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Advancing the well-being of veterinarians,
animals, the public and the environment.

Staff

Debbie Lakamp, CAE
Interim Executive Director
debbie@isvma.org

Jill Blanton
Administrative Assistant
jill@isvma.org

Michelle Gundlach, DVM
Director of Education
michelle@isvma.org

Alicia Davis-Wade, MS
Interim Assistant Executive Director/
Finance Manager
alicia@isvma.org

Lobbyists

Terry Steczo
Maureen Mulhall

Convention Managers

Bonnie Chandler
Brenna Venvertloh



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Your Association – Working for You

by Tracy Myers, DVM



I recently attended the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago January 9-11, 2015, as both president of ISVMA and alternate delegate to the AVMA House of Delegates. It is a wonderful opportunity to see in person exactly how much our state and national associations work to keep veterinary medicine in

the hands of veterinarians. This can be a long and arduous process, because each and every word, possible situation and outcome must be considered and reconsidered from numerous points of view. Not only are state organizations represented, but so also are the allied caucuses, which include such organizations as the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV), the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, etc. What might work perfectly for the feline practitioners may not work at all for the lab animal veterinarians. It is very eye-opening and makes me want to share it with you. You can log onto the AVMA website, www.avma.org, for more information. Please take a moment to look over these resolutions, bylaws and AVMA's new mission statement. PLIT even has a new look!

I also had the opportunity to meet other state VMA officers and executive directors and hear what they are doing in their states for the public and their membership. ISVMA has some new ideas coming for this year, many of which include strengthening our current leadership and developing new leaders. We had 10 emerging leaders attend the conference, with six of them being sponsored by ISVMA and our own state regions. What a great bunch of recent graduates! In the past, these attendees have gone on to hold many leadership roles for ISVMA. Without these volunteers, I'm not sure where our state association would be. Please feel free to contact the ISVMA office or me if you would like to become more involved as a volunteer or mentor.

There is one more topic that I want to bring to your attention. Recently an article was printed in *The Indianapolis Star* titled "Pets at Risk," and its writer, John Russell, engaged in a dialogue about the role of veterinarians, pets and their human companions, and this is a good thing. Russell recognized the value of the human animal bond

and the impact of the relationship between veterinarians and pet owners. Unfortunately, the article content made severe errors, as it reached false conclusions and generalizations as he made an effort to sensationalize elements of the important relationship that exists between veterinarians, their patients and clients. It implicitly charged that veterinarians are willing to abandon their ethical obligations for material gains at the expense of their patients.

The art of veterinary medicine is founded in a respect for life and a commitment to the relief of animal pain and suffering while also meeting the needs of the owners. Some veterinarians do so in a clinical practice with companion animals; others work to make our food sources safe and available for a hungry world with a wise stewardship for the welfare of the animals who provide us food and clothing. Still others are on the front lines of finding cures for cancer and other deadly human diseases with our knowledge of comparative physiology. Public health veterinarians protect humans and animals from potential devastating epidemics. Many veterinarians donate their time and expertise to shelter rescue animals here and internationally.

We are passionate about animals and their welfare, and we value the relationship between humans and animals. We spend more than six to eight years of higher education to achieve a degree and an oath to serve humans and animals. This speaks highly of our passion and dedication. Our profession is skeptical about that which science cannot support, and therefore, it is absurd to think we would use any diagnostic test or treatment that could and would sacrifice the fundamentals of our profession to offer an unwise treatment to our patients on the basis of a prize at a continuing-education conference is deeply and personally offensive. We are not for sale, never have been and never will be! Our standards of care, including medications, are rigorously established through solid science, not emotion or whim. This article did not represent veterinarians accurately.

This is only one more reason to be active in your profession. You don't even have to do this at the state or national level; even in your own backyard is big enough. 🐾

Some sections of this column were excerpted, with permission, from an article written by Dr. Jerry Risser, president of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association.



ISVMA Invites You to Be a Key Legislative Contact

by Deborah Lakamp, CAE, Interim Executive Director



"You can say what you want about keeping associations out of politics, but the man out of politics is not living in the present age. This is the age of group effort."
— Dr. C. Hastings, Williamsville, Illinois

You may recognize this quote, as it has taken up residence on the home page of the ISVMA website as a constant reminder that veterinarians' voices are strongest when they speak as group.

The number of powerful people and organizations that believe they know best how to care for animals and keep them safe is growing daily. Their passion is being voiced through the introduction of proposed laws, administrative rules, newspaper editorials, online posts, heart-wrenching television commercials and more. However, veterinarians are the only professionals today educated to address the health needs of every species of animal and play a critical role in environmental protection, food safety, animal welfare and public health. As a result, Dr. Hastings' quote is still true and relevant 85 years later.

If you are committed to the ISVMA mission of "Advancing the well-being of veterinarians, animals, the public and the environment," please consider speaking on behalf of the profession as a Legislative Key Contact. Key Contacts are veterinarians or certified veterinary technicians with an interest in the future of veterinary medicine and the willingness to build a legislative relationship or expand on an existing relationship with the legislator.

Legislators are unable to be experts on every topic, so they appreciate professionals sharing their expertise in a thoughtful manner. Building a relationship with your legislator(s) may take some time, but each interaction is one more step toward you becoming a contact the legislator and their staff will utilize in the future. Plus, ISVMA staff members and volunteers are available to advise you as you build or enhance the relationship.

The basic steps to becoming a ISVMA Legislative Key Contact are as follows:

- Find out who your legislators are, and write down their contact information. You may have two sets of legislators if your home and office are in different legislative districts.
- Don't wait until an issue arises to talk to them — be proactive.

If you are committed to the ISVMA mission of "Advancing the well-being of veterinarians, animals, the public and the environment," please consider speaking on behalf of the profession as a Legislative Key Contact.

- Learn about your legislator. You can read the legislator's biography, visit his or her website if one is available and find out what committees the legislator serves on in the General Assembly.
- Give the legislator a call, or make an appointment to see him or her. Share a little about your background and that you would be pleased to be his or her resource on veterinary medicine or animal care issues.
- Invite your legislator to tour your clinic, speak at a civic or organization meeting, or attend an event that would put him or her in contact with constituents.
- Always follow up with a call or note of thanks to the legislator.
- Make it a point to "stop in or call and say hello" every few months or so to help build the relationship. Legislators appreciate a social call when there is no "ask" involved.
- Personal contact is the most critical factor in the success of an advocacy program. Personal visits and phone calls are preferred and are the most effective.
- Get to know the legislator's local office staff members, and share your offer to be a resource with them as well.
- When an issue of importance to the profession is being reviewed at the legislature, visit or call, stating your interest in the subject, and share the association's position. ISVMA will provide data and/or factual information to you. After the meeting, send a thank-you note to let your legislator know you appreciated his or her time.

Remember to let the ISVMA staff know that you have or are building a relationship with a specific legislator(s) so we can share any valuable information with you.

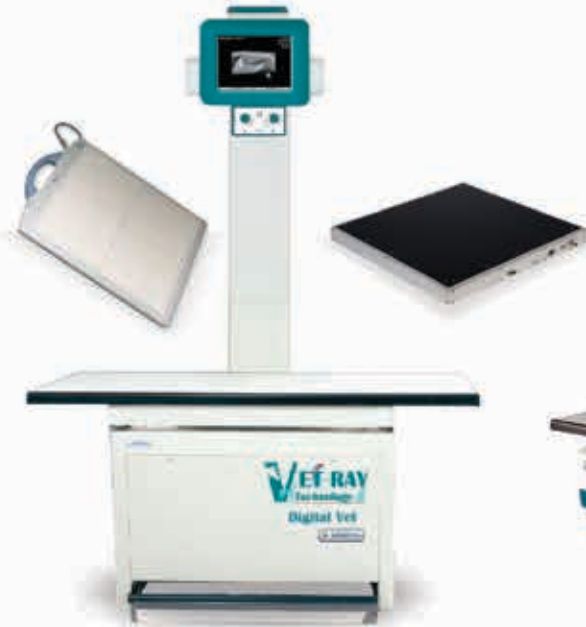
For more information on how to become an ISVMA Key Legislative Contact, please email Debbie@isvma.org or call (217) 546-8381. 🐾



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Equine Updates: News from Your College of Veterinary Medicine

by Dean Peter Constable



Last December, I attended the college's alumni reception at the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) convention in Salt Lake City. Dr. Scott Austin, who heads the equine service section in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, was also at the meeting.

The reception allowed us to connect with alumni and showcase news about our excellent equine faculty and services. In the months since, there's even more to share about our equine services in the areas of reproduction, surgery, sports medicine, critical care and imaging.

Dr. Igor Canisso joined the equine section in June after completing a PhD in equine reproduction at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. He earned his veterinary and master's degrees in his native Brazil. Boarded by both the American College of Theriogenologists and the European College of Animal Reproduction, Dr. Canisso has a strong interest in mare reproductive medicine and stallion reproduction.

In January, equine surgeon Dr. Annette McCoy joined the faculty. Boarded in large-animal surgery and with a PhD in comparative and molecular biosciences from the University of Minnesota, she — like Dr. Canisso and other recent faculty hires — brings a combination of clinical and research strengths that is crucial for advancing the leadership status of Illinois.

Dr. McCoy earned her veterinary degree at Michigan State University and completed a large-animal medicine and surgery internship at the University of Minnesota, followed by a residency in equine surgery and lameness and

a master's degree at Colorado State University. Her research interests focus on genetic susceptibility and risk factors for orthopedic diseases in horses.

Dr. Santiago Gutierrez-Nibeyro, who is boarded in equine surgery, recently gained diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, an approved specialty since 2010. He presented at the AAEP meeting on palmar/plantar digital neurectomy in horses with foot pain.

Dr. Matthew Stewart combines clinical service with a strong focus on basic research addressing equine lameness. He has two scholarly articles published so far in 2015, one on equine lameness and carpal sheath effusion and another on the genetic sequencing of the equine cartilage protein aggrecan.

These faculty members, along with Dr. Jonathan Foreman, who developed a reversible model for lameness using an adjustable heart bar shoe and who was recently elected to the organizing committee of the International Conference on Equine Exercise Physiology, represent a core strength in the field of equine sports medicine, an area for potential growth in our college.

Meanwhile, Drs. Pamela Wilkins and Kara Lascola remain active on the medical front. Dr. Wilkins, who is boarded in internal medicine as well as critical care, coauthored with Dr. Louise Southwood the book *Equine Emergency and Critical Care Medicine*, published by CRC Press in October.

Drs. Wilkins, Lascola, and Stefanie Reed investigated the clinical impact of secondary lung injury caused by endotoxemia arising in bacterial infections of horses. In a February 2015 article in the *American Journal of Veterinary Research*, Dr. Wilkins and Dr. Maureen McMichael showed

that horse blood is stimulated to clot much more quickly outside the blood vessels than is the blood of dogs or humans. This difference may help to explain why very sick horses are prone to clot quickly with some diseases.


Equine resident Dr. Breanna Sheahan won the award for the best large-animal abstract by a house officer at the International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium last fall for her paper, with Drs. Wilkins, Lascola and others, entitled "L-Lactate area in neonatal foals: Preliminary results in normal foals from birth to 14 days of age."

Dr. Austin, who is boarded in large-animal internal medicine, devotes much of his time to teaching and delivering clinical service through ambulatory equine primary care. He also actively contributes to veterinary continuing education. In November, he was the featured speaker for the equine track at the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners Symposium, held in Nashville, Tennessee, where he delivered six hours of lecture on such topics as management of endotoxemia and laminitis, management of common foal disorders in the field, and current challenges in equine diagnostics.

He noted that our hospital's equine diagnostic imaging options have recently expanded.

"We can now offer computed tomography of adult horses' feet and heads with the recent acquisition of a table that supports large animals in our spiral CT," Dr. Austin said.

I encourage those of you with equine patients to take advantage of the clinical and diagnostic services available at your college of veterinary medicine. If you'd like to contact me, please email dean@vetmed.illinois.edu. 🐾



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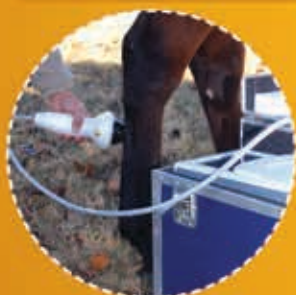


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As Education Continues On...

by Charlotte Waack, CVT, RVT



One of the requirements to renew your CVT license in Illinois is that you must have 15 hours of continuing education (CE) within the two years prior to renewal. It may not seem like a difficult task, but many technicians wait until the last minute to compile their CE.

Continuing education can be more than just a requirement for license renewal. CE helps us to keep up with the many changes in veterinary medicine. Our field is ever-growing, and there are new developments and/or changes almost on a daily basis! Case in point: We have gone from CPR to CPR then back to CPR all in the last five years. CE can broaden our knowledge so we can practice safer medi-

cine, thus providing better care to our patients. It also can help us move our careers forward and keep the level of passion up that you had when you first started school. We grow as we learn, and in veterinary medicine, we should not stop learning just because we are no longer in school.

Conferences are a wonderful way to earn CE hours. The ISVMA holds a conference yearly in November and has a wonderful technician program. When you attend a conference, you can hear great presentations from leaders in our field, participate in hands-on labs to learn new skills and have opportunities to network with your peers. The ISVMA regional associations also have conferences around the year and many of those have technician programs.

If you are not able to travel to a conference, you can still earn CE hours. There are many

wonderful online options where you can earn CE hours from the comfort of your own home (and even in your pajamas). Idexx, Purina, Hills and Merial are just a few companies that offer online RACE-approved CE, and many courses are free of charge. Veterinary Support Personnel Network (VSPN) and VetMedTeam also offer CE courses and membership to these communities is free. NAVTA offers several webinars each year with topics ranging from preventive health to bullying in the workplace.

Every year around December 15, I can depend on receiving calls from technicians around the United States who need to earn their CE hours before the end of the year. Don't be one of those technicians. Start planning now; you have until January 31, 2017, to accumulate your hours! 🐾

Allison Selected for Public Policy Faculty Fellow Program



Dr. Sarah Allison, from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named one of the first two professors who will serve in the Public Policy Faculty Fellows Program, newly created by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).

Dr. Allison, along with Suzie J. Kovacs, from the Western University of Health Sciences' College of Veterinary Medicine, was chosen based on her demonstrated and potential leadership in advocacy and government.

The faculty fellows program is designed to bring AAVMC-member institutions' faculty representatives to Washington to develop leadership skills in the advocacy arena, explore the implications of public policy decisions on the profession, and gain overall knowledge of the legislative and regulatory process at the federal level.

Dr. Allison is a veterinarian, clinical assistant professor and assistant director for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Division of Animal Resources. She is certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and also board-certified by the American College of Laboratory Veterinary Medicine (ACLAM). Prior to her current position, she completed a combined post-doctoral fellowship and laboratory animal medicine residency program in the Biologic Resources Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago. 🐾

GETTING THE *Royal* TREATMENT

ISVMA MEMBER PROVIDES LIFE LESSONS IN THE BEAUTY PAGEANT SETTING

by Michael Adkins



When most people think of royalty, Galva, Illinois — population 2,589, according to the 2010 census data — probably isn't the first place that comes to mind. But thanks to the efforts of one ISVMA member, young women in Galva are wearing the crowns of princesses and queens while learning valuable lessons and skills.

Colleen Lewis, DVM, is a certified bovine embryologist and owner of Tuition Genetics in Altona, Illinois, where she performs cattle embryo transfers. Since 2009, Lewis has volunteered her time to run the Galva Harvest Days Pageant, a program of the Galva Chamber of Commerce. As noted on the pageant's Facebook page, "The Galva Chamber of Commerce is proud to embrace the rich agricultural roots that have shaped our community. Ideas of celebrating the importance of harvest within our community led to the inception of the Galva Harvest Days Pageant."

Lewis said, "I knew nothing about pageants, but when the chamber was looking for volunteers, I said I'd try it."

The Galva Harvest Days Pageant is open to girls ages 7 to 18 in the Galva school district. Participants compete in three age groups and are judged in various categories, including a personal interview and two on-stage questions in front of an audience. For candidates in the oldest age group, a speech on a topic related to farming is also required.

The winner in each age group is named the pageant's little princess, princess or queen, respectively, with first and second runners-up in each group also participating as part of the Queen's Court. For one year after the pageant, these nine girls, under Lewis' tutelage, take part in a formal tea party, visit local museums and take part in fun runs. Additionally, the girls attend various community functions, such as Chamber of

Commerce meetings, and learn about civic engagement through multiple volunteer activities. "Every year, we raise money and awareness for a charitable organization chosen by the court," Lewis explained. "They learn about the importance of volunteerism and how they can help causes they believe in. . . . It gives the girls a platform to do good in their community — even globally."

Some of the organizations that have benefited from the involvement of pageant participants include the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Susan G. Komen® and the March of Dimes. In addition — and true to Lewis' roots — each year, the Queen's Court supports the Galva Puppy Fund, a readoption program for dogs and cats in the Galva area.

Volunteerism isn't the only thing the young women learn about, however. Public speaking is another important skill that is stressed as part of the pageant's activities. "We're invited to host a lot of local events, such as the community talent show, the tractor pull, the Christmas fundraiser for the local arts council and many others," Lewis said. "After one year of being 'royalty' and being involved in these events, it's amazing how the girls' public speaking skills improve."

Perhaps the most important benefit gained by participants of the Harvest Days Pageant is the crash course in leadership skills, as Lewis noted. "I think it empowers the young women in our area who go through the program," she

said. "They have the courage to get involved in things like student government and club leadership. They benefit on their college applications, because they're able to show their community-service and interview experience."

And the idea of leadership carries down through the ranks of the Queen's Court as well. "The older girls are role models for the younger ones," Lewis pointed out. "It's almost like Big Brothers Big Sisters in a way. The queen is a role model for the younger girls, and they all look up to her. We've created lifelong friendships. That is an aspect I think is unique; I wasn't expecting it when I first signed on."

The educational and self-improvement aspects of the program are significant motivators for Lewis. "Knowing the girls are going to college with the confidence and experiences to be better applicants, have better college experiences and potentially have better lives as a result is huge for me," she said. "All of my queens have gone on to college, and I hope a small part of the program has gone with them."

For those who might want to organize a similar program in their own communities, Lewis had this advice: "Keep it fun! At the end of the day, it can't be about winning or losing. It has to be about the fun experiences the girls have. So I don't take myself too seriously when it comes to the pageant. I have to remember that there's a 7-year-old girl standing on stage who wants to have a great time, win or lose, and I have to provide that for her.

"So we're not like a traditional pageant," Lewis continued. "We've made it our own. We've provided what we think are fun, educational, cool experiences for these girls. I think it's very rewarding."

For more information about the Galva Harvest Days Pageant, visit the pageant's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/galvavetHDP. 🐾

ISVMA GATHERS INPUT IN DEVELOPMENT OF ITS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA) took a new approach to developing its legislative agenda this year. A face-to-face, joint meeting of regional leaders, the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and the ISVMA Legislative Committee was a first in ISVMA history, with attendees expressing the need to hold a once-a-year joint meeting as a powerful legislative agenda development tool.

ISVMA Legislative Chairman Dr. Steve Dullard led the group through a discussion on the importance of having a strong Key Contact program in place. This program pairs veterinarians with legislators in a way that allows them to create an avenue of communication. Key Contacts are often used in situations when the ISVMA needs to share with legislators why legislation benefits or detracts from the practice of animal medicine.

While the defense of the Practice Act and the profession is always ISVMA's first course of business, many other issues impacting animals and business owners are also on the radar of the association's government-relations team. A review of ISVMA issues was led by Dr. Dullard and Dr. Whiteley, ISVMA president-elect. The items, in no particular order, discussed are as follows:

- 1. Animals in driver's lap while driving.** This is a safe-driving issue and a pet-safety issue that will be evaluated based on proposed language.
- 2. Bovine tail docking/ear cropping.** The decision on whether these practices should be utilized needs to be left to the owner and his or her veterinarian. The attendees noted that proper pain medication was crucial when engaging in these practices.
- 3. Declawing.** The attendees discussed a policy that follows the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP). Both of these organizations state the final decision to or not to declaw a feline is up to owner and veterinarian and based on individual circumstances.
- 4. Animal euthanasia.** ISVMA supports CO₂ options remaining legal in specific situations because in some circumstances, animals can suffer more trauma from being restrained for an injection, so an option should be available for human and pet safety.
- 5. Animal abuse registry/aggravated animal cruelty/animal abuse and forfeiture.** ISVMA supports laws against animal abuse and cruelty, but many of these proposed laws have wide footprints leading to unintended and/or unplanned consequences, so the association will review proposed legislation in these areas on a case-by-case basis prior to developing individual positions.
- 6. Animal welfare.** The association will review proposed legislation in these areas on a case-by-case basis prior to developing individual positions.
- 7. Using out-of-state veterinarians for Illinois animal investigations.** The Veterinary Practice Act contains provisions for animal hoarding, emergency and disaster situations. It is the state veterinarian's job to call out emergency-response veterinarians when needed.
- 8. Changes in the Controlled Substances Act.** ISVMA will monitor any proposed changes in the Controlled Substance Act and respond once any details or changes are provided.
- 9. Service tax expansion.** ISVMA will follow this issue closely and review proposals as they occur, as veterinarians are small business owners.
- 10. Ownership versus guardianship of animals.** Veterinarians believe that animals must be treated and cared for properly and that this is best done under the current ownership model.
- 11. Retail ban on pet sales/breeder issues.** ISVMA will continue to monitor any new or changing legislation in these areas while supporting a pet owner's ability to choose to adopt a pet or purchase a pet that best fits into his or her living conditions and family's home life.
- 12. Fairness to Pet Owners Act.** This is a federal bill that would require all veterinarians to write prescriptions for all medications whether the prescription is filled in the vet clinic or an outside pharmacy. AVMA is opposing this legislation. ISVMA believes all veterinarians in Illinois have the ethical responsibility to write a prescription for a client at their request.

The ISVMA Legislative Committee works hard to review legislation and respond to proposals each session. The Board and the Committee try to take positions that the majority of veterinarians support.

To become involved in the ISVMA Legislative Program, please contact ISVMA at info@isvma.org or (217) 546-8381. 🐾

In Illinois, Muskrats and Minks Harbor Toxoplasmosis, a Cat Disease

by Diana Yates, U of I News Bureau Life Sciences Editor

A new study of muskrats and minks in central Illinois indicates that toxoplasmosis, a disease spread by cats, is moving rapidly through the landscape and contaminating local waterways.

Researchers found antibodies for *Toxoplasma gondii*, the parasite that causes toxoplasmosis, in 18 of 30 muskrats and 20 of 26 minks tested for the disease in central Illinois. They report their findings in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*.

"We thought we'd do a broad prevalence survey in minks and muskrats," said University of Illinois graduate student Adam Ahlers, who led the study with veterinary clinical medicine professor Mark Mitchell, Illinois Natural History Survey mammalian ecologist Edward Heske and natural resources and environmental sciences professor Robert Schooley. "And when we got the data back, we were really surprised because the prevalence rates were higher than expected."

Previous studies have found toxoplasmosis in sea otters, and a few studies have detected the parasite in semi-aquatic mammals in freshwater ecosystems, Ahlers said. The researchers suspected that the widespread use of tile drainage systems and the lack of natural wetlands in central Illinois would help spread the disease.

"A lot of streams have been dredged and straightened, and animals that have to live in those habitats are exposed to increased drainage from agricultural and urban runoff," Ahlers said.

With no wetlands to filter out pathogens such as the *T. gondii* oocysts, rainwater likely flushes the parasite directly through drainage tiles and into waterways, he said.



University of Illinois graduate student Adam Ahlers, left, veterinary clinical medicine professor Mark Mitchell and their colleagues found toxoplasmosis in wild minks and muskrats in central Illinois. Photo by L. Brian Stauffer.

smaller watersheds. The team found no link between mink infection rates

"Our hypothesis was that animals positioned in larger watersheds would be exposed to more drainage and more oocysts, so they should have higher toxoplasmosis prevalence rates," Ahlers said.

For muskrats, at least, that idea was borne out in the results: Muskrats in larger watersheds had higher toxoplasmosis prevalence rates than those from

and the size of the watershed in which they were found, but this may be due, in part, to the already-high prevalence rate in minks: 77 percent of those tested had been exposed to *T. gondii*.

"Minks have larger home ranges. They leave the stream system and they're eating mice and birds and other animals that could

have the disease," Ahlers said. "Muskrats are always in the stream channel and are picking up the disease passively — probably through grooming or drinking water. They're herbivores, so it's also likely they're picking it up by consuming oocysts attached to aquatic vegetation."

About 60 percent of muskrats tested had been exposed to *T. gondii*.

The parasite requires a feline host: only in the cat can it reproduce and form new oocysts, which are shed in the feces and — if they survive long enough in the environment — go on to infect new hosts.

"This parasite's goal in life is to get back into a cat," said Mitchell, who has traced toxoplasmosis infection in wildlife as far afield as the Galapagos Islands, where cats were introduced in the 16th century.

Infection — in prey animals and in humans — is associated with unhealthy behavioral changes, Mitchell said. Infected mice lose their natural fear of cat odors and, as a result, become more susceptible to being eaten by cats.

In humans, toxoplasmosis infection has been correlatively linked to miscarriage, autism, depression, schizophrenia, increased suicide risk and decreased learning in children, Ahlers said.

Health experts estimate that up to one-third of the world's population has been exposed to *T. gondii*. 🐾

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Muskrats in central Illinois are being exposed to toxoplasmosis, a disease spread by cats. Photo courtesy of Linda Tanner.



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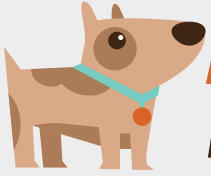
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AHS Announces Findings of 2013 Heartworm Incidence Survey

Practitioners Point to Compliance as Primary Factor

Three out of four veterinarians in the United States diagnosed patients with heartworm in 2013, and heartworm-positive pets were reported in every state in the country, according to the latest Heartworm Incidence Survey conducted and recently released by the American Heartworm Society (AHS). And while weather conditions favorable to mosquito proliferation and transport of infected dogs were viewed as contributing factors, client compliance in giving heartworm preventives was identified as the clear tipping point for incidence rates.

The AHS survey has been conducted every three years since 2001 in order to track trends in heartworm incidence and inform the veterinary profession and public about the need for heartworm prevention. The latest survey, which was fielded in March of 2014, represented 2013 testing data from 3.5 million patients from more than 4,300 veterinary clinics and shelters.

"Our survey determined that heartworm disease continues to be widespread in many parts of the country," AHS President Stephen Jones, DVM, said. "The silver lining to this unwelcome news is that a simple solution is in the hands of veterinarians and pet owners: getting more pet owners to give their pets heartworm preventives year-round."

The American Heartworm Society recommends heartworm prevention 12 months a year and heartworm testing once a year. Seventy-two percent of veterinarians surveyed said they follow the AHS guidelines for prevention, testing and treatment.

Geographical Trends in Heartworm Incidence

While veterinarians from the Gulf and Mississippi Delta states reported the highest incidence rates of heartworm disease in dogs in the country, relatively high rates were also noted in areas less well known for heartworm risk. These included the upper Midwest — especially the states of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio — and the Western states of Arizona and California.

The top 10 states in average rate of heartworm-positive cases/clinic in 2013 were (1) Alabama, (2) Louisiana, (3) Mississippi, (4) Texas, (5) Arkansas, (6) South Carolina, (7) North Carolina, (8) Tennessee and Georgia (tie) and (10) Florida. In the 2010 AHS survey, Louisiana led the nation, followed by Mississippi and Texas, while Alabama was number 5 in the ranking.

Factors Influencing Heartworm Trends

Veterinarians that supplied heartworm data were also surveyed

about the significance of heartworm disease in their practice areas and factors contributing to disease incidence. Among the factors evaluated were:

- **Incidence trends.** Sixty percent of veterinarians stated that the incidence of heartworm disease in their practice areas had held steady since the last AHS survey was conducted three years ago. A roughly equal proportion of veterinarians said that incidence was up (19 percent) and down (21 percent) in their practice areas.
- **Importance of the disease.** One-third of veterinarians stated that heartworm is either a significant disease problem (18 percent) or one of the most serious diseases affecting their patients (15 percent). Just over half of surveyed practitioners reported they see heartworm cases "occasionally," while only 13 percent said they never see heartworm-positive patients.
- **Contributing factors.** Veterinarians who witnessed an upward or downward trend in heartworm disease reported on multiple factors related to those trends. Findings included:
 - Poor compliance by clients, defined as not administering preventives year-round or skipping doses, was the most common factor (61 percent) cited by veterinarians who witnessed an upward trend. An influx of infected rescue dogs to local areas was also noted by approximately 40 percent of veterinarians in this group.
 - Heartworm preventive lack of efficacy (LOE) was not considered a major factor; among the 19 percent of veterinarians who reported that heartworm incidence was up, less than 6 percent of these cited LOE as a factor.
 - Among veterinarians who noted a downward trend in heartworm incidence, the leading reason given was more pet owners administering preventives (74 percent), followed by improved compliance (63 percent).

"Heartworm is a devastating but preventable disease. If we make consistent, year-round prevention in dogs and cats a priority, we will see incidence go down," concluded Dr. Jones.

For more information on heartworm disease and the AHS Heartworm Incidence Survey, visit www.heartwormsociety.org. 🐾

About the American Heartworm Society

The mission of the American Heartworm Society is to lead the veterinary profession and the public in the understanding of heartworm disease. Founded during the Heartworm Symposium of 1974, the American Heartworm Society aims to further scientific progress in the study of heartworm disease, inform the membership of new developments and encourage and help promote effective procedures for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heartworm disease.

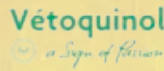
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ISVMA Education Programs

Online registration for these sessions can be completed at www.isvma.org.

Wednesday, June 3, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Drury Inn, O'Fallon, Illinois, Colleen Koch, DVM



Integrating Low-Stress Techniques to Improve Patient Compliance
Meeting for Veterinarians and Certified Veterinary Technicians

Myth Busting – Pets Can Love to Come to the Vet!

Creating a positive experience can result in pets that drag their owners through the front door. What if you are doing everything right and something "bad" happens? Learn some techniques for diluting the bad experiences to help the future look bright.

Your Patients Are Talking. Are You Listening?

Understanding your patient's body language enables the astute clinician to respect the patient, thereby increasing the patient's compliance.

Sensory Overload

It is no surprise that barking dogs bother cats and hissing cats may bother dogs. There are many other less obvious triggers lurking in the clinic. Identifying, reducing or eliminating common (but often overlooked) triggers can set your patient interaction up for success.

When "Fine" Is Not "Fine," Part 1 & Part 2

Many times, owners, vets and groomers will say their pet is fine during certain procedures when, in fact, the pet is petrified. It is important to define "fine" to improve patient cooperation and compliance in the future. Learn how to return your patient to the owner in a better emotional state than it arrived.

Tricks and Tools of the Trade

Pharmaceuticals, products and simple techniques to improve client and patient compliance.

In 1990, Dr. Koch graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. She practiced primarily small-animal medicine in Petersburg and started her own equine practice on the side. In 1993, she left Petersburg and worked primarily in her equine practice and helped Dr. Joe occasionally at Lincoln Land Animal Clinic. In 2000, Dr. Koch went back to the University of Illinois and completed the Executive Veterinary Program. In 2000, she joined the team at Lincoln Land Animal Clinic, and the equine practice was merged with Lincoln Land.

Dr. Koch is a very strong proponent of education of both people and pets. She frequently gives talks and demonstrations to many different organizations and veterinary clinics, as well as children from preschool to college age and beyond. She is confident that educating people is the key to humane and responsible pet ownership. Education results in pets living longer and healthier lives, as well as reducing the numbers of animals that are euthanized every year.

In 2013, Dr. Koch is back in school again. She is officially a resident in private practice training for the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. Dr. Koch has always had a passion for training and working with animals that are described as "difficult." She enjoys working with animals to restore the human animal bond and improve interspecies communication.

Wednesday, May 6, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Joliet Junior College, Weitendorf Center, Stuart Clark-Price, DVM, MS, DACVIM, DACVA
For Vets and Techs



Three hours – anesthesia – morning, topics include:

Capnography: What's all the Huffing and Puffing About?
Simplified Electrocardiography of Anesthetized Small Animals
Managing Common and Uncommon Complications of Anesthetized Patients

Three hours – pain management – afternoon, topics include:

Neuropathic Pain: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options
Pain Management Strategies for Chronic Osteoarthritis in Dogs
What's Coming Down the Pipeline: Newer and Future Anesthetic and Analgesic Drugs

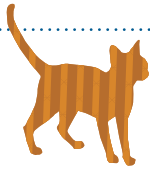
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As the head of clinical anesthesia services, Dr. Stuart Clark-Price oversees the sedation, anesthesia or other forms of pain management of all patients undergoing surgery or other procedures at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. That means his patients could be cats, birds, horses, llamas — you name it. He also has done research on how to anesthetize tigers.

Dr. Stuart Clark-Price is one of a small number of veterinarians who are board-certified in more than one specialty; his credentials are in internal medicine and veterinary anesthesia. He has contributed chapters to two veterinary textbooks: "Anesthesia for Field Emergencies" in *Equine Emergencies Treatment and Procedures* and "Anesthesia for Patients in Renal Disease" in *Essentials of Small Animal Anesthesia and Analgesia*. He also serves as a reviewer of scientific articles published in three journals: *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, *Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia*, and the *Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery*.

His research interests include body-temperature regulation in small animals during anesthesia, new ways to assess recovery from anesthesia in horses, and immobilization and anesthesia of tigers.

At the College of Veterinary Medicine, he teaches veterinary anesthesia and fluid therapy course and pharmacology. At home, he counts among his pets two rat terriers and 12 turtles. 🐾



DECLAW...OR NOT?



Declawing (onychectomy) of domestic cats remains a controversial topic in companion-animal medicine. The AVMA's policy on the declawing of domestic cats was recently updated with the goal of promoting complete client education by veterinarians prior to consideration of onychectomy, and to clarify that declawing is an amputation and should be regarded as a major surgery. The AVMA defines "complete client education" as providing information about the normal scratching behavior of cats, a clear description of what is involved in performing the procedure, acknowledgment of potential risks for the patient, and sharing alternatives for the management of destructive scratching.

Like most medical and behavioral problems, it is easier to prevent inappropriate scratching than to treat it. Partnering with new kitten and cat owners from their first appointment will set them up for success. Once an owner understands that scratching is a normal, healthy behavior of cats, the focus can be shifted from completely stopping the behavior to managing it in an acceptable way. The development of an effective training or management plan designed to fit their household will decrease the cat owner's motivation to pursue declawing by helping them to redirect their cat's scratching to an appropriate surface or preventing destructive scratching before it becomes an issue.

Recommending appropriate scratching surfaces is key to fostering acceptable scratching behavior. Scratching surfaces/posts should be sufficiently tall to encourage full stretching, firmly anchored to provide necessary resistance to scratching, and placed in areas already frequented by the cat. Playing with the cat near the scratching post, the application of catnip to its surface, and utilizing positive reinforcement

training will encourage proper use. If the cat has already shown a preference for an inappropriate area, sticky tape or tinfoil can be used as a deterrent. Clients should be advised that punishment is generally not an effective training tool and will only negatively affect the owner's relationship with their pet. Other helpful alternatives and management tools include frequent nail trimming, nail caps, and pheromone sprays and/or plug-ins.

While an increased focus on client education should result in a reduction in declawing performed for human benefit, there may be situations where the procedure is a necessary option. Declawing of domestic cats should be considered only after conscientious attention to behavioral modification and alternatives have failed to prevent the cat from using its claws destructively, or when its claws present an above normal health risk for its owner(s). In these cases, surgery may be a viable alternative to relinquishment, outdoor housing or euthanasia. While not a first choice, if properly performed declawing may allow a pet cat to remain in an otherwise good home.

While surgical approaches may vary, careful attention to good technique and aggressive pain management are vital. Great surgical technique reduces the potential for complications including hemorrhage, claw regrowth, infection, and wound dehiscence. Veterinarians have a responsibility to utilize multimodal pain management to the best of their ability to address the obvious welfare concern of pain associated with surgery. To facilitate a good recovery, veterinarians must ensure cat owners understand the importance of continuing prescribed pain medication at home during the healing period and also make it clear that the cat should remain indoors unless directly supervised. The peer-reviewed literature does not support claims of long-term pain or an increase in behavioral problems (e.g., inappropriate elimination, biting) after properly performed onychectomy. Most cats will still exhibit scratching behavior with a normal appearance.

The veterinary profession is clearly divided in perspective regarding onychectomy. Some veterinarians vehemently oppose declawing, while others believe the procedure is a veterinary service that can preserve and protect the human-animal bond. Many veterinarians neither encourage nor discourage declawing, but chose to inform their clients of the procedure's risks, benefits and alternatives, and allow their client to make an educated choice.

In support of a fully informed policy-making process, staff in the AVMA's Animal Welfare Division completed and published a literature review, which supported policy discussions by the AVMA's Animal Welfare Committee and House of Delegates. To help foster discussion with your clients and colleagues, the AVMA's policy, literature review, and a client handout are conveniently located at www.avma.org/declaw. Information on other animal welfare issues of concern to you and your clients is also available at www.avma.org/animalwelfare. 🐾

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DECLAW...OR NOT?

Important things to consider when making the decision

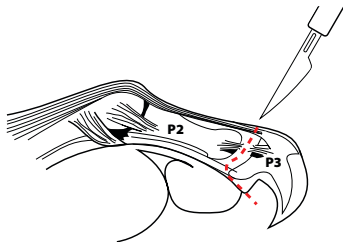
Scratching is a normal behavior of cats It conditions the claws, serves as a visual and scent territorial marker, allows the cat to defend itself, and provides healthy muscle engagement through stretching. In many cases, a cat can be trained to scratch only appropriate surfaces. However, a cat's excessive or inappropriate scratching behavior can become destructive or cause injury to people in the home.

Alternative training and management options

- Providing appropriate scratching surfaces, such as dedicated posts and boards that are tall enough to encourage full stretching. What constitutes an attractive surface or location varies by cat, so don't be afraid to get creative! Scenting with catnip may help too.
- Frequent nail trims - every 1-2 weeks
- Nail caps - replaced every 4-6 weeks
- Positive reinforcement training, beginning with kitten kindergarten if available
- Pheromone sprays and/or plug-ins
- Discourage use of inappropriate surfaces by attaching sticky tape or tinfoil
- Punishment is not an effective deterrent



When the alternatives aren't enough When undesirable scratching is not able to be successfully managed, or a member of the household is immunocompromised with a higher risk of health complications as a result of accidental scratches, declawing may be the only alternative to relinquishment or euthanasia. While not a first choice, nor a minor procedure, if properly performed declawing may allow a pet cat to remain in an otherwise good home.



Declawing is the surgical amputation of a cat's claws and the third toe bones to which they are attached. Most cats will still exhibit scratching behavior after declawing. If performed, this elective orthopedic surgery requires general anesthesia and comprehensive pain management under the care of an experienced veterinarian. Like any major surgical procedure, possible complications include short- and long-term pain, bleeding, infection, and wound reopening.

Make a thoughtful choice Because elective declawing is performed for the benefit of the owner rather than the cat, the procedure remains controversial. The decision to have a cat declawed should be carefully considered in consultation with your veterinarian. Declawing should only be performed after reasonable behavior modification attempts and alternatives have been exhausted. Declawed cats should not be allowed outdoors, unless they are under direct supervision.



To learn more visit avma.org/declaw



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- Small-animal medicine/surgery/emergency relief veterinarian available for DuPage and Cook counties. Will also consider other areas in the state. Available seven days per week. Please contact Dr. Rosemarie A. Niznik at cell number (630) 915-0156 or drroseniznik@gmail.com.

In-State Opportunities

SEEKING VETERINARIANS

- Effingham Veterinary Clinic is seeking a full-time DVM to join our growing, progressive, five-doctor practice in central Illinois. We are a team-oriented, well-established, mixed-animal practice that has thrived on providing consistent, compassionate and high-quality care since 1973. We have a wonderful staff and a remodeled facility well equipped with complete in-house blood analysis, digital radiography, ultrasound, Cardell surgical monitors and a fully stocked pharmacy. Experienced DVMs or new graduates are welcome. New graduates will receive dedicated mentorship. Comprehensive benefits include SIMPLE IRA, association dues, liability insurance, a CE stipend and a health insurance stipend. Contact Chad Ely, DVM, by phone at (217) 821-1720 or by email at elydvm@yahoo.com.
- Seeking part- or full-time associate small-animal veterinarian to join our growing clinic in the Quad Cities. Experience is preferred, but new grads are welcome to apply. Positive attitude, confidence and communication skills are a must! The schedule is flexible, no emergencies, and compensa-

tion is generous. Send résumé to Compassionate Care Veterinary Clinic, 2300 18th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201, or email to compassionatecarevet@gmail.com.

- We are seeking a dedicated, enthusiastic professional to join our highly qualified team as an associate veterinarian, in Mount Prospect, Illinois. Our AAHA-accredited practice is a well-established, full-service, small-animal veterinary hospital that focuses on "Standards of Care" and comprehensive medical, surgical and dental care. To join our dynamic and compassionate team, our ideal candidate will have strong proven communication skills and is very team-orientated with at least two years of experience in general medicine and surgery. The associate veterinarian will have high-quality equipment at his or her fingertips, including ultrasound, Doppler and a fully equipped in-house lab. The generous benefit package includes: base salary — plus production, CE, insurance, PTO and more. A background check and drug test will be required of the successful candidate. www.campmcdonaldah.com. Email résumé to wendyt@wolf-merrick.com.
- Work with the BEST OF SPRINGFIELD! Sangamon Avenue Veterinary Clinic and Coble Animal Hospital are interested in welcoming a full-time associate veterinarian to our health care team. Our AAHA-accredited practice (member since 1947) is busy, progressive, well-equipped and well-staffed, and it has a varied caseload. We provide an excellent opportunity for a motivated individual to practice virtually all aspects of clinical small-animal medicine and surgery, including exotics if desired. New graduates or experienced veterinarians are welcome. We offer a competitive salary (ProSal), excellent work schedule, no after-hours/weekend/holiday emergencies, one week of continuing education time per year with \$1,000 class stipend, SIMPLE IRA and other benefits. Some of our specialized equipment includes: digital dental and digital whole-body radiography, CO₂ laser sur-

gical unit, therapeutic laser unit, EKG with monitor, in-house lab with Heska CBC and Spotchem blood chemistry analyzer, oxygen cage, Tonopen, volumetric infusion pumps, ultrasound and, flexible endoscope. Michelle Bretscher, (217) 789-4200, or email cobleah@aol.com.

- Associate veterinarian needed in Mount Vernon, Illinois. Our practice has been established for 18 years. We are a general mixed-animal practice with up-to-date equipment and a 3-year-old facility. We are interested in increasing our professional staff to supply the demands for cardiology, orthopedics and rehabilitative medicine. Small- and large-animal practitioners welcome. Please send résumé to Lamczyk_jo@charter.net.
- Small-animal private practice in Northbrook (est. 48 years) looking for a full- and part-time veterinarian with personable bedside manner, finely developed communication skills, and ability to promote high-quality medicine in the best interest of their patients and families at all times. Team approach to cases in a compassionate, supportive, cohesive environment; well-equipped hospital including digital radiology, full surgery and dental equipment, ultrasound, therapy laser, in-house blood analyzers, CO₂ lasers, and endoscopy. Loyal, middle- to upper-class clientele; this practice is dedicated to providing our community with a service of preventive and natural wellness health, including a friendly, symbiotic relationship to an on-campus animal shelter. Please email Dr. Kristine Preiser at PreiserAnimalHospital@gmail.com, call (847) 827-5200, or fax résumé to (847) 827-7176.
- Full-time veterinarian needed for busy six-doctor AAHA-accredited small-animal practice in Chicago northwest suburban Lake Zurich. Practice provides excellent service (*Daily Herald* Reader's Choice winner for Best Veterinary Hospital 2010-13) and is fully equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to allow the highly skilled, highly

motivated practitioner to pursue even the most complex medical and surgical cases to resolution. Digital X-ray, ultrasound, endoscopy, bronchoscopy, full in-house lab, dental suite with digital X-ray, laser, complete soft-tissue and orthopedic surgical capabilities, and veterinarians and staff who know how to effectively utilize it all. Awesome staff members who understand and support the goal of providing the highest-quality compassionate veterinary care. Base salary plus production bonus. Excellent benefit package. Great clientele. Awesome community. Come join our caring and dedicated team and use ALL of your skills! Contact Dr. Andrew Cox at andrewcoxvdm@allcreatureslakezurich.com.

- Busy two-doctor small-animal practice in north central Illinois looking for an associate veterinarian. We are a primary care hospital emphasizing preventive health care, medical services and surgery. Salary is negotiable, and we offer a SIMPLE IRA plan, CE fees, liability insurance, ISVMA and AVMA dues. Buy-in would be possible for the right person. Please send résumé to bill_condie_538@comcast.net.
- Hiring home euthanasia veterinarians throughout Chicagoland and nationwide. Very part-time, part-time, full-time. Study our website, www.PetLossAtHome.com. Email DrKaren@PetLossAtHome.com.
- Illiana Veterinary Hospital has an exciting opportunity for a full-time associate veterinarian to join our growing practice. We are looking for a veterinarian who is eager to help us grow our practice. We welcome all candidates with a passion for providing comprehensive and compassionate medical, surgical and preventive health care. Experience would be considered a plus. Our veterinarians are rewarded with superior salary and benefits. Interested candidates should contact Sean Sornsins at ssornsins@vetcor.com.

Out-of-State Opportunities

SEEKING VETERINARIANS

- Emergency veterinarian needed, Appleton, Wisconsin. Fox Valley Animal Referral Center is a 24-hour hospital with a terrific emergency team and specialists board-certified

in emergency and critical care, surgery, internal medicine, dermatology and radiology. Check us out at www.fvarc.com. Our collaborative approach to patient care contributes greatly to our enjoyable working environment. Our 33,000-square-foot hospital was designed to enhance communication and promote smooth interaction between all services. Our facility is well equipped; digital radiology, ultrasound, CT, endoscopy equipment, ventilators, operating microscope, full laboratory and multiple critical care monitors. All of our doctors enjoy the benefit of a culture that strongly supports teaching and continued education. In particular, our ECC residency program helps to ensure that everyone is continually learning and growing. FT emergency schedule averages 12 shifts per month. Compensation based on percentage with a guaranteed base and excellent benefits package. Northeast Wisconsin is a gorgeous part of the country. Lakes, parks and a lot of green space make it the perfect location for those who enjoy outdoor activities. Appleton is refreshingly progressive and surprisingly diverse. A liberal arts university in town creates a community focus on music and the performing arts. Appleton is also an environmentally friendly city offering plenty of options for those who prefer to live green and/or organically. It's also a sports fan dream with many local teams and, of course, only 30 miles from the home of the Green Bay Packers! Learn more about the area at www.foxcities.org. Interested individuals may contact Alyce D'Amato at adamato@horizondvm.com or (920) 882-4301. We look forward to hearing from you!

- Part-time emergency veterinarian needed for emergency practice in the south metro of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. Experience needed. Must be willing to work all shifts, including holidays and weekends. Please contact Dawn: dawn@smaec.com.

PRACTICE PERSONNEL

- Immediate opening for experienced practice office manager. CVT or other medical office professional with training in scheduling, inventory, productivity reports, customer service and personnel management. Low staff

turnover, all CVT. www.okavetclinic.com (217) 253-3221.

- Licensed veterinary technician needed for a growing business in Mount Vernon, Illinois. Technicians needed for outpatient services, surgeries and hospital care. Qualified applicants need professional customer-service skills as well as team member skills, the ability to learn computer programs and the willingness to excel in the profession of veterinary medicine. Please send résumé to lamczyk_jo@charter.net.

In-State

PRACTICES FOR SALE

- Illinois: Chicago suburb — Cook County! New listing! Multidoctor, +/-2,200-square-foot small-animal hospital with real estate. Secure and growing revitalized area. A wise investment for a new owner and room to build this practice! Code: IL2. PS Broker, Inc. psbroker.com. info@psbroker.com. (800) 636-4740.
- Veterinary hospital * site selection (purchase/lease) * design * construction * equipment purchase. 90(+/-) animal-care facility projects completed in the Chicagoland area. We welcome the opportunity to demonstrate how cost-efficient and pleasant the process can be. No contracts or retainers required until ready to break ground. Contact RWE Management Company at (630) 734-0883, www.rwemanagement.com, or Jason Sanderson at jason@rwemanagement.com.
- Chicago, practice and real estate, purchase both for \$225K. Owner very motivated. George Sikora, DVM, or John Bryk, DVM, toll-free at (877) 487-7765, or go to: www.TotalPracticeSolutionsGroup.com.
- Chicago, general practice grossing 1.3M with RE, net \$200K after debt service. George Sikora, DVM, or John Bryk, DVM, toll-free at (877) 487-7765, or go to: www.TotalPracticeSolutionsGroup.com.

- Chicago suburb, small-animal practice with RE, low grossing with high net. Room for expansion. George Sikora, DVM, or John Bryk, DVM, toll-free at (877) 487-7765, or go to: www.TotalPracticeSolutionsGroup.com.

- Chicago suburb, grossing \$1.2M with pristine RE. George Sikora, DVM, or John Bryk, DVM, toll-free at (877) 487-7765, or go to: www.TotalPracticeSolutionsGroup.com.

- Practice for sale near Chicago. Beautiful small-animal practice (large facility) for sale in Chicago suburb. Owner moving due to family reasons. Practice grossing close to \$400,000. Selling price for practice is \$250,000. Real estate also available. Current owner working 4.5 days (approximately 31 hours) a week. Send inquiries to mkaur02.83@gmail.com.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

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reasonable offers. Contact drbethbenson@aol.com, (312) 618-6472.

- I have 13 Suburban Surgical Imperial Ken Cages for sale. Cages are 24 years old but in very good condition. No rust, all latches work, etc. Sizes are 24X24 (six cages), 30X24 (four cages), 36X36 (one cage), 48X36 (two cages). The cages are assembled together in a bank 11 feet wide by 6.75 feet high. I will sell the entire bank at a reduced rate or individual cages as desired. Original prices for the cages ranged from \$308 for 24X24 to \$578 for 48X36. Current prices for similar cages are 50 percent higher. I will sell the cages individually for half original price, less for the entire bank or make an offer. Please call (630) 904-2020.


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An Introduction to Compounded Drug Regulations

Compounding is defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) as any manipulation of a drug beyond label directions.

This can include changing the route of administration, creating a suspension from tablets, adding flavorings and mixing injectable drugs in the same syringe. When prescribing and/or preparing these medications, veterinarians must follow Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations, as well as the rules of the Illinois Veterinary and Pharmacy boards.

Sources of compounded medications can include in-house preparation, local pharmacies and larger-scale mail-order pharmacies. Many pharmacists receive little or no training in veterinary pharmacology, so inquire regarding the pharmacist's background with other species. For out-of-state providers, make sure they are licensed in your state. And remember, compounding can affect pharmacokinetics. Ideally, a compounder should be able to provide some evidence of product efficacy.

So when is compounding not permissible? First, a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship is necessary to dispense any prescription medication. Compounding should not be intended to circumvent the pharmaceutical approval process or to create mimics of currently available medications. Due to public health concerns, prohibited extra-label drugs cannot be compounded, nor can compounded human medications be administered to food-producing animals. The state veterinarian should be consulted

for current recommendations regarding compounded food-animal medications. Importantly, compounded drugs cannot be prescribed when a current drug, in its original form and strength, will treat the condition. This rule may be waived if the commercial product is not available from the normal source in a timely manner.

When dispensing compounded medications, all standard prescription-labeling procedures should be followed. If the compound in question is a controlled substance, it needs to be logged in the same manner as other controlled medications, and all appropriate DEA licensing requirements

must still be met. Every drug provided by a compounding pharmacy must be labeled by that pharmacy for a specific patient. Any medications intended for in-house use cannot be relabeled and dispensed to clients. AVMA policy does, however, support the ability of veterinarians to maintain enough compounded drugs for use in urgent situations. Finally, it is always advisable to obtain signed consent from clients when compounded medications are prescribed, as this does constitute extra-label use.

The AVMA's website was the source of information for this article. Please visit www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Compounding-FAQs.aspx for more detailed information. 🐾

