



## A Letter from the President

November/December 2017

The end of the year is here, and with it comes the end of my term as KCVMA president. This year has gone by quickly, full of hours of continuing education and a wonderful time together at a T-Bones game. I also want to give big thanks to all who volunteered to help at Harvesters in May. We hope to organize another event to help them out again in 2018. As we enter the new year, you can expect many more continuing education events as well as some social events too.

As the legality of cannabis for use to treat humans continues to expand, in this issue we explore the potential use of cannabidiols or CBDs to treat pets. CBDs are the less psychoactive extracts from the plant. We also discuss the increase of leptospirosis in the United States.

There is some important information for Kansas veterinarians regarding insurance plans being offered by the KVMA beginning in January of 2018. For our Missouri veterinarians there is a legislative update on Senate Bill NO. 88, which has been passed. Senate Bill NO. 88 will reduce the statute of limitations for claims of malpractice or negligence against veterinarians treating animals to 2 years instead of 5 years.

Thank you all for your support of KCVMA over the last year—it's been a pleasure to be your president. Our president-elect, Keith Placke, will take the reins in January. We will be introducing new members to the KCVMA board of directors as well. I am confident I will see you at our upcoming continuing education and social events.

Have a great holiday season and don't forget to renew your membership for 2018!

**Todd Taylor, DVM**

President - ttaylor@kcvma.com



### KCVMA 2018 Membership Renewal Reminder

An organization is only as strong as its members, and KCVMA is most certainly going strong! As 2017 ends, we thank you, our members, for giving us the opportunity to support and celebrate Kansas City-area veterinarians through continuing education and networking opportunities, and by advocating on behalf of our members and our profession.

Your KCVMA membership gives you access to high-quality continuing education, the latest information on cutting-edge research and techniques, updates on important legislative actions, and opportunities to connect with your fellow veterinarians!

Renew your membership by January 1st so you don't miss out on anything KCVMA has to offer. To renew, go to <http://members.kcvma.com> and follow the instructions provided to renew your membership for 2018. Life members must complete this process to maintain their complimentary membership.

If you would prefer to renew via email please feel free to contact Brian Ellis (bellis@kcvma.com) or Wanda Geis (wgeis@kcvma.com).

## Cannabis and Pets

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The use of cannabis in human medicine is a hot topic that has spilled over into the veterinary world. Currently about half the country has legalized cannabinoid products for human medicinal use. However, regardless of state laws, Federal laws still prohibit the use of these products. Cannabis is labeled as a Schedule I controlled drug only to be used for research purposes. One can imagine with all the controversy surrounding the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes in humans, there is even more uncertainty in the veterinary world.

Before getting into a discussion about the use of cannabis products, it is necessary to understand the differences between the varieties of products available. Historically medical marijuana products are cannabidiol or CBD, which is not as psychoactive as recreational marijuana products that contain a large amount of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). CBD products are basically essential oils that have been extracted from the marijuana plant. In addition, one must differentiate between marijuana products and hemp-derived products. A marijuana product is any part of the plant with a THC concentration above 0.3%. Hemp is a product derived from the mature stalks of a plant or the fibers from such stalks with a THC concentration below 0.3%. That being said, the manufacture of these products is unregulated and its legality is still questionable.

Because of CBD and marijuana's Class I controlled drug legal status, it is illegal for use in veterinary medicine and it is illegal for veterinarians to recommend the use of marijuana products to treat animal medical conditions. Even in states where medicinal marijuana is legal, they are to be manufactured for human use only. That has not stopped some pet owners from trying it on their own to relieve symptoms of terminal disease in their pets. The interest is such that Colorado State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital has funded clinical trials to study the efficacy of hemp-derived products to treat epilepsy and osteoarthritis in dogs.

One of the problems of the use of cannabis in veterinary medicine is the lack of proven research. At this point, most claims to effectiveness are anecdotal or extrapolated from human medicine. Hemp-derived products are readily available for consumers as botanical supplements. However, the lack of regulation puts the customer at risk of getting a product that is inferior or contains a higher concentration of THC than



is legal. Currently the concentration limit of THC in hemp-derived products is 0.3%. This is the concentration that is being used in the clinical trials at CSU. These concentrations are believed to provide the medical benefits without altering the pet's mental state.

Many owners and some veterinarians have weighed in on the perceived benefits of cannabis in treating end-of-life patients. Without research, it is hard to say whether the effects are real or a placebo effect. If the benefits are real, cannabis would provide another alternative when traditional pharmaceuticals fail in these patients. Another concern is the potential for overdose in pets. It is important for pet owners to know that overdose in dogs and cats is real. Many sites marketing hemp-derived products for pets advise owners to seek the advice of their veterinarian. As stated earlier, this puts veterinarians in an impossible situation as it is not only illegal for them to recommend the use of medical marijuana for pets, but there is also no good research to guide the use of cannabis for veterinary patients.

The bottom line is that we as a veterinary community need more research and data before we can discount the use of medical cannabis in our patients.

## Importance of Close Professional Friendships

BY: TAD COLES, DVM

Friendships with like-minded professionals are imperative for a life of healthy resilience. For over 20 years I was a group leader and facilitator for a company that monitors healthcare professionals suffering from some sort of impairment and reports back to their licensing board regarding their progress in recovery and how they are handling the inevitable times when the proverbial feces hits the ventilation, when life seems to fall apart around us. I often asked them to describe their recovery support network. One day a young woman told about the friendships she had developed at her job, at the 12-step group she was attending, and at her yoga group; she explained how important these groups of friends were to her. Being in long-term recovery from substance use disorder myself, I thought, "I need a recovery support network like that!"

So I worked on it. Over the next couple of years I expanded my network of friends who knew all about me and my struggles, failures, successes, and joys. A few years ago when I ended up in the hospital to get a pacemaker and was uncertain what was going to happen over the coming days, I ended up texting about 50 people to let them know what was happening, but there weren't any veterinarians on that list. I changed that when I started getting back into clinical medicine a couple of years ago. I started opening up to veterinarians with my compassion fatigue, burnout, and resiliency consulting work and made some close veterinary friends.

I realize now that earlier in my career I didn't feel congruent, that I had a bit of an imposter syndrome going on. I needed to be perfect, was afraid other veterinarians would judge me, and didn't want to reach out for help.

I vividly remember an incident when I volunteered at a shelter, after over a decade of doing no surgery, to do some spays and neuters. I failed to reach out and ask for help when my muscle memory failed me as I tried to knot the testicular vessels and spermatic cord. I must of messed with that cat for 10 minutes or longer, rather than ask for help. I felt ashamed.

Over the last year I've done some part-time clinical work with veterinarians nearby while I sharpened my rusty clinical skills. The imposter is nearly gone. I have developed a handful of veterinary friends I'm close enough to that I can talk with them about frustrating cases and clients. Nobody except a fellow veterinarian really understands what it's like to be a veterinarian. I cherish these relationships. Over the last couple of weeks I volunteered at Spay Neuter KC to hone my surgical skills, learned a new knot, renewed my muscle memory, and made another new veterinary friend. Now I'm working clinically full time. I feel more congruent now than ever before. The imposter has receded, not vanished, but has tremendously diminished.

If you relate to any of this and don't have veterinarians you can share your deepest thoughts with I hope you will find the courage to develop your own support network. If you don't know where to start on that, we will warmly welcome you to KCVMA meetings. And if you have some desire to give something back to your profession, consider serving as a KCVMA Board Member, especially if you have a Kansas Veterinary License. At this time I'm the only Kansas veterinarian on the KCVMA Board and as you now know, I'm looking for a few more veterinary friends!

## Kansas Veterinary Medical Association Health Insurance Plans

THE KVMA is offering members opportunities for health insurance as early as January 2018. Information about specific plans will be made available by November 1st. These plans will offer access to in-network providers outside of the state of Kansas and have no medical underwriting. Because these plans include a large group, pricing should be lower than individual and small group plans. In addition, KVMA members can also offer these plans to their employees and their dependents.

# Leptospirosis

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Leptospirosis is a disease state caused by aerobic, gram-negative spirochetes. Leptospirosis is a One Health issue and is the source of widespread global zoonosis. Leptospira bacteria can infect many different mammals and is often transmitted from the environment across mucosal membranes and broken skin. Dogs are more at risk than cats. Transmission to dogs most commonly occurs through contact with wildlife such as raccoons, deer, skunks and rodents or contaminated water sources. While common in the tropics, the bacteria can be found in temperate climates where it tends to be more seasonal in nature.

Of concern has been the increased number of incidences of leptospirosis in dogs in the United States. Traditionally dogs in the at-risk group were outdoor dogs, particularly hunting dogs, in warm, moist climates. New evidence suggests that dogs with no known exposure have tested positive for Leptospira. These dogs include small breed house dogs that only roam outdoors within the confines of a fenced backyard. Just this summer, several dogs were diagnosed with leptospirosis after attending a dog park in California. More than 50 dogs have been diagnosed in Arizona earlier this year. Other areas of higher incidence include New Jersey, Illinois, and Massachusetts.

The movement of suburbs into previously uninhabited areas may have contributed to increased exposure to dogs from wildlife – notably raccoons and skunks. Another contributing factor for the spread of leptospirosis incidence is climate change leading to increased temperatures and flooding. The increased number of dogs traveling and attending “social” events also has had an impact on the spread

of disease. Finally, the increased awareness and testing for the disease has contributed to the larger number of reported cases.

The clinical signs vary widely. Most dogs present for flu-like symptoms such as lethargy, inappetance, and fever. Other dogs present with signs of liver failure or renal disease. Testing for suspected leptospirosis cases should be a combination of PCR and antibody testing. Because of the wait time for PCR, any suspected leptospirosis case should be treated as such and hospital staff should use extreme caution when handling these patients, both for their own safety and the safety of other patients.

The CDC has published guidelines for the protection of pets and people from leptospirosis. These include rodent control and vaccination. The CDC also encourages owners to have their pet examined immediately if they suspect Leptospira contamination and to use caution when handling animal tissues and body fluids.

Leptospirosis is not a core vaccine. Traditionally the vaccine was only given to dogs considered at-risk – hunting and working dogs in endemic areas. However, many veterinarians are starting to routinely vaccinate against Leptospirosis regardless of the pet’s perceived lifestyle risks. Most vaccines are protective against multiple serovars and are labeled to protect for 12 months after an initial two vaccine booster period. Many clients are resistant to the idea of vaccinating for Leptospirosis because of the risk of vaccine reactions. Newer vaccines have shown to be no more reactive than other vaccines. The difficulty of diagnosis coupled with the range of clinical signs and zoonotic potential, may make prevention a better course.

## Missouri Legislative News

MO Senate Bill NO. 88 was passed to amend chapter 340, RSMo by adding a new section 340.285 reducing the statute of limitations for claims of malpractice or negligence against veterinarians treating animals to 2 years instead of 5 years. This section also covers any other entity providing veterinary services for animals and all employees acting in the course and scope of their employment.

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) Executive Board met on 9/17/17 to discuss membership changes. The Board created a task force to look at changing membership structure to practice based membership rather than individual memberships. The Board also passed a motion to have members pay a fee for the quarterly magazine rather than increase membership dues.

## NOVEMBER CE

Speaker: Jennifer Steele, DVM, DACVIM

CE: 4 (tentative)

Topics: 1. Kidney Disease in Dogs and Cats – How to make the most from an early diagnosis  
2. Urinalysis – Catching the stream of diagnostic information in your practice  
3. IFA, MIC, PCR – The ABC's of Diagnosing Infectious Diseases  
4. Case Studies

Location: Brio (Plaza)  
502 Nichols Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64112

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but **RSVP is required by November 8th**. Current membership dues cover all CE.

Sponsor: Idexx & KCVMA

Date: Sunday, November 12th

Time: **Registration:** 7am-8am

**Breakfast** will be served from 7:15am-8am

**Lectures** will start at 8am with short breaks between each lecture

**A sit-down family style lunch** will be served, and the final lecture will start around 12:15-12:30  
The event should be finished by 1:30pm



**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Dr. Steele graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada in 1997, followed by an internship at the University of Minnesota. After a short time working in general veterinary practice in Wisconsin, she completed her residency training in small-animal internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and received board certification in 2003. She worked at the University of Minnesota as an assistant clinical professor and then worked in a private referral practice before joining IDEXX as an internal medicine consultant in March 2005. Her interests include gastroenterology, infectious diseases and endocrinology disorders.

## JANUARY CE

Speaker: TBA

Location: TBA

Topics: Fear Free

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but **RSVP is required by January XX**. Current membership dues cover all CE.

Date: TBA

Time: 6:30pm – Dinner & Registration  
7pm – Presentation

Sponsor: Boehringer Ingelheim

CE: 2 (tentative)



**Classifieds**

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, or email them to [classifieds@kcvma.com](mailto: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.

Golden Valley Animal Clinic in Clinton Missouri is looking for a motivated, compassionate, client-oriented veterinarian to practice quality medicine and surgery. There are many opportunities to grow in a relaxed, fun work environment. Our team is friendly, enthusiastic and well Golden Valley Animal Clinic in Clinton Missouri is looking for a motivated, compassionate, client-oriented veterinarian to practice quality medicine and surgery. There are many opportunities to grow in a relaxed, fun work environment. Our team is friendly, enthusiastic and well trained. We are motivated to provide professional and quality care to our patients and clients while enjoying what we do each day. Signing Bonus, Generous compensation package, Flexible work schedule, Continuing education allowance, Full benefits including: Medical, dental, and vision insurance options, short and long term disability, 401(k) retirement plan, In-house laboratory, digital radiography, excellent, experienced staff. Please respond to [office@gvanimalclinic.com](mailto:office@gvanimalclinic.com).

Associate Veterinarian needed for a well-equipped, modern, AAHA accredited small animal practice in the Kansas City metro area. We practice quality medicine and surgery and emphasize client communication. No Sundays, no emergencies. 1 to 2 years experience preferred but not mandatory for the right candidate. Contact Dr. Wayne Hunthausen, Westwood Animal Hospital, 4820 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood, KS 66205, 913.362.2512, [wayneh42@aol.com](mailto:wayneh42@aol.com).

Registered veterinary technician wanted for a full service small animal hospital in Blue Springs. Our ideal candidate is reliable, friendly and a team player. Duties include blood draws, catheter placement, animal restraint, administration of vaccines, Surgery prep and assistance, anesthetic monitoring and more. With 5 veterinarians on staff, we are growing rapidly and need a motivated team member to help us continue to provide great care for our patients. Benefits include health insurance, 401k, paid vacation for full time employees. Please e-mail resumes with cover letter to [denise@cavanaughpet.com](mailto:denise@cavanaughpet.com)

Lakewood Animal Health Center is seeking a full or part-time veterinary assistant with at least 1 year of experience working in a hospital setting. We are a 4 doctor fast paced AAHA accredited practice that values our clients, patients and staff. Good communication skills, an ability to restrain in a compassionate manner, as well as being able to multi-task is a must. We have a highly skilled team that works together to offer the very best care for our clients and patients. We offer a competitive hourly wage and benefit package based on skills and experience. If you want to be part of this team please mail resume to Lakewood Animal Health Center at 5001 NE Lakewood Way Lee's Summit, MO 64064 or email to [lakewoodanimal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lakewoodanimal@sbcglobal.net) attention Dr. Sarah Golladay

Associate Veterinarian: Santa Fe Pet Clinic – Olathe, KS 66062. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Needed, Come Join Our "Family Feel" Small Animal Clinic. We are looking to grow our team with people who share our energy and enthusiasm for animals. We are a Small Animal Pet Clinic and we are looking for another Vet. We are family oriented, people and pet friendly and would love to add your talents to our clinic to create the best experience for our patients and our clients. You will be performing physical exams, administering vaccinations, handling daily appointments, re-checks, drawing blood, X-rays, consultations for surgical procedures, Laser Therapy, maintaining medical records, both written and electronic record keeping, call clients for follow up, possibly performing prophylaxis, surgical procedures, lab work, and training staff as needed in fear free handling of our clients. Must be licensed in Kansas. We are committed to providing the best care to pets as well as listening to our clients. Please call Paula at (913)782-2770 to talk more about the position or email to [paulasfpc@santafepetclinicolathe.com](mailto:paulasfpc@santafepetclinicolathe.com). Job Type: Part-time. Required education: Bachelor's. Required license or certification: DVM for Kansas.

Clinical Trial for Dogs with KCS! Eye Care for Animals Overland Park is enrolling cases. Dogs must be; healthy, have at least one eye affected, have STT  $\geq 5$  and  $\leq 15$  mm/min, have at least 2 clinical signs (hyperemia, blepharospasm, chemosis, discharge, corneal changes), be naïve to cyclosporine, tacrolimus, and parotid duct transposition, be on no ocular medications other than tear supplements. Visits at enrollment and weeks 1, 2, 4, and 6 for an ophthalmology exam, STT, and TBUT. Study medication and exam costs covered. Owners receive \$100 for participation and referring vets receive \$100 for each case enrolled.

**Classifieds**

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Part- or full-time veterinarian needed at Jackson County Animal Hospital in Independence, Missouri, near Kansas City. We see a wide variety of medical and surgical cases and have digital x-ray, an IDEXX in-house lab, tonometry, a panoptic ophthalmoscope, and an ultrasound unit. We believe strongly in collegial support and mentoring. Witty and good-natured staff support. After-hours cases directed to an emergency clinic. Excellent tacos and barbecue nearby! Salary commensurate with experience.

Two Dogs and a Cat Veterinary Clinic is seeking a Part-time Veterinarian to join our practice. We are located inside Two Dogs and a Cat Pet Club in the heart of Overland Park, KS. Two Dogs and a Cat is a premier Boarding, Daycare, Grooming and Veterinary Services. Our Veterinary Practice opened just 12 months ago and we are experiencing tremendous growth! Equipped with state of the art equipment (Full in-house IDEXX CBC/CHEM/LYTE/UA analyzers; DR radiology; Midmark U/S dental equipment, Cardell Monitors, etc). Our team will make you feel at home and embrace you to our club atmosphere! Our clients are loyal and committed to exceptional petcare! Competitive salary, benefits and bonus/shares opportunities!!!! Candidates should submit their resume to: [john@twodogsandacatpetclub.com](mailto:john@twodogsandacatpetclub.com) or contact John Cavalcanti – 615-974-5352

Blue Springs Animal Hospital & Pet Resort is seeking to add a full time veterinarian to our AAHA award-winning small animal hospital in Blue Springs, MO, a suburb of Kansas City. Excellent mentorship and learning opportunity for new/recent graduates working with an exceptional team of doctors. Our doctors and staff are “family” and we strive for a positive, fun, and supportive work environment. State of the art 12,000 sq ft facility, 10+ doctors, 45+ staff, ultrasound, video endoscopy, digital radiography, chemotherapy, wellness, internal medicine, dermatology, advanced orthopedic and soft tissue surgery. Competitive salary and benefits including health insurance, retirement plan, and paid CE. View our website at [www.bluespringsanimalhospital.com](http://www.bluespringsanimalhospital.com). Contact [drstark@bluespringsanimalhospital.com](mailto:drstark@bluespringsanimalhospital.com); 816-229-1544

Associate Veterinarian: Our Veterinary “Team” is looking for a veterinarian who fits the mission and unique environment of our progressive, fast growing full-service hospital. We have an excellent clientele who allow you to practice the best medicine/surgery for their pets. Mill Creek is an AAHA-accredited practice since 1990. The right addition to our team will thrive on client contact, client education, and thorough, preventative and diagnostic medicine. We have a complete Idexx in-house lab, new 400MA digital x-ray, digital dental x-ray, ultrasound, pulse ox, digital tonometry, Class IV Cold Therapy Laser, Cryo surgical unit, and more. Our hospital also offers boarding and professional grooming. We have a high staff/dr. ratio with enthusiastic, dedicated, well-trained members (including four RVT’s) to support you. Enjoy our beautiful suburban Kansas City location, great cost-of-living, and a flexible schedule. If you want to build a long-term career in a progressive, fast-growing hospital, and build a client base with us, then this position is for you. We offer an excellent compensation and benefits package (Safe Harbor 401k match, medical/dental/vision, \$1850 annual CE allowance, paid vacation, generous personal pet discounts, AAHA, AVMA, KVMA, KCVMA dues, VIN membership, Uniform Allowance) with increased salary as the practice grows. Long-term ownership goals are highly desired. Submit resume and cover letter to: Wendy | Mill Creek Animal Hospital, 13428 W. 62nd Terrace, Shawnee, KS 66216. 913-268-0900, [questions@millcreekah.com](mailto:questions@millcreekah.com), [www.millcreekah.com](http://www.millcreekah.com)