

**S  
V  
M  
A**

# NEWS



SASKATCHEWAN  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**MAY 2020**  
**VOLUME 55, ISSUE 2**



8

**NEED TO VENT?  
ARE YOU SURE?**

14

**SUMMER 2020  
MENTORSHIP & PRECEPTORSHIP  
PROGRAM MATCHES**

16

**ANATOMY OF AN  
INVESTIGATION**



# Join Us

for another great conference weekend on  
the beautiful downtown Saskatoon waterfront!

## SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

Please note the the SVMA staff and Conference Committee are monitoring the COVID-19 situation and directives from the Saskatchewan Chief Medical Health Officer and the Government of Saskatchewan. At the time of design of this magazine the conference is still going ahead as planned.

# 2020

## SVMA CONFERENCE, AGM AND TRADE EXPO

SEPT 10-13, 2020

SHERATON CAVALIER HOTEL SASKATOON

### OUR 2020 KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



**ANDY ROARK** DVM, MSc

Driving change in your practice; Diffusing the angry client; Working with the cash-strapped client. Plenary, large and small animal sessions (7 hrs)

33 RACE-approved CE hours:  
19 hours per registrant plus  
4 hours for each wet lab.

### OUR 2020 SPEAKERS:

**KEELAN LEWIS** DVM

Recruiting, onboarding and retaining veterinary associates (2 hrs)

**HOWARD SEIM** DVM, DACVS

Small animal surgeries (7 hrs)

**DANE TATARNIUK** DVM, MS, DACVS-LA

Equine wound therapy; Diagnostic blocks (3 hrs)

**LOIC LEGENDRE** DVM, FAVD, DAVDC, EVDC

Small animal dental: Flaps; Luxators; Difficult extractions (3 hrs)

**MICHAEL PESATO** DVM, DAVBP (Food Animal)

Top 10 small ruminant problems/diseases (3 hrs)

**JENNIFER LOEWEN** DVM, DACVECC

Small animal critical care (2 hrs)

**BRUCE WOBESER** DVM, MVetSc, PhD, DACVP

Zebras of pathology; New developments (2 hrs)

**JOHN CAMPBELL** DVM

Interesting disease investigation cases (2 hrs)

**TRENT WENNEKAMP** DVM

Bovine respiratory (1 h)

**ANATOLIY TROKHIMCHUK** DVM, MSc, MBA

Antimicrobial resistance research (1 h)

### WET LABS

**FRITZ SCHUMANN** MVetSc, BVSc

LA: Getting the most out of a post-mortem (4 hrs)

**CANDACE LOWE** DVM, MVetSc, DAVDC

CA: Canine dental extractions (4 hrs)

Registration opens July 1, 2020.

Visit [svma.sk.ca](http://svma.sk.ca) for details.

SVMA Annual General Meeting,  
Welcome Reception, Trade Expo,  
Annual Awards Banquet,  
and so much more!

**SVMA NEWS** is a publication of:  
**SASKATCHEWAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

202-224 Pacific Avenue,  
 Saskatoon, SK S7K 1N9  
 T: 306.955.7862 • F: 306.975.0623  
 E: svma@svma.sk.ca • www.svma.sk.ca  
 Editor: Lorraine Serhienko, RVT  
 Email: lserhienko@svma.sk.ca

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
 Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association  
 202-224 Pacific Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7K 1N9

**An Association with Two Key Roles**

The Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) is an organization which brings together the two main functions of regulator and advocate for the veterinary profession in Saskatchewan.

As the regulator of the veterinary profession in Saskatchewan, SVMA is dedicated to the protection of the public by ensuring the proficiency, competency and ethical behavior of its members in the practice of veterinary medicine. We regulate our own profession through the licensing of veterinarians, registration of veterinary technologists, inspection of practices and disciplining of members as required.

As the advocate for the veterinary profession in Saskatchewan, the Association promotes veterinary professionals and veterinary medicine.

We support the physical, personal, financial and professional well-being of our members through continuing education, public outreach and education and member programs and services.

**We believe in:**

- The personal responsibility of veterinary professionals to develop and maintain competency in their chosen area of veterinary medicine
- Fostering our profession by involvement in education of future and present veterinarians and veterinary technologists
- Quality veterinary practice, humane animal care and compassionate treatment of the client
- Providing for public protection and confidence through the fair and unbiased administration of The Veterinarians Act
- Enhancing the public's awareness of veterinary medicine and its contribution to society
- The unbiased treatment of members
- Members treating each other professionally
- Supporting members by providing guidance and information
- Supporting a dedication toward improvement in health and welfare of animals

**COMMERCIAL FOUR-COLOUR AD RATES:**

	Single	4 issues
Outside back cover	\$1200	\$4400
Inside front/back cover	\$1100	\$4000
Standard full page	\$1000	\$3600
Half page	\$525	\$2000
Quarter page	\$275	\$1000
Business card	\$150	\$500
Insertions	\$300	\$1100

**All advertising rates are subject to GST**

ISSUE	DEADLINE
February	Jan 6
May	April 6
August	July 6
November	Oct 5

The material distributed in SVMA News does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members or Council of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association

Cover photo: Shutterstock



**8**

NEED TO VENT?  
 ARE YOU SURE?



**14**

SUMMER 2020 MENTORSHIP  
 & PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM  
 MATCHES



**16**

ANATOMY OF  
 AN INVESTIGATION

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>02</b> President's Perspective   | <b>20</b> SAVT Update               |
| <b>04</b> Registrar's Desk  | <b>20</b> Report from Sask Polytech |
| <b>05</b> SVMA Call for Nomination  | <b>21</b> SK Ag Report              |
| <b>06</b> Questions and Answers on the<br>Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)    | <b>22</b> CVMA Report               |
| <b>10</b> Member News   | <b>23</b> On Campus at the WCVMA    |
| <b>11</b> The Council Table   | <b>24</b> Update from the Dean      |
| <b>12</b> Yoga for Wellness   | <b>25</b> Classifieds               |
| <b>CS</b> Animal Health Perspectives  | <b>29</b> Membership Changes        |
| <b>18</b> The Robert T. Bellamy Communication<br>and Public Relations Award |                                     |

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Kent Weir, DVM

**W**ell, April 2020, here we are! Are anywhere near where I would have expected? Nope. 2020 and especially April 2020 is about as far off the scale as I could have imagined. We just had ANOTHER dump of snow last night, the clinic had 15 c-sections this weekend, I castrated 10 one hundred pound pigs today and oh right there's a virus that's plaguing the world or something. I know we're likely all sick and tired of hearing about COVID-19 but I would be remiss not to talk about it here among fellow health professionals.

First and foremost I am absolutely blown away at how adaptable we are as a profession. I mean I am not surprised by this, as it's what we're used to doing. Veterinarians often adapt their plan because we don't have access to the desired tool or drug or act in the heat of the moment somehow while keeping it all in perspective. I think it is really what separates us from the human medical profession in the fact that if a situation isn't perfect we can learn a way to make it work with what we have. Those of us practicing in rural areas adapted to our clients and patients being 100+ km away. Veterinary medicine has been using telemedicine for ages, especially on the large animal side of things. I did an interview for the Western Producer and the story was "How will COVID-19 change large animal medicine in regards to Telemedicine"? My short answer, it won't. I think telemedicine has been used quite effectively for food animal medicine for many years. I think maybe what has changed and what I am using on a more regular basis is the use of a smartphone. This has greatly helped us to understand what a farmer is talking about with regards to a lameness, a wound or a certain ailment that might be affecting their animal. The

human health care system is playing catch up in this part of medicine and I think we have a lot to offer them in this department. I also think that we are more adept than the average health care professional at dealing with epidemiology and infectious diseases. Between parvovirus, scouring calves and Bordetella outbreaks we know about dealing with isolation, disinfection, and immunity. Although COVID-19 is obviously a different level of concern and we don't fully understand it's epidemiology yet, I think veterinarians have a headstart on a lot of other medical professionals.

As I talk with vets around the country regarding COVID-19 it's apparent where the majority of us aren't as knowledgeable. Business decisions. When COVID was first rearing its ugly head I talked to a few colleagues working in Vancouver who essentially closed their doors unless it was for emergencies. They along with other veterinary professionals in Saskatchewan encouraged me that as the President of the SVMA we should be enforcing some sort of "rule" for Saskatchewan along those lines. As I looked at other industries it seemed they were going one extreme or the other. Some professions were making very rash decisions based mostly out of fear and not out of science or long term foresight. Teachers closed schools overnight and passed students to the next grade and hairdressers closed their doors overnight. Meanwhile the grocery stores were packed with people all touching each other's food and standing close in line all the while breathing and coughing on the teller who was now at high risk. I think that both approaches were a little short sighted. As I talk with my friends in Vancouver they're now asking about what we're doing here. To no surprise, cutting back all services but emergencies is not financially viable for very long at all. They're asking me

about what services we're still offering and how we're balancing finances and the health of staff and clients. I think this is the key, decision making must be a well balanced approach that looks at all angles of the situation. I encourage you to make well thought out decisions that use your knowledge of epidemiology, infectious diseases, zoonosis and financials among others. The reality is we're not talking about a couple weeks or even a couple months here. We're talking about likely almost half a year with modified ways of practicing and at the end of that we'll be dealing with a population who has been economically hit hard, with little to spend on veterinary care. It's key in these times that the health of our staff and clients is at the forefront of our brain but we need to continue considering the finances of our businesses. Not only so we can keep our doors open to pay our staff now but also so that at the end of all of this we are still able to continue providing veterinary services for our clients.

Contrary to popular belief, there is more than COVID-19 going on. The SVMA has also been busy with a review of our complaints process, a new website design, as well as finally having the Minister of Advanced Education and Agriculture agree to meet us in the same room to discuss veterinary shortages in rural Saskatchewan. This has been a very busy few months for us as the SVMA and my hat goes off to the hard working SVMA Staff as well as the many people involved in committees. As always I encourage you to reach out if you have questions or concerns regarding anything SVMA or otherwise. I'd invite you to stop in Lloydminster for coffee but you'd have to stand out in our parking lot and that doesn't sound like too much fun. Keep yourselves, your staff, your clients and your business safe during these ever changing times. 🐾

### KEEP INFORMED



**Keep informed** of the decisions Council is making and actions being taken on your behalf. The minutes from Council meetings are posted on the Members' Side of the SVMA website [www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca).

Council welcomes comments and suggestions from all members. Email your comments or questions to a councillor (addresses are on the website's Contact Us page) or to the office and they will be passed on to Council.





# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT.

- ✓ Open to all members
- ✓ No cost, no waiting period for eligibility
- ✓ Covers 4 treatment hours per member annually
- ✓ Personal counseling when you need it



**THE SVMA  
MEMBER WELLNESS  
SUPPORT PROGRAM**

**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**

Professional Psychologists & Counselors (PPC) will provide intake, sourcing, vetting, referral and payment to one of their 40+ therapists province wide. You only need to provide your SVMA license number.

At no time will SVMA know the identity or geographic area of persons using the service. PPC bills SVMA for all services anonymously, ensuring complete privacy.

**For more information** or to make an appointment, contact:

Professional Psychologists  
and Counselors (PPC)  
**306.664.0000**  
[www.peopleproblems.ca](http://www.peopleproblems.ca)



**Marc Cattet, DVM**  
mcattet@svma.sk.ca

**T**he arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in Saskatchewan has thrown my day to day operations as registrar into a new steady state where responding to emails and phone calls, and attending conference calls, fills much of the day, with time for sustained work on any particular task being significantly limited. Consequently, I've prepared this report with little pre-planning and without a singular focus, and opted instead to share the following updates and observations from the past several months:

## The deadline for Bylaw Amendment Proposals is June 15, 2020.

All proposed amendments to SVMA Bylaws must be received by the registrar 45 days in advance of the posting date of each year's Annual Report. The Annual Report must be available to members 30 days before the Annual General Meeting.

### 1. COMPLAINTS PROCESS REVIEW

The professional regulatory consultant, Dr. Glenn Pettifer, initiated his review of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association's (SVMA's) complaints process in December with the initial work done offsite. This involved gaining familiarity with the SVMA's regulatory framework, including *The Veterinarians Act, 1987*, the SVMA Bylaws and supplemental policies, followed by a detailed review of SVMA complaint case files from the past several years. In mid-February, Dr. Pettifer traveled to Saskatoon to conduct interviews with an assortment of individuals representing all aspects of the complaints process, the Council, and the SVMA office. In addition, he attended meetings of Council and the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC), a Discipline Committee (DC) hearing, and a one-day training session for members of the PCC and DC. Dr. Pettifer has confirmed the data-gathering phase of his review is now complete, and he anticipates the next phase, the preparation of his report, to be completed in the fall. In the meantime, however, we are beginning to implement some of the recommendations for improvement provided by Dr. Pettifer during his stay in Saskatoon.

### 2. TELEMEDICINE

Without a written telemedicine policy in place, veterinarians and registered veterinary technologists (RVTs) were in a potentially precarious position when the pandemic swept into Saskatchewan. Telemedicine has wide global support as a useful tool that expands the ability of veterinary professionals to provide care to their patients. However, its utility has become even more apparent this past month when veterinary professionals have been trying to stay healthy by minimizing contact with clients and their animals and avoiding unnecessary travel over long distances, while still delivering quality service. Fortunately, the SVMA was able to quickly adopt the telemedicine policy developed by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association last August and, by all appearances, it has been serving us well. Nevertheless, the development of

an SVMA-specific policy on the use of veterinary telemedicine in Saskatchewan is a high priority task to be completed in the coming weeks.

### 3. ISSUES CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF VETERINARY SERVICES IN RURAL SASKATCHEWAN

Issues concerning the effective provision of veterinary services in rural Saskatchewan are long-standing, particularly issues related to the recruitment and retention of veterinarians and RVTs. On this point, several SVMA Council members and I were scheduled to meet with representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture and Advanced Education in late March to identify options to address recruitment and retention of veterinary professionals to areas of the province that may be experiencing challenges. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 situation resulted in cancellation of the meeting. However, we are expecting it will be rescheduled for a later date.

Nonetheless, the phone calls and emails I've received from veterinarians and RVTs in the weeks, since the provincial onset of the pandemic, have made clear that recruitment and retention are not the only issues underlying the challenge of providing effective veterinary services to rural (and remote) areas. Further, the different challenges of rural, remote, and urban veterinary practice have been brought into sharp focus because I've also been receiving communications from veterinary professionals working in urban areas. My sense from these communications is that our "one size fits all" regulatory framework does not work equally well for everyone and that improvements might be made by adjustments to our regulations whereby veterinary professionals, irrespective of where they practice in the province, are able to work at their best without feeling hamstrung by rules but while still protecting the public and their animals.

Clearly, if adjustments are to be made, they must come from you as practising members. To this end, I have proposed to Council that we hold a series of small

informal group meetings throughout the province beginning late fall. The primary purpose of these meetings would be to identify where problems (i.e., risks to the public and animals, impediments to effective veterinary services) exist and to discuss potential solutions, which could either be regulatory or non-regulatory. While I plan to attend all meetings, I am hoping that each meeting will also be attended by at least one member of the SVMA Council, one member of the Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists' Board of Directors, and as many local veterinarians and RVTs as possible. Please stay tuned for more information on this in the coming months.

#### **4. OUR EXISTING REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

As a final observation, I do want to express appreciation to my predecessor, Dr. Judy Currie, and those who worked with her to revise the SVMA Bylaws in 2018. This revision trimmed our bylaws by more than half from a cumbersome document, composed of 37 sections and 141 subsections, to a much more user-friendly document of 17 sections and 65 subsections, with many of the trimmings recast as supplemental policy documents. Although Dr. Currie and others may not have foreseen the COVID-19 pandemic, their work provided our regulatory framework with an agility to quickly adapt to a rapidly evolving situation. We've been able to "flex the rules" to continue providing veterinary services without disruption, while ensuring the safety of staff, clients, and animals, because many of our operational details are laid out in policy documents instead of codified in bylaws. This agility is not common to all provincial regulatory frameworks across the country and more than one regulator has commented to me, "You're lucky!", in recent weeks when comparing notes on addressing the regulatory challenges imposed by the COVID-19 situation.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mcattett@svma.sk.ca](mailto:mcattett@svma.sk.ca). Stay safe and healthy!



## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**R**ecognizing member excellence is a valued SVMA tradition! It's time once again to take this special opportunity to recognize that exceptional colleague and nominate them for an SVMA Award of Distinction.

Members are invited to nominate their colleagues for one or more awards. The nominator must identify the specific award and submit a written overview of the member's achievements or contributions related to that award.

Initial nominations for an SVMA award must come from a member of the Association. Additional information in support of a nomination can be submitted by another member, practice staff, family or friends of the nominee.

All submissions will be dealt with in confidence by the Awards committee. Awards of Distinction will be presented on September 12 at the 2020 Awards Night Banquet.

#### **THE YOUNG VETERINARIAN AWARD**

was inaugurated in 2018 to recognize a veterinarian who has graduated within the past five years and has demonstrated emerging leadership in the veterinary profession through enthusiasm for veterinary medicine, eagerness to learn from colleagues and clients, willingness to share new knowledge with senior colleagues, and/or advocacy for the profession.

#### **THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

recognizes a member in good standing who has made an outstanding single or long-term contribution to the quality of life in their community or province. This achievement may be in the area of youth or senior programs, philanthropic organizations or the arts.

#### **THE MENTORSHIP/LEADERSHIP AWARD**

was inaugurated in 2014 to recognize a member or group of members that makes an outstanding contribution as a leader or mentor in our profession. By fostering an interest in students, new grads or employees, and cultivating their veterinary aspirations, mentors play a vital role in assisting young veterinarians with their transition into practice.

#### **THE TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD**

is given to recognize a technologist who plays an integral part in the practice of veterinary medicine. This person must be an active member in good standing of the SAVT; be active and have made a significant contribution in the field of animal health and demonstrate outstanding performance and dedication to their profession.

#### **THE J.J. MURISON DISTINGUISHED VETERINARIAN AWARD**

is the highest level of recognition the SVMA can bestow on a member and is presented annually. The criteria for selection include service to the SVMA, the profession and the public as well as competency, personality and character.

#### **THE ROBERT T. BELLAMY COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD**

recognizes a member's efforts to bring information, knowledge or advice related to veterinary medicine or the profession to the public.

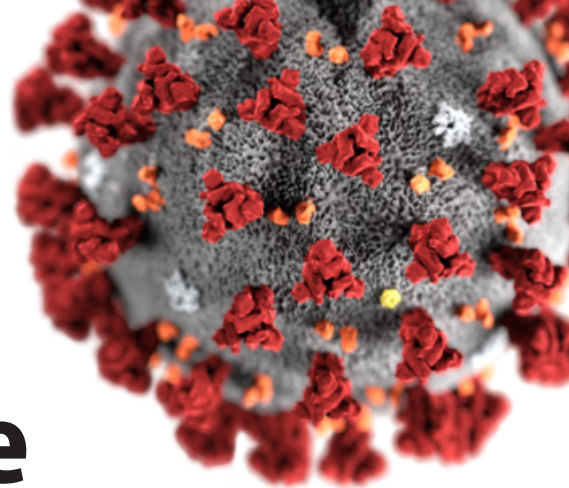
**Please submit nominations to the SVMA office by June 30, 2020.**

**A downloadable nomination form and history of previous award recipients can be found at [www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca).**



# Questions and Answers on the Coronavirus Disease

(COVID-19)



## WHAT CAUSES COVID-19?

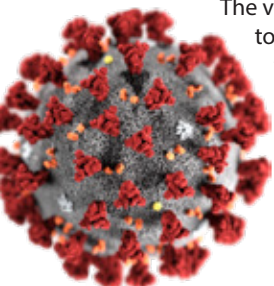
Coronaviruses (CoV) are a family of RNA (ribonucleic acid) viruses. They are called coronaviruses because the virus particle exhibits a characteristic 'corona' (crown) of spike proteins around its lipid envelope. CoV infections are common in animals and humans. Some strains of CoV are zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted between animals and humans, but many strains are not zoonotic.

In humans, CoV can cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (caused by MERS-CoV), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (caused by SARS-CoV). Detailed investigations have demonstrated that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civets to humans, and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans.

In December 2019, human cases of pneumonia of unknown origin were reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China (People's Rep. of). A new CoV was identified as the causative agent by Chinese Authorities. Since then, human cases have been reported by almost all countries around the world and the COVID-19 event has been declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) to be a pandemic. For up to date information please consult the WHO website.

The CoV which causes COVID-19 has been named as SARS-CoV-2 by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV); this is the scientific name.

The virus may also be referred to as "the COVID-19 virus" or "the virus responsible for COVID-19". COVID-19 refers to the disease caused by the virus.



## ARE ANIMALS RESPONSIBLE FOR COVID-19 IN PEOPLE?

The predominant route of transmission of COVID-19 is from human to human.

Current evidence suggests that the COVID-19 virus emerged from an animal source. Genetic sequence data reveals that the COVID-19 virus is a close relative of other CoV found circulating in *Rhinolophus* bat (Horseshoe Bat) populations. However, to date, there is not enough scientific evidence to identify the source of the COVID-19 virus or to explain the original route of transmission to humans (which may have involved an intermediate host).

Investigations are needed to find the source, to determine how the virus entered the human population, and establish the potential role of an animal reservoir in this disease.

Priorities for research to investigate the animal source were discussed by the OIE informal advisory group on COVID-19, now the OIE ad hoc Group on COVID-19 and the human-animal Interface, and were presented at the WHO Global Research and Innovation Forum (11-12 February 2020) by the President of the OIE Wildlife Working Group. For more information on the OIE ad hoc Group on COVID-19 and the human-animal Interface and the WHO R and D roadmap please see the links under 'more information' at the bottom of this page.

## CAN ANIMALS BE INFECTED WITH COVID-19 VIRUS?

Now that COVID-19 virus infections are widely distributed in the human population there is a possibility for some animals to become infected through close contact with infected humans. Infection of animals with COVID-19 virus may have implications for animal health and welfare, and for wildlife conservation.

Several dogs and cats (domestic cats and a tiger) have tested positive to COVID-19 virus following close contact with infected humans. Further information reported to the OIE can be found below in the 'more information' section.

Studies are underway to better understand the susceptibility of different animal species to the COVID-19 virus and to assess infection dynamics in susceptible animal species.

Preliminary findings from laboratory studies suggest that, of the animal species investigated so far, cats are the most susceptible species for COVID-19, and cats can be affected with clinical disease. In the laboratory setting cats were able to transmit infection to other cats. Ferrets also appear to be susceptible to infection but less so to disease. In the laboratory setting ferrets were also able to transmit infection to other ferrets. Dogs appear to be susceptible to infection but appear to be less affected than ferrets or cats. Egyptian fruit bats were also infected in the laboratory setting but did not show signs of disease or the ability to transmit infection efficiently to other bats.

To date, preliminary findings from studies suggest that poultry and pigs, are not susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that animals infected by humans are playing a role in the spread of COVID-19. Human outbreaks are driven by person to person contact.

## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 VIRUS AND COMPANION ANIMALS?

The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human to human transmission. To date, there is no evidence that companion animals play a significant role in spreading the disease. Therefore, there is no justification in taking measures against companion animals which may





compromise their welfare.

Some examples of animal infections have been reported to the OIE. Further details on these events can be found in the 'more information' section. So far, these appear to be isolated cases, and there is no evidence that companion animals are playing a role in the spread of human disease.

Preliminary findings from laboratory studies suggest that, of the animal species investigated so far, cats are the most susceptible species for COVID-19, and cats can be affected by clinical disease. In the laboratory setting cats were able to transmit infection to other cats. Ferrets also appear to be susceptible to infection but less so to disease. In the laboratory setting ferrets were able to transmit infection to other ferrets. Dogs appear to be susceptible to infection but appear to be less affected than ferrets or cats.

To date, preliminary findings from studies suggest that poultry and pigs, are not susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

#### **WHAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN COMPANION OR OTHER ANIMALS HAVE CLOSE CONTACT WITH HUMANS SICK OR SUSPECTED WITH COVID-19?**

Currently, there is no evidence that companion animals are playing a significant epidemiological role in this human disease. However, because animals and people can sometimes share diseases (known as zoonotic diseases), it is still recommended that people who are sick with COVID-19 limit contact with companion and other animals.

When handling and caring for animals, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented. This includes hand washing before and after being around or handling animals, their food, or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing, licking or sharing food.

When possible, people who are sick with COVID-19 should avoid close contact with their pets and have another member of their household care for their animals. If they must look after their pet, they should maintain good hygiene practices and wear a face mask if possible. Animals belonging to owners infected with COVID-19 should be kept indoors as much as possible and contact with those pets should be avoided as much as possible.

#### **WHAT CAN NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES DO WITH REGARDS TO COMPANION ANIMALS?**

Public Health and Veterinary Services should work together using a One Health approach to share information and conduct a risk assessment when a person with COVID-19 reports being in contact with companion or other animals.

If a decision is made as a result of a risk assessment to test a companion animal which has had close contact with a person/owner infected with COVID-19, it is recommended that RT-PCR be used to test oral, nasal and fecal/rectal samples. Care should be taken to avoid contamination of specimens from the environment or by humans.

Animals that test positive for COVID-19 should be kept away from unexposed animals and contact with those animals should be avoided as much as possible.

#### **ARE THERE ANY PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WITH LIVE ANIMALS OR ANIMAL PRODUCTS?**

Although there is uncertainty about the origin of the COVID-19 virus, in accordance with advice offered by the WHO, as a general precaution, when visiting live animal markets, wet markets or animal product markets, general hygiene measures should be applied. These include regular hand washing with soap and potable water after touching animals and animal products, as well as avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth, and avoiding contact with sick animals or spoiled animal products. Any contact with other animals possibly living in the market (e.g., stray cats and dogs, rodents, birds, bats) should be avoided. Precaution should be taken to avoid contact with animal waste or fluids on the soil or surfaces of shops and market facilities.

Standard recommendations issued by WHO to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose with the elbow when coughing and sneezing and avoiding close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing. As per general good food safety practices, raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid potential cross-

contamination with uncooked foods. Meat from healthy livestock that is prepared and served in accordance with good hygiene and food safety principles remains safe to eat. Further recommendations from WHO can be consulted here.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission has adopted several practical guidelines on how to apply and implement best practices to ensure food hygiene (Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene, CXC 1- 1969), handle meats (Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat, CXC 58 – 2005), and control viruses in foods (Guidelines for the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food (CAC/GL 79-2012) and others which can be consulted on the Codex website.

Based on currently available information, there is no scientific evidence to justify introduction of additional sanitary measures for the international trade of animals or animal products for countries reporting cases of COVID-19 in humans. Similarly, precautions for packaging materials are unnecessary over and above the observation of basic hygiene, such as ensuring it is clean and free of visible contamination.

#### **WHAT ARE THE VETERINARY AUTHORITY'S INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS EVENT?**

The infection of animals with COVID-19 virus meets the criteria of an emerging disease.

Therefore, any (case of) infection of animals with the COVID-19 virus in (including information about the species, diagnostic tests, and relevant epidemiological information) should be reported to the OIE in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

It is important for Veterinary Authorities to remain informed and maintain close liaison with public health authorities and those responsible for wildlife, to ensure coherent and appropriate risk communication messages and risk management.

It is important that COVID-19 does not lead to inappropriate measures being taken against domestic or wild animals which

---

*Continues on Page 21*



# Need to Vent? Are You Sure?

by ANDY ROARK, DVM MS

**This is a safe space, right? Great. Let me tell you how awful yesterday and my boss and my techs and my job and my clients and the other vets and my kids' school and our government are.**

**Then I'll feel better."**

**Y**ou've heard something like this before. You've probably said something like this before — maybe even just hours or minutes ago. (There's a lot to vent about these days.) Going on a good, hard rant has always been a popular way for people to deal with frustration. Veterinarians rage, technicians seethe, parents fume, politicians go apeshit, and on and on. It happens.

However, as social media has moved more interactions online, something strange has happened: What might have been, in person, a brief display of hostile emotions that subsided and was then forgotten becomes a lingering diatribe. One with witnesses and additional participants piling on. One that attracts exponentially more attention as it gets more clicks and comments.

I get it. People vent online because it feels so good. There's a great release and even a thrill that comes with being outraged and discharging emotions unchecked. It's like lancing a bulging abscess. We imagine the toxic anger draining out of us and being absorbed by the world and our attentive colleagues like

so many willing gauze pads. And when our audience responds, we feel attention, validation, companionship, and even unity as they take up offense on our behalf. In that moment, it's glorious.

The problem is that venting isn't like lancing an abscess. It's like starting a bonfire in a forest. Sure, it's entertaining and interesting for onlookers; it's cleansing in a way; but it's unlikely to end without damaging consequences.

It's easy to imagine how we might get swept up in the moment as we air our real or perceived grievances and go a little too far. We might say or type something that we didn't exactly intend or that was interpreted very differently from how we meant it. We might also mistakenly believe that the people who have upset us would never, ever find out what we said about them. Anyone who has survived the sixth grade knows these assumptions are fraught with peril.

But what about the less obvious dangers? There are two hazards of emotional venting that don't get enough consideration. The first is how venting feeds into a perceived lack of control.



Ranting is, at a basic level, an embrace of victimhood. As we detail what has been done to us and how we have been wronged, we are implying a lack of control over our circumstances. “Look what the pet owners did to me! I have never been so angry!”

Let me say here that I am not belittling people who have been victimized. I’m not saying those who have been abused should “suck it up.” My point is that when we embrace a position of raw emotion and look to others to validate that position, we’re letting ourselves get distracted from the thoughts and words that could actually help. We’re not putting our energies into fixing or at least improving the things in our lives and jobs that we have control over (namely ourselves, our own behavior, and how we respond).

Anger and frustration are not pathologies. I did not have a bad day yesterday because I had too much frustration. I had a bad day yesterday because of a problem that caused me to feel frustration. Expressing anger and frustration doesn’t make those feelings go away, because it doesn’t make the problem

go away. Spewing rage about a rude pet owner doesn’t change the fact that we are chronically running behind, or we need to work on our customer service skills, or that the world is home to some people who are jerks for no reason we’ll ever know.

The only thing that will make my day better is identifying the problem and fixing it, figuring out what I’ll do differently in the future, or accepting it as something out of my control.

The second major hazard of venting to consider is that it attracts toxic people and repels positive ones.

In 2010, a massive research project called the Farmington Heart Study showed that emotions can spread through patterns analogous to epidemiological models of disease. That’s right — happiness (and sadness) are contagious. I think most of us already knew this on a deep level. Positivity tends to inspire and attract positive people. Negativity does the opposite. When we vent anger and frustration, we attract the people who enjoy wallowing in these emotions, and we repel the people who are willing and able to actually help.

Does that mean we shouldn’t reach

out? Am I telling you to handle your problems alone and in silence? Of course not! You may have every right to be completely furious or tearfully frustrated. We all feel that way sometimes, and having those emotions isn’t weakness or failure. Sometimes you have to let your feelings out to a trusted friend or colleague. It can help you get perspective on your situation, it can bring forward people who have faced similar problems, and it can help you feel like you’re not the only one struggling with the issues that are weighing you down.

Reaching out to friends, family, or community can be a life-saving exercise, but reaching out and venting are not the same thing. We need to be careful to make sure that our requests for constructive problem-solving support do not morph into an infinite loop of aimless negativity.

We can do this. We are a profession of diagnosticians, after all. So, the next time you see someone venting or feel like venting yourself, take the time to run some diagnostics. Don’t just lance a nasty abscess. Treat the cause.

*Reprinted, with permission, from [dr.andyroark.com](http://dr.andyroark.com).*





**Dr Janice Sopatyk**

**March 23, 1954 – February 1, 2020**

## *In Memoriam*

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Janice Sopatyk of Meacham, SK shares the sudden and unexpected news of her passing on Saturday, February 1, 2020, at the age of 65 years. Janice is survived by her loving family, husband Jerry; son Bryan (Melanie nee Hawrysh) of Whitewood, SK; daughter Alicia (Lane Forster) and grandson Cade of Tisdale, SK; brother Garnet (Margaret) Grylls of Victoria, B.C.; mother-in-law Alice Sopatyk of Saskatoon, SK and numerous other family and friends. She is predeceased by her parents, Helen (nee Schellenberg) and Fred Grylls, and father-in-law Morris Sopatyk.

Janice was born on March 23, 1954 to Helen and Fred Grylls of Aberdeen, SK. She grew up on the family farm where she earned her due through hard work and adversity, but also learned her love of animals. Following school, Janice attended the University of Saskatchewan, achieving her degree in Veterinary Medicine from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1978. She worked at clinics in Weyburn, SK and Taber, AB before moving back to Saskatoon to work at the Embryo Transfer Clinic. She remained involved in the embryo transfer industry while starting her own clinic in Aberdeen, SK in the late 1980's.

Janice was married to Jerry Sopatyk in 1988 and together they started their own farm near Meacham, SK. They raised purebred Simmental cattle and grain farmed with Jerry's brother and sister-in-law. Janice and Jerry were blessed with two children, Bryan and Alicia. They were an important part of Janice's life; she enjoyed taking them along on vet calls and to

activities like Ukrainian dance and 4-H. She was also able to hold and smile with her first grandchild, Cade Forster, born January 3, 2020.

Janice was actively involved in her community through the Meacham Ladies Club, Historic Society, Meacham Ukrainian Dance Club, Meacham Rec Board, Green Grove Camp, and various other organizations and clubs. In her spare time she liked to cheer on the Riders, crochet, listen to country music, and travel. She and Jerry took trips to Disney World, New Brunswick, Hawaii, Black Hills, Dallas, and Alberta. Janice was also a proud supporter of the 4-H program and was actively involved as a youth in Aberdeen and later with her children in the Viscount 4-H Beef Club. She enjoyed helping members learn about the livestock industry, especially animal health. Janice loved nothing more than helping and caring for animals through her veterinary practice. She moved her veterinary practice to the farm in 1989 and expanded the business by building

a clinic on the farm in 1996. Her practical approach to veterinary medicine allowed her to truly connect with clients and advance their operations. She was awarded lifetime memberships to the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association in 2019 and the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners in January 2020. A Prayer Service for Janice will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Park Funeral Home, 311 Third Avenue North. The Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 2616 Louise Street with interment to follow at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery at Meacham, SK. If so desired, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation, Royal University Hospital Foundation, or the Meacham Cemetery Group. To share memories and condolences, visit [www.parkfuneral.ca](http://www.parkfuneral.ca) "Obituaries-Guestbook". Arrangements entrusted to James Werezak, Park Funeral Home, 306.244.2103.



## SVMA ONLINE CLASSROOM OFFERINGS

- **\*NEW\* Veterinary Forensics (2 hours), \$50**
- **Suicide Awareness and Prevention in the Canadian Veterinary Profession (1 hour), FREE**
- **Poultry Basics for Veterinary Professionals (5 hours), \$125**
- **Licensing Course (4 hours), \$75**
- **Ethical Prescribing and Antimicrobial Stewardship (1 hour), \$25**
- **Veterinary Practice & Social Media (3 hours), FREE**
- **A Conversation About Animal Welfare (4 hours), \$100**
- **Antimicrobial Stewardship 2017 (1 hour), \$25**
- **Antimicrobial Stewardship 2016 (1 hour), \$25**

**For course descriptions and to enroll,  
go to <https://classroom.svma.sk.ca/>.**



**ROB SYMCHYCK**, B.S.P.E., B.ED., C.C.P.E.  
TERRITORY MANAGER, SASKATCHEWAN & MANITOBA

**Email: [RSYMCHYCK@MCANDSON.COM](mailto:RSYMCHYCK@MCANDSON.COM)**

Toll Free: 800 461 8615 Ext 34

BUS: 306 381 7747

Toll Free Fax: 888 292 4548

Fax: 403 250 2703

87 Skyline Cr NE, Calgary AB T2K 5X2

## THE COUNCIL TABLE



When you think about your Association's decisions and policies, do you wish you had more influence? Would you like an opportunity to handle things differently? The opportunity is here, at the SVMA Council table.

Your Council is made up of member veterinary professionals just like you. Every SVMA member has important ideas and perspective to share. We want your point of view, your knowledge and your ideas.

Any SVMA member with five+ years of practice experience is welcome. Two-year Council terms go by quickly, and Council members invariably say they obtain a wealth of knowledge and insight about the Saskatchewan veterinary profession to take back to their practices.

If you are interested, please contact the SVMA office or a current Council member for more information. Nominations for Council seats can be made anytime.

# YOGA FOR YOUR WELLNESS

by Lacey Lloyd  
for the SVMA Wellness Committee

Lacey Lloyd is a frequent visitor to the South West Animal Health Centre (SWAHC) in Swift Current, Sask. Not too surprisingly, this "honour" started with a nasty leg wound on her horse. Dr. Brittany Wiese and the team at SWAHC have helped the horse to heal, yet Lacey is still often at the clinic – but now it is for yoga. She has been making the four-hour drive from her current residence in Weyburn, Sask. to her hometown of Gull Lake, Sask. most weeks since June 2019 to share the benefits of yoga practice by teaching classes in Gull Lake, Pennant, and at SWAHC. Lacey also teaches at Sadhana Yoga Studio in Weyburn.

I first stumbled upon yoga almost ten years ago when I attended a morning class facilitated by an acquaintance of mine in Weyburn. I found her class so enjoyable, leaving the studio feeling refreshed and clear headed.

About five years ago, I started taking my practice seriously and actually became consistent with it. I began to notice the beneficial changes within myself - mentally, physically, and even spiritually. I wanted to know more about what I was doing, so with the encouragement of that original yoga class acquaintance/teacher (who had since become a best friend and mentor) I enrolled in teacher training in Whistler, BC.

I have now been teaching in Weyburn for almost two years and my passion for learning about yoga continues. I spend time studying to expand my knowledge on this vast, interesting subject.

I have come to focus on three key points in my personal practice, as well as in my classes. Through focusing on full breath, mind-body connection, and self-awareness, we can become calmer, healthier, and more well-rounded. These are complex topics that can take some time to understand, internalize, and bring into practice but the benefits make it a worthwhile endeavour!

## Breathing to the Fullest

The body will always breathe for us, but it is only the absolute minimum to allow us to survive. We have the conscious ability to breathe much more expansively, but most people do not utilize this. It is a valuable skill to learn with many benefits throughout the body and mind. You know the physiology and anatomy of breathing already – use it for your advantage!

## Strengthening the Mind-Body Connection

How often do you take the time to slow down and "listen" to your body? This is essentially what developing a mind-body connection is all about - learning to recognize the subtle signals that your body is sending you at any given moment. Yoga is a great way to establish and strengthen this connection by moving your body in a conscious, thoughtful way and paying attention to how your body feels before, during, and after. The things that we learn about ourselves on our mat allow us to continue this amazing connection as we go about our days.

## Meditating for Self-Awareness

Meditation might be an intimidating idea at first, but it can be as simple as focusing your mind on an object or subject – including yourself. To practice self-study,

or swadhyaya, make yourself comfortable, close your eyes, and truly focus on your thoughts, emotions, and desires as they filter through your mind. The constant chatter we experience within our minds throughout our day can be distracting, irritating, and even confusing when life gets hectic. But by taking the time to acknowledge this inner dialogue without judgement, you can develop an environment of quiet stillness within your mind. This can allow you to experience clarity with issues that are disturbing you. This of course, takes time and practice to master but I suppose that applies to anything worthwhile.

## Physical Postures

While yoga is much more than just stretching, it obviously has physical benefits as well. Veterinary practice is hard on a body between the long hours on your feet, the strange movements of various procedures, and the muscular tension from stress. I hope that these simple, yet effective postures will help you to find movement within your body.

Before you bring yourself into any of these poses, I would like you to take a few moments to connect to your body and your breathing. This can be done sitting in a comfortable position or lying down. If it doesn't cause your mind to race, close



your eyes and take a moment to tune in. Bring your awareness or attention inside of your body. Take a few natural cycles of breath – notice how you are breathing without making any changes. Then, begin to consciously deepen the breath – think about finding expansion in your body, expansion through the belly, the ribcage, and the chest. As you exhale, think about releasing all the old air out, even gently contracting or squeezing that air out of your body. Take about 5 or so deep breaths in this way and then move on to the physical postures.

These postures can be done in any order, alone or together, as long as you continue to focus on your breathing. You can also use your breath to work through intensity but please release if you feel any pain! *Good luck and namaste.*

### 1. Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward Dog)

This foundational posture is great for stretching the hamstrings, calves and shoulders and is also good for building strength in a fairly easy pose.

Start on all fours in a tabletop position, then move your hands about 4-6 inches further away from your body. Curl your toes under and extend your legs bringing your body into a sort of triangular shape. Really focus on spreading the fingers wide, curling the tailbone towards the ceiling, and trying to keep equal weight between hands and feet. Give yourself freedom for intuitive movement – maybe peddling out the feet or shifting your weight around – do what feels good!

### 2. Purvottanasana (Reverse Table Prep & Reverse Table)

If you have extremely tight shoulders, an old injury, or any sensitivity – stay in the beginning stage of this posture. The prep posture helps to broaden the chest, creating space and potentially alleviate some tightness in the shoulders.

If you feel comfortable with the prep posture, you can press into the heels and lift the buttocks off the floor, squeezing firmly at the top, creating the shape of a table. This is a great warm up pose as it's activating the entire body.

### 3. Garudasana (Eagle Arms)

This is a great counter stretch to Reverse Table. In eagle arms we're targeting between the shoulder blades in the upper back area which can be a tricky place to release. Start by finding a

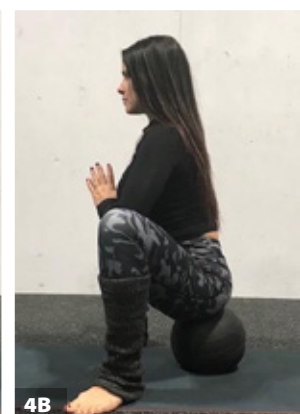
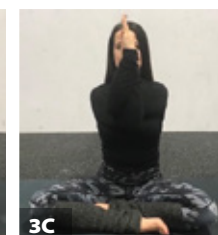
comfortable seat. Bring the right arm to a 90-degree angle in front of the body, reach the left arm below the right, and bring the backs of the hands together. If you have the reach, try bringing the palms together as well but don't force it! Once you're in position you could experiment with moving the hands up towards the ceiling or elbows down towards the floor and take notice of how this feels in your body. Repeat on the other side.

### 4. Malasana (Deep Squat)

This is one of my favourite postures to encourage space in the hips. It can be quite intense, so I also included an option for a gentler version with the use of a prop. Start standing with your feet a little wider than hip distance, with the toes turned slightly outward. Slowly begin to lower the hips into a squatting position, making sure the knees are tracking over the second and third toes to help protect them. Bring the hands together at heart centre in prayer position and press the elbows into the knees to help assist them apart and guide you deeper into the stretch. If this is too intense feel free to use a prop underneath the buttocks – foam yoga blocks or a medicine ball (as pictured below) are great but even a couple of stairs would work too. Focus on sitting tall, staying broad across the chest, and not collapsing in the lower back.

### 5. Paschimottasana (Seated Forward Fold)

This is a great posture for bringing length to the hamstrings and creating space in the spine. Start in a seated position with the legs extended, feet flexed (toes to the sky), and hands beside the hips. Take a few moments here and really focus on creating length in the spine – ground down through the sit bones and simultaneously reaching the crown of the head towards the ceiling (oppositional forces). Take a few breaths and then slowly begin to fold forward leading with the chest first, until your body stops you. If you want to keep this stretch mostly in the hamstrings then keep the head lifted and spine straight like in the image below. If you'd like to bring it a little more into the spine try relaxing the neck and letting the forehead drop towards the shins. It really doesn't matter if you can touch your toes or not here – focus less on that and more on bringing the spine towards the belly button, and the belly toward the thighs.



# Summer 2020 Mentorship & Preceptorship Program Matches

## Mentorship Program

The Mentorship Program is an initiative sponsored by the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. The goal of the program is to build capacity for future veterinarians for Saskatchewan's expanding livestock sector.

The program provides first and second year Saskatchewan origin students from

the Western College of Veterinary Medicine with a summer experience working in rural practices throughout the province.

Mentoring practices provide students with exposure to as many aspects of livestock and agri-food practice as possible during the summer.

Having the chance to experience rural practice early in a student's veterinary

education encourages more graduates to pursue employment in livestock or mixed animal practices in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association contributes \$15,000 to support this initiative with an additional \$50,000 provided by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.



STUDENT	GRAD YEAR	PRACTICE	LOCATION	MENTOR
Kari Kondratowicz	2022	Corman Park	Saskatoon	Harvey Domoslai
Natasha Tripp	2022	Gateway VS	Melfort	Victor Kernalleguen
Alannah Friedlund	2022	Eagle Creek VS	Rosetown	Colton McAleer
Tim Cloutier	2022	Poplar Valley AC	Mankota	Wendy Schmaltz
Brandi Bakken	2022	Melville VC	Melville	Zach Johnson
Alisha Triff	2023	Earl Grey	Earl Grey	Deb Hupka-Butz
Meghan Johnston	2023	LaBrash VS	Meadow Lake	Ed LaBrash
Tori Yont	2023	Prairie East VC	Langenburg	Audrey Tataryn
Jack Krone	2023	Norsask Vet Group	Rosthern	Andrea Petruka
Cameron Hillis	2023	Hardes VS	Turtleford	Hardes/Ripley

## Preceptorship Program

The Preceptorship Program is an initiative sponsored by the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) in partnership with livestock producers, producer groups and industry contributors.

The Preceptorship Program provides students with a summer experience working

in rural practices throughout the province.

The goal of the program is to maintain continuity of veterinary services in outlying areas of Saskatchewan. Rural practices provide students with exposure to as many aspects of livestock and agri-food practice as possible during the summer.

This kind of opportunity to experience rural practice later in a student's veterinary education encourages more graduates to join livestock or rural mixed animal practices in Saskatchewan. SVMA wishes to thank our 2020 partner, the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association.



STUDENT	GRAD YEAR	STUDENT TYPE	PRACTICE	LOCATION	PRECEPTOR
Maddy Knodel	2021	DVM	South West AHC	Swift Current	Glen Griffin
Courtney Orsen	2021	DVM	Watrous AH	Watrous	Bartel/LaBrecque
Dana Tkatchuk	2021	DVM	Lakeland	North Battleford	Shaun Haas
Hayley Down	2021	DVM	Valleyflats	Moosomin	Rebecca Gervin
Jena Thue	2021	DVM	Maple Creek VS	Maple Creek	Klea-Ann Wasilow
Nicole Crossman	2021	DVM	Hooves N Paws	Elrose	Charlotte Williams
Elizabeth Schenkey	2021	VT	Shaunavon AC	Shaunavon	Ken Cadieux



# Animal Health Perspectives

## Interesting Times

By: Betty Althouse, Chief Veterinary Officer, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

As I write my commentary we are in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions: social distancing, working from home, determining essential services; how do we keep food plants and veterinary services operating and employees, and ourselves and our families, safe? It truly does help bring "perspective".

By the time this is published, we should know if this great social and disease control experiment has been successful in stopping or at least slowing the spread of pandemic COVID-19.

These events have made myself, and others, reflect on the role of veterinary services in society and the critical nature of the food supply. It also makes me value relationships built in peace time that help in any emergency response.

Veterinary services, including diagnostic laboratories, are considered critically important services in Saskatchewan, as are animal shelters and animal protection services. This re-

flects the importance that animals play in our lives- not only in livestock and food production, but also the companion animals that serve as company and emotional supports.

The need for veterinary services to keep livestock healthy, productive and safe is obvious, especially to address emergency situations through the busy spring calving and lambing season. Recognizing the entire food supply as critical from production through slaughter and meat inspection through the transport, wholesale and retail supply chains to the consumer makes everyone more aware of where food comes from. Any disruption in supply chains, including the integration across borders, can impact the food supply which is critical to human survival. To date, the supply chains have been adaptive and responsive. Surges in buying have left some empty shelves, but they are rapidly re-filled.

Small animal veterinari-

ans continue to respond to emergency and emergent conditions to protect animal welfare. Some seemingly routine services like vaccinations to prevent parvovirus or distemper outbreaks remain important for animal health. The public health role played by veterinarians can be seen in continued support for rabies sample collection and submission. As tick season starts preventive treatments can protect health of both pets and people.

The public health importance of veterinarians is further emphasized as research and scientific reviews are carried out to determine the role played by animals, if any, in transmission of COVID-19. At the time of writing, the role is thought to be limited, but cannot be entirely ruled out. It appears a very small percentage of animals may become infected by their sick owners, but have recovered. The role of animals as carriers or fomites appears limited at this time.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1** Interesting Times
- 1** Update: Non-esterified fatty acids (NEFAs) and Beta Hydroxybutyrate (BHB) Testing
- 2** Extracutaneous (Oral) Mast Cell Tumor in a Cat
- 3** PDS Welcomes New CEO, Dr. Yanyun Huang
- 4** Surveillance on *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever) in Saskatchewan
- 4** New Face at PDS

Still, animal tests and testing decisions are to be worked out. Research is underway at the National Centre for Animal Diseases to see if poultry and swine can be infected. And Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) is working with the COVID-19 virus and ferrets, hoping to translate some of their successes in animal corona virus vaccine development to human health. We are living through unprecedented times that we, our children and grandchildren will remember, talk about and study. I hope it is a positive lesson and we all contribute to a successful outcome.

## Update: Non-esterified fatty acids (NEFAs) and Beta Hydroxybutyrate (BHB) Testing

The PDS Clinical Pathology laboratory will no longer be offering testing for NEFAs and BHB as a 'diagnostic test'. We are rarely asked to perform this testing and the cost and short half-life of the reagents are

prohibitive. If requested these samples will be sent to Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph.

We will still offer NEFAs and BHB testing for research projects where there will be

a larger number of samples for testing. The necessary reagents will be ordered to accommodate this request order for a research project. If you have any questions please contact: Shelley

Eggums, Clinical Pathology Technical supervisor,  
Telephone: 306.966.2854  
or e-mail: shelley.eggums@pds.usask.ca



# Extracutaneous (Oral) Mast Cell

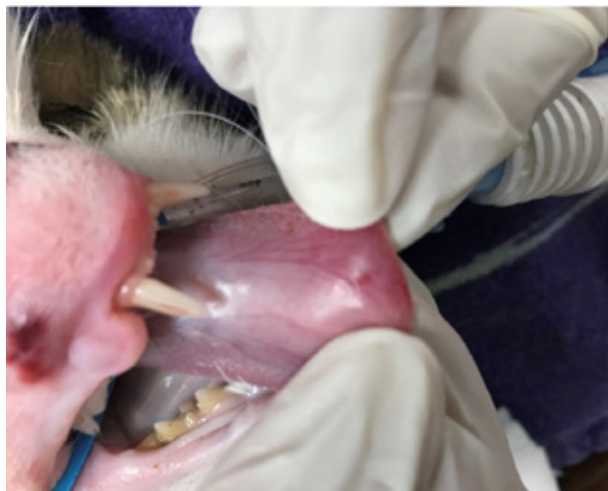
By: Steve Mills, Veterinary Pathologist, PDS

A 7 year-old, male neutered, domestic shorthair cat from Northern Alberta underwent routine general anesthesia for dental extraction, prophylaxis, and treatment for feline acne. Incidentally during oral examination, a small, pale, well-demarcated, circular, plaque-like lesion was observed on the sublingual surface (Figure 1). A punch biopsy was performed and submitted for histopathology.

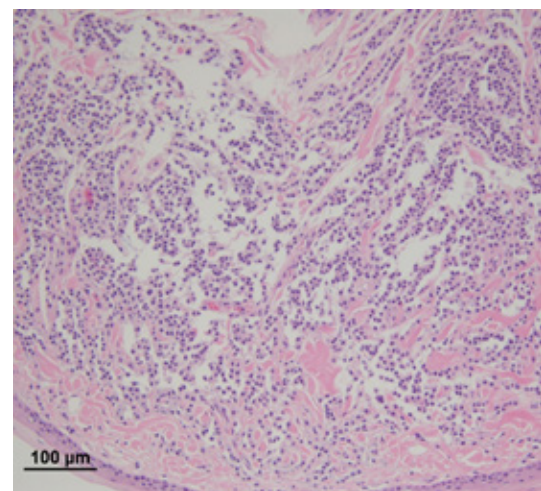
Histologic examination of the punch biopsy revealed a monomorphic population of round cells focally infiltrating the superficial lingual mucosa (see Figure 2). Individual cells were round to polygonal with moderate amounts of uniform, pale grey, stippled cytoplasm and round to oval, centrally-placed nuclei with clumped chromatin and indistinct nucleoli. Cellular pleomorphism included occasional mild irregularity of the nuclear contour and binucleation. The histologic diagnosis was an extracutaneous (oral) mast cell tumor (MCT). The tumor cells stained positively with a Toluidine-blue stain (Figure 3), confirming the diagnosis.

Oral masses are frequently encountered in cats, and most are fundamentally hyperplastic or inflammatory in nature.<sup>1</sup> Bona-fide tumors that occur in the oral cavity are very often malignant, with squamous cell carcinoma comprising the overwhelming majority.<sup>2</sup> The presentation of oral lesions in cats can be strikingly similar, regardless of etiology, underscoring the importance of prompt cytological and/or histological evaluation. Oral MCTs, in particular, may closely resemble granulation tissue or eosinophilic granuloma,

**Figure 1: Sublingual mass.**



**Figure 2: Monomorphic population of round cells with minimal cellular pleomorphism. (Hematoxylin and eosin stain, 200X)**



even histologically.

Mast cell neoplasia is relatively common in cats, comprising approximately 20% of all cutaneous tumors and 15% of all feline neoplasms.<sup>3,4</sup> It is most frequently encountered by primary practitioners in the form of solitary skin nodules, typically located on the head or neck. A large majority of solitary mast cell tumors arising in the skin are benign. The reported prevalence of more aggressive MCTs varies significantly, but up to 22% exhibit systemic disease post-excision and local recurrence rates can range up to 30% regardless of excision margins.<sup>3,5</sup>

Tumors involving the spleen, liver, and intestine represent nearly half of mast cell disease in cats. Relative to cutaneous forms, these cases carry a poorer prognosis due to frequent metastasis and/or multi-centric disease. Visceral mast cell neoplasia is generally acknowledged to be distinct from cutaneous forms, although broad consensus on this dichotomy is lacking. Disseminated mast cell disease (so-called mastocytosis

or mastocytemia) or multiple cutaneous nodules are sometimes identified as separate entities entirely, confounding the picture. This is perhaps not surprising given the aggressive nature of this particular neoplasm and unavoidable variability in the stage of disease upon presentation, diagnostic work-up, and treatment approach.

Oral mast cell tumors are a rare finding in cats. An older survey of 371 cats with oral neoplasia conducted over 10 years reported only 3 (0.8%) mast cell tumors.<sup>6</sup> The lone case report available in the veterinary literature, describes the diagnosis and treatment of an infiltrative mast cell tumor identified on the sublingual surface in a 9 year-old, neutered male, domestic medium hair cat that presented with lethargy, anorexia, dysphagia, and submandibular lymphadenopathy. Rare mast cells were subsequently observed on submandibular lymph node cytology. A recent review article showcased a 9 year-old, spayed female, domestic shorthair with a mast cell tumor involving the

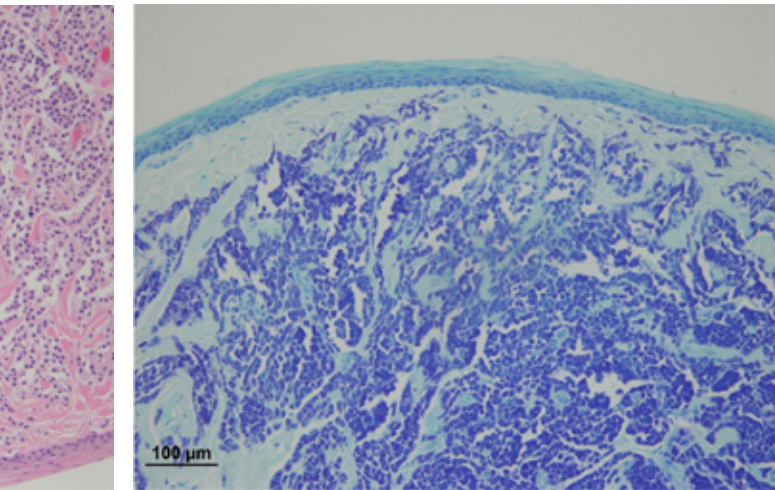
gingival and buccal mucosa. The patient was also reported to have widespread metastasis at presentation.<sup>5</sup>

All attempts to construct a robust histologic grading scheme for feline mast cell tumors have met with disappointment, and conventional immunohistochemical staining does not correlate with prognosis. Numerous studies however point to mitotic count as the most reliable prognostic factor, at least with respect to cutaneous mast cell tumors.<sup>4</sup> Tumor diameter and atypical nuclear features on histological exam also retained prognostic significance in a recent retrospective survey.<sup>3</sup> Currently, the presence of vascular invasion/emboli on histology of the 'primary' tumor or direct evidence of metastatic spread or disseminated disease remain the primary prognostic considerations in feline patients diagnosed with visceral (and presumably oral) mast cell disease.

When an oral mast cell tumor is suspected or confirmed, it should be considered aggressive. Systemic illness may

# Tumor in a Cat

**Figure 3: Positive staining with toluidine blue stain (200X)**



or may not be present, and is often non-specific. Approximately 30% of cats with mast cell disease are anemic, and eosinophilia is common.<sup>5</sup> Collective degranulation of mast cells can cause significant secondary inflammation and variable clinical signs depending on tissue involvement. Appropriate staging may include evaluation of regional lymph nodes (ie. submandibular or pre-scapular), abdominal ultrasound, thoracic radiographs, CBC/Serum biochemistry panel/urinalysis, blood smear and buffy coat evaluation. The latter has been used successfully to diagnose or monitor disseminated mast cell disease in cats but should only be used as an adjunct. Mast cells can be observed in peripheral blood in a variety of clinical contexts, both reactive and neoplastic.

Prognosis in the present case is uncertain. The neoplastic mast cell population was well-differentiated and exhibited very minor cellular atypia. The excision margins were complete although considered narrow along the lateral

aspects. The patient remains asymptomatic for mast cell disease, and further workup has not been pursued.

#### References:

1. Mikiewicz M, Pazdzior-Czapula K, Gesek M, Lemishevskiy V, and I Otrocka-Domagala. 2019. Canine and Feline Oral Cavity Tumours and Tumor-like Lesions: a Retrospective Study of 486 Cases (2015-2017). *Journal of Comparative Pathology* 172: 80-87.
2. Munday JS, Lohr CV, and M Kiupel. 2017. Tumors of the Alimentary Tract IN Mueten DJ (Ed.), *Tumor in Domestic Animals*, 5th Ed. (p. 507). Ames, Iowa: Wiley Blackwell.
3. Sabbatini S and G Bettini. 2019. Grading Cutaneous Mast Cell Tumors in Cats. *Veterinary Pathology* 56(1): 43-49.
4. Kiupel, M. 2017. Mast Cell Tumors IN Mueten DJ (Ed.), *Tumor in Domestic Animals*, 5th Ed. (pp. 195-199). Ames, Iowa: Wiley Blackwell.
5. Blackwood L. 2015. Feline mast cell tumours. *In Practice* 37: 391-400.
6. Stebbins KE, Morse CC, and MH Goldschmidt. 1989. Feline Oral Neoplasia: A Ten-Year Survey. *Veterinary Pathology* 26: 121-128.
7. Wright ZM and JD Chretien. 2006. Diagnosis and treatment of a feline oral mast cell tumor. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* 8: 285-289.



## PDS Welcomes New CEO, Dr. Yanyun Huang

*By: Wayne Lees, Chair, PDS Board of Directors*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to announce that Dr. Yanyun Huang has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of PDS. Yanyun had been serving as Interim CEO for the last number of months and the members of the Board present at its January 2020 meeting voted unanimously to appoint Yanyun as CEO, beginning February 1, 2020.

After first joining PDS in 2013 as an anatomic pathologist, Yanyun has consistently demonstrated dedication to continuous learning, excellence in service, and care for the well-being of his colleagues. The Board was especially im-

pressed by Yanyun's commitment to making PDS a vibrant, well run organization pursuing excellence in diagnostic services that support regional agricultural health certification and disease control programs. In a changing and challenging environment, Yanyun's commitment to continuous improvement will serve PDS well.

We wish Yanyun all the best in his new role and want to acknowledge the contribution of the previous Chair, Dr. Craig Dorin, and the previous CEO, Dr. Carl Johnson, who first recognized Yanyun's untapped potential.



# Surveillance on *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever) in Saskatchewan

By: Wendy Wilkins, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Coxiellosis is a zoonotic bacterial infection that is mainly associated with ruminants. Infection in ruminants is usually subclinical but can cause infertility and sporadic abortion. The zoonotic infection in people associated with *Coxiella burnetii* is widely known as Q fever. Clinical signs in people are highly variable and range from influenza-like illness to pneumonia, hepatitis, and endocarditis. It has been known to cause miscarriage, stillbirth, and pre-term delivery in pregnant women. The greatest risk of transmission between animals, or between animals and people, occurs at parturition by inhalation, ingestion, or direct contact with birth fluids or placenta.

The prevalence of *C. burnetii* in ruminant populations in Saskatchewan is unknown. It is infrequently diagnosed as a cause of reproductive problems in livestock. Coxiellosis was named a provincially notifiable animal disease in 2014 and, from then until December 2019, there were only four laboratory confirmed livestock cases reported, two which resulted in clinical disease in humans. It is suspected that actual prevalence may be relatively high, given recent studies published in Ontario that found that 75 per cent of

sheep and goat farm workers and 59 per cent of small ruminant veterinarians and veterinary students tested were seropositive.

There were two incidents in 2019 where people were confirmed to have Q fever in Saskatchewan, resulting from exposure to aborting livestock or tissues collected from those animals; circumstances surrounding these cases resulted in a significant increase in requests for testing within both the human and animal health fields. Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) laboratory has since changed its protocols and now all submissions involving ruminant abortions are treated as Risk Level 3 to protect staff from possible infection.

The Ministry of Agriculture has provided funding to PDS to investigate the prevalence of *C. burnetii* in submissions involving ruminant abortions over the next year. Testing is being done on all ruminant submissions where placenta is included in the submission, and in cases without placental tissue if the pathologist believes testing is warranted. There have been two outbreaks of coxiellosis identified so far in 2020; one in February (goats) and one in March (sheep). Both cases involved

multiple late-term abortions, and in both cases other pathogens were also identified that may have been contributing factors in the abortions.

Information generated by this project will help fill the

knowledge gap around Q fever prevalence in Saskatchewan and help inform decisions regarding biosecurity and testing needs in both the animal and human health fields.

## New Face at PDS



PDS is very pleased to welcome Dr. Sarah Wood to its roster of veterinary anatomic pathologists effective Mar 30th. Originally from Ebenezer, SK, Sarah is a second generation veterinarian. She obtained her DVM from the Western College of Veterinary

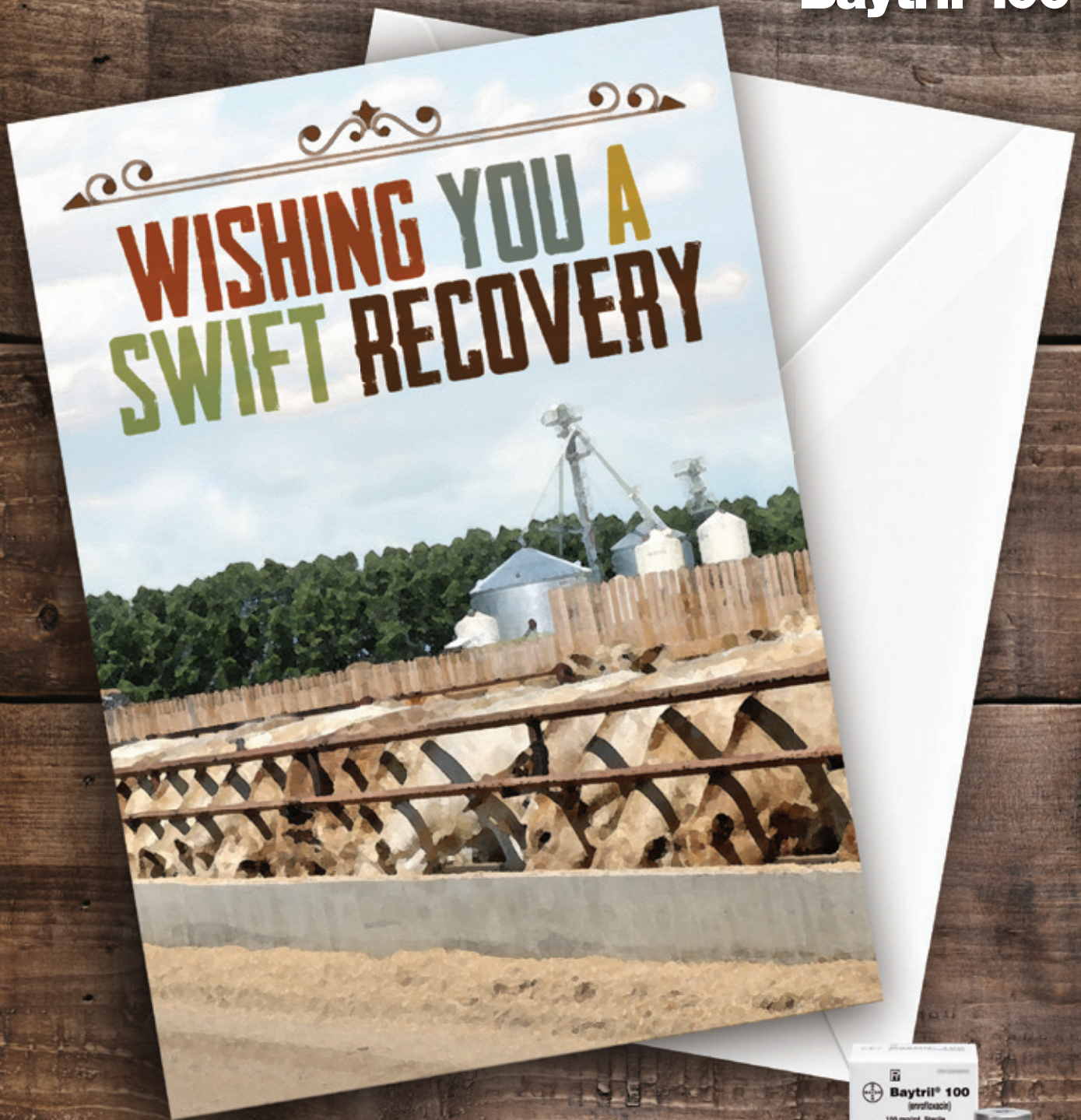
Medicine in 2012. After two years in private practice, she returned to WCVN to pursue graduate training in anatomic pathology in the Department of Veterinary Pathology and is close to completing her PhD. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys beekeeping.

### READERS' FEEDBACK

The **Animal Health Perspectives** editorial team (Dr. Moira Kerr, Brian Zwaan and Kathryn Tonita) invite readers' comment on material published in the newsletter or questions on material submitted by contributors.

Submit your comments or concerns to Dr. Moira Kerr (email: [moira.kerr@pds.usask.ca](mailto:moira.kerr@pds.usask.ca)) and they will be forwarded appropriately.





**Baytril® 100 starts treating BRD\* in under 1 hour, so cattle get well soon.**

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) threatens the health and earning-potential of your cattle. With proven BRD bacteria-killing activity\*, Baytril® 100 concentrates in the lungs where it is needed most, getting cattle back on feed fast.

- In less than 2 hours, Baytril® 100 reaches therapeutic levels for common BRD pathogens
- After treatment, cattle feel better and return to feed
- Cattle are less likely to relapse, relative to most other treatments, when treated with Baytril® 100<sup>1</sup>

**Learn more at [Baytril100.ca](http://Baytril100.ca)**



\* via BRD pathogens: *M. haemolytic*, *P. multocida*

<sup>1</sup> O'Connor et al. A mixed treatment meta-analysis of antibiotic options for bovine respiratory disease – An update. *Prev Vet Med* 132 (2016) 130-139.







Animal Protection Services  
SASKATCHEWAN

# ANATOMY OF AN INVESTIGATION

Don Ferguson, RVT  
Director, Animal Protection  
Services of Saskatchewan

**A**nimal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS) was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2015 to provide enforcement of The Animal Protection Act. APSS has a funding agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to investigate concerns about animals in distress. APSS works with social workers, veterinary professionals and other health care providers and the public who are concerned about the safety and treatment of a specific animal or group of animals.

The first step in an investigation is receiving a complaint from a concerned member of the public, typically through the APSS phone line. It is critical that those witnessing potential animal neglect or abuse contact APSS as this may be the only way our agency can become involved. In Regina the public is asked to contact the Regional Humane Society and in Saskatoon they should contact the Saskatoon SPCA.

People may suspect an animal is being mistreated or neglected but aren't sure. In such cases, we encourage the person to call us, so we can determine what course of action, if any, is appropriate. If the circumstances involve something outside our mandate, such as an animal control or wildlife issues, we will refer the caller to the appropriate agency.

Once it is established that the complaint is within our mandate, it is forwarded to the Animal Protection Officer

covering the area mentioned in the complaint. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the Animal Protection Officer may contact the complainant (individual who requested our agency to investigate their concern) to confirm the location and, where possible, make contact with additional sources for more information. The officer then attends at the location in question and attempts to speak with the owner or person in charge of the animal(s). The officer explains the reason for the visit and asks the owner questions in order to better assess the situation.

The officer then requests the owner accompany him or her to view the animal(s). This first observation of the animal(s) is critical because the officer must use his/her knowledge and experience to determine if the complaint is founded and, most importantly, what steps are needed to respond to the condition of the animal(s).

If the complaint is unfounded, the officer informs the owner that there is no problem and leaves the property. Occasionally the owner will ask us who made the complaint, but that information remains confidential.

## PROVIDING EDUCATION & GAINING COMPLIANCE

The Animal Protection Act prohibits anyone from allowing an animal to be in distress. If the officer determines the situation





does warrant concern, he/she has a number of options to choose from depending on the severity of the problem. In most cases, the officer informs the owner of the nature of the problem and advises the corrective action that must be taken. For example, the amount or quality of feed may need to be adjusted or appropriate shelter may need to be provided.

Generally, the busiest time of the year for complaints is from October to April. The change in weather conditions often prompts calls, especially in the fall, when the weather starts turning cold and forage supplies are low, and again in the spring before the grass starts to grow.

APSS receives numerous complaints about inadequate shelter or care regarding companion animals. When this happens, the officer provides educational advice and guidance to the owner to rectify the concern or any distress.

### Working Toward a Solution

When a situation is more serious and needs to be rectified immediately, the officer will give a verbal warning or Corrective Action Order to the owner. Included in the warning is a stipulation of what needs to be done and when, usually within a 24-hour time period. The officer will check back within this period to ensure the owner has complied. An officer may follow-up with

the owner a number of times. The officer will only conclude the investigation when conditions have improved, and he/she is confident the animal(s) are being cared for appropriately.

All conditions may not be met right away, but as long as the officer is seeing real improvement in the welfare of the animals, he or she will work with the owner to improve conditions.

### The Statistics

- Only 4-6% of files investigated result in the seizure of animals
- Only 3% of all files investigated result in charges being laid against the owner.
- 97% of files are dealt with through education and compliance. checks to ensure the conditions of concern have been relieved.

### DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

In some cases, the officer may determine the animal(s) must be seen by a veterinarian immediately. Usually the officer advises the owner to call a veterinarian of his or her choice. However, if the owner cannot be located or refuses to comply, our officer will call a veterinarian directly.

If attempts fail to improve the treatment of the animals and/or the condition of the animals is in jeopardy, APSS will take the animal(s) into protective custody. This is known legally as seizing an animal(s) and is typically done under an Animal Protection Act search warrant usually with a veterinarian attending with the officer. Animals are removed to relieve them from distress and provide them with the proper food, water, shelter, and veterinary care.

Seizing animals can be as simple as taking a dog or cat to the nearest animal shelter or, in the case of large animals or large numbers of animals, may involve detailed planning and coordination with other agencies, veterinarians and caretakers. In one case, we had to erect portable paneling, so we could load and transport cattle. In another instance, we had to coordinate a number of trucks and kennels with a local humane society in order to transport a large number of dogs from a property to the humane society's facility for holding.

Through our partnerships with numerous other agencies and organizations, APSS can also call on added support as required. For example, on occasion we've requested the assistance of Livestock Services of Saskatchewan (LSS) to bring horses to help round up cattle that were being removed. As well, the officer may request the assistance of the RCMP for security reasons.

Regardless of the complexity, the seizure needs to be done expeditiously. The officers usually plan on having the animals removed from the property within 48 hours after determining the need for seizure. Whenever necessary, interim care is provided prior to the animals being removed from the property. Whatever the requirements are, our first priority is the always the animals.



**WDDC**  
WESTERN DRUG DISTRIBUTION CENTER LIMITED

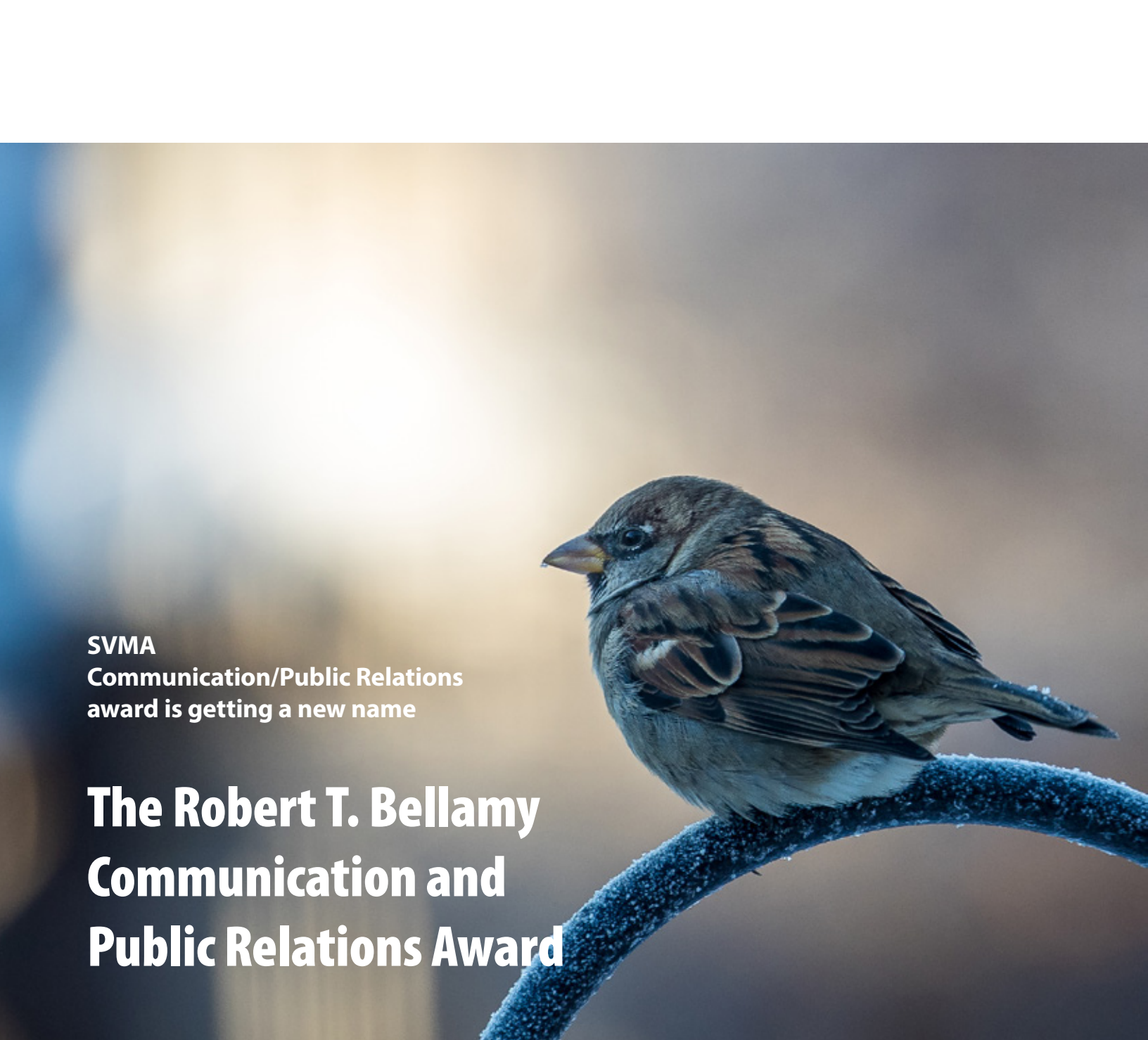
**Karen Laventure, RVT**  
Client Service Representative  
(Saskatchewan)

"Your Success is Our Business"

<p><b>DIRECT:</b> (306) 221-7681  <b>Direct Fax:</b> (800) 329-9332  <b>Toll Free:</b> 1-877-329-9332 ext. 1126  <b>Email:</b> klaventure@wddc.com  <b>Website:</b> www.wddc.com</p>	<p>17611 - 109A Avenue  Edmonton, Alberta  T5S 2W4</p>
--	--







**SVMA**  
**Communication/Public Relations**  
**award is getting a new name**

# **The Robert T. Bellamy Communication and Public Relations Award**

 **DR. ROBERT BELLAMY**



**At a recent meeting, Council voted to rename this annual SVMA Award of Distinction in recognition of and appreciation for Dr Bob Bellamy's outstanding accomplishments in communication with the membership and the public.**

**D**r. Robert T Bellamy graduated with distinction from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1976. After graduation he worked as an associate veterinarian in Rosthern and Regina before setting up a mixed animal practice in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in September of 1977. The practice continued to thrive and operates today under the name of Bellamy Harrison Animal Hospital.

With mixed emotions Dr. Bellamy retired in March of 2019 after 43 years in practice. He remains absolutely passionate about the value that general veterinary practitioner returns to both the animals they treat as well as the people who own them. Even in today's world which leans toward specialization he is adamant that the private practitioner who would best describe as a "competent generalist" is the cornerstone to the delivery of veterinary health care. In fact, Robert has delivered several seminars to veterinary students and practitioners in Canada and the United States titled the Competent Generalist outlining the premise that "veterinary medicine outside the world of academia is a business". Having a generalist paradigm of competence is important to surviving in the business of veterinary medicine.

Robert's interest in the business aspect of veterinary medicine was sparked after reading Michael Gerber's book the "E Myth". The prime message in the book is that most small business owners spend too much time working "in" their business and not enough time working "on" their business! To gain insight into business Robert joined the SVMA's Practice Economic Committee, and has served as chair of the committee for over 20 years. He arranged funding and working with the economist Darrin Osborne and organized the first veterinary economic survey in Saskatchewan. He also served and chaired the CVMA's Business Management Committee which continues conducting yearly surveys and produces yearly Suggested Fee Guides.

Dr. Bellamy, working with Dr. Ron Clark also conducted a study on large and mixed animal practices in Saskatchewan, and used the data collected to produce a Cost Benefit Analysis demonstrating the huge financial benefits routine cow-calf procedures return to livestock producer. He delivered the message to veterinarians throughout Saskatchewan by holding regional meetings.

Robert understood that drug sales were a significant profit center to veterinary practices and that veterinarians also hold a unique privilege amongst health care professionals to both prescribe and dispense. To ensure that the privilege would be maintained he organized funding for, and coordinated the production of the Dispensing Manual For Veterinarians. The manual summarizes federal, provincial legislation, SVMA Bylaws and Practice Standards regulating drug sales and ensures practitioners meet both legal and ethical standards when prescribing and dispensing.

Robert also is adamant that the veterinary profession benefits from communicating with the general public. During his time on SVMA Council, using resources produced by doggonessafe.com he organized the SVMA's Dog Bite Prevention Program. Dr. Bellamy has delivered the message on dog safety to literally thousands of public school students in Moose Jaw and area over the past decade.

During years of practice Dr. Bellamy found that better informed clients were much easier to work with. Knowing "the what and the why" a veterinary test or procedure was needed greatly increased the likelihood the client would accept the treatment plan. Robert expanded his practicing focus to not only treat the animal but make sure the owner who ultimately was expected to pay for the procedure understood what was being done. Early in his career

the practice mailed out quarterly newsletters and most clients left a hospital with a practically worded information handout.

The advent of the internet and social media expanded and streamlined the effort. Bellamy Harrison Animal Hospital was an early adopter of Twitter, Facebook and Google Plus, using the social media platforms to entertain educate and interact with followers. As the medium has transformed from photo to video format, Dr. Bellamy produced a series of generic client information videos under the name of Just Like You Videos (JLY). Links to the video are either directly emailed to client prior to or after a veterinary visit and can also be attached to a social media post. The videos are very popular and have been made available to any veterinarian wishing to use them. Links to the videos can be accessed through the CVMA's Youtube channel or on the SVMA's Vimeo site linked to SVMA's website.

Dr. Bellamy has also produced several videos at the request of the SVMA. The video titled "One World One Health" is a brief infomercial highlighting the significant roles that the veterinary profession plays in protecting animal and human health. The video has been viewed several hundreds of thousands of times on Sask Vet's Youtube channel. The video "A Profession of Caring" is a brief documentary outlining the remarkable progress the veterinary profession in Saskatchewan has made over the past 100 years. Dr. Bellamy working with his wife Dr. Cheryl Bellamy also produced 3 continuing education videos on antimicrobial resistance which are hosted on SVMA's website. The short video titled Antimicrobial Resistance was developed to educate the general public as to why veterinarians are required to prescribe antibiotics judiciously.

Dr. Bellamy in 2014 became the project coordinator for the SVMA social media initiative, branded under the name of Sask Vets. Initially working with Wow Factor Media a Moose Jaw advertising company the SVMA's social media feed was established and has grown to have the largest following of any veterinary group in Canada. The feed continues to inform and interact with Saskatchewan residents delivering a positive message on the value of veterinary services, managed in house by the very capable SVMA staff.

Dr. Robert T Bellamy's efforts to promote the veterinary profession has been recognized both provincially and nationally. He received SVMA's Meritorious Service Award in 2005, SVMA's Communication Award 2006, SVMA's J.J. Murison Award 2013, and SVMA's Communication and Public Relations Award 2015. In 2017 Robert received the President's Award from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

So what's next for Dr. Robert T Bellamy? Well Dr. Bellamy has taken up wildlife photography. So rather than racing down country roads from farm to farm, he now stops, taking a moment to admire the wild critters that he has been dodging over the past 4 decades.



VetAdvise.com

**TERRY A. JACKSON**  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

## All About Veterinarians

*Consulting, Coaching, Valuations, Negotiations, Purchase / Sale*

**TERRY JACKSON, C.P.A. - C.G.A.**

Phone: 604.939.2323 [tjackson@jandacga.com](mailto:tjackson@jandacga.com)

### Hello from the Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists!

**W**e hope everyone is staying safe by practicing social distancing and taking precautions in their workplaces. The SAVT office has officially moved to working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are still able to function as normally as possible, but the office has taken over our Executive Directors living space, but she is not complaining because she gets to spend all the time with her African grey parrot Benny. We have a regular monthly meeting with the SAVT board of directors on April 8th and the agenda is already quite full. Decisions will need to be discussed for future events we have scheduled. As for now we are all keeping in touch with each other via ZOOM platform, email, text and phone calls. Mental health is important to remember during times of crisis and we all must stick together in this amazing profession.

In Saskatchewan, veterinary clinics are considered an essential service according to the Ministry of Agriculture. Most clinics remain open for emergency services, prescription refills, pet food sales, livestock sale items etc. and have taken precautions in their own clinics to implement low/no

contact protocols. We appreciate everyone in the veterinary industry keeping us informed on all updates as they become available.

There have been eight committees struck for the 2020 term to assist the Board of Directors so we can focus more on the governance portion of board decisions. The SAVT found them to be very helpful in the past year and we were able to streamline meetings and be more effective in making decisions. The committees struck are as follows: Public Relations, VTS/Mentorship, Governance, Advisory, Executive Interview, Recruitment, Awards and Student Networking.

We will be holding a virtual Town Hall on April 15 and we look forward to answering any questions our membership may ask about the board, COVID-19, SVMA, RVTTC, CE, SAVT budget etc. If you have any questions you would like answered but will not be able to join us, please forward them to [savt@savt.ca](mailto:savt@savt.ca).

Plans for our 2020 annual conference are still underway. We are hoping to continue with our annual conference in November as planned but we will be ready to re-evaluate plans over the next



**Breanne Barber**  
President Elect

few months. With the recent resignation of our Conference Coordinator, we are in the process of hiring for a new position, Conference Coordinator/Executive Assistant, to work with our Executive Director on days that they would not be working on conference planning. We appreciate everything Kenzie has accomplished for the SAVT over the past few years and we wish her all the best in her future.

Did you know that the SAVT has a Blog?! The articles are written by RVT's all over the Canada. If you would like to submit an article or read all the amazing blog posts submitted so far you can find us at <https://saskvet.tech/>.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out! #ProudlyRVT #StaySafe

Breanne Barber, RVT  
SAVT President Elect 2020-2021  
RVTTC Director 2020-2023

### REPORT FROM SASK POLYTECH

**I**t is an interesting time to be a veterinary technology student. As a second year student, we started our practicums in February and were very excited to gain valuable experience working in clinics and through WCVM rotations this spring. We have worked so hard to get to where we are today and were looking forward to graduating in June and beginning our careers in many different interest areas in veterinary medicine. However, COVID-19 has thrown a wrench in everyone's plans and has forced us all to adapt to new situations and realities. Many of us have been lucky enough to finish our practicums but

unfortunately our WCVM rotations have been cancelled. Our graduation has also been put on hold for now. It has been a stressful and hard time for everyone, but the uncertainties of the future are quite scary for a student. We all had dreams for our futures and now those plans are a bit off track. But we will persevere and get through this. We know that we will be valuable assets to future employers and veterinary teams. We are trying to do whatever we can to graduate as quickly as possible to help limit any negative impacts on veterinary medicine in Saskatchewan. We are proud of everything we have accomplished so far and cannot



**Ashley Martin**  
2nd Year Veterinary  
Technology Student

wait to become Registered Veterinary Technologists.



# Equine Disease Surveillance in Canada

**S**pring is upon us and herd health visits will soon begin for our equine clients. Part of the herd health visit should include a discussion on the various disease risks that may affect your clients' equine partners, depending upon the area of the country in which they reside as well as the activities they undertake with their equines. But how do you stay current on the status of certain diseases in Saskatchewan or across Canada, such as Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) or West Nile Virus (WNV)?

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) has developed an Equine Disease Dashboard that provides information on certain equine diseases of concern. The dashboard provides information on the location and date for cases of Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), WNV and EIA from across Canada. The Equine Disease Dashboard has many unique features to provide veterinarians with useful information on the status of equine diseases. For example, location of

disease cases can be filtered to provide the province or even subdivision of the province in which the case is located. Filtering data by province creates an interactive map, which allows the reader to view the horse distribution within the selected province. Individual dots on the map can be selected to provide information on diseases within a specific area of the province. Data can be filtered further by individual disease, date or time period. The page also includes bar graphs, which provide an easy-to-view representation of disease by province and by year to provide the reader with a comprehensive understanding of the disease status. This dashboard can be found on the CAHSS Equine Surveillance in Canada home page and is available for anyone to access. CAHSS also provides a list of equine disease cases with more detailed information on their Equine National Health Surveillance Network webpage, including diseases such as Equine Herpesvirus. Both of the resources listed above can be found at the following

link: <https://www.cahss.ca/surveillance/equine/>

Veterinarians can also participate directly with CAHSS to enhance the equine surveillance network in Canada by signing up for a free membership. Veterinarians can choose to subscribe as an associate member, to receive information on CAHSS activities without participation in meetings, or as an owning member, where veterinarians can become more involved in enhancing CAHSS activities. The benefits of membership include e-mail alerts on equine diseases as they are reported as well as the ability to provide information on diseases that you are seeing in practice.

Gaining a better understanding of the diseases that affect our equine population helps us keep our clients well-informed of current disease risks and helps to ensure that our equine population remains healthy.



**Dr Stephanie Smith,**  
Disease Surveillance  
Veterinarian

## FROM PAGE 7

might compromise their welfare and health or have a negative impact on biodiversity.

In some countries, National Veterinary Services are supporting core functions of the public health response, such as screening and testing of surveillance and diagnostic samples from humans. Veterinary clinics in some countries are also supporting the public health response by donating essential materials such as personal protective equipment and ventilators.

Guidance on Veterinary Laboratory Support to the Public Health Response for COVID-19 is available at the bottom of this document.

## WHAT IS THE OIE DOING?

The OIE is in contact with its Regional Representations and Sub Regional Representations, OIE Delegates of Member Countries, the OIE Wildlife Working Group, as well as FAO and WHO, to gather and share the latest available information. The OIE is closely liaising with its network of experts involved in current investigations on the source of the disease. Rumours and unofficial information are also monitored daily.

The OIE has mobilized several technical working groups ('ad hoc groups') to provide scientific advice on research priorities, ongoing research, and other implications of COVID-19 for animal health and veterinary public health, including risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

The OIE has also developed high level guidance for veterinary laboratories working with public health services to support testing of human samples for COVID-19.

The OIE has put in place an Incident Coordination System to coordinate these activities.

Given the similarities between COVID-19 and the emergence of other human infectious diseases at the human animal interface, the OIE is working with its Wildlife Working Group and other partners to develop a longer term work programme which aims to better understand the dynamics and risks around wildlife trade and consumption, with a view to developing strategies to reduce the risk of future spillover events.



Representing the *interests* and *priorities* of Canada's diverse veterinarians.

## canadian veterinary medical association (CVMA) **ONE PROFESSION. ONE STRONG VOICE.**

Whatever and wherever you practice veterinary medicine and wherever you are in your career, the CVMA's advocacy and resources can help make you more successful.

This information is provided to update you on the CVMA's recent activities and resources that benefit our members in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

I am hopeful that all our members are keeping well and managing as best they can during the current crisis. I have just a short letter to inform everyone as to what has been happening on the national level at the CVMA.

The weekend of March 20 was supposed to be our annual Committee Weekend in Ottawa. This was transformed into virtual meetings due to the current crisis. Council discussions focused largely on CVMA action plans for the COVID-19 situation. The CVMA is committed to advocating on a national level the role and importance of the veterinary profession and to providing information and support where needed. The CVMA has created a COVID-19 landing page (<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/coronavirus-covid-19>) that is updated regularly with links to a number of resources including practice guidelines, social distancing measures in a practice setting, wellness, human resource issues and navigating the financial implications of the current situation. There have been a number of excellent webinars hosted by the CVMA, hopefully many of you have had a chance to take part. Recordings of all of the webinars are available for viewing on the COVID-19 landing page. There are also a number of resources for clinics to share with their staff and clients. If you have suggestions or questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or the CVMA.

The CVMA administered Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR) has been called up by the CFIA to assist with Meat Hygiene Inspection. The CVR is a group of qualified veterinarians who have volunteered to assist the government in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak or other large scale emergencies and disasters that may affect animals.

The CVMA Convention to be held in July is still uncertain at the time of writing. A decision will be made shortly as to whether or not the Convention will take place.

Finally I would like to comment on how impressed I have been with the hard work, cooperation and support we have received from all sectors of the veterinary profession from private practitioners, corporate practices, CFIA, provincial VMA's, Colleges and our international colleagues. It is truly an honour to be part of such a profession.

Tracy Fisher, DVM

Saskatchewan Council Member for the CVMA

## SVMA NEWS

**SVMA News is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. All members are able to access it from the SVMA website.**

Starting in 2020, in order to defray costs as well as minimize the Association's environmental footprint, if you would like to have a physical copy mailed to you, you will need to subscribe. The subscription fee is \$25 (GST included) per year, payable by cheque or credit card.

## ON CAMPUS AT THE WCVM



Rayna Anderson, 2021

**H**ello, everyone! So much has happened since February. I think most of us can agree that we didn't see this coming. Seeing how quickly and efficiently our professional community came together to tackle every issue that came our way was truly inspiring and made me very proud to have chosen this profession for my future. The stories of compassion and adaptation coming from our veterinary community are the light I have needed in my newsfeed.

It feels like life has been divided into time before the pandemic and time after the pandemic began. And that division is definitely blurry in some regards, yet very finite in others. On-campus news has now become off-campus news! We had a very sudden shift to online classes in mid-March, which was certainly a shock after life had seemed so close to normal just the week before.

Beyond classes and labs, our clubs and social events kept us occupied. Some highlights from the "before time" included a trivia night and spelling bee, the first-year happy hour, a spin class, dog yoga, a self defense session, and a Rush game. Clubs hosted CPR, feline exams, and fetotomy labs, as well as many lunch talks on a variety of topics such as common feline emergencies, livestock welfare and transportation, and foal critical care. VIP Day brought many vendors

to the college to chat with students about various aspects of our profession, finances, technology, and services that will be helpful to us in the future. Students were able to apply their knowledge and gain more experience during events like CatSnip, Equine Education Day, and a series of lectures streamed from the UC Davis Exotic Animal Symposium.

March 13th was the final day on campus for most of us, and the decision to switch to remote delivery of classes was made. For a program like ours that has always relied on in-person lectures, labs, and rotations, calling this a big change seems like such an understatement. Some of what I have written here may end up changing even further as the pandemic calls for different actions, but these are some of the details of what off-campus life of a WCVM student was like these past weeks.

As someone who really likes to have a routine, adapting to this sudden change took a lot of energy out of me. I don't think change and uncertainty are fun for anyone, and there has definitely been plenty of both during this difficult time. The administration and professors at the WCVM quickly found a way to adapt our courses to an online learning format, and classes continued on as best they could. Remote learning involved a mixture of recorded lectures, discussion boards, posted notes, live question and answer

sessions, and plenty of reliance on self-motivation.

Third-year students faced many changes and uncertainty regarding their fourth-year rotations, but we are hoping to make the most of these changes and still have a great learning experience for our final year in the program. Due to the ever-changing nature of the recommendations for health and safety during the pandemic, the summer months will be very different than we were expecting. My fingers are crossed that our rotations are able to run smoothly once September arrives!

Fourth-year students had a lot of adjusting to do in order to finish the last few weeks of their rotations. Online rotations were quickly developed to ensure that all students completed their requirements to graduate in the safest way possible. This was a difficult undertaking for clinicians and students alike, and I really hope that everyone was able to make the most of it. Congratulations to our newest WCVM grads as they enter our profession as veterinarians! Best of luck to all of you at the beginnings of your careers.

I have my fingers crossed that I will be able to share some of my wonderful summer clinical experiences with you in my next update, along with happier news about WCVM student life. I'm sending all the good vibes I can find your way. I hope that you are all staying safe, healthy, and happy.





**Dr Douglas Freeman**  
Western College of  
Veterinary Medicine

I hope everyone is keeping healthy during these challenging times for people worldwide facing COVID-19. Here's a brief update about the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's (WCVM) response to the global pandemic in terms of our clinical services, education and research programs.

As of March 24, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) campus is closed to anyone but essential personnel. Three WCVM-based services are exceptions: the Veterinary Medical Centre, the Animal Care Unit (where teaching and research animals are housed and cared for) and Prairie Diagnostic Services, the provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratory. These facilities are deemed essential because of their focus on providing emergent clinical services, animal care and welfare, and veterinary diagnostics.

**CLINICAL SERVICES:** The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) is open for emergencies, urgent care cases and cases already under treatment. We are the only 24-hour and tertiary care facility in Saskatchewan, so we will try to maintain that essential service for animal owners and referring veterinarians while protecting the health and safety of our employees and clients. Our clinical staff is split into three separate shifts with no interaction between teams, and we have extensive procedures in place to protect people's safety.

**DVM PROGRAM:** Most veterinary students have returned to their home communities. Fourth-year veterinary students transferred from clinical rotations in the VMC to external clinical experiences. For some required core rotations and OSCEs (objective structured clinical examinations), WCVM faculty have developed remote alternatives that became available to the students on March 30. All members of the Class of 2020 should be able to graduate on time.

Veterinary students (Years 1 to 3) are all completing their courses and exams remotely. Students in certain years must complete some OSCEs and clinical labs before classes start in the fall term, so the WCVM's academic team is working on possible options for different scenarios. All students should be able to complete their requirements and advance to the next year of the program by the time fall term begins. If it's necessary to limit activities beyond August because of pandemic-related restrictions, the college will readjust plans.

While we are making major changes to continue delivering the DVM program,

we are ensuring that the program's integrity and quality remain. The WCVM is adhering to the temporary policies and procedures that were developed by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education (COE) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The WCVM's admissions team is working on alternatives to manage interviewing prospective students for fall 2020 entry in the DVM program.

**RESEARCH:** USask is allowing research teams with projects involving animals that are well underway to continue or to finalize data collection as soon as possible, but no new projects can begin. Exceptions are COVID-19 research (based in the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre or VIDO-InterVac), field research in which the animals are not housed in on-campus facilities, or research involving animals that are also used for agricultural production purposes. Ongoing animal research studies continue to be supported by the Animal Care Unit. However, the university is urging researchers to conclude projects and rely on existing data, if possible.

Most graduate students are working remotely. USask is still considering options for allowing undergraduate students to participate in a summer research experience.

We are so appreciative of our faculty, staff and students who have all stepped up to help their colleagues and their college get through this challenge. Our people have been amazing, innovative and ready to pitch in wherever they can. During this crisis, their extraordinary qualities are certainly shining through.

**IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT ME (DOUGLAS.FREEMAN@USASK.CA; 306-291-0545).  
FOR MORE WCVM NEWS, VISIT WCVMTODAY.USASK.CA OR FOLLOW @WCVMTODAY ON TWITTER OR FACEBOOK.**

# CLASSIFIED ADS

For complete, up-to-date listings, look for Classifieds under News & Classifieds on the SVMA website.

## LOCUMS AVAILABLE

### SASKATOON

Dr Olsen is an experience veterinarian and previous practice owner that is available to do locums in the Saskatoon area.

T| 403.501.4950. E| cathythetvet@shaw.ca

## LOCUMS WANTED

### WARMAN

Warman Small Animal Hospital is looking for an experienced veterinarian to fill a locum position over the summer of 2020. We have a spacious, modern hospital with experienced support staff and a friendly environment. If interested, please send resume or inquiries to amy\_neudorf@yahoo.com.

## VETERINARIANS REQUIRED

### LUMSDEN

TM's Veterinary Clinic has openings available for SMALL ANIMAL ONLY or MIXED ANIMAL Veterinarians.

We work to provide a positive influence on the lives of our clients and their pets while maintaining life balance for our team members. Our focus is on veterinary care with a difference and it's our goal to make a difference in the pet/client/vet relationship.

Mentorship and assisting each other is a key part of our practice. There is no small animal after hours, they are referred to the 24 hour clinic in Regina.

We offer a RELOCATION and SIGNING BONUS along with a competitive salary, full benefit package, paid CE, dues and more. We have a diverse case load ranging from general practice to emergency cases. We encourage and nurture advancement of your skill set. If your interest lies in general practice OR you have a desire for a more specific focus such as surgery, imaging (ultrasound/x-rays/endoscopy), internal medicine, or dentistry we'd love to talk to you.

We're located in Lumsden, 20 minutes from Regina. Our 8000 sq ft clinic was built new in 2013. We're looking for great people to join our team.

Please contact Lynda Croft by email at jobs@tmzvetclinic.ca if you are interested in this position and would like to apply or obtain more information. Veterinarians Required Saskatoon Warman Veterinary Services is looking for a Food Animal Veterinarian at our Saskatoon location. We are a dairy and swine practise focusing on consulting herd-based medicine. We have something to offer that is different! Our practise is a youthful group of veterinarians looking to provide

modern service to these changing industries. Salary and benefits are very competitive with industry standards and based on experience. New grads are encouraged to apply- we value mentorship and education. Our practise is comprised of 2 locations; one in Saskatoon and one in Emerald Park; a total of 6 full time veterinarians.

Please supply a cover letter and resume to Dr. Josh Lindenbach at Warman Veterinary Services. Dr. Josh Lindenbach. Phone: 306-230-5714. Email: jlindenbach@warmanvetser-vices.ca

### SASKATOON

Are you looking for flexible working hours in order to spend more time at home with family, cultivate a healthy work/life balance, devote more time to other areas of interest? The Forest Grove Veterinary Clinic is a well established, recently expanded and renovated, friendly, small animal practice in Saskatoon's bustling NorthEast end. We are looking for an enthusiastic, personable, hardworking DVM to join our eight person team. This position is a year-long (Maternity leave), part-time position. Our clinic motto is to nurture the bond between people and their pets through client education; friendly, welcoming service; and dedicated veterinary care. Our clinic is "Low Stress Handling Certified" and we have special interests in behaviour and dentistry. We are looking for a DVM who meshes well with our well established team. We offer flexible scheduling, and an attractive benefits package including uniform allowance, CE allowance, Health and Dental Benefits, and a great personal pet discount.

If you are interested in finding out more, please forward your resume to fgvc@shaw.ca Attention: Liane Bitinsky

### SASKATOON

Corman Park Vet Services is looking for a full-time strictly small animal vet to join our mixed practice. We are located 10km west of Saskatoon and service clientele in and around Saskatoon.

We are seeking individual who is willing to expand their knowledge base and grow in their career. Ideal candidate would take on all cases regardless of species with passion and drive. Large and small animal cases as well as call are shared between all veterinarians. Experience is an asset but not a necessity and new grads are welcome. Wages are based on experience and benefit and CE packages given.

If you feel you are the candidate to

join our team please send resume and cover letter to Dorrie at: dorrie.cpv@s@gmail.com.

### LLOYDMINSTER

We would love to invite you to become part of our team! The Lloydminster Animal Hospital is a well-established mixed animal practice located on the Alberta - Saskatchewan border in Lloydminster, half way between Edmonton and Saskatoon. Lloydminster has all the amenities expected in a city yet we are situated very close to some of the best recreational country in both provinces for outdoor activities. We strive to provide high quality service to all of our companion animal clients as well as our livestock producers in a busy and yet fun atmosphere. We pride ourselves on our ability to provide solid mentorship to our young veterinarians and allow our associates to explore avenues of the profession that excite them, as well as allowing for a strong work life balance. We strongly believe that a team atmosphere and collaborative working conditions benefit all. Our team of 7 veterinarians and full slate of support staff are here to aid in your success and hopefully make every day enjoyable. We are searching for an enthusiastic veterinarian with an interest in mixed or small animal practice and are willing to provide excellent mentorship in all disciplines. We have a full service main hospital facility with all of the usual toys and a smaller companion animal satellite clinic on the south end of Lloydminster. We have a very loyal clientele of progressive livestock and equine clients and newly renovated facilities to be able to do most large animal calls in clinic. We offer a competitive wage, paid CE, group health insurance, coverage of AbVMA and SVMA dues, along with compensation for mileage and emergency call duties.

For more information or to apply, please contact Joanne Freeman, Practice Manager, at 780-875-5733 or email: jfreeman@lah.ca.

### SASKATOON

Stonebridge Veterinary Hospital in Saskatoon is looking for a veterinarian to join its team of veterinary care givers. The hospital is excellently equipped to handle all routine medical, surgical, and dental cases. The applicant must possess good leadership qualities, be a team player, able to work independently and dependable. Those that require mentoring will also be considered. Please send all resumes to stonebridgvet@stone-

bridgevethospital.com. Telephone: 306-244-2815

### REGINA

Regent Park Animal Hospital is looking for a full or part time vet to join our small animal practice. New grads and foreign trained vets are welcome. We are currently a 1.5 doctor AAHA accredited clinic. We are established and reputable. We have a very positive work environment. We have in-house Idexx laboratory, digital x-ray and dental x-ray.

Our compensation package will include a competitive salary, paid licensing fees, C.E. allowance and negotiable moving expenses. Contact: Dr.Palanivel Thanakkan. Phone: 306-206-1823 Email: palanivet69@gmail.com

### MOOSE JAW

The Moose Jaw Animal Clinic is looking for two full or part time veterinarians to join our progressive, well established mixed animal practice. Located in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, we have been providing the city and surrounding area with exceptional veterinary care since 1955. Our clinic has 5 full time veterinarians, 2 part time veterinarians, 7 RVTs, 4 receptionists, and a multitude of other support staff.

We also offer 24 hour emergency services that is currently shared evenly with another local vet clinic. We have a full in-clinic laboratory and are well equipped with diagnostic and medical equipment. Having moved to our new location within the last 10 years, we offer a spacious work area with updated small and large animal clinic layouts. This includes isolation rooms for small and large animal (with a separate entrance). We have also recently updated our x-ray (portable, stationary, and dental) and have new ultrasound machines for small and large animal. We also have some brand new orthopedic equipment that has never been used.

Present caseloads are approximately 35% large animal and 65% small animal (including exotics). We have an extremely friendly working environment with excellent staff. Offers include a competitive salary, four weeks paid vacation, a signing bonus (up to \$5000), yearly bonus, health and dental coverage, CE allowance, and paid dues. We also believe in advancing your education past the required CE needed by the SVMA.

If you feel like this is the right fit for you and want more information or would like to apply, please contact Dr

# CLASSIFIED ADS

Ramdath Changar at MJAC.C@sasktel.net, (306) 692-3622, (306) 630-6980.

## REGINA

24 HR Animal Care Centre in Regina, SK, is now accepting applications for a small animal veterinarian (a 6-12 month term position) to cover a maternity leave starting in July 2020. By providing our veterinarians with the tools and in-house diagnostic capabilities plus a great support team, we are able to offer our patients the gold-standard in veterinary care. Our AAHA accredited hospital is fully equipped with paperless Cornerstone practice management software; full in-house Idexx laboratory including SDMA, SediVu urinalysis, blood gases, 2 SurgiVet Advisors with CO2 monitoring, ultrasonic dental unit, digital radiography, digital dental radiography, CT scanner, endoscopy, and the latest ultrasound technology, therapeutic K-Laser and more. Take a virtual tour at [www.24hracc.ca](http://www.24hracc.ca). Come and join an excellent team that cares for patients 24 hours a day with compassion and professionalism.

Our veterinarians work 12-hour shifts, rotating between days and nights, with approximately 14-16 shifts per month leaving plenty of time for short trips and R&R. Compensation is very competitive, commensurate with experience, and includes production bonuses, medical benefits and CE. Candidates must have passed the NAVLE and have obtained their DVM (or equivalent) and must have fluent English communication skills (written and oral). Your income is up to you! Earn a base yearly income of \$90,000 minimum plus production (which can give you the earning potential in excess of \$150,000 per year!).

New grads are welcome as we have a comprehensive mentoring program.

Contact: Sarah Kessler, 24 HR Animal Care Centre, 1846 Victoria Avenue East, Regina, SK S4N 7K3. phone: (306) 761-1449 email: [24hrhr@accesscomm.ca](mailto:24hrhr@accesscomm.ca)

## SASKATOON

PrairieLand Vet Clinic in Saskatoon is thriving and looking for a Veterinarian to join us in our new building. The ideal candidate must be knowledgeable, compassionate, experienced, and be able to work and diagnose in a very fast paced environment. You will be required to do surgery, diagnostic and routine appointments, and emergency call when needed.

We have blood analysis machines, digital xray, digital dental xray, and ultrasound equipment. We are cur-

rently a two vet small animal practice with five support staff and can offer a competitive salary and benefits package for you and great benefits for your pets as well. If you are interested in building and testing your skills, we would be interested in having you join our great team!

Please email your resume to [prairielandvet@sasktel.net](mailto:prairielandvet@sasktel.net) attention Dr Haider Elbermani or send or drop off your resume to 2319 Lorne Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7J 0K6

## SPIRITWOOD

Spiritwood Veterinary Service is accepting applications for a full time DVM and a full time RVT. Spiritwood is located 175km N.W. of Saskatoon, SK. We are a privately owned and operated mixed animal practice: 70% large animal (mainly beef cattle) and 30% small animal. We provide both in-clinic and on-farm services. All large animal procedures that can be done in-clinic are done in-clinic. The ideal candidates are self-motivated with a strong work ethic and must have excellent communication and people skills. We welcome new graduates as well as experienced candidates.

Contact: Dr. Bonnie Hiebert, Spiritwood Veterinary Service, PO Box 297 Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M. Phone (306) 883-2370 or e-mail [spwvvet@sasktel.net](mailto:spwvvet@sasktel.net)

## SASKATOON

Are you looking for something different or to expand your scope of practice?

Graduate training opportunities (MSc and PhD) with a specialization in disease management in commercial beef herds and epidemiology are available with competitive stipends in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, SK.

One project will focus on applying diagnostic tools and strategies to inform the prudent use of antimicrobials in bovine respiratory disease (BRD) in the feedlot.

The second project will examine infectious disease control and antimicrobial use and stewardship in cow-calf herds in Western Canada.

These projects are fully funded by Genome Canada, the Beef Cattle Research Council and NSERC and are supported by an existing team of laboratory diagnosticians, technicians, and graduate students.

We have a well-established graduate student training program within a strong and collaborative beef research

team. There is also the potential for options for students wishing to work remotely.

Please contact Dr. Cheryl Waldner (<https://researchers.usask.ca/cher-yl-waldner/>) for more information at [cheryl.waldner@usask.ca](mailto:cheryl.waldner@usask.ca).

## REGINA

The Sherwood Animal Clinic is looking for a new friend. We need a new Veterinarian to share our successes and our heartbreaks with. If your chosen career is more than just a job to you, give us a call! We will fill your days with hard work and challenges (and more than a couple laughs), and will encourage you to enjoy your "other life" at night. You will share your journey with 4 veterinarians, and 3 other technicians, plus support staff. We concentrate on dogs, cats, and horses, but do see the occasional bovine, sheep and goat. We are well equipped to care for them all, and would like to have you share in the rewards we garnish from being able to do so. We enjoy the perks of an urban setting while maintaining a rural feel to the clinic. In exchange for a great team member, we will provide a CE allowance, paid licensing fees, health/dental benefits, shared on call, and a very competitive salary. If you are interested in visiting with us, please call Dr. Larry Hanson at 306-525-3763 or send a resume to [sacadmin@sasktel.net](mailto:sacadmin@sasktel.net).

## SASKATOON

VCA Canada Central Animal Hospital located in Saskatoon is currently recruiting for a Veterinarian to join our team of highly engaged and committed veterinary professionals. With an exceptional mentorship program, we welcome new and recent grads to apply. Our friendly team strives to provide the best possible medical and surgical care, creating an exceptional client experience. As part of our company, you will receive a competitive compensation, generous CE allowance, VIN & SVMA membership, paid vacation, generous personal pet policy and much more. To apply, please visit: <https://careers.vacanada.com/ShowJob/JobId/803/VeterinarianDVMVACanadaCentral-AnimalHospital>

## OGEA

Deep South Animal Clinic is currently accepting applications for an Associate Veterinarian. We are located in Ogema, Saskatchewan, one hour south of Regina. We are a very well equipped mixed animal practice (65%

large/35% small) which has been established for over 60 years. We used to list all of our in house equipment, but to make a long story short, if we don't have it, you don't need it! Both large and small animal facilities have been designed to function smoothly and allow excellent care of hospitalized cases. More than 95% of the large animal obstetrical cases are in clinic.

Your first job is really important in shaping your career! We feel our combination of up to date facilities, practice philosophy and enthusiastic, experienced staff makes this position an attractive place for you to practice high quality veterinary medicine. We will provide a competitive salary and an extensive benefits package, tailored to your needs.

Please send resumes to or call: Deep South Animal Clinic Ltd.  
Attention: Dr. Andy Acton. Box 387  
Ogema, Saskatchewan S0C 1Y0  
Phone: (306) 459-2422. Fax: (306) 459-2880. e-mail: [dsac@sasktel.net](mailto:dsac@sasktel.net)

## KELVINGTON

Full-time veterinarian wanted for Kelvington practice located two-and-a-half hours from Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. Practice is 50% large and 50% small animals. The practice is owned by five municipalities. It is RENT FREE but will require some updating to meet provincial practice standards.

Kelvington is a charming rural town of 900, offering K to 12 schools, a new hospital, four doctors, senior care home and lodging. Sarbi is located here (Rehabilitation for brain injury) as well as STARS and ambulance service.

This largely agricultural community has plenty of recreation facilities including skating rink, curling rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, recreation hall, walking and cross-country ski trails and beautiful golf course. It also has an auction market (animals) and RCMP station. Within a half-hour drive is a provincial park, three recreational lakes, ATV and ski trails and hunting. Route 66 toboggan trail comes through town. Please contact: Maurice Patenaude. Phone: 306-327-5366 or 306-327-8511. Email: [maurice.p@sasktel.net](mailto:maurice.p@sasktel.net)

## CARNDUFF

Ranchland Veterinary Services is seeking a Full time or part time associate veterinarian for our rapidly growing large animal practice in Carnduff Saskatchewan. Carnduff is a small town in southeast Saskatchewan that is a thriving and progressive community.



We have a new school, medical care and safe living. Carnduff is a very active community with a strong community spirit and plenty of recreational opportunities.

Our practice provides a wide range of services including herd health services, individual animal treatments as well as reproductive services including Embryo transfer, Donor flushing, and Owner's Use semen collection. Our practice is about 80% beef clientele and 20% equine clientele.

Our facility was built in 2019 and currently houses approximately 100 donor animals and recipients. We have all of the equipment necessary to help you succeed. Including a portable digital X-ray, Ultrasounds, semen testing equipment, digital embryo and semen freezers, a mobile laboratory/ semen testing trailer. A large portion of work is completed in clinic for reproductive services however clinical duties are predominately performed on farm.

The compensation package consists of a competitive base salary, on-call stipend, after hours fees. CE compensation, licensing fees and a group insurance policy (disability, life, dental, health, optometrist). A competitive vehicle allowance will be provided.

We are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic, detail oriented and flexible individual interest in large animal medicine and reproduction. New grads are welcome to apply as mentorship and teamwork is a priority for us. Office: (306) 482-1010 | Fax: (306) 482-1011. Email: ranchlandvet@gmail.com

### MELVILLE

Fun and friendly veterinary practice is looking for an upbeat, outgoing and all-around fun person to join our ever-evolving team. We are looking for our next Dr. Rockstar. Having started from a small mixed animal practice of 1 doctor and 1 technician and growing to where we are now (2.2 doctors, 2.5 techs and 2 CSR's), Animal Health Centre of Melville strives to provide optimal patient and client care and we can't keep up. We have chosen to work by the principles of work-life balance and teamwork. Everyone on the team has an important role to fill and, fortunately, we have a great support network here to make your life more efficient. While we know that experience makes you more knowledgeable, we also know that you can't get more knowledgeable without experience. We have been involved in the mentorship and preceptorship programs and have had 6 students in the past 10

years and loved every minute of teaching. If you're a hard working individual that is looking to have some laughs and enjoy your passion for veterinary medicine then you should send your resume and cover letter to Dr. Deana Schenher ahcmelville@gmail.com

### SASKATOON

The Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization – International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac), a research organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada, is seeking a Clinical Veterinarian for its clinical research group. The clinical research group is currently comprised of three Veterinarians and nine Animal Care Technicians/Husbandry personnel and is responsible for the care of all animals used in experimental research. This includes work with small and large animal species in containment level 2 and level 3. The group works closely with scientists at VIDO-InterVac to help understand infectious diseases of humans and animals and to develop effective strategies for improving human and animal health.

#### Representative Duties

Supervises research trials and ensures all treatments, clinical monitoring and sampling procedures are correctly performed. Accurately documents results from start to finish of trials.

- Provides direct supervision to Animal Care Technicians and ensures day-to-day performance and development at established standards.

- Plans, coordinates and schedules clinical and surgical research trials with Animal Care Technicians to meet research goals and timelines.

- Helps to develop novel large and small animal models, including surgical models, in consultation with scientists to support their specific research requirements.

- Collects tissue samples for laboratory analyses including pre- and post-trial samples in both treated and control animals.

- Assesses gross pathology and evaluates the extent of anomalies in terms of degree of severity, volumes, or spread. Records all findings.

- Ensures bio-security processes and protocols are consistently applied in the animal care area.

- Assists Scientists in writing Animal Use Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures for submission to the University Animal Care Committee (UACC) for approval.

- Provides budget estimates for animal trials.

### Qualifications

- DVM degree with knowledge encompassing multiple species.

- Must have surgical and clinical skills.

- Must be eligible for licensure to practice veterinary medicine in Saskatchewan.

- Valid driver's license.

- Pathology training would be an asset, as would competency in ultrasound use and interpretation.

Inquiries regarding this job posting can be submitted to Stacy Weisgerber, HR Advisor. Visit [www.vido.org/careers/current-opportunities](http://www.vido.org/careers/current-opportunities) to apply. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until suitable candidates are found.

### BRANDON, MB

Are you a small animal DVM looking for a practice that supports your professional interests, and allows you to practice quality medicine while working in a fun team-oriented environment? Grand Valley Animal Clinic is seeking a full-time DVM to join our team. The successful applicant will be motivated, enthusiastic and driven to excel. We offer the potential to pursue professional interests by including a CE allowance into each of our DVM contracts. We support our DVMs by providing digital x-ray and digital dental x-ray, abdominal and cardiac ultrasound, endoscopy, orthopedics and CO2 laser. Our new expansion due to open early this year will enable us to offer additional services, including rehabilitation with an underwater treadmill, a devoted chemotherapy room and a specialist surgery suite. We value work-life balance. As the largest practice in the area, our shared workload gives you more time to enjoy life outside of work. We offer competitive compensation, as well as after-hours compensation and a generous benefits package. Check us out at: [www.gvac.ca](http://www.gvac.ca).

Contact: Dr. Jennifer Beckwith at 204-728-0033

### PICTURE BUTTE, AB

Feedlot Associate Veterinarian Job available in southern Alberta (Picture Butte area). Looking for two energetic, enthusiastic, organized, detail oriented, flexible and motivated individuals interested in feedlot production medicine, both beef and lamb.

Our practice provides herd health and production services, regulatory and emergency services, as well as research to several large feedlots in the area. Experience working with beef cattle or sheep an asset. Post-graduate

work in epidemiology, nutrition, or food animal medicine an asset but not required. New graduates or post-docs may apply. DVM required and you must be eligible to be licensed to practice in Alberta i.e. passed NAVLE. Must speak/write English and have a valid driver's license and passport.

Along with other associate veterinarians you will be working alongside four vet technicians/research assistants and office support staff. There are no night calls but the vets must participate in a weekend call schedule with the other veterinarians and technicians. You will be provided with a practice office including computer, work truck, all required equipment, and a work cell phone.

ABHS offers a friendly work environment including staff and clients. offers a competitive salary, complete benefits package and covers CE expenses. Located near Lethbridge where all amenities are available including the university, college, hospital, airport, shopping, and mountains for recreation.

Please submit resume with three work references to [joyce@abhs.ca](mailto:joyce@abhs.ca)

### WEYBURN

Looking to find a place to call home? Find it in southeast Saskatchewan. Weyburn was named the best city to live in on the prairies by MoneySense magazine. Take this opportunity to come live and work here. Prairie Animal Health Centre Weyburn is seeking a mixed animal veterinarian. Full time or part time, you decide! We get it, there is more to you than work.

Grow your network of colleagues while growing your skills. Our network of three clinics is a definite asset, opening up access to more minds, more skill and more opportunities.

Bring your clinical skills and a great attitude and help us deliver exceptional care and client service. Be part of team where you are valued. Our practice size allows for specialization in certain species/services while maintaining the ability to share on-call. That's right the dreaded on-call word, we know it's the worst but we try to take the ick out. You are paid to be on-call; we share it between two clinics to reduce the load and are always looking for ways to improve the system.

No great team is complete without a few tools to make the magic happen. PAHC has what you need digital dental radiography, CR radiographs, ultrasound, video otoscopy, Abaxis HM5 and VS2 and a paperless Avimark practice.

You will have the opportunity to make an exceptional salary with lots of perks. PAHC insists you seize the day and take full advantage of your CE opportunities.

Check us out on our website at [prairieanimalhealthweyburn.com](http://prairieanimalhealthweyburn.com) and the City of Weyburn at [weyburn.ca](http://weyburn.ca). Better yet, don't delay- send me your resume or call and ask questions. Contact info: Kristin Caldwell, CVO/RVT at [kristin-caldwell@pahc.ca](mailto:kristin-caldwell@pahc.ca) cell 306-861-3487. We can't wait to meet you!

### SWIFT CURRENT

The South West Animal Health Centre (large animal) and Associate Pet Hospital (companion animal) are looking for Large, and Mixed animal veterinarians to join our team in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada. Swift Current is a small city of eighteen thousand on the prairies of south west Saskatchewan. It is located on the Trans Canada highway only 2.5 hours from Regina, and 4 hours from Calgary, AB.

These clinics are established, reputable, and growing. We pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service and patient care, and at the same time, strive to provide work-life balance, in a supportive team atmosphere for our employees. The small animal facility was built in 2018 and has all of the equipment necessary to provide excellent companion animal medicine and surgery. The large animal clinic primarily does beef cow/calf work, with some dairy, equine, and feedlot work and is stocked with bovine and equine reproductive ultrasounds, as well as access to in house lab equipment, digital radiography, and endoscopy.

The compensation package consists of a competitive base salary, production bonus, on-call stipend, after-hours fees, CE compensation, licensing fees, and a group insurance policy (disability, life, dental, health, optometrist). Depending on the level of experience of the applicant, this compensation can easily accumulate

into a six-figure annual salary. Moving expenses negotiable. On-call duties involve two vets being on-call each night, one for large animal and one for small animal (allowing us to have positions available for strictly large or small animal veterinarians). Our veterinarians generally have 1 in 4 call, depending on staffing. There is potential for practice ownership for interested veterinarians. New grads are welcome to apply, supportive mentorship and teamwork is a priority. Swift Current is a great little city to call home. [www.swiftcurrent.ca](http://www.swiftcurrent.ca)

Please contact Dr. Sarah Allin ([sarahallin01@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahallin01@hotmail.com)) or Dr. Glen Griffin ([gtg799@mail.usask.ca](mailto:gtg799@mail.usask.ca)) with any questions or to send resumes. We would love to hear from you!

### REGINA

Veterinarian required! Our small animal clinic located in wonderful Regina is accepting applications for a full time position. We are looking for someone willing to commit to our vision of a clinic that offers every possible service to our clients and the utmost care to our patients. We have a wonderful team of veterinarians and technicians ready to introduce you to our eventful practice where no two days are ever the same.

Are you ready for a challenge? We are a one of a kind walk in practice that only makes appointments for surgery. We pride ourselves on always being available for our clients and patients on short notice and in their time of need. Our focus is exceptional patient and client care in a comfortable and accommodating environment. We encourage our veterinarians to pursue their special interests with paid CE opportunities and strive to provide a supportive setting for developing skills. Stress management capabilities would be beneficial due to our high patient volume and client demands.

Location highlights: Regina is a wonderful big city that strives to maintain our small town feel. We are

located in the historical Cathedral district that has both old charm and new vibrancy. Arts, music, culture and food are all well represented within walking distance of the practice and the neighbourhood hosts the city's largest festival to honour these diversities. We are also steps away from Mosaic Stadium and our beloved Saskatchewan Roughriders!

Qualifications & details: Successful applicants must have, or qualify to obtain, a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in Saskatchewan and be aware of and adhere to SVMA Bylaws. The position's work week is negotiable, with varying eight hour shifts and no emergency or on call. Benefits include medical and dental coverage, valuable staff discounts. We offer a competitive salary and encourage new graduates and experienced vets alike to apply.

Interested applicants should e-mail their resume to Michelle Achter at [animalclinicofregina@sasktel.net](mailto:animalclinicofregina@sasktel.net). Successful applicants will be contacted to arrange an interview.

### VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST REQUIRED

#### SASKATOON

Woodridge Veterinary Clinic is seeking a full-time RVT. We are looking for a hard-working, reliable, team-player to join our team. We are a 2-veterinarian, 2-technician clinic, located in the busy Lakewood development in the South-East part of Saskatoon. We are a small group and pride ourselves in our positive work environment. We believe work-life balance is important and we do not require our technicians to be on-call. Experience in the field is an asset, and wage will be based on experience. Please drop off your resume or contact Anique by email at [info@woodridgetvet.ca](mailto:info@woodridgetvet.ca)

#### SPIRITWOOD

Spiritwood Veterinary Service is accepting applications for a full time DVM and a full time RVT. Spiritwood

is located 175km N.W. of Saskatoon, SK. We are a privately owned and operated mixed animal practice: 70% large animal (mainly beef cattle) and 30% small animal. We provide both in-clinic and on-farm services. All large animal procedures that can be done in-clinic are done in-clinic. The ideal candidates are self-motivated with a strong work ethic and must have excellent communication and people skills. We welcome new graduates as well as experienced candidates.

Contact: Dr. Bonnie Hiebert  
Spiritwood Veterinary Service  
PO Box 297 Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M  
Phone (306) 883-2370 or e-mail [spwdvet@sasktel.net](mailto:spwdvet@sasktel.net)

### PRACTICE FOR SALE

#### KINDERSLEY

Kindersley Veterinary Clinic is a long time established mixed animal practice in a growing rural community. The clinic is equipped to handle all routine medical, surgical, and dental cases. Owner of practice is willing to assist with the transition. Please contact Dr. Andrew Klebek by email [kvet@sasktel.net](mailto:kvet@sasktel.net) or by phone (306) 463-2651

### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

#### EBENEZER

Retired from practice, have the following items for sale: Clay Adams Triac Combined Centrifuge; Tuttnauer Countertop Water Distiller; Vetro-san/L&R Ultrasonic Cleaner; Boekel Microplate Incubator; Super-Jet Dehorner (cuts up to 3 1/2" diameter horn); Oster Shearmaster Clippers; Sunbeam Clippers; Syscan Livetrack RFID Long Wand Reader, batteries & charger; Electro-ejaculator (manual); Cincal Refractometer; all items reasonably priced.

Contact Dr Kenn Wood  
email: [dr.k.wood@sasktel.net](mailto:dr.k.wood@sasktel.net);  
ph 306-782-0169

## CLASSIFIEDS

Check out the up-to-date Classifieds page on the SVMA website, where members can post ads of up to 200 words for three months, free. Submit an ad by using the link for the ad submission form on the SVMA website.

## CHANGING YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION? MOVING? CHANGING EMPLOYERS? CLOSING A PRACTICE?

You must let the SVMA office know.  
Email [svma@svma.sk.ca](mailto:svma@svma.sk.ca).

# AdVantage™

## Client education made easy

Over 800 pre-made educational slides and videos ready for you to put into your clinic's play list.



SAMPLE OF SCREEN OPTIONS



Communicating a message to your clients about your practice, the staff or what services and programs you offer has never been easier. Simply upload a video created in any movie format directly to the site and play it within minutes.



Ask us how you can educate your clients while they wait in your reception area or exam room.

For more information about AdVantage™ visit <https://adv.wddc.com> or any other Vantage suite of programs, please contact us at 877-746-9332 • 780-413-2163 • [msservice@wddc.com](mailto:msservice@wddc.com)



"Your success is our business"



## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### VETERINARIAN

#### T-GENERAL

Page, Cara ..... 01/20/20  
Tetlock, Samantha ..... 02/05/20

#### GENERAL TO SHORT TERM

Davidson, Shawn R. .... 30 day, 01/01/20  
Zwicker, Lesley ..... 30 day, 01/01/20

#### T-LIMITED GENERAL

Clooney, Breanna ..... 02/19/20  
Padial, Angela ..... 02/03/20  
Reisbig, Nathalie ..... 04/08/20  
Shahmohammadi, Amirreza ..... 04/08/20

#### T-LIMITED SHORT TERM

Bianchi, Angelo ..... 30 day, 02/03/20  
Holmes, Andrew D.S. .... 30 day, 03/09/20  
Salles, Monica ..... 30 day, 03/16/20

#### T-EDUCATIONAL

Wong, Sheena ..... 06/24/20

#### T-LIFE PRACTISING

Dupmeier, Ted K. .... 02/13/20

#### RESIGNED

Winter, Vinicius ..... 01/31/20

#### DECEASED

Sopatky, Janice ..... 02/01/20

### VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST

#### SHORT TERM (30 DAYS)

Jorsvick, Jacqueline ..... 03/12/20

#### PROVISIONAL

Kohle, Martina ..... 03/17/20

Kuny, Mercedes ..... 03/17/20  
Shatkowski, Daphne ..... 03/17/20  
Bell, Vyktria ..... 03/17/20  
Eversen, Shaylyn ..... 03/17/20  
Richards, Devyn ..... 03/17/20

#### STUDENT

Bell, Vyktria ..... 03/16/20  
Kohle, Martina ..... 03/16/20  
Noll, Jaclyn ..... 03/17/20  
Shatkowski, Daphne ..... 03/17/20  
Sperling, Brittney ..... 03/17/20  
Lavalley, Lauren ..... 03/18/20  
Stewart, McKenna ..... 03/18/20  
Richards, Devyn ..... 03/24/20  
Laing, Levi ..... 03/24/20  
Plett, Makyla ..... 03/24/20  
Gooding, Caitlin ..... 03/24/20  
Henheffer, Carlie ..... 03/24/20  
Ully, Raegen ..... 04/17/20





# The SVMA website has a new look!

**CHECK IT OUT!**  
**[www.svma.sk.ca](http://www.svma.sk.ca)**

The SVMA website has gotten a facelift. All the same features are there, with many great improvements coming in 2020.

SVMA is updating its communication with you. Along with our 'fresh face', there will be online renewals coming for 2021 and other improvements to make the web experience more user-friendly for members.

In addition, the new website will be part of a coming campaign to showcase the Saskatchewan veterinary profession to the public.