

news & notes

MAY/JUNE 2008

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to start this edition of the KCVMA Newsletter by thanking the specialty clinics for hosting the second annual Frostbite Seminar at the downtown Hyatt. With more than 250 attendees, the event was deemed a success and will be held again next year.

The KCVMA continuing education committee completed scheduling for this year's and many of next year's meetings. Bayer will sponsor the November meeting at their Shawnee facility. The date will be announced later. The turnout at the March meeting was tremendous. Lilly representatives say KCVMA members represented themselves better than any other recently sponsored group. They indicated interest in sponsoring future meetings. Such sponsorships help cover speaker fees and support costs, allowing us to continue to provide superior continuing education opportunities while keeping annual dues low.

There is significant legislative activity involving veterinary medicine going on in both Kansas and Missouri. Kansas members can keep up via e-mailed newsletters; Missouri members who are not getting information through MVMA e-mails can go to the KCVMA website and link to the legislative activity.

I'd like to share with you a wonderful, yet frustrating personal experience. My wife and I were recently blessed with an Easter trip to Croatia to visit family. The veterinarian in me always gets to talking about preventative medicine for the pets owned by my Croatian family and their friends. I talk about intestinal parasites, heartworm, spaying and neutering and other care options. I also answer any questions they might have. While this trip was no exception, it also led to some frustrating observations about pet overpopulation. My cousins want to breed their mixed breed with a golden retriever. I wanted to scream. I asked them to get her spayed instead. We love my Croatian relatives and are grateful for my uncle getting us to the old country before he died. But I felt I was talking to deaf ears. I will simply say I probably lost my battle. The sad thing is, I know at least some of those pups not adopted may be euthanized in a manner similar to that of excess kittens. Those methods are not acceptable in the United States.

As we continued our journey through the many beautiful areas of this country and on to Prague, I noticed the numerous dogs being walked. They all appeared to be well cared for and well mannered. But I only saw one male dog that was neutered the entire trip. Sadly, although very friendly (unlike my experience in the States), the numerous stray cats we observed in the two walled cities we visited in Split and Dubrovnik were not castrated. They looked ill and parasitized. One of the two females I palpated was pregnant.

My interest in this topic peaked in 2000 after I toured the veterinary college in Zagreb. I was pleased with the information I was given at the time. After we returned from this last trip I e-mailed the Croatian Veterinary Medical Association to request information on spay neuter rates, feral cat programs and prevalence of heartworm disease. My Internet searches have not been successful. The school actually sponsored a meeting on canine heartworm in February 2007 indicating that it is at least present.

I know this is an odd thing to observe while on vacation. But when I ask questions about what I see and get few answers, I wonder what our colleagues in other countries discuss with their clients. I did not have a chance to visit a clinic this time to ask those questions. I know other parts of Europe do a better job. My point is, I think veterinarians in the states are doing a good job of educating clients on preventative care and spay-castration programs. Although some clients frustrate me, I am glad I practice where I do. I pray you feel the same.

Despite my professional frustrations, our vacation was a 17-day spiritual journey to a very beautiful part of Europe. I would love to share more about my experiences in Croatia, Medjugorje, and Prague with anyone who is interested.

Please read on and do not miss the article by Dr. Lori Rohlfing and her experiences volunteering in Mexico. I hope it will open your eyes to the challenges veterinarians in other countries face.



Visit KCVMA.com to explore the new and improved features, including FindAVetKC.com!

RURAL AREA VETERINARY SERVICES

BY: LORI ROHLFING, DVM

There have been huge strides made over the last several years to bring medical care to people in rural areas, many of whom do not have access to specialists or hospitals without traveling great distances. I recently had the pleasure of working with an operation that exists to bring the same standard of care to animals in those same communities. Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) is a non-profit program that provides free veterinary services to underserved rural communities. These are areas where poverty or geographic isolation makes regular veterinary care inaccessible to companion animals. RAVS founder Eric Davis, DVM, DACVIM, DACVS, developed the program in 1995. In addition to bringing care to pets in rural areas, he also wanted to provide valuable training and experience for hundreds of veterinary students. Dr. Davis' aim was to allow them to gain confidence in their medical and surgery skills while serving communities and their pets.

In 2007, the program's seven staff members joined more than 700 volunteers to provide veterinary care for animals on Native American reservations throughout the United States, as well as in rural Appalachian counties, Mexico and island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific.

I recently traveled with RAVS for a "teaching" clinic held in Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians from New York, Michigan and Colorado, as well as veterinary students from the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University, joined Dr. Susan Monger and myself for this adventure. Dr. Monger, who organizes clinics like this throughout Latin America, guided our efforts to provide medical care and perform spay and neuter procedures for dogs and cats. These efforts, as well as the training of several Mexican veterinarians and veterinary students, were performed in conjunction with Manzanillo's local animal welfare group, Personas Ayudando a Todo los Animales, or PATA.

We set up our clinic in a three-sided shed behind an old community theater. We had two electrical outlets, a garden hose that provided water, and tarps to pull over the open end when the sun shone in with too much force. It was a touch chilly when our day started at seven in the morning. By Noon, our hands dripped sweat when we pulled off our surgery gloves. And by two in the afternoon, we were too dehydrated to sweat. Those from Manzanillo constantly reminded me that "This isn't even the hot time of the year." Not only was there no climate control, the 50 roosters confined in their hutches next door



Dr. Lori Rohlfing (center) with Luis and Marcia

provided constant background noise. When we entered the old theater to select the next patient, bats swooped over our heads. Many of the owners waited patiently in the theater for their pet's turn. I quickly learned that the note "sillas roto" placed on many of the theater seats meant "chair broken".

We started each morning with informal lectures covering how to perform physical exams and emergency lifesaving procedures, as well as anesthesia protocols, surgery techniques and pain management methods. Some of the students understood English, but many relied on the rapid translation provided by our fluent Spanish-speaking members. We tried to gear our talks to their practical experience by using the medical and surgery equipment, anesthesia drugs and pain medication most familiar to them and readily available in their clinics. We quickly discovered that our new friends from Mexico do not enjoy the wide range of diagnostic equipment, anesthesia drugs or pain medication we have easy access to in the United States. We were frequently told that the owners of the animals they're treating do not have the money to pay for care. Several of the veterinarians were actually employed in another field during the day to earn a living, and practiced veterinary medicine at night and on the weekends. Most of the dogs and cats I saw as we walked through Manzanillo were "street" dogs and cats or "community" animals. They scrounged around for food and water, lucky if someone gave them an occasional meal. We dealt with some of the worst cases of mange I have ever seen. All of the female dogs were thin and struggling to survive, yet most were in heat or pregnant at the time they were spayed. It was quite a difference from my practice in America, where I am sad to

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HISTORY OF THE KANSAS CITY VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

The beginnings of veterinary medical associations in Kansas City can be traced to the early 20th century. During the following decades, associations merged to form what is today known as the Kansas City Veterinary Medical Association (KCVMA).

Today, most of the over 400 practicing veterinarians in the Association are graduates of Kansas State University and University of Missouri Colleges of Veterinary Medicine. However, several of the other 25 colleges and schools of veterinary medicine are also represented.

Over 40 Association members are seniors and are our Life Members. These are veterinarians who are over 65 years of age. Many retired members graduated in the 1940's and early 1950's. They have successfully mentored their younger counterparts and are considered to have shoulders of giants where younger veterinarians stand.

The influence of our membership has spread to state associations in Kansas and Missouri as well as nationally. Members have served as presidents, officers and on committees of those parent associations. Drs. Joseph Knappenberger and Gerald Johnson were elected Presidents of the American Veterinary

Medical Association (AVMA) in 1968 – 1969 and 1991 – 1992. Current members who have chaired the AVMA Executive Board include Drs. Richard Webber and Robert Hertzog. Kansas City veterinarians have hosted the AVMA annual conference four times since 1907.

Kansas City was home for three private veterinary institutions between 1891 and 1918. The most well known and longest lasting school was the Kansas City Veterinary College graduating nearly 1,900 students during its 27 year history. Western Veterinary College and University Veterinary College graduated 231 students during the few years they were open. The course of study for these schools was one year.

Veterinary care has changed significantly over the last century, but the mission and objectives of the KCVMA remains constant. Veterinarians continue to strive to enhance the quality of veterinary care as well as community health and welfare. These objectives set forth by pioneering veterinarians continue to be accomplished by providing quality continuing education, demanding strong ethical and professional behavior and promoting public awareness.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2008

Please join the KCVMA Board of Directors in welcoming our new members!

Amber Andrews	Benjamin Nigg
Ronald Bachman	Anna Peace
Gib Benschoter	Charles Peacock
Sarah Burkindine	Bradley Quest
Megan Carr*	Philip Radakovich
James Colyer	Daniel Richardson
Suzanne Cosentino	Alexis Schoenekase**
James Demary	Carole Schroeder
Robert Dudley	David Senter
Robert Gouge	Alice Shaffer
Elinor Grubbs	Joseph Sipe
Rebecca Henry	Rachel Smith
Corbin Hodges	Vickie Smith
Julie Hufft*	Jennifer Strickland
Jerome Immethun	Rustin Sturgeon
Cheryl Jones	Jerry Thomas
Scott King	Laurie Walker
Keith Longhofer	Jeff Wayman
R. Douglas McAllister	Jeff White
Kristin Neuhauser	Jarvis Williams

*Affiliate Member **Recent Graduate



KSU CVM seniors received awards underwritten by the KCVMA at their annual Honors Banquet in April.

Emily Weeks (left) of Overland Park was the recipient of the Compassionate Animal Care Award. She accepted an equine internship in New York following graduation.

Receiving the Radiology Award was Karen Patton of Paradise, KS. She will work on a medicine and surgery internship at the University of Minnesota CVM.

Both awards included \$500. Corporate sponsors of the banquet were Fort Dodge and Nestle Purina. Historian Steve Joseph presented the awards.



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say one of the biggest challenges is dealing with the health issues that arise in overweight and obese patients.

My week with RAVS was tremendously rewarding. I guided several U.S. and Mexican veterinary students through their first spays. I assured them that the first 100 would be the hardest. I encouraged several Mexican veterinarians to be a little gentler with tissue handling and to make smaller spay incisions. The veterinary students from the U.S. challenged me to learn how to place a “Miller’s Knot”, something that I was not taught in veterinary school many years ago. I, in turn, challenged them to do it with less than one pack of suture material. I learned that I am not nearly as proficient in setting IV catheters in sick dehydrated cats as I used to be. That task is now easily accomplished by my practice’s incredibly talented RVTs.

The experience was also rewarding on a personal level. We tasted authentic Mexican food each night at out-

of-the-way local restaurants. We replayed the day’s events as we drank beer and ate chips and salsa. I learned to like guacamole. I came home with an even greater appreciation for my digital x-ray system, in-house blood machines and vast array of anesthetic and pain management protocols. I was reminded how important it is to put your hands on your patient during that initial physical exam and listen closely with your stethoscope to give yourself a good start.

As I’m sure you can imagine, our work was very challenging. But at the same time, it was very fulfilling. Besides learning more about a culture different from my own, I know our team helped the veterinarians and residents in the Manzanillo community. And I left Mexico with a greater understanding of how fortunate we as veterinarians are to have almost unlimited access to technology and medicine to treat the animals of the United States.

KCVMA
news¬es

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: S. Dru Forrester, DVM, MS, DACVIM Manager, Scientific Communications, Hill's Pet Nutrition	Location: Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room I-435 & State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO
Topic: Chronic Kidney Disease: Which Treatments Are Best?	CE: 2 Hours
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2008 (Third Thursday of the Month)	Fee: FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm	Sponsor: Hill's Pet Nutrition

This case-based discussion reviews the effectiveness of commonly recommended treatments for chronic kidney disease and proteinuria in dogs and cats. In addition, you will learn some practical tips for increasing success of nutritional management (i.e., getting your patients to begin and continue eating a therapeutic renal food).

June Continuing Education Event



Speaker: Susan E. Little, DVM, PhD Professor of Veterinary Parasitology	Location: Maple Woods Comm. College 2601 NE Barry Rd. Kansas City, MO 64156
Topic: Coughing Cats: Asthma or Heartworm Disease?	CE: 2 Hours
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2008 (Third Thursday of the Month)	Fee: FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm	Sponsor: IDEXX

Lower airway disease is common in cats, with typical clinical signs of coughing and wheezing. Diagnosis involves history, physical examination and various types of testing. Feline asthma is a frequent diagnosis, but new information suggests some of these patients actually have heartworm-associated respiratory disease (HARD). During the seminar, we will review the common causes for lower airway disease in cats and discuss how to diagnose and treat patients. New information on feline heartworm disease, including prevalence, diagnosis and prevention, will be presented.

Directions to Maple Woods Community College:

Johnson County: I-35 North to Broadway Bridge which will take you North on 169 Highway North on 169 Highway to Barry Rd. East (right) on Barry Rd. to Maple Woods Community College. The College will be on the right going East.

Jackson County: North on I-435 to 152 West. Get off at North Indiana and Antioch exit. Go North or right to stop sign. Turn left on Barry Rd. and go to Maple Woods Community College on the left about 1 mile.

St. Joseph: South on I 29 to 152 East to North Indiana and Antioch exit. Turn left and go to stop sign. Turn left on Barry Rd. to college about 1 mile.

The meeting is in the theatre in the first building on the left as you enter the campus and parking lot.

INVITATION FROM KC DOG TRAINERS & OLATHE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

KC Dog Trainers & Olathe Animal Hospital invite you to attend an upcoming seminar, The Role of the Veterinary Community in Addressing Problematic Dog Behavior, on June 29, from 10:30am-1:30pm at No More Homeless Pets KC. Lunch is provided for those who RSVP. Dr. J.C. Burcham will address the frustrations we all face when presented with a difficult dog or puzzling problem related to behavior. We will review medical causes of inappropriate canine behavior, address common scenarios faced in general practice (aggressive dogs, difficult nail trims, and let's face it, difficult clients!), and we will discuss what general practitioners can do to make a positive difference in these situations. The use of pharmacological intervention will be covered, including how and why certain behavior-modifying drugs work so successfully. The seminar welcomes interested veterinarians and their technicians, as well as professionals in the dog training community. Involvement of a qualified dog trainer can play a crucial role in setting your clients and patients up for success, and it reduces the time commitment on the part of the veterinarian. For more information and to register, visit: www.kcdogtrainers.com.

The speaker, Dr. Burcham, is a member of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior and has a passionate interest in companion animal behavior and behavior modification. She has completed numerous continuing education opportunities in the field of clinical behavioral medicine, including the intense training course offered by the NAVC Post-Graduate Institute, under the direction of Dr. Karen Overall.

Speaker: Dr. J.C. Burcham	Time: 10:30am – 1:30pm
Topic: The Role of the Veterinary Community in Addressing Problematic Dog Behavior	Location: No More Homeless Pets KC 5428 Antioch Drive, Merriam, KS 66202
Date: Sunday, June 29, 2008	Fee: FREE! No fee for this event, but RSVP required

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 06/13/08.

Office/Practice Manager needed for well-established hospital north of the river. Have fun in a relaxed, interactive, low stress environment with no Saturday hours. Duties include human resources, book keeping, inventory management, increasing client compliance, etc. Right candidate must be energetic, motivated, focused, friendly, honest, and eager to grow the hospital. See our website at www.claycomanimalhospital.com. Fax resume to 816-452-3877 or email to roach8419@yahoo.com.

Well established Central Missouri small animal practice for sale, close to Truman Lake and surrounding lakes. Price of practice includes 3 - 6 months working inventory, introductory advertising for new owner, and seller transition assistance. Motivated seller is flexible in terms of the purchase of the practice, lease/purchase real-estate. Owner financing available. Excellent location on a busy main thoroughfare. Very well maintained free standing all masonry 2260 sq ft facility. For more information please call: 660-826-1441 office, or 660-221-5747 cell anytime.

Two Veterinary Technicians/Assistants needed for well-established hospital north of the river. Have fun in an interactive, low stress environment Monday thru Friday. No Saturday hours. Utilize your skills as your degree taught you in our progressive hospital. A technician degree is preferable but not required. See our website at www.claycomanimalhospital.com. Fax resume to 816-452-3877 or email to roach8419@yahoo.com.

Associate Veterinarian wanted for a South Kansas City full service animal hospital. Good communication skills a must. Experience preferred, but new graduates will be considered. Competitive salary and benefit package will be offered to the right person. Send resumes to crazydog@kc.rr.com or fax to 816-763-8225.

Small animal practice for sale in Kansas City, MO. Gross approx. \$650K with high net and revenues are up for the year 2008. Long established and owners are wanting to retire but owners are willing to transition out of practice over time and can

work part-time after sale completion, if the buyer desires. Facility is free standing and is currently being appraised. You will be working directly with the seller after confidentiality agreement is put into place. For more info. and the confidentiality agreement call Dr. Mike Terry 785-566-3307, Plains States Professional Practice Sales and Services.

Small animal practice in Central Kansas. Progressive, solo with newer facilities on 14 acres. Gross \$443K in 2007 and solid growth over the last 4 years. Equipment includes surgical laser, ultrasound, bp machine, ecg, incubators, lift table, wt table and much, much more. Excellent website gives a pictorial review. Practice priced at \$200K. Real estate priced at \$350K, but can reduce price by splitting off excess land if buyer desires. Direct referral to owner after confidentiality agreement is put into place. For more info and the confidentiality agreement call Dr. Mike Terry 785-566-3307, Plains States Professional Practice Sales and Services.

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Richard Smith, DVM, ABVP 913-299-0010
Eliza Sundahl, DVM, CVA, ABVP 816-361-4888
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913-642-9563

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