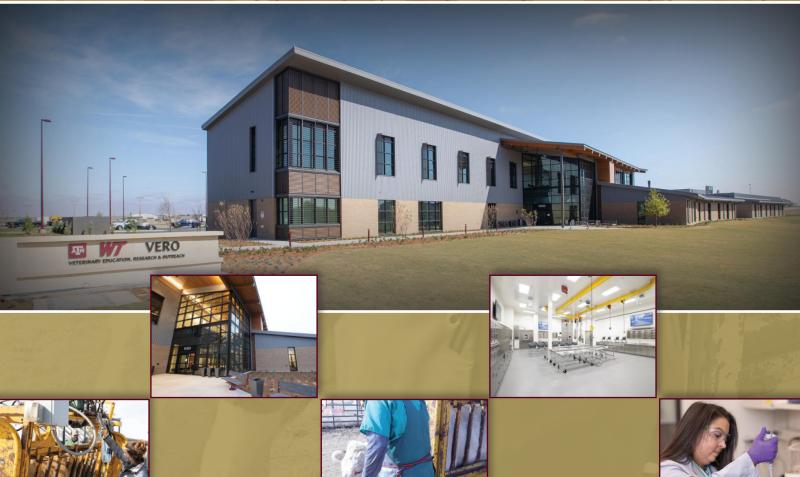


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John Bruker, DVM 2020 TVMA President

## Parting Shots and Random Questions

The final edition of "The Musings of a Madman!"

y TVMA presidency comes to a close in March. The past year has been unique and challenging in many ways for all of us. Yet after seven years on the TVMA Executive Committee, I should have known that any pre-made plans would quickly be replaced by unforeseen realities. Our plan to visit the many TVMA geographic districts statewide was quickly steamrolled by the global pandemic. I entered my term lucky to be able to get shoulder surgery just prior to the shutdown of nonessential procedures in human medicine, and I finished 2020 with my own case of COVID-19. Fortunately, it was a mild to moderate case.

Hopefully, the pandemic will quickly get through its peak, and the vaccines will be useful for the long term. There is so much we still have to learn about COVID-19 that it is still anybody's guess as to what the rest of 2021 will be like.

The mission of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association is to promote, advocate for and protect the veterinary medical profession and to advance animal health for the well-being of animals and humans. The veterinary profession is changing, and it always has been. Besides the continual political and legislative issues that always arise, there are changes in medical technology, the ownership of clinics, where the profits end up and the demographic/generational changes we are currently experiencing.

Political advocacy is our strongest asset, and engaged members know how important this aspect of TVMA is to our profession. There are many reasons why TVMA has strength in this area. Many politicians have pets and personal relationships with their veterinarians. Texas is fortunate to have four current TVMA veterinary members in the Texas House who are



watching out for the profession. Perhaps most important of all is that, due to membership and business alliances, TVMA is able to afford professional staff and paid lobbyists who watch out and advocate for the veterinary profession.

Does TVMA need to identify other areas where paid professionals could support and advance our cause? Could investigative journalists expose groups that are practicing without licenses or operating outside of the practice act in other ways? Can we use other media avenues to keep a continual stream of real-life stories that show what we all do for the good of our communities on a regular basis so we stay out in front of the public relations game?

Advances in medical technology will continue to improve our ability to diagnose and treat our patients both in person and virtually. As influential groups push to open up the profession to telehealth along with loosening the veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), how will TVMA engage in this issue? Will we be digging in our heels with absolute resistance, or will we engage the discussion and be a part of

how it unfolds?

"To promote, protect and advocate for the profession." How do we define the profession? The largest aspect of the profession is likely licensed veterinary professionals, their staff and the community members they serve. How should TVMA adapt to continue to represent these individuals? If the profession is moving toward more and more corporate associates, how does that affect the communities where the clinics operate? Will profits that used to go to staff, clinic upgrades and the immediate community now end up in the hands of corporate investors somewhere outside of the community? What effects might this have on the profession? Does TVMA need to advocate for these members in a new way?

A major concern within TVMA is stagnant membership numbers. How can TVMA reach and convince non-members about the importance of becoming members? To the non-member DVMs and Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVTs), I would say, "This is your profession. Make it what you wish it to be." It takes the genuine effort

President continued on page 10

Chris Copeland

# AN EXCITING TIME FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE IN WEST TEXAS

n the December issue of the Texas Veterinarian, we focused on the new school of veterinary medicine at Texas Tech University in Amarillo that will be accepting its first class of veterinary students this fall. In this issue, we move just a few miles down the road to Canyon to share information about another new and exciting veterinary education program—the Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) program at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU). While not technically "new" since the idea for the program was developed in 2009, there is definitely a lot of "new" taking place on the WTAMU campus these days.

The idea behind VERO was basically a response to the need for more veterinarians in the state-large animal and rural practitioners in particular—but it was just one part of a larger plan. In 2009, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board released its report "Projecting the Need for Veterinary Medical Education in Texas," which stated that the most cost-effective way to meet the state's needs for veterinarians was to expand the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University (TAMU). Rather than simply increasing the class size on its campus in College Station and calling it good, TAMU explored bigger and broader solutions, including addressing other issues identified in the report, such as a lack of diversity in the veterinary profession. This more thorough exploration led TAMU to develop a vision now known as "Serving Every Texan Every Day." That vision is based upon the premise of leveraging the university's vast resources to

provide quality veterinary services to every Texan. The VERO program is one part of that vision.

From TAMU's perspective, addressing the shortage of veterinarians in the state wasn't as simple as just allowing more veterinarians into its veterinary college. Continuing to use the same methods for producing veterinarians would almost assuredly give the same results, with the vast majority of veterinary graduates practicing small animal medicine in urban, more affluent parts of the state. With those concerns in mind, TAMU announced a series of partnerships to expand veterinary medical education, research, undergraduate education and outreach into various regions of the state through four TAMU System universities-WTAMU, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Tarleton State University. As described in TAMU's plan, "All four of the Texas A&M System universities have significantly underrepresented minority student populations, unique animal science programs and ties to the livestock or wildlife industries in their regions."

While all aspects of the "Serving Every Texan Every Day" vision are exciting, perhaps none is more so for the veterinary profession than VERO. From working with undergraduate students at WTAMU to give them a better chance of being admitted to veterinary school and handling the rigorous challenges of that education to the establishment of its new 2+2 program, VERO could be a game-changer in veterinary education. The 2+2 program will allow students at WTAMU who are accepted into the TAMU veterinary program to spend their first two years in Canyon studying at state-

of-the art facilities before moving to College Station for their final two years of veterinary education or perhaps spending just one year in Aggieland before coming back to Canyon for their fourth year. A fourth year in West Texas could be of particular benefit to those students who are seeking careers in large animal medicine because the region offers the ability to work with more cattle than just about any other place in the country. As WTAMU President Dr. Walter Wendler has stated, "We've got six million beef critters within 100 miles of Canyon, Texas. There's no other place in America that can say that."

On a personal note, I would offer up that there is something else the WTAMU program has that nobody else has and that is Dr. Dan Posey. Dr. Posey is a clinical professor and the academic coordinator for VERO and, as far as I'm concerned, the "secret sauce" on that campus. I admit I am somewhat biased as I have come to know Dr. Posey over the years, particularly during his role as TVMA President a few years ago, but I've seen the impact he has on the lives of others and know what a positive impact he has on all things he comes into contact with. I'm quite confident that through the VERO program Dr. Posey will help produce not only fantastic veterinarians but good people as well. That's just what he does.

We here at TVMA are excited to see what VERO Director Dr. Dee Griffin, Dr. Posey and the rest of the VERO team accomplish in the coming years. With the new VERO program and the opening of the Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine, the 2020s are shaping up to be an exciting time for veterinary medicine in West Texas and the state of Texas as a whole.

## Veterinary Team Members and the COVID-19 Vaccine

t the time of publication of this article, the COVID-19 vaccine has just been authorized by the FDA, and it is unclear precisely how it will be distributed. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have issued a Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations, which serves as an interim guide for state, territorial and local public health programs and their partners in delivering vaccines. It identifies three phases for distribution and advises that critical infrastructure workers should have access to vaccine in Phase I, following distribution to healthcare workers. Phase I assumes a limited number of doses are available and is divided into subphases I-A and I-B. Phase I-A includes people serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home. Phase I-B includes people who play key roles in keeping essential functions of society

By Elizabeth Choate, JD TVMA Director of Government Relations/ General Counsel

running and cannot socially distance in the workplace, and those who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness. The CDC playbook notes that the identification of critical infrastructure workers varies by jurisdiction.

At the national level, prior to the release of the CDC playbook, the AVMA continuously advocated for veterinarians and veterinary team members to be considered a priority group for vaccination. The CDC playbook now provides that the identification of critical infrastructure workers occurs at the state and local levels. As a result, whomever is selected may vary by jurisdiction. TVMA has picked up this effort at the state level and has been engaging in conversations about vaccine delivery and advocating for veterinarians who would like to receive the vaccine in earlier phases. With so many groups asking to be

included, we are not sure if we will be successful, but we are certainly making a good argument. Here is the substance of a letter that TVMA recently sent to members of the Texas COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel.

The members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) are extremely thankful for all of the human healthcare workers and caregivers who are on the frontlines battling SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) throughout our great state. They truly are heroes for putting themselves directly in the path of the virus to serve others and care for our most vulnerable populations. Science has now given us the wonderful gift of a vaccine that can potentially mitigate the worst effects of this pandemic, and we understand that decision-makers are in the process of determining how to initially allocate potentially scarce supplies.

TVMA respectfully requests that Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs), Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVTs), veterinary assistants and other veterinary team members be included

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of engagement. This is no small thing. It starts with attending your local veterinary medical association (VMA) meetings and TVMA committee meetings. Find your like-minded colleagues, and get involved.

There will be obvious generational divides, but you cannot let these divides deter you. These generational divisions will be frustrating and may seem insurmountable, but persistence and patience will teach you about yourself, the profession and the world around you. And, at the very least, if you just persist a few years, the old-timers you feel are blocking your path will be dead!

I am only half-joking. To the younger generations, I would say "Understand that there are convictions you have today that you will look back on in a few years and see as being short-sighted and possibly even foolish. Know that with the waning energy of age comes the wisdom of experience. Listen and learn from those who have gone before you."

To those of us in the older generations, I would say, "Be absolutely clear

that the association will not exist without the younger generations' involvement. Trying to keep the association from changing is futile and detrimental to it. We must let this new energy take over and change the association and the profession. Know that with the inexperience of youth comes the energy of genius."

A final thought-feeling before I move into being a president of the past: A clock is not time. Time moves faster with age, and every current form, event and thought is connected to something previous to it and plays a part in what comes after it. The older generations feel change comes too fast, and the younger generations feel change comes too slow. It is worth repeating that if we truly believe that we "come from the image of God" then we need to be aware that each emotion, thought and action we manifest is a prayer. We are seeing our prayers manifested in our current social and political events. Are we manifesting the world we wish to live in?

Let's pray with intention. It is our human obligation.  $\overline{\mathbb{W}}$ 



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within the priority recipient group for vaccination against COVID-19 during Phase I-B. Veterinarians and their teams are Essential Critical Infrastructure and do not have the option of working from home. They contribute directly to supporting the food and agriculture industries, providing essential services and critical support for the sufficiency, safety and marketability of our states' food supply. In addition, veterinarians actively participate in protecting public and animal health through surveillance for the SARS-CoV-2 virus in non-human animals. The surveillance function of the veterinary profession extends well beyond SARS-CoV-2, including additional protection of the public health by diagnosing, controlling and investigating zoonotic, foreign and emerging communicable diseases. Finally, humans and animals are inextricably linked, and therefore it is imperative to understand the connection and impact that veterinarians of all practice types have not only on animal health but also on human health and well-beina.

There is no question that veterinarians are essential to infrastructure viability in the food and agriculture industry. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Guidance framework recognizes this fact (pg. 11, bullet 4). Animal protein is a key part of our nation's food supply, and access to food that is sufficient in quantity, of high quality and safe to consume is obviously critical to maintaining good human health.

As essential businesses, veterinarians and their teams have provided services throughout the pandemic and, in doing so, have used creative approaches to implement important engineering and administrative risk management controls (e.g., social distancing, use of physical barriers, curbside service, telemedicine consults) and also have thoughtfully used (and conserved) personal protective equipment (PPE). The reality, however, is that veterinarians and veterinary staff are not always able to maintain physical distancing from each other or from the public when handling animals or performing medical procedures. The risk of regular and repeated exposure to other people is obvious and includes exposure to those members of the public who may be ill (symptomatic or not) with COVID-19 but whose animals continue to need care and who may accordingly end up exposing veterinarians and their teams. However, the risks assumed when performing medical procedures on animals may be less recognized. Just as in human medicine, some of those medical procedures result in exposure to bodily fluids, including through aerosolization. Although SARS-CoV-2 appears to rarely affect non-human animals, we are aware that dogs, cats, mink, tigers and lions have acquired the infection naturally and that ferrets, bats, hamsters and macaques have been infected experimentally. As such, exposure to these species presents some level of risk for our doctors and our teams, including those working in animal research laboratories

and zoo and wildlife facilities. Accordingly, the CDC has recommended the use of enhanced PPE when handling animals coming from environments where COVID-19 is known or suspected, particularly when such animals will undergo medical procedures that expose veterinarians and our staff to bodily fluids. Recognition of such heightened risk seems to support a recommendation for prioritized access to vaccination for veterinarians and our teams.

In addition to veterinarians' important roles in protecting the health and safety of our nation's food supply and the health of our pets, veterinarians provide critical surveillance for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in non-human animals. Most are familiar with the theory that SARS-CoV-2 emerged from an animal source and then spilled over into the human population. And, as previously mentioned, several species of animals infected with SARS-CoV-2 have been reported by multiple countries. While, fortunately, evidence from risk assessments, epidemiological investigations and experimental studies to date does not suggest live animals or animal products play a role in supporting ongoing SARS-CoV-2 infections in humans, further study, including active surveillance, is needed to understand if and how different animals might be affected by SARS-CoV-2. Also important to acknowledge is the fact that the veterinarian's role in surveilling for disease extends beyond SARS-CoV-2 to identifying and reporting infections with other potentially zoonotic diseases and zoonotic pathogens. Monitoring infections in animals is critical to understanding the significance of such infections for animal health, biodiversity and human health.

Pets share our homes and have played an important role in supporting their owners' physical and mental well-being during this difficult pandemic. They provide an incentive for their owners to get at least a minimal level of exercise, and they have been an important source of emotional and social support as human-to-human contact has been reduced due to self-isolation and social distancing. Healthy veterinarians and their teams are absolutely critical to the availability and safety of our food as well as the health and well-being of pets. For all of these reasons, we urge you to include veterinary teams in Phase I-B of vaccine distribution.

Sincerely, John Bruker, DVM TVMA President

## Thank You, TVMA Committee Members!

VMA is grateful for the volunteer committee members who worked together in 2020 to better the veterinary medical profession in Texas. Committee members study and discuss issues in particular areas of expertise or interest and advise the Board of Directors on recommended positions and courses of action that shape TVMA programs and activities. Thank you, committee members, for the time and energy you invested in TVMA in 2020.

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—State Representative Brad Buckley, DVM

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The TVMA Veterinary Legal Center provides advice on the legal and regulatory issues that may arise in a veterinary practice and is a TVMA member-exclusive benefit. Need additional answers? Members have full access to speak with a licensed attorney for free through the Veterinary Legal Center at 800-489-7347.

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TVMA classifieds are published in the *Texas Veterinarian* and online at www.tvma.org. These classifieds are delivered to more than 4,200 veterinarians and veterinary professionals in Texas and are the most effective way to reach the Texas audience.

The most comprehensive career and recruiting site for the animal health industry, Veterinary Career Network (VCN) offers extensive resume and position databases and powerful, user-friendly search capabilities. When you post your resume or open position through VCN you post it nationwide. Visit www.tvma.org.

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We would also like to thank Dr.
Mike Werner for serving on the
Investment Board and Drs. Scott
Johnson and Amanda Rhyne
Soirez for serving as the Election
Committee. TVMA would like to
also thank the following task force
members:

#### **Elections**

Winston H. Bowen, DVM Lauren B. Boyer, DVM Stephen K. Chmaitelli, DVM Donald A. Ferrill, DVM Ricci Karkula, DVM Kaki Nicotre, DVM Amelia H. Vogt, DVM

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To learn more about serving on a committee, contact TVMA Associate Director Angela Russell at arussell@tvma.org or 512-610-6655.



# IN MEMORY OF

#### CHARLES KELSEY, DVM

Charles Kelsey, DVM, passed away on December 3 at 96. Dr. Kelsey was born on July 25, 1924, to Harry and Josie Rousek Kelsey in Denison, Texas. He attended Texas A&M University and graduated with a degree in veterinary medicine in 1945. During his studies at Texas A&M University, Dr. Kelsey met Sidonia Klock, and they married in September 1944. After graduation, he established the Kelsey Veterinary Clinic in Lawton, Oklahoma. Dr. Kelsey was active in both state and national veterinary organizations, serving as president of the Oklahoma Veterinary Association in 1961. In 1954, his veterinary clinic was approved for membership in the American Animal Hospital Association, the second clinic in Oklahoma to obtain membership.

#### WILLIAM BEDFORD GRIFFIN, DVM

William Bedford Griffin, DVM, passed away on December 5 at 95. Dr. "Bill," as he was known by many, was born on August 14, 1925, in Staples, Texas, to William Henry and Florence Catherine Griffin and grew up on his family's farm near Nixon, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine in July 1945 and began his veterinary practice in Elk City, Oklahoma. He married Dolores Dell Davis of Borger, his loving wife of 65 years, on November 24, 1950. Together, they had four sons, William, Phillip, Jonathan and Jeffrey.

#### BRYAN LESLIE FLOW, DVM

Bryan Leslie Flow, DVM, passed away on November 14 at 74. He attended Texas A&M University and completed four degrees, including a bachelor of science in veterinary medical sciences, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, master of science in animal medicine and PhD in veterinary medical sciences. Dr. Flow was board-certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. He was passionate about agriculture and education and served as an annual sponsor of the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo

Calf Scramble Program. Dr. Flow was also a member of the Fort Worth Farm and Ranch Club and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

#### DAVID CURTIS "DOC" BALLARD, DVM

David Curtis Ballard, DVM, passed away on November 18 at 98. He was born August 16, 1922, in Haskell to Thomas and Alice Ballard. Dr. Ballard studied at Texas A&M University, where he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He graduated from in 1943, during World War II. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1947. Upon returning to civilian life, Dr. Ballard returned to pursue his dream of practicing veterinary medicine. He served the Stamford area for 45 years as a self-employed veterinarian. Dr. Ballard was a longtime member of the American Veterinary Medical Association. He is survived by his wife of 41 years.

#### LARRY WAYNE WALDRIP, DVM

Larry Waldrip, DVM, of New Braunfels passed away on November 7 at 85. Born in Luling, Texas, on August 31, 1935, Dr. Waldrip was raised in Staples, Texas. After high school, Dr. Waldrip entered Texas A&M University in 1953, where he was in a U.S. Air Force company of the Corps of Cadets. While earning his Bachelor of Science in animal husbandry, he worked summers at the Stamford Veterinary Hospital in Ballinger, Texas. In 1962, he graduated from the veterinary school and began his small and large animal practice at clinics in New Braunfels and Schertz. Dr. Waldrip opened his own clinic and soon needed Bob McMillan, DVM, to join that growing practice. Dr. Waldrip opened a second clinic, Creekview Veterinary Clinic, in 1966. When the practice outgrew its facilities, Dr. Waldrip opened a third practice, Loop 337 Veterinary Clinic, in the early 1980s. He maintained the practice until his retirement.

#### Foy Vaughn McCasland, DVM

Foy Vaughn McCasland, DVM, passed

away on November 11 at 97. Dr. McCasland was born December 31, 1922, to John Brock and Alice Shaw McCasland. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1945, where he received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. McCasland received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Texas. After practicing veterinary medicine in Texas for a brief period, he worked as a Veterinary Medical Officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 30 years. He then served for 14 years as Chief of Bureau of Veterinary at the Texas Department of Health. He also served as Adjunct Instructor, Department of Veterinary Public Health, for Texas A&M University. He also served as president of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians.

#### GERALD VAN HOOSIER, DVM

Dr. Gerald Van Hoosier, a pioneer in the field of comparative medicine, passed away on November 18. Following graduation from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M, he moved on to the faculty at Baylor and then Washington State University (WSU), where he was a faculty member and directed the WSU Laboratory Animal Resources program from 1969 to 1975. In 1975, he became the founding Chair of the Department of Comparative Medicine at the University of Washington, a role he retained until becoming an emeritus professor in 1995. Dr. Van Hoosier was a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM), served on their board of directors and as president in 1968. He also served as president of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) in 1992 and was on the governing board of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) from 1995 to 1999. He was the recipient of numerous awards including the Griffin Award from AALAS, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M and the Nathan R. Brewer Lifetime Achievement Award from ACLAM, IV

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# Congratulations to the 2021 TVMA Practitioner of the Year Award Recipients

very year, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) Awards Committee has the task of selecting winners from a group of respected and qualified members who have been nominated by their colleagues. Awards may be given to veterinarians in specific areas of practice, to Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVTs) who strive to advance the standards of technical practice and to recent graduates who have already made a mark on the veterinary profession. After thorough review and discussion of the submitted materials, the committee selected this year's award recipients. Please join us in congratulating the following individuals.

## DISTINGUISHED CAREER ACHIEVEMENT Robert (Bob) Dittmar II, DVM (posthumous)

The Distinguished Career Achievement Award recognizes and celebrates outstanding achievement attained not just once or even periodically but more or less continuously over a full career in veterinary medicine.

#### GENERAL PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

#### Richard Henderson, DVM

The General Practitioner of the Year Award recognizes outstanding professional performance among veterinary general practitioners.

## COMPANION ANIMAL PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

#### Kirk Esmond, DVM

The Companion Animal Practitioner of the Year Award recognizes outstanding professional performance among companion animal veterinarians.

## VETERINARY MEDICAL SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

#### Audrey Yu-Speight, DVM, DACVO

The Veterinary Medical Specialist of the Year Award recognizes outstanding professional performance among veterinary medical specialists currently practicing veterinary medicine.

## NON-TRADITIONAL SPECIES PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

#### Lori Cavitt, DVM

The Non-Traditional Species Practitioner of the Year Award recognizes outstanding professional performance among non-traditional species practitioners.

#### RECENT GRADUATE OF THE YEAR

#### Bethany Weinheimer, DVM

The Recent Graduate of the Year Award recognizes outstanding professional performance among recent graduates currently practicing veterinary medicine.

## LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

#### Leigha Wright, LVT, MBA, BS, AS

The Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year Award recognizes outstanding performance among individuals working as LVTs on the veterinary team.

Congratulations to all of the 2021 award winners!

## The Texas Veterinary Heritage Practice Awards

he Texas Veterinary Heritage Practice Awards program recognizes all practices of veterinary medicine in Texas that have been in continuous operation for 50 years or more. The daily practice of veterinary medicine is not an easy endeavor; therefore, a business with 50 years or more of sustainable medical contributions to the public and their animals is quite noteworthy. TVMA formally celebrated the beginning of the program in March 2009 by honoring four heritage practices, the first of which was the Department of Veterinary Science at the A&M College of Texas, which was established in 1888 on a small scale with Dr. Mark Francis as its sole practitioner and employee. Dr. Francis later became the first dean of the school of veterinary medicine in 1916. Since 2009, a total of 38 heritage

practices have been honored at the annual meetings. It is the association's hope that this program helps to increase veterinarians' appreciation of their heritage and increases their knowledge of the history of veterinary medicine as well.

TVMA has developed an official registry of qualifying heritage

practices. If your practice or one where you are employed is 50 years or older, please contact TVMA Associate Director Angela Russell at arussell@tvma.org. While the practice must have been in continuous operation for at least 50



years, the building does not need to be the original.

In 2021, the Paris Veterinary Clinic, established in 1944 in Paris, Texas, will be recognized as a Texas Veterinary Heritage Practice.

## **Announcing the 2021 TVMA District Directors**

he Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) Board of Directors is made up of 19 directors representing geographical districts, one director representing faculty and laboratory medicine, one representing industry and regulatory medicine and continued representation from a student elected by the student body at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Three directors represent practice types, two are at-large directors, and there is one Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) director, all elected statewide.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board Directors: Dr. Michele Wright, Bexar County District; Dr. Dennis Clark, North Central Texas District; Dr. Patricia Wonder Koehne, Brazos Valley District; and Dr. Susan Hopper, Industry/Regulatory District. These new directors will begin their service in March. We look forward to your service.

Balcones Cross Timbers Bud Alldredge, Jr., DVM

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Michele Wright, DVM\*

Brazos Valley
Patricia Wonder Koehne, DVM\*

**Central Texas** Hunter Bowen, DVM

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**Shelter Medicine** Ronald J. Epps, DVM

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TAMU/ Labs Brandon Dominguez, DVM

TAMU-CVM Student Representative Morgan Gunn (Sr. Rep) Ruth Fauber (Jr. Rep)

**LVT**David Sessum, LVT

\*New board directors

## 2021 TVMA Membership Directory and Resource Guide

By the time you read this, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) 2021 Membership Directory and Resource Guide should be in the mail from the publisher to all members other than students and honorary members. If you do not receive your copy by mid-March, please contact the membership department at 512-452-4224 x6662 or membership@tvma.org.

We anticipate the online version being available by the end of March and will distribute an email announcement once it is posted. Access to this digital version will only be available through your TVMA online account. If you haven't yet set this up, please go to the TVMA website and create an account with your email address as your username. Questions can be addressed to the membership department at 512-452-4222 x6662 or membership@tvma.org. TV



# MOVE YOUR BUSINESS FORWARD

If you are like many other veterinarians, you may be looking for ways to save money so you can increase your profitability while maintaining quality service to your clients. TVMA's business alliances are vetted through an evaluation process and are perfect for members who want to receive discounted products and services, get great customer service and reduce operating expenses. If you have not looked into our business alliances, please do so today and mention you are a TVMA member. You'll be glad you did.

#### INFINTECH CREDIT CARD PROCESSING



TVMA is proud of its affiliation with **Infintech** as an endorsed vendor for credit card processing solutions. Infintech offers a full range of payment processing services including credit, debit, check processing and gift cards.

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Contact our long-time dedicated account manager, Kevin Walter, toll free at 888-908-6952 or kevin.walter@infintechllc.com or visit www.infintechllc.com/tvma.

#### **ELECT ENERGY**



Elect Energy sets the standard for energy market expertise and customer service. Building trusted relationships with our customers - knowing you, knowing energy, and knowing how to guide you to better choices is key to exclusive rates for TVMA members. Call Richard Leach at 972-447-8255 or email tvma@ electenergy.com.

#### **DOCTOR MULTIMEDIA**



Doctor Multimedia is an expert in veterinary website design and marketing and already works with dozens of TVMA members, providing them with cutting edge web solutions that turn the Internet into an advantage for their clinics. Services include website, social media, mobile apps, online reviews, email marketing, pay-per-click advertising and search engine optimization. TVMA members receive 20% off setup costs for website design. Contact 800-605-6987 or info@doctormultimedia.com or visit www.doctormultimedia.com

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#### CARECREDIT



The CareCredit healthcare credit card, accepted by 20,000 veterinary practices, helps families manage their veterinary & healthcare expenses. When your hospital accepts CareCredit, clients can select from a variety of special financing options with monthly payments (subject to credit approval), making it easier for them to complete recommended treatment. For information call 877-384-1293 or visit carecredit.com. Already accept CareCredit? Call 800-859-9975, option 1, then 6 to reach your practice development team. Reference STATE1017VD.

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- Identity theft protection and alerts
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#### OFFICE DEPOT



Taking Care of Business

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#### **TEXCAP INSURANCE**



**TexCap Insurance** is proud to be the only endorsed property and casualty insurance agency for TVMA members. TexCap has tailored an insurance program to meet the unique coverage needs of veterinary clinics and hospitals, including coverage for Property, General Liability, Liability Umbrella, Workers Comp, Cyber Liability and Professional Liability including License Defense at very competitive pricing. For information, contact Mike Bass at 972-720-5362 or Thasia Foster at 972-720-5350 or visit www.TexCapINS.com/business/vet-programs.

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33 Available CE Credits

WWW.TVMA.ORG

# TVMA EVERYWHERE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

You may have heard by now that all in-person CE sessions, social events and the tradeshow for the 2021 TVMA Annual Conference & Expo have been suspended until 2022. As an organization focused on representing veterinary professionals, we are committed to providing our members and their staff with quality continuing education, networking opportunities and protection of the practice of veterinary medicine in Texas. For the first time in our 118-year existence, we cannot meet as a community due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, just because we are unable to meet face-to-face doesn't mean we can't facilitate connection between members, non-members, veterinary students and clinic staff. Join us as we launch an online version of our conference CE program called *TVMA Everywhere*. Our plan is to provide you with the same level of expert insights and knowledge wherever you reside or work on a virtual platform that is simple and easy to use.

The program in its entirety as well as online registration is now available for review on the TVMA conference homepage at www. tvma.org. To encourage participation, TVMA is proud to bring you high-quality CE sessions at a very affordable rate. Check out our line-up yourself!

If you have questions or should you need additional information, contact info@tvma.org.

## THE WOODLANDS

If you serve on the Executive Committee, Board of Directors or a committee that will be meeting in person at the Marriott Waterway Hotel and Convention Center, please contact Ellen Forsythe at 512-452-4224, ext. 6661, or email eforsythe@tvma. org to make your reservations. The reservation deadline is Wednesday, February 10.



## REGISTRATION FEES AND DEADLINES

Online registration and a downloadable registration form for the new *TVMA*Everywhere CE program are now available on the TVMA website (www.tvma.org).

NO EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNTS! JUST AFFORDABLE REGISTRATION FEES

DVM Members: \$75
DVM Non-Members: \$125
2020 Recent Graduates: \$0\*
Veterinary Students: \$0
Vet Technician Student: \$0
LVT Member: \$35

Clinic Staff (Non-Member): \$50

OPIOID SESSION ONLY (Livetreamed Once Only) DVM Member: \$25, DVM Non-Member: \$50

**Digital Proceedings: \$15** 

\*RECENT GRADUATE REGISTRATION DISCOUNT: 2020 graduates who reside in Texas, who are TVMA members and who register will receive complimentary access to the new TVMA Everywhere CE program through a grant provided by the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation. These funds are limited though so you are encouraged to register at your earliest possible convenience.

Take time and plan now. Veterinarians serving on either committees or the Board of Directors receive CE credits for participation while tackling important issues facing the veterinary profession today. The TVMA business meeting schedule is under construction. Please visit www.tvma.org/educational-opportunities/annual-conference for updates.





# 2021 CE PROGRAM



The 2021 TVMA EVERYWHERE conference program is 33 hours of premium continuing education of livestreamed presentations and pre-recorded sessions that will be on-demand and accessible up to 90 days following the conference date. Veterinarians, LVTs and CVAs will be able to earn a maximum of 33 CE credits. For more detail on each presentation, please visit the annual conference webpage at www.tvma.org.

## LIVESTREAMED CE **SESSIONS**

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

9 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** 

#### 9:10 a.m. to 10 a.m. (1 CE credit)

The Bug Stops Here: Treating Resistant Staph Infections Holly Roberts, DVM, MS, DACVD Brought to you by:



#### 10:10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (1 CE credit)

Ear Nightmares: Management of Otic Disease in Veterinary Medicine

Holly Roberts, DVM, MS, DACVD

Brought to you by: Boehringer



### 1 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. (2 CE credits required every

two years for DVM license renewal)

**Opioid Abuse, Diversion and Compliance Training** 

Mike Tacker (TBVME) and Leticia Neris (DEA)

3:20 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. (1 CE credit) **Setting Standards for Your Practice** 

Tracy Dowdy

Brought to you by:



#### 4:20 p.m. to 5:10 p.m. (1 CE credit)

**Building a Self-Reliant Team** 

Tracy Dowdy

Brought to you by:



#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 7**

9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. (1 CE Credit)

Top Priorities for Your Best Year Ever!

Fritz Wood, CPA, CFP

Brought to you by:



#### 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. (1 CE Credit)

**Immunizing Your Veterinary Practice Against Theft** 

Fritz Wood, CPA, CFP

Brought to you by:



Dates, times, speakers, topics and event details are subject to change. Please see www.tvma.org for the most up-to-date information on the 2021 TVMA EVERYWHERE Virtual Conference.

Internal Controls Discourage Malfeasance Fritz Wood, CPA, CFP

Brought to you by:



## 1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. (1 CE Credit) Get Your Pharmacy Back

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Wendy Myers, CVJ

Brought to you by:



#### 2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. (1 CE Credit)

What COVID-19 Taught Us That Will Become Everyday Efficiencies

Wendy Myers, CVJ

Brought to you by:



#### 3:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. (1 CE Credit)

Strategies to Heal Your Business Now and Get Revenue Back on Track

Wendy Myers, CVJ

Brought to you by:



## PRE-RECORDED SESSIONS

(Conference registrants will receive links by email to the following pre-recorded sessions on Wednesday, March 10. These can be accessed on-demand at your convenience.)

#### **COMPANION ANIMAL**

How to Apply Recent Consensus Statement Guidelines: Feline Cardiomyopathy; How to Apply Recent Consensus Statement Guidelines: Canine Valve Disease and Pulmonary Hypertension

**3 CE Credits** 

Ashley Saunders, DVM, DACVC



#### LARGE ANIMAL

Beef Cattle Herd Health Programs: Much More Than Vaccinations; Internal Parasite in Beef Cattle: Finding Practical Solutions

#### **3 CE Credits**

Christine Navarre, DVM, MA, DACVIM

## LVT, CVA AND OTHER HOSPITAL STAFF

Shock Has Many Faces: The Keys to Perfusion; The Keys to RBCs and Anemia; Evidenced-Based CPR: The Recovery Guidelines

#### **3 CE Credits**

Ken Yagi, RVT, VTS (ECC), VTS (SAIM)

Client Care in the Time of COVID: Considerations, Customization and Conflict Management

#### **3 CE Credits**

Heidi Cooley, DVM

## PRE-RECORDED SESSIONS WITH LIVE

**Q&A WITH THE SPEAKER** 

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 13**

#### **COMPANION ANIMAL**

9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. (1 CE Credit) Triage STAT: Emergency Approach to the Trauma Patient

Elisa Mazzaferro, DVM, PhD, DACVECC

## 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. (1 CE Credit) Emergency Approach to the Collapsed Patient:

**Emergency Approach to the Collapsed Patient: Seizure, Syncope and More** 

Elisa Mazzaferro, DVM, PhD, DACVECC

#### 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. (1 CE Credit)

Cases You Hate to See Come Through the Door Elisa Mazzaferro, DVM, PhD, DACVECC

#### **LARGE ANIMAL**

#### 1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. (1 CE Credit)

Equine Rehabilitation Overview: Formulation of an Equine Rehabilitation Plan and Monitoring Program

Steve Adair, DVM, DACVS, DACVSMR, CERP

#### 2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. (1 CE Credit)

Legalities of Equine Rehabilitation

Steve Adair, DVM, DACVS, DACVSMR, CERP

## 3:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. (1 CE Credit) Regenerative Rehabilitation of Tendon and Ligament Injuries

Steve Adair, DVM, DACVS, DACVSMR, CERP

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 14

## LVT, CVA AND OTHER HOSPITAL STAFF

9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. (1 CE Credit) Abdominal Radiology Reviews: Seeing the 'Hidden Stuff'

Amy Newfield, CVT, VTS (ECC)

#### 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. (1 CE Credit)

Evan's Syndrome: Breaking Down the ITP & IMHA  $\,$ 

Amy Newfield, CVT, VTS (ECC)

#### 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. (1 CE Credit)

Thoracic Radiology Reviews: Seeing the 'Hidden Stuff'

Amy Newfield, CVT, VTS (ECC)



W W W . T V M A . O R G

## A LABOR OF LOVE

## THE OPENING OF THE VERO FACILITY IN CANYON MARKS A TAMU-CVM MILESTONE A DECADE IN THE MAKING

ive years ago, two Texas A&M
College of Veterinary Medicine
& Biomedical Sciences (TAMUCVM) faculty members embarked

on a mission to expand veterinary medical education, research and outreach to residents of the Texas Panhandle.

The arrival of Dr. Dee Griffin and Dr. Dan Posey on the West Texas A&M University (WT) campus was, in many ways, the second act of an almost decade-long plan by the Texas A&M University System to serve Texas citizens and assist in filling the critical need for veterinarians who would live, work and embody all that is life in the Texas Panhandle and High Plains region.

For Drs. Griffin and Posey, bringing that vision to life quickly became a labor of love.

The opening of the Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) building in September 2020 was the next big step forward for the CVM's "Serving Every Texan Every Day" initiative, which included signing memoranda of agreement (MOA) with Texas A&M System universities such as WT. It also became both the symbolic and tangible representation of a decade of hard work coming to fruition.

"We believed that if we came here and mentored youth through activities such as 4-H, the (Boy and Girl) Scouts and science clubs; if we get them into college; and then, if we mentored them in their pre-veterinary program and into veterinary school, the chances of those students getting into our veterinary college would be greater," said Dr. Griffin, who serves as the VERO director. "To have them want to spend the rest of their lives here will offer veterinarians in Borger or Panhandle an opportunity to have an associate come back and be part of

By Jennifer Gauntt
TAMU-CVM Communications Director

that community for the rest of their lives.

"Our function was not to come out here and just provide education, although we do that; it was not just to do outreach worker training to the feedlot, dairy and swine industries, although we do that too; it was not just to identify unique research issues that need to be solved, although the opportunities here are unlike any place in

"THERE IS A NEED FOR LARGE ANIMAL VETERI-NARIANS, AND SINCE I'VE BEEN AT WT, I'VE GROWN TO LOVE THE AREA," THOMASELLI SAID. "I LOVE THE FACULTY. I LOVE THE PEOPLE. I LOVE THE COMMUNITY."

the world," he said. "Serving the citizens is about more than just a job; it's about a marriage into a community. All of those require the relationships that we have with the community and the students. I can't think of any other state that would have had the vision to pull this off."

#### PRE-VETERINARY PREPARATIONS

This idea is something that Drs. Griffin and Posey, the latter of whom serves as VERO academic coordinator, have found to be true not only in theory but in practice. Before the CVM and WT signed an MOA in 2017, only four WT students had been accepted to Texas A&M's veterinary program. Since Drs. Posey and Griffin embedded with the WT agriculture department, the number of students who attended WT and subsequently applied to Texas A&M's veterinary school has increased significantly.

"VERO has exploded the undergraduate program here," Dr. Posey said. "We started with around 125 pre-veterinary specializations, and we now have more than 300; it's one of West Texas A&M's largest programs. The key part of that is recruitment. Every time we have a touch point on a student in the Panhandle, we have the opportunity to recruit our next rural veterinarian."

Delainee Braly, a senior pre-veterinary student from Seminole, Texas, is one of the WT students who has applied to the new 2+2 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program, which will allow CVM students to take classes at VERO for their first two years.

When Braly, who has wanted to be a veterinarian since she was 8 years old, learned about the 2+2 program, she knew it was the perfect fit for her, not only because of the small class sizes but because she and her husband want to stay close to their families for as long as they can during her veterinary training.

"Texas A&M has been my goal since I decided I wanted to be a veterinarian; the 2+2 program makes A&M even more appealing to me because we're already established here," she said. "We won't have to rearrange our whole lives. VERO also gives me an opportunity to gear my education more toward what I want to end up doing. I can really focus on rural, mixed animal medicine in the Texas Panhandle—





that's the whole idea of VERO."

Ryan Thomaselli, a WT junior pre-veterinary student, will be in Braly's shoes next year. While the Castroville, Texas, native isn't from the Texas Panhandle, he aspires to own his own rural practice in the region.

"There is a need for large animal veterinarians, and since I've been at WT, I've grown to love the area," he said. "I love the faculty. I love the people. I love the community."

Taking classes as a veterinary student at VERO would mean the world to Thomaselli, especially because of the connections he's made and the opportunities he's had to work in the feedlots with the VERO faculty as an undergraduate.

"I love that Dr. Posey, Dr. Griffin and Dr. (Paul) Morley take that time to teach us," Thomaselli said. "I believe it does give me a leg up for veterinary school because I know the professors, not only academically but we get to know their story, what their purpose is for doing what they do and who they do it for."

#### PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES

On a windy October afternoon in Dumas, Texas, three fourth-year veterinary students evaluate, vaccinate, deworm and conduct pregnancy checks on 120 head of cattle at a pro-

VERO continued on page 26

## WEST TEXAS A&M FACILITIES NAMED FOR TVMA LIFE MEMBER DR. CHARLES GRAHAM

A significant part of the West Texas A&M University campus that includes the Texas A&M Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) building and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) now bears the name of Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Charles W. "Doc" Graham, Class of 1953, one of the world's top equine veterinarians. The naming of the Charles W. "Doc" Graham, '53 DVM, the Texas A&M University System Center was announced late last fall.

"Dr. Graham is held in such esteem around Texas and around the country for his brilliance in the field of equine health and animal science," said Walter Wendler, West Texas A&M president. "Students who learn and work in a group of buildings bearing his name will have a goal for which to strive and an example to live up to, which can only help in our goal of producing the finest veterinarians in the state."

The center carries Dr. Graham's name at the request of Stan and Gerry Sigman, whose pledge to West Texas for the creation of a professorship in the Paul Engler College of Agriculture included a request that the new TVMDL, VERO and the future Texas A&M AgriLife Research facilities be named in honor of Dr. Graham. Stan Sigman is a 1970 West Texas graduate and 2007 Distinguished Alumnus, and Stan and Gerry were the leading donors to the West Texas Agricultural Sciences Complex.

"The contributions Dr. Graham has made to the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences are immeasurable," TAMU-CVM Dean John August said. "Dr. Graham was an influential participant in the funding and construction of our college's Veterinary & Biomedical Education Complex, and as a member of the Texas A&M Equine Research Committee, he helped recruit leaders for Texas A&M's Equine Initiative and to the CVM. Through his ardent support of our college and of our VERO initiative, CVM students in both College Station and Canyon will benefit from his generosity and his efforts for decades to come."

In addition to his renowned reputation in equine medicine, Dr. Graham is a leader in the state's horse and cattle industries and a tireless volunteer, advocate and youth mentor. Dr. Graham is the only individual to serve as president for both the Texas Quarter Horse Association and the Texas Thoroughbred Association. He is also the only person to be selected as Horseman of the Year by both associations. He is a member of the American Quarter Horse Association Hall

Graham continued on page 26

VERO continued from page 25

ducer's cow-calf operation. This is just one day in the students' two-week clinical rotations in the Texas Panhandle, which started last June and are offered as part of the year-long clinical experience for fourth-year veterinary students (4VM). The skills these 4VMs are learning are of the utmost importance; regular maintenance allows cow herds to be productive and healthy.

"One of the defining skills for veterinarians when you enter a rural or a food animal practice is being able to make a pregnancy diagnosis," Dr. Posey said. "The partnership with local producers really helps us on this because students get to practice this important skill during their rotations here. We're also providing a health program for them, so we're doing some management work as well."

Autumn Richie, a 4VM from Houston, appreciates the experience.

"We're getting to do everything we would do once we graduate—we get to call the pregnancies, whether we think we're right and then someone makes sure we're doing it the right way," Richie said. "It's a nice little safety net before we're released into the world when fourth year's over."

This experience, combined with her participation in VERO's Food Animal and Rural Practice Summer Internship Program—during which she spent time on a feedlot in Happy, Texas, and at two different rural practices—solidified Richie's desire to work in production medicine.

"I grew up within the 610 Loop of Hous-

ton, and there's really not a whole lot of cows there," she said. "My biggest interaction with them before coming up here was at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. It's been really nice to be in a place where someone who had practically no experience before can get that experience. The summer internship program is the leading reason I wanted to go into feedlot medicine. For me, the biggest issue is going to be narrowing down where I want to go and what I want to do. Everything I've tried up here has been really interesting and fun."

#### **CREATING RESEARCH LEADERS**

When Veronica Muñoz, an assistant in VERO research director Dr. Paul Morley's lab, learned about the 2+2 DVM program earlier this year, she decided to defer her acceptance into the CVM specifically so she could participate in the new program as a member of the CVM Class of 2025.

"I have two girls, and my husband is the main provider for our family, so it's difficult to uproot our family to pursue my DVM," Muñoz said. "The thought of disrupting our whole lives was a very big stressor for me. I am very religious, and the 2+2 program was like God put this opportunity in front of me like, 'Here you go; you can have your family and pursue your dream.'"

Muñoz's true passion has always been with veterinary medicine, but the Edinburg native, who completed her undergraduate degree at Texas A&M-Kingsville, decided to pursue a master's degree in animal science at WT so she could get experience in another area she

Graham continued from page 2

of Fame, the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Texas Horse Racing Hall of Fame and the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

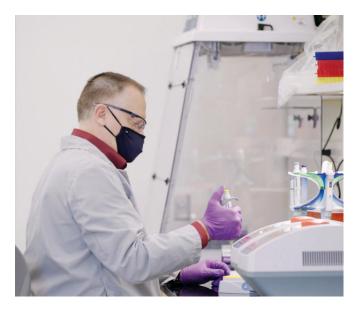
Dr. Graham's other honors include the 2013 Texas A&M AgriLife Distinguished Texan in Agriculture Award, the 2010 College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Outstanding Alumnus Award and the 1991 CVM Outstanding Alumnus Award.

In 2018, it was announced that the new Canyon-based Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) would bear Dr. Graham's name.

"As we embark on this new chapter of TVMDL history in Canyon, it only seems fitting to have our facility carry the name of someone who has left a lasting impression on our industry," TVMDL Director Dr. Bruce Akey said. "Dr. Graham has been an unwavering supporter of TVMDL's mission and vision for decades, and we are proud to be part of his legacy in Texas."

Dr. Graham earned his bachelor of science in animal husbandry in 1953, his bachelor of science in animal science in 1954 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1961, all from Texas A&M.

In the early 1960s, Dr. Graham and Dr. W. H. Cardwell built Elgin Veterinary Hospital and grew the practice into one of the largest equine veterinary facilities in the nation. Dr. Graham is now owner of a number of other businesses, including the 1,300-acre Southwest Stallion Station in Elgin, which has bred some of the top stallions and broodmares in the quarter horse industry. TV









feels passionately about—research. While she awaits word on her acceptance into the 2+2 program, Muñoz plans to work with researchers like Dr. Morley, with whom she became acquainted during her graduate program. As both a clinical veterinarian and a research scientist, Dr. Morley offers Muñoz a glimpse into a possible future, one that allows her to have the best of both the veterinary and research worlds.

"One of the reasons I became a research scientist is that when I was a veterinary student, there were programs that allowed us to have research experience, to be in laboratories where ongoing research was being conducted and be part of those programs," Dr. Morley said. "We strongly believe the programs we're developing at VERO will allow veterinary students in the 2+2 program, and other graduate students, to be exposed to state-of-the-art research, that we'll be able to show them the science that is part of animal production."

In addition to training the next research



leaders, VERO will augment and strengthen the capabilities of other researchers in the area, including at WT, who are addressing the most pressing concerns of regional producers—issues like bovine respiratory disease complex, liver abscesses and the use of antimicrobials.

"The research we're conducting at VERO is not done in the abstract; it's not research for research's sake," Dr. Morley said. "We are trying to keep animals healthy and promote their welfare. The diseases that are the most important to the producers are the most important to us. We work with them to identify those problems and then identify funding sources to promote the research, which allows us to conduct those activities."

#### **ROOM TO GROW**

While VERO began with only two faculty members, it's growing quickly. Along with Dr. Morley, other additions include Dr. Sarah

#### TVMDL Gets a New Home in Canyon

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) Canyon facility opened in September 2020. The laboratory includes testing sections for virology, serology, bacteriology and molecular diagnostics, all within an open-flow environment for enhanced collaboration.

The new facility also includes a necropsy suite and one of only two high-containment, biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) laboratories in Texas specifically designed to test for high-consequence animal diseases that pose a significant threat to the agriculture economy and public health.

TVMDL opened its original Panhandle laboratory in Amarillo in 1975 to serve the area's livestock and cattle industries. Now almost 50 years later, the laboratory's clientele has grown to include more than just producers. TVMDL now offers testing services for almost every animal species for some of the largest animal agriculture companies in the world while maintaining our service to the area's ever-important independent producers.

With the agency's relocation to Canyon, TVMDL looks forward to forming partnerships with colleagues from West Texas A&M University as well as the Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) and 2+2 program of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, furthering their research interests and building upon their decades of service in the Panhandle. TV

Capik, who has brought to the VERO team a background in ruminant animal health; Dr. B.J. Newcomer, who has brought experience in dairy cattle medicine; and Dr. Jenna Funk, who has brought beef cattle and feedlot experience. The new VERO building will be an important part of facilitating that growth; over the next six months, an additional 11 to 13 faculty will fill out the VERO roster to support the veterinary research, education and outreach taking place there.

"Because of the partnership we have with Texas A&M and WT, the VERO program is uniquely positioned to let veterinary students see new opportunities for how to serve people—not just animals," Dr. Griffin said. "If you give the students time to observe those opportunities, they love it. We're going 100 miles an hour, and the students are like a big sponge, soaking it all up. It's so much fun to have these opportunities in this setting, a setting like few others."

## SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

## TAMU-CVM DEAN JOHN AUGUST AIMS TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE

hroughout his career as an educational administrator, Dr. John August has viewed his job as that of a puzzle-master, taking

each piece of his organization—be it people or opportunities—and working to fit them all together to create a beautiful, cohesive picture.

"I've always used the analogy of the jigsaw puzzle because my role is to make sure people understand what they bring to the big picture; each piece, with its different shape and patterns of colors, represents each individual in our college and the different skills they bring," Dean August said. "My role—whether it has been as dean or department head—has been to help each person see how they fit into the big picture and understand that they are essential. Then I step back."

While he sometimes feels that pieces of a puzzle may be "hidden under a sofa" when he begins a new role, the pieces already in place made the experience both familiar and completely different when his tenure as interim dean of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (TAMU-CVM) began in July 2020 before officially taking over as dean in September 2020.

That's because although Dean August was a professor and department head in the CVM Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery for 11 years, the college has changed immensely in the six years he was away serving other administrative roles in Texas A&M's Dean of Faculties office and School of Public Health (SPH).

"It was almost like coming to a new College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences," he said of his return. "There By Jennifer Gauntt
TAMU-CVM Communications Director

were new buildings, a new curriculum, new faces, new expectations, new challenges and new opportunities. It really wasn't like coming back to the same College of Veterinary Medicine I left."

"I LEARNED A LOT AS THE DEAN OF FACULTIES, I LEARNED A LOT AS INTERIM DEAN IN THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I DON'T WASTE THOSE EXPERIENCES IN HELPING TO GUIDE AND STRENGTHEN OUR COLLEGE."

#### **FALLING INTO PLACE**

In many ways, Dean August's life has been puzzle-like too—an assortment of experiences and opportunities that would one day come together to inform his role as a leader in higher education. Serving as a dean of a college of veterinary medicine had been a dream of Dean August's since early in his career.

He came into the veterinary profession almost by chance—when his high school biology teacher advised him that his interest in medicine and his love for animals would make him a good fit for veterinary school.

"When my teacher suggested that, it sort of clicked," Dean August said. "I'd always

had pets, but I really had never thought about putting two and two together. After that, I had the opportunity to shadow with local veterinarians, and I was hooked. The fact that he made that suggestion to me in my mid-teens meant that I'm sitting here today, and it was clearly the right thing, as is the fact that veterinary profession has been wonderful to me over those years."

After completing his degree with honors from the Royal Veterinary College at the University of London, he went to Auburn University for an internship and residency in small animal internal medicine, where hints of his future at Texas A&M and his specialization in feline internal medicine began to appear.

"There were three of us interns, two Aggies and somebody from London; we were an unusual threesome," he said. "I kept hearing everything about Texas A&M all day from my two Aggie friends. That's probably one of the reasons I'm here today."

It was, perhaps, also because of those Aggies that Dean August developed—without much merit, he believes—his reputation for being the "cat person."

"Growing up, we did have cats; I also had Guinea pigs and birds, tortoises, a variety of things," he said. "But cats were more popular as pets in England and Europe before they were over here, so when I came to the States straight out of veterinary school to do my internship, I became very quickly known as the person who would deal with the cats.

"I got on with cats because I had a sort of calm attitude," he continued. "I knew how to examine them, how to handle them, and so I think those attributes prepared me to be a feline practitioner, taking advantage of that





TAMU-CVM Dean John August

opportunity. As I went into my internal medicine residency, I continued to have an interest, and from that point on, I really got hooked on it. I found it to be a very rewarding niche."

As cats became more popular in the U.S., Dean August took the opportunity his experience had afforded by giving presentations, going to meetings, publishing books and becoming someone known for his specialization in feline medicine.

"I rode the wave of that for about 30 years in my career and had a chance to travel the world and work on books and have all kinds of opportunities, simply because I was in the right place at the right time," he said.

That wave kept him at Auburn as a faculty member and then took him to Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine before he came to the TAMU-CVM, where his role as an administrator began taking off.

#### **CREATING CONNECTIONS**

One puzzle-playing element Dean August really embraces is collaboration—bringing people and opportunities together to achieve a common objective—and many of his goals as dean of the CVM involve nurturing that collaborative spirit, including taking advantage of lessons learned and experiences from his more recent leadership roles.

"I learned a lot as the Dean of Faculties, I learned a lot as interim dean in the School of Public Health, and I want to make sure I don't waste those experiences in helping to guide and strengthen our college," he said.

Dean August's former roles gave him a 30,000-foot view of the faculty and research endeavors across TAMU that offer him a perspective on new opportunities for capitalizing on initiatives begun under CVM Dean Emerita Eleanor M. Green.

"I want to make sure that by the time I leave, we have well-developed plans for a new Small Animal Hospital (SAH)," he said. "That is of major importance. Amazing work gets done in our Small Animal Hospital, but the hospital has a very outdated design and is much smaller than it should be. We've been having some very, very early discussions that we will be expanding, and the provost seems to be supportive of that."

Dean August envisions a next-generation Small Animal Hospital that will foster collaboration not just within the CVM but with other colleges at Texas A&M and beyond, a place where clinical scientists, clinicians and scientists from many disciplines work collaboratively to address the basic, translational and applied problems happening in animal health, many of which can be translated to human health.

"I'd like to think we could look at a facility that perhaps more closely resembles the concept of a human medical center," he said. "At the same time, we have to make sure the facility provides absolutely exemplary patient care, and we have to make sure we have an

August continued on page 30

#### TVMA Veterinary Vitals Podcast Features TAMU-CVM Dean John August

By Dena Goldstein



"It's a mutually beneficial partnership. TVMA is our advocate. Without having that partnership of advocacy and the CVM through our outstanding educational programs and supporting the research that is necessary in the state for animal health, neither of us would be successful. I'm looking forward to working closely with the leadership team at TVMA."

John August, DVM, dean of Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine (TAMU-CVM), appeared on TVMA's Veterinary Vitals podcast on September 3, 2020. The podcast, which launched in early 2020, is available on the TVMA website under the "Resources" tab (https://www.tvma.org/Resources/Veterinary-Vitals-Podcast) and on all podcast platforms, such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts.

On the episode, Dean August outlined his goals for TAMU-CVM during his tenure and enthused over his Thursday afternoon radio show "Global Rhythms" on KAMU/FM 90.9, which he pre-records on Saturday mornings. He also gushed about his travels around the world, including a trip to Australia, where he trekked to The Outback with graduate students from the University of Sydney as part of a research project. In the remote area, they trapped, anesthetized and drew blood samples from Tasmanian Devils for genetic and immunological testing.

"We had to trap these animals, which are angry at best at any time," he said. "In the evenings, we went out into The Outback on Jeeps with big searchlights and saw animals that most Australians would never see. It was an extraordinary part of my life."

He also treasures his more than 20 trips to South America, where he helped universities in Chile and Argentina incorporate feline medicine into their curriculums. From his first trip to his last, he witnessed the phenomena of cats living longer and healthier lives in those areas.

"When I first got there, they said, 'Don't talk about diseases in older cats because we don't see older cats,'" he recalled. "'They die

Vitals continued on page 30

August continued from page 29

environment that can provide the very best education. We are delayed in getting a new Small Animal Hospital, but, perhaps in some ways, if we'd done this five years ago, we would have probably done a more traditional design. I think there is a real opportunity to do something that will set the tone nationwide for the next concept of a Small Animal Hospital."

Another opportunity involves the collaboration between the CVM and West Texas A&M University (WT) in the Texas Panhandle—the Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) initiative and the new 2+2 program that will allow Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students to split their educational career between the two universities.

"There are enormous opportunities to help a vast industry in Texas and to provide exemplary education, similar to what we provide here, for our students from that region who can go back after graduating and support the industries there," Dean August said.

In addition, Dean August intends to foster other sets of collaborations—including strengthening relationships with Texas A&M's AgriLife and College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (COALS) as well as with the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA).

"The dean of agriculture has talked a lot about wanting to partner with our college in the area of large animal infectious diseases, and having strong, trusting relationships with partners across campus and with professional associations like TVMA is very important," he said. "I'm not going to be the expert in all of those things, but I can make sure the environment is open for constructive dialogue and synergism."

Ultimately, Dean August believes these collaborations have enormous potential to impact the state, the veterinary profession and the agricultural industries dependent upon veterinary medicine.

"Whether it's providing aspiring veterinarians at the border a pathway to Texas A&M through the Higher Education Center at McAllen, working hand-in-hand with the livestock industry in the Panhandle or working with human public health for the safety of the public—whether it's within sight or out of sight—as the land grant institution of Texas, we have the responsibility to serve all of the state of Texas in an exemplary way," he said. "We have that responsibility as a very

highly ranked College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and as part of one of only three Association of American Universities institutions in Texas. That mission greatly increases the value of our graduates. Not only do they have the Texas A&M values but people around the nation understand we are one of the very top-tier colleges of veterinary medicine. We have a sacred responsibility because it empowers our graduates when they go out."

#### THE COMPLETE PICTURE

Stepping into the role of dean during the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly produced its fair share of challenges—from basic issues like working from home when he prefers to work in-office to larger issues like ensuring the new DVM curriculum continues to be implemented effectively in a time of limited resources to working to maintain safety for faculty, staff, students and hospital clients and getting re-acquainted with the college.

However, Dean August is also a person who strongly believes in silver linings, so when he thinks about all of the experiences he has been forced into due to COVID-19—all of the new puzzle pieces that have been placed on the table—it's not hard for him to see the outlines of new shapes being formed in the post-pandemic picture.

"Telemedicine will be a silver lining coming out of this soon, once we've gotten through all of the state board issues and all of those things," he said. "More convenient continuing education for veterinarians is another. We will certainly come out of this with a better public understanding of the role of veterinarians in public health. Seventy percent of new diseases come from animals, and veterinarians have to be at the forefront of that. With COVID-19, I hope the federal government, state governments, academic institutions and the public, in general, will understand that veterinarians have a very, very critical role right at the front of preventing the next pandemic. It's going to take that One Health approach and that One Health understanding.

"There will be some real silver linings, I think, coming out of this, though it's a little difficult to think about them when things are pretty tough," he continued. "I'm a firm believer in looking back at those and realizing that there are things we will be doing in the future because of this that we realize we should have been doing all along."

Vitals continued from page 25

when they are quite young.' It was gratifying because the last time I went down there in 2014, they asked me to give a presentation on older cats."

Being a feline expert rewarded him with 30 years of professional experience as an author, researcher, professor, world traveler and presenter.

"If I had graduated five years later, I would have missed that opportunity," he said.

After completing his residency in small animal internal medicine and earning a master's degree from Auburn in 1977, he intended to return to London to work at a large specialty practice, but he met his wife, Janet, and caught the teaching bug. He has stayed in the U.S. ever since.

"I got hooked on working with students," Dean August said. "Working with students at teaching hospitals can be profoundly gratifying. I've always tried to take risks with teaching and teach with new methods. I try to help the students feel part of a team in the classroom. I've gone through a lot of professional development to improve my teaching. It's nice when you get recognized for hard work."

As a lifelong learner, Dean August has eagerly embraced new roles in his career that broaden his knowledge and expand his skillset. Prior to his appointment as dean at TAMU-CVM, he served as the CVM Interim Associate Dean for Clinical and Outreach Programs, Deputy Dean and Interim Head of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology and outside the CVM as Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost for TAMU and Interim Dean of the School of Public Health.

"Having different jobs like this has been professionally challenging and rewarding," he said. "I had an opportunity to evaluate the dossiers of people who dive into blue holes in the Gulf of Mexico, interact with former astronauts and go to, on several occasions, our campus in Doha, Qatar. It has made me very proud to be a small part of this university."

He also takes great pride in holding his current role as Dean and nurturing the CVM's invaluable relationship with TVMA, which podcast listeners can learn about when they listen to his episode, "Taking the Reins with TAMU-CVM Dean John August."

TVMA encourages members to subscribe to the podcast, rate the show and write a review. Tune in for upcoming episodes that cover the importance of emotional intelligence with Deb Stone, PhD; buying and selling clinics with Randy Carsch, DVM; and diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine with Lisa Greenhill, EdD. TVMA thanks you for listening! IV

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## A TRAILBLAZER FOR LVTs

# 2020 TVMA LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR: HOLLYE CALLIS FELPS, LVT

ollye Callis Felps, LVT, RT(MR), VTS-DS, recipient of the 2020 Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) of the Year award, has helped to set the bar for LVTs across the country. As one of two LVTs ever to be accepted into the University of Texas MD Anderson School of Health Professions bachelor program, Felps is known by her

colleagues for being incredibly skilled and

dedicated and for excelling at producing

high-quality images of her patients.

"Hollye is as good of a technician as I have ever worked with," said Dr. Jay Griffin, Associate Professor and Head of Veterinary Radiology at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine (TAMU-CVM). "She is highly skilled in radiography, both of small and large animals, nuclear medicine, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. Specifically, she pays meticulous attention to patient positioning, slice positioning and quality control. Hollye takes personal responsibility for the cases she images and has a positive attitude."

Raised on a farm in Texline, Texas, Felps developed a deep connection with animals from the start.

"I grew up in the very, very Northwest corner of the Texas Panhandle in a teeny, tiny town," she said. "My father was the manager of a large ranch, so we had cows, horses, cats, dogs, you name it."

As much as she enjoyed the animals, she never knew a career as a veterinary paraprofessional was possible for her.

"Honestly, I didn't know a lot about being a veterinary paraprofessional," she said. "My aunt was one growing up, but it By Audrea Wood TVMA Media Specialist

had never really crossed my mind."

In high school, Felps' supervisor introduced her to the world of veterinary radiology. After setting her up with several college interviews, she decided on Sul Ross University in mountainous and sunny Alpine, Texas.

"I GREW UP IN THE VERY,
VERY NORTHWEST CORNER
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IN A TEENY, TINY TOWN,"
SHE SAID. "MY FATHER
WAS THE MANAGER OF
A LARGE RANCH, SO WE
HAD COWS, HORSES, CATS,
DOGS, YOU NAME IT."

"I love it there," she recalled. "It's beautiful."

After receiving her associate's degree, Felps decided to further her education at Sul Ross University and completed a bachelor's degree in animal science in May 2004. Her passion for veterinary technology continued to grow as she joined the clinic on campus as a student worker and soon became fascinated by radiology. With a wealth of new knowledge, she took initiative in lining up her next chapter.

"At the clinic on campus, I got my hands

on all of the job postings first off, and I usually posted them everywhere," she said. "I found one for a radiology technician at the University of Missouri, so I thought, 'Hey, this is perfect. I've never lived in Missouri!"

The day after graduation, Felps packed up and moved to Columbia, Missouri, to begin her first job as a radiology technician. Since that bold move to Missouri, she has been in veterinary radiology technology for 16 years. In July 2008, she accepted a position at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) as a radiology veterinary technician, and she happily remains as such to this day, assisting clinical faculty and residents as they train fourth-year students in the management of more than 24,000 cases per year.

"My favorite part of working at A&M is patient advocacy," she said. "It's fun in a sense, having these animals come to have diagnostics done. These are their babies, so when the clients are brought to the hospital, they're so nervous about everything. When I'm able to be a part of finding the problem, that's a very good feeling. It's a lot of fun."

While at the University of Missouri, Felps learned from supervisor and mentor, Jan Kunkel, LVT, how to tackle the more challenging aspects of imaging large animals.

"Doing large animal radiology is probably way more tricky than small animal radiology," Felps said. "When I first started to learn how to do large animal radiology, it probably took me a good two years before I got decent at it. It's pretty tough. When you're getting cords up around horse legs, especially when they're nervous, you just have to have a lot of horse-sense."



TVMA Past President Dr. Rick Wall, Hollye Felps and 2020 TVMA President Dr. John Bruker

Felps seems to have more than just horsesense though. In her role at the VMTH, she has been lauded for her excellence in teaching fourthyear veterinary students how to effectively obtain radiographs from a variety of animal species.

Felps studied diagnostic imaging at the MD Anderson School for Health Professions in Houston in 2012 and 2013.

"Hollye received her Bachelor of Diagnostic Imaging with an emphasis on MRI in August of 2013," said Johnathon Dodd, DVM, FAVD, DAVDC, the Clinical Professor of Dentistry for Small Animal Clinic Sciences at the VMTH. "There are very few technicians with this specialized credential. During that same year, she did an internship at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan, working in human medicine running their MRI scanner for approximately 20 hours per week. All of this was done while maintaining her positions here at Texas A&M during the first year of the Diagnostic Imaging and Cancer Treatment Center."

It's clear that Felps' love for animal care has evolved far from a mere childhood hobby. When asked about her hobbies now, Hollye took a moment to ponder.

"I love the outdoors," she said. "I love, love, love to go fishing. I like to try and stay fit. And horseback riding if I had a horse."

After many years of studying and hard work, Felps got married just over a year ago, and she and her husband have two corgis, CJ and Porter.

"They are the absolute loves of our lives, of course," she said. "No horses yet but we're working on it. I would never turn down getting on a horse."

In the meantime, Felps continues to work to the high standard her colleagues at the VMTH have been accustomed to seeing from her.

"Hollye has been an amazing asset to the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and is an overall outstanding technician and a truly great representative of the profession," said Wade Friedeck, MS, RT (MR), a past colleague who is now the hospital administrator at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of Oklahoma State University. "She has now gone on to be a founding member of the Diagnostic Imaging Veterinary Technician Specialty (VTS) program. She spent an extreme amount of time helping establish this specialty so other technicians who enjoy imaging have the ability to advance their education in the specialty and achieve professional recognition among the profession."

All of those efforts contributed to the recognition Felps received as the 2020 TVMA LVT of the Year.

"I was completely floored and so honored," she said of the TVMA award. "I feel like that's such a prestigious award, and after having been in this field and doing this for so long, being recognized for all of the hard work I have been through these past many years was just such an honor."





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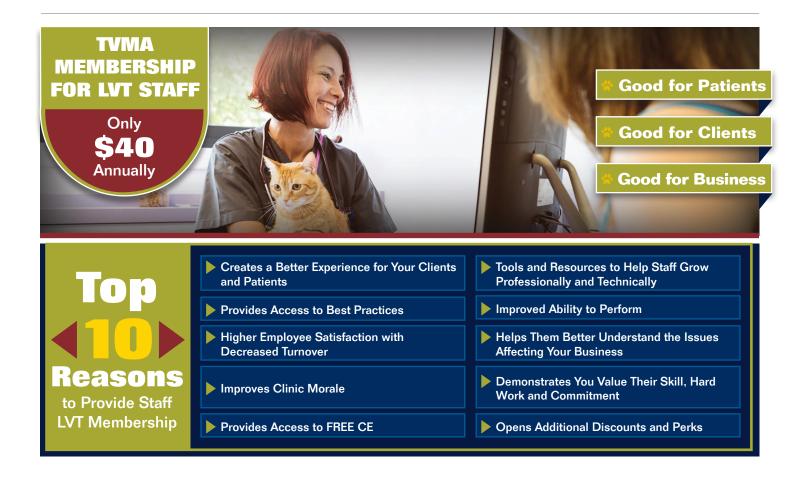
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# TEXVET PETS.org

By Audrea Wood TVMA Media Specialist

For Texas Pet Owners By Texas Veterinarians

## **Continuing to Educate Pet Owners in 2021**

or many, 2020 was a year filled with financial stress, health scares and challenging emotions. After saying goodbye to a year few will miss, the TexVetPets.org (TVP) team looked back over 2020 to appreciate our successes. Though it was difficult, we made the best of the circumstances and managed to reach thousands of members of the pet-owning public.

If nothing else, 2020 was a great year for house pets. They were able to see their owners much more often, and TVP article views saw a sharp uptick in May, likely a result of stay-at-home orders. The articles that received the most views regarded abnormal panting, mysterious lumps and bloody urine. Google Analytics reported that TVP received 698,370 views in total last year, just a tick below the 750,000 views in 2019.

TVMA Director of Communications Abel Almendarez continues to look forward to the future of the website.

"As TVP grows its audience, TVMA will continue to recruit members to write and peer-review articles," he said. "Because TVP's mission is to provide pet owners with the most accurate pet health information written by DVMs and licensed professionals on the web, we also will continue to encourage our members to promote TVP to their clients. TVMA is proud to offer this great benefit to our members."

With article topics ranging from vaccines to food portioning, the website remains a reliable resource for the public in an online space filled with inaccuracies from nonprofessional blog posts, tweets

and websites. Just as in human health, the message needs to be reiterated to the public that the internet is not the safest place to find correct health information unless you know for certain that information is being provided by licensed, expert professionals, such as medical doctors and veterinarians.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recommends the following ways the public can spot red flags in online posts: "The site tells you that you don't need a prescription for medications like heartworm preventives, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs...or other drugs for which your veterinarian tells you that you need a prescription; the site...diagnoses, prescribes medications or tells you how to treat your pet's condition or problem based on information you provide online, through email or over the phone; the site is promoting a 'homemade' remedy for a pet health problem (such as parvovirus, heartworm, etc.) and claims the product is more effective than veterinary care."

While these red flags may seem obvious to some, it is a crucial reminder to a public that is searching for simple solutions in tough economic times.

Because all of the information on TVP is written and peer-reviewed by TVMA members, veterinarians can confidently recommend TVP to their clients as a place to find sound animal health information between clinic visits. TVMA is grateful to all of the Texas veterinarians and Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVTs) who contribute to TVP.

For example, Tyler Foreman, DVM, of Rowlett Veterinary Care Clinic,

recently wrote about pet exposure to COVID-19. "Should you find yourself exposed and testing positive to the coronavirus, minimize contact with your pets as much as possible while under medical quarantine or while ill," he wrote. "If your family must make sacrifices to get through this difficult financial time, consult your veterinarian to identify ideas for modifying expenses with minimal negative influence on non-human household members." Because initial public opinion seemed to be that house pets could not contract the virus, this information from Dr. Foreman offered much-needed encouragement to confer with a veterinarian if pets showed signs of illness.

With many new pet adoptions during the pandemic (AVMA reports a 58.36% adoption intake rate this year in comparison with 51.49% in 2019), it is more important than ever to continue educating the public. TVP is looking to increase the publication of peerreviewed articles that focus on common problems facing new pet owners. These problems may include house-training, proper preventative care or tips on finding a great veterinarian.

The TVP team is proud of the resources provided in 2020 and is seeking new or returning contributors in 2021. Texas veterinarians and LVTs can find more information about writing or reviewing an article at www.TexVetPets. org or by emailing TVMA Media Specialist Audrea Wood at awood@tvma. org. If you are unable to contribute articles or other media, providing comments or ideas for TVP also would be greatly appreciated.



## **Building Capacity**

THE NEW VERO FACILITY OFFERS THE TEXAS A&M COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES THE ABILITY TO EXPAND UPON ITS EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND OUTREACH EFFORTS IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE

#### By Dr. John August,

Dean, Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

he Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (TAMU-CVM) is proud of the strides we've made in service to the citizens of the Texas Panhandle and High Plains region through our Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) initiative.

Last fall, the TAMU-CVM and our partners at West Texas A&M University (WT) celebrated a milestone in those efforts with the opening of the new VERO facility on the WT campus in Canyon.

This new building greatly expands our missions in the region—both those of VERO and as a land grant institution—through education, mentorship, relationship-building, research and collaboration with rural practices and the industries that are vital to both the Texas economy and the world's food supply. We are thankful to the Texas A&M University System and the Texas Legislature for their continued support of this program.

As much as this new facility means to the college, the opportunities presented by this new space will mean that much more to the faculty and scientists who will teach and conduct meaningful research in the building as well as to the eager students who will participate in those endeavors.

#### A New Class of Learning

Within the walls of the new 22,000square-foot building, generations of veterinary students will have access to state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory spaces that will ensure students in our Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) 2+2 program receive the same rigorous, quality education that their counterparts in College Station are receiving.

The building was purposefully designed with flexible classroom spaces that can accommodate 60 individuals or be divided into two 30-person classroom spaces for small-group learning and critical-thinking exercises that are the hallmark of the experiential TAMU-CVM Professional Curriculum. The building also intentionally was designed with teaching laboratories that rival their College Station-based counterparts.

In all of these rooms—which will feature audio-video capabilities that allow content to stream between VERO and the CVM for both classes and continuing education activities—DVM students will learn anatomy, histology, agents of disease, pathology, physiology, pharmacology, immunology, microbiology, parasitology, epidemiology and public health, organ dysfunction, anesthesia, diagnostic imaging, integrated animal care and clinical and professional skills.

Through the additional capabilities for online digital instruction, low-fidelity simulation models and high-fidelity skills trainers, these rooms will assist our students in honing the wide range of medical, anesthetic, imaging and surgical skills necessary for returning to College Station for their third and fourth years and, as importantly, for being career-ready upon their graduation and return to the region as much-needed food animal production

and rural practitioners.

It was those multipurpose teaching laboratory spaces that most impressed Ryan Thomaselli, a WT junior pre-veterinary student from Castroville, Texas, who plans to apply to the CVM 2+2 DVM program at VERO next year.

"[VERO Academic Coordinator]
Dr. [Dan] Posey gave us a tour of this beautiful facility this morning, and I absolutely loved it," Thomaselli said.
"My favorite part was the anatomy lab, just how big it is. Surgery is my favorite part of the veterinary field, so seeing all of the tables, the tabletops, the containers and everything really made my day.

"I really love this area, and I love what VERO stands for, so coming here for my first two years would truly mean a lot because I love the environment," he continued. "Not only that, but if I am accepted, I would love to come back from my fourth-year rotations to do my feedlot rotation, my cow-calf and dairy rotations and hopefully get some equine and swine experience as well."

Delainee Braly, a senior preveterinary student from Seminole, Texas, who is one of the WT students who hopes to learn at VERO as one of the 18 members of the 2+2 program's inaugural cohort next fall, agrees.

"When Dr. Posey gave us a tour, I thought about how it's going to be really good for this area in keeping veterinarians here," Braly said. "The hands-on opportunities I'll get with a smaller class will benefit me in the long run amazingly. By attending veterinary school at VERO, I'll be able to get my foot in the door to be better able to serve in this area after I graduate."

The exemplary, top-tier Aggie veterinary education these students will receive will greatly increase the value of our graduates. Not only will they have the Texas A&M values but, when they go out into the world, our graduates will feel empowered to serve the state of Texas and particularly their home region.

# **DVMs and Discovery**

In addition to the 3,000 square feet of research space the new facility provides, VERO researchers will benefit from working in conjunction with the new Canyon-based Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL), which sits next door to the VERO facility, just as CVM researchers benefit from having TVMDL nearby in College Station.

Fully equipped with the most up-todate technologies for genomic sequencing and bioinformatics, molecular diagnostic tests and microbial cultures, the VERO facility offers researchers everything they need as they work to address issues—from infectious diseases to microbial ecology and beyond that are critically important to the livestock industries of Texas.

There is also room to grow—an additional 2,300 square feet of shelled space will accommodate future laboratories—and the facility provides space for graduate students, house officers and other trainees and visitors to the VERO research and teaching programs.

These resources will support the CVM's fundamental obligation to better serve one of the biggest industries of Texas and producers across the state and around the world.

"Our efforts at conducting research are not only important for addressing critical problems of animal producers, and of our society, but it's also terribly important that we are promoting the development of the next generation of scientists," VERO Director of Research Paul Morley, DVM, said. "We need more veterinarians who are trained in science and in research to allow us to address these problems, not only today but in the future. Exposing students, including veterinary students, to research is

a critical aspect. We're excited to be in this new building with these wonderful research facilities and equipment. It tremendously augments what I've had in the past. Because of this facility, we will be able to recruit and support researchers as they join our team and to promote further growth of our efforts.

"It's our strong belief that we will be developing one of the best training programs for graduate students as well," he continued. "Students who come here to experience research and train in research methods will become leaders in research for the future."

# **Setting Down Roots**

Everyone affiliated with VERO calls VERO what it is—a partnership.

VERO's partnerships extend far beyond our important partnership with WT to include Canyon and surrounding communities, which play a critical part in our educational and research efforts.

For example, our fourth-year clinical rotation options at VERO depend on feedlots, rural practices and other producers in helping our students gain important hands-on experience in the procedures and tools they will use every day as practitioners in the region.

"The opportunities we have in this part of the state are tremendously valuable; in this case, it's an opportunity for us to train the next generation of food animal practitioners," Dr. Posey said. "The more cattle we are able to work, the better prepared they get for graduation."

The relationship also provides valuable additional veterinary support to producers in the region.

"It's also mutually beneficial to us,"
Dr. Posey said. "Having the presence of
a veterinary school here in the Panhandle allows us to recruit new students
who are interested in veterinary medicine through the local universities that
are here in the Panhandle. There are
nine colleges and universities that we
visit to recruit into veterinary medicine."

Recruitment is key to VERO's success, and the new facility is key to recruitment.

While WT's pre-veterinary specialization has almost tripled—with a 30% increase in WT's pre-veterinary club

because of the efforts of the VERO team—the new VERO facility could potentially impact WT's graduate student recruitment in the future because of VERO's research partnerships.

"VERO is also a partnership with the region's animal producers, and we've had the warmest welcome from producers and producer associations," Dr. Morley said. "The Food and Drug Administration grant we recently received involved researchers from three different cattle producer companies; the Texas Cattle Feeders; and scientists from Texas A&M, West Texas A&M, Michigan State University, Purdue University and Colorado State University. That research is being led from right here as part of the VERO program, and it wouldn't have been possible without the collaborations we're building through the VERO program."

#### A Bright Beginning

We look forward to celebrating not only our future successes in education, research and outreach but, most immediately, we will be celebrating the grand opening and dedication of the new VERO and TVMDL facilities—which are now named the Charles W. "Doc" Graham '53 DVM, The Texas A&M University System Center, after a truly deserving namesake—on April 22.

"The building is amazing, but it also represents a point in a journey that started a long time ago," VERO Director Dr. Dee Griffin said. "I think about an old adage: 'If you want to build a fire, you have to cut the wood first.' Since we have embedded with the WT agriculture department, the number of students who attended West Texas A&M and subsequently applied to Texas A&M's veterinary school has significantly increased. It's just astounding.

"With our productivity and the support we've had from the Texas Legislature and the (livestock) industry, we've taken the wood we've gathered and have built a fire that now looks like a building," he continued. "And we're just getting started."

To get an early glimpse of the new VERO facility, watch our video tour at tx.ag/VEROTour. TV

# El Año de la Vaca



**By Dr. Guy H. Loneragan** Dean, Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine

021 is a year for collective opti-

mism. Top of mind this year is surely our shared hopefulness—and relief—as we begin to emerge from arguably the worst pandemic in a century, a pandemic that caused loss and pain for so many. But there is now a light at the end the tunnel, a light provided by scientific discoveries that have resulted in a number of safe and effective vaccines. For me, the thought of vaccines also connects me to animal agriculture and to contributions veterinarians make to public health (more on that below).

This is also a year in which the Texas Panhandle witnesses two historic firsts. After decades of debate, the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine (TTU-SVM) welcomes its inaugural class. A dedicated team of around 50 faculty and staff will begin delivering the School's innovative and hands-on curriculum to its students starting in August. A stone's throw south in Canyon, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine (TAMU-CVM), Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) program also welcomes its inaugural class to the new 2+2 program.

I am excited for what both programs can offer and for what they mean to the Panhandle in particular and to Texas more broadly. Collectively, these programs will meaningfully enrich veterinary education in Texas, provide increased access to affordable world-class education for Texans and engage in transformative research and entrepreneurship.

While we all call ourselves—and are proud to call ourselves—Texans, our state is a truly vibrant tapestry of distinct regions and cultures from communities in Far West Texas over to those in East Texas and from the Rio Grande Valley to North Texas. The Panhandle contributes to this tapestry in so many ways. It's capital of Amarillo (the Bomb City) is one of the largest cities in the U.S. to not serve as the headquarters for a major, research-intensive university. It is a city and a region that has thrived-and had to thrive-through ingenuity, entrepreneurship, grit, an enduring community spirit and a strong sense of place.

The Panhandle and South Plains have been my home for 20 years. It has been a most informative part of my life. While I still haven't quite worked out the accent, I met my wife here (she was then a graduate student in the TAMU-CVM), and of our three children, two were born in Amarillo and one in Lubbock. In 2009, I had the opportunity to work with former TAMU-CVM dean Dr. Eleanor Green, Dr. Dan Posey and others on a whitepaper articulating the need to expand veterinary educational activities in the Panhandle. It has taken some time—as all good things do-but now, in 2021, the Panhandle hosts two exciting programs.

We look forward to working with the growing VERO team. We are both starting out together and can learn from each other. Our facilities are their facilities. We look forward to joint projects because together we can achieve things greater than the sum of our parts. Moreover, veterinary students in the Panhandle will benefit greatly from the fraternity made possible by proximity. We are fortunate that Texas is leading the nation with two research-intensive institutions contributing to veterinary education and research.

As an epidemiologist, I have been particularly interested in the models of

SARS-CoV-2 propagation in populations. The estimated Ro of 3 to 4 provides important clues of the proportion of the population requiring effective immunity to end this pandemic. This is the concept of population (or herd) immunity. Vaccines (and acceptance of vaccines) will be at the means that get us to the needed level of population immunity to end the pandemic.

As we hold onto the vision of what this means for us, it is worth considering the origins of the word "vaccine." Many know the story from the late 1700s in which those farm workers who milked cows were often protected against smallpox. This observation led to the cowpox lesions being used as an inoculum to effectively protect people from smallpox. The cattle lesions were called Variolae Vaccinae, in which variolae referred to the lesions and vaccinae referred to cows. In time, the inoculum became known as a vaccine. We see the connections of vaccines to cows in the romance languages such as vaca in Spanish.

Connections between the health of animals and people are at the heart of the current pandemic. It started with a spillover of SARS-CoV-2 from animals to people. We look to it ending thanks to technologies that in many respects are rooted back to a historical observation of animal (cows) and human (milkers) health. These connections of human, animal and ecosystem health are collectively wrapped up in the term One Health.

The veterinary profession is unique in that we are trained in many of the concepts of One Health; this is reflected in the Veterinarian's Oath. Much of this was directed at control of diseases in production animals such as Brucella abortus and Mycobacterium bovis. One Health, however, encompasses many aspects of veterinary medicine such as rabies vaccination, hippotherapy or the use of dogs in the treatment of PTSD among veterans. Veterinarians too are centrally involved in research of the current pandemic and in preventing future ones.

So, for me, 2021—and all of the optimism it brings—is el año de la vaca.



# FROM THE TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

# Top 10 CVI MISTAKES



rush up on the basics! If you or a staff member needs a refresher on how to complete a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI), visit https://www.tahc.texas.gov/vets/CVI-procedures.pdf for directions on how to complete a CVI.

# Avoid making these common mistakes:

- Sign the CVI. When doing so, double-check the document for accuracy, especially if your staff prepared the document.
- Only use physical addresses. Do not use P.O. Boxes. If the location does not have a 911 or mailing address, use GPS or location descriptions (ex., the corner pasture of Hwy. 54 and CR 46, Nowhere, TX)
- 3. Check and comply with state of des-

- tination requirements. Call the state veterinary office or go to www.interstatelivestock.com.
- Use official ID. If a brand or tattoo are accepted by the state of destination, the breed registration papers must accompany the CVI.
- 5. Send paper CVIs to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) at least weekly. Electronic CVIs are automatically distributed to the state of origin and state of destination. However, Texas has only 14 days after the issued date to get a paper CVI to the state of destination.
- CVIs are not equine passports. You can only issue a CVI to one destination, not a series of destinations like a show circuit.
- 7. Pay attention to regulatory disease that are circulating. For example, during

- a Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) outbreak, know the status of Texas and requirements for the state of destination.
- CVIs are valid for 30 days. Equine CVIs are valid for 30 days as well.
   Some states will shorten the validity during disease outbreaks such as VS.
- 9. If you inspect an out-of-state animal in your clinic, list your clinic location as the county of origin of the shipment and the owner information in the consignor section. This avoids situations like an Oklahoma horse that goes to Kansas on a Texas health certificate issued by a veterinarian not licensed in Oklahoma, which results in a phone call from TAHC asking some questions.
- 10. Call if you need help! A phone call may help you avoid compliance calls. We are here to help. IV

# Severe Thrombocytopenia

he new State of the Art article series gives the TVMA Specialty Practice Committee an opportunity to highlight the advanced nature of veterinary care in our state today. We all have witnessed an evolution in the level of care provided to our patients over the years, with advanced diagnostic and therapeutic modalities becoming more mainstream and attainable with time.

Numerous conditions that were previously considered insurmountable are now more understood and effectively managed. Various elusive diagnoses that previously required an invasive approach are now investigated with minimal patient morbidity and more rapid turnaround. Technologies that previously seemed out of reach for our profession are now commonplace and heavily leveraged. These advancements seem to emerge at a more rapid pace as time goes on, and this is no doubt contributing to the ever-changing land-scape of veterinary medicine.

Strong partnership within our profession has been key to making medical advances a reality for our clients and patients. As veterinary medicine continues to specialize, seamless delivery of care will rely even more heavily on the shared approach to care between primary care and specialty practitioners. In an effort to foster that shared approach, we will walk through case examples and topics that intersect both primary care and specialty practice. With each installment, we will take a look at how one particular veterinary specialty can support the delivery of care in our shared patients. Our first example demonstrates how the primary care veterinary team and an internal medicine specialist (Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine [SAIM]) work through the referral relationship to manage a patient with severe thrombocytopenia.

Our hope is that you find these articles interesting and educational. For

By Richard Stone, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM) Specialty Practice Committee Chair

a comprehensive list of specialty practitioner TVMA members, please visit www.tvma.org.

Thrombocytopenia is a commonly encountered laboratory abnormality in veterinary medicine, reportedly present in 6.7% of hospitalized dogs in one study (Botsch, 2009). The following case example demonstrates the evaluation of a patient with severe thrombocytopenia, the differential diagnoses considered and therapies provided.

#### **History and Physical Examination**

A 12-year-old male neutered mixedbreed dog presented to his primary care veterinarian for evaluation of acute hematuria and lethargy 24 hours in duration. There had been no change in frequency or volume of urination, but thirst and appetite were declining.

Previous medical history revealed no chronic illnesses. Current medications included a monthly heartworm preventive and topical flea and tick control. Rabies, DA2PP, Leptospirosis, Bordetella and Canine Influenza vaccinations were current (administered five months prior to presentation).

Physical examination revealed mild pyrexia (103.0 F), mild lethargy, subtle oral mucosal petechiation (shrouded by mucosal pigmentation), scleral hemorrhage and red discolored urine on the prepuce. The prostate could not be palpated on rectal examination, but melena was noted. The remainder of the physical examination was unremarkable.

# **Initial Diagnostics**

The primary care team performed a CBC with blood smear, free catch urinalysis with urine sediment, serum chemistry profile, PT and PTT.

CBC results revealed a hematocrit of 34%, a platelet count of 19,000/uL and a

moderate neutrophilia. A blood smear revealed a manual platelet count estimated to be less than 20,000/uL, confirming severe thrombocytopenia. Both PT and PTT were within normal limits. Urine analysis revealed numerous erythrocytes on sediment consistent with hematuria and no other significant abnormalities. The serum chemistry profile revealed a mild elevation in BUN at 38 mg/dL, normal creatinine and all other chemistry values within normal limits.

At this point in the case, it was suspected that the oral mucosal petechiation, scleral hemorrhage, hematuria, melena and potentially the elevated BUN were all the result of dermal, mucosal and gastrointestinal hemorrhage secondary to severe thrombocytopenia. The mild fever was suspected to be related to the underlying etiology of the thrombocytopenia.

# Thrombocytopenia

Thrombocytopenia can be caused by congenital or acquired conditions in dogs. Of the numerous acquired conditions, the basic mechanisms include destruction of platelets, consumption of platelets via blood loss/aggregation, lack of platelet production due to bone marrow pathology and sequestration. Blood smear evaluation is recommended to rule out artifactual thrombocytopenia.

Condensed differential list for thrombocytopenia (upon exclusion of artifact):

#### Congenital

 Hereditary macrothrombocytopenia (common example in CKCS)

Peripheral Consumption (hemostasis/ activation) or Sequestration

- · Severe acute blood loss
- · Sepsis-related aggregation
- · Vasculitis (RMSF, endotoxemia/sepsis)
- Envenomation
- DIC
- Splenic disorders (histiocytic sarcoma, others)

Peripheral Destruction





- Idiopathic immune-mediated thrombocytopenia
- Infectious (Ehrlichia spp., Anaplasma platys, Babesia spp., Borrelia spp.)
- Drug-induced (sulfas, penicillins, methimazole, others)
- Neoplasia

# **Decreased Production**

- Bone marrow necrosis
- Infectious marrow injury (distemper virus, Ehrlichia spp.)
- Immune-mediated megakaryocyte injury
- Neoplastic infiltrate (myelophthisis)
- Drug-related marrow injury (chemotherapy, estrogens, others)

In general, the consumption of platelets results in a mild to moderate thrombocytopenia. Hereditary macrothrombocytopenia is not expected to present with clinical signs or bleeding, will be seen in specific breeds and tends to be moderate in severity. Bone marrow disease resulting in thrombocytopenia will often involve other cell lines, and no additional cytopenias were noted in this patient. With an increased suspicion of platelet destruction, our differential diagnoses include infectious etiologies that cause platelet loss or immunemediated thrombocytopenia.

# Referral for Ongoing Diagnostics and Therapy





In light of the severity of the patient's thrombocytopenia and evidence of ongoing hemorrhage, urgent referral was made to a team comprised of emergency and specialty clinicians for further diagnostics and care.

# **Additional Diagnostics**

An internist on the specialty veterinary team continued the assessment of this patient in light of the suspicion of platelet destruction. Testing for infectious etiologies that may cause thrombocytopenia (including Ehrlichia spp., Anaplasma platys, Babesia spp. and Borrelia spp.) was performed as part of a vector-borne disease panel (antibody and PCR) and found to be negative. Repeat evaluation of the blood smear of course confirmed persistent severe thrombocytopenia and failed to reveal spirochetal organisms.

Note: Piccione et al. reported on Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever (TBRF) in patients with fever and severe thrombocytopenia, with the causative agent being a Borellia spp. transmitted by Ornithodoros spp. ticks (present in Texas). The infection can be detected by microscopic evaluation of a stained blood smear or by performing Borrelia spp. rtPCR (https://tvmdl.tamu.edu/tests/borrelia-spp-rtpcr/).

Imaging including three-view thoracic radiographs and complete abdominal ultrasound was performed to

State of the Art continued on page 42

State of the Art continued from page 41

search for evidence of occult neoplastic disease. Thoracic radiographs proved to be unremarkable.

Bone marrow cytology/histopathology was not pursued in this case due to a lack of suspicion for a more global marrow injury (only the platelet line affected) but would have been a consideration if infiltrative disease or other bone marrow disorders were suspected.

An abdominal ultrasound revealed irregular bladder mucosa in the ventral portion of the urinary bladder lumen and free-floating echogenic material within the lumen consistent with hemorrhage. The prostate was noted to be heterogeneous, mildly enlarged and with irregular contour. BRAF testing of the urine returned abnormal, consistent with urothelial carcinoma.

In the absence of other causes of a severely reduced platelet count, a presumptive diagnosis of immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (IMT) was made.

# Diagnoses: Immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (IMT), urothelial carcinoma with suspected bladder and prostatic involvement

As with other immune-mediated disorders, a thorough investigation for underlying infectious and neoplastic conditions was warranted as these comorbidities may impact therapeutic approach and long-term prognosis. The diagnosis of "idiopathic" IMT would be reserved for cases in which no other commonly associated etiology is detected.

An association between immune-mediated thrombocytopenia and occult neoplasia has been previously reported in dogs (Grindem, 1994). In this case, the presence of urinary tract neoplasia at minimum contributed to the presence of hematuria and in theory could have contributed to an aberrant immune response (epitope exposure, cross-reactive immunoglobulins, etc.). Although proving causation would be difficult (as two independent unrelated conditions could be present), the detection of IMT and concurrent neoplasia resulted in the diagnosis of secondary immune-mediated thrombocytopenia.

Note: Immune-mediated thrombocytope-

nia is often diagnosed via exclusion of other mechanisms of severe thrombocytopenia. The use of a "platelet surface associated IgG" flow cytometry assay has been reported in patients with IMT and experimental Babesia gibsoni infection (Wilkerson, 2001). This assay can corroborate the presence of an immune-mediated thrombocytopenia but does not differentiate primary from secondary IMT (http://www.ksvdl. org/laboratories/clinical-immunology/).

### **Therapy**

Due to ongoing hemorrhage into the urinary tract and a declining hematocrit on repeat evaluations of the CBC, an aggressive approach to therapy was undertaken.

To manage mild dehydration secondary to ongoing reduced fluid intake, IV fluid therapy was administered. Dehydration was corrected over 24 hours. Doxycycline was initially administered at a dose of 10 mg/kg every 12 hours until vector-borne disease testing had returned negative. In light of all of the clinical findings, ongoing therapy was directed at management of immune-mediated thrombocytopenia and associated hemorrhage.

For acute management of hemorrhage secondary to thrombocytopenia, lyophilized platelets were administered. Lyophilized platelets have been demonstrated to be safe in dogs and can be utilized in patients with hemorrhage secondary to severe thrombocytopenia (Goggs, 2020).

Note: Transfusion of platelet products is not necessary in all thrombocytopenic patients, and the benefits and triggers for such intervention require further investigation. Considerations for such therapy may include severity of thrombocytopenia-associated hemorrhage and anticipated interventions that may result in further hemorrhage.

Fresh whole blood was considered but proved to be unnecessary in light of stabilizing hematocrit over the course of therapy.

Vincristine also was administered at a dose of 0.5 mg/m2 IV once. Vincristine has been reported to increase platelet counts in patients with immune-mediated thrombocytopenia. The mechanism of action is theorized to be related to binding of

tubulin (resulting in platelet release) and inhibition of macrophage activity.

Glucocorticoids, specifically dexamethasone sodium phosphate, was administered at an immunosuppressive dose of 0.3 mg/kg daily. Glucocorticoids, including dexamethasone and prednisone, have broad immunosuppressive effects related to inhibition of macrophage activity and inhibition of anti-platelet antibody production.

In the absence of an improving platelet count 72 hours into therapy, mycophenolate mofetil was started at a dose of 10 mg per kilogram every 12 hours. Mycophenolate is an inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase inhibitor, which in turn results in suppression of lymphocyte replication. Mycophenolate has been reported as a stand-alone immunosuppressive therapy or in combination with glucocorticoids in dogs with immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (Yau 2014, Cummings 2017).

Note: Numerous immunosuppressive therapies and combination regimens have been described in the treatment of immunemediated thrombocytopenia, including various glucocorticoids, azathioprine, cyclosporine, mycophenolate, IVIG and others. Thrombopoietin receptor agonists also have been described in the treatment of IMT (Kohn, 2016). Other anecdotal platelet-impacting therapies including oral melatonin require further investigation (Nakamura, 2012; Chen, 2019). Consensus on the superiority of one particular immunosuppressive approach has not been established.

#### Outcome

Six days into intensive therapy, all signs of hemorrhage ceased, and platelet count rose to 100,000/uL. The patient was transitioned to oral prednisone (1mg/kg PO q12h) and oral mycophenolate (10 mg/kg PO q12h) and was discharged from the hospital with the intent of subsequent follow-up with a veterinary oncologist for management of the urothelial carcinoma.

A recheck CBC with the primary care veterinary team one week later revealed a normal hematocrit (39%) and platelet count (270,000/uL), and coordination with the internist was pur-

sued to guide glucocorticoid tapering over subsequent months.

# Conclusion

This case demonstrates the investigation and management of hemorrhage secondary to severe thrombocytopenia. The collaboration of veterinary professionals in both the primary care and specialty veterinary settings led to diagnosis and stabilization of the patient's condition and a return to acceptable quality of life. This shared delivery of care within our veterinary community results in improved outcomes for the patients and pet-owning families we serve. For a comprehensive list of specialty practitionerTVMA members, please visit the "Texas Diplomates" page in the online member directory at tvma.org. IV

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By Heather K. Moberly and L.M. Rey Coordinator of Veterinary Services, Medical Sciences Library, Texas A&M University

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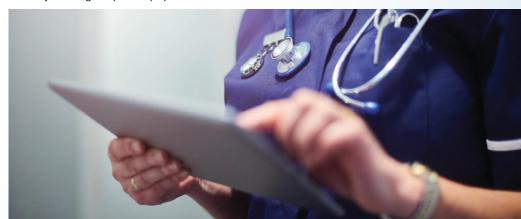
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# LET'S TALK

By Jennifer Hennessey Bremseth, DDVM, CVJ (CAPM, CCRP, CCMT), is an emergency and critical care veterinarian in Houston. She graduated from the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005 and worked in veterinary emergency medicine for seven years prior to earning her DVM. She served on the TVMA Board of Directors, is a Certified Veterinary Journalist with ASVJ and is a regular contributor to local pet publications and Fox 26 News in Houston.



# **Administering Love's Languages**

veterinary-client match made in heaven is a happy ending every practice would love. Winning the hearts of your clients may be a complex task, but it's one of the most necessary challenges we face. We unfortunately don't have the luxury of "swiping left" on our client choices, but we want them to "swipe right" for us, so growth in client relationship-building is a skill worth embracing. Regardless of if the clients are established or new to the practice, concepts from Gary Chapman's book The Five Love Languages can help us understand how to relate to and win over clients to create strong patientcentered relationships.

Personally speaking, the level of competence behind my stethoscope falls behind the obligation for having tools to win my clients' trust and confidence. Without a personal understanding of the human side of the equation, it's challenging to connect to our clients in order to be trusted to care for their pets. Blending the five love languages into our bedside manner keeps clients' emotional experiences within the veterinary interaction front and center, addressing their needs along with those of their pets. Words of affirmation are the first love language Chapman features. Use these words in the exam room by genuinely complimenting an owner's attention to detail and praising them for seeking care from your practice, all in their pet's best interest.

Quality time, coming in at number two of the love languages, looms large in the perception of value as far as our clients are concerned. Time spent discussing clear details or in thorough examination can really win over clients. Take that extra minute to deliberately review areas of concern voiced by the owner. When clients need our compassion, such as during euthanasia, just pausing in silence before leaving the room for an extra minute post-injection with your hand on their precious pet in its final rest sends a clear message that they and their companion are genuinely worth your valuable time.

Love language number three focuses on receiving gifts, which we all can incorporate within our practices in ways both literally and figuratively. Examples are clients who may be especially receptive to anything expressing sentiment, such as offering them a bottle of water while waiting. The important thing is to recognize their concern and emotions; in other words, be empathetic. Utilize local small business relationships and obtain discount cards for client to use at local restaurants or shops. Providing small tokens on a client's behalf gives you the ability to share some love, which is a gift to all parties, especially if the client can use it while waiting for diagnostics or in their patient's final discharge consultation. Small gestures handed off as an extension of your gratitude could be the moments that help a client tie the knot in commitment to your hospital.

The art of delivering care to a patient makes the fourth love language—acts of service—an obvious focus when it comes to a client relationship. Beyond providing medical treatments, further acts of service can include implementing and sharing details of a new therapy or skill certification. Advancements convey to your

client that your practice holds a high standard of medicine and stays on the forefront of opportunities to provide outstanding care for their pet. Provide brochures and social media post shoutouts on staff's academic and training achievements to confirm to your clients that you're putting your best efforts forth at all times.

Finally, physical touch can be a challenging love language to convey in this time of social distancing. We can buffer this language by showcasing our efforts at demonstrating compassionate and gentle care to their pets, who are the lucky exceptions to our distancing requirements. Pictures of patients being tenderly supported by staff postoperatively or through the hospital visit can relay similar messages of this language while also representing added quality time, acts of services and even serving as a gift. Showing a tender touch to patients in ways that an owner can witness will supply a comforting touch in your attention to detail and on your client's experience.

In our commitment to bond with our complex clients, directing our actions for their benefit will result in a rewarding relationship. Efforts to find unity will not only warm up your client's heart but also will launch the Cupid's arrow that delivers clearer communications, improves compliance and encourages cooperation. Be your own matchmaker by sharing the concepts that comprise the five languages of love with your team. The results should be a happier clinic culture as everyone pulls together to heal patients while also rewarding clients with some puppy love! IV

# TIME TO DETAIL IT

By Dale Lonsford, DVM

Dale Lonsford, DVM, is one of the founding members of Texas Group One (TG1), a group of privately owned veterinary practice owners who promote the entrepreneurial spirit. The mission of TG1 is to promote the ben-



efits of private practice ownership and improve the quality of our lives by leading the veterinary industry in developing and implementing advanced management techniques. For more information, contact Dr. Lonsford at 281-479-0405 or dalelonsford@gmail. com, or visit www.texasgroupone.com.

y previous article published in the December 2020 Texas Veterinarian entitled "Time to Fudge It" was the first of three articles about managing for profit by using a budget. "Time to Fudge It" gave permission to make a quick budget for 2021 by guessing at and increasing the figures by a few percentage points on five large categories in the 2020 income statement (profit-andloss statement): annual gross income, cost of goods, gross profit, expenses and net profit. Please refer to the article if you have not done the quick Fudge It Budget for 2021 for your practice. Hopefully, you have created the Fudge It Budget for 2021, and now it is "Time to Detail It."

You are fortunate if you have managers in your practice who can provide the detail for two of the five categories mentioned above. The key to filling in the detail to the Fudge It Budget is your team members and especially those in leadership roles. Utilize the person or persons who place the orders for the pharmaceuticals, medications and medical supplies to provide the detail numbers for the cost of goods category. Team up with the persons who manage the personnel scheduling, hiring and payroll to determine the anticipated cost of personnel for the expense

category. Consult the receptionists and technicians who listen to clients and understand the client needs and expectations for professional services and products. Seek out the vendors who want and need your practice to succeed. They can provide purchasing history from the previous year and share anticipated price increase information you can use to budget for this year. You have several assets you as the leader can utilize to help fill in the detail for this annual budget.

#### Cost of Goods

Utilize the expertise of the team member who counts the inventory and who knows the products ordered every week and which ones are sitting on the shelves outdated. Decreasing the excesses in inventory is the first step that can reduce your 2021 cost of goods. Selling the excess inventory will help reduce the cost of goods as well as increase the income for the clinic.

Utilize the pharmaceutical representatives and vendors. They have a personal stake in the success of the practice. Often they can share what will be the general price increases for the coming year and guide the practice on pricing deals that save money without becoming overstocked. They can offer inventory management practices such as identifying ways to prevent outdated drugs and ensuring you have drugs on hand that have a rapid turnover. Sales representatives have the practice's purchase history and can provide valuable information for planning the practice's annual purchases. Of course, they typically have quotas from their companies. If they oversell their products and their products are sitting on your shelves too long, send those products back. The sales representatives will realize your practice's quota is based on the growth and success of the practice rather than their company's quota.

Develop a rule of thumb for what qualifies as a reasonable large purchase. Base such a purchase on whether there is a discount or bonus sufficient to merit having the product on the shelf for a given and extended period.

If the practice has multiple doctors, consider requiring the doctors to agree on the product lines. They also should agree to adding a product line only if it is a needed product or it can replace an existing product. This will prevent an inventory glutted with a multitude of products for the same use.

Typically, the Fudge It Budget gives the cost of goods a four- to five-percent increase over the previous year based on industry price increases. The collaborative efforts of leadership and managers should be able to provide detail to each class of goods to be purchased. For example, vaccines, heartworm and flea products and medical supplies are classes of products.

# **Expenses**

Cost of goods is certainly an expense, but typically in veterinary medical financial statements cost of goods tend to vary proportionally to the amount of products the practice uses and sells. In this discussion, expenses are more associated with operating expenses and includes employee salaries and benefits, facility expenses including leases, utilities and a third category called administrative expenses. As in most businesses, the largest expense is usually employee salaries and benefits. Veterinary practices are in this category. Practices spend upwards of 50 percent of the gross income on employee salaries, including those of veterinarians.

The team members who do the bookkeeping, payroll and administration of the practice have the greatest influence on the largest expense category in the practice. They have accurate historical figures with which to fill in the detail for the budget. If one is having trouble balancing the budget, cost of employees is ultimately where cutting expenses occur.

When establishing the budget numbers for expenses, the owner and the



team will need to consider projected raises (cost of living and merit), benefits to offer, recruiting, marketing, training and production incentives as well as the number of staff needed to support the veterinarians. Technician and veterinarian positions are not easily filled. Marketing the practice is not just for attracting clients; it is for recruiting professional staff as well. Marketing is one place we may be tempted to cut costs; however, remember that we can balance the budget by increasing income.

# **Detailed It!**

Once the budget detail is in place, spread the budget out over the four quarters of the year. Most veterinary practices have seasonal cycles. Distribute the budget according to these cycles by computing which of the four quarters historically are the busiest and which are less busy. If having trouble balancing the budget, remember to reduce your excess inventory and increase the income. Increase the income by offering more professional services and new products, by making concentrated efforts to collect accounts

receivable, by making small price increases on professional services that are frequently done and by using continuing education (CE) opportunities to gain expertise in diagnostic and surgical skills that can be offered to clients.

We have Fudged It. We have Detailed It. The next article will be "Time to Live It!"

All views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of, and should not be attributed to, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.





f you had told me six

years ago-before I first









By Haley Amelia-Anne Turner, 2VM

# CORONAVIRUS ISN'T JUST FOR COWS: MY ADVENTURES WITH VERO IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE

began my journey toward veterinary school as a freshman undergrad at Texas A&M University—that I would one day hope to call the Texas Panhandle home, I would have said you were out of your mind. Yet here I am, eagerly awaiting a second internship with Dimmitt Veterinary Clinic this coming May. This relationship as well as my newfound love for the Panhandle wouldn't have been possible without the Texas A&M Veterinary, Education, Research and Outreach (VERO) program and Dr. Dan Posey. I first heard about the program when Dr. Posey came to talk about it at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine (TAMU-CVM), and due to my lack of experience with food animals, I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to pursue. Little did I know that this internship would take place during an unprecedented pandemic.

When the COVID-19 pandemic first burst onto the scene in February with a rampant fervor, I was almost certain that the VERO program would be canceled and any learning opportunities would abruptly come to a halt. However, thanks to both Dr. Posey and the clinicians working with the VERO program, a large majority of the original VERO interns were able to pursue a multitude of learning opportunities in a safe manner in accordance with COVID-19 health and safety parameters. I personally

was able to move up to Canyon at the start of June, and during my initial few weeks, I was able to work at a calf ranch and assist in creating/ conducting a research project directed at predicting pneumonia outbreaks in hutch calves utilizing ultrasound scanning and the McGuirk's Scoring System. During this period, I also was set to visit numerous dairies, ride along for dairy audits and assist in several

procedures regularly carried out at the calf ranch. Before this opportunity, the closest I had ever been to a cow in a veterinary setting was looking at one in the chute system at the Texas A&M Large Animal Hospital. Unfortunately, I had to move on from the calf ranch after several weeks due to complications from COVID-19, which then placed me at Dimmitt Veterinary Clinic.

My time at Dimmitt may have been short, but the sheer amount of information and number of newfound skills I learned in a week and a half were truly mindboggling. I was given the opportunity to help in pretty much every aspect of the clinic and quickly found a passion for mixed animal practice I never knew I had before. This experience alone made me consider the possibility of making a move up to the Panhandle after graduation to pursue my veterinary career in a mixed rural practice setting. Unfortunately, this experience came to an abrupt halt as well when I personally contracted



COVID-19 from the people I lived with. One of the greatest lessons this pandemic has taught us is how little it can take, even with many precautions in place, to contract this virus and the serious consequences that can result from contracting said virus. Luckily, even though I was sick for a month, I am now fully recovered with no residual side effects of note.

I can truly say last summer, even last year, was one for the record books. I never expected to experience a pandemic in my lifetime, let alone contract the virus itself while pursuing my veterinary education. However I can truly and with confidence say I do not regret one single moment of my experience with VERO and the Texas Panhandle. I can't thank Dr. Dan Posey, the VERO faculty and the participating clinicians enough for the experience of a lifetime. My participation may have been cut short by COVID-19, but I am already looking forward to my continued Panhandle adventures in the summer of 2021!

# U.S. Army Animal Care Specialists Can Now Become CVAs





By Larisa Respondek
TVMA Director of Credentialing

ver the years, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) Certified Veterinary Assistant (CVA) program has evolved to become more available to more people. From veterinary hospital personnel to high school students from Texas and across the nation, this program means different things to the people who choose to participate. Some see it as a stepping stone to greater things while others are looking for the education and title that come along with completion. Now, as part of this evolution, the TVMA CVA program has been given the opportunity to make an impact in the lives of military personnel in Texas. U.S. Army Animal Care Specialists (68T) are now eligible to earn a CVA at the completion of initial entry training. After reviewing the training the U.S. Army Animal Care Specialist goes through, that training was found to align very well with the skills required to earn a CVA, making the connection a solid base for soldiers to obtain a useful certification to utilize when they

Soldiers typically enlist in the Army from high school and then go to Basic

adjust to civilian life.

Combat Training (BCT). After graduating BCT, they move on to the next phase of training called Advanced Individual Training (AIT). All soldiers attend AIT to earn their Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) qualification, and each MOS has its own AIT program. For the 68T MOS, the program falls under the 188th Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas

During the Animal Care Specialist Course, the students go through a rigorous 11-week training program during which they learn to assist in providing veterinary support for care, management and treatment of government-owned animals assigned to military units and privately owned animals owned by service members. After completing the course, 68T soldiers are then assigned to veterinary treatment facilities, field veterinary units and biomedical research facilities.

Training subjects include veterinary administrative procedures, basic sciences, anatomy, physiology,

phlebotomy, routes of vaccine and medicinal administration, post-mortem examinations, euthanasia procedures, facility sanitation, occupational health programs, pharmacology, pathology, toxicology, mathematics, diagnostic laboratory procedures, radiology, laboratory animal care and handling, anesthesiology, dentistry, surgical procedures and support, emergency medical care, zoonotic diseases, rabies surveillance programs and large animal management and handling. Soldiers also participate in 72 to 120 hours of scenario-driven, tactical situational training exercise to demonstrate learned MOS skills and critical task reinforcement and evaluation.

"We wanted to offer an incentive for our military graduates to continue their education," Lt. Col. Jocelin Blake, DVM, Chief Animal Health Branch, said. "The CVA represents a scholarly achievement for these entry-level soldiers and is a milestone toward not only a degree but also as a Licensed Veterinary Technician. Hopefully, the sense of accomplishment they feel when they earn their certificate will motivate them to continue to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine."

VISIT
WWW.TVMA.ORG



CONTACT LARISA AT LRESPONDEK@TVMA.ORG OR AT 512-610-6652





W O R D S F R O M T H E F O U N D A T I O N

# MEMORIAL GIFT PROGRAM STRENGTHENS CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS



he Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation (TVMF) Memorial Gift Program (MGP) is a powerful tool that veterinary clinics can use to connect with clients and honor their grief when they lose a pet. Many veterinarians have told TVMF that the Memorial Gift Program has had a tremendously positive impact on their practices; their clients are so appreciative of this gesture and thankful to know that the veterinarian/clinic staff also cared about their pet.

Remembering a client through the grieving process is vital to your continued relationship with that client. TVMF has developed the Memorial Gift Program to help you acknowledge clients' grief. Nothing you do will have a more positive impact on your practice. TVMF's Memorial Gift Program is a way for you to reach out to your bereaved clients by saying, "I care about your loss, and I've made a contribution in your pet's honor so animals in the future might live longer and happier lives."

of the Foundation, including the Emergency Student Grant Fund, owner education programs such as the TexVetPets.org website, the LEAP program and the Rusk Veterinary Assistance Grant program. Through these programs, TVMF is supporting the veterinary profession and your ability to care for your clients' pets.

what words and cards cannot do," Dr. Nancy Turner said. "It turns loss and grief into hope and allows clients to heal while strengthening the veterinary profession for future generations."

"The program has been a tremendous plus for our practice," Dr. Rolf Lippke said. "It has worked better than other things we have

"I was so honored to receive a gift in memory of our beloved horse, Sabrina. The loss of any pet is hard, and this felt especially difficult. Sabrina was my mother's dream horse from her childhood, a gray Arabian mare. My sisters and I cared for her after my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and later lost her battle with the disease. Three generations of my family adored Sabrina, and we were devastated to lose her. When we received a card with this surprise gift supporting the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation, it was such a wonderful heartfelt gesture. It was a lovely way for my veterinarian to provide comfort." —Katherine Farshler

TVMF has consistently received positive feedback about this program from veterinarians and clients alike.

"The Memorial Gift Program does

tried to console grieving clients. The Memorial Gift seems to bind the client to our practice. We care very much about our clients, and this program definitely shows it."



In addition to feedback from veterinarians, clients also have contacted TVMF to express their gratitude for a Memorial Gift.

Jennifer B., a client of Champion Wood Animal Hospital in Spring, Texas, said, "I was so touched to receive the [Memorial Gift Program] card and to have the opportunity to post a picture and bio to the Memorial Wall! It's like being able to have an obituary for a pet, and I never expected to find anything like that. It was such a thoughtful gesture from the veterinarian. What an easy way to help ease someone's pain from losing a pet while doing good with a charitable contribution at the same time."

In addition to providing a convenient way for your clinic to honor your client's grief at the loss of a pet, the MGP also serves to strengthen the bond you have with the client. Many participants have reported that these gifts solidify their clinic's relationship with their clients, and the clients who receive Memorial Gifts are likely to be customers for life. Participation in the MGP also increases word-of-mouth promotion of your practice and gives your practice a reputation for giving back to the community. It's also simple and completely tax-deductible.

TVMF is excited to announce that you

can now easily make your Memorial Gifts online from your clinic without having to fax or mail in any forms!

# **HERE'S HOW:**

- Visit and log into yourTVMA account using your email and password: https:// www.tvma.org/TVMA-Login.
- a. Don't have an account with TVMA? Contact TVMF Director Leah Ann Tibbitts at 512-610-6651 (direct line) or Itibbitts@tvma.org to have an account set up!
- Once logged in, click on "Profile" in between "Register" and "Logout."
- Once in the member portal, click on the profile circle in the upper right corner to switch to the organization – Clinic Name.
- a. Don't see the clinic name? Contact TVMF Director Leah AnnTibbitts at 512-610-6651 (direct line) or Itibbitts@tvma. org to get connected to the clinic!
- 5. Click on "Donations Memorial Gift Program."
- Enter each gift, including client name and pet name. Donation amount defaults to \$10 (TVMF kindly requests a minimum donation of \$10).
- Enter address (only need to enter "Street 1" and "ZIP code").

- Click on "Validate," and the address validator should find it. If it doesn't find it, you'll need to investigate. (Perhaps a typo?) You can double-check your address using melissa.com/google maps/whitepages.
- Click on "Save" to lock the address into the gift.
- 10. For each gift, if clinic has available credit (listed at the top), switch the slider to green.
- 11. Click on "+Add Client" to add the next memorial. Do this for all the memorials for this clinic.
- 12.Do not close your browser window or the donation entries will not be saved!
- 13. Once all are entered, click on "Continue."
- 14. Need to print donations for your records? Print the web browser at this time.
- 15.Payment options if you did not have advanced credits to cover the donations include:
  - a. Pay with a credit card.
  - b. Click the slider to "Send me an Invoice."

16.Click "Process Donation."

17. Log out. IV





# By Bruce L. Akey, DVM, MS

**TVMDL** Director





Prior to closing out 2020, we added several offerings to our test catalog. In clinical pathology, we added a panel to assist in the detection of equine pregnancy. The Equine Pregnancy Panel includes measurement of progesterone and estrone sulfate. When performed together, these tests are more likely to confirm pregnancy than either test alone, especially when breeding information is not available.

In our analytical chemistry section, we added a drug screen to detect cannabinoids. Both offerings can be performed on most species. With the growing proliferation and wide availability of cannabinoid-containing products for animals, our assay can detect and identify the presence or absence of these compounds. The section also developed a second new assay to detect glyphosphate, a widely used herbicide.

Our serology section improved upon two canine offerings late last year. They created a panel that includes our current Dirofilaria immitis Antigen (ELISA) test along with a heat-treated sample test. This panel aims to offer practitioners a more comprehensive evaluation when testing for heartworms in dogs. They also updated our Brucella canis panel by adding a rapid slide agglutination test to replace the previous tube agglutination test the

panel previously offered.

Last year, we also added a necropsy offering for companion animal neonates and a PCR to detect Clostridium colinum in avian species. More information about all these new offerings can be found on the TVMDL website.

# CANYON LABORATORY GRAND OPENING

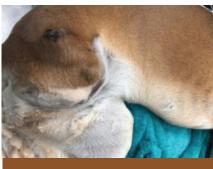
Last November, we had planned on celebrating the grand opening of our new facility in Canyon. However, that event has now been rescheduled to this spring. We hope to have more details soon on how everyone can celebrate this milestone with us.

# CALCINOSIS CIRCUMSCRIPTA IN A SURGICAL AMPUTATION SITE By Randi Gold, VMD, PhD, DACVP

A one-year-old, female-spayed, mixedbreed dog required a mid-shaft, hindleg amputation after a femoral fracture

leg amputation after a femoral fracture. Following the amputation, the owner and veterinarian noted marked callus formation with draining tracts on the lateral aspect of the right leg (Figure 1). Radiographs performed almost a month after the amputation demonstrated a marked amount of bony proliferation lateral to the proximal aspect of the right femur (Figure 2). The remaining proximal femur with the mass was dissected out and sent in for histopathology.

Histologic examination of the tissue submitted revealed multiple granulomas composed of lakes of basophilic granular material (mineral) surrounded



igure 1: Right femoral amputation site. Multiple nodules are visible on the lateral aspect of the thigh.



Figure 2: VD radiograph with increased radiodense material on the lateral aspect of the proximal right femur

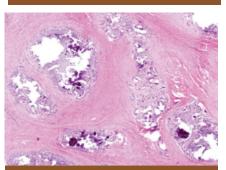


Figure 3: H&E sectin demonstrating multiple granulomas composed of lakes of basophilic granular material (mineral) surrounded and separated by moderate, compressed, lamellar rows of fibroblasts (fibrosis).

and separated by moderate, compressed, lamellar rows of fibroblasts (fibrosis) and low numbers of polygonal epithelioid macrophages and multinucleated giant cells (granuloma, Figure 3). There were low numbers of lymphocytes and plasma cells. The cortical surface of the femur was moderately irregular with a markedly fibrotic and hyperplastic periosteum. The epidermis contained mild overlying orthokera-

totic hyperkeratosis. Multifocally hair follicles were ectatic and plugged with fragmented keratin.

The histologic features of this lesion were consistent with calcinosis circumscripta. Calcinosis circumscripta, also called tumoral calcinosis, is an idiopathic, clinically distinctive subgroup of calcinosis cutis characterized by tissue deposition of mineral calcium salts. This syndrome is uncommon in dogs and is very rare in cats. Lesions typically present as firm, well-circumscribed, tumorlike nodules in the subcutis. The nodules may be gritty, chalky or pasty on cut surface. Lesions typically occur at sites of previous trauma (bite wounds, surgical sites), pressure points or bony prominences and in some instances are thought to arise following localized trauma (dystrophic mineralization). The tongue is also an occasionally affected site. Young dogs are most commonly affected, and both large breed and brachycephalic breeds are predisposed.

Gross, T. L., Ihrke, P. J., Walder, E. J., & Affolter, V. K. (Eds.). (2005). Skin diseases of the dog and cat: Clinical and histopathologic diagnosis (2nd ed., pp. 378-380). Oxford, UK: Blackwell Science Ltd.

# CRYPTOSPORIDIUM IN A BULL CALF

By Guy Sheppard, DVM, and Gabriel Gomez, DVM, PhD, DACVP

A 7-day-old angus bull calf with a history of diarrhea was necropsied by the submitting veterinarian, and the small intestine, liver, kidney, lung and the lymph node were submitted formalin-fixed and fresh to TVMDL for further testing. The tests requested by the submitting veterinarian included histopathology, bacterial culture and sensitivity and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for viruses.

There were no gross findings reported on the submittal form by the veterinarian. On microscopic examination, the major finding was a lesion in the small intestine. This lesion consist-

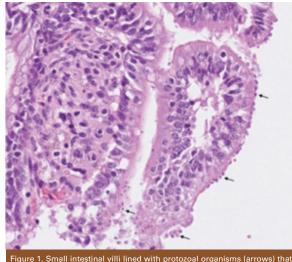


Figure 1. Small intestinal villi lined with protozoal organisms (arrows) that are morphologically consistent with *Cryptosporidium sp.* 

ed of inflammation that was composed of mixed-inflammatory population including macrophages, lymphocytes, plasma cells and neutrophils that were primarily within the lamina propria but also extended to the submucosa. The intestinal glands often contained necrotic debris, and the intestinal villi were moderately blunted and fused. On the surface of the intestinal villi were numerous protozoal organisms (Figure 1) that were morphologically consistent with Cryptosporidium sp. Other significant findings included a neutrophilic abomasitis, tubulointerstitial nephritis, interstitial pneumonitis, randomly distributed histiocytic and neutrophilic hepatitis and draining neutrophils in the mesenteric lymph nodes.

The parasites in the small intestine were consistent with a diagnosis of cryptosporidiosis; however, the presence of large numbers of neutrophils in the small intestine and abomasum was highly suggestive of a bacterial infection. The distribution and composition of the inflammation observed in the liver, kidney and lung were changes consistent with a bacteremia secondary to the inflammatory lesions in the small intestine and/or abomasum. Bacterial culture of the small intestine consisted of primarily E. coli. Furthermore, the absence of coronavirus and rotavirus

and the presence of Cryptosporidium were confirmed with PCR of the small intestine.

Cryptosporidium sp. is a ubiquitous protozoan pathogen, and transmission is primarily fecaloral, but environmental contamination can spread the organism. Cryptosporidia are very resistant to temperature and chemical disinfection; therefore, individual housing of calves and strict sanitation are necessary to reduce the level of con-

tamination in the environment. Although it often causes a self-limited infection in immunocompetent animals, the very young or immunocompromised hosts suffer from intractable diarrhea. Cryptosporidia attach to surface epithelial cells of the stomach, small intestine or colon and can cause subacute or chronic, sometimes bloody, watery diarrhea. There is associated dehydration and electrolyte loss. In susceptible individuals, infections can be fatal, particularly in the presence of other pathogens. Treatment, when necessary, is primarily symptomatic with antibiotics being indicated in the event of a secondary bacterial infection. Cryptosporidiosis is a zoonotic pathogen, and appropriate hygiene precautions should be exercised when caring for infected individuals. IV

Barka, N., Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult: Ruminant; Scott R.R. Haskell, DVM, editor. 2008 pgs. 268-269.

For more information about testing at TVMDL, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu or call one of the agency's four laboratory locations.

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory was established by the Texas Legislature in 1969 and today continues its work to protect animal and human health through diagnostics. For more information, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.



# CLASSIFIEDS

# **VETERINARY POSITIONS**

#### Veterinary Technician-Outpatient- Heart of Texas Specialty and Emergency Center

Incredible Opportunity for a Full-Time Outpatient Veterinary Technician to join the team at Heart of Texas Specialty and Emergency Center! Put your extraordinary technical skills to work for a progressive specialty practice whose key objective is to provide top quality medicine using state of the art equipment. Employees with Heart of Texas enjoy working in a supportive and friendly environment. Our staff members are engaged and stimulated while they work with other highly educated and qualified team members. Heart of Texas offers many specialty services including Oncology, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Cardiology, Acupuncture, Chiropractic and Alternative Medicine, Radiology, Emergency, and Critical Care... and more are coming. Position Overview: Outpatient Veterinary Technicians perform a variety of animal-health and client-education duties and ensure quality pet and client care. The Outpatient Technician should be proficient in both inpatient and outpatient technician duties, have a working knowledge of emergency, surgical and laboratory techniques and remain calm during stressful situations. Ideal candidate: Strong veterinary skills, Superior customer service skills, Excellent communication skills Job Requirements: At least 3 years recent experience in veterinary practice, Ability to perform routine veterinary medical procedures, General Practice experience required, Excellent interpersonal communications skills, High school diploma or GED and Veterinary Technician license is preferred. We offer a wonderful benefits package including medical, vision, dental, 401(k), paid parental leave, PTO, continuing education, generous pet care discounts, and much more! Please visit our website https://www.heartoftexasvets.com/ to learn more about Heart of Texas! Send resumes to shelley.scott@pathwayvets.com, serious applicants only, please. If you like wild growth and working with happy, enthusiastic over-achievers, you'll enjoy your career

# Veterinary Technician (Surgery) - Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center (Round Rock)

It's fun to work in a company where people truly BELIEVE in what they are doing! We're committed to bringing passion and customer focus to the business. Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center is hiring an experienced Veterinary Technician to join our OUTSTANDING Surgery team! At Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center your extraordinary technical skills will be utilized to provide top quality medicine using state of the art equipment in a progressive specialty practice. Ideal candidate: Great technical skills. Superb communication skills and Two years veterinary technician experience. Job Overview: Our Surgical Inpatient Technicians perform treatments on surgery patients, prepare and recover patients from anesthesia. They assist veterinarians and other veterinary professionals with exams and procedures and help educate clients on the care and treatments their pets receive. We invest heavily in our employees with many opportunities for growth and development! We offer outstanding benefits including medical, dental, vision, paid parental leave, 401(k), PTO, continuing education, and generous pet discounts! We offer an industry-leading benefits package! Please visit our website https://www. heartoftexasvets.com/ to learn more about Heart of Texas!

Send resumes to shelley.scott@pathwayvets.com, serious applicants only, please. We look forward to hearing from you! Apply Today! (1/8/21)

# Veterinary Technician (Emergency) - Heart of Texas (Round Rock)

It's fun to work in a company where people truly BELIEVE in what they are doing! We're committed to bringing passion and customer focus to the business. Incredible Opportunity for an Emergency Veterinary Technician to join the team at Heart of Texas Specialty and Emergency Center! Emergency Veterinary Technicians perform a variety of animal-health and client-education duties and ensure quality pet and client care. The Emergency Technician should be proficient in both inpatient and outpatient technician duties. have a working knowledge of emergency, surgical and laboratory techniques and remain calm during stressful situations. Ideal candidate: Strong veterinary skills, Superior customer service skills. Excellent communication skills. Job Requirements: At least 3 years recent experience in veterinary practice. Ability to perform routine veterinary medical procedures, Excellent interpersonal communications skills, High school diploma or GED and Veterinary Technician license is preferred. We offer a wonderful benefits package including medical, vision, dental, 401(k), paid parental leave, PTO, continuing education, generous pet care discounts, and much more! Please visit our website https://www. heartoftexasvets.com/ to learn more about Heart of Texas! Send resumes to shelley.scott@pathwayvets.com, serious applicants only, please. Apply Today! (1/8/21)

# Associate Veterinarian - New Grads Welcomed! (Belton)

Do you like checking out local breweries or wine tasting with friends? Do you enjoy lake activities or hiking trails with family? Do you want a top-rated education for your kids or spouse? We have you covered on all accounts and you should check us out! Belton Small Animal Clinic is seeking a sixth full time associate. BSAC is a 7500 sq. ft. free standing facility with surgery, treatment, pharmacy, boarding and grooming, digital radiology, seven exam rooms and a doctors' office. We have state of the art dental equipment and perform in-house ultrasounds. The laboratory is equipped with Abaxis equipment for in-house labs including CBC. panels, clotting times, etc. After hours emergencies are referred to a local emergency clinic, Belton Small Animal Clinic is open six days per week, offering a flexible schedule with ample time off to enjoy life. Belton is located in Central Texas, approximately one hour north of Austin and two hours south of Dallas/Ft Worth. Belton has a population of approximately 20,000. The school district is consistently highly rated. This is a great community to put down roots and raise a family. Belton has a small town feel, with the amenities of the big city within minutes. We offer a flexible work schedule, ample time off, generous salary, health insurance, vacation, CE allowance, paid maternity/paternity leave, professional dues and licensing. New graduates welcome to apply. If you are ready to join an established team of veterinarians, work with an engaged and emotionally intelligent support staff, and receive great benefits, we are ready to meet you! For confidential consideration, contact Kasandra Hill, DVM 254-939-5823 (days) or 817-584-1561 (cell) or ksmith@innovetivepetcare.com. We look forward to hearing from you! (1/9/21)

# Veterinarian - Green's Creek Veterinary Hospital (Stephenville)

Green's Creek Veterinary Hospital located in Stephenville, Texas is searching for a full time associate veterinarian to join our team! We are a busy, progressive, primarily small animal hospital in a friendly, small town environment. Below is a brief description of our compensation package: Full time benefits with 30 hours plus work week, Pro-Sal compensation with highly competitive base salary and no negative accrual, \$30,000.00 sign on bonus, Paid Vacation, Paid parental leave, Discretionary fund for CE, Licensure and Liability Coverage, Medical, dental, vision coverage, Generous employee veterinary service discounts, Most weekends covered by part time/relief veterinarian. Stephenville Texas is the home of the Texans at Tarleton State University and offers many amenities of a larger city, including great shopping and dining, but offers the peace and quiet of a smaller town. Additionally, Stephenville is about an hour's drive to all the attractions in Weatherford and the Dallas/Fort Worth area! Our hospital prides itself on practicing the highest quality, small animal medicine and surgery with our emphasis on internal medicine. We are frequently called to confer with other veterinarians for second opinions. Our in-house diagnostic abilities include Sound digital radiography, full Abaxis chemistry and hematology analyzers, Heska blood gas, Element coag machines and sonogram equipment. Great opportunity for new graduates looking for mentorship and experienced veterinarians who enjoy a variety of skill use and the challenge of medicine!! We also host externs throughout the year! Family comes first at our hospital. We strive to treat all our clients and employees like family as well as provide a good work/life balance in our practice. Apply today! We look forward to hearing from you! (1/9/21) 

# Associate Veterinarian (San Marcos)

Looking for work/life balance? Find your happiness here in the peaceful Texas hill country - convenient to both Austin and San Antonio! Part-time associate needed for our semi-rural small animal general practice. Well, sick, and emergency care with a 30-minute appointment minimum. Variety of soft tissue, dental, and orthopedic surgeries. Hours are Mon-Fri 8-5:30 and Saturday mornings. In-house and reference lab, digital X-ray, ultrasound, therapeutic laser. Dedicated and supportive staff. Minimal drama. Four Paws is the antithesis of corporate veterinary care. We get to know our patients and clients, then personalize their care and treatment to give these pets their best possible lives and optimize the human-animal bond. We are committed to open and transparent communication to enhance client knowledge, understanding, and satisfaction with services. Experience with wellness and vaccine protocols, cytology. diagnostic, and anesthesia procedures including dental, soft tissue and basic orthopedic surgeries needed. Superior client communication and people skills expected. Work in concert with owner who has 20+ years veterinary experience. Collegial atmosphere with plenty of give and take. Sense of humor non-negotiable! It is projected that our part-time associate vet will work between 25 and 30 hours over three or four days each week. Annual beginning salary is anticipated to fall between \$50 - 65K, negotiable depending on experience and skill. There exists the opportunity for future full-time work depending on a variety of factors including desire and performance. For a more complete picture of the Four Paws difference, visit our website at fourpawsvethospital.com. (1/10/21)

#### Associate Veterinarian (part time) (San Antonio)

We are in search of a part time veterinarian. We are a progressive, growing, modern small animal practice in beautiful Garden Ridge, Texas, along the growing I-35 corridor northeast of San Antonio. Our facility is large, well equipped and ready for you to jump in. We focus on client education and high quality patient care, with specific dedication to client communication. Our clinic includes: in house surgery suite, separate dental area, 4 exam rooms, large central treatment area, digital radiology, in house lab, and outside labs pickup daily. We focus on pet-friendly handling (including dogs and cats), are cat friendly with a separate cat ward and cat exam room. Our computer operating system is Cornerstone--easy to use and integrated well. Current staff has all been with us long term, showing our commitment to our employees and stability. We have an 8-5 appointment schedule 5 days a week and Saturdays 9-1. All overnight emergencies are referred to local emergency clinics. Job specifics are negotiable. Do you want to work 2 days a week, maybe more? Pay and benefits are negotiable. depending on your schedule, wants and needs. We are in a special situation and can be flexible with your schedule (days, hours, etc) and are dedicated to our employees for education, benefits, and more. If you want to come join us in a gorgeous setting and practice medicine your way with the goals of client education and pet wellness, contact me directly for more information and to set up a conference, interview. or visit. Kevin Templeman DVM, Kevin@gardenridgeanimalhospital.com, www.gardenrdigeanimalhospital.com. (1/10/21)

#### Veterinary Technician (Internal Medicine) - Heart of Texas Specialty & Emergency Center (Round Rock)

Heart of Texas Specialty & Emergency Center is now hiring a Full-Time Internal Medicine Veterinary Technician to join their INCREDIBLE team! Put your extraordinary technical skills to work for a progressive specialty practice whose key objective is to provide top quality medicine using state of the art equipment. Employees with Heart of Texas enjoy working in a supportive and friendly environment. Our staff members are engaged and stimulated while they work with other highly educated and qualified team members. Heart of Texas offers many specialty services including Oncology, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Cardiology, Acupuncture, Chiropractic and Alternative Medicine, Radiology, Emergency, and Critical Care... and more are coming. The ideal candidate: One or more years of veterinary experience. Has strong communication skills, Works well on a team, Has a flexible schedule. Job Overview: The Internal Medicine Veterinary Technician performs a variety of animal health and client duties in order to provide quality care. The Internal Medicine Veterinary Technician should have a working knowledge of laboratory techniques, technical and nursing support, collect samples and remain calm during stressful situations. A keen ability to empathize, prioritize, multitask, and manage time is a must. Internal Medicine Technicians must also possess excellent communication skills both with coworkers and clients. Job Requirements: At least 1 year of recent experience in veterinary practice, Ability to perform routine veterinary medical procedures (e.g. place IV catheters, phlebotomy, collect samples, knowledge and use of routine veterinary equipment and administer injections) as well as properly restrain patients, Excellent interpersonal communications skills, Licensed technicians preferred. We offer an amazing benefits package that includes health, dental, vision, life, 401k, PTO, paid parental leave, amazing pets benefit, and much more! Please visit our website https://www.heartoftexasvets.com/ to learn more about Heart of Texas! Please send resumes to shelley.scott@ pathwayvets.com serious applicants only, please. (1/10/21)

#### Veterinary Oncology Technician (Full-Time) - Pet Specialists of Austin (Austin)

It's fun to work in a company where people truly BELIEVE in what they are doing! We're committed to bringing passion and customer focus to the business. Pet Specialist of Austin is now hiring experienced Veterinary Technicians to join their AMAZING Oncology team! \$1,500 SIGN ON BONUS & Relocation Bonus available. Opening January 2021! Our hospital team will include board-certified doctors, tenured veterinarians, nursing staff, and compassionate front office team members to ensure your clients and patients are getting the best in veterinary medicine care. At Pet Specialist of Austin your extraordinary technical skills will be utilized to provide top quality medicine using state of the art equipment in a progressive specialty practice. The ideal candidate: One year of experience as a veterinary technician. Strong communication skills, Works well on a team, LVT preferred but not required. Job Responsibilities: Assist doctor and fellow team mates with daily tasks, Perform technical and administrative duties. Maintain professionalism and compassion at all times. Requirements: 1+ years working as a veterinary technician. Ability to pay strict attention to detail, Experience with animal restraint, Ability to lift up to 40 pounds, Availability to work a four-day work week. We invest heavily in our employees with many opportunities for growth and development! We offer outstanding benefits including medical, dental, vision, paid parental leave, 401k, PTO, continuing education, and generous pet discounts! Take a look at our clinic at: https://www.petspecialists. com/. Please send resumes with the clinic and position of which you are applying to shelley.scott@pathwayvets.com serious applicants only, please. (1/10/21)

# Veterinary Emergency Treatment Technician- Pet Specialists of Austin (Austin)

Incredible Opportunity for an Emergency Veterinary Technician to join the team at Pet Specialist of Austin! \$1,500 SIGN ON BONUS & Relocation Bonus available. Opening January 2021! Our hospital team will include board-certified doctors. tenured veterinarians, nursing staff, and compassionate front office team members to ensure your clients and patients are getting the best in veterinary medicine care. At Pet Specialist of Austin your extraordinary technical skills will be utilized to provide top quality medicine using state of the art equipment in a progressive specialty practice. Emergency Veterinary Technicians perform a variety of animal-health and client-education duties and ensure quality pet and client care. The Emergency Technician should be proficient in both inpatient and outpatient technician duties, have a working knowledge of emergency, surgical and laboratory techniques and remain calm during stressful situations. Ideal candidate: Strong veterinary skills, Superior customer service skills, Excellent communication skills. Job Requirements: At least 3 years recent experience in veterinary practice, Ability to perform routine veterinary medical procedures, Excellent interpersonal communications skills, High school diploma or GED, Veterinary Technician license is preferred. We invest heavily in our employees with many opportunities for growth and development! We offer outstanding benefits including medical, dental, vision, paid parental leave, 401k, PTO, continuing education, and generous pet discounts! Take a look at our clinic at: https://www. petspecialists.com/. Please send resumes with the clinic and position of which you are applying to shelley.scott@ pathwayvets.com serious applicants only, please. (1/10/21) 

# Veterinarian (Valley View)

Quality of life of our veterinarians is of utmost importance to achieve excellent patient care. The current available position is a mixture of covering our growth and filling in from one veterinarian dropping to part time. The practice allows you to pick what species and type of practice you prefer. www.northtexasvet.com, Lone Oak Veterinary Clinic PC on Facebook. (1/10/21)

#### Emergency Veterinarian - Emergency Pet Clinic (San Antonio, TX)

It's fun to work in a company where people truly BELIEVE in what they are doing! We're committed to bringing passion and customer focus to the business. Emergency Pet Clinic- San Antonio is looking to add an ER Veterinarian to join our practice and team! Providing exceptional and compassionate veterinary care for every pet and their family. The Ideal Candidate: Interested in a collaborative approach to ER medicine, Wide variety of critical care and emergency cases, Working with our guests to provide the best care possible for their pet. Our Core Values: Exceptional, Patience, Compassionate, Solutions, Accessible, Teamwork Our Practice: Emergency Pet Clinic is a 24 hour hospital with a 30 year history in the community. The hospital is equipped with complete blood work capabilities, digital radiography, ultrasound, endoscopy, Pulmonetic ventilator as well experienced technical support staff and emergency veterinary team who have been practicing high quality emergency medicine and critical care in San Antonio. We have an established staff with low turnover in our DVM population. Our team enjoys mentorship with new graduates and has provided an emergency veterinary internship for the past 10 years through VIRMP. Our Package: Competitive compensation! Paid parental leave, Health benefits, Generous CE allowance, Matched 401k, 120 Hours - PTO, Relocation Assistance Package, Pet Care Discount... and MORE!! Our Home: San Antonio is a vibrant city with a low cost of living with a high quality of life. We enjoy fantastic weather year round as well as a dynamic cultural scene. In 2017, UNESCO named us one of the 2 Creative City of Gastronomy in the country. So, come enjoy the food and festivals of this often-overlooked Texas city. Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others, Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values collaboration. Enjoys mentoring veterinary students and new graduates. (1/11/21)

#### Associate veterinarian (La Grange)

SA only or mixed animal position available with after hours duty optional. Busy 6 doctor mixed animal practice currently growing and expanding with satellite locations. Well appointed brand new SA hospital with in house labs, digital x ray and ultrasound, and great support staff. La Grange is located halfway between Houston and Austin and offers a great small town quality of life with easy big city accessibility. Competitive salary commensurate to experience and duties and is reflective of production with benefits including: 401k, insurance stipend, CE allowance, Paid time off, licensing/insurance/dues. New graduates and experienced veterinarians welcome. Email resume to fayettecovet@gmail.com or call/text Dr. Jeremy Finch at 979-966-2812. (1/31/21)

# Associate Veterinarian - Mixed Animal Practice - Rogers Animal Hospital (Corsicana)

Associate Veterinarian - Rogers Animal Hospital - No Jerks Allowed! WAIT! Let us explain. At all AmeriVet Partner practices,"No Jerks Allowed" is our commitment to hold true to several important core behaviors:Creating a positive work culture, building a transparent workplace and allowing professionals to freely express their passions, ideas, and

perspectives while supported by respectful team members. in an open and "jerk-free" environment. MIXED ANIMAL ASSOCIATE VETERINARIAN needed for a 40-year Well-Established and growing, progressive, well equipped, recently renovated Mixed Animal Practice located 50 miles south of Dallas in Corsicana, TX. ABOUT ROGERS ANIMAL HOSPI-TAL: Located in Corsicana Texas.Rogers Hospital has it all and even more for a recent graduate or experienced doctor looking for the ideal setting to treat large or small animals in our newly-expanded facility.For continued education and an opportunity to hone in-the-field skills.our The large Animal facility boasts two hydraulic cattle chutes, new pipe hospital pens on three acres including covered treatment areas and hospitalization stalls. Our Small Animal Surgery provides ample workspace of 9000 square feet with separate recovery suites,treatment rooms, grooming areas,and kennels.New associates will have access to state of the art equipment like our Abaxis in house lab, digital radiology, and ultrasonography all while working in a friendly family style of practice with a dedicated support staff. But wait! There's more: We also operate a Mobile Veterinary Service equipped with a Bowie Mobile Unit! As we value our staff as much as our patients we insist on fostering a reasonable work-life balance. BENEFITS: Competitive salary, Student Loan Assistance, Mentorship Programs, 401K with Match, Health plan with Vision and Dental, CE Allowance, Mentorship.Business Hours: Mon thru Fri 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.45-hour routine work week. Overtime pay compensated at time and a half. After hour emergency work available,if desired,on a rotating basis.After hour emergency services, if desired, are additionally compensated at approximately 50% of gross sales. (1/15/21)

# Associate Veterinarian (Georgetown)

Jarrell Animal Hospital is a busy two doctor practice looking to add a small animal vet interested in growing our internal medicine capability. Jarrell is located 15 minutes nort of Georgetown, TX on the 35 corridor. Georgetown is a rapidly growing city with a robust downtown. Our hospital has house laboratory, ultrasound, CR, endoscopy and dental radiology. Work 4 days per week and rotate Saturday's with two other vets. We offer health insurance and a competitive salary. Our tech to Dr ratio is 1.5:1. Email resumes to Dr. Carlton at nathan.jay.carlton@gmail.com. (1/15/21)

# Veterinary Emergency Exam Room Technician- Pet Specialist of Austin (Austin)

It's fun to work in a company where people truly BELIEVE in what they are doing! We're committed to bringing passion and customer focus to the business. Incredible Opportunity for an Emergency Exam Room Veterinary Technician to join the team at Pet Specialist of Austin! \$1,500 SIGN ON BONUS & Relocation Bonus available. Open January 2021! Our hospital team will include board-certified doctors, tenured veterinarians, nursing staff, and compassionate front office team members to ensure your clients and patients are getting the best in veterinary medicine care. At Pet Specialist of Austin your extraordinary technical skills will be utilized to provide top quality medicine using state of the art equipment in a progressive specialty practice. Emergency Exam Room Veterinary Technicians perform a variety of animal-health and client-education duties and ensure quality pet and client care. The Emergency Technician should be proficient in both inpatient and outpatient technician duties, have a working knowledge of emergency, surgical and laboratory techniques and remain calm during stressful situations. Ideal candidate: Strong veterinary skills, Superior customer service skills. Excellent communication skills. Job Requirements: At least 3 years recent experience in veterinary practice, Ability to perform routine veterinary medical procedures, Excellent interpersonal communications skills, High school diploma or GED, Veterinary Technician license is preferred. We invest heavily in our employees with many opportunities for growth and development! We offer outstanding benefits including medical, dental, vision, paid parental leave, 401k, PTO, continuing education, and generous pet discounts! Take a look at our clinic at: https://www.petspecialists.com/. Please send resumes with the clinic and position of which you are applying to shelley. scott@pathwayvets.com serious applicants only, please. If you like wild growth and working with happy, enthusiastic over-achievers, you'll enjoy your career with us! (1/15/21)

# **Associate Veterinarian (Richardson)**

Full-time or part-time Veterinarian for busy 3-doctor well-established small animal practice in Richardson, TX (suburb of north Dallas). Workweek is 41/2 days including every other Saturday off, no emergencies, and close to numerous referral facilities. Looking for excellent communication skills, willingness to build a loval clientele, solid diagnostic abilities and the ability to function in an organized way on a busy day. New graduates are welcome. We are a walk-in clinic (except for surgeries) and have exciting days. Family environment, with technicians trained in blood draw. IV catheter placement, etc. so that the Doctor can be the Doctor. Equipment includes Digital radiographs, Avimark software, High-speed dental machine, full surgical monitoring (EKG, Sp02, blood pressure), and Abaxxis Vetscan and HM5 for in house bloodwork. Great clientele, great staff, fun atmosphere that allows the practice of high-quality practical medicine and surgery without the corporate pressure to "up sell". Salary is \$110,000 to \$130,000, including local and AVMA dues, CE stipend, etc. (1/15/21)

# Surgical Anesthesia Veterinary Technician- Pet Specialists of Austin (Austin)

Pet Specialists of Austin is hiring an experienced Surgical Anesthesia Veterinary Technician to join our OUTSTAND-ING Surgery team! \$1,500 SIGN ON BONUS & Relocation Bonus available. Opening January 2021! Our hospital team will include board-certified doctors, tenured veterinarians, nursing staff, and compassionate front office team members to ensure your clients and patients are getting the best in veterinary medicine care. At Pet Specialist of Austin your extraordinary technical skills will be utilized to provide top quality medicine using state of the art equipment in a progressive specialty practice. Job Overview: The eligible applicant should have a vast technical skill set with a focus on veterinary anesthesia and patient monitoring. The applicant would provide anesthesia services for all specialty departments managing patients with a multitude of systemic diseases, orthopedic, soft tissue or neurologic diseases. Ideal candidate: Great technical skills, Superb communication skills, Two years veterinary technician experience. We invest heavily in our employees with many opportunities for growth and development! We offer outstanding benefits including medical, dental, vision, paid parental leave, 401k, PTO, continuing education, and generous pet discounts! Take a look at our clinic at: https://www.petspecialists. com/. Please send resumes with the clinic and position of which you are applying to shelley.scott@pathwayvets. com serious applicants only, please. If you like wild growth and working with happy, enthusiastic over-achievers, you'll enjoy your career with us! (1/16/21)

# Small Animal Veterinary Practice for Sale in Northeast

Texas – Gross Revenue up 27% Year-to-Date! (Northeast)

The practice grossed over \$649K in 2019, which is more than an 8% increase from 2018. With a potential year-end gross of about \$825K, the practice is on track to finish the year stronger than ever. This practice is ready for a new owner to jump in and continue with great success. A new owner can expect an after-debt income (ADI) of approximately \$267K or more! Seller financing is available as well. This is an excellent opportunity to build on an already profitable practice. The staff are long-term, experienced, and dedicated. The owner is currently looking for an associate, which will add to further growth. There is also huge potential to increase growth even more by adding large animal services, if a new owner were interested. The area is in high demand for a large animal DVM. The freestanding facility is approximately 2,700 SF and sits on approximately 1 acre, on the main thoroughfare. This practice draws clients from all over the county, given no competition. The facility has a comfortable waiting room, reception area, 2 exam rooms, a treatment area, surgery room, doctor's office, and grooming area. The boarding for small animals is approximately 1,056 SF with runs. The practice has updated equipment, including a digital X-ray, ultrasound, and laser therapy. The practice area offers all the amenities of a large town with well-known retail stores and food chains, along with several historical sites. The county has a beautiful state park with an 80-acre lake offering picnicking, camping, boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, and nature studies. Contact: PS Broker (800) 636-4740, info@psbroker.com, www.psbroker. com (1/28/21)

#### Veterinary associate (San Antonio)

Babcock Hills Veterinary Hospital is an AAHA accredited and independently owned, non-corporate practice. We opened 36 years ago and are seeking an associate to join our 6 doctor practice in Northwest San Antonio. This position is ideal for either the experienced DVM or the new graduate. Our 6 doctors are dedicated to AAHA principles of quality care and mentoring. We are a certified Cat Friendly practice. Internal medicine, preventative medicine, soft tissue surgery and dentistry are the hallmarks of our practice. We complement this with a visiting surgeon who does orthopedics and challenging surgeries for our patients in our hospital. Appointments are 40 minutes for medical and annual exams to allow our doctors plenty of time to work up cases. We offer digital radiology, dental radiology, ultrasound, Class IV Therapy Laser, in house lab as well as reference lab pick up twice daily. Impromed is the practice management software system in use. Doctors have one (and sometimes two) Fri/Saturdays off a month. Otherwise a 4 day work week with 2-3 Saturdays off per month. Open 8-6 M-F, 8-12 on Saturday/ closed on Sundays. No after-hours emergency calls. Great support staff with above average longevity. We offer a competitive salary, and we have an extensive benefits package. If interested please contact Sherry Knopp DVM @ drknopp@babcockhills.com. Our compensation and benefits package includes: Base salary + quarterly production bonuses- average annual income for associate veterinarians currently 120-150K, CE Budget, Paid Time Off Days, Medical Insurance, Personal Pet Discount, All Dues and Licensures, Liability Insurance, One Fri/Sat off each month, 2 or 3 Sat off each month. Job Requirements: Graduate of a Licensed, Accredited Veterinary School, Must Have Unrestricted DEA License, License to practice as a veterinarian in Texas in good standing, Willing to do soft tissue surgery and routine spays/neuters and dentals. (7/1/21)

# Associate Veterinarian DVM (Trophy Club)

Are you looking for a healthy work/life balance, and a fun work environment? Find your happiness here in Trophy

Club Texas just North of Dallas Fort Worth Full or Parttime associate needed for our progressive small animal general practice. We offer well, sick, and emergency care with 30-minute appointment blocks. We have a visiting acupuncturist, mobile licensed surgeon and offer a variety of dental and soft tissue surgeries. Our clinic sees appointments Mon-Fri 8-5:30 and Saturdays from 8a-12p. We have in-house and reference lab, digital X-ray, digital dental x-ray, and ultrasound. We have a high staff to doctor ratio to allow our doctors to focus on high quality medicine and care. Our practice is privately owned and has no corporate rules or guidelines. We get to know our patients and clients, then personalize their care and treatment to give these pets their best possible lives and optimize the human-animal bond. We are committed to open and transparent communication to enhance client knowledge, understanding, and satisfaction with services. Our practice is situated in a location as such that clients can afford diagnostics and complete veterinary care. Experience with wellness and vaccine protocols, thorough diagnostic work-ups, and anesthesia procedures including dental and soft tissue surgery is necessary. Superior client communication and people skills are a MUST. Able to work with owner and associate dvm is expected. We take care of each other and have fun while practicing high quality medicine and surgery. It is projected that our part-time associate vet would work ~20-25 hours per week where our full time position would be 34-38 hours per week. Annual beginning salary is negotiable depending on experience, hours, and skill. For a more complete picture of Trophy Club Animal Hospital, visit our website at trophyclubanimalhospital.com. Contact our owner to discuss opportunities as speedvet@gmail.com. (2/1/21)

# Relief Emergency Veterinarian - Emergency Pet Clinic (Corpus Christi)

Emergency Pet Clinic- Corpus Christi is looking to add Relief ER Veterinarians to join our practice and team! Providing exceptional and compassionate veterinary care for every pet and their family. The Ideal Candidate is interested in: A collaborative approach to ER medicine, A wide variety of critical care and emergency cases, Working with our quests to provide the best care possible for their pet. Joining a rapidly growing practice. Our Practice: Emergency Pet Clinic is a nights, weekend, and holidays clinic that opened in 2014 to serve the growing emergency needs of the community and support local veterinarians. The hospital is equipped with complete blood work capabilities, digital radiography, ultrasound, surgical ventilator as well experienced technical support staff and emergency veterinary team who have been practicing high quality emergency medicine and critical care in Corpus Christi, TX. We are a rapidly growing practice looking to add energetic positive individuals. Our Core Values: Compassionate, Open, Responsible, Positive, Up front and transparent, Solution oriented. Our Home: Nicknamed the "Texas Riviera" or the "Sparkling City by the Sea," Corpus Christi is a coastal city located two and a half hours southeast of San Antonio. Corpus Christi and the surrounding area is an outdoor enthusiast's dream with eleven sun-soaked beaches and two marinas and attractions like the Texas State Aguarium, South Texas Botanical Garden & Nature Center, and the beautiful Padre Island National Seashore. Enjoy beautiful weather all year long with average temperatures of about seventy degrees and approximately 255 days of sunshine every year. Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others. Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values collaboration, Flexible to the changing needs of a growing practice, (2/5/21)

# Emergency Veterinarian - Emergency Pet Clinic (Corpus Christi)

Emergency Pet Clinic- Corpus Christi is looking to add an ER Veterinarian to join our practice and team! Providing exceptional and compassionate veterinary care for every pet and their family. The Ideal Candidate is interested in: A collaborative approach to ER medicine. A wide variety of critical care and emergency cases, Working with our guests to provide the best care possible for their pet, Joining a rapidly growing practice. Our Practice: Emergency Pet Clinic is a nights, weekend, and holidays clinic that opened in 2014 to serve the growing emergency needs of the community and support local veterinarians . The hospital is equipped with complete blood work capabilities, digital radiography, ultrasound, surgical ventilator as well experienced technical support staff and emergency veterinary team who have been practicing high quality emergency medicine and critical care in Corpus Christi, TX. We are a rapidly growing practice looking to add energetic positive individuals. Our Core Values: Compassionate, Open, Responsible, Positive, Up front and transparent, Solution oriented. Our Home: Nicknamed the "Texas Riviera" or the "Sparkling City by the Sea," Corpus Christi is a coastal city located two and a half hours southeast of San Antonio. Enjoy beautiful weather all year long with average temperatures of about seventy degrees and approximately 255 days of sunshine every year. Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others, Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values collaboration, Flexible to the changing needs of a growing practice. You take great care of animals. We take great care of YOU! Competitive compensation! Paid parental leave. Health benefits, Generous CE allowance, Matched 401k, 120 Hours PTO, Relocation Assistance Package, Pet Care Discount...and MORE!! (2/5/21)

# Part - Time Emergency Veterinarian Emergency Pet Clinic (Corpus Christi)

Emergency Pet Clinic- Corpus Christi is looking to add a Part - Time ER Veterinarian to join our practice and team! Providing exceptional and compassionate veterinary care for every pet and their family. The Ideal Candidate is interested in: A collaborative approach to ER medicine, A wide variety of critical care and emergency cases. Working with our guests to provide the best care possible for their pet, Joining a rapidly growing practice. Our Practice: Emergency Pet Clinic is a nights, weekend, and holidays clinic that opened in 2014 to serve the growing emergency needs of the community and support local veterinarians. The hospital is equipped with complete blood work capabilities, digital radiography, ultrasound, surgical ventilator as well experienced technical support staff and emergency veterinary team who have been practicing high quality emergency medicine and critical care in Corpus Christi, TX. We are a rapidly growing practice looking to add energetic positive individuals. Our Core Values: Compassionate, Open, Responsible, Positive, Up front and transparent, Solution oriented. Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others, Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values collaboration, Flexible to the changing needs of a growing practice. You take great care of animals. We take great care of YOU! Competitive compensation! Generous CE allowance, Matched 401k, Relocation Assistance Package, Pet Care Discount...and MORE!! (2/5/21)

# Associate Veterinarian (Galveston)

A view of the Gulf, 4-day work weeks, great people to work with, what more could you ask! The Animal Clinic has

served the Galveston community since 1936 in a charming 1906 converted historic home. We are a private practice with a long history and following and a staff of 30+! Our clients love the friendly, comfortable and homey environment we provide. We work closely with the local shelter and animal control; Caring for the animals in our community is very important to us. As far as location, Galveston Island is an awesome place to live, work and play. What we are looking for? Licensed, well rounded, energetic and compassionate full-time and part-time Associate Veterinarians willing to dedicate their expertise to our patient's health and happiness. We support our full-time veterinarians with a great benefits package: Competitive salary, health, dental and vision insurance, Simple IRA, paid vacation, PTO, paid holidays, employee discounts, continuing education allowance, and in-house training, 4-day work weeks with a once a month Saturday rotation. (2/5/21)

# Full-time Veterinarian (Houston/Friendswood)

We are seeking a Full-time Veterinarian at Parkwood Animal Hospital, a small animal 5 doctor private practice, in Friendswood, TX. Friendswood is a small affluent suburb located in close proximity to downtown Houston/NASA/ Galveston Island, and on the border of Alvin, Pearland and League City. We are seeking a practitioner who is a TEAM player, with a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. We provide our clients with quality progressive medicine and strive for excellent patient care and customer service. Our services include wellness care, dentistry, surgery, including a surgical laser, radiology, in-house laboratory, ultrasound, boarding and much more. Parkwood invests in and encourages our Doctors and staff through continuing education, in hopes that we all will learn from one another and offer the best medicine to our patients. Benefits: Salary + Production bonus, Medical/HSA and Dental/Vision plan, 401K, Licenses/Dues, CE Allowance/Time, Vacation, 4 day work week and most weekends off! Please send me your resume and we can schedule a phone interview if interested. Helen Stehouwer, DVM, helenstehouwer@sbcglobal.net, 281.648.7387, www.parkwoodanimalhospital.com, (2/5/21)

# Part-Time Emergency Veterinarian - Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center (Round Rock)

\*GENEROUS BONUS AVAILABLE\* Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center's Team is looking to add a Part-Time ER Veterinarian to join our practice! The Ideal Candidate: Interested in a team approach to ER medicine, Ability to multitask. Interested? Apply today and come join our TEAM! Our Values: We communicate effectively with empathy & respect, We are H.O.T (Honest Open & Trustworthy), We are accountable, We grow & work as a team, We treat every patient as part of our family. Our Practice: We are an AAHA Accredited, 24/7 Emergency + Specialty practice. Equipment includes CT, MRI, Ultrasonography, Hyperbaric O2 Therapy, In-House Laboratory, Digital Radiography along with a fully equipped and state of the art surgical suite. Our Package: Competitive salary + bonus potential, GENEROUS BONUS AVAILABLE, RELO-CATION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, CE allowance, 401k, PTO. Generous pet care discount. Our Home: We are located in Round Rock, Texas-just north-and a short drive from Austin, Texas. Outdoor enthusiasts, welcomed! Austin is home to many outdoor activities (hiking, biking, kayaking, etc.), incredible restaurants, breweries, and distilleries. Austin is widely known for our amazing live music scene (SXSW-being just one of our many outdoor music festivals)! Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others. Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values

collaboration Apply today! Come join our TEAM, we look forward to hearing from you! (2/9/21)

### Relief Emergency Veterinarian - Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center (Round Rock)

Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center's Team is looking to add Relief ER Veterinarians to join our practice in Round Rock! The Ideal Candidate: Interested in a team approach to EWe communicate effectively with empathy & respect, We are H.O.T (Honest Open & Trustworthy), We are accountable, We grow & work as a team, We treat every patient as part of our family. Our Practice: We are an AAHA Accredited, 24/7 Emergency + Specialty practice. Equipment includes CT, MRI, Ultrasonography, Hyperbaric O2 Therapy, In-House Laboratory, Digital Radiography along with a fully equipped and state of the art surgical suite. Our Home: We are located in Round Rock, Texas-just north-and a short drive from Austin, Texas. Outdoor enthusiasts, welcomed! Austin is home to many outdoor activities (hiking, biking, kayaking, etc.), incredible restaurants, breweries, and distilleries. Austin is widely known for our amazing live music scene (SXSW-being just one of our many outdoor music festivals)! Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others, Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values collaboration. Apply today! Come join our TEAM, we look forward to hearing from you! If you like wild growth and working with happy, enthusiastic over-achievers, you'll enjoy your career with us! (2/9/21)

# Associate Veterinarian/Lead Veterinarian (Grand Prairie)

Penny Paws Animal Clinic in Grand Prairie, TX has an excellent opportunity for an experienced Full Time Veterinarian. We would love to offer you an exceptional, upbeat work environment alongside professional colleagues and a team of technicians that will spoil you with their skills. All of our team members are all Fear Free certified too! If you love surgery and seeing challenging diagnostic cases as well as wellness visits, we would love to offer you a place in our beautiful new state of the art clinic. You will have access to dental radiographs, ultrasound, digital radiographs, onsite laboratory and much more! We are offering a base salary in the range of \$130,000 - \$140,000/year plus production. We are also offering the right candidate a \$20,000 signing bonus. Our benefits include health/dental/vision insurance. 401K, paid dues, malpractice insurance, paid CE, and much more! If this sounds like your ideal work environment, we would love to meet you! (2/12/21)

#### Veterinarian (Decatur)

About Wise County Animal Clinic: Wise County Animal Clinic is a full-service veterinary facility located in Decatur, Tx. We have up to date equipment that includes: digital radiography, ultrasound, Idexx complete in-house lab, and cold laser. We are located just 45 minutes from DFW! We are seeking a veterinarian who is looking for the opportunity to join a booming practice that focuses on educating clients on the highest quality care and building lifelong relationships with pets and pet owners, while also being supported by a highly skilled team. We have a tenured, well-leveraged support staff so you are free to practice as your best self while getting home on time! We have a devoted and appreciative clientele that are highly invested in their pet's health - some of our clients have been coming to us for generations! We are continually updating our equipment and online presence as well. Our veterinarian is excited to add another doctor to the team to continue our legacy of providing quality care to our patients in the community. We

encourage veterinarians of all experience levels to apply. New graduates are welcome to apply. We have a 6 month New Graduate mentorship program, and want to help you learn and grow. At Wise County Animal Clinic, our mission is to improve the lives of veterinarians by providing you with comprehensive benefits: Medical, vision, dental, disability, and life insurance, Career path opportunities for leadership/management, Substantial paid time off, 401k, CE Allowances, Relocation assistance available. (2/13/21)

#### Managing Veterinarian (Corpus Christi)

Doddridge Animal Clinic, located off the Texas Gulf Coast, is looking for a Managing Veterinarian to join our practice! Doddridge is a 4 DVM practice that is focused on delivering high quality medicine and is looking for an experienced DVM to take the hospital to the next level. Currently practicing with digital x-ray, Philips Ultrasound, advanced dental equipment, and more. Your role as MDVM would be focused on driving best practice medicine, supporting DVMs in their professional growth, and growing the clinic's presence in the Corpus community. The hospital is backed by the rapidly growing NVA community of hospitals. Being a part of NVA provides deep expertise and a willingness to invest in the people while retaining our autonomy to practice the medicine we see fit. We've served the community for the past 41 years and are committed to promoting responsible pet ownership, preventative health care and health-related educational opportunities for our clients. We strive to offer excellence in veterinary care to our Corpus Christi residents and those of the surrounding areas! For more information on the hospital visit us at www.doddridgeanimalclinic.com. Benefits: Leadership Bonus, Relocation and retention bonus. Annual incentive bonus. Health, vision, dental, 401(k), sick and vacation days, \$4,000 CE Allowance. About Corpus Christi: http://www.visitcorpuschristitx.org/ index.aspx. With sunshine approximately 255 days out of the year, Corpus Christi has an abundance of outdoor activities that are sure to fit any lifestyle. Downtown offers many amenities along the bay front and marina. Additionally, the veterinary profession enjoys an active local veterinary association known as the Coastal Bend VMA. We believe Corpus Christi is one of the most attractive regions in Texas to live and practice! To apply please contact Bryan. Bodine@nya.com. (2/14/21)

# Associate Veterinarian (San Antonio)

St. Francis of Assisi Veterinary Medical Center is located on the west side of San Antonio and is a primary care facility. We look to the example of the Patron Saint of animals for the direction of our mission, thus our goal, to provide our patients and their owners the highest level of care and empathy possible. We are passionate about practicing the best medicine possible and offering the highest level of service and education available. More information at www.stfrancisofassisivet.com. About our hospital: New surgical suite, Former surgical suite renovated into dental suite, In-house laboratory with Idexx, Ultra-sonic dentistry unit, full mouth digital dental x-rays, Digital x-ray, Wellness plans, State of the art radiology, Ultrasound, Laser Therapy, AviMark software to manage database of 10,000 + animals. The city of San Antonio is full of family fun and Texas historv. Texas is also known for its beautiful Hill Country where you can go for water recreation, hiking, camping, hunting, and scenery. The wildflower-covered hills in the spring are majestic! Just outside of San Antonio are some of the oldest towns in Texas- Gruene, Fredericksburg, and Luckenbach- you can shop, eat, visit wineries and even enjoy some live music. The Veterinary Medical Association of Bexar County (VMABC) is active in San Antonio, providing continuing education opportunities and support for the profession. San Antonio also hosts the Southwest Veterinary Symposium every other year! Benefits: Highly competitive base salary, Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance, Life Insurance, 401(k) plan, Paid Vacation and Sick Time, Paid Holidays, Continuing Education Allowance, Career Growth Opportunities, and In-house Training. If you are looking for an excellent practice, with unmatched growth potential, we want to hear from you! Please apply today! To apply please contact Bryan.Bodine@nva.com. (2/14/21)

#### Associate Veterinarian (Houston)

South Belt Animal Hospital was established with the commitment to provide excellent quality, compassionate care, and life-long health for your pet. South Belt Animal Hospital offers full-service health care that includes wellness exams, preventative vaccinations, major medical critical care, examinations, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, surgery (including spays and neuters), dentistry, radiology and in-house diagnostic laboratory tests. We also perform routine testing for heartworms, intestinal parasites, feline leukemia test and other microscopic exams. More information at southbeltanimalhospital.com. Benefits: Highly competitive base salary, Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance, Life Insurance, 401(k) plan, Paid Vacation and Sick Time, Paid Holidays, Continuing Education Allowance, Career Growth Opportunities, and In-house Training. About Houston: The style-savvy residents of the country's fourth-largest city and third-largest county (Harris) know that there's no place quite like Houston. With more than 2.2 million residents, the city attracts visitors and transplants with a wonderful mix of world-class arts, booming business, pro sports and award-winning cuisine. Venture Downtown and discover a thriving professional arts scene, with professional resident companies in ballet, opera, symphony and theater; only four other U.S. cities can say the same. And the nearby Museum District stakes its claim as the country's fourth-largest, with 18 cultural powerhouses set within blocks of one another. Apply by email to Bryan.Bodine@nva.com. (2/14/21)

#### Associate Veterinarian (Copperas Cove)

Animal Medical Center Copperas Cove is seeking an Associate Veterinarian to join our practice! The doctors and staff at AMC strive to make the clients and the patients experience as comfortable and friendly as possible. With mentoring for newer doctors and consultation between the practitioners, the blend of experience, enthusiasm and current trends offer our clients and patients enhanced treatment and advanced options. AMC, a progressive practice in the Heart of Texas, invites practitioners who want to advance their quality of medicine and provide comprehensive service to its clients to join our team. Copperas Cove, located just 30 minutes from the Belton/Temple area is a wonderful place to call home! Recreation is bountiful in Copperas Cove. The city park, with meandering creeks running through tree shaded grounds, has a picnic area, swimming pool, tennis court, and plenty of room for baseball games, soccer and enjoying a lazy afternoon. Copperas Cove boasts an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse, seven parks- two with public swimming pools and a modern public library. Copperas Cove, just 1 hour North of the Austin metropolitan area, offers a close option for big city thrills and small town living. Please contact bryan.bodine@nva. com to apply. (2/14/21)

#### **Associate Veterinarian (Montgomery)**

Lake Country Animal Hospital has been serving Montgomery and Lake Conroe area residents and their pets since

1984 We offer quality compassionate care for all of our patients and their families. Skill and consistency are the hallmarks of our caring, professional, and well-trained staff. Lake Country Animal Hospital is a clean, modern veterinary facility that offers complete diagnostic, preventative medicine, treatment, surgical, dental and emergency services. Our goal is to provide quality compassionate care to all of our patients and be respectful and fair to each of our clients while continuing to be a leader in animal health care. We are seeking either an experienced veterinarian or new graduate with skill, enthusiasm, energy, and a love of veterinary medicine. If you want to work in a practice that emphasizes quality medicine and doing the right thing for pets and their people, you will fit right in with our professional, experienced, highly trained staff and loyal clientele. We offer: Great location, rapidly expanding community, Conroe/Montgomery ISD, shopping, restaurants, churches, Lake Conroe, and Sam Houston National Forest, Small animal practice with some small mammal exotics (optional to new yet). Emergency clinic and 3 referral hospitals in our area, Competitive salary, Mentorship: case study partnerships and reviews available. Benefits: CE, dues, insurance. personal pet care, etc. Five day work week with no afterhours emergencies. High staff retention with skilled personnel, Weekly meetings: case reviews, customer service and medical training, and state of the art equipment. Benefits: Highly competitive base salary, Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance, Life Insurance, 401(k) plan, Paid Vacation and Sick Time, Paid Holidays, Continuing Education Allowance, Career Growth Opportunities, and In-house Training. We would love to help you achieve your and our professional goals together! To apply, please contact Bryan.Bodine@ nva.com. (2/14/21)

#### **Associate Veterinarian (Houston)**

South Belt Animal Hospital was established with the commitment to provide excellent quality, compassionate care, and life-long health for your pet. South Belt Animal Hospital offers full-service health care that includes wellness exams, preventative vaccinations, major medical critical care, examinations, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, surgery (including spays and neuters), dentistry, radiology and in-house diagnostic laboratory tests. We also perform routine testing for heartworms, intestinal parasites. feline leukemia test and other microscopic exams. More information at southbeltanimalhospital.com. Benefits: Highly competitive base salary, Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance, Life Insurance, 401(k) plan, Paid Vacation and Sick Time, Paid Holidays, Continuing Education Allowance, Career Growth Opportunities, and In-house Training. About Houston: The style-savvy residents of the country's fourth-largest city and third-largest county (Harris) know that there's no place quite like Houston. With more than 2.2 million residents, the city attracts visitors and transplants with a wonderful mix of world-class arts, booming business, pro sports and award-winning cuisine. Venture Downtown and discover a thriving professional arts scene, with professional resident companies in ballet, opera, symphony and theater; only four other U.S. cities can say the same. And the nearby Museum District stakes its claim as the country's fourth-largest, with 18 cultural powerhouses set within blocks of one another. Apply by email to Bryan. Bodine@nva.com. (2/14/21)

#### Associate Veterinarian (Houston)

Northpark Animal Hospital was established in 1989 and was purchased by Dr. Loree Hebert in 1992. Dr. Hebert has continued practicing in this location since that time, expanding to meet the demands of continued growth. The

hospital has grown from a 1200 sq ft facility with a single exam room to its current four exam rooms with over 5000 sq ft. NPAH gained 4 year AAHA accreditation in 1997 and has maintained accreditation since. We are a progressive practice offering state of the art veterinary care to serve the needs of our patients and clients. We have a very dedicated staff and enjoy a fun, family type working environment, Our brand is built on our commitment to provide our clients and their pets with the highest quality of care and personal friendly service. NPAH provides preventive and advanced diagnostic and surgical services to our community and the greater Houston area utilizing: Complete in house IDEXX lab equipment, Fecal centrifuge, Digital tonometry, DR radiology, DR dental radiology and Midmark Vet Pro 1000 high speed dental unit in our dental area, Two ultrasound machines, Flexible and rigid endoscopes with camera, CO2 insuffator, gas sterilizer, high def monitor and Ligasure allowing minimally invasive diagnostic and surgical procedures, Dedicated, well equipped surgical suite with two isoflurane anesthesia machines with Cardell monitors. and electrosurgical unit and soft tissue and orthopedic instruments. Our hospital area has 18 stainless cages and we also have a separate boarding facility behind the main hospital. We have a dedicated isolation ward but thankfully seldom need it (we average only 6 Parvo cases a year and that's just fine with us!). To apply please contact Bryan. Bodine@nva.com. (2/14/21)

# **Managing Veterinarian (San Antonio)**

O'Connor Road Animal Hospital, located in San Antonio, TX, is looking for a Managing Veterinarian to join our team! O'Connor Road Animal Hospital is located on the northeast side of San Antonio and is a primary care facility also offering boarding, grooming and limited emergency services. We are a busy multi-doctor practice that takes pride in our team approach in providing high quality care to our patients! As a wellness hospital, we are passionate about practicing preventative medicine while educating our clients on these benefits! More information at http://www. oconnorroadanimalhospital.com. About our hospital: Modern building built in 2006. Five exams rooms, treatment area, lab/pharmacy room, surgery suite, isolation room, large dog boarding with separate cat boarding. In-house laboratory with Idexx Catalyst and ProCyte. In-house urinalysis and sediment, fecal flotation, PCV, TP, FeLV/FIV, Heartworm 4dx. External testing through Idexx, TVMDL, and other labs as needed. Sevoflurane and Isoflurane anesthesia, electro-surgery, orthopedic surgery supplies. Also work closely with surgeon for in-house advanced procedures (TPLO, fracture repair, splenectomy with Ligassure, nephrectomy, etc.). Ultra-sonic dentistry unit, full mouth digital dental x-rays, Digital x-ray, teleradiology, Wellness plans, Excellent surgical monitoring - pulse oximetry, capnography, ECG, BP, temp., Large pharmacy, AviMark software to manage database of 10,000 + animals. Apply by email to Bryan. Bodine@nva.com. (2/14/21)

# Associate Veterinarian (McAllen)

North 10thStreet Animal Hospital is currently a progressive four-doctor practice servicing a metropolitan statistical area of approximately one million people. Services include medical, dental and surgical procedures, acupuncture and limited exotic and emergency services. Our team has been operating in this area for over fifty years and is one of the first clinics to open in Hidalgo County! ABOUT THE HOSPITAL: 5,000-square-foot facility, Nine exam rooms, a two-table surgical suite, two-table dental suite, intensive care area, treatment area, recovery area for surgical cases, two doctor offices and employee lounge, Large waiting area

and ample parking, Digital radiograph (new unit in 2019), Idexx procyte and catalyst, urinalysis capability, surgical monitoring (Cardell) and fluid administration pumps. Ultrasound imaging (new unit in 2019), Isoflurane anesthesia and ultra-sonic dental equipment, digital dental radiographs, In-house pharmacy, AVIMark software. Benefits: Health, vision, dental, 401(k), sick and vacation days, CE allowance, etc. North 10th Street Animal Hospital, previously known as North 23rd Animal Hospital has been in business for almost 50 years. For more information about our clinic, please visit our website: www.north10thstreet.com. Apply by email to Bryan.Bodine@nva.com. (2/15/21)

#### Associate Veterinarian (San Antonio)

Towne North Animal Hospital located in San Antonio, TX is looking for an Associate Veterinarian to join our team! Established in 1984, Towne North Animal Hospital is a progressive, well-equipped small animal hospital located in north central San Antonio, Texas. We are a full-service hospital with a high focus on dental care, pain management and preventative care. Our practice has a close relationship with a local specialty hospital for advanced work-ups and surgery, along with ultrasound and other diagnostics, when needed. We primarily treat dogs and cats but would welcome a doctor that also had an interest in pocket pets! We're lucky to have loyal clients who continually allow us to care for their pets and provide us referrals! Our practice has: Idexx Procyte and Catalyst in house machines. Both Idexx and Antech available for clinical and pathology diagnostics. Digital radiographs with Dragonfly software, Dentalaire dental unit with new Midmark dental x-ray unit. Anesthesia monitoring equipment, MLS Multiwave cold laser therapy unit. About San Antonio: San Antonio has always been a big city with a small town feel! We enjoy many attractions such as the Riverwalk, the Alamo, Sea World, and Six Flags Fiesta Texas. We have great shopping and dining experiences available across the city! San Antonio is an easy drive from the Texas Hill Country and the great beaches of our Texas coast! Please visit our Facebook page or our website at www.townenorth.com. We reward our Veterinarians with a highly competitive compensation package, and potential sign-on/retention bonuses. Apply by email to Bryan.Bodine@nva.com. (2/15/21)

#### **Associate Veterinarian (Houston)**

North Channel Animal Hospital located in Houston, Texas, is looking for an experienced Veterinarian to join our practice! North Channel Animal Hospital is located on the east side of Houston, approximately 15 minutes from Downtown Houston. We provide high-quality care to small animals with emphasis on compassion and client education. Our team is experienced and enjoys serving our community in our team-oriented practice. Our turnover rate is exceptionally low and our managing doctor has been with our practice for more than 15 years! We're growing and would love to support a doctor's special interests! More information at northchannelanimalhospital.com. We have a newly remodeled boarding and hospitalization patient area, as well as a separate dental suite. Doctors also have their own individual workstations with their own computer, shelves and drawers and share a doctor's only office. In-house laboratory including blood chemistry, complete blood count, urinalysis, ELISA tests. Close association with IDEXX pathologists for clinical interpretations of all samples. Surgical suite includes Cardell Veterinary Monitor (blood pressure, oxygen sat, heart rate), heated surgical table. isoflurance anesthesia, and fluid pumps. Dental equipment with high speed drill ultrasonic scaler, X-ray capabilities read in-house. Oxygen cage for critical patients. Complete

pharmacy — large inventory of pharmaceuticals. Latest version of Avimark computerization for our large database of clients. Local referral hospitals and emergency clinics if needed for specialized care. Located just 20 minutes east of downtown right off beltway 8, North Channel is a great commute no matter where you live in Houston. Houston is also home to many craft breweries: Karbach, St. Arnold, Southern Star, and Buffalo Bayou. Restaurants and fine dining are in no short supply! Apply by email to bryan.bodine@nva.com. (2/15/21)

#### Associate Veterinarian (La Porte)

Take Your Life Back! Join Underwood Animal Clinic, where you can practice medicine without Corporate interference. We are a small town clinic, with big industry support. We are looking for an Associate Veterinarian with the heart of a teacher, who understands they will succeed as their team succeeds. Our clinic is currently modernizing everything to level-up our already great reputation of care. Come be part of the NEW Underwood Animal Clinic! Underwood Animal Clinic (UAC) is a small animal practice dealing primarily with dogs and cats. We are seeking either an experienced veterinarian or new graduate with skill, enthusiasm, energy and a love of veterinary medicine. If you want to work in a practice that emphasizes quality medicine and doing the right thing for pets and their people, you will fit right in with our professional, experienced, highly trained staff and loyal clientele. The practice opened in April 1984 and moved to its current freestanding building in April 1989. This progressive practice contains state-of-the-art equipment with in-house laboratory capability and X-ray processing. The clinic has been computerized for 19 years and the Avimark computer software is user-friendly. Located in La Porte, Texas, the clinic is approximately 45 minutes from both Houston and Galveston and just ten minutes off Highway 225. No late nights/on-calls. Generous compensation includes: Sign on Bonus, Retention Bonus, Plenty of PTO, CE Allowance, Professional dues, memberships, and licenses, Malpractice coverage, Medical/Dental/Disability, and 401k. For more information about our clinic, please visit our website: www.underwoodanimalclinic.com. Apply by email to bryan. bodine@nya.com. (2/15/21)

#### **Associate Veterinarian (Marble Falls)**

Highland Lakes Veterinary Clinic, located outside of Austin, is looking for an Associate Veterinarian to join our team! Have you been looking for a peaceful place to live with limited traffic, numerous restaurants, plenty of outdoor activities, great schools and a fantastic clientele who are passionate about getting high-quality care for their pets? We are proud to serve Marble Falls, Texas, and surrounding areas! We are dedicated to providing the highest level of veterinary medicine along with friendly, compassionate service! We are a well-managed practice with a great culture, team and equipment in a wonderful place to live! Our practice has exceptional employee retention because of our culture! We hire quality people first and we truly believe the right fit is important. We treat our employees as our family and as the most valuable part of our practice! We value employee satisfaction and want everyone to have a high satisfaction with their job, our environment, and their compensation. We reward our Veterinarians with a highly competitive compensation package, and potential signon/retention bonuses. If you are looking for an excellent practice, with unmatched growth potential, we want to hear from you! Benefits: Highly competitive compensation - great earning potential! Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance, Life Insurance, 401(k) plan, Paid Vacation and Sick Time, Paid Holidays, Continuing Education Allowance,

Career Growth Opportunities, In-house Training. Apply by email to bryan.bodine@nva.com. (2/15/21)

# Emergency Veterinarian - Animal Emergency Hospital (Mansfield)

The Animal Emergency Hospital in Mansfield Texas is looking to expand their team by adding a passionate Emergency Veterinarian to their 24/7 emergency hospital. The hospital which is part of suburban Downtown Fort Worth and is a 10,000 sq ft practice that has a team of 9 experienced DVMs with over 100 years combined experience and over 50 full time support staff members. We provide the highest level of care for our patients and offer the best in veterinary medicine and technology including, in house IDEXX bloodwork, digital radiography, ultrasound, video endoscopy, echocardiography, cold laser therapy, SNAPshot, blood/plasma/ platelet transfusions and so much more. We are a passionate group of veterinary professionals who believe in having a friendly and collaborative work environment that values and rewards hard work for our Veterinarians and support staff. With that being said, if you are an animal loving passionate Veterinarian looking for a practice that prides themselves on offering progressive medicine, outstanding client service, continuous referring DVM communication and high staff morale, look no further and apply with us! The ideal Emergency Veterinarian would be: Multi-tasker who works collaboratively with team members, Strong interpersonal communication skills to service our clients & work with our staff. Motivated to meet & exceed the established standards of care, Concerned that all patients and clients are treated with care and compassion. A new graduate OR already experienced, Able to work overnights or swing/midshifts. As part of Pathway Vet Alliance, our benefits include: Competitive Salary + production, 401k + Employer Match, Comprehensive Health Benefits Package, CE Allowance, Paid Time Off, Relocation Assistance, Paid Parental Leave, Pet Care Discounts and MORE! (2/21/21)

# Part-Time Emergency Veterinarian - Animal Emergency Hospital (Mansfield)

The Animal Emergency Hospital in Mansfield, Texas is looking to expand their team by adding a passionate Part Time Emergency Veterinarian to their 24/7 emergency hospital. The hospital which is part of suburban Downtown Fort Worth and is a 10,000 sq ft practice that has a team of 9 experienced DVMs with over 100 years combined experience and over 50 full time support staff members. We provide the highest level of care for our patients and offer the best in veterinary medicine and technology including. in house IDEXX bloodwork, digital radiography, ultrasound, video endoscopy, echocardiography, cold laser therapy, SNAPshot, blood/plasma/platelet transfusions and so much more. We are a passionate group of veterinary professionals who believe in having a friendly and collaborative work environment that values and rewards hard work for our Veterinarians and support staff. With that being said, if you are an animal loving passionate Veterinarian looking for a practice that prides themselves on offering progressive medicine, outstanding client service, continuous referring DVM communication and high staff morale, look no further and apply with us! Multi-tasker who works collaboratively with team members, Strong interpersonal communication skills to service our clients & work with our staff. Motivated to meet & exceed the established standards of care, Concerned that all patients and clients are treated with care and compassion, A new graduate OR already experienced, Able to work overnights or swing/midshifts. As part of Pathway Vet Alliance, our benefits include: Competitive Salary + production, 401k + Employer Match, Comprehensive Health Benefits Package, CE Allowance, Paid Time Off, Relocation Assistance, Paid Parental Leave, Pet Care Discounts and MORE! (2/21/21)

# Relief Emergency Veterinarian - Animal Emergency Hospital (Mansfield)

The Animal Emergency Hospital in Mansfield, Texas is looking to expand their team by adding passionate Relief Emergency Veterinarian to their 24/7 emergency hospital. The hospital which is part of suburban Downtown Fort Worth and is a 10,000 sq ft practice that has a team of 9 experienced DVMs with over 100 years combined experience and over 50 full time support staff members. We provide the highest level of care for our patients and offer the best in veterinary medicine and technology including, in house IDEXX bloodwork, digital radiography, ultrasound, video endoscopy, echocardiography, cold laser therapy, SNAPshot, blood/plasma/platelet transfusions and so much more. We are a passionate group of veterinary professionals who believe in having a friendly and collaborative work environment that values and rewards hard work for our Veterinarians and support staff. With that being said, if you are an animal loving passionate Veterinarian looking for a practice that prides themselves on offering progressive medicine, outstanding client service, continuous referring DVM communication and high staff morale, look no further and apply with us! The ideal Emergency Veterinarian would be: Multi-tasker who works collaboratively with team members. Strong interpersonal communication skills to service our clients & work with our staff. Motivated to meet & exceed the established standards of care. Concerned that all patients and clients are treated with care and compassion, A new graduate OR already experienced, Able to work overnights or swing/midshifts. Apply today! Come join our TEAM, we look forward to hearing from YOU! (2/22/21)

# For Sale: Ford 2019 Super Duty F-250 4x4 Super Cab (White) and Bowie Vet Box (Atlanta)

For Sale: Ford 2019 Super Duty F-250 4x4 Super Cab (White). (57,000 miles) with 2019 Bowie Platinum 8 Vet Box. Truck & Bowie Box: \$52,200.00. Bowie Box Only: \$13,000.00. Email: atlantaanimalhospitaljmk@gmail.com for detailed information & photos. Or call, 903-824-8215. (2/26/21)

# **Mixed Animal Associate (Navasota)**

Beard Navasota Veterinary Hospital is a busy, rural mixed animal practice that has been serving Grimes County since 1956. We are looking for an enthusiastic veterinarian who wants to experience progressive mixed animal practice with the latest in digital radiology, ultrasound, cautery, endoscopy, dentistry, and full in house blood analyzers. Our practice is 50% small animal, 50% large animal. We have an excellent large and small animal support staff of 25. Our large animal facilities consist of an air conditioned equine room with stocks, 3 hydraulic cattle chutes, and 10 acres of pens used for hospitalization and our in house cattle Al program. Our small animal hospital contains 5 exam rooms, a surgical suite with two surgical tables, and a centralized treatment area. We enjoy mentorship and are always looking to learn new ideas from new graduates. We are not looking for just "a veterinarian." We are seeking a hard working, honest veterinarian who wants to excel in professional and family life and is a great fit for our current practice environment. Duties include rotating on call schedule with 5 additional veterinarians on staff. We have a competitive PRO SAL employment package that includes retirement contributions, paid time off and continuing education. Interested applicants should email resume with

contact information and references to paulschmitt05@ gmail.com Paul Schmitt, DVM. (3/7/21)

# Emergency Veterinarian - Emergency Pet Clinic (Corpus Christi)

Providing exceptional and compassionate veterinary care for every pet and their family. The Ideal Candidate is interested in: A collaborative approach to ER medicine, A wide variety of critical care and emergency cases, Working with our quests to provide the best care possible for their pet, Joining a rapidly growing practice. Our Practice: Emergency Pet Clinic is a nights, weekend, and holidays clinic that opened in 2014 to serve the growing emergency needs of the community and support local veterinarians . The hospital is equipped with complete blood work capabilities, digital radiography, ultrasound, surgical ventilator as well experienced technical support staff and emergency veterinary team who have been practicing high quality emergency medicine and critical care in Corpus Christi, TX. We are a rapidly growing practice looking to add energetic positive individuals. Our Home: Nicknamed the "Texas Riviera" or the "Sparkling City by the Sea," Corpus Christi is a coastal city located two and a half hours southeast of San Antonio. Enjoy beautiful weather all year long with average temperatures of about seventy degrees and approximately 255 days of sunshine every year. Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others, Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values collaboration. Flexible to the changing needs of a growing practice. (3/8/21)

# Part - Time Emergency Veterinarian Emergency Pet Clinic (Corpus Christi)

Providing exceptional and compassionate veterinary care for every pet and their family. The Ideal Candidate is interested in: A collaborative approach to ER medicine, A wide variety of critical care and emergency cases, Working with our quests to provide the best care possible for their pet. Joining a rapidly growing practice. Our Practice: Emergency Pet Clinic is a nights, weekend, and holidays clinic that opened in 2014 to serve the growing emergency needs of the community and support local veterinarians. The hospital is equipped with complete blood work capabilities, digital radiography, ultrasound, surgical ventilator as well experienced technical support staff and emergency veterinary team who have been practicing high quality emergency medicine and critical care in Corpus Christi, TX. We are a rapidly growing practice looking to add energetic positive individuals. Our Home: Nicknamed the "Texas Riviera" or the "Sparkling City by the Sea," Corpus Christi is a coastal city located two and a half hours southeast of San Antonio. Corpus Christi and the surrounding area is an outdoor enthusiast dream with eleven sun-soaked heaches and two marinas and attractions like the Texas State Aquarium, South Texas Botanical Garden & Nature Center, and the beautiful Padre Island National Seashore. Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others, Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values collaboration, Flexible to the changing needs of a growing practice, You take great care of animals. We take great care of YOU! (3/8/21)

# Relief Emergency Veterinarian - Emergency Pet Clinic (Corpus Christi)

Emergency Pet Clinic- Corpus Christi is looking to add Relief ER Veterinarians to join our practice and team! Providing exceptional and compassionate veterinary care for every pet and their family. The Ideal Candidate is interested in: A collaborative approach to ER medicine. A wide variety of critical care and emergency cases, Working with our guests to provide the best care possible for their pet, Joining a rapidly growing practice. Our Practice: Emergency Pet Clinic is a nights, weekend, and holidays clinic that opened in 2014 to serve the growing emergency needs of the community and support local veterinarians. The hospital is equipped with complete blood work capabilities, digital radiography, ultrasound, surgical ventilator as well experienced technical support staff and emergency veterinary team who have been practicing high quality emergency medicine and critical care in Corpus Christi, TX . We are a rapidly growing practice looking to add energetic positive individuals. Our Home: Nicknamed the "Texas Riviera" or the "Sparkling City by the Sea," Corpus Christi is a coastal city located two and a half hours southeast of San Antonio. Enjoy beautiful weather all year long with average temperatures of about seventy degrees and approximately 255 days of sunshine every year. Job Requirements: Loyal, passionate about emergency medicine, good with people and plays well with others, Strong communicator, team-player mentality and values collaboration, Flexible to the changing needs of a growing practice. (3/9/21)

# Full-time or Part-time Veterinarians - \$20k Sign-On Bonus / Relocation Assistance Available (North Texas)

Petco is seeking veterinarians to join our full-service hospital staff in hospitals in Allen, Terrell, Prestonwood, Dallas, Highland Village, & Frisco, TX. We believe that the true path to hospital success is to empower our veterinarians to practice best medicine and ensure that each one of you can offer the menu of services that best fits your skills and preferences in practice. Excellent Benefits including: Work-Life Balance (no on-calls or overnights), Competitive Base Salary plus Production Bonus (not Pro-sal), Medical, Dental and Vision and 401k with match, Generous Paid Time Off, Paid Parental Leave, Relocation Assistance, Signing Bonus Eligible, \$3,500 Annual Discretionary Stipend (licenses, CE, memberships), DEA covered 100%, Petco Store and Hospital Discounts. Practice in a State-of-the-Art Hospital: Equipment: Digital Radiography (DR), Digital Dental Radiography – portable hand-held unit, Midmark sensor, Midmark Vetpro 1000 enclosed dental delivery system, Tonometer (Tonovet or Accupen), Suction unit, In-house Abaxis-Zoetis CBC/Chemistry Analyzers, Comprehensive anesthetic monitoring system including ET CO2, Cautery, Cryopen. 4 exam rooms and large treatment area, Surgical suite, X-ray suite. In-house lab and diagnostics. Patient-Focused Job Responsibilities include but not limited to: Perform routine and complex surgical procedures including (but not limited to): spays/neuters, abdominal exploratory and mass removals. Perform routine and complex dental procedures including full dental examination, evaluation of dental radiographs, as well as simple and complex extractions and oral surgical procedures. Develop treatment plans for patients undergoing day hospitalization based on complete problem-based assessment. Transition patients to overnight care as needed and communicate effectively with referral hospitals in order to ensure continuity of patient care, Wellness and preventive care. If interested in learning more, please email: Nikki.garmes@petco.com. (3/9/21)

# Stainless Steel Cage for Sale!

New Shorline stainless steel cage 36"x30". Comes with water bowl, water bowl bucket, and cage card. Cash and carry, \$500. Call Hafsa 281-856-7171. (5/11/21)

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISERS

# **Members of TVMA**

One magazine insertion and 2 months online: \$150

Three magazine insertions and 6 months online: \$350

Six magazine insertions and 12 months online: \$660

All ad prices include first 300 words.

Additional words \$1.

# Non-members of TVMA One magazine insertion and

2 months online: \$285

Three magazine insertions and 6 months online: \$645

Six magazine insertions and 12 months online: \$1,050

All ad prices include first 200 words.
Additional words \$1.75.

All Classifieds MUST be submitted online at www.tvma.org

Please read your ad the first time it runs. If there are errors, notify us immediately. TVMA liability is limited to the first month of publication, and we do not accept liability for any other damages that may result from an error or omission in an ad.



# QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

We would love to hear them. Please send letters to: Shelby O'Neill, editor, 8104 Exchange Dr., Austin, TX 78754, or soneill@tvma.org.

# CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS



# TBVME Response to COVID-19 Released on March 18, 2020

"In the wake of the Governor's state of disaster declaration, the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME) will be waiving some continuing education (CE) requirements during the emergency, and staff has moved to working remotely. For any license renewals occurring during the emergency declaration period, continuing education requirements will be waived. We understand that due to the cancellation of conferences and meetings, the requisite number of hours may be difficult to obtain and, thus, we are waiving the continuing education requirement for all license renewals for as long as the emergency declaration continues." TVMA will provide members with the most up-to-date information via email on changes that affect them during the COVID-19 crisis. Do not hesitate to contact the TVMA office at info@tvma.org should you have questions or need additional information.

#### **FEBRUARY 21**

# **Lone Star Veterinary Academy**

Speakers Dr. Fiona McCord and Colleen Ellis will present virtually on "Happy Endings: Not Just a FairyTale" at 9 a.m. CT.This session is good for four CE credits. Contact Jenni Rizzo, DVM, at info@lonestarvet academy.com for more information.

### **MARCH 6-14**

# **TVMA** Everywhere Virtual CE Program

You may have heard by now that all in-person CE sessions, social events and the tradeshow for the 2021 TVMA Annual Conference & Expo have been suspended until 2022. For the first time in our 118-year existence, we cannot meet as a community due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, just because we are unable to meet face-to-face doesn't mean we can't facilitate connection between members. non-members, veterinary students and clinic staff. We are proud to announce the launch of an online version of our conference CE program called TVMA Everywhere. Our plan is to provide you with the same level of expert insights and knowledge-wherever you reside or work-on a virtual platform that is affordable, simple and easy to use.

 12 hours of livestream sessions (broadcast live at a specific date and time)

- 12 hours of pre-recorded sessions (available on the TVMA website and accessible on-demand to conference registrants only)
- 9 hours of pre-recorded sessions with live Q&A sessions (pre-recorded session played at a specific date and time with the speaker live to answer questions during the last hour of the presentation. Following the live Q&A, a link placed on the TVMA website will be accessible on-demand to conference registrants only.)

Visit www.tvma.org/Education-Opportunities/Annual-Conference to access online registration, session details and updates. If you have questions or should you need additional information, contact info@tvma.org.

# **MAY 15**

# **Lone Star Veterinary Academy**

Speaker Dr. Mark Acierno will present virtually on "A Spotlight on Renal Disease" at 10 a.m. CT. This session is good for four CE credits. Contact Jenni Rizzo, DVM, at info@lonestarvetacademy.com for more information.

# **JULY 10-11**

# **Lone Star Veterinary Academy**

Speakers Dr. Rick Alleman and Dr. Guillermo Couto will present virtually on "Clinical Pathology 101" at 8 a.m. CT.This session is good for 10 CE credits. Contact Jenni Rizzo, DVM, at info@lonestar vetacademy.com for more information.

# **AUGUST 1**

# **Lone Star Veterinary Academy**

Speaker Isaiah Douglass will present virtually on "The Seven Deadly Sins of Financial Planning for Veterinarians" at 1 p.m. CT. This session is good for two CE credits. Contact Jenni Rizzo, DVM, at info@lonestarvetacademy.com for more information.

## **SEPTEMBER 5**

# **Lone Star Veterinary Academy**

Speaker Dr. Jane Quandt will present virtually on "Opioids: Safety, Storage and Responsible Pain Management" at 12 p.m. CT. This session is good for two CE credits. Contact Jenni Rizzo, DVM, at info@lonestarvetacademy.com for more information.

# **DECEMBER 3-4**

# **Lone Star Veterinary Academy**

Speakers Dr. Erika Krick and Dr. Pascale Salah will present in person on "Saving Lives: A Complete Guide to Canine and Feline Cancer" at 8 a.m. CT at the Embassy Suites Riverwalk in San Antonio. This session is good for 10 CE credits. Contact Jenni Rizzo, DVM, at info@ lonestarvetacademy.com for more information.



# **VPAC** is the voice of Texas veterinarians in state government **Together We Are Stronger!**



The Veterinary Political Action Committee (VPAC) helps advance the legislative goals of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) and assists in its mission to preserve, promote and protect the veterinary medical profession and to advance animal health for the well-being of humans and animals.

# WHAT VPAC DOES

- Supports candidates who support the veterinary profession
- Nurtures positive working relationships with elected officials
- Allows veterinarians to voice their concerns and objectives
- Provides member training, education and calls to action

# Each session, TVMA VPAC advocates on behalf of the veterinary profession on issues before the Texas Legislature, such as:

- Unauthorized practice
- Taxation
- Unfair/unlawful competition
- Animal ownership
- Scope of practice
- Controlled drug regulation

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OR TO

FIND OUT OTHER WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP.

# **SUPPORT VPAC**







**Return Service Requested** 



# RECENT SOLD TRANSACTIONS IN TEXAS

Practice Gross Revenue \$1.5M \$2.7M \$1.7M \$5.4M \$5.0M \$1.7M	\$3.5M \$5.25 \$5.5M \$13.5M \$11.0M \$6.0M	% of Gross Revenue 233% 194% 324% 250% 220% 353%
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# READY TO FIND OUT IF YOUR EXIT CAN BE LIFE CHANGING?

We can tell you what you need to know about the current market. We know the network of corporate buyers and what they are offering for practices similar to yours.

Whether now or in the distant future, it pays to start thinking about it today. Even in today's climate, practice values are exceptionally high.

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David F. King is a licensed real estate broker in Texas



