



# news&notes

September/October 2018



## Parts of Kansas at High Risk for West Nile Virus

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Just like tick-borne diseases mentioned in another article within this newsletter, mosquito-borne illnesses are on the rise. West Nile is the most commonly reported mosquito-borne illness and has been reported in all states within the continental US. A high-risk warning for infection by the West Nile virus was issued by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment last month. The warning includes North Central, South Central and Southwest Kansas with the rest of the state considered at moderate risk. The virus is a threat to humans and horses and is spread by mosquitoes. Not all infections cause clinical signs and few infections can result in death. There is no cure or vaccine for people although a vaccine is available for horses.

Prevention of infection by the West Nile virus centers around mosquito control and avoidance. Namely, protect yourself from mosquitoes with repellants containing DEET, picaridin, lemon eucalyptus oil or IR3535. Avoid activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active or, if you must be outdoors during this time, consider covering yourself with long pants and long sleeves in addition to repellants. Also, eliminate sources of standing water on

your property and be sure to empty and refresh pet and livestock water sources regularly to prevent them from becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Horses should be vaccinated as well.

Most infected humans show no signs of the illness. Most humans that do show symptoms of West Nile virus report fever, headache, body aches and skin rash. Few affected people have severe symptoms including coma, tremors, convulsions and, ultimately, death. The most common symptom of infected horses is lack of coordination and ataxia. Other symptoms can include anorexia, depression, disorientation, falling down and total paralysis.

Infections occur most frequently in late summer/early fall. From 1999-2017, 600 cases of West Nile have been reported in Kansas with 30 of those resulting in death. You can stay up-to-date on the current risk for infection in Kansas by visiting the KDHE's West Nile Virus website regularly at [http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral\\_disease.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral_disease.htm). More information on mosquito control and prevention can be found on the CDC's pages dedicated to mosquito control at <https://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/>.

## FDA Exploring Potential Link Between Heart Disease and Diet

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

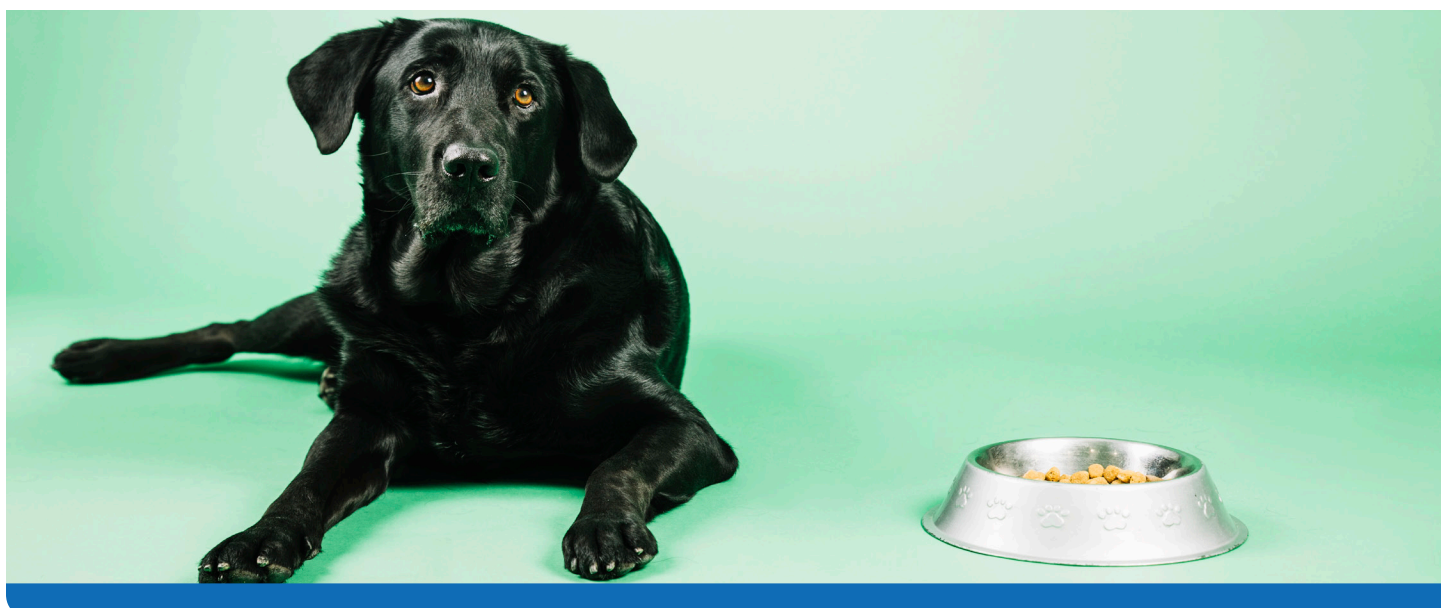
Recent clinical reports have prompted the FDA to conduct further investigation into the links between diet and heart disease. The FDA is expressing concerns about a possible link between DCM in dog breeds not traditionally predisposed to the disease and diets with legumes, such as lentils and peas, or potatoes as main ingredients. The FDA released a public notification on July 12, 2018 after receiving several reports possibly relating DCM in atypical breeds – 30 dogs and 7 cats – with diet. Since then, several more reports have come in from the veterinary community.

Dr. Lisa Freeman with Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University began seeing a connection with dilated cardiomyopathy with diet, specifically boutique diets. Dr. Freeman recently contributed to a blog associated with the university about a case involving a dog that was successfully treated for DCM with change of diet. The article can be accessed at <http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2018/06/a-broken-heart-risk-of-heart-disease-in-boutique-or-grain-free-diets-and-exotic-ingredients/>.

Previously, a known link had been established between DCM and taurine deficiency, but many dogs that develop the disease have normal levels of taurine. The Morris Animal Foundation is also funding a study on DCM and has found a suspected link between Golden Retrievers and increased

incidence of DCM. At this time an exact cause for the link has not been determined. Researchers at this time are trying to determine a genetic link associated with the ability to make taurine. More information on this study can be found at the following link on the Morris Animal Foundation website, <https://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/article/researchers-getting-closer-understanding-dietary-aurine-and-heart-disease-dogs>.

Dr. Freeman recommends that owners of pets that have been diagnosed with DCM file a report with the FDA through The Department of Health and Human Services. She also recommends that owners choose their pet's food by choosing a manufacturer with a long track record that uses more conventional ingredients vs. Small-batch manufacturers and exotic ingredients such as kangaroo, fava beans, tapioca and chickpeas to name a few. Dr. Freeman suggests that these exotic ingredients are no better for your pet than traditional ingredients and may, in fact, be harder to break down into the components your pet needs for healthy function. She also recommends avoiding grain free diets as food allergies are uncommon and grains provide a healthy source of vitamins, minerals and protein. Dr. Freeman also recommends that owners let their veterinarian know if their pet is on a boutique or grain free diet, especially if there is concern for heart disease.



# Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases on the Rise

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The CDC reports vector borne disease in humans has tripled in the past 13 years with 75% of these cases reported from tick-borne diseases. Lyme disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease of humans in the United States and its geographic range is growing. Once a disease of a few Northeastern states, the black-legged tick species that carry the bacteria causing Lyme disease is now found in about 50% of U.S. counties. The problem with these statistics is that they may be underrepresenting the actual number of incidences of tick-borne disease. Testing for specific diseases (especially Lyme) is problematic and many cases are not reported by victims or not diagnosed by doctors. Tracking of the ticks' geographic range is also difficult as many entities do not have established tick surveillance programs.

Pets are often the link between ticks in the environment and their contact with humans. A dog that is not properly protected against ticks can easily bring ticks into the home, making it vulnerable to infestation and exposing the humans that live there.

The CDC suggests reasons behind the increase in tick-borne disease include the increased mobility of society, climate change, and inadequate prevention efforts on the state and federal levels. Diagnostics for Lyme disease test for antibodies, which may not show up until 4 to 6 weeks of infection. Because of this, physicians and veterinarians routinely begin treatment for suspected Lyme cases without confirming diagnosis and thus, often do not report such cases. To counter these issues, new methods of diagnosing Lyme and a new vaccine for humans is on the horizon. In the meantime, officials recommend tick control as the best method for preventing tick-borne diseases. This includes protecting pets against ticks not only for their health but to prevent the spread of ticks and tick-borne diseases to humans.

A recent article discusses risks of tick exposure for pet owners and found that pet owners were twice



as likely to find ticks crawling on them and 1.5 times more risk of tick attachment compared to non-pet owners. This is especially of concern for people living in disease endemic areas. However, also of note is that people are traveling with their pets now more than ever. With the end of the summer school holiday and the beginning of cooler weather, many people will continue to take trips for outdoor activities and bring the family dog with them. Depending on the location and activity, ticks can be a very real threat. A good example of the the effect our mobile society has on ticks is the recent discovery of an Asian species of tick in the United States. At this point it is unknown the significance of this discovery, but the Longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) has been found in several states and is known to carry zoonotic disease in Asia, Australia and New Zealand, but currently has not been found to carry pathogens here in the United States.

It is important to remind people of the importance of good tick prevention for their pet especially if traveling to areas where tick-borne disease is a known threat. Even with tick prevention on board, it is a good habit for owners to carefully examine their pet for ticks, particularly if those pets spend a large amount of time in the home with owners. In addition, people should take measures to protect themselves and their children before participating in outdoor activities in areas where ticks are likely to be found.

## D-Con Rodenticide Changes Active Ingredient

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

As of early this year, D-Con brand rodenticide for home use began switching the active ingredient from a 1st generation warfarin-like anticoagulant to Cholecalciferol (vitamin D3). In 2011, the EPA passed new regulations for rodenticide manufacturers. Previous to this legislation, D-Con used a 2nd generation anticoagulant (brodifacoum) that was not allowed for residential use after the new regulations. Initially, D-Con switched to a 1st generation anticoagulant, but realized that the chemical took longer to work and was more likely to create resistance among rodents. This left the choice between bromethalin and cholecalciferol. Since bromethalin is a neurotoxicant with no known antidote, the company opted to use cholecalciferol as the active ingredient as it had better safety for children and pets.

The new product is a “soft block” that is contained in a thin, perforated plastic wrapper. The blocks are extremely palatable and may be attractive to pets. Each block contains about 11mg of cholecalciferol, which is a toxic dose to most animals under 35 pounds. If a pet presents for ingestion of D-Con bait, be sure to accurately identify the ingredient either by packaging or by the appearance of the soft block as not all of the older anticoagulant bait blocks have been phased out.

For veterinarians, this means a whole new diagnostic and treatment profile for pets that ingest the D-Con rodenticide. Cholecalciferol causes hypercalcemia, hyperphosphatemia and, ultimately, renal failure in pets. Chronic exposure can cause calcification of organs in both

dogs and cats. If an animal ingests a cholecalciferol-based product, emesis and activated charcoal can help minimize absorption in the GI tract if acted on quickly after ingestion. Early clinical signs usually include GI signs such as anorexia, vomiting and diarrhea. Pets can also present with lethargy and PU/PD. These early signs usually occur within 12-36 hours post ingestion.

Post-ingestion monitoring includes calcium and phosphorous levels as well as renal values. Ionized calcium levels are preferred over total calcium if possible. Increases in calcium and phosphorous levels can occur between 12-72 hours after ingestion. Watch for total calcium levels > 12.5 mg/dL or ionized calcium levels > 5.4 mg/dL. Metastatic mineralization can occur within 3-7 days. Risk for soft tissue mineralization occurs when the product of calcium and phosphorous is greater than 60. The dosage for clinical signs is as low as 0.1mg/kg in cats and dogs. Fluids and diuresis of calcium are important as well as phosphate binders if indicated. In some cases, treatment can take weeks to months before the pet is back to normal levels.

It is also worth mentioning that Vitamin D supplements for humans are often even more toxic than rodenticides containing the ingredient. One of the most popular forms of Vitamin D is found in psoriasis creams, which are often ingested when a dog chews on the tube. For more information on treating cholecalciferol toxicity, Pet Poison Helpline has an archived continuing education webinar that can be accessed at <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/webinar/rodenticide-revolution/>.

## Kansas Agriculture Emergency Response Corps Seeking Volunteers

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is seeking volunteers to join the Kansas Agricultural Emergency Response Corps (KAERC). Volunteers provide support during large-scale agricultural emergencies. The organization is looking for a wide range of skill sets and will train volunteers in emergency response. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age to be eligible for the KAERC. More information can be obtained online at [agriculture.ks.gov/KAERC](http://agriculture.ks.gov/KAERC) or by contacting the KAERC Program Manager, David Hogg via email at [david.hogg@ks.gov](mailto:david.hogg@ks.gov) or by telephone at 785-564-7468.

## OCTOBER CE

Speaker: Dr. Todd McCracken

Topics: Why Everyone Should Be  
Uptight About The Bite!

Date: Thursday, October 18th, 2018

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

CE: 1 Hour

Location: Cascone's

3737 N. Oak

Kansas City, MO 64116

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but **RSVP is required by October 15th.**

Current membership dues cover all CE.

Sponsor:



**PLEASE REGISTER AT [HTTPS://KCVMA.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/EVENT-3043276](https://KCVMA.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/EVENT-3043276)**

Dr. Todd McCracken attained his BS and DVM degrees from Kansas State University. After graduation 1993, he spent a short time as a mixed animal practitioner in Illinois, gaining experience with large-scale production facilities.

Electing to return to the Kansas City area, he pursued an emphasis in companion animal medicine, joining a small animal practice as a general practitioner for 6 years. During that time, he also owned and operated a critical care facility for 2 years. He then became a Chief of Staff and Hospital Director in a multi-location companion animal hospital, where he broadened his management focus, opening a hospital in the Kansas City area, in 1998.

He became an industry veterinarian for Fort Dodge Animal Health in April of 1999 as a manager in the Professional Services division, having primary responsibilities and emphasis in the companion animal technical support arena. In April of 2001, he was promoted to Manager of Corporate Accounts, providing technical support for one of Fort Dodge Animal Health's largest companion animal corporate accounts. In May of 2004, he was again promoted, becoming the Associate Director of Corporate Accounts, coordinating all educational processes and interactions between FDAH and these corporate accounts.

Following the acquisition of the FDAH assets by Boehringer Ingelheim in 2009, Dr. McCracken served as a technical resource for corporate accounts. In 2012, he became a Senior Professional Services Veterinarian for the North Central Region, traveling the country to provide educational support to private practitioners and pet owners.

He joined Ceva Animal Health in April of 2017, serving as a Veterinary Services Manager for the North Central Region.

He resides in a suburb of Kansas City with his wife of 25 years, Chris, along with their 2 children, Megan and Madison. They have 2 small Yorkies, named "Molly" and "Harley".



**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.

The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, a 501 c3 non-profit organization is currently seeking a part-time veterinarian to join our team. This doctor would work in our public service veterinary clinic which targets underserved/low income populations. We offer a wide range of services to our public clientele including wellness care, management of acute and chronic disease, dentistry, radiology and HVHQS surgical services. Our clinic also provides veterinary service for KCK Animal Services and our own HSGKC shelter pets. Come help us save and improve the lives of animals and in the Greater Kansas City area! Mentorship for new graduates is available. Please send resume and/or CV submissions to [walker@hsgkc.org](mailto:walker@hsgkc.org)

Our Veterinary Assistants deliver outstanding patient and client care by ensuring the safety, comfort and well-being of all the pets in our hospital. The Veterinary Assistants provide front-line pet care as well as assisting nurses and doctors in the treatment room. This is an entry level position with the opportunity for additional training and growth within the clinic. Our pets are our number one responsibility and priority. Some of the duties of this position include: Assisting in the treatment room, Safe restraint of animals for medical treatment, Cleaning and maintenance of facility, Restocking of supplies, Care for animals in kennel area, Basic grooming of pets, All other kennel duties associated with care of pets in our facility. We are searching for people with a passion for pets! If you love pets, come join our team. This job requires the ability to stand, walk, stoop, kneel, crouch and climb as well as manipulate (lift, carry, move) up to 40 pounds. This job requires good hand-eye coordination, arm-hand-finger dexterity with the ability to reach and grasp, and the visual acuity to use a keyboard, operate equipment and read information. Employees are routinely exposed to a variety of pets that may bite or scratch, and on occasion, could be exposed to anesthesia, radiation, biological hazards and medications. Please come by our hospital during normal business hours to fill out an application. Applicants wishing to speak with a hiring supervisor should come between the hours of 8-10am or 2-4pm on M/T/R/F. We appreciate your interest in the position. Our office is located at 800 E. 63rd Street, KC, MO 64110, in the Brookside area. Practice Type: Small Animal Salary: \$8-\$10/hr

Hawthorne Animal Hospital, located in south Overland Park/Leawood is looking for a full-time DVM to join our team. Location and clientele can't be beat! We offer digital xray, in-house Idexx lab, ultrasound etc. No emergency hours, on-call on weekends for in-house kennel only. Looking for someone interested in longevity. Benefits package included. Send resume to [annbrowndvm@yahoo.com](mailto:annbrowndvm@yahoo.com).

Three Trails Animal Hospital in Independence, MO seeks a full time associate veterinarian to join our busy, four doctor companion animal practice. We are looking for an individual to join our "work family" that will strive to provide exceptional medicine and service to our clients and patients.

- Collaborative medicine with mentoring available for new grads.
- Work with a team that is friendly and efficient, high RVT/Dr. ratio, low turn-over, excellent teamwork
- New ultrasound, digital x-ray, cold laser, full in-house lab
- Competitive salary, generous benefits package including, medical/dental/liability insurance, CE/uniform allowance, paid time off, paid assoc. dues and profit sharing

If you are interested in joining a team that is committed to providing comprehensive, high quality care, emphasizing exceptional service to both clients and patients as well as a commitment to providing employees with desirable, fulfilling, and rewarding employment please contact Vicki Moore, Practice Manager at [vicki@threetrailsah.com](mailto:vicki@threetrailsah.com) or call 816-252-5105.

The Emergency Animal Clinic of Topaka (EACT) is seeking an associate veterinarian to share shifts with our full time associate. Available hours are 20 to 30 per week. We operate week nights from 5:30 to midnight, weekends Saturday noon through Midnight Sunday as well as holidays. Salary range is \$50k to \$60k per year. Idexx ProCyte lab, digital X-ray, two exam rooms, fully equipped surgery suite, Treatment room, Avimark computer system. Send inquiries to Dr. Peckham: [dbpeckdvm@yahoo.com](mailto:dbpeckdvm@yahoo.com). D. Bryce Peckham DVM [dbpeckdvm@yahoo.com](mailto:dbpeckdvm@yahoo.com)

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Ark Animal Hospital is growing and doing exciting things! We are an AAHA accredited hospital with two locations. Our main hospital is located in the Liberty, MO suburb with an additional location just within Kansas City limits. We have 3 veterinarians ready to provide excellent mentorship in a supportive atmosphere. We also have 8 full time veterinary technicians to help support our patients and DVMs. Advanced diagnostics (digital radiography, ultrasonography, echocardiography, arthroscopy, lab), treatments (chemotherapy, regenerative medicine, rehabilitation and underwater treadmill), and progressive soft tissue and orthopedic surgeries (including the new CBLO cruciate technique) are all available. We are certified in rehabilitation (CCRP and CCRT), pain management (IVAPM), Cat Friendly, and Fear Free. We are always looking for ways to improve our gold standard approach! Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Dr. Cole Tucker at [ark.drtucker@outlook.com](mailto:ark.drtucker@outlook.com) or mail resume to 940 Sutton Pl, Liberty, MO 64068. View our website at [www.arkvetofliberty.com](http://www.arkvetofliberty.com) for more information. Experienced associates or new graduates. Full time and part time positions will be considered.

Experienced Veterinary Technician Wanted: Rockhill Pet Clinic is a unique small animal practice in Kansas City, MO. We are currently seeking to add a positive and motivated individual to our team to fill a Full Time position for an Experienced Technician/ Registered Veterinary Technician position. This position offers competitive compensation, benefits and an opportunity for professional growth and continuing education. For consideration, please send a copy of your resume Attn: Hope Peters to [rockhillpetclinic@rockhillpetclinic.com](mailto:rockhillpetclinic@rockhillpetclinic.com). Primary Responsibilities Include: Assisting the doctor in exam rooms and the treatment room, Overseeing hospitalized patients, Overseeing boarding pets, Managing the In House patient list, Assisting with Nurse appointments, Assisting with anesthesia as needed, Filling prescriptions, Performing outbound calls to clients, Performing research as assigned by doctors, Maintaining the treatment room and equipment, General cleaning, restocking and inventory duties as assigned. For the right candidate, this position offers an opportunity for personal and professional development, and an atmosphere that encourages and fosters continual learning. If this sounds like the right fit for you, come and join our team!

Seeking a part time veterinarian in the North Kansas City area at Animal Clinic of the Woodlands. Days are flexible. We are a full service facility with veterinary care, boarding, and grooming. Our staff is fun and energetic and our clients are very caring and compliant. The clinic has brand new IDEXX equipment, digital xrays, laser therapy, hydrotherapy and much more. Please email resume to [llmrb@gmail.com](mailto:llmrb@gmail.com) or call 8168536589 for more information.

Live and work in beautiful Lawrence, Kansas. Animal Hospital of Lawrence, an AAHA-accredited, small animal practice in the vibrant college town of Lawrence, Kansas, is seeking to add one full-time or part-time veterinarian to keep up with our continued growth. We offer competitive salary open to bonus opportunity; generous benefits, including matching retirement plan; vacation; and paid continuing education. Starting salary commensurate with experience. For more information or to submit CV, contact [ahlawrence1@yahoo.com](mailto:ahlawrence1@yahoo.com).

At Two Dogs and a Cat Veterinary Clinic we are seeking full-time and/or part-time veterinarians to join our practice. We are committed to building a resilient team. We are located inside Two Dogs and a Cat Pet Club in the heart of Overland Park, KS at 119th and Metcalf. Two Dogs and a Cat is a premier facility for Boarding, Daycare, Grooming, and Veterinary Services. Our Veterinary Practice opened just a couple years ago. We are experiencing tremendous growth! We embrace Fear Free techniques and are moving toward Fear Free certification. Equipped with state of the art tools (Full in-house IDEXX CBC/CHEM/LYTE/UA analyzers; DR radiology; Midmark U/S dental equipment, Cardell Monitors, etc). Our clients are loyal and committed to exceptional pet care! Competitive salary, benefits, and bonus opportunities! Please email your resume to [drtad@twodogsandacatpetclub.com](mailto:drtad@twodogsandacatpetclub.com).

Crest Animal Hospital is looking for a part time veterinarian to work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and two Saturdays a month. We are a full service animal hospital that provides high quality surgery, medicine, and preventative care. We are conveniently located in south Kansas City with easy highway access. We are currently a three doctor practice with 4 veterinary technicians/ veterinary assistants. This position includes full time benefits including paid vacation, continuing education, etc. We are always looking to expand the services we offer. If you have an interest in something we don't do, we can incorporate it in our practice. Please email resumes or contact John R Lyle DVM at [crest1313@outlook.com](mailto:crest1313@outlook.com) or by phone at 816-763-1313.