

news & notes

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



The summer season is winding down. The start (or beginning) of school may actually give us a chance to clean the dog hair from under our radiology benches or other such

remote sites that may have been neglected during the “heat” of the battle to keep pace with client expectations through the summer.

All CE programs are now set through the end of the year. Visit kcvma.com at anytime to review the scheduled meeting times, places and dates. The CE committee is already looking ahead to 2008. Members who know of a good speaker or an exciting program should make it known to the board so we can give due consideration.

Those of you in practice no doubt are contemplating use of the numerous new pharmaceutical products brought to the market this year. Personally, I am all about new and better options for our pets or pet patients and their owners and request that those companies continue their good work.

If you follow your college’s football programs, it should be interesting once again this year to see if either of our veterinary

schools’ campus programs can beat Nebraska or Oklahoma. In years gone by, there have been some wonderful tailgaters for the MU/KSU game. If we can get interest generated early in the season, there is the probability of industry sponsors for this activity and maybe sponsorship for veterinary students who wish to travel to join us for the event. Practitioners with an interest in tailgating are encouraged to contact me directly. Maybe we can make this FUN without regard to who wins? Game day is 11/17 in Manhattan. Game time is TBA. Mizzou fans also take note that the MU/KU game on 11/24 will be at Arrowhead Stadium. Cool!

Finally, I just want you all to know that the fall season is also a wonderful time of year for motorcycling! Not that I would want to encourage participation in a potentially dangerous activity (like float trips), but the “Docs-A-Cyclin” gang really enjoys comradery and is always looking to enroll additional veterinarians who ride. Speaking of float trips and danger, if you have not read my float trip chronicle (link on the [kcvma](http://kcvma.com) web site), you might find it entertaining. The best news, if you don’t like float trips or motorcycles, I won’t be writing any president’s letters next year!

THINK YOU KNOW DOGS? NOT TIL YOU'VE SEEN THE IDITAROD TRAIL SLED DOG RACE

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS

Few, if any, experiences on Earth provide the raw “man vs. nature” test of human and canine spirit and endurance of the Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race, held every March in Alaska. Two Kansas City-area veterinarians – participants in the event -- have witnessed the deep, symbiotic bond that exists between musher and dog team, an outgrowth of the knowledge that both man and animal depend on each other for survival.

The race is an arduous test of strength, training and endurance, trust, and sheer will as musher and dog team traverse 1,150 miles of rugged, yet beautiful, terrain from Anchorage to Nome. The distance alone boggles the mind.

Imagine completing the equivalent of a Kansas City-to-Denver roundtrip over rocks and snow in temperatures falling as low as 60 degrees below zero, buffeted by winds of 40 to 70 mph over two to three weeks for 10 hours a day. How do you think you would feel about the canines leading your sled, fulfilling your human needs for companionship, and sharing, not just their devotion, but a drive equal to yours to accomplish this feat?

“The Iditarod is an experience that can’t be duplicated,” says Dr. Ken Huggins of Stanley Veterinary Clinic, who participated three years, 2004-2006.

“These dogs are very well cared for and they love what they’re doing. They come into the checkpoints after running 60 miles -- barking, tails wagging. They’re dancing around, looking back excitedly at the musher, as if to say, ‘Let’s keep going,’” adds Dr. Vern Otte of State Line Animal Hospital, who participated for the first time in March 2007.

Huggins and Otte served a critical role as members of the 35-member veterinary team under Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM, Iditarod’s long-time chief veterinarian. The team conducts pre-race canine screenings and provides veterinary care at race checkpoints to ensure the health and welfare of the animals.

Conditions can be crude at the three or four checkpoints Otte and Huggins each visited. “It’s a 24-



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hour-a-day operation because the teams can come in anytime,” says Otte. “One checkpoint, Eagle Island, is just a spot on the Yukon River. The first thing we did was build an outhouse of snow blocks and a barrier from the wind to shield us between arrivals of the teams. You may have to get up in the middle of the night to examine the dogs -- and then you see the Northern Lights shining. Beautiful.”

Veterinarians are volunteers but must submit an application, resume and essay to be selected. Once chosen, veterinarians pay their own travel expenses to Alaska, as well as out-of-pocket costs for equipment, survival gear, and cold-weather clothing. The investment of time is three weeks to a month. The investment in personal cost is around \$3,000, but the adventure is enthralling and, says Otte, the people and dogs along the trail “are nice – you get close.”

For Huggins, seeing the incomparable athleticism of the dogs fulfilled a lifelong dream.

“Alaska sled dogs are the most incredible canine athlete in the world – more than the greyhound or the cattle dog,” he says. “The human-animal bond is truly phenomenal.”

(Continued on Back Page)

DETERMINED TO END CANINE CANCER

BY: MICHELLE HOPKINS

The Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) has committed to raising \$30 million from now through 2012 to cure canine cancer, an amount that represents one-and-a-half times more than all the funds the foundation has raised – nearly \$20 million since 1950 – to support 558 research studies to date.

Morris Animal Foundation lays claim to numerous successes in improving canine health through research, including treatments for bone cancer, kidney failure, certain heart conditions and progressive eye failure. In August, MAF issued a Request for Proposal specifically targeting cancer prevention for golden retrievers.

The foundation held a one-day symposium in London in July to explore the human implications of translational cancer research of canine cancer treatments.

Dr. Ali Mobasher, an associate professor from the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science at the University of Nottingham, discussed the pathogenesis for cancer shared by people and dogs. The Morris Animal Foundation is hoping not only to cure canine cancer, but produce major breakthroughs in the

prevention, treatment and cure of cancer in people, particularly children.

Dr. Mobasher said that by studying the bioenergetics of canine

tumors, we may better understand the metabolic development of human tumors. Similarities are especially pronounced with certain types of cancer (breast and prostate). In addition, bone cancer, prevalent among greyhounds and Rottweilers, is the sixth leading cancer among children.

To learn more, and to read about a \$1 million donation to the canine cancer campaign the Morris Animal Foundation received in July, go to www.morrisanimalfoundation.org.

As global animal health experts met in London, cancer took the life of a national canine hero. Jake, a 12-year-old Labrador who searched the Sept. 11 debris for survivors and became one of fewer than 200 U.S.-certified rescue dogs, was put out of his suffering by his owner, Mary Flood. Even in death, Jake continues to contribute. His body will be involved in a University of Pennsylvania medical study on the health effects suffered by rescue dogs.



KC CANINE OFFICER DIES IN LINE OF DUTY

BY: WWW.KANSASCITY.COM

The first canine police officer to die in the line of duty in 16 years in Kansas City fell to his death in the pre-dawn hours on Aug. 16 in pursuit of robbery suspects. The Belgian Malinois immediately picked up the scent and ran ahead of his handler to upper floors of a building where robbers were stripping away copper. No one knows if the four-year-old dog fell or was pushed by the suspects.

The race is a tremendous display of brute strength and physical training. Dogs cannot be “changed out” during the race. A dog can be “dropped” for injury or illness, but a fresh dog cannot be added once the race has begun. Consequently, a musher may start the race with 16 dogs and end with only five or six.

“Sled dog medicine is an utterly amazing field,” notes Huggins. Under the unique circumstances of the race, it can be difficult to recognize signs and symptoms, and make correct diagnosis of problems.

“Sled dogs have different problems and they manifest differently,” says Huggins. Canine injuries can include lameness and muscle pulls (though cranial cruciate ligament [or CrCL] injuries affecting the knee are rarer than you might think, according to Nelson, who credits the good conditioning the dogs receive).

Sled dogs may also suffer respiratory illness, such as pneumonia or laryngeal hemiplegia; gastrointestinal maladies, such as gastric dilatation-volvulus or peptic ulcers, which can become perforated; and ill-effects of temperature extremes, as well as exhaustion.

But the incidence of “sudden death” for dogs

in the Iditarod is far less than for human athletes competing in cross-country skiing, notes Nelson (www.iditarod.com/learn/vet-07.html). “In the three years I participated we lost five dogs,” says Huggins. Three had GI problems/ulcers, one had aspiration pneumonia and one ran away.

The term “Alaskan Sled Dog,” while not a breed, defies most people’s expectations. “They are almost always a mixed breed (coon dogs, German shorthairs, etc.) and many are small dogs, not the muscular Huskies or Malamutes that come to mind. The two dogs that lead the team are almost always small, intelligent females,” says Huggins.

Huggins is an enthusiastic supporter of the Iditarod and was instrumental in getting Otte involved this year and hooked for at least one more year. But Huggins’ Iditarod days may be over. “I have six grandkids. Spring break is in March. I want to have experiences with them. But the Iditarod Central Committee always needs people with experience.

“I would strongly encourage any veterinarians who think they might be interested in participating in the race to call me. It’s absolutely a once in a lifetime experience,” he says. (Reach Huggins at his office, [913] 897-2080 or go to www.iditarod.com to learn more and to contact Iditarod officials.)

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KCVMA

news¬es

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All suggestions and comments are welcomed.
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September Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Carol Reinero, DVM, DACVIM (Internal Medicine), PhD
Topic: Canine infectious respiratory disease - an update for practicing veterinarians from the front lines of infectious disease control.”
Date: September 20, 2007 (3rd Thursday in Sept.)

Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar 7-9 pm
Location: Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room Kansas City, MO (I-435 & State Line Rd)
CE: 2 Hours
Fee: FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.

Dr. Reinero received her DVM in 1995 from the University of California-Davis. She completed a Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Rotating Internship from 1995-1996 at Texas A&M University and returned to UC Davis to complete a Small Animal Internal Medicine Residency from 1996-1998. She was a clinical instructor on the Internal Medicine Service at UC Davis over the following 3 years, and then enrolled in a PhD program. She received her PhD in Immunology in 2004 from UC Davis.

Dr. Reinero has spoken on respiratory diseases both nationally and internationally. She has published over 20 peer reviewed articles and 10 book chapters on respiratory diseases over the past 7 years. Her current basic science research focuses on allergic asthma, with an emphasis on immunomodulation, clinical drug trials, and mechanisms of tolerance; and her clinical research focuses on airway and interstitial lung diseases in dogs and cats.

October Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Laurie Walker, DVM, MS, Hill's Science Diet
Topic: Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease: Thinking Outside (and Inside) the Litter Box
Date: October 18, 2007 (3rd Thursday in Oct.)
Time: Dinner: 6:30pm, Seminar 7-9pm

Location: Saint Joseph Health Center's Community Center for Health & Education, Community Meeting Room Kansas City, MO (I-435 & State Line Rd)
CE: 2 Hours
Fee: FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.



Dr. Laurie Walker earned her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State University and a Master's Degree in Foods and Nutrition from Kansas State University. She practiced small animal medicine for six years before joining Hill's Pet Nutrition in 1991. Dr. Walker has worked in various technical roles at Hill's Corporate office and at the Pet Nutrition Center. She has conducted educational seminars throughout the U.S. and in Central and South America. She is now a Hill's Veterinary Partnership Manager for the Mid America District.

November Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Edward C. Feldman, DVM, DACVIM
Topic: Endocrinology
Date: November 4, 2007 (1st Sunday in November)
Time: Breakfast & Registration: 8-9am
 Lecture 1: 9am-Noon
 Lunch: Noon-1:30pm
 Lecture 2: 1:30-4:30pm

Location: Bayer Animal Health
 12707 Shawnee Mission Parkway
 Shawnee Mission, KS 66216
CE: 6 Hours
Fee: FREE! Current membership dues cover all CE.



Bayer has graciously agreed to let the KCVMA use their meeting facilities for our November continuing education meeting. In addition, the KCVMA membership will be given a brief tour of the Bayer facilities in Shawnee. A big thanks to our friends at Bayer Animal Health for their continued support of the KCVMA.

Dr. Feldman is a graduate of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. He completed an internship and residency in small animal medicine at the Animal Medical Center in New York City and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. He is co-editor with Stephen Ettinger of The Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine, which is now in its sixth edition. He is co-author with Richard Nelson of Canine and Feline Endocrinology and Reproduction, now in its third edition. He is also the co-founder and Past President of the Society for Comparative Endocrinology. Currently, Dr. Feldman is a faculty member in small animal internal medicine at UC Davis, where he has been since 1980. He is a reviewer of JAVMA, and is a renowned speaker at national and international meetings on endocrinology.

INVITATION FROM THE LYME ASSOCIATION OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

Dear KCVMA,

Dr. Michael Dryden, Researcher and Professor of Veterinary Parasitology at Kansas State University, has agreed to speak at the Lyme Association of Greater Kansas City meeting on Thursday, Oct. 25, 2007. He will be speaking on "The Ecology of Ticks in the Central United States". Dr. Dryden is well-known to be one of the most qualified individuals to speak on this subject. Experts and lay people alike agree that the solution to the Lyme problem in the Midwest will be discovered in the field of veterinary medicine. If it is our calling to stand in the gap as veterinarians in this situation, Dr. Dryden stands at the ready to lead the charge. We would like to invite as many veterinarians, technicians and staff members that are available to attend this meeting, and prepare ourselves as much as possible for this problem that continues to rise.

Jack S. Dunham, DVM, for the Lyme Assn.of Greater K. C.

Speaker: Dr. Michael Dryden, Kansas State University
Topic: The Ecology of Ticks in the Central United States
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2007
Time: 6:30pm

Location: St. Joseph Hospital Community Building, CSJ and Abell Lorens room
Fee: FREE!
 No fee for this event

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 10/13/07.

Full time associate wanted for small animal practice in North Kansas City, MO. Practice is well equipped with an excellent support staff. Competitive salary, health and dental insurance, 401k profit sharing plan, and no emergencies. Contact Dr. Michael Hodgson at 816-453-7272 or send resume to Antioch Dog and Cat Hospital, 5200 NE Vivion Rd., Kansas City, MO 64119.

Registered Veterinary Technician needed for fast paced seven doctor, small animal/exotics practice. Must be self-motivated and responsible. Competitive wages. Benefits include insurance, CE & paid vacation. Apply at Gladstone Animal Clinic, 7027 N. Oak, Gladstone, MO 64118, 816-436-1100 or fax resume to 816-436-4030.

Part/Full time Associate veterinarian needed for growing practice north of the river. Great staff and clientele. Newer facility with terrific state of the art equipment. Please fax or email resume to 816-891-0194 or amitywoodsah@netzero.net.

Veterinary Technician wanted for newer hospital north of the river. Practice your skills the way your degree meant them to be. See our websites at amitywoods.com and shoalcreekanimalhospital.com. Fax or email resume to 816-891-0194 or amitywoodsah@netzero.net.

Mill Creek Animal Clinic in Shawnee is seeking a **full-time associate** for our busy, AAHA-accredited small animal practice. We have excellent clients and a wonderful support staff. Call Wendy at 913-268-0900 if interested. Visit us at www.millcreekanimalclinic.vetsuite.com.

For Sale: A large Small Animal Veterinary Medical Practice located on the west edge of the Kansas City Metropolitan area. This 30 year old practice is located on a four lane highway in a professional based strip mall in an area that is one of the fastest growing areas of Kansas. The owner and licensed practitioner is planning to retire due to health reasons. He is willing to assist with the transition period and has it priced to sell. Please contact Dick Kane at 913-484-7402 or dkand@buygrowsell.com.

Wayside Waifs is seeking a **FT veterinarian** to join our winning team. Responsibilities include: high-volume spay/neuter surgery; surgical skills such as amputation, enucleation, mass removal, dentals preferred; low-volume public appointments; overseeing the medical wellness program for shelter animals and work with Director of Operations to make recommendations for improvements to shelter protocols. Candidates should consider themselves a team player, have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, be able to give and accept feedback regarding shelter programs, and comfortable with the herd management concept. Send resume to cthomas@waysidewaifs.org. Salary commensurate with experience.

Wayside Waifs has two openings for trained **veterinary technicians**. Join our high paced team and feel the rewards of helping homeless animals. Responsibilities include prepping animals for surgery, running blood work, assisting the veterinarian with exams, adoption discharges, scheduling appointments, caring for animal undergoing treatment in the clinic, medicating shelter animals and other duties as assigned. Candidates must have strong communication skills, a team attitude, be able to multi-task, and success driven. Applications accepted daily at 3901 Martha Truman Road KCMO 64137. Resume can be sent to fthomas@waysidewaifs.org.

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

Experienced Veterinarian wanted. Forty Hour Week, 85K Plus. Be your own boss. Call Gary Silverglatt at M'Shoogy's - 816-324-5824.

Seeking full-time **Registered Veterinary Technician**. Immediate opening in fast-paced small animal clinic in N.E. Johnson County. Competitive wage/benefit package. Knowledge of Avimark software a plus. E-mail resume to missionanimalclinic@planetkc.com (attention: Julie) or call 913-432-3341 to set up interview appt.

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