



## A Letter From The President

May/June 2010

Hello fellow KCVMA members! I hope this May/June issue of *News and Notes* finds you and your families doing well. March and April have been good months for our veterinary hospital. We always look forward to the winter days growing longer and the spring flowers starting to brighten our days! The only complaint I have found so far...it is already allergy season! Oh...let's not forget flea and tick season!

Speaking of fleas and ticks, Dr. Michael Dryden had a wonderful continuing education presentation for members in March. (We are working on getting CE certificates to those who attended.) I am always impressed when I hear him lecture and I take home a new pearl of information every time. During this lecture, I learned we are seeing a lot more ticks in our "city" pets because of the increase in the deer population in the metro region. Because of this, Dr. Dryden emphasized we need to be even better at educating our clients about the dangers of external parasites. This is not only important for the health of pets but also for people. We will have another lecture regarding external parasites in June presented Dr. Bryon Blagburn. He will focus on Vector Borne Diseases.

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association's Veterinarian of the Year nominations are due soon. The KCVMA board is looking to our local membership to suggest candidates. The candidate needs to practice in Missouri and be an exceptional representative of our profession. The MVMA executive board will vote on the nominees at their fall board meeting. The KCVMA would love to see the Missouri Veterinarian of the Year be from our area! If you have a DVM you would like to nominate please feel free to contact us.

The teaching hospitals are getting ready to graduate their 2010 veterinary classes. There was an awards ceremony at Kansas State University in mid April honoring

their senior class. The KCVMA sponsors two scholarships at the KSU College of Veterinary Medicine. David Conner is from Fort Worth, Texas, and is the recipient of the KCVMA Award for Compassionate Animal Care. Bridget Garrity is the recipient of the KCVMA Radiology Award. Bridget is originally from Dearborn, Michigan and will graduate as valedictorian of her class. More information can be found about these two outstanding individuals and the awards ceremony on the Continuing Education page of this newsletter. As of this writing, the University of Missouri CVM has not announced the recipients of the KCVMA scholarships. We will share the names of those award winners in our next newsletter.

Upcoming social events will most likely include a tour of the Shatto Milk Company in Osborn, Missouri. This is about 35 minutes from Kansas City. A date has not been set, but we are considering Sunday, September 19 or 26. We will also have a picnic area with good food and games for the entire family to enjoy! Be sure to watch for further details in future newsletters. Once we have the date completely solidified and the details ironed out we will post it on our Facebook events page and at KCVMA.com!

On a sad note: the veterinary professional recently mourned the loss of Dr. Roy J. Milleret. Dr. Milleret was born in Kansas City, Kansas in 1922 and died in Manhattan April 6th at the age of 88. Following graduation from KSU CVM in 1944 he served in the military. He was a long time faculty member at Kansas State University. One year before his retirement, he received the KSU Veterinary Medicine Alumni Award for Meritorious Service.

Until next issue,

## GOING MOBILE

BY: JEN NIGRO

Wanted: Someone who loves both animals and people, enjoys travel and desires a flexible schedule. This may not be part of the typical veterinarian's job description. But four Kansas City-area veterinarians have made it part of theirs thanks to their unique veterinary clinics. Doctors Larry Kovac, Joan Hankins, Eugene Johnson and Bill Knapper all run mobile veterinary clinics. Their customized units travel Kansas City streets and highways on a daily basis, meeting patients where they're most comfortable: at home.

Dr. Kovac of Northland Mobile Veterinary Clinic says all four veterinarians cover a specific territory. He's based out of Kansas City, Missouri's northland; Dr. Hankins' Lakeside Mobile Veterinary covers the Smithville area; Dr. Johnson's Platte Valley Mobile Veterinary Clinic serves Platte County; and Dr. Knapper's Vetgo clinic covers the I-435 corridor. Dr. Kovac says all four try to stay in their area of town. "That way we can refer with confidence when someone's out of our territory." Dr. Kovac says sticking to a specific area can also make traveling to appointments more efficient. "Most of us have figured out our routes and we try not to criss cross."

These veterinarians drive mobile units ranging in size from 22 to 35 feet long. All feature full medical facilities, including a pharmacy, blood machines and operating rooms. "It's pretty much your traditional clinic except I come to your house and you come out to the unit," says Dr. Hankins. They don't have x-ray facilities, but they can refer clients to stationary clinics when necessary. "My wife is a veterinarian also," says Dr. Johnson. "If I need to do x-rays I'll usually take them to her clinic. I can also do major surgeries there."



Kansas City's mobile veterinarians see many advantages to being on the move. Dr. Kovac has been mobile since 1987. He says when he graduated from veterinary school, he knew he wanted to own his own clinic, but also knew he didn't want to manage a staff. He also liked the idea of getting to spend time talking to his clients. "I don't feel as rushed as I did working in a stationary clinic. If I'm late, I call the next client and they keep cleaning the house or they have another cup of coffee and they're not waiting in my waiting room getting angry at me." "It seems that I have more and more people who are working out of home," says Dr. Johnson. "To them it's just perfect because they can still do whatever they're doing. They're not wasting their time going anywhere." Like Dr. Kovac, Dr. Hankins didn't want to worry about staffing or building upkeep. She decided to go mobile after eight years in a traditional office, and believes her patients are easier to work with. "It's quiet, they're in their own driveway, they didn't have the car ride there to get them upset and they didn't have to wait in the lobby with other animals so they're much more laid back. I can do a lot of procedures by myself because they're calm." Dr. Johnson decided to hit the road a year-and-a-half ago for a change of pace. He, like Doctors Kovac and Hankins, likes

### MOBILE VETERINARIANS:

#### Lakeside Mobile Veterinary

Joan Hankins, DVM  
(816) 532-9663

#### Northland Mobile Veterinary Clinic

Larry Kovac, DVM  
(816) 616-2349  
[www.northlandmobileveterinaryclinic1.health.officelive.com/default.aspx](http://www.northlandmobileveterinaryclinic1.health.officelive.com/default.aspx)

#### Platte Valley Mobile Veterinary Clinic

Eugene Johnson, DVM  
(816) 858-5500

#### Vetgo Mobile Veterinary Clinic

Bill Knapper, DVM  
(816) 753-9993  
[www.plattevalleymobilevet.com](http://www.plattevalleymobilevet.com)

the idea of setting his own schedule. “If I’ve got something going on in the morning I can work later in the day if I want,” he says. Dr. Knapper, who started out treating farm animals, says that background influenced his decision to go mobile when he started treating small animals six years ago. “I was already used to going to where the animals were,” he says. Additionally, Dr. Knapper says about 70% of his patients are cats. “A lot of cats just don’t travel well. I think people really appreciate it when you can work on their cats without them having to load them up in a car.”

Of course, being on the road all the time does have its drawbacks. Doctors Kovac and Hankins say being limited in what they can do is sometimes frustrating. Doctors Johnson and Knapper point out that winter weather can cause delays, though Dr. Johnson says it isn’t as big a burden as he first thought it would be. And Doctors Kovac and Knapper say breakdowns can be a big problem. “When we’re broke down we can’t help the clients, and if you’re broke down for several days you get a little unpaid vacation and that kind of wreaks havoc with catching up,” says Dr. Kovac. Taking phone calls can also get tricky. Still, Dr. Knapper says the pros far outweigh the cons. “I just like the freedom of being able to do it the way I do it.”

Outside of a small trip fee, the veterinarians say there’s little difference in cost between using a mobile vet versus a stationary vet. And, they say they have to do very little advertising to find clients. “People see you driving around and they think, hey, that’s a good idea, or they see you at somebody’s house,” says Dr. Johnson. “In this day and age everybody’s got cell phones so they call you on the spot.”

While some stationary veterinarians may feel threatened by mobile clinics and their ability to get directly to patients with special needs, these mobile vets say they feel a sense of partnership with their stationary colleagues.

Dr. Kovac says he gets a lot of referrals for euthanasia from stationary colleagues who aren’t equipped to do home euthanasia. Mobile vets may also be asked to see a patient in an emergency situation, or treat an animal on location when an owner can’t physically get them to the vet. But, Dr. Kovac wants his stationary colleagues to know that those clients will be referred back to the stationary clinic once the need for mobility subsides. “Yes, we want to develop our own practices, but we’ve got a service that a number of people can use at different times during their pet’s life. When they refer, they’re going to get those patients back.” Likewise, Dr. Kovac and the others refer their patients to stationary clinics with the same trust. They say it’s not about gaining new patients, but about improving patient care as a whole.

Life on the road has its ups and downs for these Kansas City veterinarians. “It’s not a type of practice that works for everyone,” says Dr. Knapper. “But it works for me and I enjoy it. That’s what practice is all about in my opinion: finding a niche that you can enjoy what you’re doing and I do enjoy this.”



## UNUSUAL FINDING UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

BY: DRS. LES PELFREY AND KATHLEEN CLAUSSEN

“Maddie,” a 10-month-old female-spayed Lhasa Apso mix, recently presented at the Stanley Veterinary Clinic for urinating frequently. The owners may have seen blood in the urine from an overnight accident. Maddie’s physical exam was unremarkable. A urine sample was collected by cystocentesis. Urinalysis had a pH of 5.0 and was otherwise unremarkable on the dipstick reading. Sediment revealed *Capillaria plica* (see photo). Maddie was treated with Panacur.

*Capillaria plica*, also known as bladderworm, is an uncommon disease in canines. The *Capillaria* ova are similar in appearance to *Trichuris* ova, but have less protruding plugs. The worm can be found in the renal pelvis or the ureters, but most worms are found free floating in the bladder lumen or embedded in the bladder submucosa. Clinical symptoms include hematuria, dysuria, cystitis and/or pollakiuria. The life cycle involves a canine ingesting the intermediate host, an earthworm containing the first stage larvae. The larvae then molt twice and ultimately migrate to the urinary system. The larvae then mature to adults, reproduce and shed infected eggs into the urine of the host within 60 days of infection.



## BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS

### Veterinary Leaders in Kansas City (Part Three of Six)

#### Father of Pet Animal Practice

BY: STEVE JOSEPH DVM – HISTORIAN

This year's historical articles consider six veterinary leaders who made their marks in Kansas City and nationally. All were AVMA Presidents.

Dr. Joseph Charles Flynn (1878 – 1954) earned the title of Father of the Pet Animal Practice for several reasons. Among them was his establishment of what is considered to be the first practice in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to pets. The year was 1910 and it happened here in Kansas City.

Dr. Flynn was born in York, NE. He graduated from the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC) and opened a practice on Spring Street in the West Bottoms. Within a few years he moved to 3038 Main Street.

Dr. Flynn was recognized as an authority in small animal medicine and surgery who gave freely of his time to speak whenever he was called on throughout the country. Feeling that the interests of practitioners were not receiving enough attention, he organized the American Society of

Veterinary Therapy that attracted a large membership and held annual meetings. He was also an associate editor of the *North American Veterinarian* and contributed articles on small animal topics.

He is mentioned in a local article featuring a crony of President Harry Truman. In the piece, Dr. Flynn is described as a very popular veterinarian who was well-liked by the citizenry of our community.

Dr. Flynn served as AVMA President in 1935 to 1936.

He continued to practice until 1940 when he retired, only to resume active work a year later when his successor was called to military service in the wake of Pearl Harbor.

In addition to his dog and cat hospital, Dr. Flynn had a pet ambulance manufactured by the

Holcker Company at 10th and Grand in Kansas City. He wrote a paper regarding this essential part of his practice. We'll consider this predecessor to today's mobile practice in a future issue of *News and Notes*.



## May 2010 Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Dr. Byron Blagburn, Distinguished University Professor at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine

Topic: Update on Vector Borne Diseases

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2010 (Third Thursday of the Month)  
RSVP no later than May 14th, 2010 to: Larry Thetford, Summit VetPharm Territory Manager 913-302-2815 or lthetford@summitvetpharm.com

Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

CE: 2 hours

Location: Figlio Tower, 209 W. 46th Terrace  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
816-753-0054

Fee: No fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.

Sponsor: Summit VetPharm



Byron Blagburn holds the appointment of Distinguished University Professor at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Blagburn directs graduate students, research, serves as director of the clinical parasitology diagnostic laboratory and oversees a research program which focuses on parasite-induced diseases of food and companion animals. Dr. Blagburn is currently President of the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) and is the author of over 300 publications in scientific journals. He has served as a speaker at more than 600 national or international meetings.

The presentation will update what we know about Borreliosis (Lyme Disease), Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Bartonellosis, Babesiosis, Cytauxzoonosis and Hepatozoonosis. Topics of discussion include the increasing prevalence and expanding geographic ranges of vectors and diseases, zoonotic potential, new diagnostic strategies and new options for control of vector-borne diseases.

## June 2010 Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Dr. Fred A. Winger  
Assistant Professor Neurology/Neurosurgery, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine

Topic: Neurology for General Practice

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2010 (3rd Thursday of the month)

Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

CE: 2 hours

Location: Maple Woods Comm. College Student Center, Room 132  
2601 NE Barry Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64156

Fee: No fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.

**PLEASE NOTE: The meeting is in Room 132 of the Student Center (first building on the left as you enter the campus parking lot).**



A New Jersey native, Dr. Fred Winger attended veterinary school at the University of Pennsylvania and undertook an internship at the University of Georgia. He then went on to complete a residency in neurology and neurosurgery while simultaneously earning a Master of Science at Washington State University. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

Dr. Winger was drawn to a career as a veterinary neurologist because the field combines medicine, surgery, imaging and pathology.

(Source: [http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/news/newfaculty\\_9\\_09.htm](http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/news/newfaculty_9_09.htm))

## KCVMA Awards Presented At KSU CVM Banquet

David Conner, from Fort Worth, TX, and Bridget Garrity, from Dearborn, MI, received KCVMA Awards at the annual CVM banquet in April. David was recipient of the KCVMA Compassionate Animal Care Award. He is looking for employment in the Kansas City or Lawrence area. His interests include small and mixed animal practice. David is also a pharmacist. Bridget received the KCVMA Radiology Award. She plans to enter small animal practice in Rochester, MI. Bridget is valedictorian of her class. The awards were presented by Dr. Steve Joseph for the Association.





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## CLASSIFIED ADS

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, 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 and may be edited for content. Deadline for the next newsletter is 6/13/10.

**Associate Veterinarian** for a busy Olathe small animal practice. Position available May, 2010. Please contact [ssph.olathe@southsidepethospital.com](mailto:ssph.olathe@southsidepethospital.com) or call 913-236-9372. All inquiries will be confidential.

**Registered Vet Tech** needed for new clinic in Eastern Jackson County . New grads encouraged to apply. Nice new facility with lots of potential. Primarily small animal clinic, with limited large animal work. Compensation negotiable, based on experience, flexible hours available. Please e-mail resumes to [jcahgv@gmail.com](mailto:jcahgv@gmail.com) Attn: Jennifer Smith, Practice Manager.

**Associate Veterinarian** needed – 5 person small animal practice. Successful applicant must possess a sound work ethic, willingness to learn, good communication skills, and the ability to practice quality medicine. All experience levels considered. Salary is negotiable and competitive with optional bonus potential. No after hour's emergency duty. Call (816)436-1100, fax (816-436-4030) or mail your resume to Gladstone Animal Clinic, LLC 7027 Gladstone , MO 64118 [www.gladvets.com](http://www.gladvets.com) If you have any questions, contact Sherrie Lee (Office Manager)

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## RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Sally Barchman.....303-548-5285 KS	Kimberly Kessler .....913-548-1686 KS/MO	Terry Patterson.....816-524-3296 KS/MO
Holly Beck .....816-805-6816 KS	Kathy Kimber.....816-390-2704 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth .....785-748-0055 KS/MO
Jerome Berkowitz .....913-515-3917 KS/MO	Julie Koupal .....816-590-0802 KS/MO	Alice Shaffer .....910-261-1577 KS
Amy Bunck .....816-225-4082 KS/MO	Shelley Lake.....913-533-9905 KS	Dennis Smith.....913-636-4206 KS
Martin Drey.....785-218-9484 KS	Tim Lyon.....913-782-1503 KS/MO	Shana Stelzer.....913-707-0906 KS/MO
Daniel Frezza .....816-294-2256 MO	Korb Maxwell .....913-709-0208 KS	Paula Vale .....913-484-7012 KS/MO
Jim Garner.....913-620-8210 KS	Susan Mikkelson .....913 596-0499 KS/MO	Dennis Weaver .....816-210-6769 KS/MO
Maureen Gray .....913-538-6379 KS/MO	Suzanne Ostle.....913-400-2059 KS	Krista Yencic .....816-522-3913 KS/MO

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## CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

<b>Acupuncture:</b> Michelle Chappell, DVM, CVA 913-825-3330	Linda Faris, DVM, CVM 816-640-3155 Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411	Mike Tarrant, DVM, CVA 913-764-9000
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## VETERINARY DIPLOMATES...

<b>Anatomic/Surgical Pathology:</b> David Pinson, DVM, PhD, ACVP, ACLAM 913-568-7363	Adam Ginman, BVSc, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563 Emily Medici, DVM, DACVIM 913-722-5566 Stephanie Pierce, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563 Michael Wasmer, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566	Robert Dudley, DVM ACVS 913-642-9563 Karl Frees, DVM, MS, ACVS (Equine) 816-322-7722 Candace Layton, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563 Jayce Lineberger, DVM ACVS 913-722-5566 Steve Riley, DVM, DVSc, ACVS 913-642-9563 Eric Wilson, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-722-5566
<b>Anesthesiology:</b> Guy Watney, MA, VetMB, PhD, MRCVS, ACVA 913-491-4965	<b>Neurology:</b> Brian Cellio, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563	<b>Veterinary Practitioners:</b> 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
<b>Cardiology:</b> Kevin J. Christiansen, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566	<b>Oncology:</b> Heather Heeb, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563	<b>Zoological Medicine:</b> Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, ACZM 816-513-4669
<b>Dermatology:</b> David Senter, DVM, ACVD 913-722-5566, 913-381-3937	<b>Ophthalmology:</b> Amy Hunkeler, DVM, ACVO 816-554-4990 Susan Keil, DVM, MS, ACVO 913-722-5566 Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO 913-381-3937 or 800-776-3937	
<b>Emergency and Critical Care:</b> Mark Brady, DVM, DACVECC 800-548-8387 Robin Wall, DVM, ACVECC 913-722-5566	<b>Radiology/Ultrasound:</b> Joanne Burns, DVM, ACVR 785-221-0390 Loren Shaiken, DVM, ACVR 816-426-9896	
<b>Internal Medicine:</b> Tim Allen, DVM, DACVIM 913-647-2805 Lisa Cellio, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563 Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563	<b>Surgery:</b> D.A. Allen, DVM, PhD, ACVS 913-722-5566 Joseph P. Desch II, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-642-9563	

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## 2010 KCVMA OFFICERS...

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<b>President-Elect</b> .....	Dr. J.C. Burcham.....	913-764-1415/ <a href="mailto:jburcham@kcvma.com">jburcham@kcvma.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Dr. Mary Hughes.....	913-829-7387/ <a href="mailto:mhughes@kcvma.com">mhughes@kcvma.com</a>
<b>Past President/KS State Rep</b> .....	Dr. Kathleen Claussen.....	913-897-2080/ <a href="mailto:kclaussen@kcvma.com">kclaussen@kcvma.com</a>
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<b>MO State Rep</b> .....	Dr. Mel Falk.....	816-795-7387/ <a href="mailto:mfalk@kcvma.com">mfalk@kcvma.com</a>
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	Dr. Susie Mikkelson.....	913-648-3920/ <a href="mailto:smikkelson@kcvma.com">smikkelson@kcvma.com</a>
	Dr. Melissa Austin-Gundel.....	636-541-0352/ <a href="mailto:maustin-gundel@kcvma.com">maustin-gundel@kcvma.com</a>
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	Dr. Allison Bradshaw.....	913-681-2600/ <a href="mailto:abradshaw@kcvma.com">abradshaw@kcvma.com</a>
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