

# news & notes

## **A Letter From The President**

September/October 2014

It's that time of year again. Kids are back to school and our office slows down. Hopefully once everyone gets back into their school year routines they'll remember to bring their pets back to see us! Our oldest son started second grade this year and our little guy started kindergarten. Boy how time flies. It seems like just yesterday we were bringing them home from the hospital. I've been told over and over to enjoy it because it doesn't last long, and I realize that more and more every time a new milestone (such as the first day of kindergarten) happens.

Before we get into business, I want to thank those of you who reached out to me after my last President's letter. My arrhythmia was determined to be premature ventricular contractions of unknown cause. My cardiologist isn't too worried about it since a low dose beta blocker has it mostly under control, combined with an otherwise normal Holter and a normal echo.

Now onto business. First, I'd like to recognize Dr. Bud Hertzog. He was awarded the AVMA President's Award during the annual AVMA Convention in late July. "The AVMA President's Award is given annually to recognize individuals and groups inside and outside veterinary medicine who have made a positive impact on animal, human or public health, veterinary organizations and the profession." Dr. Hertzog has been a staple in our community for many years and former president of this very organization. Be sure to check out the back page of *News & Notes*. Dr. Steve Joseph has written about Dr. Hertzog's contributions to veterinary medicine in Kansas City. The KCVMA Board of Directors would like to offer our hearty congratulations to Dr. Hertzog.

In the last letter I discussed two quotes from John Wooden and encouraged each of you to ask yourselves if you are doing everything you can to be the best you can be. I'm still working on it both personally and professionally. One thing I have found to be a great tool for helping me achieve my goals came from the book *The 4 Disciplines of Execution* by Chris McChesney and Sean Covey. This book gives an outline of how to implement and achieve your goals in business, but it can be applied to personal goals as well. McChesney and Covey ask us to identify one "Wildly Important Goal" and

focus on what it will take to make the goal a reality. I'd encourage everyone to pick up a copy of the book and find ways to implement the ideas for you.

One of my wildly important goals for the KCVMA is to make sure we are giving our members good reasons



to stay members each year and reasons for non-members to want to join our organization. To that end, our board will be reaching out to several hospitals throughout the metro over the next weeks and months. Proposed by Dr. Joseph Sipe, we will be starting an outreach program to meet with many of our local hospitals in person to discuss ways we can further serve our members. We hope this will help move the KCVMA forward in a positive and meaningful way. I know I look forward to meeting more of you and hearing from you about what our organization can do better and how we can increase the value of KCVMA membership. If we don't visit you or your hospital, don't hesitate to contact any of the board members with ideas for ways we can improve membership.

As I wrap up this version of the President's letter, I have to mention one of my favorite times of year: football season! Our second grader is playing football this year so I'll get to see a game almost every Saturday. Saturdays are also a great day because of K-State football! Our Cats are set for a good year this year. And last, hopefully our Chiefs look better throughout the season than in some of their preseason games. Either way it will be a fun football season. Go Wildcats!

President - mpeuser@kcvma.com



## Ready for Ebola: How the Past is Influencing the Present

**BY: JEN NIGRO** 

The deadly Ebola virus continues to expand its reach in West Africa with the number of infected people topping 3,000, and the number of deaths over 1,500. With easy travel heightening the risk of infected persons crossing borders into other parts of Africa or even the world, people are asking what if—what if the Ebola virus reaches U.S. borders? Dr. Jerry Jaax, Associate Vice President for Research Compliance and University Veterinarian at Kansas State University, has that answer. He and his wife, Nancy, were on the front lines of an Ebola outbreak in Reston, VA, in 1989.

At the time, Dr. Jerry and Nancy Jaax were stationed at the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Ft. Detrick, MD, as part of the Army Veterinary Corps, where they were researching the Ebola virus. Colonel Jerry Jaax was the director of the Veterinary Medical Division at USAM-RIID; Colonel Nancy Jaax was head of the USAMRIID Pathology Division. The outbreak started when a shipment of 500 cynomolgus macaque monkeys from the Philippines arrived at a privately owned, nonhuman primate quarantine facility. Shortly after their arrival, several died. "They suspected simian hemorrhagic fever disease, which is a very significant and often fatal infection for macaques," says Dr. Jaax. The unit sent tissue samples to the USAMRIID Pathology Division for further testing. "They ran diagnostics and found that in fact simian hemorrhagic fever was infecting the monkeys," recalls Dr. Jaax. "But to their great surprise, they also discovered the monkeys were co-infected with Ebola virus." Using diagnostics available at the time, the Pathology Division identified the strain as Ebola Zaire, a pathogen that had a 90% mortality rate in humans when it emerged in the Zaire region of Africa in 1976.

Of great concern was that the primate quarantine unit in Reston, VA, was virtually part of the Washington, D.C. Metroplex. Planning to contain and eradicate the virus from the facility began immediately. The Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and others held an intensive planning session to determine how best to stop the outbreak from spreading to the human population. "It was determined that my group at Ft. Detrick would go to the facility and essentially manage the outbreak in the nonhuman primates," says Dr. Jaax. "We would try to figure out what was going on and work as fast as we could to de-populate the facility." However, the team faced several unknowns in their attack. "One of them was that none of the Ebola viruses had ever been seen outside Africa," Dr. Jaax notes. "These monkeys came from the Philippines, which was unexplained, and still is. But the big piece for us was that nobody had the blueprint for how to do it. Nobody had any experience with an outbreak like this. We were working in a laboratory supporting research and doing research. We certainly didn't have a deployment mission to go out and do field work. The CDC wasn't equipped or prepared to do this kind of work either."

Still, Dr. Jaax and his team recognized the seriousness of the situation and the threat to public safety. They put together a plan utilizing mainly active duty veterinarians and veterinary technicians, as well as some Department of Defense civilians who had experience as animal caretakers and worked in bio-containment. They gathered portable space suits that had been used for completely different reasons. "From the time the diagnosis was made to the time we got down there and started managing the animals in the facility we had spent less than 48 hours," Dr. Jaax remembers.

"We went to Reston completely convinced we were dealing with Ebola Zaire. We set up a containment perimeter and plan to try to minimize the chance that the virus would escape the facility or that we would have anybody within our group infected." The operation took nearly a week. Complicating matters, Dr. Jaax says many of the monkeys weren't in squeeze cages. "You couldn't just squeeze them up and anesthetize them, which is one of the best ways to handle monkeys." Some of the cages had two monkeys in them. Dr. Jaax also points out working with animals is often more risky than working with a human population. "There is a lot more opportunity to become infected dealing with monkeys than there is working with a human patient who is cooperating with you. I think we were rightfully concerned we would get a bite or a tear in our gloves." The environment was also ripe for infection. "The environment had an incredible potential to generate droplet and aerosol exposure as well as traumatic exposure," he says. However, the team's plan worked flawlessly. No one was injured or infected, though there was a surprise waiting for them at the end. The team was able to gather a large number of tissue samples during the operation. Those were sent to the lab for analysis. "After we were finished it was determined it was a previously unidentified strain, now called Ebola Reston," he says. "It is one of the recognized Ebola virus strains now, and for reasons unknown, it is not a human pathogen."

Despite the discovery that the team was dealing with a non human pathogen, Dr. Jaax feels the response was a successful test for the protocols used to handle a serious emerging disease outbreak. He notes staff who worked for the company that owned the monkeys developed antibodies to the virus. "Had it been Ebola Zaire, which we thought it was the whole time, a couple of those guys probably would have died, and maybe they would have had a cluster of cases there. You can make a very strong case that the way we planned the operation and the way it worked, how we decontaminated, etc.; it was real data."

Though the operation was a success, it wasn't until 1994 that the general public really knew the importance of what happened during the Reston outbreak. That's when Richard Preston published his book *The Hot Zone*. "Suddenly everybody knew about Biosafety Level 4 and about Ebola and hot zones," says Dr. Jaax. "It really sort of put emerging infectious disease on the map for more than just

infectious disease people." He says that has led to better planning for potential future outbreaks. "The state of Kansas, for instance, has refined planning associated with how they would respond if we got an Ebola patient here, or if we got an outbreak. They have specialized equipment and they have facilities identified that could handle it. There are mature plans in place to be followed if something happens, and a lot of that is a result of what happened in Reston."

Additionally, Dr. Jaax believes the success of the Reston operation and its publicity in The Hot Zone has led to more cohesive healthcare. He points to the One Health Initiative, a movement to bring physicians, osteopaths, veterinarians, dentists and others together to collaborate on health and science issues. "When you look at what happened at Reston, I would contend that it was a model "One Health" operation. We had a very strong veterinary contingent both within the research arm and the support and collaboration arm." He notes those veterinarians worked with physicians, nurses, virologists and epidemiologists as well as public relations experts to bring the situation under control. "We had a very full spectrum of healthcare people. It was multidisciplinary, cooperative, and put the right kind of expertise on the event. I personally have always felt that the interdisciplinary aspect of the Reston outbreak was an important part of how it played out." Dr. Jaax also believes Preston's book gave a boost to the veterinary profession as a whole. "He asked if there was anything that we wanted to come through in the book, and we told him, 'It would be nice if they knew that we were veterinarians.' Veterinarians are an important part of these significant infectious disease programs. I don't know that he necessarily changed anything, but he clearly made that obvious throughout the book."

As for the question, What if Ebola comes to the United States?' Dr. Jaax doesn't see any reason to worry. "I think it's possible somebody could get here infected with Ebola virus, but based on the low transmission potential, I don't think we'll have an outbreak. Reston, coupled with what happened subsequent to September 11, 2001 with the anthrax attacks, really has put us on a much better footing in this country, and I think in other countries, to respond. We as a country and as a state are in a completely different position than we were 25 years ago as far as who knows what to do or having the capabilities or people who have been through the planning. Now we have a chance to do something that has been thought through rather than just on the fly. We're really prepared and ready for it."

## New KVMA Leader Looks Forward to Growth, Collaboration

**BY: JEN NIGRO** 



The Kansas Veterinary Medical Association has a new leader, and she wants to meet you. Megan Kilgore took over as executive director on June 1 following Gary Reser's retirement. Kilgore, a native of Osage County, KS, has an innate love of the state, its agriculture and its animals. Growing up on the family farm, Kilgore participated in 4-H. Her husband has a similar background. "We are animal lovers through and through. We come from

production agriculture," she says. Kilgore's love of animals led her to pursue an animal science degree at Kansas State University, with a specialization in communication.

After graduating, Kilgore moved with her husband to Hillsboro, KS, where she worked in economic and community development. They later relocated to Manhattan, where she took a position in the College of Veterinary Medicine. "I worked there for about six years in development, alumni affairs and continuing education," she says. When the opportunity arose to work for the KVMA, she was thrilled to continue that work on a larger scale. "Veterinarians are special. There's a definite family connection across the state, across the nation," she says. "The opportunity to work with them when I was at the college solidified the desire to continue to work with them and work on their behalf in the state legislature."

Kilgore's primary duties at the KVMA consist of education and communication. That includes informing veterinarians and the public about developments regarding animal welfare issues and making sure veterinarians' voices are heard when those issues come before lawmakers. Imparting the importance of organizations like the KVMA to veterinarians in the state is a key part of that effort. "We need to increase membership retention and recruitment of the association to make sure that folks in the state of Kansas understand the importance of organized veterinary medicine." Kilgore adds that will take collaboration with other state organizations like the KCVMA, the Kansas Livestock Association and the Kansas Pork Association, as well as national organizations. "We need to share the benefits of organized veterinary medicine. We need to share any propositions. We need to make sure residents of the state of Kansas are utilizing veterinary medicine to the best of their ability, encouraging routine visits for small animal owners and proper vaccinations for large animal owners, and it's my goal to make sure that education and communication is first and foremost."

All of that takes time; something Kilgore wishes she had more of. "I'd like to be in everybody's clinic just to say hi, just to introduce myself and let them know that we're here, our association is here for them. I look forward to having the opportunity to really grow veterinary medicine in Kansas."

Kilgore lives in Lyndon with her husband, son and two dogs.



Published by the Kansas City Veterinary Medical Association for its members and guests.

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

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## **Built on the Shoulders of Veterinary Giants: Bud**

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Since the first livestock show in 1899, the American Royal has relied on the skill and expertise of veterinarians. For 50 plus years Dr. Robert "Bud" Hertzog has been a veterinary cornerstone for this Kansas City institution.

The Lee's Summit native was involved in 4-H and FFA as a youngster. He showed livestock at the Royal and later competed on the livestock judging team at MU. Growing up on a dairy farm, his family was close to their local veterinarian, Dr. H.C.

Ashby ('44 Michigan State), whom he credits with encouraging him to go to veterinary college. "When I graduated from MU CVM in 1956 I came back to Lee's Summit and practiced with him," says Hertzog. The 93-year-old Dr. Ashby lives in Idaho.

Soon after graduation Dr. Hertzog started working with livestock and equine shows at the Royal. Today, he heads the Lee's Summit Veterinary Hospital, a ten practitioner facility. He has served as the Kansas City Zoo veterinarian in Swope Park and is a consultant for the facility.

Not only has Dr. Hertzog served as the Royal staff veterinarian for decades, he has also volunteered countless hours mentoring students from MU and KSU through the Veterinary Scholars Program. The program is an example of the Royal's mission in action: supporting youth and education and preparing

young leaders for careers in agriculture.

The Royal's nationally recognized livestock and equine shows offer veterinary students the unique opportunity to work alongside veteran practitioners providing care to some of the nation's highest quality animals and exhibitors. They check health certificates, evaluate animals for infectious, contagious or communicable diseases and assist in the treatment of sick or injured animals. The opportunity to build professional

networks with veterinarians, livestock and equine breeders and exhibitors is critical to the scholars' professional development and future in a practice in the region.

The American Royal

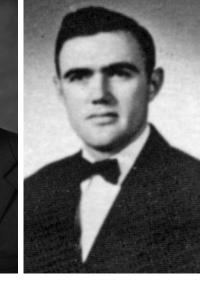
The American Royal will celebrate Dr. Hertzog's years of service, the history of veterinary medicine in Kansas City and the veterinary corridor stretching from KSU to MU with an exhibit in the American Royal museum. The exhibit is in the planning stages.

One final comment, Dr. Hertzog and his classmate, the

late Dr. Gerald Johnson, are two veterinarians who have had a great influence on my life and career and those of countless veterinarians. For all of us, I thank them for their guidance and encouragement.

Special thanks to Kristi Larson, Director of Education for the Royal, and MU's Dr. Ron Cott for their help in preparation of this article.





## Please watch your email for announcements regarding the October and November CE events, as well as the KCVMA fall social!

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

### **September CE**

Speaker: David Senter, DVM, DACVD

Veterinary Allergy & Dermatology Clinic, LLC

Topic: Canine Otitis: Keys to Treatment Success

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014

Time: Check-in: 6:30pm, Dinner and Presentation: 7pm

CE: 2 hours

Location: Brio Tuscan Grille

502 Nichols Drive

Kansas City, MO 64112

(816) 561-5888

Fee: No fee to attend this event.

Current membership dues cover all CE.

Sponsor: Elanco

## THIS CE EVENT IS NOW FULL, AND REGISTRATION IS CLOSED.

If you have registered but cannot attend, please contact Darin Nadler (dnadler@kcvma.com, 913-324-5961) so we can give your seat to another member. If you are not registered and you would like to be added to the wait-list, please email Darin.

Dr. Senter specializes in allergies and all diseases of the skin, ears, and nails, including bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic infections, autoimmune diseases, endocrine disorders, and many skin cancers. He has had extensive training in dermatopathology, and interprets most of his own biopsies. Although, the majority of his patients are dogs, cats, and horses, Dr. Senter is trained in the diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases of all domestic animals. On occasion he does consult with zoo veterinarians at the St Louis Zoo and other regional zoos. Dr. Senter is the only board certified dermatologist in the Kansas City metro area.

Dr. Senter's interest in allergy and dermatology runs in the family, as his father is a physician specializing in allergies. A native Texan, he grew up in a suburb of Dallas, but spent much of his time on the family cattle ranch in central Texas. Dr. Senter has two dogs, a horse, and an ever-changing menagerie of pets in the house that his children have "collected". Dr. Senter is an avid outdoorsman and he enjoys fishing, dog training, working on the farm, and anything else that gets him outdoors. He is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Overland Park.



#### THANK YOU NOTES

Dear KCVMA,

I wish to thank you for honoring me with the KCVMA Radiology Award. I chose K-State for the people I met on my visit here and have loved my time. Next year I will be completing an internship at VCA in Mesa, AZ, and will use your generous award for moving expenses. In the future I plan to pursue a residency in Radiology.

Again Thank You, Mathew Stewart Kansas City Veterinary Medical Association,

Thank you for sponsoring the KCVMA award in compassionate animal care. Caring for animals, both large and small, has always been a passion and goal of mine since I was a young girl. Achieving this award makes me know that my care and compassion for animals has been and will continue to be recognized. Thank you so much for this award.

Jayme Wilkens

## **MVMA Offers Training, Flexibility for Clinic Staff**

**BY: JEN NIGRO** 

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association is introducing a new program to provide training for clinic staff when and where they want it. The MVMA's Certified Veterinary Assistant online program is available to workers 16 years of age and older, and is designed for those seeking certification so they can perform entry-level jobs in the veterinary field.

Certification requires students to demonstrate 100 percent competency at all of the required skills, though not all will be learned in the clinic setting. The training program, developed by Animal Care Technologies, also provides access to a library of interactive videos, eliminating the need for students to read technical manuals. Because training is all online, it can be done whenever and wherever the student has time. Supervisors can log into the system to see how the employee is progressing through the videos as well as monitor weekly quiz results.

The program costs \$250 for the first two exams and certifications, plus a monthly clinic fee of \$54 while the program is in use. Additional staff can gain certification for \$125. Those looking for certification renewal will pay \$35. The cost also allows up to 20 staff members access to the training video library. Registered Veterinary Technicians and DVMs can also earn continuing education credits through the program.

For more information on the MVMA's certification program, visit http://www.movma.org/?page=11.



#### **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 10/13/14.

A busy, mixed animal practice in Smithville, MO, is looking for a qualified associate veterinarian with a strong background in small animal medicine and surgery. Experience or an interest in equine medicine would be considered a bonus. Our clinic is staffed with friendly, qualified staff that has a great concept of teamwork. New graduates and experienced practitioners will be considered with the possibility of part-time or full-time employment. Salary and benefits are negotiable, and there is a buy-in opportunity possible for the right individual. Please send your resume to Brisbanevet@gmail.com for consideration.

Noah's Ark Animal Clinic is a full-service veterinary clinic located in Brookside. We're seeking a highly motivated, responsible veterinary technician with experience to join our team. Daily challenges to include, but are not limited to: surgery assistance, I.V. catheter placement, lab testing, client education, radiography, exam room assistance, patient care (hospitalized and boarding), general clinic maintenance and cleaning. RVT preferred but not required. Benefits: competitive wages, health and dental, pet care benefits, PTO. If interested, please submit your cover letter and resume to Noah's Ark Animal Clinic, 6305 Main Street, KCMO 64113 or email cover letter and resume to jobs@noahsarkanimalclinic.com.

Union Hill Animal Hospital has two full-time positions open. We are seeking a full-time, experienced RVT licensed in Missouri and a veterinary technician assistant for a busy, one doctor practice in downtown Kansas City, MO. We are looking for someone with a fun, outgoing personality who can multi-task and at times, work independently. Our goal is to provide excellent, progressive patient care and we encourage continuing education! Proficiency in the areas of anesthesia, radiology (including dental), laboratory and client education is expected (especially for the RVT). This is an excellent opportunity to maximize your skills and education in a growing practice. The wage is dependent on experience level; benefits and uniforms are included. Please send cover letter and resume to employment@uhanimalhospital.com.

Full time RVT position available at Lakewood Animal Health Center...a progressive AAHA accredited animal hospital in Lee's Summit, MO. We focus on thorough, high quality medicine rather than high volume. Excellent clientele and support staff. Check us out at www.lakewoodanimal.com and download an application. Fax resume' and application to 816-373-5176 or email to segolladay@yahoo.com.

Independence, Missouri small animal veterinary hospital seeks veterinarian. We are a busy family-oriented practice with a diverse clientele and an informal atmosphere. In-house Idexx lab, digital x-ray, ultrasound. No after-hours emergencies. Buy-in potential. Please call 816-847-0043 and leave a message.

2 RVT/LVT positions available in expanding small animal hospital LAWRENCE, KS. Seeking energetic, friendly, client oriented personalities with an "I can" philosophy. Expected skills include strong patient care orientation, anesthesia, surgical, and dental. Requires handling familiarity with dogs, cats, pocket pets, reptiles and avian. General husbandry and training concepts for each would be helpful or can be taught. Send resume and cover letter to Dr. Ermeling: ermeling@earthlink.net.

#### RELIEF VETERINARIANS...

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