



news&notes

November/December 2020



Veterinarians Warn of Unusual Strain of Kennel Cough in Dogs

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Veterinarians in North Carolina have reported a high number of kennel cough cases this fall. The strain appears to be highly contagious and causes a dry hacking cough. The traditional *Bordetella* vaccine is not effective against this strain which has been found to be caused by *Mycoplasma* spp.

Symptoms include cough, nasal and ocular discharge, lethargy and fever. Like *Bordetella*, this strain of kennel cough is highly contagious. Most dogs continue to have normal attitude or maybe mild lethargy. However, some dogs can progress to pneumonia and become severely ill. The infection is usually self-limiting and lasts 7-10 days. Many pets can be treated with supportive care at home.

More severe cases usually occur in dogs with underlying medical conditions or compromised immune systems.

Just like their human counterparts, the best way to avoid infection is social distancing. Owners are being told to avoid dog parks, doggy day care, grooming appointments or other large gatherings of dogs if kennel cough is prevalent in their area. It is not currently known how widespread this strain will be. Currently it appears to have been limited to the southeast, but some veterinarians in Oregon have reported cases as well. With dogs traveling as companions on airlines and family vacations more often now, it is much easier for a disease like this to spread across the country.

New Research Has Found That Feeding Cats One Large Meal A Day May Help Control Hunger Better Than Feeding Them Several Times A Day

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Research published in PLOS One by nutritionists at University of Guelph suggest that feeding cats just one meal a day could reduce hunger. Cats fed one meal a day seemed more satisfied and less likely to beg. Researchers suggest this could prevent weight gain and reduce the number of overweight cats.

These findings are contradictory to what most veterinarians have been telling cat owners regarding feeding frequency. It was previously thought that cats needed several meals a day for optimum nutrition. This study is the first to analyze feeding frequency and its effects on appetite suppressing hormones, energy expenditure and physical activity.

The study involved eight cats, all of healthy weight and under the age of five. Cats were fed one meal in the morning or were fed the same total amount divided into four smaller meals. Each cat was exposed to both schedules for three weeks each. Researchers recorded physical activity, daily food intake and weekly weight measurement. Cats fed four meals a day showed higher physical activity, but did not expend any more energy than cats fed once daily. Weight did not change for either group during the study.

Cats that were fed one meal a day had higher post-meal levels of appetite regulating hormones and lower fasting respiratory quotient consistent with burning fat stores. These cats also had more increased in blood amino acids which translates into more protein for muscle mass.

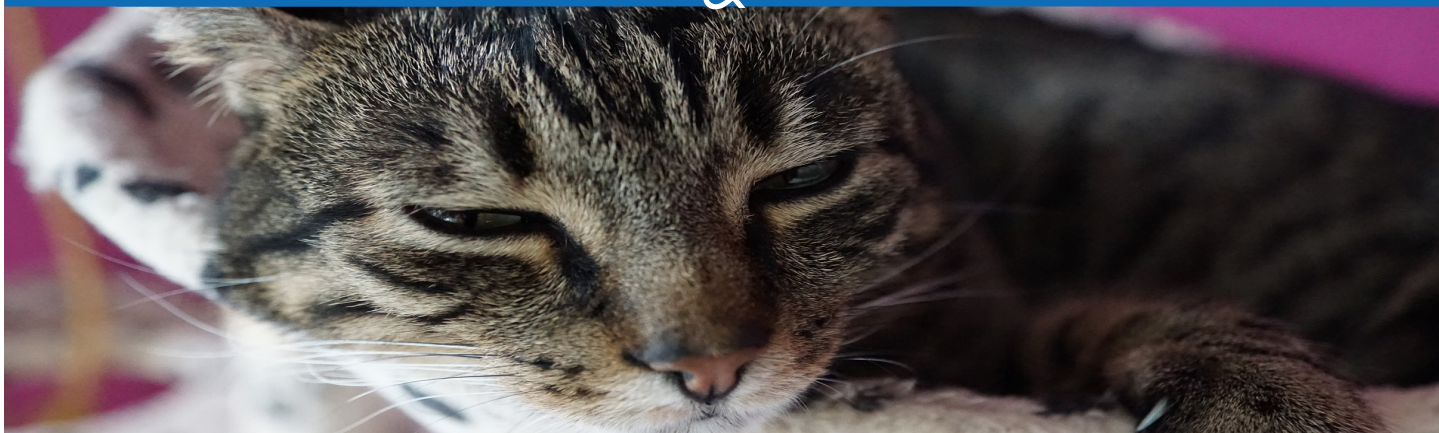
Researchers feel that once meal a day is more consistent with big cats in the wild who make a big kill and then fast until their next kill. Researchers acknowledge this feeding style may not be appropriate for every cat and would like to conduct longer studies.



KCVMA 2021 Membership Renewal Reminder

An organization is only as strong as its members, and KCVMA is most certainly going strong! As 2020 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. Please know we will continue to offer quality CE during these times. If in person meetings are not possible, virtual monthly meetings will continue to occur. 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 Brian Ellis (bellis@kcvma.com)



New Study Investigates Use of Meloxicam & Robenacoxib in Cats with Chronic Kidney Disease

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The WSAVA Global Pain Council (WSAVA-GPC) evaluated several studies to determine the safety of using NSAIDs in cats with chronic kidney disease and concurrent chronic pain conditions. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a common ailment of older cats affecting up to 40% of cats over the age of 10 and 80% of cats over 15 years of age. Many of these cats also suffer from painful conditions such as osteoarthritis, periodontal disease and cancer. It is estimated that 70% of cats with CKD also suffer from osteoarthritis, yet non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are generally contraindicated in animals with CKD.

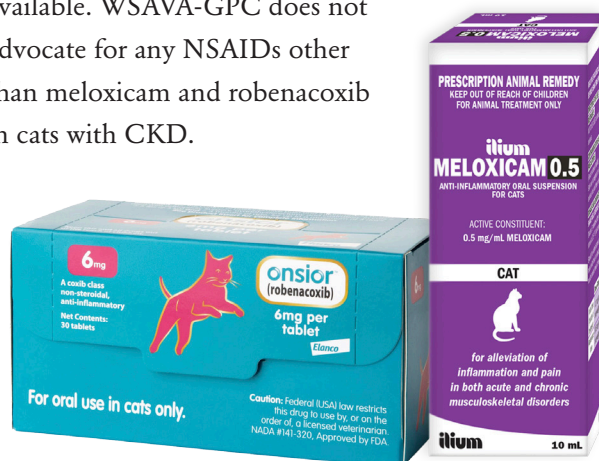
NSAIDs work by inhibiting cyclooxygenase enzymes (COX) in cells. COX enzymes are necessary for biosynthesis of prostaglandins that play a role in renal perfusion and regulation. Thus, it has been speculated that NSAIDs could contribute to renal toxicity in renal compromised patients.

Researchers found long-term NSAID therapy to be safe in cats with osteoarthritis for 6 months. During this study, researchers saw no difference in serum creatinine levels between the meloxicam and the control group. Following this study, researchers set out to determine if NSAIDs could be safely administered to cats with CKD and found that NSAIDs can be administered safely to cats with stable CKD.

WSAVA-GPC suggests that stable CKD indicates

a stable patient with minimal changes in body weight and creatinine for at least 2 months and controlled concurrent conditions. Cats at IRIS stages 3 and 4 are not typically studied in NSAID research. It is recommended that the lowest effective dosage be used and may be titrated up or down based on patient response. The average dose of meloxicam in one retrospective study was 0.02mg/kg.

It is important to note that not all CKD cats are candidates for NSAID therapy. The clinician should take into account the pet's overall health and have a detailed discussion with the owner of the risks vs. benefits of NSAID administration. In addition, it is important to educate owners on the signs to look for when administering NSAIDs to renal patients. Do not forget to take into account other treatment modalities that are available. WSAVA-GPC does not advocate for any NSAIDs other than meloxicam and robenacoxib in cats with CKD.





Organization Seeks to Diversify Veterinary Workforce

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine has developed an organization to help diversify the veterinary workforce. The League of VetaHumanz, in collaboration with 18 member institutions, will highlight role models in the veterinary field to provide support to underserved youth wishing to pursue veterinary careers. The League represents academia, practice, research, government and industry. Purdue says it plans to provide veterinary students with resources to engage community youth after graduation.

Dr. Sandra San Miguel, whose superhero name is Pink Phoenix, is the founder of the League of VetaHumanz and the associate dean for engagement in Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to active role models, the organization is planning to provide resources to children who do not have access to in-person role models so that they can learn about a veterinary role model and have a veterinary-related activity at home. The website also offers access to free video role models, an online game and books about veterinary medicine.

VetaHumanz is meant to resemble the term metahumans from the DC Comics universe, who are humans with superpowers. The website defines VetaHuman as "A human being with superpowers who protects animal and public health; synonym: veterinarian. Role models with the organization are identified as superheroes.

The league is supported by a five-year grant from the Science Education Partnership Award program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Purdue's College of Education will evaluate the impact of the league by studying changes in attitude toward the veterinary profession, knowledge of veterinary science and the impact of live and virtual role modeling.

Member institutions include several schools and colleges of veterinary medicine as well as a few community organizations. For more information on the organization and to see member organizations, visit their website at <https://vet.purdue.edu/vetahumanz/>.

Aquamation

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Aquamation, also known as alkaline hydrolysis, is marketed as a greener process of body disposal. The process uses electricity, water and lye to break down organic materials. Because it does not rely on fossil fuels like traditional cremations, Aquamation has a tenth of the carbon footprint.

Aquamation is becoming an increasingly popular form of cremation and has been approved for pet remains in all 50 states. The process for humans is more limited and only approved in 21 U.S. states at this time.

The process involves creating an alkaline environment in water under high pressure. The time it takes varies based on the operating temperature of the equipment but ranges from 8-20 hours. Temperatures range from 200-300 degrees Fahrenheit. All organic material is broken down to its most basic building blocks so that no proteins or DNA remain.

In comparison, flame cremation occurs at temperatures of 1600-1800 degrees Fahrenheit and takes 1-3 hours to complete. The cost for Aquamation ranges from \$150-400 for dogs. The remains are usually processed into a powder for placement into an urn, very similar to traditional cremation.

Aquamation services are available locally through Heartland Pet Aquamation in Kansas City.

NOVEMBER CE

Hematology at a Glance: What Are You Missing Without a CBC? (1 CE) & Expanding the Clinical Utility of SDMA Beyond CKD (1 CE)

Date: November 19th, 2020 at 7pm

Presenter: Dr. Bill Saxon

Location: Online (Link will be provided at a later date)

CE: 2 CE credit hour (pending)

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by November 16th. Current membership dues cover all CE.

Sponsor: Idexx

ABOUT DR. SAXON:

Dr. Saxon, a graduate of Iowa State University, practiced in the San Francisco area until 2007 and has also owned an intensive care unit in a specialty referral practice in Washington, D.C. He has been an IDEXX Reference Laboratories internal medicine consultant since 1997 and is a coauthor of Manual of Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Medicine.

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.

October 19, 2020

Title: Behavior Evaluator Department: Behavior Evaluation Reports To: Canine Behavior and Training Manager Updated on: October 2020 Status: Non-Exempt, Full Time 38-40 hours Schedule to be determined. Some evenings and weekends required. Approved By: Vice President of Animal Welfare and Operations

POSITION SUMMARY

Canine Behavior Center, and also ensuring our canine population have current directives and are monitored for signs of stress or regression. The Behavior Evaluator will help educate volunteers, fellow staff members, potential adopters, and the public by promoting positive reinforcement and displaying proper dog handling techniques.

PRIMARY ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Work with a team of passionate professionals committed to best practices in addressing the unique needs of shelter dogs to ensure a thorough behavior assessment is completed on all canines 5 months and older entering the shelter.
 - Distinguishing between floor ready canines and canines who may require a decompression period or behavior modification.
 - Ensuring each dog has proper signage and walking directives when needed.
2. Make recommendations to staff and volunteers regarding canine behavior issues when necessary.
3. Support the admissions department in evaluating and obtaining information on canine behavior owner surrender appointments. This will include entering all surrender notes.
4. Walk and provide enrichment to staff-only and bite quarantine dogs when appropriate.
5. Assist in organizing play groups or extra enrichment for any stressed population.
6. Communicate daily updates of dogs cleared behaviorally to appropriate departments to ensure the best flow through the shelter.
7. Create customized behavior and training packets to go home with adopters for dogs that may require continued training, or have specific needs. Assist in providing handouts and advice for dogs in foster for behavior reasons.

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8. Maintain open communication with all behavior staff about grads of the CBC, and collaborate on behavior protocols and best practices.
9. Support the "Ask a Trainer" feature by responding to behavior related inquiries as needed.
10. Work with the Public Training program
11. Maintain the BE work areas in the main building and CBC including CBC kennels, prep areas, etc.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS/ KEY COMPETENCIES

- Thorough understanding of canine behavior and body language, especially in a shelter environment
- Ability to use safe and humane dog handling techniques for both fearful and high arousal dogs
- Ability to work within a team setting as well as independently, and provide and accept feedback in the moment
- Strong customer service background
- Ability to work with and train volunteers
- Strong attention to detail and ability to prioritize tasks in a fast paced environment
- Ability to work under pressure
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing
- Strong public speaking skills
- Ability to work in an emotionally charged environment, and have challenging conversations effectively and appropriately

POSITION REQUIREMENTS**Education**

- High School diploma or GED; Degree preferred
- CPDT- KA preferred
- Dog handling experience required: shelter handling preferred

Physical

- Ability to lift 50lbs
- Significant amount of standing and squatting during a typical day, exposure to fumes, animal smells, and airborne particles
- Noise level is moderate to high
- Exposure to animal waste
- Potential to be scratched or bitten

October 15, 2020

Raymore Veterinary Center is a small animal practice in Raymore, MO, a suburb just south of Kansas City, MO. We are a busy 3 doctor practice. Our hospital is growing rapidly and we are in need of additional veterinarians. Our hospital has been established in our community for more than 15 years. We treat each patient and their family as our own family. We have a seasoned and experienced staff because this is a great place to work! Our team is progressive and dedicated to constant improvement. We like to go above and beyond to provide the absolute best care for our patients and their families. Raymore is about 20 minutes from downtown Kansas City and 45 minutes from Truman Lake and other great outdoor activities.

Raymore Veterinary Center offers:

- Generous compensation package
- Flexible work schedule.
- No Saturdays and no emergency call. Our hours are Monday through Friday 8 am – 6 pm.
- Continuing education allowance and all professional fees and dues are paid
- In-house Idexx laboratory equipment, digital radiographs, ultrasound, IM3 dental unit, laser surgical unit.
- Easy referral to multiple 24-hour emergency and specialty facilities in the area.

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- We have a caring and supportive staff and you will work side-by-side other veterinarians daily. We foster a strong collaborative work environment.
- Beautiful, updated and CLEAN facility.

We are flexible and would welcome full or part time applicants of any experience level. Contact Shane Brookshire, DVM (MU '97) for more information. 816-331-2626 or raymorevc@gmail.com

October 12, 2020

Petco is seeking veterinarians for our new full-service, general practice Vetco Total Care hospitals in Derby and Wichita, KS. Practice high-quality medicine, your way! Excellent benefits/incentives include: Open Time Off, \$3500 CE stipend, and paid parental leave! Full-Time veterinarians are eligible for a Signing Bonus/Relocation and/or Housing Stipend! Email: veterinarycareers@petco.com

October 9, 2020

Heritage Animal Hospital- Olathe, KS- is growing fast! We are looking for FT/PT associate veterinarian, mixed or strictly small animal. We have everything to make you love practicing- great support staff, wonderful clients, and laid back environment with in house lab, digital radiography, ultrasound. Come see what we have to offer. Email khoytdvm@yahoo.com if you are interested

October 8, 2020

Westwood Animal Hospital is seeking a veterinary receptionist to join our team. This is a temporary winter position with the option for a kennel caregiver position in the spring. Benefits include discounted services and products for employee's pet(s), paid personal, sick, and vacation time for full-time staff, and an employer contribution towards employee's individual health insurance plan for full-time staff. The right candidate is trustworthy and dependable, has a friendly personality, and has a sincere interest in helping people and their pets. Some previous experience in the companion animal field is preferred. Interested job-seekers can fill out the application for employment on our website, <https://westwoodanimalhospital.com/front-page/forms-2/>

Please e-mail or fax completed application to the attention of Emily Sandberg.

October 5, 2020

The University of Missouri's Veterinary Health Center at Kansas City is now hiring full-time veterinarians. This practice is part of the University of Missouri's Columbia Veterinary Health Center (VHC). The emergency clinic provides night and weekend patient care for animals that are critically ill, that are subject to change or deteriorate rapidly, and that require technically complex and time-consuming treatment and monitoring. The Veterinarian on duty will ensure proper patient care is provided, referring veterinarian and client communications meet expectations, and business protocols are followed.

Salary: \$83,400-\$176,912 annually

Shift: Nights, weekends and holidays.

Minimum Qualifications: A Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree and professional licensure (or eligibility to be licensed) within the State of Missouri

Benefit Eligibility: This position is eligible for University benefits. The University offers a comprehensive benefits package, including medical, dental and vision plans, retirement, paid time off, and educational fee discounts. For additional

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information on University benefits, please visit the Faculty & Staff Benefits website at <http://www.umsystem.edu/totalrewards/benefits>

If you would like more information regarding this position please contact LeAnne Stewart at stewartle@missouri.edu and to apply please visit <https://hrs.missouri.edu/find-a-job/staff>, Job ID 34074.

September 30, 2020

Full-Time Associate Veterinarian Wanted: Crain Veterinary Center, a small animal, full-service practice in Grain Valley, MO, East of Kansas City, is seeking a full-time associate DVM. We are also offering a paid, full-time internship to new graduates.

We serve a growing community with four 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
- Digital Dental Radiography
- High Speed Dental Drill
- Therapy Laser
- Ultrasound
- In-House UA Analyzer

Wide range of surgical/medical procedures including:

- Endoscopy
- Mass Removal
- Intra-Abdominal Procedures
- Cruciate Ligament Repair
- Amputation
- Fracture Repair (Plating and Pinning)
- Ophthalmic Procedures (Cherry Eye, Enucleation, etc.)
- Femoral Head Osteotomy (FHO)
- Aural Hematoma Repair
- Anal Gland Removal
- Emergency Operations, and more!

Please call or email Brianne Mays with any questions, in-person and phone interviews are available! 816-229-1147

Send your resume to: crainvetcenter@gmail.com

September 24, 2020

Practice description: Foxwood Animal Hospital is a long established companion animal hospital in the Kansas City area. We are privately owned, have 3 veterinarians on staff and a wonderful support staff. We offer in house and outsourced lab, high speed dental, digital radiology, electrocautery, ultrasound, etc. No after hours emergencies! We are searching for

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either a part time or full time small animal veterinarian. Our hospital is extremely laid back but offer top notch level of care. We have recently renovated the facility and have modern equipment. Our schedule is flexible but averages about 35 hours per week. Experience preferred but not required and compensation package dependent on experience. To apply please contact Dr. Carolyn Harman at foxwoodanimalhos@aol.com. www.foxwoodanimalhospital.com

September 23, 2020

Pet Resource Center of Kansas City: Our community needs you! We are trying to keep up with pet owners impacted by COVID and who need our help with resources and services. We are currently seeking relief, part time or full time Veterinarian help. If you can help a little or are looking for a change please reach out to our Chief Veterinarian Dr. Jess Nichols jnichols@prckc.org We'd love to give you a tour! For more information on PRCKC visit www.prckc.org for job description go to About us and Job Opportunities. Thank you!

September 22, 2020

Eagle Animal Hospital is looking to add a full-time veterinarian to our 10 doctor team. We strive to offer the best customer experience possible in our Riverside newly built 10k sq ft facility and our newly acquired Tiffany Springs location. Well established clientele in place. Newly upgraded equipment which includes Laproscopic Surgery, Ultrasound and CT Scanner along with an excellent support staff make for a superior work environment. Great benefits and competitive pay available. Check out our websites eagleanimalhospital.com and eagleanimalhospitalattiffanysprings.com. Please send resume to eaglevet4@yahoo.com.