



## Invasive Tick Discovered in Boone County Missouri

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The invasive Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) has been discovered in Boone County by University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine researchers. The finding is significant, because the longhorned tick has the potential to cause millions of dollars in agricultural damage particularly to cattle and can also transmit disease to humans.

This species of tick is known to cause large infestations on livestock. In addition, the ticks are known in other countries to carry disease causing agents such as anaplasma, babesia, ehrlichia, theileria, and rickettsia in addition to viruses. Many of these infections cause anemia resulting in weight loss, lethargy, liver disease, miscarriage and death.

Longhorned ticks reproduce asexually and can lay thousands of eggs quickly populating new areas. Many of University researchers urge farmers to be vigilant and remain committed to monitoring the tick populations in the state. Any livestock producer in Missouri who notices signs of theileriosis in their cattle should contact their veterinarian or the University of Missouri Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.



## Advice on Perianesthetic Opioid Alternatives

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Opioids often go on backorder or undergo shortages due to varying circumstances. Additionally, opioids may not be the most appropriate choice for certain veterinary patients. Many alternative therapies exist to help with analgesia before, during and after surgery. Often, non-opioid analgesia management is a multi-modal approach to ensure adequate pain relief is achieved.

Prior to arrival at the clinic, the client can administer oral medication to reduce anxiety. Gabapentin can be used in dogs and cats for calming. Trazodone is another option for pre-arrival anxiety in dogs. Acepromazine or alprazolam may be other options for some patients. Oromucosal dexmedetomidine is also an option for calming the pre-anesthetic canine patient. Gabapentin and/or tramadol are often used to lower anxiety and provide some analgesia although studies on their analgesic effects in pets are ongoing.

Before onset of anesthesia, an NSAID may be administered orally if medically appropriate

for the patient. Given enough time to reach tissue concentration will provide some analgesia post-operatively. Side effects during surgery include increased risk of renal damage if the patient becomes hypotensive. Often it is easier and faster to give injectable pain medications pre- or peri-operatively. Dexmedetomidine in healthy patients is often used as a pre-medication to provide analgesia and sedation. Side effects include bradycardia and vasoconstriction and require careful monitoring during anesthesia. Dexmedetomidine can also be administered as a CRI for analgesia and to reduce the amount of anesthesia required.

Finally, the use of local and nerve blocks can reduce the amount of inhalant anesthesia required for a procedure and, depending on the product use, can provide pain relief post-operatively. Lidocaine is often used for testicular blocks in castration and line blocks to the abdominal wall for OVH procedures with good effect. Ropivacaine and bupivacaine can also be used if longer duration of analgesia is desired.

## U.S. Department of Agriculture Opens Nation's First Biosafety Level 4 Containment Facility for Animal Disease Research

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM



The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) was recently completed in Manhattan, KS. The facility was constructed to replace the Plum Island Disease Center that has housed foreign animal disease research conducted by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for 68 years. The new NBAF will house the first biosafety level 4 (BSL-4) containment lab with the ability to house large livestock. Previously, the US has had to rely on facilities in other countries to study high consequence diseases in large livestock.

The new facility is over 700,000 square feet and is designed to allow scientists to study and ensure the safety and security of the nation's food supply. The facility also houses a Biologics Development Module for the development of potential vaccines and diagnostics.

Although developed and constructed under ownership of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, the NBAF will operate under the control of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The final construction cost was under the \$1.25 billion budget designated in 2014.

## New DEA Education Requirement Does Not Apply to Veterinarians

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 became law in December 2022. Under this act all DEA practitioners except practitioners that are solely veterinarians are required to undergo a one-time 8-hour training on opioid substance use disorders.

This act specifically excludes veterinarians from this requirement. When renewing DEA licenses, the DEA has advised that veterinarians should check any box associated with the new training to proceed with their renewal application. This also applies to new applications. Because it is a one-time requirement, the training affirmation will not be included in subsequent registration renewals.

## FIP Clinical Trials Underway at UC Davis

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine has conducted clinical trials on the treatment of feline infectious peritonitis (FIP). FIP, caused by a feline coronavirus, is often deadly despite aggressive treatment strategies. The study was conducted on cats under 12 months of age with the wet form of FIP. Two separate trials are running to explore different treatment strategies. One trial investigates stem cell therapies while the other studied the effectiveness of two antiviral drugs. The trials are building on earlier research conducted at UC Davis by Professor Emeritus Niels Pedersen.

The two antiviral drugs under investigation are GS-441524 (previously studied by Dr. Pedersen) and its pro-drug, remdesivir, which is currently under emergency use authorization status from the FDA for treatment of COVID-19. GS-441524 is not currently available in the US. However, many cat owners have successfully treated their cats with FIP with the assistance of a Facebook group known as FIP Warriors that works to import GS-441524 through Chinese black-market sources.

The second trial is exploring the combination of antiviral drugs and stem cell therapy using mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs). This study is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Development. The premise is that MSC therapy will help the immune system clear the virus and repair compromised immune systems post-infection. The findings from this trial could feed into a larger study exploring treatments for multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children after exposure to COVID-19, which is a similar condition to what occurs in cats with FIP.

To date, antiviral trials have proved successful with both remdesivir and GS-441524 in cats with the wet form of FIP. New clinical trials are studying their effectiveness in dry FIP. Information as to treatment protocols and dosing are published on the university's website at <https://ccah.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/cats/resources/feline-infectious-peritonitis-clinical-trials>.



## SEPTEMBER CE EVENT

**Speakers:** Crista Wallis, DVM and Ashlee Franks – MWI  
Technology and Solutions Strategist

**Topic:** What Today's Virtual Care Veterinarian Looks Like

**Date:** Thursday, Sept. 21st

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

**CE:** 2 Hours

**Location:** Brio (Plaza)

**Fee:** No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by  
**Sept. 18th.** Current membership dues cover all CE..

**Sponsor:** MWI

**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). Classified ads will be run at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for content.

**August 24, 2023**

Union Hill Animal Hospital is hiring! Our locally owned, independent hospital has continued to rapidly grow in the heart of midtown 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 looking for our 5th!) 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. We plan to add an endoscope soon!

At Union Hill Animal Hospital, our pay rate is commensurate with experience and education. We distribute bi-annual bonuses based on the performance of the practice.

Schedule: You are scheduled 4 weekdays and every third Saturday. We refer after hours emergencies.

License: If you are an RVT, you must have a MO license in good standing or be eligible to obtain a MO license.

Pay/Benefits: We provide health insurance (with dental & vision options), retirement, disability (short & long term), CE and license coverage, association dues, paid holidays, paid time off, uniforms & discounted pet care

Please send resumes to [admin@uhanimalhospital.com](mailto:admin@uhanimalhospital.com)

**August 2, 2023**

Noah's Ark Animal Clinic, located in the heart of Brookside in Kansas City, Missouri, is looking for a compassionate and engaging full or part-time veterinarian to work with our team, connect with our clients, and provide exceptional care to our patients. Noah's Ark, a three-doctor full service small animal clinic, has been serving the Brookside neighborhood and surrounding areas since 1970, and we are fortunate to work with such a loyal and trusting community.

We believe the best care for our patients comes from a combination of strong medical knowledge and familiarity with the pets and the people that love them. We pride ourselves on our time spent listening, communicating, and building lasting connections with our clients. Our relationships within the clinic are just as important. Noah's Ark's staff members are well-trained, eager to help, and fun. We are passionate about working together as a team to ensure staff, clients, and patients are happy to be at our clinic. Appointments are an average of 30 minutes and each doctor has an assigned room technician to allow those relationships plenty of opportunity to develop.

Our clinic is located in an almost 100-year-old house that was recently renovated and offers a bright, welcoming, and homey environment. We have four exam rooms, digital radiology, a new surgical suite, dental digital radiology, a complete patient monitoring system, and Abaxis in-house diagnostic equipment. In addition, we would be excited to add ultrasound and cold laser machines to our repertoire to better serve our patients.

As a veterinarian at Noah's Ark, you can expect a set schedule without any weekend or on-call shifts. You'll receive health and dental benefits, a 401(k) with employer match, licensure reimbursement, PTO, CE allowance, and a \$30,000 signing bonus. If Noah's Ark seems like it may be a good fit for you, please contact our Practice Manager at [jessica@noahsarkanimalclinic.com](mailto:jessica@noahsarkanimalclinic.com) or call at 816-361-6822.

**July 27, 2023**

Northland Mobile Veterinary Clinic, (NMVC, Lawrence P. Kovac, DVM), is looking for a recent graduate with one or more years of experience who would be interested in learning about full-service house call veterinary

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medicine. NMVC serves most of Clay and Platte counties and the northern part of Jackson county, Kansas City and surrounding areas. The clinic and clientele grew significantly during the pandemic and refers 3-6 cold calls a day in order to care for established clients. The clinic has been evaluated by Simmons Midwest who has given their appraisal and growth potential. The clinic beat the Simmons group growth prediction by 2% in 2022 and is on track to do it again in 2023. I will be offering the right person the right to buy one half of the appraised clinic value (blue sky). In turn, I will refer cold calls and many of my present clients that cannot be seen in a timely manner. The candidate would be self employed owner working under the umbrella of NMVC, Inc. The candidate would also have the opportunity to help choose, design and own a second mobile clinic.

I have had a wonderful career and have a 5-7 year plan to transition into retirement. The candidate and colleague would help the clinic continue to grow and would then have the opportunity to bring in another colleague, allowing me to fully retire. After much thought and planning, it is time to share my form of practicing the profession that I love and that has allowed me to be more than successful in my endeavors, while earning an above average industry income. The clinic website is [www.nmvckc.com](http://www.nmvckc.com). Those who might want to talk, please call me at 816-616-2349.