



PAW Act Passed by Senate to Protect Animals During Natural Disasters

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

During natural disaster response and recovery, the welfare of animals is often passed over. People often refuse to evacuate because they do not want to leave their animals behind. When people do elect to evacuate, the emotional impact of the loss of their pets can be significant. FEMA has historically relied on voluntary agencies to help obtain veterinary care and relocation efforts for animals that are affected by the event.

The senate passed the Planning for Animal Wellness (PAW) Act to help protect animals during and after a natural disaster or emergency. The PAW Act states the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must establish an advisory group to align FEMA guidance with best practices in animal care during disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

The bill will hopefully mitigate instances of people having to choose between pets and evacuating for natural disaster events. The bipartisan legislation was introduced by Gary Peters (D-MI) and Rob Portman (R-OH). The bill goes next to the House of Representatives.

The bill has been endorsed by several animal welfare agencies including the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Humane Society of the United States.

The announcement of the bill at the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs can be accessed at <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/majority-media/senate-passes-peters-and-portman-bipartisan-bill-to-protect-pets-and-other-animals-during-and-after-natural-disasters->.

Rude Pet Owners May Be Causing Vets to Rethink Their Careers

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Although client behaviors have long been seen as a source of stress and potential burnout for veterinary professionals, the behavior has only become worse after the COVID-19 pandemic. During the lockdowns initiated because of COVID-19, more people brought new pets into their homes. Reports show that more than 3 million UK households brought home pets during the pandemic lockdowns, putting veterinarians and staff under increased pressure to provide services to their communities.

Several studies have been performed investigating the effect of client and co-worker rudeness and incivility on veterinary staff. Interactions with rude clients is linked to anxiety, depression and burnout. Some veterinary staff have left or are considering leaving the veterinary field altogether.

Psychologists at the University of Aberdeen published the results of their study in the *Veterinary Record*. The study encompassed rudeness from both client and co-workers toward vets and veterinary nurses in the UK and Ireland.

Dr. Amy Irwin, the lead researcher, noted that studies conducted previously focused on incidents of aggression from clients directed toward veterinary staff. The aim of the current study was to determine how regular, low-level uncivil behavior impacted the mental health of veterinarians and staff. Some responses of veterinarians who have encountered multiple incidents with rude clients have included reducing working hours, reducing on-call hours and changing careers.

Many participants in the study suggested that some incidents of client rudeness stemmed from financial insecurity and guilt associated with declined treatment. Despite this, these veterinarians still reported a detrimental effect on their mental health,



particularly when they felt rudeness was targeting their commitment to their patients or their medical abilities.

The questionnaire used in the study also showed that veterinary staff suffer from rude clients and co-workers. Client rudeness was tied to anxiety and burnout whereas rudeness from co-workers resulted in reduced job satisfaction and increased likelihood of quitting.

Researchers concluded with several actions designed to decrease the impact of uncivil behavior upon veterinarians and staff. Providing a supportive environment in the workplace that allows staff to discuss interactions and receive support from colleagues along with establishing protocols and guidelines for handling rude clients and allowing veterinarians and staff time to recover from rude interactions.

Study Proposes Job Titles for Support Animals

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

La Trobe University recently published a study in *Animals* proposing standardized titles for support animals worldwide. Dr. Tiffani Howell, the lead author of the study from the School of Psychology and Public Health, points out the lack of consistency in job titles for support animals can be confusion and can have legal implications. Because certain support animals have access to areas where most animals are not allowed, it is important to have clear definitions.

Dr. Howell goes on to point out that there are legal implications associated with different animal support roles. Since not all support animal roles are the same, Dr. Howell said, “it’s important to be able to quickly and easily distinguish which animals can, for example, enter a café with their owner, and which ones can’t.” By establishing clearly defined terms, much of this confusion can be eliminated. An animal’s title role can also affect financial support provided by government organizations.

The La Trobe research led by Dr. Howell represents a collaboration of over 100 researchers, practitioners and end-users of support animals from all over the world, making it the first of its kind. The collaborators met in workshops at the International Society for Anthrozoology conferences in 2018 and 2020 to create definitions for these roles. The paper defined nine terms for different support roles filled by animals. These include assistance animal, companion animal, educational/school support animal, emotional support animal, facility animal, service animal, skilled companion animal, therapy animal and visitation animal. The writers recommend removing or phasing out the terms skilled companion animal and service animal due to their similarities with other terms in the list.

The authors of the paper acknowledge that as the roles of support animals evolve, so will the definitions of their roles. They further acknowledge that the implications worldwide are preliminary and further research is needed to consider the impact of these definitions on individual countries and cultures.

The full report can be accessed at <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/12/15/1975/htm>.

Cat People Are Giving Their Pets Unwelcome Affection

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

A study led by cat welfare scientists at Nottingham Trent University and the University of Nottingham explored how people interacted with cats based on personality, demographics and previous experience with cats.

The research was supported and funded by Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and conducted at their London cattery. The research team had previously found that the best way to increase affection from cats was to let them choose when to be petted, generally touching them less and focusing on the base of the ears, cheeks and under their chins. This new study attempted to study how people interacted with cats based on these factors.

The new study involved 120 participants who were required to spend five minutes in the cattery interacting with three cats they had not interacted with previously. The participants were asked to let the cat come to them, but to otherwise act as they normally would with a cat in their own home.

Participants who rated themselves as experienced with cats were more likely to touch less preferred areas of the cat’s body such as the base of the tail and the abdomen. Participants that had lived with more numbers of cats or for longer number of years seemed less likely to give cats control during their interactions and touched cats more and in less preferred

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areas of their bodies.

Participants were also required to complete a questionnaire to assess personality and the extent to which they fell into one of five personality traits to include agreeableness, conscientiousness, extroversion, neuroticism and openness. Those scoring higher for Neuroticism were more likely to try to hold and restrain cats. Extroverts were more likely to touch the cat's body in areas that are less preferred. Research participants that scored higher in Agreeableness were less likely to touch the less preferred areas of the cat's body.

As a result of this research, Battersea developed an animation to illustrate optimal ways to behave around cats. This information is also being taken into consideration when placing cats in new homes for adoption. For instance potential adopters with no cat experience may actually be more suitable for many cats than highly experienced cat owners.

The study was published in the journal *Scientific Reports* and can be accessed at <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-15194-7>.

Dog's Gut Microbiome Changes Faster Than Previously Thought with New Diets

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

A group of researchers from the University of Illinois have published a new study, which tested the turnover rate of gut microbiome in dogs during a diet change. Previously, scientists were only guessing on the timeframe during which less active bacteria can multiply and dominate overshadowing the current active bacteria and the gastrointestinal tract.

The metabolic byproducts of gut microbes is essential for the host's health. When the population of microbes changes to different species, the chemical byproducts change as well potentially having an adverse effect on the health of the pet.

Microbial populations stabilize in a short period of time and begin making new byproducts as little as 2 days after a new diet is started. The entire populations of microbes can shift and stabilize in 6 days.

Dogs in the study were fed a dry kibble diet for two weeks and were then switched to a new 14-day diet without a transition period. Half of the dogs were switched to high-fat, high-protein canned diet and the other half were switched to a high-fiber kibble. Study researchers collected feces two days after the diet change and then every four days during the two weeks. The researchers then repeated the trial switching the groups of dogs to the opposite diet at the 14-day mark.

Microbial metabolites from each fecal sample were extracted and bacterial species in the samples were identified. The metabolites were then correlated with the bacterial species that were present. For both diets, the metabolite changes were detected on day two and changes in the bacterial community were identified by day six.

Scientists were also able to confirm previous research findings that high-fiber diets are more beneficial to overall health than high-fat, high-protein diets. It is possible that the gut microbiomes of other species may respond to diet change in a similar timeframe, but further research will be needed to confirm.

Researchers in the study suggest that it may be better to implement a diet change even more gradually than the seven-day period usually recommended. This will give the body more time to adjust to the new microbial population and help avoid loose stools and flatulence.

NOVEMBER CE EVENT

Speaker: Wendy H. Bray, DVM

Date: November 9th, 2022

Time: Dinner/Registration: 6:30 | Presentation: 7:00

Location: TBA

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by **November 7th**. Current membership dues cover all social events.

Sponsor: Idexx

Topics:

Stop the Cortisol Release (25 minutes)

Learn how to decrease stress and cortisol release by easily moving your body from a sympathetic to a parasympathetic state.

It's all about the C (60 minutes)

Communication is much more than talking. Learn to build rapport, actively listen, and to ask for what you want in a positive manner with colleagues, staff, clients, and significant others.

Find Joy Daily (25 minutes)

What is the definition of joy? Discover 3 ways to help you find joy daily no matter what you are facing in life.

NOVEMBER CE EVENT

Speaker: Chelsea Greenberg, DVM, MS, DACVIM

Topic: Immunotherapy In Practice: Options and Autologous Cancer Vaccines

Date: November 17, 2022

Time: Dinner/Registration: 6:30 | Presentation: 7:00 | Golf: 8:00pm – 9:30pm

Location: Top Golf

Fee: No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by **November 14th**. Current membership dues cover all social events.

Sponsor: Torigen Pharmaceuticals

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.

October 18, 2022

Hill's Pet Nutrition is hiring for a Veterinary Digital Education Specialist. This is a great opportunity for a veterinarian with at least 2 years of professional clinical experience looking for a role in Topeka, KS / greater Kansas City area. The job's focus is on developing materials that educate veterinarians and the veterinary healthcare team and has much room for advancement within Hill's for the right candidate. This is a great role for an early-in-career veterinarian looking to break into industry!

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September 22, 2022

At Blackbob Pet Hospital and Cat Clinic we are seeking an exceptional veterinary technician and quality employee to join our team. This person 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. Duties include performing all technical aspects of surgical, laboratory, in-patient and outpatient care and assistance to the doctors and the education of our clients. Schedule flexibility and Saturday availability is required. If you respect our commitment to quality medicine and the human-pet relationship, we can offer a challenging, flexible, unique work environment, an exceptional benefits package and the opportunity for a long-term career. Previous experience is required. Salary is based upon experience. New hires will need pass a drug screening test. Please apply on our website: <https://www.blackbobpethospital.com/employment-opportunities>

September 21, 2022

Odessa Animal Clinic is hiring a full-time Associate Veterinarian to join our team. We are a well-established small/mixed animal practice located just 30 miles East of downtown Kansas City, Missouri. Our hospital is well equipped with a complete IDEXX in-house lab, including Sedivue, direct digital radiography, ultrasound, Companion Therapy Laser and Vet-Scalpel Surgical Laser.

Our Experienced team is friendly and like family. We work together on difficult cases to create the best plan for our patients and clients. We provide mentorship to new grads. If you would like to practice progressive high-quality medicine in a facility that also honors the importance of a quality work-life balance, we would love to hear from you!

We offer a very competitive compensation package.

Please contact Dr. Sean M Croucher at Odessa Animal Clinic, 100 W Main Street, Odessa, MO 64076 or email scroucherdvm@gmail.com or cell (816) 517-1235.

September 13, 2022

Ironhorse Veterinary Care is excited to offer a full time or part time licensed veterinary technician an opportunity to join our team. Ironhorse Veterinary Care is an exclusive canine and feline hospital, and has built their practice philosophy around the Fear-Free movement. Work environment is relaxed with long appointments to allow us to focus on patient care and Fear-Free techniques. Duties would include: checking in patients, restraint, venipuncture, IV catheter placement, anesthesia monitoring, surgery prep, dentistry, taking dental radiographs, performing in house laboratory tasks, assisting with digital radiographs, providing basic preventive health care knowledge to clients, checking out patients, and cleaning.

September 7, 2022

Westwood Animal Hospital is seeking a full-time Associate Veterinarian to join our practice with a \$20,000+ sign on bonus. Applicants for a part-time position will be considered.

Who We Are:

Westwood Animal Hospital is an AAHA accredited, 6000 sf privately owned, full service three doctor practice, centrally located in the Kansas City metro area near The Country Club Plaza shopping, restaurants and museums. We opened Westwood Animal Hospital in 1985 and have thousands of clients, a great facility, location and a strong community presence. Our reputation is superior, with reviews averaging 4.5 to 5 stars. The practice is open Monday – Friday, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, and Saturday, 7:30 am to 1 pm. The doctors see appointments from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

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The hospital is equipped with a Bionet BM3 touch-screen monitor, full anesthesia monitoring equipment, a new IM3 dental unit, a class IV NovaPulse surgical laser, and much more. Our diagnostic equipment includes a comprehensive in-house IDEXX laboratory, SmartDR and Schick DDR digital radiography and ultrasound. Our hospital software is AVImark. Our support staff will allow you to practice medicine at a high standard of care. Besides medicine and surgery services, we have a medium-sized boarding kennel, a training center that offers five levels of obedience and a behavior consultation service for families with problem pets.

Who we are looking for:

We want to grow our team and are looking for a full-time Associate Veterinarian. That person should be caring, kind, and responsible, with a passion for providing excellence in medicine, surgery and preventative care. The ideal candidate would have good communication skills, be personable, work well with others, and have a positive attitude. We want a team member who is continually willing to learn and strives to improve.

Skills/Requirements include but are not limited to:

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and DEA license
- Excellent skills in surgery, dentistry, diagnostics, medicine
- Self-motivated, manages tasks and time
- Confidence and common sense
- Problem-solving skills and innovative thinking
- The ability to perform physical exams, diagnose problems and create a treatment plan

The package:

Sign on bonus starting at \$20,000

Salary: Starting at minimum \$100K, higher depending on experience

Schedule: The schedule is 4 days per week 8am-6pm and rotating half-day Saturdays

- Nearby emergency/specialty facilities, so no after-hours emergencies
- Bonuses
- CE allowance
- PTO
- Paid vacation
- Liability insurance
- Licenses: AVMA, KVMA, and Kansas license fees covered
- Employee discounts
- Health insurance
- 401k with match

If you are interested, please email (wayneh42@aol.com), or call the hospital (913-362-2512) and ask to speak with Dr. Wayne Hunthausen.

September 6, 2022

Northland Mobile Veterinary Clinic (Lawrence Kovac, DVM) is wanting to talk to a younger entrepreneurial

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veterinarian that wants to help me grow a successful 35 year old mobile house call small animal clinic into a 2 veterinarian, 2 mobile clinic practice. I am looking for someone who wants to be self employed and cover the 4 to 6 daily calls that I am having to refer to stationary clinics that are also overbooked and also the additional clients that will develop because of adding the second mobile clinic. I have been blessed with an above average income and at a point that I need to share that success as I develop my transition to a hopeful retirement. If you truly want to be your own boss, work with the wonderful colleagues I refer to and develop your own life balance without answering to anyone but yourself please give me a call and I will be glad to talk about how I did it and my plans to make it a smooth transition.

Lawrence Kovac, DVM

816-616-2349