



A Letter From The President

November/December 2008

Hello,

I have always been told to put your retirement investments into mutual funds and not ever move them to cash. I listened again in the midst of the current financial turmoil and took another hit. I hope you have fared better than I have since the Wall Street and Washington fiasco occurred. I am blessed with a practice that will at least pay the bills and allow me to continue to do some of what we are supposed to do for retirement. I pray that all of our membership will at least remain stable during these trying times.

Speaking of Washington, I am a believer that as United States citizens, we should exercise our collective right to vote. Although I am frustrated with both political parties and I wish there was a viable third party, I will still vote in this year's general election. On November 4th, you will find me at my polling site, doing the only thing I know I can do to effect change: I will vote for the individuals I feel will do the best job possible for our country. I hope it is your plan to vote on Election Day. Some of my clients have told me they will not vote. If you find yourself of a similar mindset, I urge you to reconsider, even if it is for no other reason than to stand up and voice your opinion. Remember, we are but a blessed few who have the opportunity and privilege to stand up and shape the future of our nation.

Don't forget the KCVMA Social on December 6th at the Legends Comedy House. I recently spoke with a personal friend of comedian Greg Warren, who will provide entertainment for the evening. After that conversation, I am sure it will be a fun event for those who attend. Remember, the first 35 KCVMA members to register receive two complimentary tickets. There is also a \$15 per person cover charge paid at the door. Additional friends and family can purchase tickets for \$35 each. The evening could even make a fun holiday outing for your clinic staff. Please fax back the form found on the insert to register.

The *Kansas City Star* recently approached the KCVMA for assistance with their new pet website, <http://pets.kansascity.com>. They wanted an "ask the expert" veterinarian to answer questions posted by the website's users. *The Star* representative and I spoke at length, and I suggested that we utilize the expertise of our entire membership as contributors to a feature simply called "Ask A Veterinarian." *The Star* has made it easy for us to get involved. Those interested can register on the website and answer any questions posted. There are no obligations or fees for us and

we are welcome to mention (and link to) our clinic affiliation when answering a question. The board feels this would be a good way to promote our profession locally. You never know when someone on the *KC Star* Pet site will see your response to a question and follow up with a visit to your clinic. The website launched October 12th.

If you have ever considered becoming a member of the KCVMA board, your time may be coming. There will be a first year Missouri position opening up on January 1st. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone you think would do a great job, please call me at 816-616-2349 or e-mail me at lkovac@kcvma.com.

My time as President is drawing to a close, and I'm left to think about this year and my role in the KCVMA. I joined the board several years ago for a new challenge. More than once I had to ask myself if I really wanted to move up to the presidency. Once I decided to do so, I experienced the inevitable feeling of, "What did I get myself into?" I am glad I did not back out. Although the board positions are not real political offices, they can have their challenges and do have responsibilities. I have grown and learned from my board membership. I use what I have learned not only in my practice but also in my daily life. I hope you have enjoyed my letters. One year ago I wondered what I would write about and if I could make it worthwhile and interesting. With a good editor, I got through the letters and several of you even commented to me about them. I thank you for that, and I encourage each of you to think about joining the KCVMA Board at one time or another in your respective careers.

As I close, I leave you with this. Please think about hiring a Cristo Rey student and introducing them to veterinary medicine. These bright kids are the future, and they're excited to learn from us. Also, consider teaming up with Kansas City Animal Control by licensing the pets that live in Kansas City. And finally, if your travels take you to Europe, please consider a side trip to the Adriatic Coast of Croatia. This is the country of my ancestors and words cannot express the true beauty of the country and the people.

Thanks again,

HAPPY ENDING HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR EDUCATION, SERVICES

BY: JENNIFER NIGRO

When Kansas City, Missouri police went to the 4600 block of Prospect to investigate a homicide on September 3rd, they hoped to find a few leads. Instead, they found an emaciated dog. The officers were shocked at how thin she was and they attempted to help; but she slipped under a vacant house at 41st and Prospect. When they tried to lure her out with an order of cheeseburgers, they discovered she had hidden her four puppies beneath the house. Officers immediately called Spay Neuter Kansas City for help. Workers took the dog, now nicknamed Honey, and her pups, to SNKC to nurse them back to health.

“Honey was actually probably within days of death as she was so thin and was suffering from malnutrition,” says Michelle Dormady, SNKC President. And, Dormady believes Honey saved her puppies. “She gave everything she had to them and risked her own life for it.”

Honey and her pups captured many hearts in the community as their story spread through news reports.

Police officers went by the clinic daily to walk Honey and bring donations and other supplies. Dormady says Honey and her pups are with a foster family, and will be available for adoption at Wayside Waifs soon. The pups were less than a week old when they were found,

and Dormady says they will be very adoptable. She also believes Honey will make a full recovery, and that the trauma will have no lasting effects on her physically or mentally. “She has and will always be one of the kindest dogs anyone could meet. I truly believe she knows humans saved her life, and in return, will not only be the sweetest dog anyone could own, but deserves the best home ever. A home that understands

what she went through and will love her forever.”

Unfortunately, cases like this are all too familiar to workers at SNKC. “There are many pet owners who simply cannot care for their pets and as a result, leave them in their backyards with minimal standards of care,” says Dormady. “In some cases, pet owners simply don’t understand minimum standards of care, don’t know of our resources or simply don’t care.” Dormady says that’s why SNKC workers target low-income pet owners in areas of Kansas City with high numbers of animal control calls. They go door to door, looking for signs of abuse and neglect and educating pet owners about spaying or neutering their pets to keep roaming at bay. Not only does the organization provide information about responsible pet ownership, it provides assistance to those who can’t afford basic supplies and procedures, like spay and neuter services. However, the agency can’t prevent all neglect and abuse. Dormady says many people are reluctant to report their neighbors for mistreating pets because they fear retaliation. So when

a case does arise, SNKC works with animal control and police to rehabilitate animals like Honey and her pups.

Why don’t pet owners simply turn over their pets to local animal shelters when they can’t

care for them? Dormady says again, it boils down to economics. “In abandonment cases, it’s simply due to the fact they don’t want to pay or don’t have the money to pay a small fee to relinquish the animal to the shelter. If their animal is able to escape and does so frequently, they usually don’t bother looking for it. Those end up being picked up by animal control.” But Dormady says it doesn’t end there. “The owner gets another dog and

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*Left: Pups’ mother, Honey, 10 days after being rescued.
Right: Gwendolyn with Dreamer, three weeks after rescue.*

KVTA SELECTS LOCAL TECHNICIAN FOR TOP HONOR

BY: CHERYL HERMANN, SECRETARY/TREASURER, KANSAS VETERINARY TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Jan Hueben, RVT, who was chosen as the 2008 Kansas Veterinary Technician of the Year.

Jan graduated from Maple Woods Community College with an AAS in Veterinary Technology in 1992. She has been employed at Trailridge Pet Hospital in Shawnee, KS, for 19 years. She is active in both NAVTA and KVTA. Dan E. Cram, DVM, and Cheryl Ruch, a client at Trailridge Pet Hospital, nominated Jan for this honor.

According to Dr. Cram, Jan is “extremely proficient technically. She has a never-ending desire to learn and improve through continuing education classes, reading, and on-line research. Her finest quality, however, is her genuine compassion for both animals and people. I like to think I have the same qualities but admit I suffer from typical male impatience at times. Jan helps keep me focused on what is really important in a veterinary practice. She has helped make me not only a better veterinarian, but also a better person.”

Cheryl Ruch adds, “She seems to possess that rare blend of technical expertise and people skills. I know her medical skills are above reproach and her days are very full assisting Dr. Cram with surgeries, cleaning teeth, and doing work in the lab. Yet she still finds the time to greet us and put us at ease as she talks with



Cheryl Ruch (holding Bitty), Jan Hueben, RVT, Dr. Dan Cram

us in the exam room. Jan has excellent rapport with each animal. She knows each and every pet by name and treats them as she would her own pet. She is never too busy to rub an ear or scratch a tummy.”

On October 8, 2008, Cheryl Hermann, KVTA Secretary/Treasurer, presented Jan with her plaque. Dr. Cram, Ms. Ruch and several co-workers were in attendance. Jan received a cake, a bouquet of flowers, and several Starbucks gift cards from her co-workers.

Thank you to Dr. Cram and Ms. Ruch for taking time from their busy schedules to nominate such a deserving technician.

RECORD OF KCVMA CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS FOR 2008

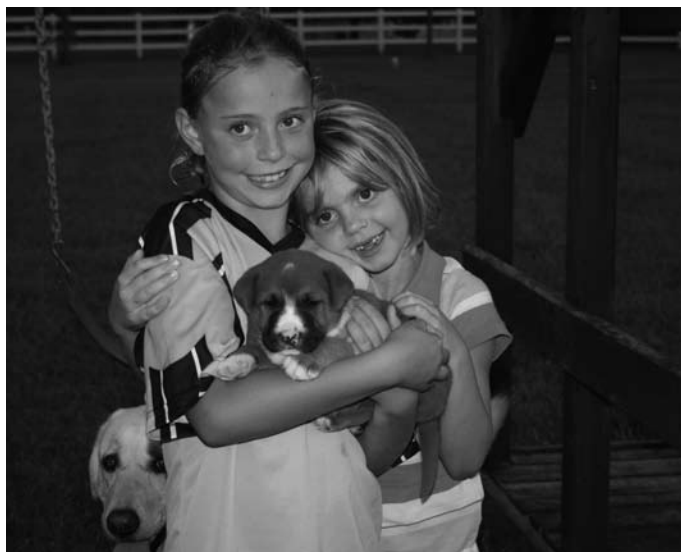
DATE	SPEAKER / TOPIC	C.E. CREDIT
February 24	Various Speakers Specialists in Kansas City Annual Frostbite Seminar	KS: 7 Hours MO: 5 Hours
March 27	Michael W. Dryden, DVM, MS, PhD, Professor, Veterinary Parasitology, KSUCVM Flea Control Challenges: Speed of Kill, Blood Feeding and FAD	2 Hours
April 17	David M. Pinson, DVM, PhD, Department of Pathology, University of Kansas Medical Center Practical Cytology and Problem Based Medicine	2 Hours
May 15	S. Dru Forrester, DVM, MS, DACVIM, Manager, Scientific Communications, Hill's Pet Nutrition Chronic Kidney Disease: Which Treatments Are Best?	2 Hours
June 19	Susan E. Little, DVM, PhD, Professor of Veterinary Parasitology Coughing Cats: Asthma or Heartworm Disease?	2 Hours
September 18	Christine Merle, DVM, MBA, CVPM, Brakke Veterinary Practice Management Group Creating Your Practice's Destiny	2 Hours
October 16	Craig M. Tockman, DVM, Manager of Clinical Services, Abaxis, Inc. Veterinary Care Center, St. Louis, MO A Practitioner's Approach to Wellness Blood Testing: Improved Medicine, Better Profits	2 Hours
November 16	Robert J. Washabau, VMD, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota Difficult Vomiting Disorders, Canine Pancreatic Disease, Canine Hepatic Disease, Canine Diarrheal Disorders, Feline Constipation/Obstipation/Megacolon, Feline Diarrheal Syndromes	6 Hours

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the vicious cycle starts all over again.”

Dormady says Honey’s case is unusual because it has a happy ending. Honey and her pups survived the ordeal, and will likely bear no lasting harm from it. However, Dormady says many times animals are too far-gone to help, and euthanasia is the only option left. She says those cases are all the more reason for SNKC to keep trying. “As sad as it is, we never stop. There are so many more animals that need our help.”

According to Dormady, SNKC’s Pet Outreach Program is the only one in the community addressing the problem of animal neglect and abandonment in such a direct way. But like any mission, it needs public support to continue. Call (816) 353-0930 or visit www.snkc.net to find out how you can help Spay Neuter Kansas City protect animals like Honey and her pups from abuse and neglect.



Olivia (age 9), and Gwendolyn (age 6), with Lucky, three weeks after rescue.

2008 KCVMA OFFICERS...

President	Dr. Larry Kovac.....	816-616-2349/lkovac@kcvma.com
President-Elect	Dr. Kathleen Claussen.....	913-897-2080/kclaussen@kcvma.com
Vice President	Dr. Davinne Law.....	816-781-0778/dlaw@kcvma.com
Immediate Past President	Dr. Steve Smith.....	816-363-2115/ssmith@kcvma.com
Secretary Treasurer	Dr. Curtis Bock.....	913-334-6770/cbock@kcvma.com
MO State Rep	Dr. Allyson Cook.....	816-380-7270/acook@kcvma.com
KS State Rep	OPEN.....	
Board Members	Dr. J.C. Burcham.....	913-764-1415/jburcham@kcvma.com
	Dr. Amy Hunkeler.....	816-554-4990/ahunkeler@kcvma.com
	Dr. Sheila Dodson.....	913-742-7302/sdodson@kcvma.com
	Dr. Tad Coles.....	913-381-6444/tcoles@kcvma.com
Exec. Secretary	Wanda Grindstaff.....	913-381-7823, Fax: 913-341-4225 wgrindstaff@kcvma.com
Public Relations	Darin Nadler.....	913-859-9588/dnadler@kcvma.com

November Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Robert J. Washabau, VMD, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM
College of Veterinary Medicine, Univ. of Minnesota
Date: Sunday, November 16, 2008
Time: 8am– 9am: Registration/Continental Breakfast
9am – Noon: Session 1
Noon – 12:45pm: Lunch
12:45pm – 3:45pm: Session 2

Location: Bayer Animal Health Headquarters
12707 Shawnee Mission Parkway
Shawnee Mission, KS 66216
Fee: No fee for this event, but RSVP required
CE: 6 Hours
Sponsor: Bayer Animal Health



Dr. Washabau received his veterinary (VMD) and PhD degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. He performed his internship at the University of Pennsylvania, residency in Internal Medicine at the University of California-Davis, and he was certified in Internal Medicine by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Dr. Washabau held the appointments of Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania before being recruited to the University of Minnesota in 2004. Dr. Washabau is currently Professor of Medicine and Department Chair of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine where he practices, teaches, and performs research in gastroenterology and gastrointestinal physiology. Dr. Washabau is a past President of the ACVIM Internal Medicine Specialty and the Comparative Gastroenterology Society, and he is a past recipient of the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award (1990, 1995) and the Ivy League's Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award (1995).

Topics:

Difficult Vomiting Disorders: Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, and Therapy - This session will provide an overview of the two major mechanisms of vomiting, an algorithm for the diagnosis of the major and minor vomiting disorders, and the use of specific and non-specific anti-emetic therapy in the treatment of the difficult vomiting disorders of dogs and cats.

Canine Pancreatic Disease: What's New in Diagnosis and Therapy? - Challenges in the diagnosis and therapy of canine pancreatitis and exocrine pancreatic insufficiency will be emphasized. This session will review what has changed in canine exocrine pancreatic disease during the past 25 years.

Canine Hepatic Disease: From Diagnosis to Therapy - There are many types of liver disorders in the dog, i.e., primary parenchymal, neoplastic, vascular, and primary biliary. This session will provide a survey of newer findings in the diagnosis and therapy of canine liver disorders.

Canine Diarrheal Disorders: Pathogenesis and Diagnosis - This session will emphasize important principles of pathophysiology and clinical symptomatology in the workup of chronic diarrheal disorders in the dog. A case-based approach will be used to emphasize the use of imaging and clinical pathology in the diagnosis of these disorders.

Feline Constipation/Obstipation/Megacolon: Breaking the Cycle - The pathogenesis, diagnosis, and therapy of the progressive syndrome of feline constipation will be reviewed in this session. The rationale and place for laxative therapy, prokinetic therapy, and surgery will be included in this overview.

Feline Diarrheal Syndromes: Common and Not-So-Common Disorders - This session will provide a survey of feline inflammatory bowel disease, dietary hypersensitivity reactions, intestinal malignancy, and other important causes of feline diarrhea.

Due to enhanced security at the Bayer plant in Shawnee Mission, the KCVMA is required to provide a list of attendees to Bayer security. If you plan to attend, please fill out the form below, and fax it back to Wanda Grindstaff at (913) 341-4225 no later than Monday, November 3rd. Only your name and clinic will be shared.

Clinic Name: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Attendee Name: _____ Attendee Name: _____

Attendee Name: _____ Attendee Name: _____

Attendee Name: _____ Attendee Name: _____

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 12/13/08.

If you are a **Veterinarian** interested in joining a busy, well organized, small animal practice with the possibility of becoming a partner and eventually ownership in the business, look no further. Hidden Valley Animal Hospital is where you want to be. A Vet Economics' design, award-winning, full service, primary care hospital with a large active patient base and a caring team to help you succeed in private practice. Highly competitive salary with benefits. Experience preferred but will consider bright new graduate. Call Dr. Mel Falk, 816-795-7387 or fax your resume to 816-795-9233 or apply on line at www.hvahpets.com

Associates - a **small animal practice is for sale** in the Kansas City Missouri area. Good practice, cash flow and reasonably priced real estate. Owners want to retire, but are willing to help in lengthy transition. Financing is available if you have good credit and 1 year out of school. Take the next step in your career. Confidentiality required. Contact Dr. Mike Terry 785-566-3307 for further details.

West Central Missouri: **Full or part-time veterinarian** wanted to help deliver high quality medicine and surgery in a relaxed, small town atmosphere. Well-equipped clinic with good support staff. Great recreational opportunities in a progressive community between Kansas City and Springfield. Prefer experience but would consider new graduate. Contact Dr. Elroy Schumacher at 660-885-7733 or gvanimalclinic@embarqmail.com.

High-quality, feline veterinary hospital located near Olde Town Lenexa, KS is seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic **veterinary technician** to join our health care team. Must like working with people, love cats, and be extremely

team-oriented. Must have a minimum 2 years' experience as a veterinary technician or veterinary assistant. Salary commensurate with experience and/ or education. Please fax resume to Wendy @ (913) 541-1741, or email to wblanco@catclinicofjc.com

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 PO Box 67, Stilwell, KS 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.

Free Items: **Anesthesia cart** (human) with 4 drawers. Comes with 2 vaporizers that need calibration. Could also be used as crash cart - side has attachment for 2 E-oxygen tanks. **Human Infant Warmers** - Can hold a litter of puppies during C-section or provide warmth for small dog or cat. Have also used for oxygen/nebulization, mammals, birds. Call Dr. Organek 913-481-8799.

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.

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Jerome Berkowitz913-515-3917 KS/MO	Maureen Gray913-538-6379 KS/MO	Alice Shaffer910-261-1577 KS
Amy Bunck816-225-4082 KS/MO	Tim Lyon.....913-782-1503 KS/MO	Dennis Smith.....913-636-4206 KS
Martin Drey.....785-887-6921 KS	Susie Mikkelson.....913-648-3920 KS/MO	Paula Vale.....913-484-7012 KS/MO
Daniel Frezza816-294-2256 MO	Terry Patterson816-524-3296 KS/MO	Dennis Weaver816-210-6769 MO/KS
Jim Garner.....913-620-8210 KS	Peggy Mary Roth785-748-0055 KS/MO	

CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

Acupuncture: Michelle Chappell, DVM, CVA 913-825-3330	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 Mike Tarrant, DVM, CVA 913-764-9000
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VETERINARY DIPLOMATES...

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

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE 2008 KCVMA SOCIAL EVENT AT STANFORD'S COMEDY CLUB

KCVMA

Attn: Wanda Grindstaff
PO Box 12468
Shawnee Mission, KS
66282-2468

Fax: 913-341-4225

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

of TOTAL Tickets: _____ Amount Enclosed (Additional Tickets x \$35): _____

Questions: Contact Dr. Larry Kovac at (816) 616-2349 or lkovac@kcvma.com