



Drug, Medical Supply Shortages Due to COVID-19 May Disrupt Veterinary Care

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

As of April 12, the AVMA reports that there are no shortages reported by animal drug companies that source drugs or active ingredients in China. There is concern, however that supply chain disruptions will lead to shortages. The FDA has teamed up with FEMA to help allocate resources where most needed. PPE is also in short supply and veterinary suppliers are mostly distributing these on allocation. Most state governments have ordered veterinary clinics to discontinue elective medical procedures and conserve PPE by reusing masks and gowns when necessary.

Many veterinary hospitals are donating PPE and medical equipment, such as ventilators, to their human counterparts. If you wish to volunteer your time or donate equipment, the AVMA encourages you to start with local and state veterinary medical associations to facilitate distribution where most needed. The AVMA cautions that veterinary personnel wishing to volunteer in roles involving contact with human patients should be aware of the increased risk and impacts on their return to work in the veterinary field, which may involve increased duration of self-quarantine and testing.

The AVMA has a dedicated webpage for COVID-19 resources at <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>. Information is updated regularly and is good launching point for all things veterinary during the pandemic.

AVMA House of Delegates Votes on New Policies

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

On January 11, the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) voted on new policies regarding humane management of horse cribbing and on microchipping of animals. Delegates also approved recommendations on new topics raised at the Veterinary Information Forum held January 10.

Cribbing is an equine behavior in which a horse places its incisor teeth on a solid object such as a fence rail. In 2019, the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) cited the practice of placing metal hog rings around the teeth of horses to prevent cribbing. These rings cause damage to the gingiva and teeth of the horse and also lead to periodontal disease. The new policy condemns the practice of placing hog rings or other devices around the teeth of horses to prevent cribbing. The policy also encourages further research into finding and addressing the underlying cause(s) of cribbing in horses.

The policy on microchipping was a collaboration of the Council on Veterinary Service, the State Advocacy Committee and Animal Welfare Committee. The entities acknowledge valid reasons to scan new patients and existing patients for implanting microchips; however, a policy dictating situations,

frequency or procedures for scanning microchips may interfere with state laws of property ownership. Therefore, there is a need to scale down the existing policy. The approved policy endorses implantation of microchips in companion animals and equids and supports standardization of equipment, materials and registries. Veterinary teams are encouraged to recommend microchip implantation to their clients with the objectives of accurately identifying and reuniting animals with their owners, identifying for regulatory purposes such as health certificates, and accurate identification of animals prior to providing medical or surgical treatment. The policy also supports RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology based on ISO 11784/11785 standards.

The HOD also voted to work on development of a toolkit and an awareness campaign to protect practitioners, students and other members of the veterinary team against potential liability issues related to student externs and volunteers. Another recommendation approved by the HOD was for continued development of guidelines for online veterinary care and telehealth.

APHIS Awards \$10.2 Million to Implement 2018 Farm Bill Programs

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The 2018 farm bill provided funding to disease prevention, emergency response training and laboratory diagnostic improvement programs. In January, the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) awarded 10.2 million to support these projects. Efforts by House Agriculture Committee chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota and House Agriculture Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee chairman Jim Costa of California pushed for long term funding to address risks of diseases such as African swine fever, avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, virulent Newcastle Disease and Foot and Mouth disease (FMD). Also in development is the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB).

APHIS awarded \$5.2 million through the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP). Projects funded through this program focus on training animal agriculture sector responders. APHIS is awarding \$5 million through the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). These projects will be led by NAHLN laboratories to address test method development and validation and enhancing emergency preparedness.

APHIS is continuing its efforts to develop the NAVVCB. Priority is increasing the stockpile of FMD vaccines. APHIS announced a Request for Proposals to acquire FMD vaccines. Their target goal is to spend 15 to 30 million dollars on vaccines by the end of 2020.



SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Animals

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed two cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection in two pet domestic cats on April 22, 2020. One cat was living in a household with a person that had been diagnosed with COVID-19. The household with the second cat had no members that had been confirmed positive for COVID-19. In this instance, the virus was thought to have been transmitted by mildly ill or asymptomatic household members or through an infected individual outside of the home. These are the first pets in the United States to test positive for the virus. The two cats both had mild respiratory symptoms but are expected to make a full recovery. Prior to this, the only positive cases in pets were two dogs and a cat in China and a cat in Belgium. Other species that have tested positive include a tiger in the Bronx zoo. This tiger was living in an area with three other tigers and three lions that all developed respiratory signs within a week of each other. Fecal samples from all of these animals tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. In all of these cases except for the one cat in New York, the animals had had close contact with a person who had been confirmed positive for COVID-19.

Scientific research into the possible role of various animals in disease transmission revealed that domestic cats, ferrets and Syrian hamsters show potential for serving as animal models of human infection. Conversely dogs, chickens, ducks and pigs do not appear to be model hosts. To date, a definitive intermediate host has not been found. There is no evidence that domestic animals are easily infected with the virus under natural conditions. Currently there is no evidence that infection can be transmitted from pets to people. CDC and OIE recommendations are that people positive for COVID-19 limit contact with their pets. Ideally, ill persons should arrange for someone else to care for their pets until they have recovered. If that is not possible, ill persons should wear masks around their pets, wash their hands often and avoid contact with their pets as much as possible. It is not recommended to routinely test animals for SARS-CoV-2 and veterinarians are encouraged to rule out all other common causes of illness before considering testing of animals.

FDA Guidance Could Significantly Impact Ability to Compound Medicines for Animal Patients

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The FDA released a draft guidance similar to the guidance issued in 2015, which was subsequently withdrawn after the FDA received significant pushback from the veterinary industry. While compounded animal drugs are not reviewed by the FDA as safe or effective for the intended use, the FDA acknowledges that, where there is no FDA-approved medically appropriate drug to treat the animal, a drug may be compounded from bulk drug substances. The guidance also states in these instances the FDA will not take action against licensed pharmacies and veterinarians compounding drugs for violations of the FD&C Act requirements for animal drug approval.

The new guidance only allows the use of 7 bulk active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for compounding because there are currently no approved finished pharmaceutical equivalents. These bulk ingredients include: apomorphine hydrochloride, cisapride, guaifenesin, metronidazole benzoate, miconazole nitrate, potassium bromide, and tacrolimus. Specifically prohibited bulk APIs include: amlodipine, budesonide, chloramphenicol, dexamethasone, dipyrone,

doxycycline, enrofloxacin, gabapentin, idoxuridine, itraconazole with DMSO, and voriconazole.

The new guidance would require that compounded medications be created from finished pharmaceuticals instead of bulk APIs except those 7 ingredients stated above. Veterinarians would also be required to document the clinical need for compounded medications on every prescription and in every medical record. This new guidance would significantly increase the price of compounded medications by increasing the price of ingredients and the amount of paperwork required, making some medications cost-prohibitive for pet owners. This guidance may also have an impact on availability of compounding when approved drugs containing APIs on the prohibited list are in short supply.

The FDA is still accepting public comments on the guidance as well as nominations for approved APIs through June 17, 2020. Information on the guidance as well as how to submit comments and ingredient proposals can be found at <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/cvm-updates/fda-releases-revised-draft-guidance-compounding-animal-drugs-bulk-drug-substances>.



ONLINE CE OPPORTUNITIES

COLLABORATIVE MODEL FOR EMERGENCY/ESSENTIAL CARE AT COVID19 EPICENTERS

You stay open for emergencies. You get sick. Staff are quarantined. Now you are closed and the surviving practices are struggling to meet the need for emergency and essential animal care.

On 3/25/2020 NYSVMS hosted a webinar from one emergency hospital group, VEG, that has developed a collaborative solution. We believe this model may be needed elsewhere in the State, and are working with VEG on broader plans to support all practices in an emergency.

This collaborative model involves opening the emergency hospitals 24 hours, and local veterinary practices shifting their operations into the emergency hospital. Their staff join the emergency hospital staff to form teams including:

- On-premises shifts working on emergency/essential cases
- Home-based shifts working from home doing reception phone-calls and tele-triage, and ready to keep the hospital open if the on-premises shift is quarantined
- The home-based team includes veterinarians who are quarantined or need to be at home for other reasons
- We heard from Dr. David Bessler and his team at Veterinary Emergency Group on how they are cooperating with veterinary operations throughout Westchester, Rockland, Long Island, Upper East Side and Brooklyn to ensure veterinarians are as safe as possible while providing essential veterinary care.

Issues covered include:

- Overview of the current environment
- What VEG is doing now – cleaning, moving the back to the front, video chats, remote triage
- Thinking ahead – shut down hospitals to create a rescue team, equipment conservation
- A collaborative model – commitments to regular DVMs to return cases, lists of open/closed vets etc

View All Online CE Opportunities at
<http://www.kcvma.com/online-ce-opportunities/>

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.

April 24, 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!

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

March 25, 2020**Associate Veterinarian Wanted**

Crain Veterinary Center, a small animal, full-service practice in Grain Valley, East of Kansas City, is seeking a full-time associate DVM. We are also offering a paid, full-time internship.

We serve a growing community with five full-time veterinarians and a wonderful staff. Our technicians and staff allow our doctors to focus on being doctors and not techs by assisting with appointments, procedures and surgery. If you're looking for an opportunity to be a part of something great, Crain Veterinary Center is the place for you!

We will provide you with the chance to experience a wide variety of medical and surgical cases with support from your other colleagues. A team-oriented approach to veterinary medicine is something we truly value. If you are a new graduate, we want to help make your transition from school to your career as smooth as possible. We are looking for an individual who is driven and willing to learn anything from internal medicine to a wide range of surgical procedures. Benefits include competitive salary, 401K, paid licensing dues, paid vacations, CE credits, NO overnight or on-call emergencies, etc.,

Offering state of the art equipment, including:

- Digital Radiography
- High Speed Dental Drill
- Ultrasound
- Digital Dental Radiography
- Therapy Laser
- In-House UA Analyzer

Wide range of surgical/medical procedures including:

- Endoscopy
- Amputation
- Femoral Head Ostectomy (FHO)
- Mass Removal
- Fracture Repair (Plating & Pinning)
- Aural Hematoma Repair
- Intra-Abdominal Procedures
- Ophthalmic Procedures (Cherry Eye, Enucleation, etc.)
- Anal Gland Removal
- Cruciate Ligament Repair

Emergency Operations, and more!

Please call or email Brienne Mays with any questions, in-person and phone interviews are available!

816-229-1147 or Send your resume to: crainvetcenter@gmail.com

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March 16, 2020

The Independent Veterinary Network telemedicine platform is now available to established veterinary clinics. DVMs can help pet owners avoid travel and waiting room grouping with text or video connections using the practice's brand identity. Prices for services are customizable for each provider. Access times are optional and can be offered during and after regular office hours. Info? contact rward@independentvetnet.com or independentvetnet.com

March 11, 2020

Are you looking to use your technician skills to the top level? Excited about working with animals and a fun team? Then look no more, we are looking for a full-time veterinary technician at Allcare Animal Hospital in Shawnee KS.

The Veterinary Technician assists the doctors to the fullest possible extent, to help improve the quality of care given to the patients, and to aid the doctors in achieving greater efficiency by relieving them of technical work at the practice. He/she will assist in multiple procedures providing care for animals including physical examinations, dental procedures, surgeries, immunizations, euthanasia as well as client education, marketing and inventory maintenance. This position requires a working knowledge of pharmaceutical drugs, common diseases; their symptoms, means of transmission, treatment and prevention, and other basic preventative health care recommendations.

In this role you will:

- Work closely with our clients and their pets
- Provide patients with a high level of patient care
- Assist veterinarians in providing care for animals including physical examinations, dental procedures, surgeries, immunization
- Provide client education and marketing
- Maintain inventory

To be successful in this role you will need:

- Enjoy working individually and as a team with a great work ethic
- Excel at communication skills
- Have a commitment to excellent client service
- To possess strong organizational skills

Requirements:

- Enjoy working individually and as a team with a great work ethic
- Excel at communication skills
- Have a commitment to excellent client service
- To possess strong organizational skills
- Strong working knowledge of pharmaceutical drugs, common diseases, their symptoms, means of transmission, treatment and prevention and other basic preventative health care recommendations.
- Experience in surgery and dentistry

As an employer of choice, we will provide you:

- Competitive Hourly Wage
- Continuing Education
- Paid Time Off
- Retirement Plan
- Membership Dues and License Fee
- Four (4) Shift Per Week Schedule
- Veterinary Services at a Reduced Rate

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Our practice is a 3-doctor small animal practice that specializes in providing high quality, compassionate and convenient care for our patients. Our employees enjoy working here because we recognize the importance of the relationships between humans and animals and we see our clients and patients as extended family.

You can find us on the web at <https://allcareanimalhosp.com> . A background check/drug screen will be required of the successful candidate. We are a drug-free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer.

Please email resume to allcarepracticemanager@yahoo.com

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: \$13.00 to \$16.00 /hour

March 11, 2020

Gladstone Animal Clinic, LLC is seeking a Full-Time and Part-Time Veterinary Technician and a Full-Time Veterinary Assistant.

If you are seeking to advance your career in veterinary medicine, we are the place for you! We offer state of the art care with our in-house diagnostic equipment, digital radiology, laser therapy, ultrasound and surgical suite. We also use Idexx Cornerstone for our practice software that integrates directly with our in-house lab.

We are a busy, small animal and exotic, seven doctor practice. Competitive pay is based on experience. Flexible hours with some weekends required. Please contact our office manager Jessica Baxter with any questions at (816)436-1100. Resumes can be emailed to jessica.baxter.gladvets@gmail.com

We look forward to you joining our team!