



A Letter From The President

September/October 2008

Hello to all,

As we move into late summer and fall I wonder if the media has given us a self-fulfilled prophesy of a recession. Many of my clients are asking pricing questions and asking for basic annual protocol instead of what I consider a complete annual protocol. It seems I am getting more clients wanting to make sure I am not going to cash the check until Monday. I hold checks for some clients to help them out. Several of the shelters I have talked with have mentioned an increase in animals being dropped off because the owners cannot afford the pet anymore.

On a lighter note, the Board still has two open positions. We need an at-large board member from the state of Kansas, and a district trustee to represent the KCVMA at the Kansas VMA. You'll find more information about the KVMA position inside this issue of *news¬es*. In addition, the KCVMA Board has been made aware of an exciting opportunity for a veterinarian from the Missouri side (and possibly the Kansas side as well) who graduated five years ago or less. The AVMA is offering a paid trip to Chicago for the AVMA Leadership Conference January 9 – 11, 2009. The chosen candidate(s) will then report back to the KCVMA Board at our February meeting. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact me at 816-616-2349 or lkovac@kcvma.com.

Don't forget the December 6th Comedy Club Social. We still have some member tickets available, but they're going fast. Let's sell it out.

I along with several colleagues met with animal control and Pet Data in July. Being understaffed, Kansas City animal control has always asked that the veterinarians who work with Kansas City, MO residents help the city by selling licenses to our clients. This increases compliance with city ordinances. The same goes for other municipalities if they ask veterinarians to sell licenses. This hopefully gives the cities an idea of how many pets are in their boundaries and tells them whether those pets are

being cared for at minimal standards. This will hopefully guarantee there is at least some disease control in place. In Kansas City, being licensed can also allow pet owners to quarantine their animals at home rather than through animal control if their pet inflicts a fight or bite wound. Licensing and tagging a pet can also potentially save its life if Animal Control picks that animal up. I have sold licenses for many years and recently kept a pet out of the animal control facility by having sold that license to the owner.

I am writing for Kansas City, although I hope my colleagues in other cities work with their municipalities as well. Only about 25 clinics out of over a hundred, possibly more if you include those that have clients from several areas, work with the city. One of our jobs in this profession is to keep our patients out of harm's way by educating our clients. I have had enough experience with animal control to know the simple act of licensing a pet can do that. I also know if I do not license that pet it probably will not get licensed by its owner. Licensing saves the client a potential fine of \$75.00 per pet. Kansas City Animal Control estimates that only 10% of pets in KCMO are licensed.

Licensing a pet takes about 5 seconds. Pet Data supplies the tags at no charge. The clinic collects the \$10.00 fee along with a service fee of up to \$3.00. I have the license fee keyed into my computer and invoice the license along with my annual fees. I write the city tag number on an extra rabies certificate, file it and send a check and certificates once a month to Pet Data. The client gets a reminder from you, their veterinarian, and Pet Data sends a reminder from the city.

Please consider calling your local animal control and try licensing for 6 months. It will help your patients, clients and animal control. In Kansas City, call Marilee Seay at Pet Data 1-800-738-3463 x 516.

Larry Kovac, DVM

PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE: HOW ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC CAN BENEFIT YOUR CLIENTS

BY: JEN NIGRO

We know clients want the best possible treatments for their pets. There is a growing demand for more options, and a trend toward alternative treatments has emerged. One involves the use of chiropractic medicine on animals. The relationship between chiropractor and veterinarian is a relatively new one. The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association formed in 1989 by a group of veterinarians and chiropractors interested in expanding this relationship. The AVCA has evolved from an advocacy group to a certifying agency for chiropractors that have completed the training necessary to treat animals.

Dr. Emily Long is one such doctor. A chiropractor at the Adjust 4 Life Wellness Center in Greenwood, Missouri (about six miles southeast of Lee's Summit), Dr. Long started practicing chiropractic medicine on humans in 2000. But soon, her love of animals took her career down a new path. She enrolled at Parker Chiropractic College in Dallas, and in 2005, earned her National Certification in Animal Chiropractic care. She is now on staff at Green Summit Animal Clinic and Equine Health Solutions, and works closely with several DVMs in the area. As a human chiropractor certified to treat animals, she must work under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. While there are efforts underway in several states, including Kansas, to create more direct access to treatment, Dr. Long says the relationship between chiropractor and veterinarian can be very beneficial for the patient. "I refer several of my chiropractic patients back to their veterinarians for medical issues," she says. "I consider myself an extra set of eyes, ears, and hands for my veterinarians and often times when I'm performing chiropractic examinations or treatments, I observe pathologies or medical issues. It's nice to be able to work with DVMs to provide the very best care we can for our patients."

Dr. Long says chiropractic medicine is used mainly to treat subluxation in animals, or the misalignment of a vertebra that causes pressure on the nerves. Realigning the vertebra relieves that pressure and helps treat the symptoms of subluxation, which include everything from lameness, pain and swelling to chronic ear infections, behavior problems and allergies. In some cases, a chiropractic course can reduce or eliminate the need for medication. But more importantly, Dr. Long says adjustments can give animals a more comfortable, productive and active life. In her three

years of treating animals, she's seen many success stories: "The dog that woke up paralyzed and after one adjustment started dragging her back legs, and after her second adjustment began walking again... The horse that had been a show horse who'd become absolutely unrideable, and had those sad, dull 'I don't feel good' eyes we've all seen before, who after one adjustment started running and bucking and rolling in the round pen... Those are just a few of the success stories!" says Dr. Long. She even cites a nest of baby squirrels she rescued recently, where realigning one squirrel's ileum helped her stop dragging her leg.

While many of Dr. Long's clients request chiropractic treatments for their pets, she does run into a skeptic once in awhile. But she says their eyes are quickly opened. "After being educated and understanding the working of the CNS, spine, and chiropractic, clients are usually eager to have me examine and treat their animals." And, Dr. Long says the animals don't mind it either. "Some of the 'rankest' horses and dogs 'that always have to be muzzled' and cats that 'will scratch your eyes out' become the most relaxed, cooperative patients."

Treating animals does have its challenges. "Since they can't whine and complain like people do, when I treat an animal, everything I do is based on test results, observing behavior, and gathering information from their owner/parent," says Dr. Long. In fact, she compares it to treating human pediatric patients who can't speak for themselves.

Becoming a certified animal chiropractor requires coursework consisting of both lectures and hands-on labs



Dr. Long adjusting a Newfoundland, "Millie"

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SUPPORTING THE AVMF SUPPORTS ANIMAL CARE

BY: ROBERT E. "BUD" HERTZOG, DVM, CHAIR, AVMF

I recently returned from the AVMA meeting in New Orleans and took part in one of the most memorable experiences of my career in veterinary medicine.

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) sponsored a volunteering project for the AVMA to clean and refurbish four animal shelters in the New Orleans area. These are parish shelters and I was appalled at the conditions and the need that exists in the area following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Animal control and animal care is obviously not a high priority yet for the municipal shelters.

Due to great support from Bayer and Hills Pet Nutrition and their generous gifts, we were able to make a real difference in the four shelters as we improved the living conditions and health care for hundreds of animals. One shelter had more than 400 dogs and cats in cages of three or four per cage in very small, cramped quarters. We had to carry the animals in their cages outside in order to clean and paint. The temperature was in the upper 90's and none of the animal quarters had air conditioning.

We had more than 200 volunteers: veterinarians, vet students, spouses and industry supporters. I have

never seen shelter personnel so appreciative. They thanked us, and with tears in their eyes told us we were an answer to their prayers.

I am proud of our profession and truly think this does uphold the theme of our project, "Your Oath in Action." This shows people that we do have a real compassion and concern for the animals we serve.

As Chairman of the AVMF, I am proud of all the things we support in animal disasters all over the country. We recently provided funding to support projects during the floods in the Midwest and the wildfires in California. We also fund research projects in animal health and fund scholarship in veterinary medicine.

I ask for your financial support on a regular basis as the need is great.

In our own practice, we have found that the Pet Memorial Program has been very successful. We make a contribution to the AVMF, and the owners receive a memorial certificate. We've had tremendous owner response.

Thank you for your support, and we will continue to use your funds to support animal needs.

For more information, please visit the AVMF website, <http://www.avmf.org>.



KVMA DISTRICT TRUSTEE OPENING

The District Trustee to the KVMA Executive Board position on the KCVMA Board of Directors has recently opened. The board is looking for interested member veterinarians from Kansas to volunteer for the position. The term of the District Trustee is two years, with one additional two year term possible. The duties include attendance at KVMA executive board meetings as a voting member representing the KCVMA district, reporting state activities back to the district at the KCVMA board meetings, and participation in other activities of the KVMA board. This member is also a voting member of the KCVMA board, and is

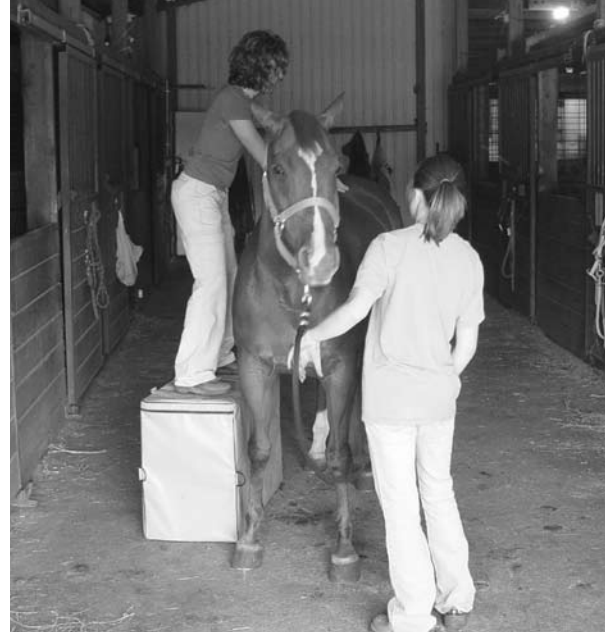
expected to attend the monthly board meetings. This is organized veterinary medicine at the grass roots level, and a chance to enact real-world change. An election by mail ballot will be conducted by the KVMA, once the nominees have submitted their names. Submission deadline is September 30th.

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please submit your name to Wanda Grindstaff, KCVMA Executive Secretary, via e-mail: wgrindstaff@kcvma.com. For more information, please contact Dr. Steve Joseph (sjoseph@kcvma.com) or Dr. Curtis Bock (cbock@kcvma.com).

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with equine and canine patients. Candidates must then sit for a national board exam, which includes both written and practical examinations. Once certified, practitioners have to complete 30 hours of Continuing Education Units and clinical observation every three years. Dr. Long says whatever school you choose, be sure the course work is certified by the AVCA. And she cautions veterinarians who decide to partner with a chiropractor to check their credentials. "There are lots of people who call themselves Animal Chiropractors who have had minimal or no education." Dr. Long also recommends working with a Certified Animal Chiropractor who will refer back to you for veterinary issues. "Beyond musculoskeletal issues and subluxation, it's out of my scope as a Chiropractor," says Dr. Long, "so make sure you're working with someone who keeps good records and will clearly delineate which issues are chiropractic and which ones need your care."

For more information on Animal Chiropractic Medicine, and to find a listing of AVCA-certified practitioners, visit www.animalchiropractic.org. You can also contact Dr. Long by calling (816) 694-9003 or e-mailing doctorem@comcast.net.



Dr. Long adjusting a quarter horse - lumbar spine

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	Dr. Josh Peterson.....	913-432-7611/ jpgerson@kcvma.com
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

September Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Christine Merle DVM, MBA, CVPM
Brakke Veterinary Practice Management Group
Topic: Creating Your Practice's Destiny
Location: Golden Ox
1600 Genessee St.
Kansas City, MO 64102
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008
Time: Dinner at 6:30pm, Seminar at 7:00pm

Fee: No Fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Sponsors: MWI, Bank of America and Merial



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Christine is a Consultant with the Brakke Veterinary Practice Management Group and is a Certified Veterinary Practice Manager (CVPM). She is a small animal practitioner from Chicago, IL and holds degrees from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and DePaul University Kellsted Graduate School of Business. She served as Assistant Dean for Public Engagement and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine until 2005.

Christine's goal is to advance the veterinary profession through the education of animal health professionals and the public. She is an active member of several veterinary organizations including the Association of Veterinary Practice Management Consultants and Advisors (AVPMCA) where she served as their president in 2007-2008. A popular and engaging speaker, Christine was chosen as the 2008 North American Veterinary Practice Management Speaker of the Year.

For more detailed information, visit <http://www.kcvma.com>.

October Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Craig M. Tockman, DVM
Manager of Clinical Services, Abaxis, Inc.
Veterinary Care Center, St. Louis, MO
Topic: A Practitioners Approach to Wellness Blood Testing:
Improved Medicine, Better Profits
Date: October 16, 2008

Time: Dinner at 6:30pm, Seminar at 7:00pm
Location: St. Joseph's Health Center
Fee: No Fee to attend this event. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Sponsor: Abaxis



Craig M. Tockman, DVM, graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine in 1989. He is the Manager of Clinical Services, Abaxis, Inc. as well as the owner of Veterinary Care Center, an AAHA certified full service veterinary hospital with two locations in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Tockman is the past president, past vice-president and past membership chairman and currently serves on the board of directors of the Greater St. Louis Veterinary Medical Association. He is also a current member of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association Scope of Practice Task Force. He is a member of the AVMA, AAHA, Missouri VMA, and The Greater St. Louis VMA. He is a member of the Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society and the Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society. He was a two-time recipient of the Frank E. and Ena Hickerson Rhoads Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine. He particularly enjoys clinical pathology, orthopedic and soft tissue surgery.

For more detailed information, visit <http://www.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
Location: Bayer Animal Health Headquarters
12707 Shawnee Mission Parkway
Shawnee Mission, KS 66216

Fee: No Fee to attend this event, but registration is required. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Sponsor: Bayer Animal Health



Bayer

For more detailed information, visit <http://www.kcvma.com>.

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 10/13/08.

Registered Veterinary Technician wanted full or part time for one doctor practice in the Northland. Salary dependent upon experience. Paid holidays and vacation. IRA & AFLAC after 1 year. Discounts on pet care. Please send resume to: Willow Hill Animal Clinic, 9339 N Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64135 or fax to 816-436-4699.

For Sale: Shore-Line cages, multiple sizes and unites. Call Bob Cannon, 816-931-5989.

Associate Veterinarian Full-time, for AAHA accredited small animal hospital in Lee's Summit. Four doctor practice in a beautiful 7,000 square foot facility. Excellent clientele, knowledgeable and caring support staff. Candidate must be dedicated to highest quality veterinary care with superior client/patient relationship skills. Mail resume to: Julie Dyer, DVM, 5001 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit MO 64064

RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

Jerome Berkowitz913-515-3917 KS/MO
Amy Bunck816-225-4082 KS/MO
Martin Drey785-887-6921 KS
Daniel Frezza816-294-2256 MO
Jim Garner913-620-8210 KS

Maureen Gray913-538-6379 KS/MO
Tim Lyon913-782-1503 KS/MO
Susie Mikkelsen913-648-3920 KS/MO
Terry Patterson816-524-3296 KS/MO
Peggy Mary Roth785-748-0055 KS/MO

Alice Shaffer910-261-1577 KS
Dennis Smith913-636-4206 KS
Paula Vale913-484-7012 KS/MO
Dennis Weaver816-210-6769 MO/KS

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

VETERINARY DIPLOMATES...

Anatomic/Surgical Pathology:

David Pinson, DVM, PhD, ACVP, ACLAM
913-568-7363

Anesthesiology:

Guy Watney, MA, VetMB, PhD, MRCVS,
ACVA 913-491-4965

Cardiology:

Kevin J. Christiansen, DVM, ACVIM
913-722-5566

Dermatology:

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

Emergency and Critical Care:

Mark Brady, DVM, DACVECC 800-548-8387
Robin Wall, DVM, ACVECC 913-722-5566

Internal Medicine:

Tim Allen, DVM, DACVIM 913-647-2805

Lisa Cellio, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Jeff Dennis, DVM, ACVIM 913-642-9563

Michael Wasmer, DVM, ACVIM 913-722-5566

Neurology:

Brian Cellio, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM 913-642-9563

Oncology:

Heather Heeb, DVM, ACVIM 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

Radiology/Ultrasound:

Joanne Burns, DVM, ACVR 785-221-0390
Loren Shaiken, DVM, ACVR 816-426-9896

Surgery:

D.A. Allen, DVM, PhD, ACVS 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

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

Zoological Medicine:

Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, ACZM
816-513-4669

2008 KCVMA SOCIAL EVENT

Mark your calendars for December 6, 2008 as the KCVMA board invites the KCVMA members to join them for a Winter/Holiday social outing at the Stanford Comedy Club at the Legends on December 6, 2008, featuring Greg Warren (Rated PG-13).

Two tickets for the show will be made available for paid members. 70 tickets have been reserved at this time, and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a cover charge of \$15 to cover the appetizer buffet, soft drinks and gratuity. A cash bar will also be available. Extra tickets can be purchased for the show and buffet for \$35. The KCVMA will have a private gathering from 6:30 – 7:45pm prior to the show.

If your clinic provides a holiday season outing for employees, the board would also like to encourage its members to combine the two events. With a high level of participation, the KCVMA could potentially have the entire theater. If you'd like to reserve two tickets, fill out the form below and fax it to Wanda Grindstaff at (913) 341-4225. If you'd like to purchase additional tickets, please mail the form and payment to:

KCVMA

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

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