



Vet Students Learning About Stress and Burnout

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association recently warned about high levels of stress and burnout in the veterinary profession. A survey published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in February of 2020 revealed that 25% of veterinarians had considered suicide in the prior year. About 10% of the survey respondents were Canadian vets.

In response to this ongoing issue in the profession, the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, is teaching students how to recognize, prepare for and deal with stress and burnout. Stressors such as an owner not being able to afford a treatment that could cure an animal and multiple euthanasias per week are things that are often glossed over with students.

The College has developed a curriculum based on three aspects of veterinary medicine that contribute to veterinarians' emotional and mental health. The first is dealing with ethical decision making, the second is client communication and the third focuses on personal well-being. The College has also hired a mental health educator as a wellness facilitator. This individual promotes awareness of the challenges of veterinary medicine and helps struggling students develop coping strategies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the burden on the veterinary industry. More people are adopting pets, many of them as first-time pet owners. These new pet owners are demanding immediate appointments and requiring more in-depth conversations for questions from diet to behavior and training. This is a huge burden on a team operating in a non-face-to-face environment. This is creating added stress and forcing a new functional routine on many practices. The stress and frustration can lead to burnout at a faster pace.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has also recognized the toll of stress, burnout and compassion fatigue in the veterinary industry. AVMA offers many resources on well-being and coping with compassion fatigue and work-life balance. In addition, the AVMA has resources on best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic to help your practice function more smoothly and reduce some of the stress associated with curb-side service.

Snakebite Drug Might Treat COVID-19 Lung Disease

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

A drug developed as a treatment for snakebite is showing promise in treating acute respiratory distress syndrome associated with COVID-19. The drug, varespladib targets an the enzyme sPLA2 produced by snake venom. This is the same enzyme produced by inflamed lungs affected by COVID-19 virus.

The snakebite drug was conceived by Dr. Matthew Lewin, an emergency room doctor, to help treat snakebite. He sought an oral treatment that is affordable, easy to use, portable and will fight venom from different species of snake. His company, Ophirex, found varespladib and began testing its effects against snake venom. So far, the company has tested with positive results in mice and pigs. The drug is especially important to rural areas of Asia and Africa where snakebites are common and medical care is scarce.

Current treatment for snakebite involves the administration of multiple doses of extremely expensive antivenom. A vial of antivenom in a hospital in the U.S. can cost as much as \$15,000 with a total course of treatment funning anywhere from \$60,000 to \$750,000.

Snake venom immediately begins destroying tissue and most victims on average take about 2 hours to get to a hospital for treatment. Varespladib can be taken in the field and, though it won't replace antivenom treatment, it will buy the victim some time and reduce tissue damage during transport to the hospital.

Varespladib was originally developed by Eli Lilly and Shionogi, a Japanese pharmaceutical company, to treat sepsis. The drug has been shown to be safe for human use, but was never taken to market for its intended use. Dr. Lewin tested against several types of venom and found that the drug neutralized the venom of snakes on six continents – a result verified by the Yale Center for Molecular Discovery.

Human clinical trials against snake venom were delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Recently, the company has received a grant from the U.S. Army to conduct human trials for the possible COVID-19 application. These trials are set to occur next year.



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)



Veterinary Educational Debt Continues to Rise

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

At the AVMA Economic Summit in October, Dr. Bridgette Bain spoke on the data from the 2020 AVMA Senior Survey. Educational debt for veterinary graduates is growing 4.5 times faster than income. Mean educational debt for 2020 U.S. veterinary college graduates was \$157,146. Mean debt to income ratio was 2:1 with 20% of students graduating with a ratio of 4:1. The percentage of graduates planning to pursue internships is declining. Mean weight starting salary for students entering the work force with full time employment was \$90,722. This is an increase from 2019 salaries. However, the impact of COVID-19 is not expected to be apparent for a few years. The majority of graduates this year saw no change in employment offers due to COVID-19, but about 3% said their employment offer was withdrawn because of the pandemic.

Also noteworthy is greater than 40% of students graduating with debt stated they had a budget. African American graduates had more debt than their peers. Women had higher debt to income ratio than men. Other risk factors for a higher debt load include major life events during education and students that had to repeat courses.

This is nothing new as veterinary student debt load has been a concern over the past decade. Dr. Debbie Taranik, a practitioner participating in a VIN discussion in 2011, wrote that the expense has exceeded the value of the career and that the cost of veterinary education leads to “a hole dug so deep for

our new grads that they will be slaves to the debt instead of earning a decent living.”

Suggestions for fixing the problem are multifactorial. One of the biggest reasons for the high cost of veterinary tuition is lack of government funding for veterinary medicine. Very little funding comes from the USDA and with over 30% of graduates going into companion animal medicine, there is no government support. One suggestion is that the government could reduce the interest rate on student loans. The implementation of the income-based repayment program is a big help short-term, but increases the overall debt load over time. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to government relief through suspension of student loan interest and payments since March. This is due to expire in January, but may be extended with a new relief package. Other suggestions for minimizing student debt place the burden directly on the veterinary education system – reducing faculty and merging some courses or eliminating specialty classes all together, implementing more online learning, and reducing the number of years required to get a degree. One suggestion that many respondents are supporting is reducing the number of years of undergraduate training required to enter veterinary school by developing a veterinary specific two-year program that can be taken at a technical or community college and then reducing the veterinary medicine program to 3 years for a total of 5 years of education rather than 8.



Researchers Developing Vaccines for Tick-borne Diseases: Ehrlichia, Anaplasmosis.

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Kansas State University researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicines' Center of Excellence for Vector Borne Diseases have successfully patented technology to develop vaccines against tick-borne Ehrlichia and Anaplasma. The team, led by Roman Ganta, focused its work on developing gene mutations in Ehrlichia species.

Ehrlichia species bacteria are transmitted by ticks and lead to a disease state known as ehrlichiosis. Specifically, Ehrlichia chaffeensis causes serious illness associated with morbidity in people with compromised immunity such as the elderly and young children. Symptoms include fever, chills, muscle pain, rash, changes to mental state, gastrointestinal symptoms, liver damage, anemia and other combinations of symptoms. The fatality rate in humans is approximately 1%.

The Kansas State team is the leader in developing the method to generate gene mutations in rickettsial bacteria of The Ehrlichia species. These gene mutations inactivate proteins in the bacteria rendering the unable to cause disease. These mutated bacteria are ideal for inducing immunity in a vaccine without cause infection.

The method developed by the Kansas State University researchers is applicable to other pathogens transmitted by ticks that can cause diseases in humans, dogs and cattle. The team filed patents to cover inventions for developing vaccine candidate against bacterial pathogens belonging to both Ehrlichia and Anaplasma species. Prior to this discovery, the only options for controlling infections of Ehrlichia and Anaplasma species was antibiotic treatment for humans and dogs. The patents have prompted additional support from the National Institutes of Health for expanded research and development of vaccines on related pathogens.

Researchers Identify New Rickettsia Species in Dogs

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

A new species of tick-borne Rickettsia bacteria has been identified this fall by researchers at North Carolina State University. The species belongs to the spotted-fever group such as the Rickettsia species that causes Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). In 2018 and 2019, three dogs from Tennessee, Illinois and Oklahoma with a history of tick exposure exhibiting symptoms consistent with RMSF had positive antibody reactions to R. rickettsii, but PCR testing showed the DNA of the bacteria was only 95% similar to R. Rickettsia. This prompted researchers to look further and they determined this was a new species of Rickettsia bacteria.

Symptoms of RMSF are similar in dogs and people and include fever, lethargy, swelling, rash, pain and weight loss. In 2020, the researchers have detected the new species in four more dogs. They have also asked veterinarians to collect ticks associated with dogs who have symptoms to determine which ticks are transmitting the new bacteria.

Until more is known about this species, researchers are postponing an official name. One big question is whether this species also affects people. Of the known Rickettsia species, three are known to cause RMSF symptoms in humans. Only one, Rickettsia rickettsii is known to cause disease in dogs.

The researchers' findings have been published in the December issue of the Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases titled, "Novel Rickettsia Species Infecting Dogs, United States" by Wilson, JM et al. and can be found online at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/12/20-0272_article.

JANUARY CE

A case based approach to understanding canine chronic enteropathy (CE)/inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)

Date: January 28, 2021 at 7pm

Presenter: Lindsay M. VanHusan, DVM

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

CE: TBA

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by January 25th. Current membership dues cover all CE.

ABOUT:

The diagnostic approach to defining canine chronic enteropathy (CE) will be discussed. Changes in small animal gastroenterology terminology will be reviewed. Chronic enteropathy is defined as the presence of gastrointestinal signs of a minimum of 3 weeks' duration, where the clinician has excluded all extra-intestinal and all primary intestinal disease (bacterial, fungal, parasitic, neoplastic and structural) as the cause for the symptoms. The etiology and pathophysiology of canine chronic enteropathy will be reviewed. Given that CE is a diagnosis of exclusion we will outline the extensive work up that would be required for a clinician to reach this conclusion. We will talk about specific non-invasive diagnostic tests for chronic enteropathy and their potential diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic utility. We will talk about a relatively new test panel for CE/IBD assessing the level of IgA antibodies (CE/IBD biomarkers) against 3 different targets (Anti-OmpC Porin surface antigen (ACA), Anti-canine calprotectin (ACNA), Anti-Gliadin(AGA)) and this panels ability to identify a case consistent with IBD, along with the panels potential to guide therapeutic decision maker, and its possible use in monitoring treatment response. Clinical cases will be discussed to illustrate the application and interpretation of the CE assay results. Commonly asked questions to CE/IBD will be reviewed in closing.

FEBRUARY CE

Canine Otitis Externa

Date: February 18, 2021 at 7pm

Presenter: Dr. Darren Berger

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

CE: TBA

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by February 15th. Current membership dues cover all CE.

ABOUT:

Dr. Darren Berger is a graduate of Iowa State University. Following graduation, he worked as a small animal practitioner in the state of Iowa. He then went on to complete a residency in dermatology with Dermatology for Animals in Phoenix, AZ. Following completion of his residency, he worked as a boarded dermatologist in Omaha, NE. In 2013, he joined the faculty at Iowa State University. His primary research areas are small animal clinical pharmacology along with canine and equine hypersensitivities.

Classifieds

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December 21, 2020

Veterinarian – Full Time

Seeking an independent, compassionate Veterinarian to join our team!

Why Belton Animal Clinic and Exotic Care Center in Belton, MO?

We're focused on making sure our hospital has the right tools to allow our doctor and medical staff the ability to provide excellent service and care. In addition to diagnostic and preventative services, our hospital is equipped with digital radiography, digital dental radiography, in-house labs, CO2 laser, cold therapy laser, and ultrasound. Our hospital also offers acupuncture, exotic animal care, and we are proud to be Fear Free certified. Led by Dr. Teresa Bradley Bays, our staff has over 65 years caring for dogs, cats, and exotics! That's 455 years in dog years, but who's counting?

Who are we looking for?

Not only do you love dogs and cats, but you are enthusiastic about surgery and have the basics (spay, neuter, dentistry, tumor removals, etc.) covered. You are focused on providing excellent client communication and are committed to delivering the best possible care to the animals of our community.

Partnership Opportunities! We are proud to offer additional growth opportunities for Associate DVMs through our partnership with Veterinary Practice Partners (VPP). VPP has 71 veterinarian owners that co-own their individual practices across 63 locations. It is important to note that 30 of our partners never owned part of a veterinary clinic until VPP became a co-owner. VPP is uniquely aligned with our partner Veterinarians to help them achieve their goals for their practice and their goals for their careers. VPP partnerships thrive through:

Our complementary skill sets—VPP's operational, marketing, and business acumen and our partners' clinical and client expertise—to help our practices grow, while also affording our partners more time to follow their passion for medicine and service.

Continued investment in its support team to drive growth, cost savings and enhanced benefits to its partner clinics. Our investment in marketing, analytics, operations and finance are deeper and more comprehensive than our competitors and essential in keeping our co-owners satisfied with our performance.

A deep commitment to core values – most recently manifested in the creation of a VPP Assistance Fund, funded by employees to support employees and their families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Requirements:

State Veterinary Board License must be in good standing for the state in which they intend to be hired, prior to their start date.

DVM, VMD or equivalent Veterinary Doctoral degree

Flexible work schedule, with availability to work some weekends and holidays

Benefits:

We're dedicated to your well-being and offer a comprehensive package and professional development opportunities to support your work and home life. These include:

Competitive base salary + production

Medical, dental, vision, and prescription drug benefits for you and eligible dependents

Paid time off for full-time employees

401(k) plan

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Continuing education allowance

We'll cover your dues, license fees, and AVMA PLIT

Guardian voluntary benefits

Looking to relocate?

With a location only a short drive from Kansas City, Belton, Missouri offers a perfect mix of residential beauty and bustling commerce. You'll find plenty of opportunity to enjoy a horseback ride, go back in history with a visit to the Belton Grandview & Kansas City Railroad, or take in a Royals or Chiefs game.

Apply at https://boards.greenhouse.io/belton/jobs/4990014002?gh_jid=4990014002

December 21, 2020

Veterinary Practice Manager | Full Time | Belton, MO

Seeking an independent, compassionate Practice Manager to join our team!

Why Belton Animal Clinic and Exotic Care Center in Belton, MO?

We're focused on making sure our hospital has the right tools to allow our doctor and medical staff the ability to provide excellent service and care. In addition to diagnostic and preventative services, our hospital is equipped with digital radiography, digital dental radiography, in-house labs, CO2 laser, cold therapy laser, and ultrasound. Our hospital also offers acupuncture, exotic animal care, and we are proud to be Fear Free certified. Led by Dr. Teresa Bradley Bays, our staff has over 65 years caring for dogs, cats, and exotics! That's 455 years in dog years, but who's counting?

Who are we looking for?

Individuals interested in the position must be compassionate, cheerful, possess strong leadership skills and have a good work ethic. We are looking for just the right person who has leadership qualities and the desire to lead our team.

Requirements & Responsibilities:

Responsibilities include day-to-day operations with a major focus on strong personnel management responsibilities including hiring, training and development.

A strong commitment to the client experience is imperative to be successful in this position. Other valuable traits include strong initiative, understanding the balance needed between business and staff needs, and leading by example.

Must have strong capabilities in: organization and prioritization, mathematical analysis (data management & interpretation, problem solving, and deductive reasoning), computer systems (our practice management system), and the ability to both formulate plans for improvement on your own and in conjunction with the rest of the management team.

Benefits:

We're dedicated to your well-being and offer a comprehensive package and professional development opportunities to support your work and home life. These include:

Competitive salary

Medical, dental, vision, and prescription drug benefits for you and eligible dependents

Paid time off for full-time employees

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Apply at https://boards.greenhouse.io/belton/jobs/4998493002?gh_jid=4998493002

December 10, 2020

Atchison Animal Clinic is seeking a full-time, mixed-animal, associate veterinarian looking for their dream job. We are a 5-doctor practice located in Atchison, KS. Our practice culture prioritizes high-quality progressive medicine while maintaining a sustainable work-life balance—designed to keep our staff fresh, energized, and excited about the work they do and the team with whom they work.

Our ideal candidate is a self-motivated team player with excellent communication skills.

Our case load consists of approximately 60% small animal, 35% bovine (mostly cow/calf) and 5% equine. In continuity with our mission of practicing high quality medicine we are proud to offer our brand-new facility that opened in September 2019. We are equipped with DR digital radiography, ultrasonography, IDEXX in-house lab equipment, a dedicated small animal surgery suite with anesthetic monitoring, and high- quality dental equipment including a high-speed drill and digital dental radiography.

Our large animal haul-in facility features a Silencer tilting/squeeze chute in a climate- controlled building. To learn more about our mission, our team, and our facility—find us on Facebook @AtchisonAnimalClinic, or check out our website: www.atchisonanimalclinic.com

In addition to providing our employees with a friendly work environment that is conducive to a sustainable work/ personal life balance, we proudly offer a competitive compensation package, including:

- Competitive salary
- Health Insurance
- Simple IRA with 3% employer match
- Paid AVMA and KVMA dues and dues to one additional professional organization
- Paid Kansas and Missouri License
- Paid professional liability insurance
- 2 weeks paid vacation
- Paid sick leave
- Paid Emergency Fees
- Continuing Education stipend
- Annual Bonus based on personal performance

Positioned along the Missouri River in northeast Kansas, Atchison offers ample outdoor activities including trails and parks for walking/hiking, biking, fishing, and kayaking. There is an excellent school system, offering both public

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and private school. Atchison is also home to Benedictine College. Geographically speaking, we offer a rural/small town lifestyle with short drive times to Kansas City, St. Joseph, and Topeka.

For more information about our clinic and the position we have available, please email Dr. Chris Hansen at: chrishansendvm@gmail.com or call the clinic: 913-367-0427.

December 9, 2020

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 time veterinarian AND a relief/part time veterinarian to join our team. These doctors 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. For more information or to apply please send resume and/or CV submissions to kate@hsgkc.org.

December 8, 2020

Platte Woods Animal Hospital is seeking an Associate Veterinarian to join our family owned growing AAHA accredited small animal hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

The ideal candidate has good communication skills, surgical skills, solid medical knowledge, enjoys clients, helping animals, and has a passion to learn and practice high quality medicine.

We offer a flexible family friendly schedule, no after-hours emergencies, and efficient staff. The full-time position includes the following benefits:

Health, dental, and vision insurance

Paid time off

Simple IRA Plan

Continuing education allowance

Store Discounts

Relocation assistance

Applicants must have a strong work ethic, friendly demeanor, love for all animals, and a passion for delivering outstanding customer service to pet owners.

Salary is negotiable

New graduates are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants may email their resume to kristinapwah@gmail.com

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 /year

Experience: Relevant: 1 year (Preferred)

License: DVM (Required)

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 /year

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December 7, 2020**ASSOCIATE VETERINARIAN (Full-time & Part-time Needed)**

Gladstone Animal Clinic, LLC is a busy 7 doctor small animal and exotic practice in Gladstone, Missouri. We have a proud heritage and long tradition of providing excellent veterinary care in the Kansas City Metropolitan area since the mid 1960's. We have built our reputation on delivering the best medicine for our patients and service for our clients. Our hospital has continued to grow and we are in need of additional veterinarians. Gladstone Animal Clinic, LLC offers: Generous and competitive compensation package, additional production-based bonus compensation, flexible work schedule, paid holidays and vacation, paid continuing education, time off and expenses, no emergency or after hours, In-house IDEXX laboratory equipment, In-house pharmacy, digital radiology, ultrasound, echocardiogram, dental unit, dental radiology, therapy laser, well equipped surgical suite, and boarding facility. Easy referral to multiple emergency and specialty facilities in the area. We have a strong, caring and supportive staff; you will work side-by-side with other veterinarians daily. We foster a strong collaborative work environment. We are flexible and would welcome full or part time applicants of any experience level. New graduates are encouraged to apply; we will mentor you.

Please email your resume to gladvets@gmail.com or contact Teresa Schlager at 816-914-6351

December 2, 2020

Crest Animal Hospital is seeking 1 or 2 full or part time associate veterinarians. Crest is a full service veterinary hospital providing quality surgery, medicine, and preventative medicine. We have experienced rapid growth and are looking for outstanding Vets to join our team. Salary package includes a significant sign on bonus as well as PTO, generous continuing education stipend, health care allowance, and a competitive salary package including matching retirement options. Professional licensing fees and dues are included in this package. Please contact John Lyle at johnrlyle@gmail.com or call to 816-588-5953

Crest Animal Hospital is seeking a Veterinary Technician for a full time position at our full time veterinary hospital. Duties include catheter placement, scrubbing in for orthopedic and soft tissue surgeries, assisting our veterinarians in the exam rooms, anesthesia management and monitoring, administration of IV and oral medications, post operative management of surgical patients. Client communication skills are critical for this position. Please contact John Lyle at johnrlyle@gmail.com or call 816-588-5953.

November 19, 2020

LionsGate Pet Hospital is a four doctor, exclusive small animal practice in southern Johnson County. We are looking for a full-time practitioner who respects and follows COVID guidelines and precautions, and who is energetic, personable and professional. You may expect competitive compensation, generous benefits and no emergency hours. We respect family time. Our practice is well-equipped with digital radiography, ultrasound, digital dental radiography and a state of the art surgical suite. Our staff is highly skilled and supportive. We provide very high quality care, and have enjoyed steady growth. Buy-in opportunities welcomed.

Please email a resume to Dr. Ann McHugh at lionsgatepet@sbcglobal.net.

November 13, 2020

Lakewood Animal Health Center – is seeking Registered Veterinary Technician for a part- time position.

Do you want to work in a place that values integrity, open-communication, and fosters a collaborative

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environment? If yes, then we would love the opportunity to discuss further. We have a team based approach to client and patient care and value your input! We seek to foster growth in all employees encouraging continued learning and CE. We are a general practice located in a community that allows us to offer exceptional care with all the bells and whistles needed to do so. If you want to be part of a wonderful team that values work:life balance we just might be a perfect fit!

Hourly wage based on experience.

Application can be downloaded at Lakewoodanimal.com

Email applications and references – attention Dr. Golladay

Resume must include at least 3 professional references.

Job Type: Part-time

Pay: \$15.00 – \$19.00 per hour

November 4, 2020

Full-Time Associate Veterinarian Needed

Taylor Animal Hospital of Parkville, a small animal, full-service practice in Parkville, MO, just North of Kansas City, is seeking a full-time associate DVM.

We serve a growing community with four 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. Benefits include health/vision/dental insurance, competitive salary, 401K matching program, paid licensing dues, paid vacations, CE credits, and NO overnight or on-call emergencies.

Please call or email Dr. Todd S. Taylor with any questions, in-person and phone interviews are available!

816-741-8338

Send your resume to: drtaylor@tahofparkville.com and april@tahofparkville.com

November 4, 2020

Title: Lead Veterinary Assistant

Department: Veterinary Clinic

Reports To: Veterinary Technician Manager

Updated on: October 2020

Status: Non-Exempt Full-Time

Approved by: Vice President of Operations & Animal Welfare

Schedule: 40 hours – Days and hours TBD, will include some evening and weekend hours

POSITION SUMMARY

Position Summary: The Lead Veterinary Assistant is a mid-level position within the vet clinic at Wayside Waifs. The Lead VA provides advanced care, knowledge, and skills in working with all types of animals within the shelter. A synopsis of duties is management of surgery flow and medications, ability to teach animal handling and skills to Veterinary Assistants and Veterinary Preceptors, assistance with universal vet clinic tasks, flexibility to perform general Veterinary Assistant duties. The Lead VA will need to work closely with the vet clinic staff/volunteers and

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staff/volunteers in other departments.

Accountabilities:

Ensure high level of care, compassion, and support to all animals.

Ensure efficient operations of all animal care by completing tasks in a timely fashion.

Ensure compliance with all regulatory, safety, security, and operational standards.

Ensure disease control protocols are followed.

Establish and demonstrate effective working relationships with all staff and volunteers, as well as the public.

Effective customer relations is vital to Wayside Waifs.

Attend training that is required to enhance knowledge and skills.

Comply with all of Wayside Waifs policies and best practices.

Demonstrate the ability to work within the vet clinic, but assist other departments to help achieve overall shelter efficiency.

Demonstrate the ability to problem solve and offer options for improvement if there are areas to better serve the animals and organization.

Demonstrate the ability to work efficiently as a team member in a fast paced, high stress environment.

Vet Clinic Universal Tasks:

Upkeep of surgical and general laundry with restock in needed areas.

Stocking depleted items within the vet clinic and isolation areas.

Medicating dogs, cats, and small mammals.

Animal movement into and out of the vet clinic for surgery and exams.

Adoption discharging and basic common disease explanation.

Entering surgery and medication information in the current computer system.

Medication preparation.

Cleaning of all areas within the vet clinic.

Use of the current computer system for tracking of shelter animals.

Lead Veterinary Assistant Tasks:

Primary management of animal surgery preparation and anesthesia monitoring. This includes sedation, intubation and appropriate masking, real-time anesthesia monitoring and adjustments, preparation of surgical margins and field sanitizing, appropriate movement of surgical animals, recovery, and extubation.

Preparation for surgery: ability to make surgical packs, appropriate laundering of surgical cloths, sanitation and sterilization of surgical instruments.

Primary management of logging controlled substances.

Effective and safe advanced animal restraint techniques.

Assistance with safe and appropriate radiographs.

Venipuncture of intake testing and ability to collect enough for laboratory blood work.

The ability to learn, perform, and interpret fecal floats and ear cytology.

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Triage of critical or emergency cases.

Knowledge of common and less common diseases to assist staff/volunteers and the public.

Assistance with adoption discharges.

Rotation in Manager on Duty scheduling and associated training.

The ability to fill a Veterinary Assistant role when needed.

Assistance with Universal Vet Clinic Tasks.

Any other reasonable tasks assigned by a Veterinarian or Veterinary Clinic Manager.

Position Requirements:

Education = High school diploma or GED. Prefer a Registered Veterinary Technician with an Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology licensed in the state of Missouri.

1 year of veterinary clinic experience required.

Prefer 6 months of leadership or management experience.

Demonstrates experience working effectively with people and animals in a variety of high-stress situations.

Physical:

Must be able to lift 50 pounds to waist height in order to move animals from kennels, move bags, and a push-pull situations.

Repetitive bending, kneeling, stopping, and similar movements required.

Must be able to physically restrain animals weighing up to and including 125 pounds.

Able to work with exposure to wet and/or humid condition and outside weather conditions.

Must be able to perform a significant amount of standing during a typical day, exposure to fumes, airborne particles, and possible zoonotic diseases.

Noise level is moderate to high.

Exposure to animal waste.