

# news & notes

MAY/JUNE 2007

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Finally, the seasons have changed. I know this by the number of bugs that splat the windshield of my motorcycle as I cruise the back roads. The ticks are back

to work. I was contracted to remove one from a golden retriever just yesterday. I expect that the fleas are winding up and the busy season is just around the corner for most of us.

Hopefully, the pet food scare will be winding down as client communications required during crisis has been a huge burden to our support staff. This year is going to bring several new products to the market that will require those of us in practice to educate ourselves, our staff, and then decide how to position them in our tool box.

Recently, I authored a chronicle that exploits my memories of the good old days. I wrote this story for the benefit of those who will actually remember the described events and for those who might have a curiosity about things veterinarians did 25 or so years ago, just to have fun. The details may be too graphic for some reading the newsletter so it can be found only on our website @ [kcvma.com](http://kcvma.com). Some of the

material could bring you a smile or a laugh. It's nothing but the facts, best I can remember them.

Who knows, after letting this old cat out of the box, a bright young mind involved in organized veterinary medicine may suggest some type of contemporary adventure that could also bring smiles and laughs to the lives of hard working practitioners. There is no doubt in my mind that smiles and laughs are good medicine!

Your executive board has nearly completed the task of lining up speakers and sponsors for the remaining meetings of 2007. The November program will be hosted by Bayer Animal Health at their facility in Shawnee, which will reduce our expenses significantly. Watch the CE portion of the newsletter for additional information as it becomes available.

So let's all continue to move forward serving our animal-owning public. Most of our clients really appreciate what we do for them. We also need to appreciate our clients -- without them our practices could not survive.

Steve Smith  
President, KCVMA

# CARES Inc.: PUTTING DOGS TO WORK TO SERVE HUMAN NEEDS

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS

It remains to be seen whether a history of civilization will properly acknowledge dogs' service to people. Canines are well known for their prowess in rescues, their work as police officers and their role as guides for the blind. But the 21st century – with all its derivative stresses and problems – is a unique era of canines providing service in extraordinary measure to human beings.

Dogs work with victims of autism, most of whom are young, helping them by baby steps to accomplish what is typically shut off to them (building relationships, touching, feeling empathy). In caring for their dogs, autism patients learn to understand cause-and-effect, a foundation for building relationships that most of us take for granted.

Dogs provide mobility and serve a variety of tasks for wheelchair-bound patients, cerebral palsy and head injury victims, and people of all ages afflicted by seizures, diabetes, and migraines.

In one home, a dog alerts a deaf mother to her young son's middle-of-the-night asthma attack.

An Oklahoma bombing victim reconnects to the good in the world through his dog, who is helping him shed the post-traumatic stress disorder brought about by that fateful day.

Other dogs work in dental and chiropractic offices, helping both the health practitioner and the patients.

A young man so disturbed and violent that he has been house-bound for months is finally able to exert self-control to visit his doctor or dentist, thanks to his dog.

CARES\* Inc. of Concordia, Kan., trains service dogs (also called "task-trained dogs") in five areas of human need. Many dogs serve needs across more than one category:

- Mobility Services
- Therapeutic Support
- Mental Health
- Developmental Assistance
- Professional Therapy

In 2006, CARES Inc. had its biggest year yet – placing 102 dogs.

CARES raises the home-born puppies and conducts "temperament testing" on them at 7 weeks to determine if they are well suited to continue with the program.

The next step is to place the canines with "beginning puppy raisers" in foster homes for 8-to-10 weeks. Typically dog-loving individuals, youngsters in scouting and 4-H members help raise the puppies in this initial phase.

Over the next several months, in the intermediate phase, basic obedience training and socialization is provided by residents (trained as trainers) of correctional facilities -- El Dorado and Ellsworth (adults) and Atchison (juveniles) – as well as two private academies for troubled teens (Meadowlark and Tipton). It's difficult to know who benefits more – the dog or the trainer – from the bonding that takes place.

For the last phase before placement – "finishing" (think of it as college) - the dogs are returned to CARES.

Life's sometimes cruel twists-and-turns can back people into a corner, restricting their physical abilities or severely handicapping their mental or relational abilities. These specially trained dogs heal and build bridges to bring these victims back into the world.

As many as 150 puppies destined for the program are in foster homes at any one time. Most common breeds are Labradors, Golden Retrievers, and Border Collies which, by the end of training, are valued at \$15,000-\$28,000. But talk to the people they help and you'll know their value is much more.

As a not-for-profit organization, CARES Inc. depends on the help of veterinarians and other animal-loving individuals. Here are some of the ways you may be able to help:

Veterinarians are always needed to work with the foster families of the puppies and with the people who receive a task-trained dog. If you can donate or discount your time and services, you are doing double duty by supporting an animal that is a critical link for the welfare of a disabled or incapacitated person.

Beginning puppy raisers are in demand if you are able to be a foster parent to a puppy;

Cash donations. CARES receives \$500 reimbursement for each trained dog, but that amount falls short of the cost of preparing the dog, providing medical care and vaccinations and micro-chipping (provided to all the dogs).

Donations of automobiles or gasoline purchase cards. This is a tremendous aid for the staff's regular visits to puppies in foster homes and the dogs at their service locations.

If you can help, contact CARES Inc. at P.O. Box 314, Concordia, KS 66901, call 1-800-498-1077 or go to <http://caresks.com>.

*\*CARES stands for Canine Assistance Rehabilitation Education and Services. CARES has placed 664 dogs across 33 states and in 3 foreign countries: Peru, Puerto Rico and Belgium.*

## A DOG'S TALE MAKES STRONG CASE FOR MICROCHIPPING PETS

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS

If Mickey the Boston terrier could talk, he would likely urge veterinarians and pet owners everywhere to insist upon inserting microchips in pets. After a four-year absence, roaming the Midwest, Mickey owes his return to his Lee's Summit home to his family's prescience in having him microchipped. The procedure was done at Chipman Road Animal Clinic.

Mickey's tale is a fantastic one – and brought “15 minutes of fame” on The Today Show April 10 when a national audience got to hear how Mickey disappeared from his neighborhood in 2003. Four years later, in March 2007, a woman saw a dog wandering the streets in Billings, Mont., and took him to a local animal clinic. A Montana veterinarian's instinct to look for a microchip and a flurry of calls brought Mickey home.

There are two lessons Kansas City veterinarians can take away from Mickey's saga, according to Dr. Kathleen Claussen. First, veterinarians should remind all their customers to microchip their pets (most any pet can be microchipped). Second, once an animal is microchipped, pet owners must remember to update the data on the microchip so a lost animal can be reunited with owners without a lot of detective work.

Microchipping, which is permanent and no more painful than a vaccination, involves inserting a capsule the size of a rice grain under a flap of skin on the animal's neck. The cost can range from \$30 to \$50 and, on occasion, is included in pet adoption fees.

The industry has worked on making the digital scanners that read the chips uniform so a clinic doesn't

need a different device to read each chip made by various manufacturers. (There also are mobile GPS locator systems available, but the cost is significantly higher.)

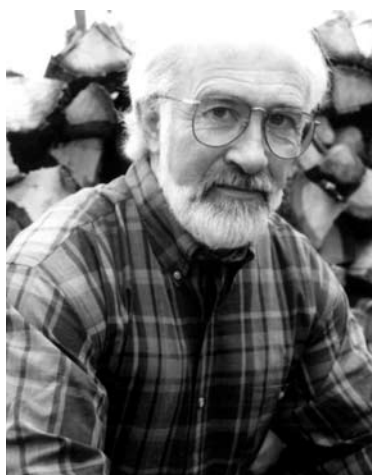
Updating the information on the microchip (usually the owner's name, address, and telephone number) is a simple matter – usually just a telephone call to the microchip manufacturer. Some companies offer the ability to update microchips online.

With the hectic pace of life and the inevitability of emergencies and disasters, such as fires, tornadoes, and Hurricane Katrina, microchipping helps keep the unspoken pledge: What the human-animal bond brings together, let no happenstance bring asunder.



## DONN IRVING BLEVINS (1933 – 2007)

BY: STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN



Dr. Donn Blevins died February 2nd at Shawnee Mission Medical Center after his fight against lymphoma. He was a Life Member of the Association and a graduate of the University of Missouri CVM.

Dr. Blevins worked with Bayer Animal Health for several years followed by employment at Advanstar Communications, Inc. After he retired from these positions, he did relief work in the Kansas City and Warrensburg area. He also had a sheep farm near Centerville, Mo.

In addition to his family and friends, Donn's other loves included outdoor activities and writing. His first novel, published posthumously is titled *Escape Into the Sea and Other Stories*.

During the years Donn and I worked together at Bayer, he was my best friend. Everyone enjoyed his keen wit and deep intelligence. If the old saying that “he would give you the shirt off his back” is true of anyone, it was true of Donn. His daughter said it best when she said, “He was our greatest teacher.”

## CASE REPORT

BY: HEATHER HEEB, DVM, DACVIM (ONCOLOGY)

An eight-year-old, neutered male, German Shepherd dog presented for evaluation of acute collapse. The owner had come home to find him laying on the kitchen floor in a pool of urine, unwilling to move.

On physical exam, he was depressed but responsive. His mucous membranes were slightly pale and his pulse quality was poor. Abdominal palpation was unremarkable. Cardiac sounds were decreased on auscultation, and he was tachycardic.

Blood was obtained for cell counts and electrolyte evaluation, and IV fluid therapy was initiated. An ECG was obtained. Once the dog appeared more stable, and the pulse quality was improving, thoracic radiographs were performed.

The PCV was mildly decreased at 30%, but the remainder of bloodwork was unremarkable. The ECG had shortened QRS complexes and tachycardia, however the rhythm was normal. Thoracic radiographs revealed a large round cardiac silhouette with no other abnormalities identified. At this point, the primary differential for the cardiomegaly and shortened QRS complexes was pericardial effusion

An echocardiogram confirmed pericardial effusion and a mass of mixed echogenicity involving the majority of the right atrium. There was collapse of the right ventricle consistent with cardiac tamponade. A pericardiocentesis was performed.

Subsequent to the pericardiocentesis, the QRS complexes returned to their normal height, and the pulse quality improved. The pericardial fluid appeared

hemorrhagic but did not clot. Cytology on the fluid was unremarkable.

The pet continued to improve over the next 24 hours.

Based upon the signalment, clinical presentation, and diagnostic findings, the suspected diagnosis was atrial hemangiosarcoma with pericardial effusion and collapse secondary to decreased cardiac output. There are few therapeutic options for this tumor type, and the prognosis is poor. The owners were informed of this, and palliative care was discussed.

For cardiac tumors causing pericardial effusion, palliative care typically involves periodic pericardiocenteses or pericardial windows/pericardectomies. Periodic pericardiocentesis often involves multiple hospital visits (at times on an emergency basis) for the pet. In addition, it can become increasingly difficult to accomplish due to scar tissue build up and decreased patient tolerance. Pericardial windows/pericardectomies have been shown to provide significantly longer average survival times than medical therapies, but this surgical treatment used to require an invasive thoracotomy. However with recent advances, pericardial windows can be accomplished, in many cases, thoroscopically.

Per the owner's request, a pericardial window was performed utilizing thoracoscopy. The dog recovered uneventfully and was released from the hospital 24 hours after the procedure.

He continued to do well at home for an additional 9 months with no further interventional therapy.

KCVMA

news&notes

Published by the  
Kansas City Veterinary Medical Association  
for its members and guests.

All suggestions and comments are welcomed.  
Please write, call or fax Wanda Grindstaff.  
PO Box 12468  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468  
P 913-381-7823  
F 913-341-4225

Design and Production by  
Nadler & Associates, Inc., Lenexa, KS.  
Printing by  
Shawnee Copy Center, Shawnee Mission, KS.

## May Continuing Education Event

*Speaker:* Dr. Stan W. Casteel, University of Missouri CVM  
*Topic:* Toxicology  
*Date:* May 17, 2007 (3rd Thursday of the Month)  
*Time:* Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm  
*CE:* 2 Hours

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



Stan W. Casteel, DVM, PhD, is a Professor of Veterinary Toxicology in the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri-Columbia. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology and has 20 years of experience as a researcher and diagnostician in veterinary diagnostic laboratories. His research expertise in pharmacokinetic/toxicokinetic studies spans the last 13 years. Dr. Casteel, together with EPA scientists, developed the juvenile swine model to assess the bioavailability and biodistribution parameters of environmental contaminants. More recent applications for the swine model include pharmacokinetics of gold nanoparticle compounds useful in cancer chemotherapy and diagnostic imaging.

## June Continuing Education Event

*Speaker:* Dr. Jeff Dennis  
*Topic:* "What I have learned over the last year that has changed the way I practice Veterinary Medicine."  
*Date:* June 21, 2007 (3rd Thursday of the Month)  
*Time:* Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

*Location:* Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room  
*Fee:* FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE. Technicians free with a dues paid veterinarian.  
*CE:* 2 Hours

Dr. Dennis is a board certified Diplomate (Internal Medicine) in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. He graduated from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. After completion of an internship at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, he spent 3 1/2 years in general practice. He subsequently completed his residency training at Michigan State University. Dr. Dennis is an Internal Medicine Specialist at Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center in Overland Park, Kansas. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his beautiful wife and 2 daughters.

## Position Open on KCVMA Board

The KCVMA is announcing an open position on the Board of Directors as the Kansas City District Trustee for the state of Kansas. The District Trustee serves as the KCVMA representative on the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for this position, or would like more information, please contact: Wanda Grindstaff (wgrindstaff@kcvma.com) no later than Friday, May 25. A ballot for voting on the candidates will follow.

**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, August 4th against the Winnipeg Goldeyes. 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 before July 1st. If purchasing additional tickets, please make checks payable to KCVMA.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# Complimentary Tickets (Max. 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due

# Additional Tickets (@ \$8.50/each) \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 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 6/13/07.

**Full time associate** wanted for 3 doctor, mixed practice. 65% companion animal, 30% bovine, 5% equine. Located in growing small community near Kansas City, MO. Experienced practitioner desired but new graduate considered. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and salary requirements to Dr. Paul B. Terry, Animal Clinic, P.C., P.O. Box 365, Plattsburg, MO 64477. Phone: 816-930-2629, FAX 816-930-2630, Evening phone 816-930-2566 or e-mail Prodox@aol.com

**Full-time associate** needed for established, fast-paced 3 doctor SA practice in Kansas City suburb. Operating in well-equipped new building with dedicated and very knowledgeable support staff. We strive to provide compassionate, quality patient care with emphasis on client satisfaction. We are looking for a self-motivated individual with excellent people and medical skills to be part of our team. Competitive salary based on experience, competitive benefits package, no emergency hours. Contact us at 816-252-5105; Fax 816-252-6037 or E-mail rschrock@threetrailsah.com.

**Full Time Registered Veterinary Technician** needed for fast paced 5 doctor small animal practice located 7 minutes south of Kansas City. Salary commensurate with experience and competitive benefits package. New facility, great equipment and day time hours. Exotic experience preferred but training available for those less experienced. Ideal candidate must have excellent people skills and be customer service orientated. Check us out at [www.beltonanimal.com](http://www.beltonanimal.com). For more information contact Belton Animal Clinic & Exotic Care Center through Rhonda Orem at 816-331-3120 or mail resume to 1308 N. Scott Ave., Belton, MO 64012.

**Adjunct instructor** positions available for the 2007-2008 academic year at the Maple Woods Veterinary Technology Program. Candidates must be a DVM or a RVT with a bachelor's degree.

Contact Chris Morrow DVM 816-437-3236.

Day (8am-6pm) & Evening (3pm-11pm) **RVT positions available** for small animal & 30% exotics AHAA accredited practice. New facility located 10 minutes south of Kansas City. Looking for energetic and motivated individuals for a 5 doctor practice. Technicians are actively involved in client education. Laser and ultrasound equipped. Exotics experience is preferred but not required. Contact: Dr. Teresa Bradley Bays at 816-331-3120 or send resume to 1308 N. Scott Ave., Belton, MO 64012. Fax: 816-322-7377. [www.beltonanimal.com](http://www.beltonanimal.com)

**Equipment liquidation.** Just about everything needed for start-up, except cages. List available of items and descriptions. One price for entire lot, will not piece out. Located in Kansas City area. Contact Dr. Mike Terry, 785-566-3307.

**Veterinary associate** needed for 3-doctor small animal practice located in Belton, Missouri (just 30 minutes south of Kansas City). Practice high-quality medicine and surgery in our newly remodeled and well-equipped hospital. We offer state-of-the-art laser and in-house laboratory testing equipment. The practice is limited to cats and dogs only. We are looking forward to providing an excellent mentoring opportunity and would like to interview new or recent graduates immediately. Practice visits can be arranged or inquiries can be made by contacting Dr. Garry Miller, Belton Veterinary Center, PO Box 615, Belton, MO 64012, [beltonvet@aol.com](mailto:beltonvet@aol.com)

---

## RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Jerome Berkowitz .....913-239-9353 KS/MO  
Michelle Chappell .....913-709-3077 KS/MO  
G. Mark Daniels .....816-537-8483 MO  
Martin Drey .....785-887-6921

Daniel Frezza .....816-294-2256 MO  
Jim Garner .....913-620-8210 KS  
Maureen Gray .....913-538-6379 KS/MO  
Tim Lyon .....913-782-1503 KS/MO

Kristine Norris .....913-206-2964  
Terry Patterson .....816-524-3296 KS/MO  
Elizabeth Robertson .....816-304-5164 KS/MO  
Peggy Mary Roth .....785-748-0055 KS/MO  
Dennis Smith .....913-636-4206 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

### Cardiology:

Kevin J. Christiansen, DVM 913-722-5566

### Dermatology:

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

### Emergency and Critical Care:

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

### Internal Medicine:

Tim Allen, DVM, DACVIM 785-841-3131  
Lisa Cellio, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563  
Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Bryan Harnett, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566

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

### 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

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