



news&notes

September/October 2019



Cancer Vaccine Trial Could Benefit Pets and People

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The Vaccination Against Canine Cancer Study (VACCS) is a collaboration between three veterinary schools – University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of California-Davis, and Colorado State University – to study the efficacy of a vaccine in the prevention of cancer in a population of dogs. If it works, the potential exists for a cancer vaccine in both dogs and humans.

The vaccine targets 30 surface proteins, known as frame shift mutations, found in cancer cells and is being given to healthy dogs. The theory is the vaccine will prime the immune system to look for these proteins and attack them if any occur in the body, thereby killing cancer cells before they start. The vaccine will target several different types of cancer including lymphoma, osteosarcoma and mastocytosis.

This is a shift from traditional approaches to cancer where a vaccine is developed for a specific type of cancer and individualized to the patient after the cancer has developed. By targeting multiple types of cancer, the potential for prevention of cancer is much greater and covers a larger population of patients in addition to being significantly more cost effective than traditional targeted vaccines.

This is the largest clinical trial for canine cancer with 800 patients enrolled in the study. Earlier trials with mice indicate that the vaccine has potential for success but does not guarantee it will be effective for dogs or people. The trial will run over five years with dogs receiving either the vaccine or a placebo. Researchers will be monitoring subjects for any adverse reactions over time. The participants will live at home and will be checked by researchers two to three times per year to monitor for potential cancer development over the five-year period.

Cancer causes about 30% of all canine deaths. Study participants receiving the placebo vaccine are expected to develop cancer at this rate. Researchers hope that the participants that receive the real vaccine will be shown to develop cancer at lower rates. More information on VACCS can be found at <https://www.csuanimalcancercenter.org/vaccination-against-canine-cancer-study>.

Managing the Risk of Aggressive Dog Behaviors

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Aggression in dogs is a serious personal and liability risk for pet owners and is, unfortunately, a too common scenario. Aggression includes several behaviors such as stiff posture, raised hackles, barking, baring teeth, growling, lunging and biting. Often, dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior, either toward strangers or family members, are re-homed or euthanized.

A new study by researchers Emma Williams and Emily Blackwell at the University of Bristol in the UK explores owner behavior and confidence and their role in training or re-training the aggressive dog. This study attempted to include owner perceptions of efficacy, use of positive reinforcement and owner confidence in their ability to train their dog in the results of handling aggressive behavior. The researchers also explored the impact of other factors such as the owner's emotional state and social influence. The study entitled, "Managing the Risk of Aggressive Dog Behavior: Investigating the Influence of Owner Threat and Efficacy Perceptions", was published May 28, 2019 in *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*.

The study suggests that the most important factor for managing aggressive behavior is owner's perception of ability to use training techniques at home and in public situations. Other important factors that influence training include the owner's perception of the severity of behavior and the stress and anxiety that result from said behavior. Owners report that this anxiety reduced their confidence in their abilities to handle their dogs.

The results of this study suggest that it is not sufficient to just give owners techniques to try to help reduce aggressive behaviors in their pets. Veterinarians, behaviorists and trainers should also work with owners to give them practical experience and allowing owners to gain confidence in executing proper techniques and in their ability to not only train their dogs but to control their dogs in situations that may trigger aggression.

While many other factors play a role in dog aggression, it is possible to control this behavior in many dogs with proper training and positive reinforcement. With the large number of dog bite incidents that occur in America, this approach to helping owners train their dogs can help reduce the number of pets that must either be re-homed or euthanized due to intractable aggression. Veterinarians can help owners by directing them toward resources to educate owners on dog aggression and trainers to get further one-on-one help.

AVMA Life Insurance Recently Voted to Decrease Their Maternity Coverage

AVMA Life Trust recently modified their plans including some changes for short-term disability coverage for pregnancy. Effective November 1, 2019, AVMA Life's short-term disability will reduce maternity coverage to 30 days for routine, normal or uncomplicated pregnancies. Additionally, in order to receive short-term disability benefits for pregnancy, coverage must be in effect for at least 12 consecutive months. Disabilities due to complications from pregnancy can still be paid up to a 6-month maximum period. Previously, coverage was only required for 9 months previously and paid benefits for 90 days.

Although the changes go into effect in November, insured members who deliver before March 31, 2020 will still receive the 3 months of short-term disability. If you are an insured member and currently pregnant, you can contact your agent to request a waiver for the 90-day coverage.



AVMA Working With Airlines and DOT to Improve Pet Air Travel Requirements

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The AVMA, along with the Department of Transportation (DOT), and several airlines are working to streamline the process of pet travel for owners and veterinarians. The new guidelines will take into account the actual stress of travel on the pet as well as making sure forms are only asking veterinarians what they are qualified to answer. Per the department of Transportation, over 2 million animals are transported by airlines every year in the U.S.

The AVMA working groups are trying to develop uniform documentation requirements including designing the language of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) to be more appropriate for pet travel, including a statement attesting to the respiratory health of a pet prior to travel. The group hopes to eventually implement electronic CVIs that will be transmitted directly to the airline and reduce the risk of forgery or error. A second working group is focusing on education for the airline personnel and veterinarians on pet handling requirements and evaluation of a pet's health for travel. Education will also focus on how to communicate with pet owners as to the importance of properly preparing their pet for travel, including acclimating the pet to long periods of time in a crate.

There are three options for pets traveling on commercial airlines: cabin, checked baggage and manifest cargo. Not all airlines offer these options. Cargo aircraft usually have adequate environmental controls and most passenger airlines have special areas in cargo that are environmentally controlled so that they are suitable for pet travel. Most airlines have special crews that only deal with animals and oversee the handling of animals in cargo during loading, transfer of flights and unloading.

Some airlines have specific requirements for crates that animals are required to travel in. Many airlines are banning certain types and sizes of crates because they pose a risk to animals either escaping or ingesting pieces of the crate. Some flights will accept an animal in a certain type of crate only to have the animal not make their transfer flight because the second aircraft cannot accommodate that particular size of crate. Additionally, owners must educate themselves on the type of documentation required by both the airline and the destination for their pet to fly. These policies are subject to change at any time. Last year, United Airlines banned four cat breeds and over 25 bulldog type breeds due to concern over respiratory issues with these pets while traveling. United also no longer accepts crates taller than 30 inches.

The AVMA Convention this August offered several continuing education modules for veterinarians regarding physical exams and other considerations for airline travel. The AVMA also has a resource page for pet parents traveling with their pets at <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/CVI/Pages/Traveling-Dog-Cat.aspx>. This page gives information on all mode of transportation used in pet travel.

Asian Longhorned Tick Has Rapidly Gained A Foothold In US

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

In 2017 the first Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) in the U.S. was documented on a pet sheep in New Jersey. Until then the tick's range was known to encompass eastern China, Russia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and a few Pacific islands. Researchers are unclear how the tick arrived in the U.S. nor how long the species has really been on the continent.

Like other ticks, the Asian longhorned tick is known to carry several diseases that infect livestock and humans with potentially fatal consequences. Even more alarming is that the tick reproduces asexually allowing a female to produce thousands of offspring at a time. Scientists are also concerned that this species of tick does not appear to follow the behavior of known tick species in the U.S.

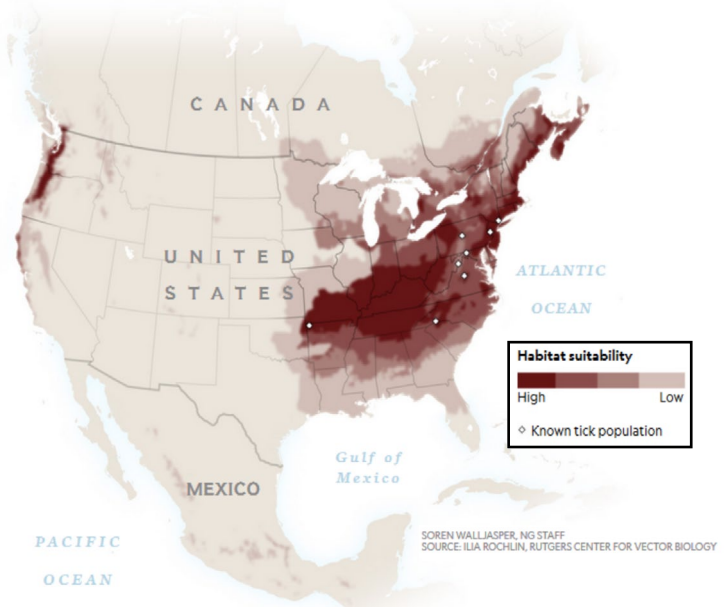
The CDC reported recently that the Asian longhorned tick has been found in at least 11 states including Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. A man in Yonkers, New York reported being bitten by an Asian longhorned tick recently although he doesn't appear to have suffered any illness from it. Investigators found the man's house and yard to be infested with ticks and larvae. Many of these ticks were living in the middle of a sunny, well-tended lawn where ticks do not normally reside.

The implications to human health encompass several bacterial and viral diseases including a potentially deadly hemorrhagic fever similar to the Heartland virus. In addition, these ticks preferentially infest cattle and other livestock in such numbers that grown cows can become weakened and fall off production as much as 25% and calves can die from blood loss.

The arrival of this tick seems to have brought on an increased awareness of the importance of tick and tickborne disease surveillance. In 2018, the CDC released a report showing a three-fold increase of vector-borne diseases between 2004 and 2016. Of those cases, three-quarters of them were caused by ticks. In 2017 the number of cases of tickborne disease rose by 10,000 from 2016. While the Asian longhorned tick in the U.S. so far has not been found to carry any diseases, surveillance is essential to learning more about the lifestyle and habitat of this tick and prevent the future spread of disease to humans and animals.

POTENTIAL ASIAN LONGHORNED TICK RANGE IN NORTH AMERICA

The Asian longhorned tick - an invasive species from East Asia - thrives in temperate, humid climates with forest cover and ample precipitation. Modeling climate data from 260 known tick populations in the Eastern Hemisphere, researchers were able to identify areas in North America where the species will be most likely to live.



SEPTEMBER CE

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|----------|---|-----------|--|
| Speaker: | Stacey A. Bone DVM | Location: | TBA |
| Topic: | The Gastrointestinal Microbiome and it's role in disease management | Fee: | No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by Sept. 16th. Current membership dues cover all CE. |
| Date: | Thursday, September 19, 2019 | Sponsor: | Hill's Pet Nutrition |
| Time: | Registration: 6pm Lecture: 7pm | | |

Stacey is a graduate of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. He practiced as a small animal exclusive veterinarian in Las Vegas and St. Louis for over a decade and has recently joined Hill's Pet Nutrition as a consulting veterinarian for the St. Louis Valley region. His professional interests are nutrition, geriatric care, and imaging.



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July 2, 2019

Seeking Full or Part-Time Staff Veterinarian. Help us save and improve the lives of animals in the Greater Kansas City area! The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City is seeking a full or part time veterinarian to join our team. This doctor would care for both shelter and client owned pets in our busy clinic which targets under-served and low-income populations. We offer a wide range of services, including spay/neuter, wellness care and outpatient medical care as well as basic dentistry and general surgical services. There is always something interesting going on! We offer our staff doctors competitive wages and benefits, and appreciate a healthy work-life balance. We are also a qualifying 501 c3 non-profit organization for doctors interested in the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. To apply please send resume and/or CV submissions to kate@hsgkc.org.

July 3, 2019

Platte Woods Animal Hospital is seeking a full time RVT/VT to join our team. We are a family owned and operated small animal clinic in the Northland, AAHA accredited and have experienced growth since moving into our new facility.

Applicants must be able to multi-task in a fast-paced environment, have strong communication skills, and a strong work ethic. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: collection and preparation of lab samples, venipuncture, sterilization of equipment, materials and instruments. Assisting veterinarian with medical procedures, monitoring patients while under anesthesia, administering treatments, filling medications, radiographs, and dental procedures. Interested applicants should send resumes to pwah5901@gmail.com and we will contact you regarding interviews.

July 12, 2019

Farview Veterinary Hospital is searching for a part-time Veterinarian to help our growing 3 doctor practice that has a very busy schedule Monday through Saturday. Our facility has digital radiographs, ultrasound, modern dental machine, therapy laser, and a surgical laser. The schedule needed would be Tues, Wed, Thurs, and rotating Sat. We are a small animal only practice that have a fast paced working environment.

Please contact Dr. Clark at 816-257-5454 or info@farviewvethospital.com for more information or to apply. Benefits and salary will be determined upon experience and interview.

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July 19, 2019

Calico Financial Invites You to a Free Dinner & Presentation on August 21 at Webster House, Kansas City, MO

"Business As Usual Does Not Cut It And was Anymore, The Changing Landscape Of Conducting Business In Veterinary Medicine."

Guest Speaker: Gary I. Glassman CPA

RACE approved for two (2) hours of CE.

7:00 – 10:00 PM

RSVP: office@burzenski.com<<mailto:office@burzenski.com>> or 203-468-8133 by August 15.

[Click Here to Download the Registration Form](#)

July 22, 2019

Looking for a Veterinarian to join our practice. Family Owned. Excellent support staff. We put a lot of attention on good quality medicine with a heavy dose of preventative education. Very flexible clinic, with the understanding that people need their time away from their careers, hence the NO emergency, or NO after hour calls!!! FT or PT.

70-100k plus depending on experience. New Grads are welcome. If interested, email at kklmnorris@yahoo.com

July 22, 2019

Vintage Plaza Veterinary Hospital is looking for a full or part time veterinarian to join our team. We are located in Excelsior Springs, MO which is about 20 minutes north of Kansas City. We are a small animal practice with a great staff and modern equipment. No emergency duty required. Buy in potential exists for the right interested candidate. We are currently a two doctor practice but are losing one of our associates. Please contact Dr Watkins 816-630-3960 or text to 816-289-2678 or email to drwatkins@vintagevet.com.

July 23, 2019

We have a wonderful facility available for lease – right next to Peace Paws – which is established Pet Grooming facility – in thriving area of Lees Summit, MO – The space used to be a veterinary medicine clinic, that has closed due to retirement. This opportunity is ideal for a recent graduate or someone who wants to start their own business. The space is already completed with tenant finish for a veterinary medicine clinic which would be of great advantage to someone starting a business. Please call or email me for further information. Attached brochure is for the property – for review. Please contact me directly and not the broker listed on the paperwork if interested.

Veeral Bhoot

Practice Name: Raintree Village Shopping Center

Street: 817-899 SW Lemans Lane

City: Lees Summit, MO 64082

Phone: (816) 721-4968

July 24, 2019

Blue Valley Animal Hospital is seeking a full-time veterinarian to join our team here in Overland Park, KS! We are a well-established small animal practice with high quality clientele that is experiencing above average growth! We offer a full array of diagnostic tools including Digital Radiography, CO2 Laser, Cryo Surgery, Cold Therapy Laser, Idexx In-house diagnostics, Oxygen Kennel, and Surgical suite with Orthopedic set-up. We have a dedicated, professional staff that prides themselves on excellent client communication and education. The ideal candidate should have an outgoing, positive attitude with a desire to enhance the client experience, and willingness to foster client-patient relationships. We understand the importance of work-life balance and provide time off in addition to a very competitive salary and benefits package including paid CE, paid dues, paid vacation, IRA Match, Health Insurance, and pet discount. Please submit Cover Letter and CV to Sara Stevens, RVT @ practicemanagerbvah@gmail.com

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July 26, 2019

Job Posting: Shelter Veterinarian (Full-time, Part-Time and Relief/Fill-In Available)

Want to work for one of the most progressive, effective, and innovative animal shelters in the country? Do YOU believe in "Solutions, Not Excuses" when it comes to lifesaving? Kansas City Pet Project is looking for Full Time, Part Time and/or Relief Veterinarians to help care for the more than 10,000 animals entering the shelter each year. Who is Kansas City Pet Project?

Winner of the Petco Foundation's national 2018 Unsung Hero Award for our Director of Shelter Operation's lifesaving work in our shelter's parvo ward.

Winner of a 2018 Maddie's Hero Award from Maddies' Fund for our CEO & Chief Lifesaving Officer, Teresa Johnson.

Winner of the first ever Paul Jolly Compassion Award in 2014 from the Petco Foundation for our compassion for animals that made a lifesaving difference in our community.

Winner of the ASPCA's Community Engagement Award for 2014 as the shelter who best engaged their community in saving lives.

Named in 2015 as Kansas City's Best Nonprofit by KC Magazine and Best Place to Adopt a Pet by 435 Magazine.

Made history in Kansas City by officially achieving "No-Kill" status within 6 months of taking over operations of the city's municipal shelter in 2012 – becoming the 3rd largest open admission, No-Kill animal shelter in the United States, and creating the largest (and only open admission) No-Kill municipal animal shelter in the State of Missouri.

And we're just getting started! Our new state-of-the-art 54,000 sq. ft. Kansas City Campus for Animal Care – home to KC Pet Project – is currently under construction in Kansas City (scheduled to open in late 2019) and will include a Fear Free shelter veterinary hospital design located on 17 acres in a beautiful park setting adjacent to the Kansas City Zoo, Starlight Amphitheater, and Lakeside Nature Center. Come join our shelter's lifesaving medical team.

Job Type: Full-time, Part-Time, Relief

Salary: \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00/year for Full-time; \$50/hr – \$65/hr for Part-time and Relief

Please send resume's and/or letter of inquiry to Gail Longstaff at gail.longstaff@kmco.org

July 26, 2019

Gentle Care Animal Hospital in Lawrence, Kansas is looking for a Part Time, possible Full Time, Associate Veterinarian to join our family!

Gentle Care Animal Hospital is a well-established small animal primary care practice that is AAHA Accredited. We see not only dogs and cats, but small mammals, birds and reptiles as well. We offer our diverse clientele medical, dental and surgical care, boarding, chiropractic and acupuncture care. Gentle Care has dedicated and knowledgeable support staff that has a shared focus on the client- hospital relationship and client education. While experience with exotics is a bonus, our veterinarians are happy to help mentor the right candidate in exotic medicine.

About the Hospital: Gentle Care has a wide range of equipment including a DentalAire Prestige dental scaler/polisher, Ellman Surgical Electrocautery, Therapeutic Laser, Electro-Acupuncture, VetMed+ Monitoring system with in line CO2, and Cryo-Probe. As well as diagnostic tools such as Digital X-rays Digital Dental X-Rays, Ultrasound, Endoscopy, Idexx In-House Chemistry Analyzer and CBC Machine, and Tono-Pen. Gentle Care is also equipped for orthopedic surgeries such as fracture repairs and TTA's. Please contact Jessica or Dr. Marguerite Ermeling at office.gc@h@gmail.com.

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July 31, 2019

Crest Animal Hospital is looking for a full or part time veterinarian associate for our growing practice. We are a full service small animal hospital that is located in South Kansas City with easy highway accessibility. Our philosophy is to practice excellent surgery and medicine and maintain affordability. We are always looking to add new services and are eager to incorporate those in to our practice. Crest has three full time doctors and 4 technicians. We provide advanced surgical and medical care for our patients' needs. This position includes full benefits for both full time or part time work. Please contact John Lyle by phone at 816-588-5953, or via email : crest1313@outlook.com, if you are interested in what we have to offer.

August 11, 2019

Lead small animal emergency Veterinary Technician. Our team is looking for an experienced technician or licensed and willing to learn technician. We are the Emergency Animal Clinic of Topeka. We are a rapidly growing hospital that desires a strong team member. We are flexible with scheduling and are looking for leadership qualities.

Salary commensurate with experience and recommendations. We are open to benefits that you need to make this a career.

- A base salary of up to \$45,000
- Two weeks paid leave per year.
- Kansas license fees paid.
- Continuing Education costs up to \$600/year including two days paid vacation.
- EACT will supply uniforms.
- EACT offers health insurance through the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association up to \$600 per month.

If this is attractive to you, Come and talk to us, we'd love to visit. Call Dr Thayer at 951-795-2116 or send Resume to Emergencyanimalclinic@aol.com

August 12, 2019

Gage Animal Hospital, a premier, well-established, two veterinarian small animal practice in Topeka, Kansas, is rapidly growing and is seeking to add one full-time associate veterinarian and one half-time associate veterinarian. Half-time associate veterinarian position offers extremely flexible hours (88 hours per month, but no weekly minimum hours). Gage Animal Hospital is a collegial fast-paced environment in a spacious, well-equipped facility. Generous benefits, including 401k, vacation and other leave, and paid continuing education. Live in Topeka, or an easy 30 minute commute from Lawrence. Candidates with two plus years of experience with basic surgical skills and willingness to learn additional surgery as well as new graduates with a desire to learn surgical skills will be considered. GAH offers a very competitive starting salary (\$85,000-\$95,000), commensurate with experience, and a \$10,000 signing bonus!

Call us to schedule a visit, tour our hospital, learn about our unique practice model and our contributions to our community, as well as career opportunities. Phone: 785-272-8876 | Email: info@gageanimalhospital.com.

August 13, 2019

Bethel Animal Hospital is seeking a registered technician or vet assistant for part to full time. We are a busy growing family/client centered practice. Enjoy good support, fun team mates in a positive environment. Health/dental, and vision benefits available. We are in western Wyandotte county with easy commute from anywhere in metro area. Send inquiries to Dr. Tom Ward At bethelrad@gmail.com

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August 13, 2019

Immediate opening for an associate in a mixed practice in Plattsburg, MO. Responsibilities would be small animal only. 3 to 4 days per week. Located within 30 miles of Kansas City or St. Joseph. Contact Paul Terry. E-mail pterry@animalclinicpc.com W:816-930-2629 C:816-863-3920

August 13, 2019

Associate mixed animal position immediately available in a 3 doctor busy mixed practice 30 mi north of Kansas City in Plattsburg, MO. The practice is 75% companion animal, 20 % bovine and 5% equine. Substantial signing/retention/relocation bonus available to the right individual.

August 22, 2019

Brisbane Veterinary Services, a mixed animal practice north of Kansas City, MO is looking to hire a full-time associate veterinarian. We are looking for an associate with small and large animal experience as there will be opportunities to use your skills in both. New graduates that are self-motivated with a good work ethic and willingness to learn will be considered. THE RIGHT person will have initiative and a desire to work the hours it takes to be successful.

Duties will be split between in-clinic small animal and equine work, farm calls, and possibly some sale barn work. This is a great opportunity to work in a team-based environment with lots of opportunity to do the things you went to school for and have fun doing them.

Our clinic is in a growing community, but our clients and patients are treated like friends and family. We offer full-service care from a friendly, fun staff. Our doctors typically work a 4-day work week with rotating emergency on-call shifts. Saturday appointments are not scheduled right now but could be added in the future. Salary will be competitive based on experience and we offer an attractive benefit package.

We utilize digital x-ray units in-clinic as well as in the field, endoscopy, new dental equipment, ultrasound, in clinic blood machines, etc.

If this is the job you've been looking for, please e-mail your resume to Brisbanevet@gmail.com