



# news&notes

November/December 2018

## Connection Between Noise Anxiety and Pain in Dogs

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The University of Lincoln in the UK recently published a report highlighting the potential association of dogs with noise phobia and pain. Researchers found a connection between the exacerbation of existing musculoskeletal pain by a dog tensing up or jumping during a loud noise, which may lead to future phobias associated with that noise, event or location. The study was performed using the established finding in human medicine of the relationship between painful conditions and fear-related avoidance. In dogs with noise phobias related to pain, the average onset of the condition was nearly 4 years later than the control group (dogs with noise phobia and no painful conditions). Dogs identified to have phobias associated with a painful condition seemed to improve with treatment of pain.

The study was conducted by studying two groups of dogs. The control group included dogs with diagnosed noise phobias with no diagnosed musculoskeletal conditions. The study group included dogs that had been diagnosed with musculoskeletal pain and noise phobia. Average age of the control group was 4 years 7 months and average age in the study group was 5 years 7 months. The type of noise identified as the primary complaint was identified as "loud"

noises or fireworks. This study concludes that any phobia that develops over time or behavior change that occurs over time should warrant an investigation for an underlying medical problem. This study focused solely on dogs diagnosed with an underlying musculoskeletal problem and did not explore any other sources of chronic pain. The researchers also acknowledge that even if pain is the underlying cause of the phobia, it may take training and conditioning to overcome the learned behavior of fearfulness even though the pain has been controlled.

The researchers acknowledge that other causes of noise sensitivity do exist. Previous studies have linked a higher prevalence to noise phobias based on breed, sex, hormones, trauma and training, among other factors. This study does not seek to disregard these underlying causes, only to point out that there may be a more serious, and potentially treatable, underlying condition that is worth investigating. The researchers suggest that any dog presenting for a development of phobias over time, but thoroughly evaluated for pain.

The article was published in February of this year in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* and can be accessed online at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5816950/>.

## KCVMA 2019 Membership Renewal Reminder

An organization is only as strong as its members, and KCVMA is most certainly going strong! As 2018 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.

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. Life members must complete this process to maintain their complimentary membership. If you would prefer to renew via email please feel free to contact Wanda Geis ([wgeis@kcvma.com](mailto:wgeis@kcvma.com)).

## California First State to Allow Vets to Discuss Cannabis with Clients

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The California state Senate approved bill AB 2215 that protects licensed veterinary practitioners from disciplinary action for discussing the therapeutic use of marijuana in animals. Jerry Brown, the Governor of California signed AB 2215 this past September. One of the big concerns leading up to this bill, is the fact that dispensaries are selling products marketed toward animals, but no one in the veterinary community has been allowed to give advice on their use. The bill does not give veterinarians the ability to dispense or administer cannabis or its products to patients.

Federal government outlaws marijuana and no state laws address the use of cannabis in veterinary settings. Therefore, there is no precedent for veterinarians to advocate the use or prescribe cannabis in the use of veterinary patients. This lack of clarity potentially makes veterinarians subject of DEA prosecution for even discussing the use of cannabis in a patient.

The California bill requires the state veterinary board to develop guideline for practitioners when discussing cannabis with their clients. This legislation will protect veterinarians from disciplinary actions for discussing cannabis with clients, but prohibits conflicts of interest with cannabis licensees. Previously the California Veterinary Medical Board position was that veterinarians were in violation if the incorporated cannabis in to practice, including the recommendation or approval of

marijuana for treatment of animals.

While there are no protections in place for veterinarians elsewhere, there are also no direct prohibitions against discussing cannabis with clients. The Colorado Veterinary Medical Association, for example, has a position statement that argues that veterinarians are obligated to provide complete education on the risks and benefits of marijuana products as used for animal health.

Although it is slow going, other states are considering legislation regarding the use of marijuana in the veterinary medical field. In March, bill A10104 was introduced in the New York Assembly to authorize veterinarians to prescribe medical marijuana to patients. As yet this bill has no senate sponsor. Nevada is also considering legislation pertaining to veterinary use of cannabis products.

While there are no laws permitting the use or providing regulation of the sale or manufacture of cannabis products in pets, there is ongoing research on use and efficacy of these products in pets. In July, The Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research published research on the pharmacokinetics of cannabidiol in dogs. Another paper published in Frontiers in Veterinary Science describes a clinical trial at Cornell University where researchers found that cannabidiol can help dogs with osteoarthritis. This paper can be accessed at <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2018.00165/full>.

## The Grooming Project

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The Grooming Project is a program that trains single parents to be credentialed groomers, which gives them a valuable trade skill. Having an in-demand skill allows them to sustain their families into the future. The program is a state-certified school and requires students to complete 644 classroom hours and complete an internship in a commercial salon. The Grooming Project is a pilot program of EPEC (Empowering the Parent to Empower the Child), a non-profit based in Kansas City, MO. To help give students more experience, the program offers reduced rate grooming appointments at their location in Kansas City. For more information, visit <https://thegroomingproject.org>. For an overview of how EPEC and The Grooming Project help impoverished families, watch this presentation on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dKURCmPVX8>

## Telehealth as an Extension of Practice

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Telemedicine and telehealth has been a hot topic in human medicine and is now becoming a discussion in veterinary medicine. The AVMA recently set up a resource page to cover topics in telehealth and telehealth has been a subject of lectures at all major veterinary conferences across the country.

Telehealth is a broad term that includes the use of technology for the remote delivery of health information or education. This can include, but is not at all limited to, the use of text, email or websites to communicate with clients. Telemedicine falls underneath the umbrella of telehealth and describes the use of technology to exchange medical information about a patient's health status from one location to another. An email from a client containing pictures of a surgery incision in place of an actual in-clinic recheck visit is also considered telemedicine. Another subcategory of telehealth is teleconsulting between doctors, such as sending radiographs to an off-site radiologist for review.

The concept of telehealth is not new, but its impacts are becoming more far-reaching than before. The AVMA House of Delegates recently developed a policy on telemedicine to help define and guide this trend. Most important in this new policy is the need for an existing VCPR (veterinary client-patient relationship) before a telemedicine consult can be conducted. This policy also acknowledges the importance of emergency teletriage outside of a VCPR, such as poison control, but does not advocate remote consulting for the public with the intention to diagnose or treat outside of a VCPR.

Of the many advantages of telehealth, perhaps the one with the most impact is the ability to increase communication with our clients. Many clients, particularly millennials, prefer electronic communication over in-person visits or telephone calls. One survey study showed that 85% of pet owners find communication with a veterinarian via telehealth to be an appealing concept. Human medical patients have said they will change physicians to get access to teleconferencing. It is only a matter of time before this trend transfers over to veterinary medicine.

While there is clearly a demand and a use for telemedicine, remote medicine does have its limitations in veterinary medicine. Many times an owner's description or assumption is not actually what is going on with the patient. Or non-specific signs are present that require a physical examination to achieve a proper diagnosis. For example, a coughing poodle or a hacking cat could have any one of a multitude of diagnoses.

If you are considering implementing telemedicine or broadening your use of telemedicine, do your research. Check with your state's specific requirements for VCPR, review the AVMA guidance and check any federal laws, particularly those pertaining to prescribing drugs. It is a good idea to have a legal consultation before implementing any telemedicine program. For more information on where to start, the AVMA has set up a resource page for telehealth and telemedicine at <https://www.avma.org/PracticeManagement/telehealth/Pages/default.aspx>. This site includes practice act information, case studies and ideas for implementation of telehealth into your practice.

## KVMA Health Insurance Plan

The Kansas Veterinary Medical Association has developed a Health and Wellness Plan to provide health insurance to members across the nation. The plan is now available for 2019 coverage. The plan includes a nationwide provider network with lower deductibles and zero co-pay for generic prescriptions. The plan is available to any KVMA member and employees. Participation is \$22/month. More information can be found at <https://ksvma.org/healthwellnessplan/>.

# The Opioid Shortage – Alternative Drugs

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Although its impact has been felt in the realm of human medicine, the current opioid shortage has been especially frustrating for veterinarians. The shortage is, for the most part, a result of lack of production by a single manufacturer. Pfizer is currently suspending production due to a plant overhaul in Kansas. The catastrophic hurricanes in Puerto Rico have also taken some production off-line, leaving the burden to be shouldered by the other remaining manufacturers. In addition, the DEA is proposing a decrease in the already reduced manufacturing quotas for frequently abused opioids to help mitigate the current human opioid crisis. This impacts veterinary medicine as well since most of the drugs are also used in veterinary procedures.

Thankfully there are a few veterinary only products that are still in production and haven't been affected by the limits on production for human medicine. Zoetis produces butorphanol and Simbadol for veterinary use. Butorphanol can work for mildly painful procedures that can be completed quickly. It works much better when combined with other analgesia such as dexmedetomidine. Simbadol is the brand name of a long-acting buprenorphine. It is licensed to be a 24-hour pain relief for cats. The labeled dose is to be given subcutaneously. Do not give the labeled dose intramuscularly. However, Simbadol can be used off-label in feline or canine patients at the same dosage and administration route as regular buprenorphine at a dose of 0.02mg/kg to give pain relief for a duration of about 6 hours.

Outside of opioids for pain relief, pain can be relieved and avoided by alternative pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical approaches. Of course, NSAIDs can often be used to help lessen pain, but in extremely painful procedures, other measures are necessary. Consider the use of gabapentin pre- and post-operatively to help reduce wound pain from surgical interventions. Dexmedetomidine and ketamine also have analgesic properties, particularly when combined with opioids. These medications are also useful as CRIs in hospitalized surgical patients. Cerenia may also provide mild visceral analgesia and certainly can help to control discomfort of nausea induced by anesthesia



or surgical manipulation when given pre-operatively. Local blocks can reduce or eliminate the need for opiates as a method of analgesia in surgical patients. Nocita is an extended release bupivacaine with a 72 hour duration of action. It is licensed for use in cruciate surgeries, but is used off-label in any surgery where bupivacaine is used.

Non pharmaceutical options also exist. Cryotherapy with or without compression can help reduce pain for up to 24 hours. Acupuncture can also be used to reduce pain in certain situations. Therapeutic laser can have been shown to reduce inflammation and speed up healing. Laser therapy is not advisable with local anesthetics. Good surgical techniques as well as minimally invasive approaches are also a key component of reducing and preventing surgical pain.

A good starting point to help with development of multi-modal pain management protocols is AAHA's Pain Management Guidelines. For an overview of dosing, pharmacokinetics and uses of other pain medications, watch Dr. Garret Pachtinger's blog post on the VetGirl website (<https://vetgirlontherun.com/alternative-analgesic-options-with-the-opioid-shortage-vetgirl-veterinary-continuing-education-blog/>). Another resource for advice is to consult with an Anesthesiologist at your local specialty or teaching hospital. While opioids definitely have their place in analgesia and anesthesia, there are alternatives to help prioritize their use in the current environment of shortages.

## NOVEMBER CE

Speakers: Robert M. DuFort, DVM, DACVIM  
Fritz Wood

Date: Sunday, November 18th

Time: **Breakfast & Registration:** 7am-8am  
**Lectures:** 8am  
**Lunch:** 12:15pm

CE: 5 Hours

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

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but **RSVP is required by November 11th**. Current membership dues cover all CE.

Sponsor: Idexx



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

### TOPICS:

- 1 Reticulocytes Count: Why they are more important than just classifying Anemia (1 hour)**
- 2 CRP: Whats your Superpower? Detect & Monitor Systemic Inflammation in Dogs in Real Time (1 hour)**
- 3 Shedding Light on Intestinal Parasites: Catching what you don't want to catch (1 hour)**
- 4 Doing Well by Doing Good:**  
Get the Latest in Preventive Care Best Practices in the Laboratory (1 hour)

### ROBERT M. DUFORT, DVM, DACVIM

Dr. DuFort received his DVM from the University of California, Davis, in 1980. He completed internships in small-animal medicine and surgery at Sacramento Animal Medical, followed by a small-animal internal medicine residency at Cornell University and residencies in clinical pathology, microbiology, and pathology at University of California, Davis. He is currently a senior internal medicine consultant with IDEXX.

### FRITZ WOOD

Wood owns and operates an animal health consulting practice in Lenexa, KS. He has focused exclusively on the veterinary profession for nearly 30 years, conducting important research examining veterinary productivity and attributes of high-performing practices. As a business content expert and key opinion leader, he has authored dozens of articles, contributed to books and online courses, and presented to veterinarians throughout the world.

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**Extra Income for DVMs:** The Independent Veterinary Network (IVN) is now accepting applications for veterinarians licensed in any state to become affiliated providers in our VirtualVets telehealth service. Work from any location with Internet access. Our focus is on delivering quality companion animal healthcare via live video with pet owners. VirtualVets supports our IVN member's local practices and is fully VCPR compliant. Hours are flexible and compensation is guaranteed. Send inquires to [msilvius@independentvetnet.com](mailto:msilvius@independentvetnet.com) or visit [independentvetnet.com](http://independentvetnet.com) for more information.

Westwood Animal Hospital is seeking an experienced, compassionate veterinary technician to join our busy three-doctor AAHA practice. Good client communication skills are a must. Job responsibilities include assisting veterinarians with anesthetic and medical procedures, operating laboratory equipment, nursing care of hospitalized patients, admitting and discharging patients, maintenance and cleaning of medical equipment and stocking and cleaning of examination rooms. We have digital XR, digital dental XR, a new IM3 dental, and in-house lab equipment with upgrades on the way. Benefits include a 401K program, paid continuing education, supplemental insurance, paid holidays, personal days and a personal pet discount. Our employment application and information about our hospital can be found at: <http://westwoodanimalhospital.com/front-page/forms-2/job-application-form>

Willow Hill Animal Clinic has a Kennel Assistant/Vet Tech Assistant position available. We are excited to offer the position to a qualified applicant. Here at Willow Hill Animal Clinic we offer paid holidays, paid vacations, IRA contributions, discount pet services, after six months employment. This position is a part/ full time position and compensation is based upon experience. Willow Hill Animal Clinic is located at 9339 North Oak Traffic way, Kansas City, Mo. 64155. You can email your resume to [whac2000@gmail.com](mailto:whac2000@gmail.com)

Full time VA or RVT – Raymore Veterinary Center is a busy three doctor practice located just south of Kansas City in the growing community of Raymore, MO. We are seeking an energetic & enthusiastic veterinary assistant or RVT to join our team. We are looking for someone who has excellent customer service skills, is very comfortable and confident around dogs and cats of all breeds, sizes and temperaments, who can meet the physical demands of assigned duties, and work Saturday's. We offer competitive salary plus paid vacation and a fantastic work environment.

Job Duties Include (but are not limited to): Client interaction (telephone, check-in and check-out), assisting veterinary staff, care for hospitalized patients, assisting and preparing for surgery, venipuncture, catheter placement, radiology, and working in the laboratory and pharmacy. Please e-mail your resume to [raymorevc@gmail.com](mailto:raymorevc@gmail.com) or apply in person with your resume at: Raymore Veterinary Center, 411 Remington Plaza Ct., Raymore, MO 64083

**Seeking Registered Veterinary Technician.** We are seeking an RVT licensed in Kansas to join our team in a rapidly growing practice in the heart of Johnson County. We are a well-equipped practice with all the tools necessary to practice high-quality medicine and surgery. We are a relationship-centered practice that is employee focused. We utilize Matrix Teams to develop and lead the practice's core philosophies, mission, and culture. We provide a highly competitive wage, full medical, vision, dental, 401k, employee discounts, paid vacation, medical leave, paid CE, and PTO. If you are desiring a family-like, friendly atmosphere to cultivate a long-term employment opportunity and growth potential, please respond to the email listed below with Resume' and Cover Letter. [tridoc73@gmail.com](mailto:tridoc73@gmail.com) or 913-787-5007.



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**Veterinarian Wanted.** Progressive, AAHA-accredited small animal hospital seeking experienced practitioner who desires to work in an employee-empowered environment that seeks to cultivate long-term relationships. Well-equipped with all the tools needed to practice high quality general medicine and surgery (digital radiography, full in-house lab, computerized, RVT's, etc.). We offer above average pay rates, full benefits (401k, medical, dental, vision, medical leave, vacation, PTO, paid CE and uniform allowances), and the ability to have owner equity over time. We are independently, locally owned—not corporate, with facilities in Shawnee and Prairie Village. We are a prestigious VMG member hospital (one of two in KC Metro) and were awarded “25 Under 25 Best Small Business” in 2012—the first veterinary facility to do so. Interested parties may email resume and cover letter to: [tridoc73@gmail.com](mailto:tridoc73@gmail.com), or leave a voicemail at 913-787-5007.

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Do you want to be at a practice where you are part of a team? Do you want an environment where you can grow as a veterinarian? Turner Animal Hospital is a busy 2 doctor small animal practice in the beautiful and affordable Kansas City area. We are currently looking for an associate veterinarian. We have state of the art equipment such as Digital X-ray, Idexx In-house lab, a brand new Idexx Sedivue, In-house Urine Culture, Cryotherapy, and Cornerstone Practice Management Software. We currently only see canine and feline patients. If you have a strong interest in exotics we would be open to treating exotics. Please send your CV to [turneranimalhospital@gmail.com](mailto:turneranimalhospital@gmail.com) ATTN: Tara

Compensation depends on experience with a raise of up to \$5,000 and a bonus for outstanding performance at the end of 12 months. The position also comes with a generous benefit package including:

- Health Insurance Stipend (\$200-\$400 a month)- can also be used for dental, vision, liability or life
- Reimbursement for: Professional Organization Dues, Licenses, and Continuing Education
- Scrub/White Coat Allowance
- 2 weeks PTO.

For more information, you can visit us on Facebook or at [www.turneranimalhospital.com](http://www.turneranimalhospital.com).

Our Veterinary Team is looking for a part time associate veterinarian who fits the mission and unique environment of our progressive, fast growing full-service hospital. We are looking for the right fit for our team, and has a passion for surgery and ultrasound. Our team practices high quality medicine by providing preventative, diagnostic, surgical, and dental services supported by a dedicated staff that understands the importance of nurturing both the client and patient relationships. Our unique management system involves all staff members in decision making and allows them to influence and improve the quality of the workplace and the practice. We have a complete in house lab, CR, digital dental x-ray, use of close after hours emergency hospital, and we are “paper lite”. Compensation/ benefits package includes flexible schedule, competitive pay, retirement plan, health insurance, paid AVMA, AVMA PLIT, annual CE allowance with time off. Our modern and inviting AAHA Hospital is located in southern Johnson County in Olathe, Kansas. If you would like 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. Please submit resume and cover letter to: [sarah.karina@blackbobpethospital.com](mailto:sarah.karina@blackbobpethospital.com)

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Blue Valley Animal Hospital is seeking to add a Full-time Associate Veterinarian! Established for over 35 years, Blue Valley Animal Hospital is a full-service small animal hospital that provides compassionate, state of the art, quality healthcare. We were voted 2017 Best Vet in Johnson County. Our general practice services include all aspects of wellness and preventative medicine along with surgical and dentistry care. We have a full house of diagnostic equipment including Idexx comprehensive laboratory, digital radiography, and digital dental radiography. We also offer boarding, daycare, and grooming. At Blue Valley Animal Hospital, we believe in exceeding client expectations. Our hospital provides a clean, friendly, professional environment where clients and their pets are treated with compassion, courtesy and respect. We strive to practice the best medicine possible and offer continuity of care for all our clients and patients including providing after hours emergency care.

About the Hospital: Co2 Laser, Oxygen Kennel, Cold Therapy Laser, Cryo Surgery, Spacious Surgery Suite w/ Orthopedic set-up, Digital X-ray & Digital Dental X-ray Unit

About the Location: Great location in southern Johnson County that is experiencing tremendous growth! It is located within the Blue Valley School District which is the # 1 ranked school district in the state of Kansas. It is a great place for families, with high quality education, parks, shopping, and restaurants within miles!

ASSOCIATE VETERINARIAN Job Summary: The Associate Veterinarian is an invaluable member of the hospital team who works directly with a Managing Doctor and supporting medical staff. This individual advances the quality of medicine in the practice and provides exceptional client service to our clients and patients. The associate will perform physical examinations and diagnostic/medical/surgical/dental procedures that deliver the highest quality care while minimizing patient stress and discomfort.

Salary & Benefits: We understand the importance of work-life balance and provide time off each month. Competitive salary based on experience Paid CE, dues, vacation, sick days, IRA Match, health insurance, & pet discount. Please send cover letter and resume to Sara Stevens, RVT @ [practicemanagerbvah@gmail.com](mailto:practicemanagerbvah@gmail.com)

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)

Friendly independent general practice seeking full- or part-time small animal veterinarian. We work collaboratively and practice compassionately. We appreciate experience but are willing to work with a new graduate. We stay busy and take full advantage of the excellent local barbecue and street-style tacos. No emergency call. Full or part-time. Contact Dr. William Bendure at [wnb1943@gmail.com](mailto:wnb1943@gmail.com)

The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, a 501c3 non-profit organization, is currently seeking veterinary technicians/assistants for our fast-paced public service veterinary clinic. Applicants should be positive team players, who are prepared to multi-task while giving excellent customer service and patient care. Bilingual Spanish speakers, and technicians with previous practice management experience are especially encouraged to apply. If you are ready to join us in saving and improving the lives of cats and dogs in the Greater Kansas City area please either email your resume to [walker@hsgkc.org](mailto:walker@hsgkc.org) or submit an application and resume in person at 5445 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS 66104.