



Asian Longhorned Tick Discovered in Northern Missouri

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The Asian longhorned tick, a species native to eastern Russia, has been present in the United States since 2010. Recently, the tick has been discovered in northern Missouri by University of Missouri researchers. This species of tick reproduces asexually – a female can produce thousands of eggs without a male. The ticks are a threat to cattle as they transmit bovine theileriosis. While bovine theileriosis has not been seen in Missouri yet, researchers stress the need for higher vigilance with the presence of this new tick species.

Bovine theileriosis is caused by the organism, *Theileria orientalis*, which is a protozoan parasite transmitted by hard ticks such as the Asian longhorned tick and the American brown dog tick. Symptoms of bovine theileriosis can mimic other tick-borne diseases and include fever, anemia, lethargy, jaundice and diarrhea. Stillborn calves and late-term abortions are common. Some cattle carry the disease but are asymptomatic. The disease can be transmitted to calves in utero by an infected mother, but otherwise is not transmitted between animals.

Currently there is no approved treatment for the disease, so prevention is the key to limiting losses. The tick is labeled as an aggressive biter and large groups of ticks can be found on a single animal. Because of the tick's high reproductive rate, it can quickly infest a new environment. Strong quarantine controls when moving new animals into a herd are encouraged, especially when the animal is coming from a known endemic area. Since the disease can spread through needles, it is important not to reuse needles between animals.

Aggressive tick control through the use of pesticides and pasture management is vital to preventing the spread of disease among the herd. Keeping pastures mowed, allowing poultry to feed on adult ticks in vacant pastures, and using pesticides in the pasture and cattle sprays and dips.

FTC Proposal Looks to Stop the Practice of Noncompete Clauses for Employees

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

In January, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), stating that noncompete agreements are “a widespread and often exploitative practice that suppresses wages, hampers innovation and block entrepreneurs from starting new businesses,” issued a proposal to ban noncompete agreements. The proposal would stop employers from requiring noncompete agreements with their workers and would require employers to rescind existing non-compete agreements. A public comment period was open through March 20.

Many associate veterinarians have shared stories of how non-compete clauses have trapped them in less-than-ideal work situations and restricted their power to improve their work environment. Some opponents of noncompetes argue that they are contributing to veterinary shortages by keeping veterinarians out of the market. Independent practice owners argue that without noncompete clauses, associates can leave and take clients with them.

The FTC has suggested that nondisclosure agreements are perhaps a better approach to keeping proprietary information within the company. Examples of companies that do not have noncompete policies are Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG) and Petco/Vetco. VEG initially had a noncompete, but discontinued the practice in 2021. They instead have a business protection agreement that protects the company from an employee copying their marketing or using their name on another clinic. It does not however restrict employees to going to a new job of their choosing. Petco states they have never required a noncompete from their employees.

Several states have banned or restricted the use of noncompetes already. California, North Dakota and Oklahoma have banned noncompetes entirely. Massachusetts bans noncompetes for physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers and is reviewing a bill that would add veterinarians to the list. Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Oregon, Virginia and Washington have restrictions on noncompetes based on salary.

Once the FDA decides whether to proceed with the ruling, it will go into effect 180 days after publishing in the Federal Register. It is anticipated that any ruling against noncompetes will undergo legal challenges.

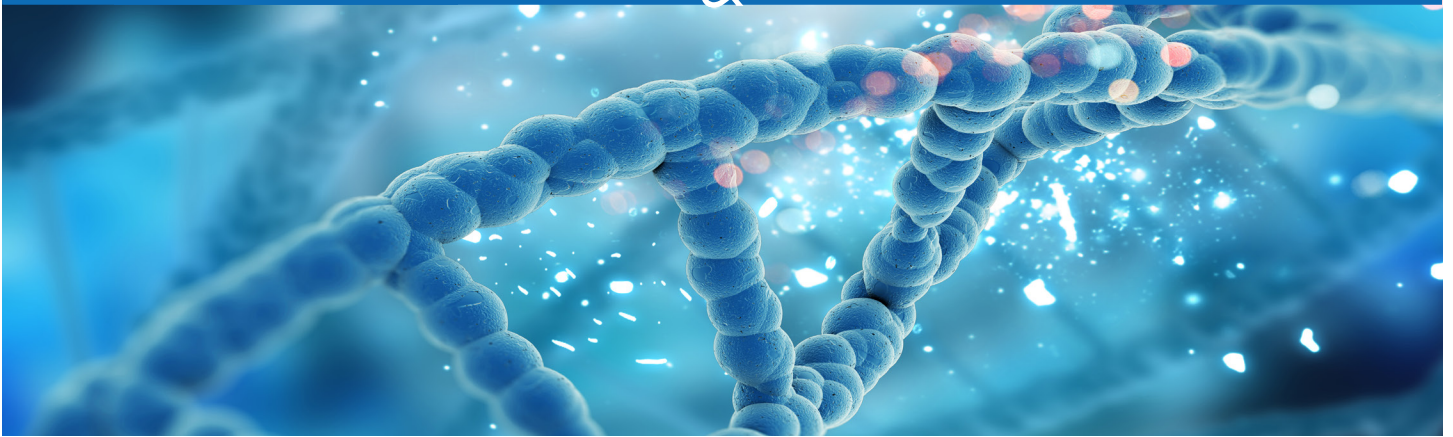


Rise in Leptospirosis Cases in Kansas City Area

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

An increased number of cases of leptospirosis have been diagnosed in the Kansas City area. Leptospirosis is caused by a bacteria found in soil and water. The disease is spread through the urine of infected animals. Dogs at highest risk are those with access to slow moving or stagnant water. Dogs that are exposed to wildlife, farm animals or other dogs at parks or boarding facilities are also at increased risk.

Symptoms of leptospirosis vary, but can include increased thirst, vomiting, loss of appetite, lethargy, pain, diarrhea and jaundice. The disease can affect different organ systems and lead to heart damage, bleeding disorders, kidney or liver disease or lung disease. The disease can be fatal. Leptospirosis is also zoonotic. Treatment often involves antibiotics and supportive care. A vaccine for leptospirosis exists for dogs and those individuals with high-risk lifestyle factors should be vaccinated.



Accuracy of Dog DNA Tests in Question

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

To explore the accuracy of dog DNA tests, an investigative journalist for CBC News in Canada sent samples to four DNA testing companies. The samples were obtained from two mixed-breed dogs, one purebred dog and one human. The samples were sent to each of the four companies, Wisdom Panel, Embark, Accumetrics and DNA My Dog. The companies each claimed accuracy of nearly 100 percent, yet most of the results were different from the different companies.

Molly is a five-year old rescued from Kuwait. At her adoption, it was suggested she may be a mix of Saluki and Anatolian Shepherd, but her actual lineage is unknown. The second mixed-breed dog is Loki, who was rescued from Istanbul and is about 3 or 4 years old. His owner's guess is some type of terrier mix. The purebred dog is a 16-month-old Great Dane named Quinn. Quinn comes complete with papers documenting his lineage as a purebred.

Molly's breed was identified differently by each of the four DNA tests. Wisdom Panel detected 19 breeds including pit bull, chihuahua, German shepherd, Segugio Italiano and Xoloitzcuintli. Accumetrics suggested that one side of Molly's lineage is purebred cocker spaniel, while the other side is a mix of Labrador retriever, American Staffordshire terrier and rottweiler. DNA My Dog identified bulldog, flat-coated retriever and German shepherd. Finally, Embark stated Molly is 100 percent Arabian village dog, which

the company says predated recognized breeds and is indigenous to the region.

Loki also received different results from each of the four companies. Wisdom Panel identified 23 breeds including Segugio Italiano, chihuahua and Anatolian shepherd. Accumetrics never provided results for Loki. DNA My Dog stated that Loki is primarily Belgian Malinois with some Australian shepherd. Embark stated that Loki is 100 percent West Asian village dog – another ancient indigenous breed.

Quinn's results were a little more consistent among the companies. Both Wisdom Panel and Embark identified her as 100 percent Great Dane. DNA My Dog identified her as primarily Great Dane with some Staffordshire terrier. Accumetrics identified Quinn as 100% Chihuahua.

As for the human sample, DNA submitted to a lab that is testing for dog DNA should yield an error without identifying any dog breed. The samples sent to Wisdom Panel and Embark did yield errors. However, the two other labs identified breeds. DNA My Dog identified the human DNA as part basenji and part beagle. Accumetrics identified Central Asian shepherd dog, Turkish Kangal and mastiff.

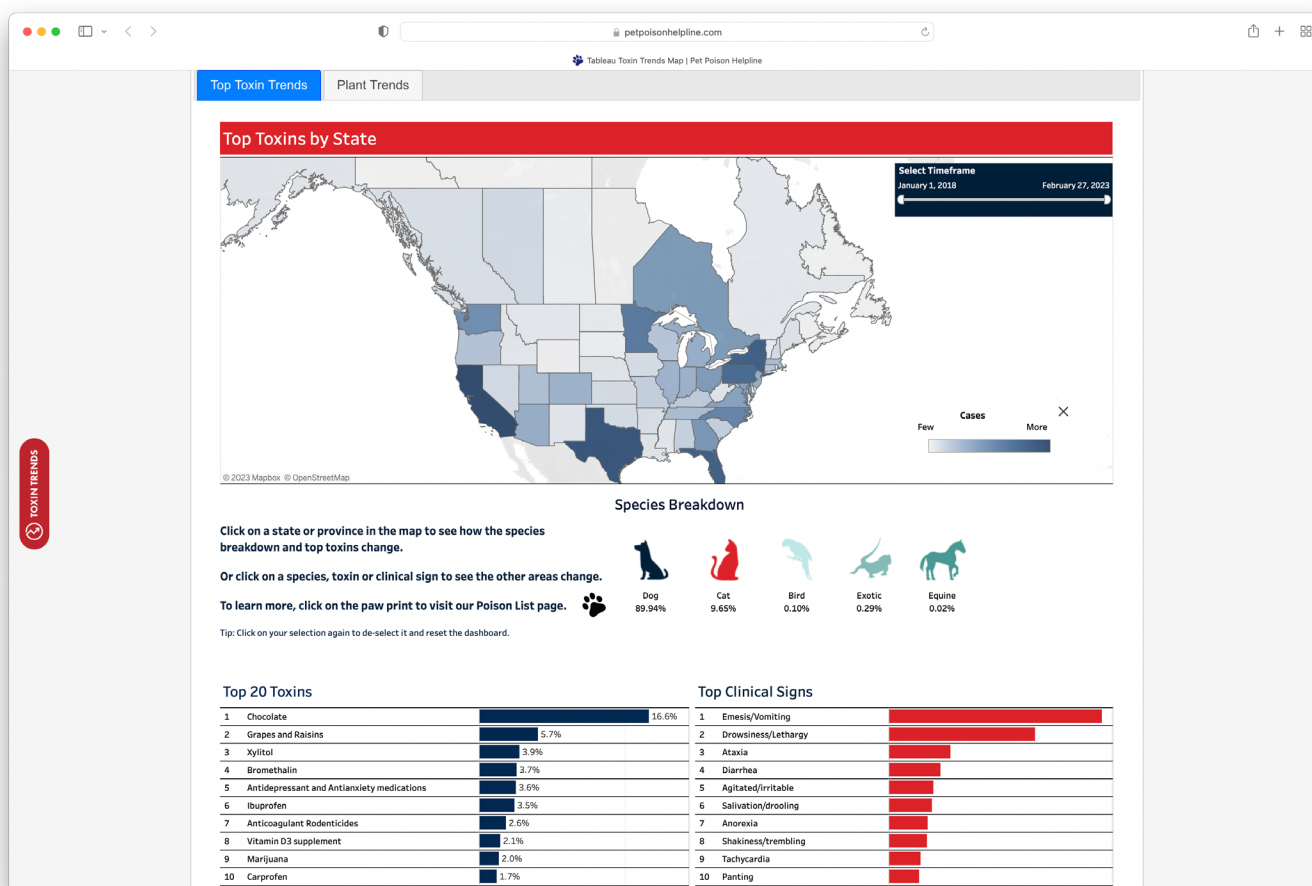
When submitting DNA for breed testing, it is best to judge the results against on the characteristics of the pet in question. DNA is only part of the story of a pet's health and behavior.

Pet Poison Helpline Releases Toxin Trends Dashboard That Identifies the Top 20 toxins in Each State and Province

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Using five years of call data, toxicologists at the Pet Poison Helpline developed an interactive tool to help pet owners find toxins in their area. The release was timed to coincide with Pet Poison Prevention month in March. The dashboard, Toxin Trends, shows the 20 deadliest toxins in each state along with the most common symptoms for each toxicity. Toxin Trends was released last year with the most common toxic plants in each state. The list this year includes medications, chemicals, plants, foods and other items. The most commonly reported toxin across the country is chocolate. Rankings below that are more likely to reflect regional influence.

The tool is free and user-friendly. Users can select between species including dog, cat, bird, exotic and equine, or view trends across all species. The previous version focused on plants is also still available to select. Toxicologists hope that it will help pet owners avoid prevalent toxins in their area and perhaps help research precautions to take when traveling to different regions. The Pet Poison Helpline plans to release future versions of Toxin Trends to share more of their data accumulated over the years.



The Toxin Trends dashboard can be accessed at <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/toxin-trends/>.

MAY CE EVENT

Speaker: Dr. Taylor Franci

Topic: Probiotic Therapy: The Gut & Beyond (1hr) & Answering Common Pet Owner Nutrition Questions

Date: May 18, 2023

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

CE: 2 Hours

Location: McCormick & Schmick Seafood & Steaks – Dogwood Room

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

Sponsor: Purina

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 24, 2023

Gardner Animal Hospital has an opportunity for a Veterinary Assistant to join our team!

Shift Details: This is a full-time position, working shifts during the hours of 7am-6pm Monday-Friday and rotating Saturdays from 8 am-1 pm

Compensation: \$17-\$19/hour

Desired Experience: Basic animal handling experience preferred, but not required.

Benefits We Offer:

- Yearly uniform allowance
- Discount on veterinary care and products for your furry family members
- 401k retirement plan options with company match for all staff over 21 years old
- Medical, vision, and dental insurance options for full-time staff
- Paid time off and paid major holidays for full-time staff
- Life insurance and other benefit options available for full-time staff
- RVTs: Cost of license renewals and up to \$500 of continuing education per year

Job Summary: The Veterinary Assistant aids and supports the medical support team in the operation of an animal facility in accordance with Mission Veterinary Partners (MVP) hospital policy and procedures. The Veterinary Assistant also provides medical care to patients as allowed in the veterinary practice act.

How you'll make an impact:

- Maintain and uphold the Core Values and Mission Statement of MVP.
- Assist in all daily duties for clinic care.
- Participate in any special cleaning duties.
- Provide client care by scheduling appointments, taking payments, and check-ins.
- Maintain excellent client communication.

After 6 months of employment, MVP offers paid tuition through the Penn Foster Veterinary Technology Program in order to become a Licensed/Registered Veterinary Nurse. Upon completion of the program, MVP covers the cost of National and State boards. Participants must sign a contract to remain employed with MVP for a minimum of 2 years after completion of their schooling.

Send your resume to Kelly.leseberg@mvvetpartners.com for immediate consideration.

March 23, 2023

Westwood Animal Hospital is seeking a veterinary receptionist to join our team. Job responsibilities include:

- Greeting and welcoming clients and patients with warmth and sincerity.
- Answering telephone calls and returning e-mails.
- Scheduling appointments using Avimark software.
- Informing the veterinarian of any emergencies that require urgent attention.
- Issuing invoices for treatment and prescribed medication after each consultation.
- Receiving and verifying payments after each consultation.
- Preparing and maintaining accurate paperwork for patient charts, appointments, and boarding reservations.

Benefits include discounted services and products for employee's pet(s) for full-time and part-time positions, and paid personal, sick, and vacation time, 401k matching, and an employer contribution towards employee's individual health insurance plan for full-time positions. The right candidate is trustworthy and dependable, has a friendly personality, and has a sincere interest in helping people and their pets. Some previous experience in the companion animal field is required.

Interested applicants can fill out the application on our website using the following link:

<https://n8pa14.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ApplicationForEmployment.pdf> Completed applications can be returned to us by e-mailing westwoodanimalhospital@gmail.com.

March 21, 2023**Registered Veterinary Technician**

Marketplace Animal Hospital in Lenexa, KS is looking for an outstanding Registered Veterinary Technician to add to our growing team! We are located 1 ½ miles west of JCCC and have 5 full time doctors, 1 part time doctor, 4 RVTs, and a fun support staff. The practice is rapidly expanding and extremely busy so you will be part of the changes to come as the clinic continues to grow! In 2022 we finished an expansion and remodel of the clinic which includes a beautiful new surgical suite, and dedicated recovery, radiology, and cat rooms. We have 6 new exam rooms, including a compassion suite.

MAH is equipped with all the latest in-house equipment and we utilize Avimark Practice Management Software. Antech is our outside laboratory. We do not have boarding or grooming and rarely keep animals overnight. All emergencies are referred to the local emergency clinics, so you will not be on call for any afterhours care.

MAH is passionate about the following qualities in our new RVT:

- Career minded – we want a long-term employee who loves veterinary medicine and loves helping people
- Sharp skills – dentistry, microscope work, phlebotomy, surgical preparation, cytology, drug calculations, hospitalized patient care, surgical monitoring, radiology, gentle restraint of both dogs and cats
- Team oriented – having fun with coworkers, taking and providing direction with a positive attitude, supporting team mates by jumping in and helping in any way you can
- Detail oriented – being aware of the schedule and having supplies ready for appointments and surgeries, accurate recording in medical records, double checking your work, finishing what you start, time management, working efficiently and thoroughly

Hours vary, but include shifts starting at 6:45am during the week. Rotating Saturday hours are 7:45am to noon. You will have one weekday off and can enjoy a permanent schedule which is consistent from week to week! Being on time for each and every shift is required and essential. It is also essential that you are able to consistently work

your schedule. You will be provided discounted health insurance (including vision and dental), CE allowance, scrub allowance, paid vacation, simple IRA after 1 year, and a generous pet discount. Salary is DOE but starts at \$23.00/ hr!

Check out our website at www.marketplaceanimalhospital.com to learn a little bit more about who we are! Please submit cover letter and resume to Julie at marketplaceahmanagement@gmail.com. We are extremely excited to add another RVT to our staff! Thank you for your interest in Marketplace Animal Hospital and we look forward to connecting with you.

Job Type: Full-time, will consider part-time

Salary: \$23.00 per hour and up DOE

March 5, 2023

We are currently looking for a licensed veterinary technician to join our growing team!

Animal Clinic of the Woodlands located in Gladstone, Missouri is a 2 1/2 doctor small animal practice. We are looking for a technician who is motivated to help us grow, a self-starter that is ok working independently, as well as on a team, and is interested in finding their long-term clinic. We have in-house bloodwork, ultrasound, digital radiography, dental radiography, hydrotherapy and much more!

We offer competitive wages, no on call, 401K, paid vacation, very good pet discounts and a drama free atmosphere. We are LOCALLY OWNED, not corporate, so it is like a family here!!

Please email animalclinicofthewoodlands@gmail.com with your resume or stop by the clinic to fill out an application.