COOK

The KCVMA Board is aggressively working to assist its members in learning how to improve the financial health of their veterinary practices. The KCVMA Board has agreed with other VMA chapters in Missouri to participate in an innovative program with the University of Missouri-Columbia's College of Veterinary Medicine.

A select group of students from the UMC College of Veterinary Medicine is enlisted in an effort to help member practitioners complete the enrollment process for the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues. NCVEI's mission is to improve the economic base of the veterinary profession and ensure that the delivery of veterinary care and service meets the needs of society. (See www.ncvei.com for more.)

The NCVEI has developed a series of 12 benchmarking tools to help veterinarians evaluate and improve the economic status of their practices; this tool has been expanded to equine and large animal veterinarians as well.

"The Missouri Veterinary Medical Assn. realizes that one of the most important activities we can undertake for our members is to assist them in a strategic, economic way," Richard Antweiler, executive director of the MVMA, said.

"This summer, the university students will work one-on-one with practice owners to research and collect all information needed to complete the veterinarian's NCVEI enrollment. In addition, they will work with practice owners on analysis and application of useful information to enhance the economic viability of their practice," he said.

All KCVMA members whose dues are current are eligible to participate in this new service. No fee has been set, but could be about \$150 per clinic to cover students' travel fees and expenses.

The board encourages you to participate in this outstanding opportunity to accelerate the enrollment process so you can benefit from the AVMA- and MVMA-endorsed NCVEI Economic Tool.

PAW & ORDER COMES TO KC

Coming to Kansas City on May 10, a new video event called *PAW & Order*TM looks at potential legal threats in the veterinary profession and how to overcome them.

Well received at NAVC, WVC, and AVMA, *PAW & Order*TM rolls out in two parts. First, on film, there's a fictionalized veterinary malpractice lawsuit, enacted in the style of the long-running television series, *Law & Order*. Following the film, a panel of national experts appears on videotape to discuss the real-life implications of the issues the film raises. The panel discussion concludes with practical "action steps," making it easy for all veterinarians to adapt lessons learned to their practice.

Veterinarians and their staffs are invited to the event, which will be held at the Ameristar Casino's Stadium 18 Cinemas and is free of charge. Registration begins at 6:15. The film starts at 7 p.m. and the closing presentation and raffle begin at 9 p.m.

Please RSVP (888-288-1199) and contact your Merial representative for tickets.

OFFICIAL KCVMA INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS 24/7

KCMVA members can now get the official word on association news, continuing education, upcoming events, professional development and employment opportunities anytime, day or night.

The association's new web site (<http://kcvma.com/>) is easy to navigate, colorful and concise, and chock-full of useful information. The home page showcases an electronic version of the bimonthly newsletter and upcoming events or continuing education opportunities. Elsewhere on the web site, members will find a recap of past events and classified ads of items for sale, full-and part-time employment and other services.

Additionally, the KCVMA board has recently begun another new service: providing broadcast fax and e-mail notifications to members regarding continuing education and important breaking news. This is just one more reason to ensure we have your correct contact information. (If not, send it to dnadler@nadlerassociates.com).

OPERATION WILDLIFE IS IN FULL SWING

BY: DR. TAD COLES

Operation WildLife (OWL) is in full swing, providing veterinary services and rehabilitation to injured and orphaned wild animals in Kansas. As many as 30 to 40 animals are being taken in each day, according to Diane Johnson, RVT, who is leading the effort. She is assisted by numerous KCVMA members, other RVTs and lay volunteers.

Participating veterinarians include:

- Dr. Ron Lee of Eudora Animal Hospital
- Dr. Jennifer Hyman of KC Eye Care for Animals
- Dr. Mark Romain of Olathe Animal Hospital and
- Dr. J.C. Burcham of Olathe Animal Hospital

Most of the injured animals are transported to these veterinarians. Injured birds typically go to Olathe Animal Hospital, where doctors have enhanced expertise and equipment used in avian surgery and medicine, although neither Romain nor Burcham are board certified.

Operation WildLife also provides wildlife education to area residents.

“Citizens should not touch any wild animals they may find. It is preferable for them to contact OWL at 785-542-3625 or 913-631-6566 for their own protection as well as the animal’s,” said Johnson. “Sometimes, wild animals that appear to need rescue really don’t. For example, we see a large number of baby bunnies that are ‘rescued’ when they really would be just fine if left alone.”

For more information, go to OWL’s web site (www.owl-online.org).



*Diane Johnson, RVT,
examines an injured bobcat*

CONGRATULATIONS! EXCITING NEWS FROM MAPLE WOODS VET TECH PROGRAM!

Audrey Tatro and Jen Lawson have been accepted into the Animal Medical Center’s Veterinary Technician Internship program. They will be headed to the Big Apple in June!

The AMC’s Veterinary Technician Internship program is a year-long Internship for graduates of an AVMA-accredited program. The AMC established this program in 1985 to further the clinical skills that veterinary technicians

receive in college. With a case load of approximately 50,000 animals per year, which includes small and exotic animals, the experience will be unparalleled.

The applicants were numerous and only six people were accepted from across the nation. This is a very exciting opportunity for Jen and Audrey. The KCVMA congratulates them and the Maple Woods Veterinary Technician Program!

KCVMA

news¬es

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for its members and guests.

All suggestions and comments are welcomed.
Please write, call or fax Wanda Grindstaff.
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May Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Peggy T. Fisher, DVM
Topic: Part 1: Diagnostic Techniques in Veterinary Dermatology
Part 2: The Differential Diagnosis and Treatment of Pruritic Dermatoses of the Dog
Date: May 18, 2006 (3rd Thursday of the month)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

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

Peggy T. Fisher, DVM, is a senior area veterinarian for the U.S. Veterinary Services division of Pfizer Animal Health, a core business of Pfizer Inc., a world leader in human and animal health.

Within the company's emphasis on companion animal medicine, Fisher serves as a key liaison between Pfizer Animal Health practitioners and the animal healthcare industry. She provides consultations and continuing education in the five-state Mississippi Valley area and is directly responsible for colleges of veterinary medicine in Missouri and Oklahoma.

Fisher, who received her undergraduate degree from Drury University and her DVM from the University of Missouri-Columbia, has served on several product teams for the Marketing, Sales and Learning & Development branches of Pfizer Animal Health.

June Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Greg Brown BS, MBA
Topic: Suture Selection, Review of Currently Available Polymers & Needle Technology, & Surgical Site Infection
Date: June 15, 2006 (3rd Thursday of the month)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

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

Greg Brown is the director of New Technologies Development for Ethicon, a leading global medical device company that is a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, a multinational manufacturer of health care products and services for consumers and the pharmaceutical, medical devices and diagnostics markets.

Brown has been with Ethicon for more than 20 years, most recently as director of International Training & Development. He led numerous product development teams, expanding Ethicon's offerings in sutures, wound drainage systems, synthetic absorbables, electrosurgical products, plastic surgery needles and topical tissue adhesives.

He has a bachelor of science degree from California State University-Fullerton and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Come join the KCVMA Board for a night at a Kansas City T-Bones baseball game! Mark your calendar for a 7:05 start on Saturday, July 22 against the Calgary Vipers. Four tickets will be provided to members at no charge; additional tickets can be purchased through the KCVMA for regular price. Fax this form to 913-341-4225 or mail to Wanda Grindstaff, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468. If purchasing additional tickets, please make checks payable to KCVMA.



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Complimentary Tickets (Max. 4) _____

Additional Tickets (@ \$6.50/each) _____

Total Amount Due
= \$ _____

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 6/13/06.

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

Veterinary assistant/technician is needed for a full- or part-time position at a one-doctor, small-animal hospital in Overland Park. Individual must be pleasant, energetic, and possess strong communication and educational skills. One year experience or RVT certification is necessary. Because we are a small clinic, multitasking is a must. If interested, please call 913-888-3939 and speak with Judy or fax a resume to 913-888-3979.

Registered Veterinary Technician for progressive, 2-doctor small animal practice in Lawrence, KS. Must be motivated, energetic and team player. Competitive wage and benefits package. Apply at Wakarusa Veterinary Hospital, 1825 Wakarusa Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047, 785-843-5577 or fax resume to Jane at 785-843-7406.

Parkville Heights Animal Hospital is seeking a **Full Time Registered Veterinary Technician/experienced individual** for a three doctor, small animal practice. Contact Diane at 816-741-2247 or fax resume to 816-741-2379.

For Sale: Idexx Vettest Analyzer VT8008 in excellent working condition. Can purchase maintenance agreement for machine through Idexx Laboratories. Asking \$1,200. Contact Dr. Kent Jackson, Jackson Animal Clinic, Platte City, MO 816-858-3112

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Yousef Abdou.....913-334-4346	G. Mark Daniels.....816-537-8483 MO	Tim Lyon.....913-782-1503 KS/MO
Billi Arthur.....816-862-6214 MO	Martin Drey.....785-887-6921	Wayne Meyer.....785-442-3868
Jerome Berkowitz.....913-239-9353 KS/MO	Susan Hopper.....816-813-4734 KS/MO	Melissa Ovel.....913-432-2354 KS
Donn I. Blevins.....660-656-3832 MO	Maureen Gray.....913-538-6379 KS/MO	Terry Patterson.....816-524-3296 KS/MO
Tirsten Brockmeier.....913-221-4426 KS/MO	Rod Jantz.....816-868-2332 MO	Chris Peterson.....816-580-4047 KS/MO
Alicia Boyce.....913-651-6023 KS/MO	Linda Kalmar.....913-557-9224 KS	Elizabeth Robertson.....816-304-5164 KS/MO
Michelle Chappell.....913-709-3077 KS/MO	Kimberly Kessler.....913-548-1686 KS/MO	Annah Terry.....816-838-0343 KS/MO
James B. Cornelius.....630-734-1760 MO	Keith Longhofer.....816-896-8040 KS/MO	Harris Tate.....785-841-8946 KS

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:

Mark Brady, DVM, ACVECC 913-642-9563
Robin Wall, DVM, ACVECC 913-722-5566

Internal Medicine:

Lisa Cellio, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563
Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563
Michael Wasmer, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566

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
(Topeka) 785-478-9708

Loren Shaiken, DVM, ACVR 816-426-9896

Todd Henrikson, DVM, ACVR 913-722-5566

Surgery:

D.A. Allen, DVM, PhD, ACVS 913-722-5566

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

Candace Layton, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563

Steve Riley, DVM, DVSc, ACVS 913-642-9563

Eric Wilson, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-722-5566

Veterinary Practitioners:

Vern Otte, DVM, ABVP 913-381-3272

John S. Bradley, DVM, ABVP 785-843-9533

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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