



A Letter from the President

May/June 2016

Spring is here! The grass is green, the flowers are blooming and life reemerges from the coldness of winter. This is a great time to be a veterinarian. We see the new additions to our clients' families as they bring in their new puppies and kittens. We prepare for our busier season with the coming of longer days and great outdoor activities.

For some of us the busier season also brings the periodic bout of burnout or compassion fatigue. I feel we all have dealt with compassion fatigue at some point in our careers. For me, it comes from working long days and longer weeks, not just at the hospital, but also at home. We are not only veterinarians but also parents, children and friends. Each one of these roles demands our time and presence, and how we handle things depends a lot on our personalities. A seminar I attended stated people usually fall into one of two categories: extroverts or introverts. Extroverts are outgoing, can quickly turn strangers into friends and shine in the spotlight. Introverts are quiet, have a close circle of friends and avoid the spotlight. We can be a mixture of both depending on the situation, but we usually have a stronger tendency toward one category over the other. Extroverts and introverts also recharge their batteries differently. Extroverts find their energy and recharge by going out with friends, for example, participating in large community activities or going to concerts. They recharge from the energy around them. Introverts find those activities taxing. They recharge best in quiet or tranquil surroundings. Introverts may spend the day in their pajamas and take that selfish day of rest and relaxation. They may also unplug from electronic communication in favor of a day in the garden or reading.

Our tendency toward extrovert or introvert comes into play as we deal with compassion fatigue. As I write this, I am finding myself on the verge of compassion fatigue. This is not to say I am neglecting my patients or practicing bad medicine. This means I am not as compassionate with my clients as usual, and I am short and irritable with my staff. Thankfully, I work with a

staff who feels comfortable asking me questions like, "Are you okay? You appear a little off today." This, combined with my own self-awareness, helps me recognize the early signs of compassion fatigue and realize I need to recharge my batteries. As an introvert, I need to be selfish, take the weekend and unplug from work, friends and family; to spend the day in my pajamas to recharge. I may need more than a weekend. But catching myself sliding into compassion fatigue and burnout at the beginning makes it easier to regroup than ignoring it until I reach a dead-end and have nowhere else to go.

So what I am saying is, if you do not know whether you are an extrovert or an introvert, find out. Have someone on your team who is comfortable speaking with you about your behavior. Not just the people who will say, "The doctor is in a mood today," but those who recognize it may be more than just a bad day and care enough to speak to you about it. We also need to have a confidante who can serve as a sounding board. This can be a spouse, close friend, parent or pastor. Someone who can listen, not pass judgement and guide you toward a solution without telling you how to fix it.

Knowing ourselves and having people who truly care about us helps us not only be better veterinarians, but better people. We care greatly about our patients, our teams and our families. We also need to take the time to care about ourselves as individuals. We need to do this so we can enjoy the green grass, blooming flowers and life around us.

For more information about the signs, symptoms and treatments for compassion fatigue, visit our News and Notes archive at http://www.kcvma.com/downloads/_archive/MarApr15.pdf.

Donna Romanzi, DVM

President - dromanzi@kcvma.com

Animal Health Community Responds in Wake of Kansas Wildfires

BY: JEN NIGRO

Farmers and ranchers in six Kansas counties are recovering from the devastating effects of wildfires that swept across the southern part of the state. Hardest hit was Barber County, where nearly 400,000 acres succumbed to a blaze that started in northern Oklahoma. Comanche County lost an additional 41,000 acres in the same fire. It was the biggest wildfire in Kansas history, prompting Governor Sam Brownback to declare a state of emergency on March 23. Unrelated fires in Geary, Wabaunsee, Riley and Morton counties took nearly 12,000 more acres.

Though the fires are largely contained, those impacted are just beginning to realize the full extent of the damage. Dr. Ron Keeler of Ninnescah Veterinary Service near Hutchinson says he has clients who still don't know how many of their calves perished. "Calves suffered the most death loss because when the fire came through the cows got up and ran, but the calves laid down and hid," he says. "Within a few days of the fire it was literally a triage situation. Unfortunately, people didn't have time to save everything that was burned. Most of them perished. If they didn't, they were so bad off they were just euthanized." He says the health problems he's seeing now are mostly burn injuries. "Many of the cows injured in the fires were only singed and should heal within a week or two. We're seeing mainly burnt udders. I've heard of hooves sloughing, literally burning the foot enough that they lose their claws." Other problems, he says, could show up weeks or months from now. "If three months from now I get a group of cows in that are all coughing and have lung issues, the fire is going to be considered a factor." Kansas State Veterinarian Dave Rethorst concurs, but notes cattle downwind from the fire may already be experiencing respiratory issues from heavy smoke that blew into their areas. "Those calves are seeing runny eyes and respiratory problems," he said in a news release. "In some of these young cows, it will probably affect their lungs for life."

While animal health is a concern, the more critical issue right now is the need for fencing. "Cows should be going out on grass here in a couple of weeks," Dr. Keeler explains. "The grass is going to green up and come back from the fires, but there's no fence to keep the animals in." The lack of fencing not only increases the risk of further loss, but the likelihood of comingling between herds. Dr. Rethorst says that could lead to secondary

health problems like bovine viral diarrhea, even in herds that have never experienced it before.

Seeing the challenges facing his clients, Dr. Keeler turned to social media for help. With permission, he posted pictures taken by one of his clients, Greg McCurry, showing his brother Brad on horseback with the fire behind him. A few hours after the post went live, Dr. Keeler's son called from Manhattan. "He asked me, have you seen your post, and I said no, I haven't even looked yet," he recalls. "I already had about 100,000 hits on it." In all, he says 850,000 people saw it. Offers of help started to roll in. "It was overwhelming the number of phone calls I've received," says Dr. Keeler, who is quick to say he was not directly impacted by the fire. "I got calls from FFA groups from Moore, OK, people calling saying, where can I help, what can I do. As a mixed animal practitioner, I've never been so proud of my people." Efforts are underway to organize FFA and 4-H work groups to help rebuild fencing. Semi-load after semi-load of hay has been donated to the area. "I'm about 40 miles from Medicine Lodge, one of the hardest hit areas, and (Reno) County's cattlemen's association put on an auction where they sold two steers on a progressive sale," he says. (In a progressive sale, a steer is auctioned off, then donated back to be auctioned again.) The sale raised \$27,000 for relief efforts. Even the drug companies are getting involved. "I've been called by just about every large animal pharmaceutical company asking where they can donate drugs to help with treatment, who needs it and how much they need," boasts Dr. Keeler.

The Kansas Livestock Association has set up a fund for those wishing to help provide money toward fence rebuilding, replenishing lost hay supplies and animal health needs. The organization is also selling prints of Eva Gardiner's painting, *A Walk through Henry's Dream*, to raise funds. Information about these programs, as well as other resources for those impacted by the fires, can be found at <http://www.kla.org/wildfirerelief.aspx>. Dr. Keeler suggests those wanting to come to the area to help rebuild fencing contact their local extension agent to find out where there are help points.

Though the area faces a long road to recovery, Dr. Keeler is inspired by those who have come to aid the ranchers affected by the fires. "It's one thing to help a neighbor out, but it's another thing to help a whole industry that's a hundred miles away. It just goes to show the resolve and the toughness of the people."

Army Veterinary Corps Celebrates 100th Anniversary

BY: JEN NIGRO

As the Army Veterinary Corps marks its 100th anniversary, one metro area veterinarian is reflecting back on his career in the corps. Dr. Vern Otte of State Line Animal Hospital in Leawood started his 36-year-long Army career in the medical service corps in 1966. In 1975, after graduating from Kansas State University's CVM, he transferred to the Army Veterinary Corps as a reserve officer. "I could run a practice and do the Army on the weekends, two weeks annual training during the year plus other times," he recalls. "We got to do lots of medical missions to Central and South America and Africa, so it made life interesting. It also gave me different challenges that even most of the active duty corps members never experienced."

The corps, which turns a century old on June 3, was established in 1916 by an act of Congress, but its roots go back to Civil War days and before. During the Revolutionary War, General Washington ordered the establishment of a horse regiment that included a farrier. In 1875, Congress allowed for soldiers to provide medicine and dressing for horses, and by 1879 all applicants for veterinary positions with the cavalry had to be graduates of a recognized veterinary college. Though the Air Force has veterinarians, and had its own veterinary corps from 1949 to 1979, the Army Veterinary Corps is now the only branch of its kind in the U.S. military.

Dr. Otte, who served as a reservist until 2003, says working for the Army Veterinary Corps involves much more than working with military service animals. In fact, food safety is a key component of the corps' duties. "They're responsible for inspecting the food on all the ships that go out as well as at Marine and Air Force facilities. The last thing you want to do is get somebody in battle or get out in the middle of the ocean and have all contaminated food," he notes. That's exactly what happened during the Spanish American War in 1898, when a lack of proper safety procedures led to illness that killed thousands of American troops and left even more too ill to fight. It was about this time that the Army started recruiting veterinarians to inspect meat, poultry and dairy products being sent to frontier outposts. Now, Army veterinarians inspect all sources of food available on a military post and to service members. This includes MREs, or meals ready to eat.

In addition to ensuring the health, safety and training of their service animals, Army veterinarians also work with nearby communities to improve animal health and well-being. "When I went to El Salvador, we worked with the local villagers to vaccinate and de-worm their animals," recalls Dr. Otte. "It was a big plus for them because their animals are their livelihood." He says the area has so many parasites, de-worming the livestock helped residents increase their production dramatically. Dr. Otte's unit also held rabies vaccination clinics and did routine exams of area dogs and livestock. "We went to Ecuador a couple of times and worked with livestock owners to increase dairy production as well as help them set up a high-temperature/short-time pasteurization system," he says. There were even adventures to be had on U.S. soil. "We do two weeks of annual training on active duty, and on one of them I was sent to San Antonio. I get there, and they tell me I'm going to go out and de-worm 85 horses that morning. I hadn't de-wormed a horse but probably twice when I was in vet school, and that was at least eight years before that," he chuckles. "That was a real learning experience, and one I got through in good shape."

In addition to food safety and animal care, Army veterinarians also do a great deal of research. They're involved in vaccine, antitoxin and antidote development. "Probably a fourth of the veterinarians on active duty are actively engaged in research," says Dr. Otte. He says most have advanced degrees and board certification in pathology or lab animal medicine.

According to the U.S. Army Medical Department, there are 780 Army veterinarians serving in active duty and reserve roles. The corps includes general practitioners as well as surgeons, critical care specialists, internal medicine specialists, radiologists, behaviorists, pathologists and epidemiologists.

Dr. Otte, who started the 445th Medical Detachment in Independence, MO, in 1983, says working with the Army Veterinary Corps has been an enjoyable and memorable experience. "It was fun, it was a good break from what we do on a normal basis, and it kept the unit members interested because we're not doing just normal routine things. You're working on a global basis, and the challenges are completely different."

To learn more about becoming a member of the Army Veterinary Corps, call (210) 221-8149.

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All suggestions and comments are welcomed.
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Built on the Shoulders of Veterinary Giants: Fort Riley Historical Museums

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Two Fort Riley museums document the history of the U.S. Cavalry and the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One), honoring the service of soldiers and horses over decades. The buildings stand near one another in the fort's historic district – an area of over 200 native limestone structures constructed between 1885 and 1914.

The Cavalry Museum, one of four buildings surviving from the fort's initial construction, retains much of its original architecture. It houses modern exhibit halls on two floors that recount the history of the army's mounted arm. The south wing – once the post hospital – was built five years before the Civil War. Today the museum exhibits the history of the cavalry from the Revolutionary War to the mid-1900s.

The entrance to the Cavalry Museum shows a three dimensional scene depicting the evolution of the mounted soldier. The art gallery contains an impressive collection of artistic works focusing on the cavalry's glory days. The permanent collection of paintings and sculptures includes works of America's most famous military artists; among them, Frederic Remington.

Exhibits recount the cavalry's participation in campaigns during the 19th and 20th centuries from the Civil War to World War II. The service of Buffalo Soldiers and Indian scouts is also honored. Visitors can view the saddlery exhibit

featuring McClellan saddles, experimental saddles, tack, stable and farrier gear.

The second floor exhibits examine the cavalry's involvement in the formation of the US Olympic equestrian teams and curriculum and training for the Army's Cavalry School.

Nearby are numerous outdoor artifacts including armored vehicles, artillery pieces and tanks. Sculptures include Tessa Pullen's riderless horse, honoring equine that perished in the Civil War, and James M. Muir's monumental "Duty" statue, a tribute to all cavalry soldiers.

A few steps to the rear of the Cavalry Museum is the 1st Infantry Division Museum. Visitors may view exhibits chronicling the rich and colorful history of the Big Red One from the end of World War I to the present. Visitors can view a variety of uniforms and weapons and experience the war's front by walking through a simulated trench.

Before leaving visitors are encouraged to stop in the Remembrance Room to pay written respects to service members who have fallen in the line of duty.

The museums are open Sunday through Saturday. Admission and parking are free. A current photo ID is required for entry into the fort. Call 785-239-2737 for hours and other information.



Brooklyn Dodgers infielder Lieutenant Jackie Robinson is pictured on horseback when he served in the cavalry during the 1930s.

Thanks to Army Historian Dr. Robert Smith for his assistance in preparation of this article.

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

May CE

Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Martinez
Topic: Advancements in Anesthesia
Date: Thursday, May 19, 2016
Time: 6:30pm – Dinner & Registration, 7pm – Presentation
CE: 2 hours

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by Thursday, May 16th. Current membership dues cover all CE
Location: Coopers Hawk
4686 Broadway
Kansas City, MO 64112
Sponsor: Jurox



Please register by Monday, May 16 at <http://bit.ly/May2016KCVMA>



Elizabeth Martinez, DVM, DACVAA, completed her undergraduate degree and attended veterinary medical school at the University of Tennessee. She received her DVM from the University of Tennessee in 1987. Martinez completed an internship and residency at Cornell University from 1987 to 1990. She then joined the faculty at Texas A&M University in 1990, where she is an associate professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. She is involved in patient care and the instruction of veterinary students, residents and interns. Her research interests include anesthetic effects on cardiovascular function and the use of neuromuscular blocking agents in veterinary patients. Martinez is board certified in veterinary anesthesiology. She is a member of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists.

June CE

Speaker: David C. Twedt, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM
Professor, Department of Clinical Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical
Sciences, Colorado State University
Topic: Latest Update on Canine Pancreatitis
Date: Thursday, June 16, 2016

Time: 6:30pm – Dinner & Registration, 7pm – Presentation
CE: 2 hours
Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by Monday, June 13. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Location: TBD
Sponsor: Zoetis



Please register by Monday, June 13 at <http://bit.ly/June2016KCVMA>



Dr. David C. Twedt graduated from Iowa State University and entered an internship and medicine residency in gastroenterology at The Animal Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Twedt then joined the staff of the Animal Medical Center and was also a research associate at the Liver Research Center of Albert Einstein Medical School. Dr. Twedt is currently a Diplomate of the ACVIM, professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences at Colorado State University and small animal internal medicine.

Dr. Twedt is past president of the ACVIM and Comparative Gastroenterology Society. Publication and research interests include liver disease, gastrointestinal disease and endoscopy. He has also been the recipient of several teaching and research awards, including the WSAVA Scientific Achievement Award. He is the co-editor of the textbook *Current Veterinary Therapy 14 and 15*.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Spring Social Event Reminder: Sporting Kansas City

If you registered for the Sporting Kansas City event, don't forget to join your KCVMA colleagues on Saturday, May 21st as we enjoy watching Sporting Kansas City take on Real Salt Lake at Children's Mercy Park. Our seats are in sections 123 and 124 (East Stands), and the match starts at 7:30pm. We'll distribute tickets outside the gates prior to the match. Watch your email for exact time and location.

Please note: We had to cancel this year's pre-match tailgate due to the increased cost of tickets.



Date: Saturday, May 21, 2016
Location: Children's Mercy Park
One Sporting Way
Kansas City, KS 66111

Time: Kickoff: 7:30pm
Tickets: Tickets will be distributed outside the gates prior to the match.
Watch your email for details.

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 6/13/16.

Equipment for sale: stainless steel pedestal exam table, 44x20x35, excellent condition (minor scratches from daily use). We recently remodeled our clinic and need fold down exam tables in our rooms. \$300. Call 913-592-2770 or email springhillvetmanager@yahoo.com for more information.

Hiring a part-time or full-time vet to join our practice in Raytown, MO. Established, wonderful clientele. Great diagnostic equipment and exceptional support staff. No Emergency shifts EVER!!! Pay is based on experience. If interested email kdesazer@gmail.com.

For Sale: LWS M24 combo centrifuge, microhematocrit and 12 test tube centrifuge, gently used. \$600.00. Contact Dr. Catherine Boyett at cboyett7890@gmail.com.

To accommodate our growth, BluePearl Veterinary Partners is looking for full and part-time clinicians interested in after-hours emergency shifts to join our Kansas City team. Work side by side with our specialists and well-trained staff providing the best in client service and patient care. For more information: jeff.dennis@bluepearlvet.com.

Hidden Valley Animal Hospital is in need of an experienced, full-time, registered veterinary technician or a second year vet-tech student attending Maple Woods. HVAH is a progressive, two-doctor, AAHA accredited practice in Independence. Competitive salary and benefits are being offered for the right individual. Check out our website at www.hvahpets.com. Call 816-759-7387 (ask for Carolyn), come by the clinic for an application or email your resume to carolynvill@gmail.com.

Small animal practice for sale in South Kansas City, Missouri. One man practice located in a shopping center. Please contact Dr. Stach at PO BOX 1006, Raymore, MO 64083 for more information.

For Sale: SCAN-X (CR) DIGITAL X-RAY SYSTEM. Meticulously maintained, fully operational system that was purchased from Patterson Veterinary Supply and installed in 2006. Available for sale at a tremendous discount price compared to a new system. (2) 14x17 & 3 (10x12) FUJI IMAGING PLATES are included with the scanner. \$3995.00. Compare to new at \$25K+ Contact Dr. S. L. Smith @ 816-363-2115 or by email at bacvet@birch.net for additional information.

Vintage Plaza Veterinary Hospital in Excelsior Springs, MO, is looking to hire a part-time associate veterinarian. We are a small animal hospital. No emergencies unless desired. The applicant can expect 15-20 hours a week. Contact Dr. Clint Watkins, drwatkins@vintagevet.com or 816-630-3960.

Animal Medical Center in South Kansas City (Waldo/Brookside Area) is looking for a receptionist with the desire to also learn veterinary assistant/technician skills to join our team. Looking for full-time or part-time, must be willing to work 2-3 Saturdays a month. Little to no animal health experience is ok, we are looking for the right fit. Looking for someone with a positive attitude who enjoys people and a loud, busy environment. Please call Kyle at 816-333-9000 or email AnimalMedicalCenterKC@gmail.com.

Independence Animal Hospital is currently looking for 1-2 associates to join a very busy, rapidly growing small animal practice. We are located near historic downtown Independence, MO. We offer great benefits, and salary is negotiable dependent on experience. Ownership possibilities would be available for the right individual(s). The clinic has excellent support staff with in-house lab, digital radiography and dental equipment. We strive to offer excellent veterinary care at a reasonable price. This position is open immediately and is a great opportunity both professionally and financially. New graduates considered. Contact Dr. Matthew Wingert @ 816-682-3685 or email independencanimalhospital@hotmail.com.

Spay & Neuter Kansas City is seeking a full-time Veterinarian to join our team. SNKC is a nonprofit, continually growing organization that is making a difference in the Kansas City area with our innovative programs. We believe what we do is important, but how we do it is what makes us different. We are focused on a people-focused maintaining culture to make our community a better place for the pets and people who love them. We offer a rewarding work environment with an incredible support team and competitive salary and benefits. For more information on our organization, visit www.snkc.net. Please send resume and cover letter to Michelle Rivera, michelle@snkc.net.

Veterinary technician needed for a busy, progressive practice in south Overland Park (Lionsgate Pet Hospital). Duties would include assisting three doctors with radiology, dentistry, surgery, caring for hospitalized patients and client education. Laboratory skills would include running fecal samples, urinalysis and cytologies. Experience required. Will consider full or part-time. Please email your resume and cover letter to lloracook@yahoo.com if interested.

Westwood Animal Hospital is seeking a registered veterinary technician to join our team. This is a full-time position and availability on Saturdays is required. Interested parties can fax or email their application and resume. Applications are available on our website, www.westwoodanimalhospital.com.

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

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