

news & notes

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Now that fall is in the air I'm motivated to start gathering up firewood in preparation for the forthcoming winter. Having invested some years ago now in my very own

log splitter, I find that the engine noise during operation somehow satisfies my "motor head" cravings during the months when temperatures tend to discourage motorcycling.

2007 has presented the KCVMA with numerous challenges. Some have reached a point of resolution and some will be deferred to next year. The executive board continuously strives to act in what we believe is in the best interest of veterinarians practicing in the metro Kansas City area. Members once again are encouraged to bring forth issues that may affect veterinary practitioners should there be awareness. One of the most significant advances I anticipate in 2008 will be improvements to our association website to better serve member needs and possibly some needs of the community.

The culmination of our efforts to bring exceptional CE programs will be Dr. Feldman's endocrinology seminar at the Bayer facility in Shawnee, KS on Sunday, November 4th. Once

again I wish to thank Bayer for hosting this program for the KCVMA. Looking ahead to next year, Sunday, February 24th will bring a return of the "Frost Bite Seminar" that was very successful in 2007 and once again will be held at the Hyatt Regency downtown.

Our newsletter continues to serve as an important resource for industry news, as well as continuing education information and veterinary contacts. Be sure to check out two important articles in this issue. On pages two and four, you'll learn some interesting facts about the new National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility, and why K-State would make a perfect home for this important Research Center. On page three, you can find out about an important legislative issue affecting veterinarians in the state of Missouri.

In conclusion (this is indeed the last letter from the president that is my responsibility) I have appreciated the opportunity to serve in this capacity, albeit the 2nd time around for me. My focus for 2008 will shift back to the full time job of running a veterinary practice. It remains to be seen just what I will do with all of the time that I have spent in 2007 writing letters from the president. Maybe I'll take up fishing?

U.S. BIOSECURITY RESEARCH CENTER COULD COME TO KANSAS

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS

By next October, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is expected to announce where it will locate a new National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF), a high-level biosecurity center to research foreign animal and zoonotic diseases.

The NBAF is vital to national security in assessing threats to biosecurity, conducting “high-consequence” research, and developing, testing and validating countermeasures over the next 50 years, a mission jointly held by DHS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Authorization for the new facility comes from H. R. 1717, an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Construction could begin in 2010 with the start-up of operations by the end of 2013.

Kansas State University’s Manhattan campus is among the finalists (listed below in no particular order):

- Flora Industrial Park, Madison County, Miss.
- Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan.
- Texas Research Park, San Antonio, Tex.
- Umstead Research Farm, Granville County, N.C.
- University of Georgia/South Milledge Ave., Athens, Ga.

Conceivably, officials could reject all five sites, and opt to expand the facility in use now and for the last 50 years, the Plum Island Animal Disease Center on the northeastern tip of Long Island, New York. However, that’s probably not likely since Plum Island is aging and access can be complicated for researchers who have more on their minds than ferryboat schedules.

If it comes to Manhattan, Kan., the 520,000-square-foot NBAF would be one of the largest facilities of its kind in the U.S. (the largest in the Midwest) – larger than several Kansas City landmarks.

It would be about 11 percent larger than the new Sprint Center, 16 percent larger than the Kansas City Star production facility, and equivalent to 19 Municipal Auditoriums. At a cost of \$451 million (paid by the federal government), the NBAF’s price tag is almost 64 percent higher than the new Sprint Center (\$276 million).

The facility will include laboratories certified for work at the highest biosecurity level (BSL-4) given in the U.S. Approximately 10 percent of the facility will handle some of today’s deadliest biological agents – ones that pose a high risk of life-threatening disease with no known vaccine or therapy to counteract them. In



addition to handling these types of biological agents, it’s important to note that BSL-4 facilities also utilize the most stringent and advanced safety and security measures in the world.

Among the pathogens which could be investigated at the NBAF are several second-tier (BSL-3) diseases (foot and mouth disease, swine fever, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, and Japanese Encephalitis virus, as well as (BSL-4) zoonotic diseases, nipah virus (swine) and hendra virus (horses).

The consequences of biosecurity breaches could far eclipse 9/11’s toll of about 3,000 dead, according to Col. Gary Vroegindewey, assistant chief of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

In 1994, 243,000 people (81 times more than the number killed in the 9/11 attacks) fell ill from a salmonella outbreak traced to ice cream mix in a single tanker truck. It’s mind-boggling to imagine a scenario of high-risk biological agents being used in an intentional terrorist attack, he says.

The heightened risk to biosecurity in the modern era underscores the urgency for the new NBAF and the research that will be done there so that antidotes, cures and countermeasures can be discovered before attacks occur.

Where are we in the site selection process? (The National Environmental Policy Act lays out the process, while mandating that federal agencies weigh the environmental impacts of their actions and consider alternatives.)

The steps completed so far are: (1) DHS has issued a Notice of Intent; (2) five finalists have been announced (July 2007); and (3) the public has had the opportunity to give comments at “scoping” hearings held at each site (August-September 2007).

The next step – the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for each site – is under way. This stage assesses each site based on: land-use plans and controls, visual resources, air quality, noise environment, geology, soil charac

(Continued on Back Page)

VETERINARY LEGEND DRUGS

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) is getting a jump on the 2008 Missouri Legislative Session (January through May). A yeoman “public information” effort is under way to stop two firestorms of confusion from last session from erupting again. The first of the two legislative conflagrations that threatened important priorities for Missouri veterinarians in the 2007 Legislative Session is described below. The second will be detailed in the January/February issue of *News & Notes*.

Missouri is the only state that does not have a designated agency to provide regulation and oversight of the dispensation by non-clinic drug outlets of so-called veterinary legend drugs – that is, veterinary pharmaceuticals required to carry a label that these drugs cannot be dispensed without a prescription from a licensed veterinarian.

Some background is necessary to understand this complex issue, which has been further confused by a Missouri State Supreme Court ruling, a state pharmacy board anxious to provide regulation and oversight of these drugs, and legislative attempts to clarify state law, which met with ill-fates because of the timing of the court’s ruling.

The Missouri Board of Pharmacy historically has believed that its oversight authority extended to veterinary pharmaceuticals. That belief came into question when the board issued a cease-and-desist order to a non-clinic drug outlet that had dispensed veterinary legend drugs for decades. The board claimed the non-clinic drug outlet was acting in violation of the state’s Pharmacy Practice Act.

The establishment in question appealed the decision to the Missouri State Supreme Court, which rendered its decision in December 2006. The court did not rule on allegations that the Pharmacy Practice Act was constitutionally vague. The court did rule that the Act did not give the Board of Pharmacy authority over the sale of drugs used by animals (nowhere did the Act expressly mention “veterinary” pharmaceuticals). The court examined the 11 classifications of pharmacy permits that were in place at the time the case was brought to its attention.

In the interim (between 2000 and the court’s ruling), the

Board of Pharmacy sought legislative clarification through the creation of a Class L veterinary permit. This action was ill-timed because the court’s ruling essentially negated the clarification, as well as the new permit. (The ruling had said that the Board of Pharmacy did not have veterinary authority at the time the case occurred.)

There was a lot of confusion in the 2007 Legislative Session as to why the pharmacy board is continuing its efforts to secure authority over veterinary pharmaceuticals.

Richard Antweiler, MVMA executive director, says as the state enters the 2008 Legislative Session in January, it is critically important for veterinarians and lawmakers to remember that the pharmacy board’s efforts to secure this authority (and the Supreme Court ruling) do not in any way affect the ability of veterinary professionals to prescribe drugs; nor do they affect over-the-counter (OTC) veterinary pharmaceuticals (which represent the bulk of pharmaceutical sales at non-clinic drug outlets).

“The fact that no Missouri body regulates and oversees veterinary legend drugs presents a potential public safety issue,” says Antweiler. “MVMA believes this oversight authority is necessary to avert potential fallout, such as: diversion of veterinary pharmaceuticals for human use; possible dispensation of human pharmaceuticals for veterinary use by non-veterinary sources; no assurance of proper record-keeping of the dispensed veterinary pharmaceuticals; and no assurance that the pharmaceuticals will be properly labeled.

“Finally, Missouri could be vulnerable to pharmaceutical providers taking advantage of our lack of oversight authority to come into the state to sell products in a way that makes an end-run around the law,” he said.

To conclude a complex topic simply, this is the take-away message: the MVMA will be working with constituent organizations and lawmakers to try to secure regulatory oversight of veterinary legend drugs in the 2008 Legislative Session, a move that will not hinder or change the role of veterinary professionals in prescribing drugs for animals or have any effect on OTC drugs.

MVMA’S POSITION

“We do not want to stop the sale of veterinary legend drugs by anyone. We simply want those parties that sell these prescription drugs (non-clinic drug outlets, for example) to be regulated and overseen so the public can have confidence in the quality of the product, the storage and handling of the drug, the proper dispensation and record-keeping, and the proper knowledge to safely advise the customer.”

teristics, water resources, plant and animal habitat, culturally important sites, human health and safety, socioeconomic needs, additional building options, infrastructure, sewage and waste management, and the ability to comply with all federal requirements. After the EIS is finalized and there is another round of public hearings, the chosen site will be announced, probably in October 2008.

The NBAF is a coveted prize and at the start elicited the interest of 29 locales in 22 states. The benefits expected to accrue to the winning site include:

- substantial job growth (1,500 near-term construction jobs and up to 500 long-term scientific jobs),
- an infusion of revenue into the local economy (\$3.5 billion over 20 years),
- a prime national leadership role
- the opportunity to attract national level attention and, presumably, funding for further bioresearch and biosecurity advancement

Despite these benefits, the prospect of a BSL-4 federal research facility has not been greeted with unanimous support in all communities.

Some residents of Flora, Miss., a town of about 1,500 (and 40 percent African American), allege racial discrimination in their selection as a finalist, believing the facility could mean undue economic and safety risk in excess of benefits.

Residents of Granville County, N.C., have expressed concern over public safety and the government's inability to guarantee no pathogen would find its way to the public.

In Georgia, the proposed site's proximity to the Middle Oconee River has raised environmental worries about erosion and runoff that could damage the river.

Only the K-State and Texas Research Park (San Antonio) sites have not generated local media accounts of vocal community opposition.

However, all five sites must await their fate against a backdrop of growing national controversy about the level of oversight given to research laboratories handling dangerous biological agents.

K-State has had no federally reportable incidents, enjoys local and state support as a proposed NBAF site

The federal Government Accountability Office reported in October that there is a shocking lack of "baseline" information about the biological research labs that have proliferated since 9/11. The GAO questioned the federal government's diligence in tracking the laboratories it has authorized and the research they are doing.

Sunshine Project of Austin, Tex., monitors lab growth. It notes that many new facilities are staffed by scientists and others with little or no prior experience with biological agents, safety and security.

The Los Angeles Times reported in October that, nationwide, there have been 111 cases since 2003 of potential loss of bioagents or human exposure to them, including 12 lab workers exposed to anthrax and procedural violations involving the causative agents of tularemia and Q fever.

K-State has had no federally reportable incidents, enjoys local and state support as a proposed NBAF site, and has a long and successful track record in biosecurity, along with offering substantial research advantages.

KCVMA

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for its members and guests.

All suggestions and comments are welcomed.
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Specialists in Kansas City Annual Frostbite Seminar

<i>Speaker:</i>	Various Veterinary Specialists from Kansas City	<i>Location:</i>	Hyatt Regency Ballroom 2345 McGee Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108
<i>Topic:</i>	Topics will include Cardiology, Surgery, Internal Medicine, Exotics, Neurology and much more!	<i>CE:</i>	7 Hours
<i>Date:</i>	Sunday, February 24, 2008	<i>Fee:</i>	FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.
<i>Time:</i>	8:30am - 3:30pm		

The Specialists in Kansas City Annual Frostbite Seminar is back by popular demand, and this year promises to be more educational than before! The Veterinary Specialists of Kansas City will present on topics everyone can relate to, ranging from Cardiology, Surgery and Internal Medicine to Exotics and Neurology. The presentations will last 30 minutes and include all-important Question and Answer time. This will be a fast-paced learning opportunity, and we promise to keep it fun and interesting!

Questions? Contact Patrick Borders, Hospital Administrator, Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center at 913-642-9563.

RECORD OF KCVMA CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS FOR 2007

DATE	SPEAKER / TOPIC	C.E. CREDIT
January 25	Dr. Kevin Christiansen (ACVIM Candidate) Cardiology	2 Hours
February 25	Specialists in Kansas City Annual Frostbite Seminar	6 Hours
March 15	Dr. Wayne Hunthausen Treatment Protocols for Common Behavior Problems of the Cat and Dog	2 Hours
April 19	Dr. Jerry Quinlan Risk Management and Vaccine Protocols	2 Hours
May 17	Dr. Stan W. Casteel, University of Missouri CVM Toxicology	2 Hours
June 21	Dr. Jeff Dennis "What I have learned over the last year that has changed the way I practice Veterinary Medicine."	2 Hours
August 16	Dr. Wayne Hunthausen New Answers for Canine Separation Anxiety	2 Hours
September 20	Amy DeClue, DVM, DACVIM Canine infectious respiratory disease - an update for practicing veterinarians from the front lines of infectious disease control	2 Hours
October 18	Laurie Walker, DVM, MS, Hill's Science Diet Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease	1.5 Hours
November 4	Edward C. Feldman, DVM, DACVIM Endocrinology	6 Hours

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 12/13/07.

For Sale. Shor-Line Electronic Lift Exam Table. Vet Test Analyzer, QBC, Centrifuge. Call Hickman Mills Animal Hospital at 816-761-2304.

Veterinary assistant/technician is needed for full time position at a one doctor, small animal practice in Lenexa. Starting range is \$9-\$12 per hour based on experience. Individual must be pleasant, energetic, and possess strong communication and educational skills. One year experience or RVT certification is necessary. Because we are a small clinic, the ability to multi-task is essential. If interested, please contact Mariann at 913-888-3939 or fax your resume to 913-888-3979.

We are seeking an **associate veterinarian** to join our two doctor practice. Our practice is primarily small animal and equine, however, we also treat some exotics, reptiles and small ruminants. Interest in surgery is a plus. Our hospital is

very well equipped and our clients allow us to practice quality veterinary medicine and preventive care. Interested applicants may send their resume to P.O. Box 67, Stilwell, Kansas 66085, or fax their information to 913-897-9561 (attention Leanne Landau Kasitz, DVM). We look forward to hearing from anyone interested in this opportunity.

Associate position available at 2 doctor small animal practice in Metro Kansas City area. Established practice in a rapidly growing area offering high quality service in an excellent community environment. Great support staff. New or recent graduate considered. Contact Melissa Rose (816) 741-2247.

Associate veterinarian. Low-stress, thriving practice in South KC area. Great work environment with experienced staff, loyal clientele and potential to develop your interests. Flexible, fun and focused on education. Email drajsnyder@yahoo.com for more information.

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

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Michelle Chappell913-709-3077 KS/MO	Maureen Gray913-538-6379 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth785-748-0055 KS/MO
Martin Drey785-887-6921	Tim Lyon.....913-782-1503 KS/MO	Dennis Smith.....913-636-4206 KS
Daniel Frezza816-294-2256 MO	Terry Patterson816-524-3296 KS/MO	Paula Vale.....913-484-7012 KS/MO

CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

Acupuncture:

Linda Faris, DVM, CVM 816-640-5729, 913-341-4372	Sandi Leonard, DVM, CVA 913-706-0411	Eliza Sundahl, DVM, CVA, ABVP 816-361-4888
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VETERINARY DIPLOMATES...

Anatomic/Surgical Pathology:

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913-568-7363

Anesthesiology:

Guy Watney, MA, VetMB, PhD, MRCVS,
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Cardiology:

Kevin J. Christiansen, DVM 913-722-5566

Dermatology:

David Senter, DVM, ACVD 913-722-5566,
913-642-9563

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Ophthalmology:

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Jennifer Hyman, DVM, ACVO 913-381-3937
Susan Keil, DVM, MS, ACVO 913-722-5566
Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO
913-381-3937 or 800-776-3937

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Joanne Burns, DVM, ACVR (local) 913-642-9563
(Topeka) 785-478-9708
Loren Shaiken, DVM, ACVR 816-426-9896

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