

# news & notes

## A Letter From The President

September/October 2013

Hello again! Have you registered to get your rabies titer checked? If not, you have until Friday, September 6. Check inside for details.

This president's letter I thought I would share a more personal subject that has been on my mind lately. Sadly, every spring or summer for three years in a row now one of my pets has become ill. Unfortunately in each case, because the prognosis and/or symptoms were too severe, I had to euthanize these pets. My dog Kingsley was the first, two years ago. He was my first dog and he had seen me through every milestone since I was 13 years old. He didn't quite make it to meet my son Braeden, which probably was not a bad thing considering he was ancient and babies don't understand how to play gently. He had a great life. I suspect all of us would have been envious of the six years he spent with my parents in tropical Singapore before returning to the States to live with me through the second half of veterinary school. Last year it was my first cat, BB, that I had adopted while in veterinary school. She was actually the first cat that was completely my own, and she kept me company through many late nights of studying. We called her the "supervisor" because she was always present but was never directly involved. She was most certainly my cat and only finally accepted my husband after he started feeding her. Finally, in June of this year, the second cat that I had adopted while in veterinary school, Bailey, became sick. Most of our friends and family didn't even know she existed because she hid the majority of the time, but she always made an appearance before bedtime when she demanded attention from my husband. I anticipated Kingsley's passing, even though that didn't make it any easier, but my cats were somewhat unexpected since they both happened to be relatively young when they were each diagnosed with cancer. It certainly has been difficult these past few years losing one right after another.

Each time, my husband came with me to the clinic after hours and helped me while I gave the injection. I am thankful that we were always both there to support each other while our pet fell asleep peacefully, surrounded by his or her family. But I do feel guilty that because he is married to a veterinarian, my husband inevitably becomes my after-hours technician.

Of course, giving the injection is hard enough, but everything leading up to this moment is difficult. Mostly it is the stress of detaching emotionally to be able to objectively evaluate the situation in order to make the diagnosis and ultimately the decision on whether or not to euthanize. This part of the job, to me, is the worst part about being a veterinarian. I must have missed the day we talked about how to deal with end-of-life issues with personal pets in school, because I always fret about it for weeks, months, or even years afterwards.

However, as difficult as it is to go through this, I believe it has made me much more understanding of the pain clients go through when they make that decision to euthanize their pets. Although we are not therapists we can certainly help clients through the grieving process. If I feel it is appropriate, I often tell them about the experiences I have had with my personal pets. I have also found that confirming for them they have made the right choice for their pet can relieve a lot of guilt. I usually send home handouts with tips for coping with their loss, help for their children, and how to survive the first moments after the euthanasia. Many of us also send cards, flowers, paw prints, donations to memorial funds, etc., which help tremendously. I think the biggest fault we have is trying to "fix" the grief, because we are so used to fixing everything else. But in this situation all we need to do is listen and show that we care about their loss.

Although the subject of this letter was sad, this is something all of us deal with on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis. The good news is that there is a lot we can do and a lot of resources for ourselves and our clients.

The next time I write a letter it will be my last one. I can't believe how this year has flown. But I do love the holidays, so I am looking forward to that time of year, and the first Christmas Braeden will start to understand that there is more to presents than the wrapping paper!

See you soon at BluePearl!

Kara Ballenger, DVM

President - kballenger@kcvma.com



## ARE YOU AIDING OR ABETTING THE UNLAWFUL PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE? BY GREGORY M. DENNIS, M.SC., J.D.

Like other states, neither Kansas nor Missouri are immune from the impact of non-veterinarians (e.g., herbalists, lay masseurs, "teeth-floaters", "equine dentists", magnetic therapists, lay pregnancy examiners, etc.) and even professionals from human medical disciplines (chiropractors, physical therapists, physicians, dentists, etc.) treating animals. Regardless of whether you are on the Kansas or Missouri side of the state line dividing this metropolitan community, you need to be aware that each state prohibits their veterinarians and veterinary technicians from assisting, aiding, abetting, permitting and/or promoting a non-licensed veterinarian (lay or other health profession) in the practice of veterinary medicine. (K.A.R. 70-8-1(i); R.S. Mo. 340.264.2(11); 4 Mo. C.S.R. 270-6.011(17).) Both Kansas and Missouri have very broad statutes defining what constitutes the "practice of veterinary medicine." They read:

KANSAS—"to diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental condition; including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthesia or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique on any animal including but not limited to acupuncture, surgical or dental operations, animal psychology, animal chiropractic, theriogenology, surgery, including cosmetic surgery, any manual, mechanical, biological or chemical procedure for testing for pregnancy or for correcting sterility or infertility or to render service or recommendations with regard to any of the above and all other branches of veterinary medicine." (K.S.A. 47-816(h)(1).)

MISSOURI—"the science of diagnosing, treating, changing, alleviating, rectifying, curing or preventing any animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental condition, including, but not limited to, the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthesia or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique on any animal, including, but not limited to, acupuncture, dentistry, animal psychology, animal chiropractic, theriogenology, surgery, both general and cosmetic surgery, any manual, mechanical, biological or chemical procedure for testing for pregnancy or for correcting sterility or infertility or to render service or recommendations with regard to any of the procedures" mentioned in Missouri's definition of the practice of veterinary medicine. (R. S. Mo. 340.200(28). See also (15).)

Providing legend drugs and/or controlled substances to a non-veterinary licensed individual can trip the wire on board disciplinary action in both states, leading to a charge of the unlawful practice of pharmacy. In addition, if controlled substances were involved, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (in Kansas and Missouri) and the Missouri Bureau of Dangerous Drugs & Narcotics might seek to strip the veterinarian of her or his controlled substances registration; in other words, the ability to administer, dispense or prescribe such. Further, there is a possibility of state and federal criminal charges for violating the federal *Controlled Substance Act* and companion state laws in both states.

In addition to the above, if an animal is injured or dies as a result of an act or omission of a non-veterinary licensed individual, the veterinarian who aided or abetted that individual could well find her or himself without any malpractice liability insurance coverage.

A Missouri board regulation (4 Mo. C.S.R. 270-4.060) permits veterinarians to call in a professional from another health profession (e.g., dentists, chiropractors, physicians, etc.) in the treatment of an animal so long as the Missouri veterinarian maintains direct supervision over such professional during its treatment of the animal. A request a few years ago to the Kansas board to consider adopting the same or similar regulation for Kansas veterinarians was not successful.

Missouri veterinarians have a regulatory obligation to learn whether or not any person they hire has the necessary license or registration to practice her or his profession in Missouri, per 4 Mo. C.S.R. 270-6.011(20). In other words, contact the Missouri board, and if the individual is from another health profession contact that profession's licensing board. While there is no similar Kansas regulation, Kansas veterinarians would be also well-advised to contact the Kansas board to determine if a veterinarian or veterinary technician is currently licensed or registered in Kansas.

Kansas veterinarians should take note of a board regulation—K.A.R. 70-7-1(f)—that declares "a veterinarian shall not allow a non-licensed person or entity to interfere with or intervene in the veterinarian's practice of veterinary medicine. Each [Kansas] veterinarian shall be responsible for the veterinarian's own actions and shall be directly responsible to the client for the care and treatment of the patient." Missouri veterinarians should be aware that they are required to report to the Missouri board suspected or actual unlawful practice of veterinary medicine by a non-Missouri licensed veterinarian or lay person. (4 Mo. C.S.R. 270-6.011(16).)

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Concluding, Kansas and Missouri veterinarians who aid or abet a person in the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine are vulnerable to board disciplinary action up to and including revocation of licensure. In Kansas, the board can also assess a monetary penalty of up to \$5,000 per violation (not deductible on your income tax returns or dischargeable in bankruptcy).

Editor's Note: Gregory M. Dennis is Legal Counsel for both the Kansas and Missouri VMAs. He actively represents veterinarians throughout the states of Kansas and Missouri. Mr. Dennis is a founding member of the American Veterinary Medical Law Association and a past-president of that organization. He is a frequent speaker and has written extensively on numerous and diverse issues impacting the practice of veterinary medicine. Mr. Dennis is with Leongatha Law, L.L.C. Veterinary Law Center, 14801 East 42nd Street, Suite 600, Independence, Missouri 64055-4776, Tel: 816-373-8100 / Fax: 816-373-8102 / E-mail: gdennis@leongathalaw.com / www.leongathalaw.com

## Making the Cut: In-State and Out-of-State Vet Students Compete for Area Programs

**BY: JEN NIGRO** 

When classes resumed in late August at area universities, both Kansas State and University of Missouri Colleges of Veterinary Medicine welcomed new classes of veterinary students. These aspiring veterinarians will face tough classes and grueling schedules—but the hard work begins long before they are accepted into these programs. With only 28 veterinary schools to choose from in the U.S., students go through a fiercely competitive application process in hopes of making the cut. This year K-State will take on 112 students while the University of Missouri has enrolled 120. For both universities, the numbers have remained stable for the last few years, with the openings available divided between in-state and out-of-state applicants.

K-State accepts 45 in-state students, 64 out-of-state students (three of whom are studying through a contract with North Dakota) and three Chinese students (through a partnership with the U.S.-China Center for Animal Health). Just 15 years ago, KSU's CVM only took 50 out-of-state students, half through a contract with Nebraska. Dr. Ralph Richardson, Dean of K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine, says subsequent increases in the number of out-of-state students accepted were made to offset budget cuts from the state and avoid cutting faculty and staff. "We estimate that non-resident tuition covers the entire cost of their education, helping us keep the cost of tuition for Kansas residents as low as possible." He says budget concerns, combined with a lower number of Kansas high school graduates, have led the university to keep in-state enrollment numbers static. But, that doesn't mean the in-state applicant pool is less qualified. "The challenge is not that there simply aren't enough bright Kansas students with acceptable GRE scores to become veterinarians; it's that many students are not even choosing a university education or veterinary medicine as their career path." Dr. Richardson says there is also a huge difference in the sizes of the in-state and out-of-state applicant pools. K-State's CVM usually receives 100-150 Kansas applications each year compared to 1100-1200 non-resident applications. About 75% of the in-state and 30% of non-residents receive interviews. Graduate employment rates for both in-state and out-of-state students are near 100%.

In comparison, MU welcomes 60 in-state and 60 out-of-state

students. Those ratios have changed over the last 20 years, and like K-State, most growth has come in the number of out-of-state students accepted. Dr. Linda Berent, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for MU's CVM, says out-of-state applications have grown from about 100 to more than 800 over the last 10 years. Only about 15% receive offers. However, of the 125-135 applications they get from in-state students, about half make the cut. "The growth in out-of-state applications is directly related to our ability to accept more students," she says. "Missouri residents are just as well prepared for vet school as our out-of-state applicants." She adds, "MU had 100% employment for the classes of 2011 and 2012, so both Missouri and non-resident students were equally employed."

Students applying to MU's CVM are scored on several factors, including experience with biomedical research and public health issues. While K-State does not consider an applicant's specific area of interest as a determinant for an offer during the initial review, an interest in food animal veterinary medicine, infectious disease, food safety, or public health does align well with some of the core strengths of the veterinary college faculty.

Finding and supporting quality applicants is a top priority for both universities. "We have a full-time recruitment coordinator who visits both in-state and out-of-state schools," says Dr. Berent. "Our interview day also includes tours and visits with student ambassadors so that out-of-state students can get a feel for the campus." Once accepted, students are given access to study skills texts, on-site career development and counseling, tutoring, mentoring, networking opportunities, and other resources to ensure their success. Meantime, K-State sends recruiters to high schools, recruiting fairs and the national Future Farmers of America meeting, as well as pre-health career fairs. Those accepted to the program receive faculty mentors, small-group mentoring classes, and on-site counselors. "We strive to admit well-qualified students who, based on proven academic performance, strong references, veterinary experience and an acceptable interview, are expected to handle the rigors of our professional curriculum and perform in a manner worthy of joining our profession," says Dr. Richardson.

Both CVMs are looking forward to another challenging and successful academic year.



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All suggestions and comments are welcomed. Please write or call Wanda Geis. PO Box 12468
Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468

P 913-381-7823 www.kcvma.com

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## Built on the Shoulders of Veterinary Giants The Greatest Elephant

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

In his book *Modoc*, Ralph Helfer says she was "...the greatest elephant that ever lived".

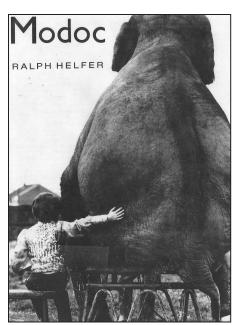
Helfer says his work is a "true story", But some

are not so sure. Dates, names and places traveled are hard to verify. Nonetheless, true or not, or simply embellished, this is a wonderful read about Modoc (a.k.a Mosie) and his friend and trainer Bram Gunterstein.

The book tells a story about a German boy and an elephant and their fight to stay together for a lifetime as they cross three continents.

According to the author the two are born on the same day and in the same hour. Bram's father, a circus elephant trainer, wishes for a boy and a girl. He considers his dream fulfilled with Bram and Mosie. Bram is brought up to treat elephants with praise and respect of the highest regard, not with intimidation and the threat of punishment for tasks not performed to perfection.

As Modoc matures she performs in European circuses. Circumstances intervene and the circus is sold to an American company. Now older, Bram cannot bear being parted from Mosie and becomes a stowaway as the circus crosses the ocean to New York City.



The ship encounters a formidable storm and is destroyed. Survivors stay affoat on Modoc's back until they are rescued and not a minute to soon.

Modoc and Bram recuperate in India where Bram learns a great deal about elephants. Afraid the circus owner will find them, they escape into the teak forests. It is in this section of the book where Bram meets his first love.

The story turns to a rebellion and the two come close to death. It is at this point they are captured by the owner and transported to America where they become stars of the big top. Modoc survives a poisoning attempt, a fire and a hook wielding drunk before the circus owner sells her without Bram's knowledge.

Many years pass and Modoc's life deteriorates as she is chained, abused and starved. The author, Helfer, who is an animal trainer, discovers and acquires her. He quickly finds she can perform many

acts easily. Bram, who never gave up searching for Modoc, finds her years later at Helfer's ranch near Hollywood.

Modoc and Bram live out their lives in constant contact and nurse each other through old age. Bram is the first to die, saying he will show Modoc the way to a new life where they will share eternity. Read this book. You'll like it!

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

## September CE

Speaker: Dr. David Hustead, Director, Veterinary Medical Affairs,

Pet Division, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica

Topic: Utilizing Risk Assessments for your Patients

Date: Thursday, September 19

Time: 6:30pm – Check-in, 7pm – Dinner and Presentation Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required.

Current membership dues cover all CE.

CE: 2 hours

Location: Jack Stack (Crossroads)

101 W 22nd Street Kansas City, MO 64108

816-472-7427

Sponsor: Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica



#### Please RSVP by Monday, September 16 by registering at KCVMA.com or by scanning the QR code.

Dr. Hustead received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University. He is currently Director of Veterinary Medical Affairs (Pet Division) at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica. His team of veterinarians is responsible for technical consultations with customers, technical training of sales and marketing personnel, post approval clinical trials, adverse event investigations, interactions with organized veterinary medicine and colleges of veterinary medicine.

### **October CE**

Speaker: Dr. David Martin, Senior Veterinary Specialist

(Anesthesiology, Sedation & Pain Management), Zoetis

Topic: Anesthesia and Analgesia: Common Clinical Questions

Date: Thursday, October 17

Time: 6:30pm – Check-in, 7pm – Dinner and Presentation Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required.

Current membership dues cover all CE.

CE: 2 hours

Location: Brio - Country Club Plaza

502 Nichols Drive Kansas City, MO 64112

(816) 561-5888

Sponsor: Zoetis



#### Please RSVP by Monday, October 14 by registering at KCVMA.com or by scanning the QR code.

Dr. Martin received his DVM in 1987 from the University of Missouri. In 1988, he completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at Texas A & M University. After three years in private emergency and critical care practice and a year as a Clinical Instructor at Mississippi State University, Dr. Martin then completed a residency in Veterinary Anesthesiology at the University of Illinois in 1995. He then returned to the University of Missouri from 1995-1997 as a clinical instructor in Veterinary Anesthesiology and became board certified by the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists in 1997. Dr. Martin joined the faculty at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1997 as an Assistant Professor. In 2001, he joined Zoetis (formerly Pfizer Animal Health) as an original member of the Sedation and Pain Management Team. He has lectured extensively on anesthesiology and pain management and published several articles and book chapters. Dr. Martin is a past President of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists.

## **November CE**

Speaker: Dr. Ken Kwochka, Senior Manager of Veterinary Services,

Health and Wellness, Bayer

Topic: Dermatology

Date: Sunday, November 17

Time: TBD

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required.

Current membership dues cover all CE.

CE: 6 hours Location: Bayer

12707 Shawnee Mission Parkway

Shawnee Mission, KS 66216

Sponsor: Bayer



Due to enhanced security at the Bayer plant in Shawnee Mission, the KCVMA is required to provide a list of attendees to Bayer security. Please register for this event by Monday, September 9th.

Please RSVP by Monday, September 9th by registering at KCVMA.com or by scanning the QR code.

## **KCVMA Rabies Titer Check**

Date: Saturday, September 14, 2013

Time: 3:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: BluePearl Veterinary Partners

11950 West 110th Street Overland Park, KS 66210

Member Promo codes to qualify for member pricing were Pricing: sent in an email on Friday, July 12. Another

email will be sent on Wed, September 4.

	SCREENING	ENDPOINT
Members	No Charge	\$22.50
Non-members	\$50	\$72.00
Employees of members, non-DVM	\$36	\$58.50



#### CLASSIFIED ADS

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, or email them to classifieds@kcvma.com. Ads must not be over 100 words in length. Classified ads will be run at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for content. Deadline for the next newsletter is 10/13/13.

Martin City Animal Hospital is looking for a registered technician to help grow our clinic! Must be an RVT in Missouri and have surgery and dentistry experience. MCAH offers high quality medicine, excellent customer service and serves a fantastic clientele. We are growing rapidly and need a second technician to help us keep up! The position is about 30 hours a week, mostly weekdays. We are closed on the weekends but occasionally our technicians need to do weekend treatments or patient checks. Please come by and fill out an application and meet us! 13441 Cherry Street, Kansas City, MO 64145.

Bannister Veterinary Clinic is growing! We are seeking an additional Companion Animal Veterinarian. This position is full-time, 40 hrs. per week. We have an excellent support staff to help provide the best care to our patients. If interested please call 816-765-7979 or email resume to allisonmwebb@gmail.com.

Full-time receptionist wanted for veterinary hospital located in Olathe. Excited about meeting people who love animals? Interested in helping provide care for four-legged family members? Successful candidates must have great communication skills, common sense, and upbeat personality. Experience with Cornerstone Veterinary Software preferred. Inquiring applicants send information to: purplevetwrap@yahoo.com or call 913-254-1954.

Immediate opening for an experienced RVT for a very busy, client-oriented Northland veterinary clinic (near Zona Rosa). Great people skills, efficiency, and ability to multitask are a must. Leadership skills are preferred, as there is potential for transition to head technician position. Excellent opportunity to maximize your skills. Facility hours are Monday through Friday 7 am to 6 pm and Saturdays 7 am to Noon. Please send cover letter and resume to vethospital52@yahoo.com.

Hidden Valley Animal Hospital, a high quality, AAHA accredited, small animal hospital is seeking a full-time veterinarian with practice ownership a goal. Located in Independence, Missouri, Hidden Valley is a state-of-the-art facility, including digital dental x-ray, laser therapy, surgical laser, ultra sound, full service, primary care hospital with a large active patient base and a great team to help you succeed and enjoy private practice! Competitive salary offered with numerous benefits.

Veterinary Technician, part-time position available at Broadway Veterinary Clinic in Leavenworth, KS. Please email resume to broadwayvetclinic@gmail.com.

For sale: Two Shoreline Cat condos/suites. Blue faux marble laminate with white interior and perch in each. Blue powder coated stainless doors, mobile base. One unit is left-hand other is right-hand litters/bedrooms. New, never used. Local pick-up only. Olathe, KS. Units sell for \$1752.00 each unit, asking \$1200 each or \$2000 for both. 3' Cat Condo Suite, 2 - 24"w x 30"h Condos with left hand private litters & bedrooms, with mobile platform. Item#: 923.0030.11, Weight: 419 lbs. Text or call 913-486-7888. http://www.paragonmed.com/cages.shtml#condos, http://www.shor-line.com/index.php/products/category/102.html.

Looking for a part-time veterinarian (20-25 hrs per week) in a south Overland Park small animal practice. Some benefits available. Must be a team player with good communication skills. Please email resumes to annbrowndvm@yahoo.com.

Banfield Pet Hospital has current openings for Associate Veterinarians in Overland Park, Kansas City, and Topeka! Several Relief/Locum opportunities also available throughout the area. Join teams committed to practicing the highest quality medicine with modern equipment and diagnostics, and excellent paraprofessional staff. We see a diverse caseload and focus on teamwork, compassionate pet care, and thorough client education. We offer outstanding compensation to include a competitive base salary plus production eligibility, health benefits, CE allowance, generous paid time off, 401k plan, and more! To apply please visit www.banfield.com/careers or contact Sharon DiChiara at 503-922-7184 / Sharon.DiChiara@banfield.com for more information.

#### Relief Veterinarians...

Randy Hamilton 913-927-9088 KS/MO	Terry Patterson816-524-3296 KS/MO
Lucy Hirsch 816-830-8816 KS/MO	Amy Roberts816-205-0077 KS/MO
Kimberly Kessler 913-548-1686 KS/MO	Peggy Mary Roth785-748-0055 KS/MO
Kathy Kimber 816-390-2704 KS/MO	Dennis Smith913-636-4206 KS
Shelley Lake 913-533-9905 KS	Shana Stelzer913-707-0906 KS/MO
Tim Lyon	Paula Vale913-484-7012 KS/MO
Korb Maxwell 913-709-0208 KS	Kenneth VanSickle816-331-7972 KS/MO
Susie Mikkelson smikkelson85@gmail.com KS/MO	Dennis Weaver816-210-6769 KS/MO
	Lucy Hirsch

#### CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

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Teresa Bradley Bays, DVM, CVA, DABVP (ECM) 816-331-3120

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Susan Keil, DVM, MS, DACVO 785-331-4600 Reuben Merideth, DVM, ACVO

913-381-3937 or 800-776-3937 Rustin Sturgeon, DVM, ACVO 913-381-3937

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Eric Wilson, DVM, MS, ACVS 913-722-5566 **Veterinary Practitioners:** 

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#### Zoological Medicine:

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