

news & notes

A Letter From The President

May/June 2013

Hello! I hope everyone is doing well and is looking forward to nice weather. What did you think of the KCVMA event in April at SeaLife Aquarium? It was the first time I had been there. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I was extremely impressed. Seeing Braeden touch the creatures in the



Braeden at SEA LIFE Aquarium

Rockpool was priceless. Since we all had such a good time, I'm thinking several visits are in our future.

Right now I am busier than ever. In fact, the last 12 months have been extremely busy for me. There are no signs of slowing down, but that's okay because the past year has been full of exciting and wonderful things. Of course, Braeden is a huge part of that, but my husband and I are actually beginning the process of building our next home. We are in the middle of closing on some acreage that will eventually include a house for my parents. We are very much looking forward to having a larger home for our family because the walls are quickly closing in on us. It is amazing how much stuff just one baby needs, filling every nook and cranny of our little townhome! But, I think to myself, this was an average-sized house for a much larger family not that many years ago. For example, my mom grew up in a home probably about this size with nine people and one bathroom! Times have certainly changed.

Of course, this project will take months, maybe even a couple of years, to complete. And my parents won't be building until after our house is done. However, preparation for this started many years ago, with my husband and me carefully budgeting and saving. Some of our friends have already moved into their next home, but school and student loans have delayed this next step for us. That's okay; it's certainly not a competition. However, it reminds me of the sacrifices all of us have made to be where we are today.

A high school student visited our hospital not that long ago. She was trying to get a glimpse of what being a veterinarian is like and what it would take to get into veterinary school. Right before she left, she asked me to be honest about the positives and negatives of this path. So, I told her the uncensored truth. I said, "This is the best job you will ever have and you will feel privileged to be able to do this. Undergraduate and professional school will be tough but you will walk away with a lot of wonderful memories and lifelong friends. You will likely take on student loan debt that will take you decades to pay back. But in the end, if you think you can handle the struggles, it is certainly worth it."

I think it is crucial to prepare those students looking to go into this profession with the reality of veterinary medicine today. Many don't realize they are not guaranteed a job right out of school, and they may be financially burdened for many years. The most recent statistics from the AVMA show that the educational debt is now up to three times the starting salary of those entering a full-time position, and over a third of fourthyear students had not received one offer of employment when they completed the survey in the spring of 2012. Unfortunately, we are only seeing salaries decrease, the number of available positions decrease, and debt increase. It is pretty discouraging. So, with this in mind, I feel it is necessary to be honest with those considering this career. I don't feel I will deter someone with this knowledge because most have had their mind made up for years, but I do think they need to understand what they are up against. I really believe that it is my job to show them the highs but also the lows so they can make an informed decision about their future.

Please make special note of our May CE date. It will be **Wednesday, May 15th** (not Thursday) because of a scheduling conflict. Dr. Shelley Rankin will join us to discuss Antimicrobial Therapy.

Finally, I would like to share some incredible news. Our Senior Life Member, Dr. Richard Buchli and his wife, Dorothy, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on May 25th. They practiced together for 40 years and have only been apart a total of three weeks. Dr. Buchli is also the youngest veterinary graduate from Kansas State University at the age of 21. Congratulations!

Kara Ballenger, DVM

President - kballenger@kcvma.com



DISASTER PREPARATION KEY TO CLINIC SURVIVAL BY: JEN NIGRO

Severe weather season is officially upon us. Maybe you've stocked up on bottled water, dug your weather radio out of the closet, or cleared space for your family in a basement or closet. But have you prepared your clinic and staff in case disaster strikes? The Institute for Business and Home Safety estimates 25 percent of small businesses do not reopen following a major disaster. A disaster plan could make all the difference in your clinic's ability to survive.

Dr. Ben Leavens of Main Street Pet Care in Joplin, MO first learned the importance of an emergency plan when a blizzard struck in February 2011. "It forced us to shut our doors for five days—the first time we had ever closed for weather-related events," he recalls. The staff realized they needed a stronger plan in place. Their office manager pulled together a list of emergency contacts, and all management staff started carrying that information with them at all times. They purchased headlamps and spare batteries. They stocked a month's supply of extra oxygen, double-checked their insurance coverage, computerized their records, and started an emergency operating fund. Little did they know they would need all of this just three months later when an EF-5 tornado tore through Joplin.

As the staff sprung into action, they were glad for their preparations. "Even though the headlamps were wet, they worked," Dr. Leavens says. "We made arrangements to fill prescriptions, solve problems, and preserve property." Dr. Leavens says making sure everyone knew their responsibilities in advance was key. "Staff who knew they would be counted on in a disaster showed up and took care of the pets without being contacted, because we could not contact them. Cell phones didn't work reliably for several days. Even texting was sketchy." Social networking became an unexpected communication tool for both staff and clients. Because their records were computerized and backed up off-site, they didn't lose a single record from before the tornado. And their insurance and emergency reserve paid off. "Our insurance gave me a check for \$20,000 within two days to cover out-of-pocket expenses and payroll, and when some things took a little longer to get processed later, we never had to sweat because of the emergency reserves," he says.

Dr. Leavens says community relationships cultivated long before the disaster also helped them survive. "My church family had a team placing heavy-duty tarps over the major leaks on the clinic roof within 48 hours, preventing much additional damage in the weeks to come," he says. Had it not been for them, he says, emergency workers and contractors wouldn't have gotten to them for at least a week. He says Wal-mart and Sam's Club both allowed them to take whatever they needed to care for the animals. "Your clinic culture and your community are your two biggest resources in the worst case scenario," he adds.

Following the tornado Dr. Leavens added collapsible cages, a backup generator, more headlamps, and better emergency contact lists to his plan. Still, he says, it's not elaborate. "We have human and physical resources that we might need in the first 24 hours pre-planned. Every major disaster is different, but usually all kinds of help will be there within 24 hours," he says.

Dr. Leavens' advice falls in line with The American Veterinary Medical Association, which recommends veterinarians plan for the emergency relocation of animals and a way to continue operations, back up medical records, and security. In addition to keeping staff contact lists on hand, the AVMA suggests clinic staff have access to a 24-hour client contact list, kept off-site, and make sure all animals housed at the clinic have secure and weather-resistant identification. That's something Dr. Leavens says he and his staff have done for years. Keeping a list of suppliers and their contact information can also be helpful in getting important medications and supplies into the disaster area. Scope out an alternate practice location, and consider partnering with another practice outside your vicinity to maintain continuity of care. "If you are a big clinic, offer to help," says Dr. Leavens. "If you are a small clinic near a big clinic that is wiped out, call the owner and ask if their staff can help you out."

While tornadoes may be the main concern this time of year, keep in mind other disasters can strike at any time. Contact your local fire department to help with inspections and evacuation drills. Remember fire proof safes won't prevent melting, and make sure your insurance coverage is current and comprehensive. Dr. Leavens says working with local entities can add another layer of protection. "If you use national lenders it can take weeks to get your insurance checks cashed and it can be a very frustrating experience," he says.

This sounds like a tall order when you're already strapped for time, but chances are, you already have some of these elements in place. Dr. Scott Read of Eagle Animal Hospital in Riverside, MO, doesn't have a formal disaster plan. But, he says the clinic does back up patient records both on and off-site. They also have a backup generator. "It's by no means anything that would be able to run the entire clinic, but it would help us limp through for a few hours to do a few things here and there." He says an emergency plan is an easy thing for a busy practice to put on the back burner. "It's just kind of one of those things you don't really think about, and if you don't think about it you don't do it," he says. "The people in Joplin would never have expected that this was going to happen and they needed to have something in place. It's a very good idea to get these things down on paper and make sure everyone knows, top to bottom, what their responsibilities are going to be."

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Dr. JC Burcham of Mariposa Veterinary Wellness Center in Lenexa, KS, says her clinic also backs up patient records, and she would like to get a more comprehensive disaster plan in place as well. "Being able to think about things like how are you going to get in contact with your employees and clients, do you have a power source like a generator, do you have food and water sources, all those things. When we are forced to think about these things, it drives home how important it is," she says. Dr. Burcham, also the president of the Johnson County Animal Response Team, points to the AVMA's recommendation that veterinarians play an active role in helping their clients plan. "Remind people about the importance of having a microchip because people don't think about it," she says. "What if a tornado came through and your cat got lost or your dog ran away, or what if you were driving to the vet office and you got into a car accident? Disasters can happen any time. The

microchip is a permanent form of identification—that's your pet's ticket home in the event of a disaster."

Dr. Leavens recognizes the time it takes to put a plan in place. He says clinics should start with the basics: a plan for communication, data back-up, good insurance, and community connections. "In a major disaster any plan will be inadequate, except the plan based on the loving relationships you have developed in the community. A healthy community can overcome anything!"

The AVMA has several resources for disaster preparedness planning on its website: www.avma.org. You can also follow the AVMA's Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams on Twitter @avmavmat. Additional resources are available through The Small Business Administration (www.sba.gov/content/disaster-planning) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov).

LOCAL ZOO VETERINARIAN RESPONDS TO CALIFORNIA LION ATTACK BY: JEN NIGRO

Investigators looking into a lion attack near Fresno, CA, that killed a 24-year-old intern say so far, there is nothing to indicate a mechanical malfunction with the lion's enclosure. Dianna Hanson died March 6 when Cous Cous, a 550-pound lion at Project Survival's Cat Haven, escaped his enclosure and attacked Hanson as she cleaned an adjacent pen. She was reportedly talking with a co-worker on a walkie-talkie at the time. That co-worker went to find Hanson when the call ended abruptly. Investigators believe the lion was able to enter Hanson's pen by lifting a door that was not closed properly. The Fresno County Coroner says Hanson died instantly from a broken neck, caused when the lion swiped at her with his paw. Sheriff's deputies shot and killed him in order to get to Hanson. Family members and co-workers consider it a tragic accident.

Dr. Kirk Suedmeyer, veterinarian for the Kansas City Zoo, says he and his staff have never been in a situation where they were at a significant risk of direct injury. Still, he says when dealing with wild animals, there is always an element of danger. "An animal can injure you at any time," he says. "Staff is trained to maintain an awareness of their surroundings, monitor the behavior of the animal being worked with, and maintain the facility the animal is housed in." Dr. Suedmeyer says staff is also trained to administer appropriate drugs to induce anesthesia, and learn restraint techniques for different species.

At the time of Hanson's death, Cat Haven had operated for 15 years without safety violations. The park reopened four days after the incident, though authorities continued to investigate whether all safety procedures were followed. Dr. Suedmeyer says the industry has a number of standardized protocols used

to work with wild animals; each facility also creates its own in-house procedures to address each situation as it occurs. "As an Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited institution, we take pride in the safety and preventive protocols implemented at the zoo to prevent dangerous animal incidents," he says. Zoos must train staff on how to remove



individual animals from and return them to their permanent enclosures, how to crate and transport them, and how to recognize signs of stress. They must also specify requirements for supervision of contact areas, frequently evaluate human/animal interactions, and allow handlers to withdraw animals from situations that compromise the health or safety of humans or animals. In fact, the AZA requires each institution to develop an individualized plan that meets its unique needs before it can receive accreditation. This includes not only safety precautions, but a plan to minimize the transfer of disease from non-humans to humans and vice-versa.

No one can fully anticipate what will happen when a person finds himself face-to-face with an aggressive animal, whether wild or domesticated. "The best advice is to remain calm and prevent an incident from occurring rather than react to an emergency," says Dr. Suedmeyer. "If you have an overly defensive animal, anesthetize it to minimize or eliminate the risk of injury to itself or staff."

Cat Haven is accepting donations in Dianna Hanson's memory to benefit its cheetah conservation efforts in Kenya.



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All suggestions and comments are welcomed. Please write or call Wanda Geis. PO Box 12468
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Built on the Shoulders of Veterinary Giants Deets and Big Man and Tim

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Dr. Charles Deets Pickett (1910 – 1990) was an important figure in the history of the Kansas City Swope Park Zoo and the zoo's Great Ape House.

One of the many adventures Dr. Pickett and his wife Regina shared was saving the life of a gorilla named Big Man during a trip to Cameroon. Big Man was a mere baby

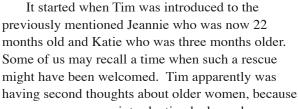
at the time. A native had killed his mother and was about to kill Big Man when the Picketts stepped in and saved his life.

Big Man returned to Kansas City with the Picketts and was donated to the zoo in the late 1950's. The gorilla was two years old. Later the Picketts added two female gorillas – Jungle Jeannie and Kribi Kate – to the zoo's collection. That's where the second adventure begins.

We turn to Terrible Tim and a story published in several newspapers in April 1960. Tim had been a "resident" in the Pickett's home in the loving care of Mrs. Pickett. He had grown from a puny five pounds to 22 pounds in a few months.

Now was time for Tim to move to a new family.

It was supposed to be Terrible Tim's wedding night when he turned into Timid Tim at the sight of the bridesto-be. Weeping and wailing, Tim obviously wanted to return to his surrogate mother, Regina. After all, it was asking a lot of a fellow to cut the apron strings when he was just 13 months old.



upon introduction he knew he was overmatched. The two females weighed 38 to 45 pounds and were described as "muscular trumps."

The wedding night was interrupted when a zoo attendant called the Picketts pleading for help. Tim was crying and having one temper tantrum after another. He was returned to the Pickett's home and their loving attention until he would pull himself together and face life's challenges as a gorilla.

Dr. Pickett received his veterinary degree from Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1933 and his masters in veterinary science from

Colorado State in 1948. He practiced in the Kansas City area from 1934 until he retired in 1973. Dr. Pickett was a captain in the Army's veterinary corps during WWII in Southeast Asia.

Among his numerous accomplishments in Kansas City, Dr. Pickett helped to establish Animal Haven to care for and find homes for stray animals.



May CE

Due to a scheduling conflict, this month's CE will be held on WEDNESDAY, May 15 (not on Thursday).

Shelley C. Rankin, Ph.D. CE: 2 hours Speaker:

Associate Professor Clinician Educator of Microbiology,

University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine Navigating Your Laboratory Reports: Selecting the Best

Topic: Antimicrobial Therapy for your Patients

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 Date:

Check-In: 6:30pm, Dinner and Presentation: 7pm Time:

Lidia's Kansas City Location:

101 West 22nd Street

Kansas City, MO 64108

No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required. Fee:

816-471-2900 or www.nicas320.com

Current membership dues cover all CE.

Sponsor:

Please RSVP by Monday, May 13th online at kcvma.com or http://conta.cc/ZXp5ZK

Dr. Shelley Rankin is an Associate Professor Clinician Educator of Microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine. She has been a clinical microbiologist for more than 20 years. From 1988 to 1999 she worked in The Scottish Salmonella Reference Laboratory in Glasgow, Scotland. She obtained her Ph.D. in 1996 and her thesis research at the University of Glasgow, Faculty of Medicine centered on the molecular epidemiology and characterization of Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) isolates from humans and animals. In 1999 she joined the Salmonella Reference Center at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine as a Research Assistant Professor. In 2002, she was appointed Assistant Professor of microbiology and Chief of the Clinical Microbiology laboratory at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital for companion animals. This led to a productive collaboration with Dr. Daniel Morris and resulted in NIH funding to study the transmission of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus strains between humans and pets. She has been the recipient of university and extramural funding and has an active, collaborative and multi-disciplinary research group that has received or collaborated on multiple grants. Her current research interests include surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria isolated from animals, methicillin-resistant staphylococci, molecular serotyping of Salmonella enterica isolates, and the development of molecular diagnostic tools and rapid detection methods to improve diagnostic services.

In 2006, she also became Chief of Clinical Microbiology for the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS) at New Bolton Center.

June CE

Speaker: Brian Scott, DVM, DACVD Nica's 320 Location:

> South Texas Veterinary Specialists, LLP 320 Southwest Blvd Kansas City, MO 64108

Pruritis - Scratch the Itch Topic: Date: Thursday, June 20, 2013

Time: Check-In: 6:30pm, Dinner and Presentation: 7pm

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required.

Current membership dues cover all CE.

CE: Sponsor:

2 hours Ceva Animal Health



Bayer

Please RSVP by Monday, June 17 by registering at KCVMA.com or http://conta.cc/187Fwt5

Dr. Brian Scott received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1987, and he is Board Certified from the American College of Veterinary Dermatology.

By the third grade, Dr. Scott knew he wanted to be a veterinarian. He knows how important it is for a pet and their family to be comfortable, and as a dermatologist he deals with issues that are not cured, but managed well without discomfort.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Spring 2013 KCVMA Social Event at SEA LIFE Kansas City Aquarium



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 6/13/13.

Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital is growing! We are seeking a registered veterinary technician as well as an animal care assistant to add to our health care team! Successful candidates must be enthusiastic, hard-working, and have great communication skills. Our practice is a progressive two-doctor AAHA accredited practice located in Independence, MO. We focus on quality medicine and great client education. Our staff stays long-term due to a great work environment and our genuine commitment to high quality, compassionate care! For more information about our practice, check out our website at www.cedarridgelovespets.com. Please apply in person. We are located at 1102 E 23rd St S, Independence, MO.

Small animal practice seeking receptionist with kennel help responsibilities. Applicant must be willing to work weekends, work great with clients, restrain the occasional pet, able to speak comfortably on the phone, able to multitask, and be a self-starter. Previous experience with Avimark and with pets a plus but not required. Responsibilities will consist of answering phones, scheduling appointments, some light bookkeeping, and shared kennel work and cleaning. The position will be part-time (Approx. 25 hours/week) with the ability to go full-time. Send cover letter and resume to trailridgepethospital@gmail.com.

Veterinarian needed: We are under new management and growing quickly. Oxford Animal Hospital in Overland Park is seeking to add a new associate to our staff. At least 3-5 years experience preferred. Must be hard working, have great communication skills and be a team player. We have an excellent support staff to help you deliver the best care to our patients. Please send resume to pmaasen@oxfordanimalhospital.com.

Spay & Neuter Kansas City is seeking an experienced veterinary assistant supervisor to join our team. We are looking for someone who wants to be a part of a team, make a difference, understands and supports our mission, clearly understands how important their role is in our organization and the bigger picture. We are also seeking an individual who may even possess other skills, knowledge or expertise to help support their own drive for career growth with our organization. They must understand their job functions and how they impact our operations, be self-motivated to bring new ideas and best practices to help with efficiency and success of SNKC. To apply for this position send a resume and cover letter (explaining why you should be chosen for this position) to SNKC Human Resource Department. No walk-in applicants please email: snkc@snkc.net OR mail to: PO Box 410303 Kansas City, MO 64141

2013 graduate seeks full-time employment. Currently have KS license and willing to get MO license if needed. It is my goal to provide both quality medical and surgical care and superior customer service in order to maintain and improve your clients' bond to your practice. Email Heather Acker at hrsmith23@live.com

After-hours emergency clinician positions (PT and FT) available at BluePearl Specialty & Emergency Medicine for Pets (Kansas City North / Overland Park locations). Contact Jeff Dennis jeff.dennis@bluepearlvet.com

Full-Time associate veterinarian needed for a busy small animal practice in affluent southern Johnson County. We provide high-quality care and client communication. We have a friendly, professional and extremely proficient staff. No emergency hours. Salary commensurate with experience plus competitive benefits provided. Please contact Llora or Becky at (913) 402-8300 or fax resume to (913) 402-8945 or email resume to lionsgatepet@sbcglobal.net

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$\label{lem:anesthesiology:} An esthesiology:$

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Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, ACZM 816-513-4669

Gregory Dennis has served and represented the KCVMA and Kansas City area veterinarians for 25 years. To reach Mr. Dennis, contact: Leongatha Law, LLC | 14801 E 42nd Street, Suite 600 | Independence, MO 64055-4776