



House Unanimously Approves Animal Cruelty Bill

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

In November, President Trump signed the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act into law. This bill allows fines of up to seven years imprisonment for violators who are caught crushing, burning, drowning, suffocating, impaling or causing serious bodily injury to animals. This bill allows prosecution of acts that occur across state lines, on federal land or other places outside of the jurisdiction of state law.

The PACT act was introduced by Representatives Ted Deutch (D-Fla.) and Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.). The lawmakers set out to expand a law passed by then President Barack Obama in 2010, which banned the distribution of videos depicting animals being crushed or tortured, but did not necessarily outlaw the acts portrayed in those videos.

The bill has received wide-ranging support from animal-loving to citizens to law enforcement professionals, who worry about the jump from torturing animals to committing violence against people. Animal cruelty has been indicated as a pattern leading to crimes involving people. The House vote in approval of the bill was called a watershed moment by the Humane Society Legislative Fund. Other notable supporters of the bill include the National Children's Advocacy Center and Domestic Violence Intervention Services as well as the National Sheriff's Association and other law enforcement groups.

While it is a progressive step forward, the Animal Legal Defense Fund points out that there are potential loopholes in the act. The PACT act only covers acts that cause serious bodily harm and does not necessarily cover less violent acts such as hitting or punching an animal.

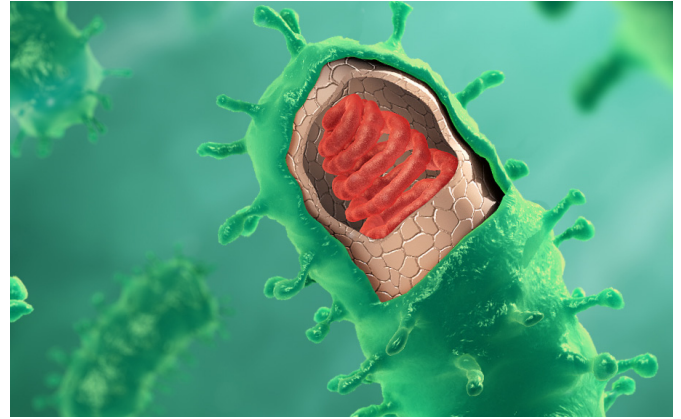
The new law does make exemptions for humane euthanasia, slaughter of food animals, hunting, trapping and fishing and scientific research. There is a clause exempting actions taken "to protect the life or property of a person."

Abridged Rabies-Exposure Regimen for Humans Appears Effective

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Rabies is a viral infection causing acute, irreversible encephalitis in mammals. The great majority (99%) of rabies deaths involve a bite from an infected dog and occur in Asia and Africa. Incubation periods in humans range from 15 to 90 days, making it possible to prevent progression to clinical signs after exposure. Post-exposure prophylaxis involves washing of wounds and administration of rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine. The very first protocol developed by Pasteur and colleagues involved up to 40 injections over a twelve-day period. Post-exposure protocols have evolved with the development of safer and more effective vaccines over the years, but all require multiple injections over a period of time.

The World Health Organization (WHO) currently recommends the Thai Red Cross regimen for post-exposure rabies protocols. This involves post exposure prophylaxis to be given in four visits over the course of a month (days 0, 3 7 and 28). A recent article in *The Lancet* describes new research, which sought to determine the necessity of the fourth injection on day 28 in an effort to possibly shorten the protocol. Shortening the post-exposure regimen would have significant economic impact on patients for both direct and indirect costs. Rabies biologicals are costly and often unaffordable to patients. In addition, many patients lose income because of the need to take off work for travel to clinics for their appointments over the month.



Researchers evaluated rabies neutralizing antibody titers and plasmablast activation on day 28 before the last injection of the Thai Red Cross regimen. Titers and plasmablasts were also evaluated 2 weeks after the last injection. All subjects in the study had protective levels of antibody titers and plasmablast activation on day 28 before receiving the last injection. Researchers also found that there were no significant differences in titers two weeks after the last injection. This study concluded that a shortened 1-week regimen of post-exposure prophylaxis is sufficient with no extra risk to patients. At this time, WHO has not changed recommendations and likely will not until further studies are conducted or unless vaccine shortages necessitate protocol change with successful outcomes.

KCVMA 2020 Membership Renewal Reminder

An organization is only as strong as its members, and KCVMA is most certainly going strong! As 2019 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 need only to email Brian Ellis at bellis@kcvma.com to renew.** Life members are required to renew each year to maintain their complimentary membership.



The U.S. Department of Education Has Only Approved 1% of Requests from Borrowers Applying to the Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

In 2007, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF) was created to encourage people to choose careers in public service. The program would forgive federal student loans for borrowers who had worked in a public service job for 10 years (120 payments). While on paper the program looks good, the implementation is not so good. The program reported a very low acceptance rate and many lawmakers pushed for a change.

In response, the government created the Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (TEPSLF) for borrowers who had been denied under the original PSLF. Again, the implementation left much to be desired. As of June, 99% of applicants to the TEPSLF have been rejected. Of the \$700million approved in funding by Congress, only \$26.9million have been awarded.

Many applicants (71%) were denied because they had not first submitted a PSLF program application. According to the acceptance guidelines, an applicant must first submit a PSLF application and be denied before applying for the TEPSLF program. Other frustrations that applicants have shared involve lack of information. Many of the help tools

and online documents from the Department of Education still do not provide adequate information needed to correctly apply for the TEPSLF program.

TEPSLF program requires that applicants submit a PSLF and have that application be denied solely because payments were not made under a qualifying repayment plan for PSLF, have at least 10 years of full-time employment with a qualifying employer, have met the TEPSLF requirement for the amount paid 12 months prior to applying for TEPSLF and, have made 120 qualifying payments under the new requirements for TEPSLF while working full-time for their qualifying employer or employers. Also, only federal Direct Loans are eligible for the TEPSLF program.

The AVMA has a Public Service Loan Forgiveness page with more tips and information for qualifying for the program that can be accessed at avma.org/PSLF. The AVMA also encourages any veterinarians that have applied for the PSLF or TEPSLF program contact JAVMA News to tell their story whether their application has been accepted or denied.

A New Study Looks at Risk Factors for Surgical Site Infections in Dogs

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

A recent prospective cohort study published in the BMJ Veterinary Journal looked at incidence rate, and risk factors in canine post-operative infections. Current estimates on the prevalence of surgical site infections in dogs range from 3 to 6.6%. The researchers in this study looked at 184 male and female dogs of all ages undergoing soft tissue surgery over a 1-year period at a veterinary teaching hospital. Researchers also looked at costs associated with surgical site infections when they occurred in these patients. Other factors considered were surgical scrub type, number of people participating in the surgery, length of time for the surgery, participation of undergraduates in the surgery and how the wound was sealed. Animal participants were evaluated at days 5 and 10 post-op.

Sixteen cases of surgical site infection were reported out of the 184 procedures evaluated. Of these, 13 were superficial infections at the incision, two were deep incisional infections and there was one case classified as organ/space infection. There appeared to be no risk factors for age, sex or breed of dog. Researchers did find that the use of steroidal anti-inflammatories, pre-operative hyperglycemia, surgery time that lasted more than one hour, use of urinary catheters, and lack or misuse of Elizabethan collar increased the risk of infection.

In dogs that developed infection, post-surgical costs rose by 142%. This cost was mostly comprised of increased number of follow-up appointments required, bacterial cultures and medication. Pre-surgical and surgical costs in these dogs remained the same as others in the study.

Also of note, all patients in the study received preoperative antibiotics regardless of the procedure. Guidelines for the administration of preoperative antibiotics are largely extrapolated from human medicine that recommend preoperative antibiotics based on the cleanliness of the surgery.

Overall, this new study showed incidence of surgical site infections to be higher than previously estimated. The authors postulate that earlier estimates were due to lack of evaluation by trained personnel and that development of a recheck system by trained personnel will help catch problems at an earlier stage and allow for more effective intervention. Avoidance of surgical site infections by managing risk factors will reduce morbidity, post-surgical costs and emotional impact on owners.



JANUARY CE

Speaker:	Dr. Emily McLeod	Location:	Lake Quivira Country Club
Topic:	How Does My Dog/Cat/Horse/Pig/Rabbit Get Subluxated? Recognizing the need for chiropractic care in your large and small animal patients.		100 Crescent Blvd Lake Quivira, KS 66217
Date:	Thursday, January 23rd, 2020	Fee:	No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by Jan. 15th. Current membership dues cover all CE.
CE:	TBA		
Sponsor:	KCVMA		

ABOUT DR. MCLEOD:

Animals have always been part of Dr. McLeod's life. She's rescued too many strays to count, has always cared for furry friends, and has a heart to help those who can't always help themselves. Now she has the joy of helping restore health to your best friends.

A graduate of Cleveland Chiropractic College in 2000, Dr. McLeod earned both the Clinic Service and Clinic Excellence awards while completing her clinicals. She opened a family wellness center in 2001 and joyfully served hundreds of people each week with chiropractic care. In 2004 Dr. McLeod returned to school to earn her National Certification in Equine and Small Animal Chiropractic Care through the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association.

In June of 2013, Dr. McLeod left her 2-legged practice to pursue a full time animal practice. She can be found working on small animals at GreenSummit Animal Clinic in Lee's Summit, MO at Excelsior Springs Animal Clinic in Excelsior Springs, MO and at Mission Road Animal Clinic in Prairie Village, KS. She sees horses at Strain Equine Services in Bonner Springs, KS and Holt Animal Clinic in Holt, MO. Dr. McLeod is licensed in both Kansas and Missouri. Dr. McLeod also teaches animal chiropractic to veterinarians and chiropractors at Parker University in Dallas, TX.

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Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, or email them to classifieds@kcvma.com. Ads must not be over 100 words in length. Classified ads will be run at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for content.

December 21, 2019

The City of Independence Missouri has an open position for a veterinary technician. This position will assist with assuring the medical health and well-being of shelter animals at the Jackson County Regional Animal Shelter including but not limited to assisting with surgical procedures, preparing surgical instruments, entering data into computerized medical database, administering vaccinations and medications, performing diagnostic tests, assisting with euthanasia, maintaining the facility in a clean and orderly manner. The position will be full time at 40 hours/week with a pay rate of \$16 hourly. It will also offer a full benefits package including 12 holidays annually, vacation and sick leave, enrollment in the LAGERS pension plan, and health, life and disability insurance options. Pre-employment drug testing and background check are required. For more information or to apply for this position please visit <https://www.ci.independence.mo.us/hr/JobDetails?id=2019160>. Initial job posting closes 1/3/20 and it will be relisted if position has not been filled.

December 13, 2019

Veterinarian wanted: Excelsior Springs Animal Clinic in historical Excelsior Springs, MO. 2 doctor small animal clinic practicing high quality medicine-digital radiographs, ultrasound (with ultrasound trained veterinary technician on staff), in house blood machines, dental radiography, cold laser therapy, full anesthetic monitoring, etc. Family oriented with a small town feel. Strong emphasis on continuing education, paid CE/licensing fees, 4.5 day work week with no after-hour emergencies, ample vacation time, health insurance opportunities, practice your own medicine! Experience preferred but new graduates encouraged to apply! Visit us on Facebook-Excelsior Springs Animal Clinic. Contact Practice Manager Diane Lowery at (816)637-5612 with questions. Resumes can be emailed to ExcelsiorSpringsAnimalClinic@gmail.com.

November 10, 2019

Family Pet Hospital of Shawnee is hiring for a Veterinary Associate.

Blessings abound at Family Pet Hospital of Shawnee and we are in need of a 3rd Veterinarian!

Be a part of an environment where team/family mentality predominates, fun and laughter reign and the practice of great medicine is second nature. Our mission is to treat each other, our clients and their furry family members like they are our FAMILY; it certainly helps to make a positive and rewarding environment for staff and clients.

Brand NEW equipment throughout including; Digital Radiography (Cuattro), anesthesia machine with a Pureline Oxygen Concentrator, Ultrasound (Chison Eco 6), Dental machine (Midmark), Dental Digital Radiography (Prodigy), in-house blood machines (Heska), electronic records (new computers) and an online pharmacy. ER and specialty clinic are 3 miles down the road.

Schedule, salary, PTO, benefits, CE and license stipend, etc. are all negotiable. New doc will be asked to work every other Saturday on a rotation. New doc will NOT need to perform dentals (Dr. T is an expert dentist) but will need to be comfortable with medicine and surgery. Absolutely ZERO on-call as we want our vets to be happy and healthy with a reasonable work-life balance, (it can happen)!

Join our 5 star clinic in one of the best places to live, Shawnee, KS! Shawnee was recently named the 25th best place to live in the US according to Money magazine: <http://money.com/money/collection/best-places-to-live-2019/5653423/shawnee-kansas-2/>