



## Long-term Stress in Dogs Linked to the Owner-Dog Relationship

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

A new study from Sweden found that the owner-dog relationship can affect a dog's stress levels. The study also found that some breeds are more susceptible than others.

Researchers studied the cortisol level in the hairs of dogs and their owners to determine the relationship of stress-levels between owners and pets. Two groups of dogs were studied. Hunting dogs included Swedish elkhound, Norwegian elkhound and dachshund. Ancient dogs were those thought more closely related to wolves including Shiba Inu, husky, and basenji. Interestingly enough, a close correlation was found between stress levels of hunting dogs and their owners, but not between ancient dog breeds and owners.

This study was a follow-up to a previous study that found herding breeds tend to synchronize with owner stress over the long term. Researchers believe this is partly due to the breeding selection process in creating a breed that works closely with humans.

Owners completed questionnaires about their dog's personality as well as their own. Owners also answered questions about their relationship with their dog including interactions with the dog, degree of emotional attachment and the extend of problems arising from dog ownership.

The ancient breed group seems to be least affected by owner and their relationship. Solitary hunting dogs show associations with both owner and their relationship. Only the herding dogs show long term stress synchronization with their owners.

The researchers admit there are still many questions to answer and more in-depth studies need to occur to unravel all aspects of the owner-dog relationship.

## KSU Launches 2 Programs to Attract Rural Veterinarians

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Kansas, among other states, is seeing a shortage of veterinarians willing to work in rural communities in large or mixed animal practices. To counter this problem, Kansas State University is launching two new programs to encourage more young people to enter the veterinary profession.

The Summer Program for Aspiring Rural Kansas veterinarians (SPARK) targets young people who are interested in veterinary medicine and brings them into rural communities. SPARK lets students shadow veterinarians in rural communities and gives them experience of what a career as a rural veterinarian would entail. The program is intended for college students applying to the veterinary school but is open to anyone at least 18 years old. If in-person attendance is unavailable for the summer, virtual visits will be possible with large and mixed animal veterinarians in Kansas to share practice opportunities and their way of life. SPARK also provides educational sessions on how to secure funding for a DVM program as well as sessions on how to fill out an effective application to veterinary school.

The Specialized Program for the Recruitment of Indigenous, Native and Tribal Students (SPRINTS) is designed to expose young students of indigenous, native and tribal communities to veterinary medicine. The program is open to tribal, Native American or Indigenous students in high school or college who are at least 18 years old. The program provides transportation and lodging costs for Vet Med ROCKS among other opportunities. The program also provides tailored consultations on prerequisite courses and the application process to the College of Veterinary Medicine. Participants will also receive fee waivers on their supplemental application to the college.

Both programs are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

## Anemia Drug for Cats with Renal Disease

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

In aging cats with renal disease, anemia is a common phenomenon as the kidneys fail to secrete erythropoietin (EPO). EPO is a hormone secreted by the kidneys that induces the production of red blood cells. Until now, the only option for these cats was the use of human EPO for severe anemia. Because human EPO is a heterologous protein for cats, there is a real risk of adverse allergic reactions in cats. There is a need for a safer effective alternative to improve the quality of life in cats with chronic renal disease.

Using transgenic chicken production technology, scientists have developed feline erythropoietin (fEPO) with feline-derived amino acid sequences. Scientists

injected a viral vector expressing fEPO genes into an embryo of a fertilized chicken egg. fEPO was produced within the egg albumin fraction. Polyethylene glycol (PEG) modification was performed on the fEPO collected from the chicken eggs and produced Pegylated fEPO which offers a longer period of efficacy compared to non-modified fEPO. Studies show little adverse reactions and symptoms such as loss of appetite and energy are reduced leading to higher quality of life.

Kaneka Corporation will license the fEPO to domestic animal drug companies to manufacture and sell the product for use in veterinary patients.

# Demand for Veterinary Care Continues to Grow

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

In 2019 Americans spent an excess of \$29 billion on veterinary care. As more baby boomer veterinarians and technicians are retiring, the need for new veterinarians has grown as pet owners are prioritizing health care. In addition, the pandemic saw about 12.6 million households in the U.S. adopting new pets. This led to a increase in veterinary revenue despite the financial strains of the pandemic. The growth is predicted to continue into 2021 with a prediction of 4% growth.

Baby boomer veterinarians are retiring at a pace of 2,000 per year. Veterinary positions are expecting a growth equal to 4 times the average of other professions at 16% by 2029. Many clinics are understaffed even before the pandemic and there simply aren't enough new veterinarians graduating from vet schools to meet the demand. Former dean of the University of Florida Veterinary College, Dr. Jim Lloyd cites a growing shortage of veterinarians in the range of 3,000 to 5,000. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics confirms the numbers and predicts the problem will get worse.

In 2021 Millennials will become the largest cohort of veterinarians. Studies have shown that Millennials are much more focused on work-life balance and are placing these demands on employers. Veterinary companies that cannot meet these demands for their veterinarians are seeing shifts to part-time or leaving the field completely. Veterinary employers that do adapt will have the opportunity to take the market share as they will have more exam availability and a larger employee base.

Veterinary colleges need to increase class sizes to help produce more veterinarians. Since 1978 the number of veterinary schools in the U.S. has expanded by five to a total of 32. This does not



mirror the growth of human and pet populations during that time period. Schools cannot increase their class sizes without funding to expand and upgrade facilities. The second hurdle to increasing class size lies with the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education (COE). The COE has consistently and arbitrarily restricted the expansion of class sizes.

The shortage of veterinarians and technicians leads to greater staff burnout, potentially lower quality of care and less accessibility for clients. In turn, these shortages could lead to even more professionals leaving the industry prematurely.





## Florida Takes Aim at Viruses and Heartworms with Genetically Engineered Mosquitoes

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is responsible for spreading dengue fever, Zika virus, and yellow fever to people as well as heartworm to pets. The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District is in need of new methods of control for this hazardous pest and has recently resorted to releasing genetically modified mosquitoes in an attempt to reduce the *A. aegypti* population. The *A. aegypti* mosquito is an invasive species that makes up about 4% of the mosquito population of the Florida Keys and is responsible for spreading almost all mosquito-borne disease.

Only the females of the species bite and spread disease. Oxitec, a British firm, engineered the male mosquitoes which will mate with biting females and result in any female offspring being unable to survive. Oxitec modified the males to pass on a gene that will kill female offspring before they mature. Male offspring will continue to pass on the modified gene when they mate. The modified mosquitoes also emit a fluorescent glow so they can be easily identified when captured. This allows scientists to monitor the project to understand the mosquito population. The project calls for 12,000 GMO mosquitoes to emerge each week for 12 weeks from six different locations in the Florida Keys.

Despite opposition from some residents of the Florida Keys, the project was approved after a decade of regulatory review by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Florida Department of Agriculture. An officer of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District acknowledges concerns of the residents but feels this project is necessary as traditional methods of mosquito control have become more and more ineffective. The agency review found no unreasonable adverse effects to humans or the environment from the release of the GMO males. They also found no unreasonable adverse effects to non-target organisms that may consume the GMO mosquitoes. In addition, there appeared to be negligible risk of antibiotic resistant bacteria due to release of GMO mosquitoes into the environment.

In 2017 and 2018, the state released male mosquitos that had been infected with a bacteria called *Wolbachia*, which caused the offspring of matings to be nonviable. Since the spread of Zika virus in 2016, the threat created by the mosquito is bigger and the need for more effective methods of control are greater. Oxitec's mosquito experiment reduced the mosquito population by 80 percent in Brazil.

If the Oxitec project succeeds in the Florida Keys, the company plans to submit the results to the EPA in hopes their mosquitoes can be used in projects elsewhere throughout the country.

## JULY CE

### TBA

**Date:** TBA, 2021 at 7pm

**Presenter:** TBA

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

**CE:** TBA Hour

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

## Classifieds

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, or email them to [classifieds@kcvma.com](mailto: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.

### June 23, 2021

Town & Country Equine and Pet Hospital is a growing, progressive mixed animal hospital looking for two energetic, aggressive, but compassionate associate veterinarians interested in growing with our practice. We have an opening for both a mixed and full or part-time companion animal veterinarian. We are a busy practice with a diversity of clients and cases currently 65% Companion Animal, 20% Equine and 15% Farm Animal.

Located in rural setting in eastern Kansas just outside a small growing community with excellent schools and activities, we are within 20 minutes of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Our 10,000 sq.ft. facility is fully equipped with digital standard, portable, and dental radiography, ultrasound, Idexx in-house laboratory, heated surgery tables with Cardell monitor, endoscope, therapeutic laser, with vehicles equipped for farm calls.

The positions include standard benefits; salary based on experience. Experience is preferred but all applicants will be considered. Positions would include emergency duties in addition to a 36-hour week. Buy-in potential for the right candidate.

Position can be immediately available. Send resume and references to [twovets@gmail.com](mailto:twovets@gmail.com)

### June 23, 2021

Town & Country Equine & Pet Hospital is growing and seeking an exceptional veterinary technician to join our team. We are looking for the most talented, mission and service-oriented professionals that are passionate and inspired to provide outstanding veterinary medical care and client service. Ideal candidates will understand the importance of each client and patient to our business and treat both with the highest level of care, competence, warmth and professionalism. If you possess experience, knowledge and skill in technical aspects of surgical, laboratory, outpatient and inpatient care, are able to be productive assisting doctors and have the ability to educate clients we would love to hear from you. If you aspire to provide quality medicine, enhance human-animal relationships, and to be an integral part of an incredible work team we invite you to join our team. In return we will offer a challenging, flexible, unique work environment.

### June 16, 2021

Animal Health Center of Leawood is seeking a receptionist and registered veterinary technician to join our team. We are a new, rapidly growing, locally owned, state-of-the-art facility in Leawood. We are blessed with an amazing

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team and clients. This is a rare opportunity to help build something new. Pay is commensurate with experience and education. Benefits include discounted pet care, uniforms, association and licensing dues, and paid time off. Please email [drwilcox@ahcleawood.com](mailto:drwilcox@ahcleawood.com) for more information.

**May 28, 2021**

Associate Veterinarian – Growing Practice | Kansas City North, MO

Join our growing team as an associate veterinarian! Northland Animal Hospital, Kansas City, MO is a full-service veterinary practice that offers comprehensive and progressive treatments for our clients. We see a variety of cases and perform complicated surgeries as well as chiropractic and holistic services. Our doctors work alongside a team of very experienced staff and we are proud of the family-centric environment we have built. We have a close relationship with Missouri Pit Bull Rescue and Kansas City Pet Project.

This opportunity would be a great fit for either a new grad or an experienced vet. There are no on-call hours and rotating Saturday shifts.

Kansas City is the largest city in Missouri but it is home to many amazing smaller communities. Northland Animal Hospital is located in Kansas City North, just 20 minutes from downtown. The area has so much to offer from its world-famous steaks and barbecue, to the historic jazz district, and top-rated colleges and pro sports events.

We take employee wellbeing seriously and offer competitive salary, medical benefits (including health, dental and vision), 401(k), employee assistance program (EAP), CE allowance, vacation, dues, liability coverage, a family friendly atmosphere and more.

**May 21, 2021**

Help us save and improve the lives of animals in the Kansas City area! The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City is seeking a full time veterinarian. This doctor would care for both shelter animals 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. Salary is commensurate with experience. We are an equal opportunity employer and value diversity at our organization. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability status. For more information or to apply please send resume and/or CV submissions to [lsele@hsgkc.org](mailto:lsele@hsgkc.org).

**May 19, 2021**

Union Hill Animal Hospital is hiring! Our hospital has continued to rapidly grow in the heart of downtown Kansas City! We are seeking to add a full time Registered or Experienced Veterinary Technician to join our team! We currently have 4 full time DVM's and an expanding team of talented RVT's and experienced assistants.

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

Our pay rate is commensurate with experience and education (\$14 to \$20+/hr). Our benefits package is negotiable

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and includes health insurance, retirement plan, CE and license coverage, association dues, paid time off, uniforms and discounted pet care.

To apply, please email your resume to [admin@uhanimalhospital.com](mailto:admin@uhanimalhospital.com).

**May 18, 2021**

Blackbob Pet Hospital is a privately owned, multi-doctor facility whose mission is to provide compassionate, top-quality veterinary care. We are looking for a full-time associate veterinarian who fits the mission and unique environment of our progressive, fast growing full-service hospital. We are looking for the right fit for our team, preferably someone with a passion for surgery and ultrasonography. Our team practices high quality medicine by providing preventative, diagnostic, surgical, and dental services supported by a dedicated staff that understands the importance of nurturing both the client and patient relationships.

Our unique management system involves all staff members in decision making and allows them to influence and improve the quality of the workplace and the practice. Our hospital encourages team members to learn and expand their roles as the work environment is continuously evolving.

Blackbob Pet Hospital is located in Olathe, Kansas, which is a beautiful suburb of Kansas City. The area is well known for excellent schools, beautiful parks and trails, and easy access to the city life. Kansas City is rated in the top best 50 places to live. We have great diversity, culture, performing arts, museums, pro-sports, wonderful opportunities for kids, and of course, BBQ!

About the hospital:

- Privately owned practice with 5 doctors and an exceptionally trained support staff
- Exclusively serving cats and dogs in the southern Johnson County area
- Four examination rooms, treatment area with two wet tables, surgery suite, boarding and grooming. Brand new attached exclusive cat clinic opening this fall.
- In house Abaxis blood machines and UA analyzer, ultrasound, CR digital x-ray, Midmark dental x-ray, and a close association with external reference laboratories and consultants
- Avimark practice management system allows us to be paper-lite and integrate with reference labs, emergency hospitals, and in house lab equipment
- Complete pharmacy with home delivery capabilities
- Other services include cold laser therapy, PRP and stem cell therapy.

Benefits:

- Competitive Salary
- Bonuses
- Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance
- 401(k)
- Paid vacation and paid holidays
- Saturday rotation
- 40-hour work week
- Generous Continuing Education Package

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- Paid state license, DEA, memberships to AVMA, KCVMA, +more
- Paid Professional Liability Insurance
- Generous hospital discount for your pets

If you would like to build a long-term career in a progressive, fast growing hospital, and build a client base with us, then this position is for you. Please submit resume and cover letter to: [sarah.karina@blackbobpethospital.com](mailto:sarah.karina@blackbobpethospital.com)

**May 18, 2021**

**FOR SALE:** A very well maintained free standing all masonry 2260 sq ft veterinary facility, with very low overhead. Built as a small animal veterinary facility located in Central Missouri.

Excellent location on a busy main thoroughfare in a friendly progressive 22K rural community. When the facility was built it was considered a state of the art small animal hospital. Lot size is 100' street frontage x 143' deep, zoned C-3 hwy business.

Excellent facility for a start up practice, and can accommodate grooming and boarding.

More information & photos available upon request.

\$ 75,000, includes building & real state

For additional information contact: [gougern@iland.net](mailto:gougern@iland.net) or call 660-221-5747

**May 16, 2021**

Full time Associate Veterinarian needed to join our growing AAHA accredited small animal hospital in Parkville, Missouri. Parkville is a suburb in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The ideal candidate has good communication skills, surgical skills, solid medical knowledge, & pays close attention to detail.

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

- Health insurance
- No Weekends
- PTO time
- Simple IRA Plan
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Continuing education
- Relocation assistance

Applicant must have 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 resume.

Job Type: Full-time

Pay: \$95,000.00 – \$115,000.00 per year



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**May 14, 2021**

Marketplace Animal Hospital is excited to be looking for an additional full-time Associate Veterinarian to add to our growing team! We are a privately owned small animal clinic located in Lenexa, KS with 5 full time veterinarians, 5 RVTs, and a dedicated support staff that works well with each other. Marketplace Animal Hospital opened in 1989 and has an amazing and dedicated client base which continues to grow at an astonishing rate. The practice sees a range of cases, from wellness visits to complex workups. As a team, we pride ourselves on excellent collaboration with cases, mentorship and support to one another, and continuity of care. Our clinic culture thrives on teamwork and camaraderie that naturally leads to delivering exceptional service to clients and patients alike. We are looking for someone who is interested in a long-term commitment to grow with and contribute to our rapidly expanding and extremely busy practice!

Marketplace Animal Hospital is equipped with digital radiography, dental radiography, ultrasound, iM3 dental machine, Cardell Touch surgical monitoring, basic in-house Heska bloodwork, and utilize Avimark Practice Management Software. We use Antech for our outside laboratory. We have grooming here at Marketplace Animal Hospital but no boarding, and rarely keep animals overnight. All emergencies are referred to Blue Pearl, so there will not be any afterhours care.

Our new Associate Veterinarian will play a key role in building and maintaining client relationships as well as staff relationships. We are looking for someone who recognizes that teamwork is essential for a quality practice and the ability to work as a team member and a doctor is indispensable. We appreciate sharp diagnostic skills and proficiency in surgical and medical cases. Our day-to-day general practice includes a variety of routine and non-routine cases, a reasonable surgical caseload (spays, neuters, soft tissue), and dentistry. Our team is looking for a veterinarian willing to work hard and stay focused in a very busy environment. Time management skills are essential.

Marketplace Animal Hospital offers a competitive compensation and benefit package. We appreciate a 4-day work week with alternating Saturday mornings, and no after-hours emergencies. Through consistent growth, based on the quality of our service, we now have the opportunity to welcome our next team member who will join us in this next exciting phase of our journey! This is a fantastic opportunity to work at a well-respected practice with a great working environment.

Please respond with your cover letter and resume to: [godseydvm@gmail.com](mailto:godseydvm@gmail.com)

**May 14, 2021****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 five 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, SIMPLE IRA matching program, paid licensing dues, paid vacations, CE credits, and NO overnight or on-call emergencies.

Please call or email Dr. Todd Taylor (Owner) and/or April McKown RVT (Practice Manager) with any questions. 816-741-8338

Send your resume to: [drtaylor@tahofparkville.com](mailto:drtaylor@tahofparkville.com) and [april@tahofparkville.com](mailto:april@tahofparkville.com)

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- 401(k)
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- Saturday rotation
- 40-hour work week
- Generous Continuing Education Package
- Paid state license, DEA, memberships to AVMA, KCVMA, +more
- Paid Professional Liability Insurance
- Generous hospital discount for your pets

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**May 11, 2021**

Nall Hills Animal Hospital is looking for a veterinarian to join our team in Overland Park, KS! We are an established small animal practice located in a convenient location, with clients who desire compassionate care for their pets. We value communication both with clients and one another and providing quality medicine for our patients. In addition, we take pride in offering our clients a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. We are always learning, and recognize the importance of continuing education and consulting one another as well as specialists in order to provide the best care for our patients. There is opportunity for growth within the business, with the potential for buy-in in the near future. We will offer a competitive salary and benefits. Call or email Dr. Minor at 913-341-8836 or [melismino@gmail.com](mailto:melismino@gmail.com).

**May 9, 2021**

To our younger entrepreneurial colleagues. The house call clinicians in the Kansas City area are getting a number of calls from people in the Independence to Blue Springs areas. We also get referrals from our stationary colleagues. While we appreciate the calls and referrals, we are not able to cover them because it is out of our normal area. We are seeking to speak with someone that might be interested in a wonderfully different way to work with clients. We feel that with the ability to refer the calls we get from this area to the right person your start up curve will be better than starting cold. We also feel the right person would get referrals from the stationary clinics and they would get referrals from you on cases that should not be handled in a mobile clinic situation. If anyone is interested please make a confidential call to me at 816-616-2349. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Lawrence Kovac, DVM