

news & notes

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

There have been some interesting developments in the last two months. Let's start with the social event at Knuckleheads. A great time was had by all who attended. My wife, Cindy, joined me on stage for my opening number and sang background vocals on "Feelin' Alright." Then I got the chance to tell the crowd how I feel about her when I sang "Some Kind of Wonderful." After that I learned a valuable lesson when, after a rousing guitar solo on the last song, "Louie, Louie," stage excitement erased the final stanza of lyrics from my memory. I just jumped into a harmonica solo, hoping that by the time the solo was over I would remember the rest of the song, but as the solo wound down... nothing. So I leaned over to an experienced singer who was backing me up and confessed I couldn't remember the lyrics. She said, "Just start over."

What a valuable lesson. By the time I finished singing the first stanza again, I had gotten on a roll and the rest of the lyrics flowed out smoothly. The cool thing is that, until I confessed, nobody knew!

Starting over doesn't always work. Some things just can't be changed in that way. On the other hand, I've found the strategy works wonders in areas like writing, painting and politics. When I think of the democratic process, how we elect new politicians, and how many times our laws have been rewritten and improved, it brings me hope. Granted we still have some laws on the books that are counterproductive, but with effort we can strive for improvement.

In that vein, the KC Metro Task Force on Public Safety and Dog Bite Prevention is pushing for progress. We have had two meetings and are working together to develop guidelines, strategies,

and education programs to address public concerns about the damaging and even deadly dog attacks of the last year. With this effort we are doing more than shaking a finger at municipalities for passing counterproductive breed bans. We will provide successful options.

I am quite impressed with each and every member of the Dog Bite Task Force because they have a unique perspective to offer. Collectively, they bring a wealth of public service wisdom to the table. In addition, the metro area is fortunate to have excellent dangerous dog ordinances on the books in Olathe and Lawrence. Proper enforcement of such ordinances is successful and can serve as a model for other communities to emulate.

As an example, Lawrence has been blessed with a drop in Pit Bull intakes from 468 in 2004, to 151 in 2005, and 80 through September 21, 2006. In addition, there was a >50 percent reduction in bites and a 40 percent reduction in animal cruelty and neglect complaints in the last year in Lawrence. The director of the Lawrence Humane Society, Midge Grinstead, who is also one of our Task Force members, attributes these improvements to cooperation amongst various Douglas County agencies as they enforce a dangerous animal ordinance that includes anti-tethering provisions.

We'll tell you more as the Task Force develops, but as my time with the KCVMA draws to a close, I must tell you I'm filled with gratitude. It has been a heck of a ride. I couldn't have asked for more help and support from my family, fellow KCVMA board members, and support staff. Thank you all so much.



SPAY AND NEUTER KANSAS CITY

BY: MICHELLE M. DORMADY, *PRESIDENT, SPAY AND NEUTER KANSAS CITY*

Spay and Neuter Kansas City (“SNKC”) is a 501c3 organization, formed in 2004 with a mission of promoting spay and neutering as a primary means of decreasing pet overpopulation. It works closely with private practice veterinarians dedicated to the concept of providing low-cost spay and neuter services for those with financial need. SNKC does not provide subsidized surgery to those who can readily afford such services, nor does it expect private veterinarians to provide services free of charge. SNKC raises funds to pay private veterinarians for the surgery of pets the owners could not otherwise afford.

SNKC also works closely with the Kansas City Animal Control Department, which has identified the geographic areas of the city that produce nearly 80 percent of animal control calls. These areas tend to be the lower-income areas of the city. SNKC targets these troubled areas in its marketing efforts.

SNKC’s approach of targeting pet-overpopulation in lower-income, trouble-prone areas, screening clients based on their income, and working with the local animal control departments and local veterinarians is an approach that has been successful in several other cities across the United States, and should prove successful in Kansas City as well.

PROGRAMS

VETERINARY CLINIC BASED SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM

SNKC’s primary function is to refer pet owners in need of spay and neuter services to our participating veterinarians. Our veterinarians perform the surgery at their clinics and are paid by SNKC or by a combination of SNKC and the pet owner.

Pet owners who call SNKC and have an established veterinary relationship are directed to call that veterinarian. Owners who are not in financial need are referred by SNKC to private veterinarians. In this way, SNKC drives the pet owners who can afford to pay to the private veterinarians. This preserves SNKC’s limited resources for clients truly in financial need and stops abuse of our program.

We communicate the clinic’s pre-surgery requirements such as vaccinations to the pet owner. SNKC will set the appointment, provide pre-surgery

information, hours for drop off, etc. The appointment form will indicate what amount, if any, the client is required to pay for the surgery, and what amount will be paid by SNKC.

M.A.S.H. CLINICS

Once a month SNKC hosts a mass sterilization clinic at 3710 Main Street, where nearly 100 dog/cat spays and neuters are preformed in a single day. This is accomplished by the efforts of a coalition that includes University of Missouri Veterinary School faculty and students, SNKC staff, many volunteers and several private veterinarians.

Most of the surgeries performed at these clinics are from our targeted areas and are for pet owners who cannot afford to pay anything. We are always in need of more participating veterinarians. SNKC will compensate veterinarians for a day’s work. However, many veterinarians volunteer their services.

COLLABORATION

SNKC targets a market previously not served by veterinarians. Nearly 64 percent of our clients have never taken their pet to a veterinarian. 31 percent of the animals we spay and neuter have had a previous litter and 41 percent live primarily outdoors. If we can provide subsidized surgery for these animals, and veterinarians can provide reasonable basic continuing care, such as routine vaccinations, etc., the general health of the animals will be improved. In addition, we hope veterinarians will acquire new clients, as well. .

SNKC is currently seeking more veterinarians. If you are interested in participating or simply have questions, please contact Michelle Dormady, President 816-353-0940 or mdor956252@aol.com.

For more information, visit our web site, www.snkc.net



SPAY/NEUTER IS THE SOLUTION

BY: DR. SHEILA DODSON

While we may all agree that spay/neuter is the most viable solution to addressing the problem of pet over-population, the question of “How many Spay/Neuters are necessary?” may be harder to pin down.

Studies have shown that, to stabilize a population of animals, 70 percent of the total population must be sterilized. Given an estimated population of 1.5 million people in our 5 county area (Johnson and Wyandotte in Kansas, and Jackson, Clay and Platte in Missouri), and 624,923 total households, Kansas City has approximately 389,952 owned dogs, 467,443 owned cats and an estimated 186,977 feral cats living in our community. This means we need to sterilize 731,060 animals to ensure the population is stabilized.

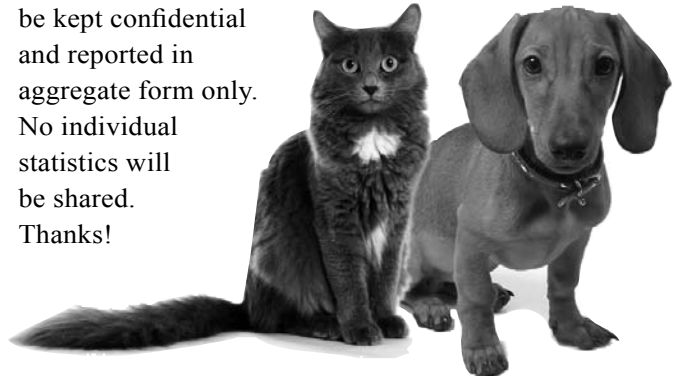
In the Kansas City metro area, we euthanize approximately 25,000 animals in our shelters every year. Programs that have been successful in reducing shelter intake and ultimately the number of euthanized animals, indicate that an additional 5 targeted surgeries need to be completed annually per 1000 residents over the long term. The key here is for the surgeries to be over and above what is already being done and targeted towards the population unable to afford (or less likely) to have their pets neutered.

This is important to us as members of the Kansas City veterinary community because only we can do spay/

neuter surgeries. This means that any effort to address pet over-population in Kansas City will be dependant upon our involvement.

The KCVMA is supporting No More Homeless Pets KC (NMHPKC) in their efforts to gain a better understanding of both the volume and capacity of spay/neuter surgeries in the KC Metro area. In support of this effort, NNHPKC will be sending out a brief survey in the next few weeks designed to get an understanding of the volume of procedures currently being done as well as the capacity for additional targeted, low-cost surgeries. This is not a solicitation for you to join a program but is intended to help us establish a community baseline by which to measure our progress. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it right away because the better the response, the more valid the analysis. The results of the survey will be published in a future newsletter.

All information will be kept confidential and reported in aggregate form only. No individual statistics will be shared. Thanks!



RABIES VACCINATIONS FOR PETS ARE BEST LINE OF DEFENSE

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS

When a disease has not taken a human life in almost 50 years, people may become complacent about taking all necessary precautions against it.

In response to this year's high number of rabies cases, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has issued a statewide public health advisory it hopes will jettison any ambivalent feelings about rabies vaccinations among pet owners. In its Sept. 30 report, the DHSS indicated rabies has been found in 20 Missouri counties, including Jackson and Clay counties in the metro area and Buchanan County further north.

Of the 58 confirmed rabies cases so far in 2006, nearly all were due to bat bites. Forty-eight of the 58 cases involved bats. In addition, two horses afflicted with rabies reportedly were bitten by bats. In southern and eastern Missouri, seven rabid skunks were found.

There was one rabid cow in southwestern Missouri. All 13 metro Kansas City cases were bats.

The DHSS strongly urges pet owners to vaccinate household animals as the best line of defense against rabies. Wild animals that can wander into backyards, such as skunks, foxes, and bats can carry rabies. Numerous rabies clinics, including one offered by Spay and Neuter Kansas City on Oct. 7, are popping up to draw public attention to the rabies concern and to facilitate pet vaccinations.

In Kansas, the incidence of rabies has been lower than in Missouri.

The Centers for Disease Control reports 40,000 people nationwide receive the anti-rabies series of shots each year. People exposed to rabies who do not receive the shots within the necessary window of time will invariably die – usually within two to six days after symptoms appear.

DOG BITE PREVENTION IN 5 EASY STEPS

BY: DR. J.C. BURCHAM

Those of us who work in small animal practice know a few things about how to avoid getting bitten by a dog. The general public, however, often has a Disney-like perception of dogs and doesn't see the danger in petting someone else's dog. And many people completely deny that their own dog has the potential to bite. Most dog bites go unreported, but the CDC estimates that at least 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs annually. Veterinarians can help prevent dog bites by sharing the 5 following steps with the public:



- 1. ALWAYS ASK FOR PERMISSION BEFORE PETTING A DOG.** This goes for children and adults! I never cease to be amazed at the number of people I see who go right up to a dog they don't know, start petting it on the head, and will then ask, "Is he friendly?"
- 2. NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN UNSUPERVISED WITH A DOG.** The majority of dog bite victims are children under the age of 12. Please use common sense.
- 3. DON'T LEAN OVER A DOG AND PET IT ON THE HEAD.** Dogs can feel very threatened with this gesture. Instead, kneel at a dog's side and pet it under the chin or on the chest.
- 4. NOT ALL WAGGING IS FRIENDLY.** People were taught to believe that a wagging tail means the dog is happy and relaxed, but a high, fast wagging tail can indicate a very aroused dog that may bite if his space is invaded.
- 5. DON'T WASTE TIME IN DENIAL.** If a dog has exhibited aggressive tendencies, we need to recommend that they seek help to prevent the problem from worsening. Nearly all aggressive behavior will worsen with time if steps aren't taken to address it.

You could even teach your own dog bite prevention course! There are many useful resources already available, so you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Teaching members of your community about dog safety and bite prevention is a valuable contribution to general public health and safety. For more information, see the KCVMA website.

KCVMA

news¬es

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All suggestions and comments are welcomed.
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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 12/13/06.

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

Associate Veterinarian needed FT or PT at Merriam, KS small animal hospital. Work with state-of-the-art equipment including Heska CBC, Idexx Chesistries, sevoflurane anesthesia, 2005 model Remote Vet ultrasound unit and more. Enjoy a great quality of life with good benefits and help our clinic continue to grow. Contact Wendy Noll, DVM or Jeri Singer at Banfield Pet Hospital of Merriam, 913-362-2400 for more information.

Veterinary technician full or part time desired for busy 6 doctor AAHA hospital in western Wyandotte County. For information, contact Jim Swanson or Curtis Bock @ Welborn Pet Hospital, 913-334-6770. Email address: welborn2@swbell.net. Check out website at welbornpet.com.

Veterinary technician needed FT or PT at Merriam, KS small animal hospital. CVT preferred but not a requirement. Enjoy competitive pay and benefits as well as good quality of life. Contact Wendy Noll, DVM, DVM or Jeri Singer at Banfield Pet Hospital of Merriam, 913-362-2400 for more information.

For Sale: Sonovet 600, 5.0 mHz probe and printer, \$7,500. Tonoper XL, \$2,000. Olympus GIF PQ20 Flexible endoscope, 1025mm x 9mm with light, pump and biopsy forceps, \$4,000. 913-239-9353 or 913-515-3917.

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January Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Dr. Kevin Christiansen (ACVIM Candidate)
Topic: Cardiology
Date: January 18, 2007 (3rd Thursday of the month)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar: 7pm

Location: Saint Joseph Health Center's
Community Center for Health & Education,
Community Meeting Room
CE: 2 Hours

Dr. Kevin Christiansen completed his residency training in cardiology at the University of Pennsylvania College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. A 1999 graduate of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Christiansen had been employed at the Veterinary Referral Center in Malvern, Pennsylvania before deciding to return to Kansas City. Married with two young boys, he enjoys sports related activities and family life. Dr. Christiansen splits his time between seeing patients at Mission MedVet and the Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center of Kansas City.

KCVMA SOCIAL EVENT

FUN AT KNUCKLEHEADS ON SEPTEMBER 16TH



DEAN SEARCH AT UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI CVM COULD TAKE TWO YEARS

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS



Dr. Cecil Moore

Officials at the University of Missouri say the national search for a new dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine could take one to two years.

UM CVM's dean since 1998, Joe Kornegay, DVM, PhD, departed, effective Oct. 16, after receiving University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill appointments he viewed as strategic to his research.

For 25 years, Dr. Kornegay has experimented with a canine model of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. He was attracted to University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill,

he said, "by their ongoing efforts to strengthen research involving animal models of human genetic diseases." The model he works with has an increasingly important role in translational studies intended to move promising therapies into human clinical trials, he noted.

A native of North Carolina, Kornegay's primary appointments will be in the university's Gene Therapy Center and the School of Medicine's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Neurology. In February 2006, Dr. Kornegay was unanimously approved as a member of the board of directors of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.

Interim dean Cecil Moore earned his DVM from UM CVM in 1972. He returned to MU in 1986 to lead the ophthalmology section and subsequently rose to the chairmanship of the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in 2000.