



Dogs Show Signs of Mourning After Loss of Canine Companions

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Nature Publishing Group recently released a study in Scientific Reports showing that dogs mourn after the loss of another canine companion. A survey of Italian adult dog owners owning at least two dogs where one had died supports those dogs exhibited grief behaviors after the loss of a companion.

Owners reported changes in behavior including attention seeking, playing less, reduce appetite and decreased activity. Many owners reported these signs lasted more than 6 months.

The study involved 426 owners who were asked about changes in their surviving dog's behavior after the death of a dog in the family. They were also asked about the relationship between the dogs and the owner's distress after the death of their dog. 86% of the owners saw changes in their pet's behavior after the death of the other dog. 32% reported the changes lasted 2-6 months and 25% reported the changes lasted longer than 6 months. In order of frequency, the reported changes were attention seeking, less playful, decreased activity, decreased appetite and increase in vocalization (whining and barking).

The study indicates the length of time the two dogs lived together is not significant for influencing grieving, but a friendly relationship between the dogs and a grieving owner seemed to influence the surviving dog's grief. This suggests the dog's behavior is influenced both by the loss of a companion and a response to the grief emotions of the owner.

Dog Aging Project Setting Normal Aging Metrics for Dogs

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

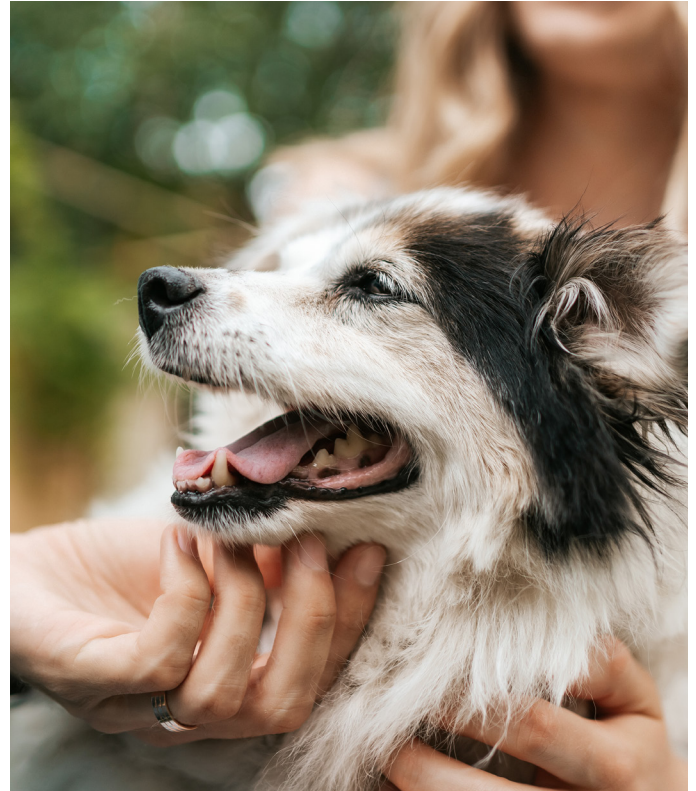
The journal, *Nature*, recently published an article about The Dog Aging Project led by researchers at Princeton University. Researchers are evaluating the genomes of dogs enrolled in the project to study dog lifespans. The dataset from this research will allow scientists to assess how a dog is aging and establish criteria for healthy aging in dogs. Researchers on this project foresee their results having impacts in both veterinary and human medicine. The Dog Aging Project is funded by a grant from the National Institute on Aging.

While humans have guidelines for what is considered normal aging, not much is known about dog aging. The guideline of 1 dog year equal 7 human years is generic and inaccurate. It is known that larger dogs tend to age faster than small dogs and, of course, they all age faster than humans.

The Dog Aging Project was started in 2018 and has thousands of dogs enrolled as study subjects. These participants cover a wide variety of ages, breeds, sizes and backgrounds. Members of the research team of sequencing the genomes of these dogs to find insights into the genetics of canine aging and health. The project is expected to run at least 10 years. Currently there are more than 32000 dogs in the project and researchers are still recruiting.

Since dogs share most of the same issues with functional decline that people do as they age, researchers hope that identifying the biomarkers associated with canine aging can lead to insights into human aging. Not only do dogs share many of the same aspects of aging as humans but they share the same environments, which often play a role in aging.

Participation is for the duration of the project. Owners of participants fill out annual surveys and



take measurements of their dogs for researchers. Some also collect swabs for DNA or work with veterinarians to collect fur, fecal, urine and blood samples to send to the research lab.

Within the Project, there is also the super-centenarian study that focuses on the oldest dogs within the Project and compares them the average of their breeds' lifespans. The goal is to hopefully isolate more indicators of aging and possibly ways to mitigate conditions often found in aged individuals including dementia and arthritis.

The dataset is set to be released to the rest of the scientific community within a few months. This will allow other fields of research to have access and contribute in other ways related to their specialties and interests.

Feline Sterilization at 5 Months Accepted as New Normal

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

A veterinary task force established in 2016 to reconsider lowering the recommended age for spay and neuter of cats has found sufficient evidence to lower the recommended age of sterilization to 5 months or younger. From this report, the Feline Fix by Five campaign was created to provide awareness to veterinarians and the public of this new recommendation. The recommendation has been endorsed by several veterinary entities including the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP). Many other state and human organizations are also on board with the concept.

Winn Feline Foundation funded a study at University of Florida in Gainesville from 1991 to 1992 in which kittens were divided into 3 groups. Group 1 kittens were sterilized at 7 weeks, Group 2 at 7 months and Group 3 (control group) after 12 months of age. The researchers found no significant differences in development or behavior between groups 1 and 2. Group 3 showed significant differences in lack of affection and behavioral problems but none of the differences between the 3 groups appeared to negatively affect the health of the animals. No negative consequences in the development of the urinary tract were noted in any of the three groups. Pediatric patients of Group 1 tolerated anesthesia well and actually had quicker recovery than Group 2 kittens. That study along with several others conducted at academic institutions led to the recommendation for early spays and neuters to reduce overpopulation and euthanasia due to behavioral problems.

A national survey of veterinary practices in early 2021 revealed that over half of surveyed veterinarians are recommending ovariohysterectomy and castration of cats before 5 months of age. Benefits of spaying kittens before first estrous include decreased risk of mammary carcinoma, elimination of pyometra and dystocia, and avoidance of pregnancy. In addition, early sterilization of males and females potentially decreases behavioral problems that may lead to relinquishment.

More information on the Feline Fix by Five campaign can be accessed at <https://www.felinefixbyfive.org/>.

FDA Approves New Treatment for Cats with Osteoarthritis

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

A new treatment to control arthritis pain in cats has been approved by the FDA for Zoetis. Solensia (frunevetmab) is a monoclonal antibody and is the first such approved drug for any animal species. Since treatment options for cats with osteoarthritis, this new addition to the veterinary arsenal is much anticipated.

The feline specific monoclonal antibody attaches to nerve growth factor protein involved in the regulation of pain. When the antibody binds with the protein it blocks the pain signal from reaching the brain. The drug is a once monthly subcutaneous injection based on the animal's body weight.

Effectiveness was tested in two masked, randomized clinical trials with client-owned cats. Veterinarians assessed the cats with orthopedic exams before and after treatment. Owners were also asked to score their cat's abilities doing specific activities such as jumping on furniture, using the litterbox and groom. They were asked to compare those scores to the same activities after treatment. Researchers found an overall better assessment after treatment than cats in the control group. Side effects included diarrhea, vomiting, injection site pain, and dermatitis.

Zoetis anticipates Solensia will be available to veterinary clinics later this year (2022).

Veterinary Leaders See Potential to Knock Down Licensing Barriers

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The AVMA house of delegates discussed ways to make licensing easier for veterinarians working between several states during their winter session this January. The representative from Puerto Rico, Dr. Juan Pablo Amierio-Puig suggests that it is unlikely that states will relinquish control and allow a national license, but that there are actions to consider that can make the process easier for veterinarians that need to be licensed in more than one state.

Individuals that are affected include practitioners who move, relief veterinarians working across state borders, disaster response veterinarians, state veterinarians with expertise to fight outbreaks in other states and spouses of servicemembers. Some states have addressed some of the issues with temporary licensing where other states have established reciprocity agreements between one another. Delegates asked the Board of Directors to examine license portability and consider policies that could help as well as collaboration with state VMAs to address the issues.

The Federal Trade Commission published a report in September 2018 describing ways to expand license portability across state lines. The report gave many options to make licensing more efficient including interstate compacts, licensing reciprocity agreements, model laws and expedited licensing using professional information from third party repositories.

Some states have already started to ease restrictions for licensing. For instance, the state of Vermont offers a simplified licensing process for veterinarians licensed for at least 3 years in another state. This simplified process removes the need to meet with the state board or provide examination scores. Currently, veterinarians who wish to cross state lines to help with disease outbreaks or disasters must first apply to become a federal employee



to obtain permission to practice out of state. This adds a time-consuming delay to an emergency situation. If that same veterinarian had license portability he could respond immediately and be paid as a contractor.

Ideally, a national licensing system could be instituted allowing veterinarians to practice in other states with minimal delays. Currently a veterinarian working or moving to another state must wait months and pay fees to become licensed and then maintain their other license or let it lapse. The human medical profession as the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact between 33 states, the District of Columbia and Guam that allows doctors and nurses to become licensed in other states with a single application using information provided to the state of their current licensure.

The American Association of Veterinary State boards is working with state board to replace the AAVSB's Veterinary Application for Uniform Licensure Transfer program with a more license verification process that connects state databases with the AASVB's database. This allows transfer of information between states and the ability to update the AASVB once a new license is issued. California has already begun to participate in the program.



MAY SOCIAL EVENT

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Location: Blade & Timber | Town Center

Sponsor: KCVMA

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by **May 9th**. Current membership dues cover all social events.

All participants must wear closed toed shoes and sign waivers. [DOWNLOAD WAIVER HERE.](#)

Classifieds

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, or email them to classifieds@kcvma.com. Classified ads will be run at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for content.

April 28, 2022

Northland Animal Hospital is a companion animal hospital has been providing individualized preventative veterinary services to dogs and cats in Northland Kansas City since 1984. We are a full-service practice that sees a variety of cases and performs complicated surgeries, as well as, offers chiropractic and holistic services. We are seeking a veterinarian to join our growing team!

All experience levels are welcome! This opportunity would be a great fit for a new graduate to receive mentorship in a variety of areas and an experienced veterinarian to join an experienced and supportive team. Our doctors work alongside a team of very experienced staff and we are proud of the family-centric environment we have built.

About The Hospital

Great work-life balance with rotating Saturday shifts

Digital x-rays – standard and dental

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Surgical and Therapeutic laser

Ultrasound

Surgical suite

Holistic and alternative care including chiropractic, acupuncture, and herbal therapies

In-house lab

Close relationship with Missouri Pit Bull Rescue and Kansas City Pet Project

Location

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.

Benefits

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 so much more.

March 22, 2022

Do you want to be at a practice where you are part of a team? Do you want an environment where you can grow as a veterinarian? Do you want to be part of your local community? Turner Animal Hospital is a compassionate 2 doctor small animal practice in the beautiful and affordable Kansas City area. We are currently looking for a full-time or part-time associate veterinarian or relief veterinarian to join our team.

Our practice culture revolves around our 3 core values:

1. Compassionate Veterinary Care
2. Community Engagement
3. Teamwork

Our hospital is equipped with the following to help you practice best medicine: Idexx Digital Radiography, Dental X-ray, a Dentalaire dental unit, a newly updated surgical suite, including brand new surgical lighting, Vemo post op monitoring, Bair Hugger warming unit, Idexx In-house lab, Idexx SediVue, In-house Urine Culture, Cryotherapy, and Cornerstone Practice Management Software.

We have 1.5- 2 Veterinary Technicians for every doctor working each day. We currently only see canine and feline patients. If you have a strong interest in exotics, we would be open to treating exotics. We value your Work/Life Balance! Our full time positions are 4 weekday shifts a week and UP TO 2 Saturday shifts a month. Our current hours are 8-6 Mondays, 8-5 Tuesdays- Fridays, and 8-2 Saturdays.

Salary depends upon experience. The position also comes with a generous benefit package including:

- * Health Insurance Stipend (\$250-\$500 a month)
- * Dental Insurance
- * Vision Insurance

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- * IRA with 1% match
 - * Employee Assistance Program
 - * Reimbursement for:
 - * AVMA Dues
 - * up to 3 other professional organization dues of your choice (KCVMA, Pride VMC, AAFP, etc.)
 - * DEA License
 - * Kansas Veterinary License
 - * Liability Insurance
 - * Continuing Education
 - * Scrub/White Coat Allowance
 - * PTO
 - * Generous Holiday Schedule
- Requirements for the position
- * DVM or Equivalent
 - * Kansas Veterinary License (or the ability to get one within 60 days or start date)
- Please send your CV to turneranimalhospital@gmail.com

March 17, 2022

Registered Veterinary Technician. Part-Time or Full-Time for AAHA Accredited Hospital in beautiful, residential lake community in Lee's Summit, MO

Join a collaborative team of 26 with 4 DVMs. Do you want to work in a place that values integrity, open-communication, and fosters a collaborative 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 practice thorough, conscientious medicine and surgery, leaving no stone unturned! Our clients allow 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 your skills, education, and input as well as providing you a positive work:life balance we just might be a perfect fit!

Our practice culture is protected by living out our core values, scheduled department meetings, and building team rapport. We utilize interoffice communication tools to keep everyone in the loop. We value people over procedures!

Candidate must be dedicated to the highest quality care, continued learning, and building long-lasting relationships with clients. Experience is preferred, but promising new graduates will be considered!

Benefits include Simple IRA retirement with match, uniform and CE allowance, discounted care, personal and vacation time.

Submit resumes to joinlahc@gmail.com Attn: Julie Dyer