



AVMA House of Delegates to Deliberate on Cat Declawing as Well as Other Policies.

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) met January 11 of this year to discuss several important policy subjects. Most notably, the HOD discussed the current policy on declawing of cats and proposed changes. Declawing of cats has become less popular and more controversial in the veterinary world. Fewer veterinarians are volunteering to perform the procedure and several municipalities have voted to ban the procedure. In 2019, New York became the first state to ban elective declawing of cats. Prior to that, West Hollywood, California became the first city to ban elective declawing of cats in 2003, followed by Los Angeles, San Francisco, St. Louis and Denver. Banfield Pet Hospital adopted a policy that its veterinarians would not perform elective declawing procedures. This policy will extend to all Mars-owned hospitals in 2020 including Blue Pearl and VCA.

The previous AVMA policy discouraged declawing of cats and emphasized education of the client over cat behavior, procedure risks and management. The revised policy simplified the language of the 2014 policy. The revised policy does not advise the practice of routine declawing of cats, but respects the right of the veterinarian to use his or her own judgement on the necessity of the procedure. The policy still advocates for education of the client on cat behavior and alternatives to declawing. The policy also requires multi-modal pain management if surgery is performed.

The new declaw policy can be found at avma.org/policies/declawing-domestic-cats. The revised policy reads as follows: "The AVMA discourages the declawing (onychectomy) of cats as an elective procedure and supports non-surgical alternatives to the procedure. The AVMA respects the veterinarian's right to use professional judgment when deciding how to best protect their individual patients' health and welfare. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the veterinarian to counsel the owner about the natural scratching behavior of cats, the alternatives to surgery, as well as the details of the procedure itself and subsequent potential complications. Onychectomy is a surgical amputation and if performed, multi-modal perioperative pain management must be utilized."

The AVMA has a resource page for cat owners at avma.org/declaw. This page also provides assistance with the decision-making process when a client is seeking onychectomy.



Researchers Hoping to Develop Blood-based Canine Cancer Screening Test in 2020

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Texas A&M researchers are collaborating with technology company, VolitionRx to develop a new cancer screening test for canines. The test works by detecting higher than normal concentrations of nucleosomes circulating in the blood.

Nucleosomes are DNA fragments that circulate in the blood stream. These fragments are usually released from white blood cells, but cancer cells can also secrete nucleosomes. Circulating nucleosome levels increase with during immune system response, inflammation and certain types of cancers. VolitionRx's Nu.Q Assay technology identifies and enriches cancer specific nucleosomes in the bloodstream.

The head researcher on the project, Dr. Heather Wilson-Robles, envisions the test as a healthy pet screen that may point

toward the need for further diagnostics, or as a screen for pets in remission. Dr. Wilson-Robles hopes the test will be available later this year.

VolitionRx deals mainly with human cancer screening products, focusing on colorectal, pancreatic, lung and prostate cancers. Recent filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission are not promising, indicating the company is losing money and may not be able to sustain relations for the next year without further funding. Since that time, the company has announced further breakthroughs with its Nu.Q Assay platform and seen a subsequent increase in stock value. The agreement with Texas A&M would give the university a 12.5% share in VolitionRx's veterinary products.

Missouri BNDD Registrations

The Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD) requires all individuals and firms who prescribe and dispense controlled substances within the state to be registered with the department. Applications can be submitted online or mailed. Registrations are issued for one year. Registrants must re-apply yearly for a new registration. There is no renewal. BNDD certificates are not sent out by mail, but can be printed from the BNDD website.

Only one mailed reminder will be sent to each clinic. However, every clinician in the clinic needs to apply for registration in order to dispense or handle controlled substances. For frequently asked questions or to apply online, visit. <https://health.mo.gov/safety/bndd>.

Human Heart Procedure Successfully Performed on Boxer with Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Boxer cardiomyopathy, also known as arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC), is an inherited heart disease in boxers. The disease is caused by a mutation in the striatin gene which codes for normal cardiomyocyte function. Boxers with this disease have ventricular arrhythmias, episodes of collapse, intermittent lethargy and sudden death. Disease severity ranges from asymptomatic to congestive heart failure.

Traditionally, ARVC has been treated with various anti-arrhythmic drugs and require monitoring several times a year with a Holter monitor to ensure the medications are adequate. Even with treatment, these dogs are at risk of sudden death.

Recently, a 9-year-old Boxer named Sophie was presented at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine with a new diagnosis of ARVC. Dr. Anna Gelzer, a cardiologist at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine reached out to her human medical counterparts to see if something more could be done. In humans with ARVC, a procedure called cardiac ablation targets damaged heart tissue and burns it so that it no longer has a part in driving heart rhythms. Many of these patients

can go forward without medication or risk of sudden death.

Dr. Gelzer collaborated with Dr. Cory Tschabrunn at Penn's School of Medicine Translational Cardiac Electrophysiology Laboratory. Together they decided that cardiac ablation was possible for Sophie. Together, the two medical teams mapped out a plan for Sophie's procedure.

Before the procedure, a Reveal LINQ device was placed just under the skin. This device is a continuous ECG loop recorder that maps the arrhythmias in Sophie's heart. This allows the clinicians to target the area of the heart for the ablation. On the day of the procedure, the team used GPS technology, known as CARTO, to map the voltages in Sophie's heart and find the exact problem areas within the heart. Areas of low voltage are the target tissues for the ablation. With the information gleaned from CARTO, Tschabrunn directed radiofrequency to burn tiny, millimeter-sized portions of tissue in the right ventricle.

Sophie's pilot case has led to a study with grant funding that will provide more support for cardiac ablation as an option in dogs. Hopefully, in the future it will be much more accessible to dog owners as a result of this research.



Lone Star Tick Expanding Range to Midwest, Northeast and Eastern Canada

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Tick-borne diseases have doubled in the last decade and the lone star tick is a vector of several of these diseases. The lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) has long been known for its role as a nuisance pest and as a vector of human pathogens. The female of this species is easily identified by the single white spot on its back. Lone star ticks are associated with several diseases including tularemia, ehrlichiosis, Heartland virus, southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI) and alpha-gal syndrome (red meat allergy). The lone star tick is known as an aggressive tick in that it actively hunts down its host prey. Lone star ticks feed on large mammals, but predominately white-tailed deer. The larvae and nymphs of this species also feed on birds.

Historically the range of lone star ticks has been restricted to southern states with some populations extending as far north as southern New Jersey. Recently however, due to changes in climate and seasonal activity, the range of the lone star tick has increased further into northeastern and Midwest states. Breeding populations of lone star ticks have been documented in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York. Lone star ticks have also been reported as far west as Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Preferred requirements to attract populations of lone star ticks include specific humidity ranges and the presence of invasive plants. White-tailed deer are frequently attracted by invasive plants. Another factor leading to expansion of the species is their willingness to travel large distances in search of the perfect host.

Current climate conditions may already be suitable for establishment of these populations in southern Canada. While climate change would appear to be the driving force behind this northward expansion, scientists have revealed that the populations of lone star ticks in New York and Oklahoma are genetically



different from the lone star tick populations in the normal historical range.

Ecological niche predictive models were used to determine potential expansion ranges for lone star ticks. These models show an even greater future expansion of tick populations through the Midwest and northern states in addition to the west coast of the United States and Mexico.

MARCH CE

Speaker:	Dr. I. Craig Pryor	Location:	Lidia's 101 W. 22nd St. Kansas City, MO 64108
Topic:	One Voice, One Message: The importance of a unified message from the entire clinic staff when providing information on parasites and product recommendation to clients.	Fee:	No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by March 20th. Current membership dues cover all CE.
Date:	Thursday, March 26th, 2020		
CE:	1.5	Sponsor:	Merck

IMPORTANT:
**Guest registrations for this event are limited to
veterinary industry professionals**

ABOUT DR. PRYOR:

Dr. I. Craig Prior is Owner, and Medical Director of Murphy Road Animal Hospital, an eight doctor practice in Nashville, Tenn. A 25 year veteran, Dr. Prior's professional interests include all aspects of small animal medicine and surgery, as well the operations and metrics of well managed practices. He is immediate past president of the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC).

Born and raised in Australia, Dr. Prior represented Australia at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville Tennessee before graduating from the University of Queensland in Brisbane with a degree in veterinary medicine in 1984. He moved to the United States in 1985 and joined the staff of Murphy Road Animal Hospital in 1986.

Dr. Prior shares his veterinary and business knowledge through speaking engagements throughout the country and guest appearances with various media outlets. He has served as an expert to "Today at Home" on HGTV, "Fox & Friends" on FOX News, "The Daily Buzz," a nationally-syndicated talk show, and "Talk of the Town," the highest-rated daytime show in Nashville, Tennessee; and has been quoted in The New York Times on the subject of pet obesity and Dog Fancy on the subject of canine osteoarthritis. In addition Dr Prior is a veterinary consultant to international PR companies and Ad agencies.

Dr. Prior lives in Brentwood, Tennessee, with his wife Cindy, their two children, Elle and Bryce, and a menagerie of pets.

Classifieds

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.

February 26, 2020**PRACTICE FOR SALE**

Two doctor practice for sale in Johnson County. This practice was established August 2000, it is now nearing 20 years since hospital was built. I am at a time in my life where the hospital should transfer to new ownership in the next five years. I am not looking for immediate sale of the practice and property. I would prefer a potential buyer to work with me in the practice prior to purchase.

Please contact David 913-244-6649

February 26, 2020

Bradford Pet Hospital in Olathe, KS is currently seeking a Full-Time Veterinary Receptionist and Veterinary Technician. If you love working with animals and are looking to advance your career within the veterinary field, we encourage you to apply to become an integral part of our team.

Client Services Specialist

Skills Required:

- Excellent customer service and phone skills
- Professional "Go Getter" Attitude
- Team player mentality with willingness to jump in where needed
- Ability to proficiently Multitask in a very busy setting
- Attention to detail and learn tasks/protocols quickly
- Avimark software experience strongly preferred

1+ years of experience in a veterinary setting is required

We are looking for GREATNESS!! Pay based on experience. Flexible schedule with some Saturday's required (8am-noon)

Job Type: Full-time

Please email your resume to: bradfordpet@gmail.com

February 26, 2020

Bradford Pet Hospital (BPH) is a one doctor veterinary practice looking for a full or part-time Associate Veterinarian. BPH is a progressive, free-standing, 4200 sq ft practice in a heavily populated residential area. Our clientele often follows our diagnostic recommendation to allow us to practice quality veterinary medicine. Our practice provides routine preventative health care, medicine, Laser surgery, and routine dental prophylaxis. The BPH dental procedure area offers direct intraoral radiographs and an IM 3 Dental Compressor with a high-speed hand piece. BPH also features direct digital full body radiographs.

Please contact Dr. Jed Barnes by email to further discuss this Associate Veterinary position.

jediatwork@msn.com

February 23, 2020

The Plattsburg Animal Clinic of Plattsburg, MO is in search of a companion animal associate who is ready to enjoy life in a small community and who wants to establish long term relationships with our clientele. We practice with an emphasis on quality and compassionate service, taking pride in offering the very best service in a setting where caring for the pet's needs is the primary goal. We are within easy driving distance of St. Joseph, Kansas City, MO and KCI airport. We have an excellent support staff. The work schedule is 4 days per week, rotating half Saturdays and no emergency duties

continued on next page

Classifieds

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.

A relocation/retention/signing bonus is available to the right individual. Plattsburg is a rural/suburban community that allows for the best in a small town atmosphere, close to a large metropolitan area. Experienced practitioner is desired but new or recent graduates will be considered. Full time position is preferred but part time applicants will be considered. If living in or commuting to this setting seems appealing, please contact Paul B. Terry, DVM at 816-930-2629 during the day or 816-930-2566 during the evening, or Email pterry@animalclinicpc.com.

February 22, 2020

Well established veterinary clinic outside Kansas City in Tonganoxie, KS is seeking a full or part time Associate Veterinarian. Our proud small town community is growing, causing a larger demand for veterinary services than our clinic can supply. We are currently upgrading and remodeling our building and making room for another veterinarian. Our team works very well together and welcomes experienced associates or new grads.

Our practice uses Avimark computer software and offers in house Abaxis laboratory, digital radiology, dentistry, soft tissue surgery and preventative health care. There is opportunity to practice large animal medicine if the associate chooses, but we are prominently small animal.

Our area boasts excellent schools and affordable small town living while being 15 minutes from the Legends KC area and 15 minutes from Lawrence. The position offers competitive salary, no after-hour emergencies, negotiable health insurance, paid state license, and a continuing education stipend. Please send resume or CV to contact@tonganoxievet.com Dr. Simon @ Pleasant Valley Veterinary Clinic.

February 21, 2020

Looking for a Veterinarian. We are a small animal exclusive clinic. Full time or Part time. No emergency or after hour work. We are privately owned and have a relaxed environment. We offer grooming, boarding, surgery, radiographs, Abaxis blood machines, and etc..... We have plenty of support staff for each doctor and flexible work days. Contact Kristine Mulloy at kklnorris@yahoo.com for more information.

February 5, 2020

Associate Veterinarian

Opportunity to further develop your surgical skills

\$70-\$105k salary + Benefits

Rediscover your passion for keeping pets and people together as you join an exceptional team committed to customer service and veterinary excellence in an empathetic, warm and friendly environment...

At Spay and Neuter Kansas City we recognize that our team is the foundation of not just our business, but of our way of life. Through consistent growth based on the quality of our service and our desire to help, we have the opportunity to welcome a new team member who will join us in the next exciting phase of our journey.

Since 2002, Spay and Neuter Kansas City (SNKC) has delivered accessible and affordable veterinary services and pet resources, and has developed a well-earned reputation for being a trusted resource for the Greater Kansas City community. Our contributions to ending pet homelessness and increasing pet retention has helped create the no-kill community we celebrate today. For established Veterinarians we offer manageable and direct caseloads, a great support team, and a fair work-life balance with no "on-call" scheduling.

continued on next page

Classifieds

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.

Our Offer

- \$70-\$105k salary + benefits
- 3 weeks paid annual leave
- Paid holidays
- 401k
- \$1,200 contribution towards skills development, professional expenses and continuing education.
- Eligibility to participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF)
- Tuesday through Friday schedule with a Saturday rotation

To learn more about Spay and Neuter Kansas City please visit our website at www.snkc.net.

To apply, use the link below: https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=bbcb691f-c009-4d2d-aaa2-db3ec346729f&cclid=19000101_000001&jobId=288937&lang=en_US&source=CC4

January 27, 2020

Union Hill Animal Hospital is adding a full time Registered Veterinary Technician to our team of rockstars! We currently have 3 veterinarians and a talented support staff.

If you are looking for an opportunity to be a part of something special with increasing career advancement potential, Union Hill is a great place for you. We offer state of the art equipment and procedures, including tonopen, full digital radiography, digital dental radiography, surgical and therapeutic laser, in-house IDEXX lab equipment, full surgical suite and ultrasound.

Our benefits package is negotiable and includes health insurance, retirement plan, CE and license coverage, association dues, paid time off, uniforms and discounted pet care. Email admin@uhanimalhospital.com with your resume to apply!

January 25, 2020

Looking for 2 hardworking, enthusiastic, and compassionate Associate Veterinarians at Belton Animal Clinic and Exotic Care Center – we serve dogs, cats and exotics and have a huge small mammal and reptile caseload as well as avian patients. Interest and certification in acupuncture, veterinary medical manipulation, herbal therapies a plus as we perform these on all species. Emphasis on treating the whole patient every time. GREAT staff and GREAT DVM's with tremendous mentorship available. 2 digital xray machines, digital dental xray, 2 surgical lasers and Class IIIb and Class IV cold laser therapy units. Lots of bells and whistles and many clients that accept recommendations for preventative care. Great facility with room to grow in a growing practice and community. Near Kansas City and the Kansas City Chiefs!! Please contact me at igvet@aol.com and check us out at www.beltonanimal.com.

January 13, 2020

Raytown-Gregory Animal Health Center is seeking a full-time associate veterinarian to join our team.

We are a 4 doctor small animal practice located in Raytown, MO (a suburb of Kansas City). We provide our clients and patients with the highest-quality care and have a long-standing clientele who support doctor recommendations.

We have a good technician to doctor ratio, allowing our doctors to focus on being doctors and not techs. Our registered veterinary technicians and generous support staff are available to assist you in examinations, procedures and surgeries allowing you to practice medicine the way you want to practice.

continued on next page

Classifieds

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.

Mentorship available for a new/recent graduate working with our close knit group of experienced doctors. Approximately a 40-hour work week with no on call or emergency hours!

Our Practice Offers:

- New 30-Watt Surgical Laser
- High-speed Dental Unit plus Digital Dental Radiographs
- Digital Radiographs
- Idexx Catalyst and Procyte Analyzers
- Idexx Sedivue UA Analyzer
- Spacious Treatment Room
- Surgical Suite

Raytown-Gregory Animal Health Center has been serving Raytown and surrounding communities since 1975. We have a long-standing reputation for providing high-quality medical care with compassion. We are proud to be a part of the community we serve.

Please check out our website at www.raytowngregory.com. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send inquiries to Dr. Tim Chirpich at info@raytowngregory.com

January 13, 2020

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 with a 5% match, 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 of \$90,000-100,000 (earn more if willing to take after hour emergencies), commensurate with experience, and a \$10,000 signing bonus!

January 9, 2020

Here is a great opportunity to join a 7-doctor practice, come grow with us and work at the 2019 #1 Best Voted Veterinary Hospital in Kansas City! Eagle Animal Hospital is expanding in Kansas City and looking to add a part-time and full-time experienced veterinarian. We strive to offer the best customer experience possible, with 75 years of service to our community in Kansas City northland, we have an established clientele in place and is rapidly growing. Newly upgraded equipment which includes Laparoscopy, Ultrasound and CT Scanner along with a great support staff make for a superior work environment. Great benefits and competitive pay available. Check out our website at www.eagleanimalhospital.com. Please send resume to eaglevet4@yahoo.com.

Salary Range: \$70000.00 To \$95000.00 (USD) Annually (Varying by skill set and experience) + a \$1200.00 reimbursable expense account and generous benefits package.

To learn more or apply, visit <https://snkc.net/about-spay-neuter-kansas-city/job-opportunities/> and click on SNKC CAREERS. Complete applications should include both a resume and a cover letter.

Classifieds

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.

January 1, 2020

Crest Animal Hospital is growing and we are seeking technicians. Responsibilities include: surgical assist/anesthesia monitoring, running and assisting with various tests and blood draws, answering phones, assisting in client education and surgical discharges. 1 year of experience preferred but we can train the right people. Please send resumes to crest1313@outlook.com

January 1, 2020

Crest Animal Hospital is seeking one or two associate veterinarians for full or part time positions. We are a full service veterinary hospital that provides high quality affordable pet care. We are seeking compassionate progressive veterinarians that would like to grow with us. We offer an attractive salary and benefit package with flexible hours. Send resumes to crest1313@outlook.com