



# intercom

a publication of the San Diego County Veterinary Medical Association

June 2020



***SDCVMA Fall Special Senses Conference — pg 4***

***VINNews: Red Tape Hobbles Use Of Veterinary Labs for COVID-19 Testing — pg 6***

***SDCVMA Intercom Cover Photo Contest — pg 8***

***SDHS Partnering to Save Animals and People — pg 12***

***AAHA: Pet Scams Are Alive and Well and Now Come With A Coronavirus Twist — pg 12***

***FDA: Your Animal Is Sick. Was It Something They Ate? Vet-LIRN May Be Able to Help — pg 13***

***VINNews: New Veterinary Colleges Aim To Open In COVID-19 Era — pg 15***

***NEWStat: How to Safely Reopen Your Hospital — pg 17***

# We are here for you



As a specialty and emergency hospital and an extension of your practice, we are dedicated to serving our community. In these uncertain times, our promise to be there for you and your clients and patients remains unbroken.

You can count on the Pet Emergency & Specialty Centers to continue offering your clients and patients compassionate care and service.



We recognize that our referring veterinarians are our most important clients and welcome your suggestions. Please contact a clinic director or our Referring Veterinarian Relations Manager, Beth Thurman, to discuss any thoughts or ideas. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Our people are our strength.



VISIT US ONLINE  
[www.pescsandiego.com](http://www.pescsandiego.com)



AMBULANCE SERVICE  
available for referring veterinarians



TWO LOCATIONS OPEN 24/7

La Mesa Hospital 619.462.4800  
5232 Jackson Drive Ste 105 La Mesa

South County Hospital 619.591.4802  
885 Canarios Court Ste 108 Chula Vista

24-Hour Emergency + Critical Care Surgery Internal Medicine Oncology Avian + Exotics Urgent Care Ophthalmology Advanced Imaging Dermatology



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Published monthly in the Association office  
4620 Alvarado Canyon Road, Suite 15  
San Diego, CA 92120 • [www.SDCVMA.org](http://www.SDCVMA.org)

619.640.9583 — for Jennifer  
619.640.9587 — for Michelle  
619.640.9588 — Fax  
[www.facebook.com/Sandiegocountyvma](https://www.facebook.com/Sandiegocountyvma)

### 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **President**

Dr. Caroline Seitz

#### **President-Elect**

Dr. Megan Gibbings

#### **Vice President**

Dr. Natasha Stanke, DACVS

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Dr. Tonya Gossard

#### **Past President**

Dr. Angela Sartor, DACVS

#### **Affiliate Chapter Representative**

Leah Shufelt, BS, RVT

#### **CVMA Delegates**

Dr. Miguel Constantino

Dr. Max Hibi

Dr. Jodi Woods

#### **CVMA District I Governor**

Dr. Bruce Lindsey

### STAFF

Michelle Hornick,  
Director  
Editor, Intercom  
[SDCVMAMichelle@aol.com](mailto:SDCVMAMichelle@aol.com)

Jennifer White,  
Administrative Services  
[SDCVMAJen@aol.com](mailto:SDCVMAJen@aol.com)

## FEATURES

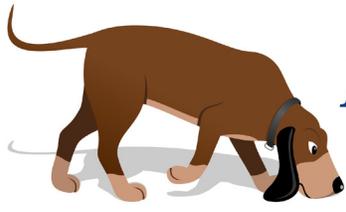
As on the Cover and...	
Board Meeting Highlights.....	20
Fall Conference Details.....	4
Intercom Cover Photo Contest.....	8
Meetings, Seminars, Events & Webinars.....	21
Member AVMA Specialty Diplomates Directory.....	9
New Members Listing.....	21
Notices and Announcements.....	18

## ADVERTISERS

California Veterinary Specialists .....	23
Dr. Kristi Freeman.....	16
Eye Care for Animals .....	10
Mohnacky Animal Hospital.....	16
North County House Call Vet.....	16
Pacific Professionals, Inc. ....	22
Peaceful Passing .....	19
Pet Emergency & Specialty Center .....	2
Premier Veterinary Surgery, Inc. ....	16
Softsurg.....	19
South Coast Anesthesia.....	16
US Veterinary Equipment .....	11
VCA Animal Specialty Group. ....	14
VCA EAH & Referral Center.....	24
Veterinary Insurance Services Company.....	11

The San Diego County Veterinary Medical Association assumes no responsibility for the content of ads or articles. The statements of facts and opinions expressed by the authors are their own and not necessarily those of the SDCVMA. Products and services advertised in the INTERCOM do not imply endorsement or approval by this Association.

# SDCVMA FALL VETERINARY CONFERENCE



## Special Senses: Dermatology with a Twist for the General Practitioner

Veterinary Support Staff Welcome

### September 12 & 13, 2020

Held at:

**Handlery Hotel San Diego**  
950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego CA 92120



### PROGRAM — 12 CEU

Saturday, September 12, 2020 — Session I

#### **Shaking, Rattled, or Rolling? Diseases of the Pinnae and Otitis Externa/Media** (Werner Resnick)

Some dogs are all ears. Some days in practice may feel the same. The treatment of otitis externa is the second most common reason for claim submission to insurance companies – representing the disease with the highest total claims (\$8.7 million 2016 for one company alone). Over 15% of patient presentations to the general practitioner – with a recurrence rate of over 24% -- are due to diseases of the ear canal. Canine otitis is one of the most challenging and frustrating conditions because it is not a single disease but a complex of interrelated etiologic components. A pictorial review of the anatomy and the common lesions of the pinnae, external and middle ear will be followed by a discussion of and pictorial review of diseases and diagnostics related to the ear canal.

#### **Listen Up! Surgical Treatment of Diseases of the Pinnae and Ear** (Shaver)

Identifying when surgery is indicated for aural disease can be challenging, as well as determining what surgical approach would provide the greatest benefit. Imaging and surgical options for treating otitis, aural neoplasia, polyps, and traumatic injuries will be discussed.

#### **Taking Stertor in Stride: Update on Brachycephalic Airway Surgery** (Shaver)

Although some things may not change- Bulldogs are medical and surgical challenges- the methods we have for improving brachycephalic airway disease have continued to evolve and improve. Classic techniques for managing upper airway obstruction such as alarplasty and staphylectomy will be reviewed, along with recommendations to decrease the likelihood of complications when performing these procedures. New options for treating brachycephalic upper airway obstruction will also be introduced.

Sunday, September 13, 2020 — Session II

#### **Oncologic Surgery of the Head and Neck** (Shaver)

Tumors of the head and neck can be particularly difficult to treat surgically due to their proximity to eyes, ears, nose and mouth! A review of when, where, and how-to biopsy these difficult locations will be presented, along with general strategies for how to best approach surgery in this region.

#### **Homage to Halstead: How to Hasten Healing** (Shaver)

In this session, we will focus on the most common causes of brain disease in cats due to either extracranial and intracranial causes. We will use video cases to demonstrate the most common presentations of brain disease in cats and discuss how we can effectively investigate them.

#### **Cutaneous Adverse Drug Reactions: Blame the Drug, Not Your Choice!** (Werner Resnick)

Adverse drug reactions (ADR) are reported to occur in up to 7% of the human population and are the 4th and 6th most common cause of death in hospitalized humans. Cutaneous adverse drug reactions (CADR) occur less commonly – reported in 1 to 3% in humans -- and are also reported to be approximately 2% in dogs and cats. What are the pathophysiological mechanisms for these reactions, when do they occur, and what are their symptoms? And most importantly, what can you do? Sometimes the treatment can be worse than the disease. Always keep this differential on your list.

#### **Dermatology or Ophthalmology? The Eyelid Margin Wars** (Werner Resnick)

Dermatologist or ophthalmologist? Diseases of the eyelid are often thought to be an extension of ocular disease. And yes, the eyelids protect (and lubricate) the globe. But often when there are lesions or inflammation around the eyes, there is no ocular disease – and medical evaluation and treatment of the skin is required. Eyelid dermatoses can be generalized into five categories: benign swellings, tumors, infection, allergic blepharitis, and immune-mediated dermatitis. A pictorial review of the common lesions at or near the eyelids will be presented.

#### **Something to Sneeze at: Dermatologic Diseases of the Nasal Planum** (Werner Resnick)

The nasal planum has a distinct appearance - and it gets stuck, literally, in many different places. Changes in the look and feel of your patient's nose can be very distressing to your clients. Diseases that affect the nasal planum can be part of a generalized dermatosis or may be unique to this structure. Common causes may be congenital, environmental, infectious, metabolic, immune-mediated, or neoplastic in origin. A pictorial review of the anatomy and of common lesions affecting the nasal planum will be presented.



Angela Sartor, DVM, DACVS  
Program Chair, Immediate Past President

#### Veterinary Conference Schedule Both Days:

7:30am-8:30am	Registration & Breakfast
<b>8:30am-4:30pm</b>	<b>CE Sessions</b>
10:00am	Refreshment Break
12:00-1:00pm	Luncheon
2:30pm	Refreshment Break
5:00pm	Happy Hour on Saturday ONLY



## CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

Thank you for your financial support and participation at this conference!

**HILL'S PET NUTRITION**  
*Platinum Sponsor*

**Boehringer Ingelheim**  
*Silver Sponsor*

### Exhibitors:

- Boehringer Ingelheim •
- Golden Gate Veterinary Compounding Pharmacy •
- Hill's Pet Nutrition • Idexx Laboratories •
- MWI Animal Health • VetMatrix •

*More to follow this printing*

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

### **Stephanie L. Shaver, DVM, DACVS-SA**

Dr. Steph Shaver was raised in Colorado and received her veterinary degree from Colorado State University. Following vet school, she completed an internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at the University of Georgia and underwent residency training in Small Animal Surgery at the University of California at Davis. She is currently an assistant professor in small animal surgery at Midwestern University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Shaver enjoys presenting on and discussing surgical topics with colleagues; she is enthusiastic about all aspects of small animal surgery, particularly surgical oncology and wound management. She has been published numerous times and has a research focus on surgical education and surgical fundamentals. Dr. Shaver feels lucky to be able to work with outstanding colleagues in veterinary medicine and to teach students in the classroom and clinics to create the next generation of compassionate, dedicated veterinarians.

### **Alexander Werner Resnick, VMD, DACVD**

Dr. Werner Resnick received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and his veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Following a one-year internship in small animal medicine and surgery at California Animal Hospital, he completed a residency program in veterinary dermatology in the University of California, Davis. Dr. Werner Resnick is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology. In addition to lecturing, Dr. Werner Resnick has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, is the author of several book chapters, and remains as the editor of the dermatology section in the latest (and upcoming) editions of the 5-minute veterinary Consult textbook. His textbook (co-authored with Dr. Helton Rhodes) – Blackwell's 5-minute Consult Small Animal Dermatology 3rd edition – was published in 2018.

## REGISTRATION OPENS 6.1.2020

Please visit our website for full program details and to register:

[www.SDCVMA.org](http://www.SDCVMA.org)

*The SDCVMA is a California Statutorily Approved CE Provider*

**Complete Conference Details Online:**  
[www.SDCVMA.org](http://www.SDCVMA.org)

## TECHNICIAN SEMINAR

# Behavior & Fear Free Essentials

## SEMINAR SPEAKER

### **Monique Feyrecilde, BA, LVT, VTS (Behavior)**

Licensed Veterinary Technician and Veterinary Technician Specialist in Behavior. With over 20 years of full time clinical practice experience, Monique strives to bring audiences concepts and strategies they can implement right away when they return home from CE!

*Complete biography available online on conference pages.*

## PROGRAM — 6 CEU

Sunday, September 13, 2020

### BEHAVIOR ESSENTIALS

#### **Learning Theory YOU Need to Know!**

Learning happens every moment of every day. Teach your patients and colleagues to work with you to achieve your goals by understanding how we learn, why we learn, what we learn, and what YOU can do about it!

#### **Application and Videos**

Apply your knowledge with this applications session. Case examples and video will be used to demonstrate operant conditioning, classical conditioning, counterconditioning and much more. Packed with tips you can start using the minute you get back to your clinic.

**Behavior Jeo-Parody! Ultimate Quiz Show Edition** Test your knowledge and win some prizes! Be sure to phrase your answer in the form of a question when you play this Behavior edition of Jeo-Parody. Questions will range from the essentials and basics all the way through advanced concepts in behavior and training. And did I mention, prizes?!

### FEAR FREE

#### **Getting Started in Five Easy Steps**

Fear Free lets us protect the physical and the emotional welfare of every patient, every time. Learn five easy tips you can implement tomorrow to bring Fear Free to your patients, clients, and colleagues.

#### **Gentle Control: Effective Fear Free Animal Handling**

Handling animals in a compassionate way makes care safer and more enjoyable for pets and for veterinary professionals. Learn strategies for safe, effective, animal-friendly handling and restraint in the veterinary setting.

#### **Change Doesn't Have to Hurt! Effective Implementation of Fear Free**

The most frequent obstacles described by staff in implementing Fear Free/low-stress techniques and addressing behavioral wellbeing of patients are perceptions among team members and doctors that these things are "expensive" or "take too much time." Learn what you can do to help your practice change for the better. (And how to implement any kind of change successfully and quickly!)

*Cost details, schedule & registration for the  
Technician Seminar are available online  
[www.SDCVMA.org](http://www.SDCVMA.org)*



**MWI Animal Health**  
**Technician Seminar Sponsor**

## VINNews: Red Tape Hobbles Use Of Veterinary Labs For COVID-19 Testing

*Trained personnel and machines largely untapped in pandemic testing crunch*

5.13.2020

Natalie Slivinski

Hundreds of machines in animal diagnostic laboratories across the U.S. are sitting idle when they could be used to test human samples for the virus that causes COVID-19, veterinary laboratory leaders say.

A shortage in testing for SARS-CoV-2 is widely considered the tallest hurdle in safely reopening the country and containing the pandemic. Several state governors are using testing capacity and availability as a key metric in deciding if and when businesses can reopen and people can return to their daily lives. But while pressure mounts to restart the economy, most states are still falling short in testing.

In an unprecedented move, a number of veterinary labs have taken steps to repurpose their well-equipped facilities, at least in part, to test samples from human patients for SARS-CoV-2. About half a dozen have been successful. Others have found the process hampered by regulatory restrictions. Despite President Donald Trump's assertion at a [press briefing](#) on Monday that his administration has "marshaled every resource at our nation's disposal" to battle the virus, animal labs remain largely untapped.

Dr. David Zeman, executive director of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, said that because the equipment used in animal and human diagnostic labs is largely identical, the switch is easy from a logistical standpoint. "Facility-wise, there is no conversion," he said. "Laboratory safety guidelines and biocontainment protocols are pathogen-directed, not specimen-directed."

The difficulty lies in obtaining regulatory approval. "The lines and regulations in mammalian health have been clearly drawn between humans and all other animals," said Zeman. "Now drawn, crossing is complex — not from a scientific standpoint, but for authorization, regulation and liability."

Diagnostic testing is a major part of veterinary medicine. Every state has a high-capacity veterinary diagnostic lab, some of which routinely process hundreds of thousands of samples every year, largely from herds of livestock.

"We're used to dealing with infectious disease on a population basis," said Dr. Bruce Akey, who directs the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. "A single house of chickens can be anywhere from 15,000 or 20,000

birds ... to upwards of a million birds. Technicians can go out and collect 100 or so samples for submission to us, and we know how to get that done in a hurry." These labs also are equipped to ramp up testing during an animal disease outbreak, such as avian influenza.

Akey believes high-capacity veterinary labs could make a significant contribution to COVID-19 testing efforts. "Across the U.S., these state-supported veterinary diagnostic labs, for something like African swine fever or foot-and-mouth disease, currently have a capacity of about 40,000 tests a day," he said.

Many economists and public health experts estimate that the country needs to test, at a minimum, a million samples daily, with some putting the number much higher, as high as 35 million per day. Instead, an average of fewer than 260,000 samples have been run each day during the past two weeks, although the figures are trending upward, according to The Atlantic's [COVID Tracking Project](#). With a capacity of 40,000 tests per day, veterinary labs could boost the numbers substantially — by roughly 15% if used at full capacity.

A laboratory that handles human samples must be certified by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), a program under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that sets strict standards for labs that process human material.

In response to an inquiry from the VIN News Service, Nicole Black, a press officer for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the division of HHS that handles CLIA certification, said by email: "CMS is working closely with laboratories across the country to ensure that those seeking to perform COVID-19 testing can begin testing as quickly as possible. CMS is expediting review of applications for a CLIA certificate."

She added that after a laboratory has identified a qualified laboratory director and provided all the paperwork, it can immediately begin testing, as long as it meets "applicable CLIA requirements to ensure the accuracy of patient test results."

### Partnerships Smooth The Way

By partnering with CLIA-certified laboratories run by states, private companies and medical centers, a handful of veterinary labs have managed to fast-track their certification process. Their help running human COVID-19 tests has reduced wait times for patients, and lab directors hope their participation will enable states to make the tests more broadly available.

The veterinary diagnostic lab at Colorado State University, for example, received the green light in mid-April to run COVID-19 tests on human samples, according to an [article](#) by the CSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences communications team.

The veterinary lab was able to expedite its CLIA certification by partnering with CSU's Health and Medical Center, which runs a CLIA-certified laboratory, the college news service reported. The veterinary lab also worked with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to obtain human samples for validation testing, a step to ensure their tests worked.

The laboratory runs upwards of 600,000 animal tests per year. Adding COVID-19 to their repertoire was relatively straightforward, said the lab director Dr. Kristy Pabilonia. «We respond to animal disease outbreaks often,» she said, according to the article. "What we do here on a daily basis uses the same processes and technology for animal testing as those used for human testing." The lab is now running 500 to 600 samples a day and could do more if needed, Pabilonia told the VIN News Service by email.

The Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Purdue University received CLIA approval in April after partnering with the Parkview Health System. It can run 400 samples per day without disrupting its testing of animal samples. "This number could be increased, if needed," the lab director, Dr. Kenitra Hendrix, said.

The veterinary lab at Oregon State University, which has a long history of tracking pathogens in sheep and cattle, teamed up with Willamette Valley Toxicology Laboratory, a private lab that runs drug tests on urine samples. Together, they are running several hundred samples a day, hope to process up to 2,000 samples daily and have the capacity for 3,000, according to director Dr. Mark Ackermann. Going full bore would more than double the daily testing reported by the Oregon Public Health Division, which averaged just over 2,000 cases a day last week, according to the state department's weekly [report](#).

The Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab at Oklahoma State University, which, through a partnership with OSU Medicine, received CLIA approval at the end of March, also has the equipment to process more than 2,000 human tests per day, according to director Dr. Kenneth Sewell. "[We] are still ramping up our personnel to handle that many," he said last week. "Our typical throughput is 1,000 to 1,200 per day." That is about one-third of what labs across Oklahoma are already testing, which [state data](#) shows is about 3,600 tests per average day over the past two weeks. The Washington Post [reported](#) Tuesday that the veterinary lab is now running more human coronavirus tests than any other lab in Oklahoma.

Separately, a SARS-CoV-2 test kit developed by a [subsidiary](#) of Maine-based Idexx Laboratories Inc., one of the largest veterinary diagnostic companies in the world, was approved last week by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Maine Gov. Janet Mills subsequently [announced](#) that the state would purchase enough of the test kits to more than triple its testing capacity, which was 2,000 tests per week. The samples will be processed not by Idexx, how-

ever, but at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory in Augusta, according to the state announcement. The state will hire more lab staff to support the expansion.

### A Plea For Regulatory Flexibility

Taking advantage of high-throughput veterinary facilities during a pandemic may seem obvious. But while some labs have found the federal certification process relatively straightforward, others have met with what appears to be a lack of enthusiasm by authorities.

The Texas A&M diagnostic lab routinely processes 900,000 animal samples per year. Of those, 64,000 are tested using polymerase chain reaction (PCR), a common tool in both human and veterinary diagnostics that identifies specific pathogens in a sample by amplifying their genetic material. PCR is the standard technique used in COVID-19 tests.

After several weeks of appealing to federal officials at HHS, lab director Akey managed, through a partnership with a private health-care facility, to secure temporary CLIA certification for one of the lab's four locations. That location, in College Station, has the capacity to test 1,500 samples a day.

For the other three locations, which combined could double that capacity, Akey is stuck in red tape. Because those labs have not secured partnerships with human facilities, they have been denied certification to perform COVID-19 testing. HHS has been unwilling to bend its rules despite the extraordinary circumstances, Akey said.

"Every time we have one of these conversations, so far, all we have gotten is a further recitation of the existing regulations, chapter and verse, and no willingness to stretch anything," he said. "I don't think they've had to quite deal with something like this before."

CLIA establishes detailed educational requirements for every level of laboratory personnel, but the criteria do not include professionals in animal medicine, even though much of the expertise is the same. "They haven't been willing to accept equivalence for any of our veterinary degrees," Akey said. "For instance, one of our folks in molecular diagnostics has a PhD from the veterinary school here, and has been doing PCR testing for [some] 20 years. But her degree, being in veterinary science, is not considered adequate."

Furthermore, although Akey's personnel at College Station are experienced using the lab's high-throughput machines, they are not allowed to use them to process human samples, even with the lab's CLIA certification. Instead, they must train outside medical lab personnel.

— continued pg. 8

“We’ve become a landlord, basically,” Akey said. “We trained them, but we can’t actually run the tests ourselves.”

Moreover, personnel from human health-care facilities, which typically receive human samples in small quantities, are unaccustomed to using high-throughput machines, Akey said, noting that the visiting scientists ran approximately 200 samples in the first week. The number rose to about 700 last week, he said. By comparison, if the veterinary lab staff were allowed to use their own machines, he estimated that they could crank out some 500 samples *per day* without impinging on routine animal testing. “That wouldn’t be a stretch for us at all,” he said.

At Purdue in Indiana, Hendrix has faced a similar degree of bureaucracy, not to mention a puzzling lack of urgency. “The capacity we have dedicated to testing of human samples is being significantly underutilized,” she said. “CLIA certification required paperwork and locating a ‘medical director,’ since none of us — DVMs, PhDs, certifications in a variety of specialties — qualified.” But her staff — as well as those in Colorado, Oklahoma and Oregon — have been allowed to handle the samples themselves.

It is unclear why Hendrix and other lab directors were able to obtain approval for their staff to operate their own equipment while Akey was not. Like the others, Akey is working with a designated lab director with an MD who qualifies under CLIA. He suspects the explanation is a lack of coordination and standardization in the agency in dealing with an unfamiliar situation. “My guess would be that there are perhaps different interpretations or applications of the rules by different people within HHS,” he speculated.

Black, the CMS press officer, did not explain why Akey’s staff was disallowed from using their machines. She said only that “CMS is exercising enforcement discretion during the current public health emergency to respond to the urgent need to expand laboratory capacity.”

### Envisioning A New Bridge Across An Old Divide

Historically, a clear divide has existed between human and veterinary diagnostics. That dividing line was underscored after [a tiger at the Bronx Zoo](#) became the first nonhuman animal in the United States to test positive for SARS-CoV-2, in early April. News that a tiger could be tested for the virus while symptomatic people were having trouble obtaining tests prompted some public criticism. Officials from the zoo and government agencies stressed that veterinary and human medical laboratories are separate, and therefore, animal testing did not take resources from human testing.

Lyndsay Cole, assistant director of public affairs with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, told [Forbes](#) in early April that regulatory restrictions prevent animal facilities from doing human tests altogether. “Samples from humans can’t be tested at

animal health laboratories, and likewise, tests from animals aren’t tested at human health laboratories, so there is no competition for testing,” she said, according to the article.

The paradigm may be changing. Some expect the COVID-19 crisis to help bring human and veterinary diagnostics under a single regulatory umbrella. “There should not be lines to separate the two,” said Dr. Leyi Wang, a veterinary virologist at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine who was involved in testing the tiger sample. “After this crisis is over,” he predicted hopefully, “the overlapping work and collaboration of the two kinds of labs will be strengthened.”

Akey hopes that the pandemic will soon lead administrators at HHS to recognize the usefulness of veterinary labs in a crisis. “We all have quality assurance programs as part of the USDA’s National Animal Health Laboratory Network,” he said. “We’re considered sufficient to test for high-impact animal diseases like avian influenza, which, by the way, is also a human-disease problem. So we’re not some Johnny-Come-Lately working out of their garage.”

He believes that the key lies in not seeing the world in black and white during an unprecedented situation. “By expanding the pool of people that are able to do the testing so that equipment isn’t sitting there idle for 12 to 16 hours a day, I’m pretty sure that what is already available could be multiplied many times over,” he said. “It just requires somebody to think a little bit outside the box.” 🐾

### Your Furry or Feathered Companion Could Make the FRONT PAGE of the August 2020 Intercom!

#### Here’s how:

Take a picture of your soon-to-be-star at the beach or a tropical pool setting. (No humans in the picture please!)

Email the picture as a pdf or jpg to Michelle by **Tuesday, June 30, 2020**. ([sdcvmaMichelle@aol.com](mailto:sdcvmaMichelle@aol.com)) Be sure to include your name, your pet’s name and breed/type.

The Board will vote on a winner at our July board meeting.

You will be contacted if your pet is selected by July 15, 2020!

#### Criteria:

\* Submissions are your pets (furry, feathers, or scales)

\* No humans in the photo please

\*Photo should be at a beach setting or tropical pool setting

\*Don’t forget to submit your name, your pet’s name and breed/type



## MEMBER AVMA SPECIALTY DIPLOMATES

### **•BEHAVIOR**

Melese, Patrick, San Diego .....858-259-6115  
Schwartz, Stefanie, MSc, Southern CA .....949-342-6644

### **•DENTISTRY**

Brigden, Glenn, Encinitas .....760-230-1818  
Niemiec, Brook, San Diego .....858-279-2108  
Woody, Allison, Encinitas .....760-230-1818

### **•DERMATOLOGY**

Aniya, Jennifer, La Mesa .....619-462-4800  
Blessing, Kacie, San Diego .....858-560-9393  
Boord, Mona, San Diego .....858-560-9393  
Boynosky, Nicole, San Marcos .....760-466-0600  
Foust, Abby, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Griffin, Craig, San Diego .....858-560-9393  
Stokking, Laura, San Diego .....858-875-7500

### **•EMERGENCY/CRITICAL CARE**

Carr, Amy, Murrieta, CA .....951-600-9803  
Istvan, Stephanie, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Kaelble, Monika, La Mesa .....619-462-4800  
Leech, Elizabeth, San Diego .....619-299-2400  
Pace, Lonny, Temecula .....951-695-5044  
Press, Saya, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Schmid, Dustin, San Diego .....858-560-8006  
Vassilev, Elena, San Diego .....619-237-0600  
Willey, Jennifer, La Mesa .....619-462-4800

### **•INTERNAL MEDICINE**

Arnell, Kate, **SAIM**, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Benz, Melanie, **Oncology**, La Mesa .....619-462-4800  
Biegen, Vanessa, **Neurology**, San Diego .....858-560-8006  
Bonadio, Cecily, **SAIM**, La Mesa .....619-462-4800  
Deberry, Jennifer, **SAIM**, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Dereszynski, Diane, **SAIM**, Hillsborough .....408-343-7243  
Flory, Andrea, **Oncology**, San Marcos .....760-466-0600  
Garnett, Crystal, **Oncology**, San Diego .....858-560-8006  
Hart, John, **SAIM**, Carlsbad .....760-431-2273  
Herndon, William, **Cardiology**, Carlsbad .....760-331-7603  
Kelly, Michael, **SAIM**, San Diego .....619-232-7401  
Krawiec, Donald, PhD, **SAIM**, Murrieta .....951-600-9803  
Levitski-Osgood, Robin, **Neurology**, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Lipsitz, David, **Neurology**, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Maher, Ed, **SAIM, ABVP-C/F**, Carlsbad .....760-431-2273  
Mallery, Kevin, **SAIM**, San Marcos .....760-466-0600  
Mauro, Tara, **SAIM**, San Diego .....858-560-8006  
Orvalho, Joao, **Cardiology**, UCVMC-San Diego ...858-875-7505  
Phillips, Brenda, **Oncology**, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Proulx, David, **Oncology**, Carlsbad .....760-431-2273  
Shelton, Diane, **SAIM**, PhD, UCSD-La Jolla .....858-534-1537  
Slusser, Peter, **SAIM**, San Diego .....858-560-8006

### **•LAB ANIMAL MEDICINE**

Richter, Phillip, UCSD, La Jolla .....858-534-3188  
Spray, Sue, Encinitas .....760-753-9999

### **•OPHTHALMOLOGY**

Steele, Barbara, Del Mar .....858-334-3716  
Strubbe, Todd, San Diego .....858-502-1277

### **•PATHOLOGY**

Howard, James, PhD, Brawley, CA .....760-344-5738

### **•PRACTITIONERS**

Abella, John, **Canine/Feline**, Vista .....760-724-8313  
Atkinson, Al, **Canine/Feline**, San Diego .....858-488-0658  
Attix, Ed, **Canine/Feline**, Oceanside .....760-757-2442  
Boyer, Tom, **Reptile/Amphibian**, San Diego .....858-484-3490  
Cecil, Todd, **Avian**, La Mesa .....619-462-4800  
Hedge, Zarah, **Shelter Medicine**, San Diego .....619-299-7012  
Maher, Ed, **Canine/Feline**, Carlsbad .....760-431-2273  
Nissan, Najdat, **Canine/Feline**, Fallbrook .....760-728-5771

### **•PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**

Anderson, Kevin, Chula Vista .....619-421-1698  
Hedge, Zarah, San Diego .....619-299-7012

### **•RADIOLOGY**

Burke, Blaise, **Radiation Oncology**, San Diego ...858-875-7500  
Craychee, Therese, MS, Valley Center .....760-751-1125  
Mohammadian, Lenore, Carlsbad .....760-431-2273  
Oura, Trisha, San Diego .....858-875-7452  
Proulx, David, **Radiation Oncology**, Carlsbad ....760-431-2273  
Sunico, Serena, San Diego .....858-875-7500

### **•SURGERY**

Aron, Dennis, Escondido .....760-975-1020  
Demner, David, San Diego .....858-560-8006  
Dhupa, Sarit, Carlsbad .....760-431-2273  
Frey, Tracy Nicole, San Diego .....858-333-2687  
Ganz, Seth, San Marcos .....760-466-0600  
Hampel, Nancy, El Cajon .....619-444-4246  
Harris, Jennipher, MS, Oceanside .....760-505-2332  
Jackson, Gregory, San Diego .....858-560-8006  
Jones, Brittini, San Diego .....858-560-8006  
Jones, Diana, San Diego .....858-676-1600  
Mullen, Holly, San Diego .....619-299-2400  
Pike, Fredrick, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Sartor, Angela, San Diego .....619-299-2400  
Serdy, Michael, La Mesa .....619-462-4800  
Stanke, Natasha, San Diego .....858-875-7500  
Tarvin, Guy, Escondido .....760-504-4081

### **•THERIOGENOLOGY**

Souther, Samantha, Carlsbad .....760-729-3330

### **•ZOOLOGICAL MEDICINE**

Kearns, Karen, San Diego .....619-260-3565



The Leaders in Veterinary  
**Ophthalmology**

# Dedicated to Providing the Highest Level of *Care*

**Reuben Merideth**  
DVM, DACVO

**Francesca Venturi**  
DVM, DACVO



## Specialized Procedures

- Cataract phacoemulsification & lens replacement (including high risk & combined procedures)
- Corneal grafting procedures including AmnioGrafts
- Ocular laser surgical procedures
- Glaucoma drainage implant surgery
- Complex blepharoplastic procedures
- Eyelid tumor mass removal under local anesthesia

**2** Locations Serving  
**San Diego**

**San Diego**  
5040 Convoy St.  
Suite B  
San Diego, CA 92111

**La Mesa**  
5232 Jackson Dr.  
Suite 101  
La Mesa, CA 91942

**EyeCareforAnimals.com**  
**(619) 702-EYES (3937)**

# Protect Your Business. Protect Your Family.



## Business Insurance Products

- Employment Practices Liability (EPLI)
- Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Veterinary Malpractice
- Veterinary Hospital Business Package
- VMB Defense
- Cyber Liability
- Commercial Umbrella
- Customized Loss Prevention
- Superior Claim Management Services

## Personal Lines Products

- Homeowners/Condo/Renters
- Auto/Motorcycle/Boat/RV
- Personal Umbrella
- Art/Jewelry

## Health, Life & Disability

- Group Health
- Disability Insurance
- Long Term Care
- Life



Call VISC at **888-762-3143** or email **info@visc-ins.com** for solutions to all your business and personal insurance needs.



VISC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the California Veterinary Medical Association | Ca Lic # 0F64180

**visc-ins.com**



The very best in Veterinary Equipment and service

## US Veterinary Equipment Inc.

Formerly Moduflex Anesthesia Equipment Inc.



### Sales/Service/Installations

- Autoclaves**
- Anesthesia machines**
- Dental equipment**
- Med gas equipment**
- Vaporizers**
- Vet tables**
- Ventilators**
- Waste gas systems**
- Parts for most makes/models**



### Manufacturing facilities

- Custom shelving/ brackets**
- In house machine shop**
- Vaporizer processing facilities (Clean room environment)**

Always with a smile,  
and a sense of urgency



4656 Mission Gorge Pl, Ste B, San Diego CA 92120  
sales@usvet.vet, www.usvet.vet  
619-287-0340/877-416-3172/ fax: 619-374-2103



## Partnering to Save Animals and People

By Gary Weitzman, DVM, MPH, CAWA, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society

Since the nation has been battling COVID-19, animal shelters have found a new model for rescuing pets that's healthier for everyone.

Animals are blissfully unaware of the threat that humans are facing with the new coronavirus, and for those in shelters, these animals can't wait just because humans are social distancing. At San Diego Humane Society, we turned to our foster program to address how to keep our employees and volunteers as safe as possible and to reduce our animal population. What happened was an amazing response that could have a long-term impact on how animal shelters operate.

This pandemic we're all living through is going to change a lot in our lives and for many it will have a lasting impact. In animal welfare, this may change the way we shelter animals, and that change may be for the better. We are hoping we can partner with you, our veterinary community, to offer more services that will directly help people and animals. We need these partnerships now, more than ever, because the need for accessible and affordable veterinary care has never been greater. Opportunities like:

- Offering spay/neuter vouchers for low income pet owners, so that no one has to make the decision between feeding themselves or altering their pet.
- Creating an online 'Vet Network' portal so we can join together to offer discounts, vet vouchers and approve client referrals for surgeries.
- Joining us at our Community Pet Events once they resume to help with vaccines, microchips and future wellness exams in communities with little access to veterinary services.

In the first month of the pandemic, we placed 73% of our animals in foster care and our foster, reclaim and adoptions programs all went virtual. Here's where we really need your help: More than 400 of our animals are in homes as fosters but haven't yet been spayed or neutered. If you think you can offer this service to our fosters as they become adopters, these animals will never have to come back to the shelter. You'd get a new client and we'd get more space and resources for the thousands of animals we expect to see this summer.

If we can work more closely with our communities by having the public step up to foster animals while building partners with the veterinary community, we can move closer to becoming a society where we all take responsibility for the most vulnerable among us. We'll look to our shared passion for animals to continue to unite us.

We hope you will join us in exploring new partnership opportunities and being part of a better future for people and animals in San Diego County. Please contact me at [gary@sdhumane.org](mailto:gary@sdhumane.org) if you can offer some spay/neuter surgeries to our adopters or would like to participate in our new voucher program starting this July. With your help and in what I hope will become our new world after COVID-19, overcrowded shelters might actually be the casualty we hadn't even dreamed of. 🐾

## AAHA: Pet Scams Are Alive And Well And Now Come With A Coronavirus Twist

Stay-at-home restrictions aren't slowing down pet scammers much. In fact, they're helping.

5.15.2020

Tony McReynolds

And while pet adoptions during lockdown **may not be up** as much as some media reports suggest, the flood of news stories about empty shelters may be driving would-be pet adopters into the scammers' clutches.

According to the Better Business Bureau (BBB), nearly 10,000 scam reports and complaints have come in during the past three years about "businesses" selling puppies and dogs. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates that only about 10% of victims report these crimes, so this number could be much higher.

The BBB says these scams have spiked since COVID-19 took hold in the US, with more reports about fraudulent pet websites in April than in the first three months of the year combined.

Most are a variation on a **scam** that's become all too familiar with the rise of the internet and social media: advertising a pet for sale online who doesn't actually exist. But now the scammers are adding a cynical, COVID-19 twist.

Steve Baker, international investigations specialist for the BBB and the former director of the FTC's Midwest region, explained the COVID-19 twist to *NEWStat*: "They're claiming that [the pets] need a special vaccine shot. Of course there is no vaccine. Or they need a special [COVID-19-safe] shipping crate," Baker says. "And because they always want to have the animal transported, [the pandemic gives them] additional reasons to claim there are problems at the airports."

All of which the scammers want you to pay for. For an animal who doesn't exist.

What can veterinary care professionals say to potential clients who ask about adopting a pet during the pandemic?

The number one rule, Baker says: See the pet in person.

"Never pay or adopt a pet without seeing it person," Baker advises. "It's harder to do now because a lot of animal shelters are shut down, or even empty, which, of course, the crooks know."

Baker says it's hard to overstate the problem: "This is so widespread, it's impossible to look for a pet online without running across one of these scams. They have totally saturated the internet."

There are always scams out there, but the pandemic is making easy pickings of consumers. "You have more people working from home, and that opens them up to all sorts of scams," Baker says. "Crooks are taking advantage of it. People are home with the kids, and they're looking for some distractions. They're thinking this might be a good time to bring in a puppy because they've got the time to do it."

Scammers know this, and they're waiting to pounce.

*NEWStat* readers can help, says Baker, because veterinary professionals are "in a position to warn people about this stuff." 🐾

## FDA: Your Animal Is Sick. Was It Something They Ate? Vet-LIRN May Be Able to Help

5.6.2020

Your family's beloved "Fluffy" has gotten sick after eating a certain food, and neither you nor your veterinarian is sure if that food, or something else, is the cause. What happened? And is your animal the only one that's sick, or are there others?

Vet-LIRN (Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network), a program from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), is a special network that connects laboratories around the country looking for clues that might solve animal illness mysteries. Vet-LIRN allows FDA to partner with state and university Diagnostic Laboratories.

Vet-LIRN typically works with animal owners and their veterinarians to investigate cases of potential foodborne illness, most often in pets. What an animal eats, whether it's a pet or an animal raised as a food source, may affect you. In some cases, pets can contract salmonella from the food they eat without getting sick; however, the germs can spread to people who handle contaminated food or stool.

Just as the FDA investigates foodborne illnesses for human food, Vet-LIRN helps investigate those for animal foods. If a food or treat is found to carry dangerous bacteria or contain harmful ingredients, Vet-LIRN may investigate further. Some investigations have explored nutritional imbalances linked to illness.

When people get sick, their health care providers may do tests and then provide information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate the cause of the illness. Vet-LIRN acts like a CDC for animals by investigating animal illnesses. What Vet-LIRN learns through its work helps to protect the health of your animal—and perhaps your family—as well.

### How Does Vet-LIRN Work?

The process starts when you or your veterinarian reports a food or drug related illness to the FDA. Simply search "[Report a Problem to the FDA](#)" to find the phone number or the website for [FDA's Safety Reporting Portal](#).

FDA veterinarians review each complaint and determine whether it should be referred to Vet-LIRN for follow up. If your case is referred, Vet-LIRN may contact you for more information. While each investigation is tailored to the case at hand, in general, Vet-LIRN reviews the pet's medical records, including a history of what they ate. Vet-LIRN may ask for food samples (e.g. hay, seed, kibble, treats, etc.), so be sure to save them after submitting your complaint.

In addition to reviewing any test results already done by your veterinarian, Vet-LIRN may ask your veterinarian to

collect diagnostic samples (blood, urine, and/or tissue). In these cases:

- Vet-LIRN can cover certain testing costs when investigating the case.
- Vet-LIRN tests the sample at one of its 43 labs across the U.S. and Canada, and reports the findings to the attending veterinarian to share with the owner.
- If Vet-LIRN staff determine that further FDA regulatory testing is needed, they may request that owners hold any open or unopened food product so that they can test it. In that case, a coordinator from the FDA office in your district will contact the owner directly.

### Why Report an Adverse Event to Vet-LIRN?

The Center for Veterinary Medicine protects animal health by regulating animal drugs and animal food (including treats), and food additives. The Center is responsible for overseeing that animal food manufacturers produce food that is safe and accurately labeled, as well as produced in a sanitary manner.

Despite the Center's regulatory measures, some animal foods do get contaminated or contain dangerous ingredients not listed on the ingredient list. For example, Vet-LIRN investigated an animal food-related illness involving a commercial pet food that was contaminated with a prescription drug.

According to Vet-LIRN Director Renate Reimschuessel, V.M.D., Ph.D., five dogs acted dizzy and started falling over suddenly within 15 minutes of eating the food. One dog was immediately taken to the vet, but, unfortunately, could not be saved. "Because the pet owner reported these events to us and allowed us to do an autopsy, we were able to test the stomach contents, which contained the prescription drug later found in the dog food." This rapid response likely saved the lives of many other pets.

"No one wants to imagine the worst happening, but if it does and your animal dies, you may well want to know the cause," she adds. "And by reporting your experiences and allowing Vet-LIRN to work on your case, you may help prevent other pets from getting sick."

In every case, your information adds to FDA's body of knowledge about animal food, how it is made and marketed. In some cases the findings may lead to inspections or [recalls](#).

Most of Vet-LIRN's work is with pets. But according to Reimschuessel, "We've had birds, fish, spiders, cows—any type of animal that eats any food the FDA regulates." She adds, "Whether it's your dog or your iguana that gets sick, the FDA wants to make sure it wasn't caused by the food, or if it was, that FDA can take appropriate actions."





# MY PASSION IS SURGERY



## BRITTANI JONES, DVM, DACVS-SA

*Dr. Jones graduated from The Ohio State University, School of Veterinary Medicine in May 2015. She then completed a general medicine and surgery rotating internship at the Animal Medical Center in New York in July 2016. Dr. Jones went on to complete a small animal surgery residency in July 2019 at Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan. She joined VCA Animal Specialty group in September 2019. Dr. Jones became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in February 2020.*

### ADVANCED SURGERY SERVICES INCLUDING:

- Orthopedic Surgery (Elective and non-elective)
- Oncologic Surgery
- Soft Tissue Surgery
- Arthroscopy
- Laparoscopy
- Performance and Competition Injury
- Neurosurgery
- Airway Surgery



**VCA Animal Specialty Group**

**858-560-8006**

5610 KEARNY MESA ROAD, SUITE B  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92111

[vcaanimalspecialtygroup.com](http://vcaanimalspecialtygroup.com)

©2020 VCA Animal Hospitals Inc. VCA Logo is a registered trademark of VCA Inc. or its affiliated companies.

## VINNews: New Veterinary Colleges Aim To Open In COVID-19 Era

*Pandemic doesn't deter LIU, UA and Texas Tech;  
Arkansas State scopes possibilities*  
5.18.2020

Jennifer Fiala

As the coronavirus pandemic wreaks havoc on much of higher education, plans at new and emerging veterinary programs persist, bringing the number of accredited veterinary colleges in the United States to 32.

Responding to a status inquiry by the VIN News Service, officials with Long Island University and the University of Arizona, which are welcoming their first veterinary classes on Aug. 24, both report that their biggest uncertainties revolve around the logistics of *how* to teach — whether in person or online.

Whether they'll begin their programs remotely, in traditional classrooms, or a combination, is yet to be decided.

Universities nationwide have transitioned to online instruction while absorbing revenue losses from on-campus housing, suspended or eliminated sporting events and suspended medical care at teaching hospitals. Many institutions, even major universities, eliminating entire academic programs and firing or furloughing staff.

Still, enthusiasm for veterinary education endures. In addition to the new programs at LIU's Post campus in Brookville, New York, and UA's campus in Tucson, Texas Tech University aims to open a veterinary school in 2021, provided it receives accreditation. Another up-and-comer is at Arkansas State University, where an emerging veterinary program could be a first for the state. A feasibility study in partnership with for-profit Adtalem Global Education Inc., formerly DeVry Education Group and owner of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in the Caribbean, was ordered in January, before the novel coronavirus had spread around the world.

Four months later, "COVID-19-related issues have slowed our progress," but haven't killed the initiative, said Donald Kennedy, interim dean of the College of Agriculture. "In my opinion, the task force is off to a good start. ... So far, we have addressed many questions and concerns of our members about starting a college of veterinary medicine at A-State."

Recommendations from the task force will go to Chancellor Kelly Damphousse, who's asserted a need for more veterinarians. Demand is "significant," he said in a [university news release](#), "as more households enjoy pet ownership, and Arkansas livestock producers have acknowledged a shortage of veterinarians for large animals."

### LIU, UA Incoming Classes Reach Capacity

Both LIU in New York and UA in Tucson report having filled their classes and then some, with waiting lists of aspiring veterinarians. The programs have admitted 100 students to their respective inaugural classes.

"We're excited and we're ready," said Dr. Julie Funk, who was named dean of the UA College of Veterinary Medicine in March. Early this month, the Arizona Board of Regents set tuition for the UA College of Veterinary Medicine at \$45,000 for state residents and \$69,999 for nonresidents, who comprise more than half of all students in the program.

As a private university, the LIU College of Veterinary Medicine doesn't differentiate between in-state and out-of-state students: Tuition for the program is \$55,000 for all students.

Located some 30 miles east of New York City, where [more than 15,000 people](#) have died of COVID-19 to date, LIU might seem to be the veterinary program hardest hit by the pandemic. But officials there give little indication of hardship.

Randy Burd, senior vice president for academic affairs, noted last week that the LIU College of Veterinary Medicine will open on schedule.

"[A] full inaugural class of 100 highly competitive students are registered and will begin their studies in August," he said. "Like other colleges and universities in the New York metropolitan area, we are developing plans to ensure compliance with federal, state and local guidelines that may be in place for on-campus learning in the fall. With the health and safety of our students top of mind, we are also preparing for various COVID-19-related contingencies to ensure our fall semester proceeds as scheduled."

That could involve in-person, online or a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning, he said.

Remote education could save some of LIU's veterinary students the cost of living in one of the most expensive areas of the country.

As an institution, LIU is grappling with major change at its two campuses, Post and Brooklyn, amid [declines in enrollment](#) and revenues. In February, LIU stripped its Post campus of dozens of undergraduate liberal arts majors — art history, foreign languages, geography and geology, to name a few — and fired or furloughed more than 100 employees, prompting at least one union-related complaint. Some criticize the university for effectively terminating health-care coverage for former employees in the midst of the pandemic. Meanwhile, the institution has received more than \$7 million in aid from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

"LIU has not announced salary cuts for top administrators, and, in fact, continues to spend heavily in other areas like veterinary education," said a faculty member who spoke anonymously, fearing retribution.

### Veterinary Education At Texas Tech

Officials with Texas Tech's veterinary school say interest in the program hasn't waned since COVID-19, nor has the program's progress. A site visit by an accreditation team is slated for June.

"We are all adapting to COVID-19," said Dr. Guy Loneragan, a veterinary epidemiologist and dean of the program. "In many ways, we are fortunate to be at our stage of development when the pandemic hit. Our in-person recruitment changed to [online] Zoom meetings with pre-vet students, and that worked well. We will continue with that approach until we get to meet in person again."

Construction is underway on two sets of facilities: laboratory and classroom space on campus in Amarillo; and large-animal housing, called Mariposa Station, located about 2.5 miles from campus. Hiring has continued, too. By fall, the program should have around two dozen faculty. "I am thrilled about the team that is coming together," Loneragan said.

He added, "All aspects of the program are on track and on time."



## PREMIER VETERINARY SURGERY, INC.

### Mobile Service

Phone: 760-505-2332 Fax: 760-231-6483

Jennifer E. Harris, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS



Visit us at:  
[www.premierveterinarsurgery.com](http://www.premierveterinarsurgery.com)

*Specialty Surgical Care  
in Your Veterinary Hospital*

Kristi Freeman, DVM

A name you can trust for hospice, euthanasia, and eco-friendly aftercare.



## Graceful Departure

Hospice, Euthanasia, Eco-friendly Aftercare

[www.gracefuldeparture.com](http://www.gracefuldeparture.com) | 619.741.5366 | 1177 Greenfield Drive, Ste. B | El Cajon, CA 92021

**Ann King, DVM**

**North County House Call Vet**

*Compassionate Care For Your Client's Pet*

**In Home Care and Euthanasia**  
for dogs and cats in the north county area

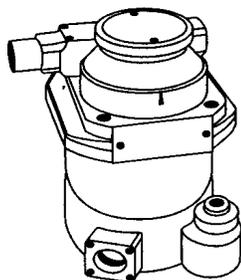
Please Call for Details

**760-738-8540**

# You can breathe a sigh of relief with

# South Coast Anesthesia

- Anesthetic Machine Service
- Vaporizer Cleaning & Calibration
- Anesthetic Supplies
  - Bags
  - Circuits
  - Hoses, etc.



619 **993-1072**

**WELCOMING SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S  
ONLY BOARD CERTIFIED  
SMALL ANIMAL REPRODUCTION SPECIALIST**

**Samantha Souther, DVM, DACT**

Doctor Souther is excited to bring reproductive medicine to San Diego County and the surrounding areas. Completing her veterinary residency in medical genetics, pediatrics, and reproduction at the University of Pennsylvania, Doctor Souther is highly specialized in state-of-the-art reproductive services. She believes that healthy litters and future generations depend upon communication and partnering with clients. She offers exemplary skills, experience, and the compassion needed to help guide the reproductive process. Doctor Souther looks forward to working with your breeding referrals.

#### Services Include

- Breeding Soundness
- Ovulation Timing
- Infertility
- Semen Evaluation
- Cryopreservation
- Transcervical Insemination
- Pregnancy Evaluation and Management
- Cesarean Section
- Neonatal Care
- Genetic Counseling



2505 South Vista Way  
Carlsbad, California 92008  
760-729-3330  
[samanthasouther@mohnackvet.com](mailto:samanthasouther@mohnackvet.com)  
[www.MohnackCarlsbad.com](http://www.MohnackCarlsbad.com)

## AAHA NEWStat: How To Safely Reopen Your Hospital

5.14.2020

Tony McReynolds



Back in the early days of the pandemic, people talked about the future in terms of “when things get back to normal.” Not anymore. Now they talk in terms of the “the *new normal*,” and what that’s going to look like.

For many animal hospitals, the new normal is already here.

If you’ve been doing curbside service, you’re already practicing many new safety protocols to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Those protocols—most of which you’ll need to maintain for the foreseeable future—will continue to define your new normal as you gradually move your practice from [curbside to inside](#).

But how exactly are you going to do that?

One source is “[COVID-19: A Guide to Reopening Veterinary Medicine in Ontario](#),” an in-depth guide on how to safely reopen a veterinary hospital prepared by J. Scott Weese, DVM, DVSc, DACVIM, and the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association. (And don’t worry if your hospital’s not in Ontario—we’ll get to that.)

*NEWStat* reached out to Weese, who is also an associate professor in the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Guelph (UG) in Ontario, Canada, and a member of AAHA’s [Infection Control, Prevention, and Biosecurity Guidelines](#) Task Force, to find out more about reopening hospitals safely and what that new normal is going to look like.

*NEWStat*: The document mentions reopening veterinary medicine in Ontario. Is there any reason these recommendations wouldn’t work for hospitals in the US as well?

**J. Scott Weese**: No, they’re pretty generic. They’re framed around planning based on changes in restrictions in Ontario, but the concepts would apply anywhere.

*NEWStat*: You talk about hospitals planning for when clients will be allowed to enter the hospital regularly. Can you briefly summarize what the most important considerations should be at that time? How will they be different from the precautions you’re recommending now?

**JSW**: The document largely goes over what we’ll need to think about as we move toward more interactions. The

key will still be social distancing, with a range of things needing to be considered to maximize distances between us and clients, and to keep clients apart. The other aspect is working in situations where we can’t do that (some client interactions, working with coworkers, etc.). We’ll need to continue to take steps to maximize separation from people (clients, visitors, coworkers, and the like) and use PPE and other barriers when [separation is] not possible.

*NEWStat*: You mention that veterinarians are at the forefront of risk groups, both because of potential contact with animals owned by people with active COVID-19 and the risk of exposure to animals who may themselves have COVID-19 (however rare that may be). That’s a big potential double whammy. What are the most important precautions veterinary professionals can take to minimize that risk?

**JSW**: The biggest risk we have is people. We have potential contact with a lot of people on a daily basis, and that can be close contact (e.g., [a client or team member] holding an animal while we’re examining it, being together and talking in a small exam room). Human contact is our biggest risk. As we [continue to control] that really well, the potential role of animals becomes relatively more important, but as we drift back to more situations where there might be human contact, the human exposure–prevention aspects become critical.

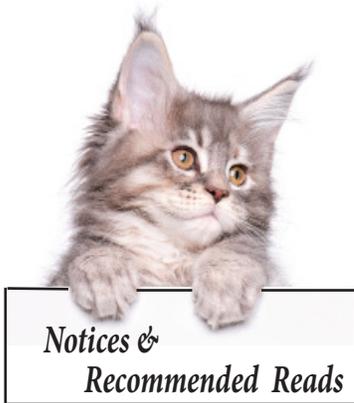
*NEWStat*: What are the most important takeaways from your plan?

**JSW**: Plan ahead. Be at the front of the curve to protect yourself, your staff, your clinic, and your clients.

Be opportunistic and creative. Some changes we have made, and have to make in the near future, may be permanent, sometimes by necessity but also because we might find some are good for clinics, veterinarians, owners, and business (e.g., telemedicine, some contactless visits, changes in waiting rooms and owner interactions).

Think long term. This isn’t a short race; it’s a marathon—and we’ll have to take measures for a long time. 🐾

*Photo credit: © iStock/Vladimir Vladimirov*



*For optimal viewing, please visit the Notices & Recommended Reads section electronically on our SDCVMA website so you can click thru to all the articles and references.*



From the New England Journal of Medicine  
**Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Domestic Cats**

5.14.2020

[Click here for full article](#)



**VMB: DOJ Implements New Fingerprint Capture Method**

5.13.2020

All Live Scan fingerprinting services are “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” in COVID-19 (see [Governor’s Executive Order N-52-20](#)). As such, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is implementing a new fingerprint capture method for Live Scan sites called “FLATS on APPS” in order to reduce the amount of time and physical contact between the applicant and the live scan operator while continuing to provide fingerprint based background checks to California citizens in need of employment, licensing or certification. FLATS on APPS is a fingerprint capture method that allows the live scan device to submit flat impressions of an applicant’s fingerprints rather than rolled impressions.

To find a location that is providing live scan services during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit the Board’s [website](#). For confirmed live scan locations as of May 18, 2020, please click [here](#). The Board posts weekly updates as they are received from DOJ. However, applicants are still encouraged to contact the Live Scan providers in advance to verify their current operating hours, fees, etc.

Please follow [DOJ’s Best Practices for Live Scan Sites During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#).



**VMB: Board Launches Student Information Page**

5.11.2020

The Veterinary Medical Board (Board) is committed to licensing students as timely as possible. The Board is aware of multiple impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on veterinary students. Specifically, numerous licensing examination sites have been closed, as well as fingerprinting locations. The Board has been working diligently with the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES), testing vendors, and California veterinary schools to resolve COVID-19 related delays.

The Board created [this](#) page specifically for fourth-year veterinary college students and graduates to provide the most updated information regarding their ability to become a California licensed veterinarian. The student page can be accessed from the Board’s homepage by clicking on the “Students” button located next to the Board’s Processing Timelines.



**COVID-19 Resources**

AVMA- General Information about the virus and answers to commonly asked questions by clients about the virus and how it pertains to pets and animals:  
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>

AVMA COVID 19 Information for Veterinary Practices:  
[https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/COVID-19-What-veterinarians-need-to-know\\_031520.pdf](https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/COVID-19-What-veterinarians-need-to-know_031520.pdf)

California Department of Public Health- Daily updates on California coronavirus prevalence and mitigation information:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

State of California COVID-19 website:  
<https://covid19.ca.gov/>

United States Center for Disease Control- General Information:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

To donate medical supplies, complete the FEMA questionnaire here:

<https://www.fema.gov/covid19offers>

To view the AVMA Recommendations on Intake of Animals from COVID-19 Positive Humans, click [here](#).



## Existing Disaster Relief For Veterinarians

The new program is intended specifically to help veterinary technicians and assistants. The AVMF also provides [two existing disaster relief grant programs](#) that help meet the personal and professional needs of veterinarians and veterinary students impacted by disasters, including COVID-19. One is a reimbursement program for charitable veterinary medical care provided during a disaster, and the other provides grants to veterinarians and veterinary students experiencing personal need due to a disaster.

More details and applications for all AVMF disaster relief programs can be found on the [AVMF website](#).

To help veterinarians impacted by disasters like COVID-19, consider donating in support of these existing relief programs. When giving at [avmf.org/Donate](http://avmf.org/Donate), choose "Disaster Relief" from the relevant dropdown to apply your gift to these programs.

[Give now](#)

<https://www.avmf.org/forms/donate-to-avmf/>



- Direct payments to agricultural producers and expanded authority for the agriculture secretary to provide assistance for depopulation during a public health emergency.

For more on this topic please [click here](#) or view AVMA@Work blog



**Peaceful Passing**  
**760-730-3300**  
*"Saying Goodbye At Home"*

**In Home  
Pet  
Euthanasia**

Mireille Boisse DVM                      Gary Haver DVM

## HEROES Stimulus Legislation Introduced In House

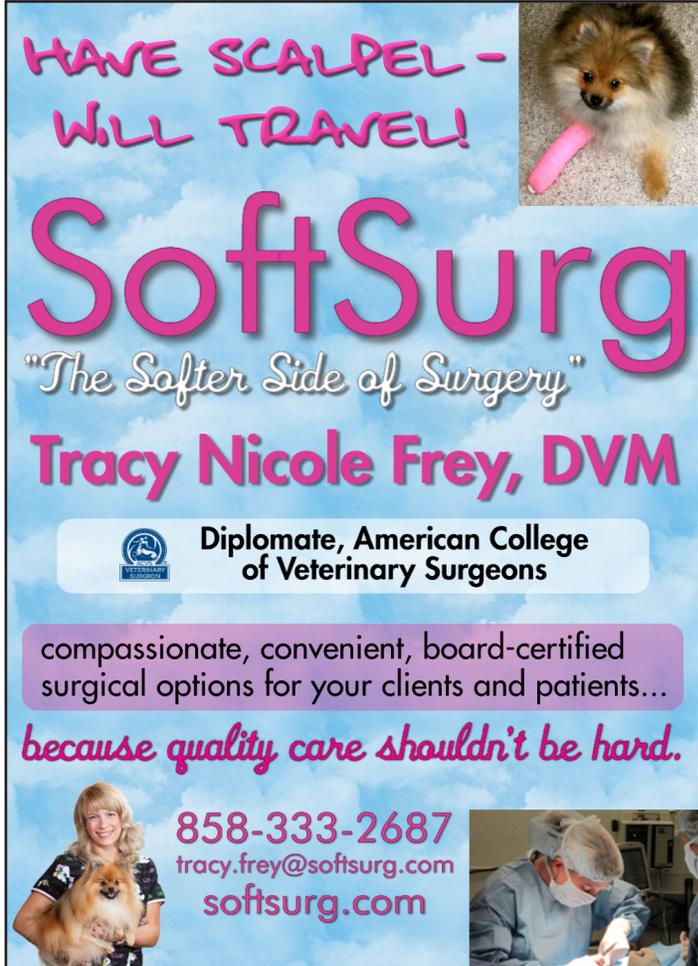
On May 12, the House Majority released a COVID-19 stimulus package called the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act," or the HEROES Act. The legislation is over 1,800 pages long and includes a wide range of proposals totaling more than \$3 trillion. The bill's debut kicks off negotiations on what will be Congress's fourth round of COVID-19 legislation this year.

The bill contains provisions of interest to veterinary medicine and includes a number of the priorities championed by AVMA:

- [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) modifications, including extending the covered period, providing flexibility on expenses eligible for loan forgiveness, and expanding PPP eligibility to all 501(c) organizations. The bill eliminates the Small Business Administration's requirements that 75% of forgiveness be for payroll and 25% for other qualified expenses. It also reverses the recent IRS notice that would prevent expenses paid with PPP loan proceeds from being deductible.

- Funding for animal health infrastructure and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), which is contributing to the human COVID-19 testing response. The bill also seeks to enhance wildlife disease research and surveillance efforts.

- A suspension of educational loan repayment for federal and privately held loans through September 2021. The bill includes substantial additional loan relief provisions such as up to \$10,000 toward educational loan balances.



**HAVE SCALPEL -  
WILL TRAVEL!**

**SoftSurg**  
*"The Softer Side of Surgery"*

**Tracy Nicole Frey, DVM**

 **Diplomate, American College  
of Veterinary Surgeons**

compassionate, convenient, board-certified  
surgical options for your clients and patients...

*because quality care shouldn't be hard.*

 **858-333-2687**  
[tracy.frey@softsurg.com](mailto:tracy.frey@softsurg.com)  
[softsurg.com](http://softsurg.com)

## Board Meeting Highlights



### February 5, 2020

9 Board members present

#### Association Office/Director's Report:

• Practice Manager's Meeting 2.23.2020 - Building Confidence, Control and Communication: Currently have 29 ppl registered. Shufelt will moderate meeting. • Specialists' Update Sunday 2.23.2020 - Currently have 88 ppl registered. 7 of 12 speakers have submitted presentations. • Spring Endocrinology Conference - 38 ppl registered for Vet Conference, 3ppl registered for RVT Seminar. Woods looking into RVT moderator. Exhibitor passport stamp/prize suggested instead of raffle tickets and prizes. Suggestion of Saturday happy hour located in exhibitor room. Decided to launch for Fall Conference. • Fall Special Senses/Dermatology Conference & RVT Seminar - speaker negotiations under way

#### Committees for 2020:

• BOD presented with volunteers for each committee thus far. Goal of community service committee - at least two "give back" events per year. Discussion on San Diego Humane Society's Walk for Animals and volunteer outreach to provide medical care to homeless pets ensued.

#### CVMA House of Delegates:

• Shufelt report that CVMB is understaffed and license renewals are taking as long as 6 months to process. New fingerprint requirements. Shufelt gathering information that will be published in Intercom for membership

#### New Business:

• Confidential Complaint under review. Bylaws on membership requirements revisited. • SDCVMA logo is a collective membership mark. Authorized use must be approved by BOD • Confidential Case Review • AVMA's Annual Conference held at the SD Convention Center this year. Looking into exhibit/booth options to represent SDCVMA • CVMB price increases - per CVMA governor/delegate reports, increases are unfortunately necessary. • Fun Photo Contest - will be announced in March Intercom

#### Discussion:

• Equine CE - Seitz working on potential equine foot and fetlock CE. If CE is free to members, it may be promoted in membership emails and/or Intercom calendar.



### March 4, 2020

8 Board members present

#### Association Office/Director's Report:

• Practice Manager's Meeting 2.23.2020 - Building Confidence, Control and Communication: 45 attendees, 22 members and 10 DVMS. Profit/loss = <\$351> • Specialists' Update Sunday 2.23.2020 - 127 attendees, 88 members and 14 support staff. Profit/loss = \$10,834. Evaluation reports shared. Discussion ensued about turning this into a 2 day event so ppl can attend both • Science Fair 3.11.20 - we have 4 volunteer member judges. Event is held at Balboa Park • Mesa Scholarship Awards Luncheon 4.18.2020 - Seitz and one other to attend • Spring Endocrinology Conference - 85 ppl registered for Vet Conference, 5ppl registered for RVT Seminar. • Fall Special Senses/Dermatol-

ogy Conference & RVT Seminar - speaker negotiations under way for Conference. Seminar confirmed topic: Fear Free Behaviors

- AVMA's Annual Conference is in San Diego. SDCVMA to share booth with CVMA.

#### Committees for 2020:

- Community service committee - Gossard presented Meals on Wheels, Hibi presented on vet care for pets of military veterans. SDHS Walk for Animals is on the calendar. Stanke ordering T-shirts for our group
- Membership committee - Constantino & Sartor reaching out to potential members. Hornick visiting 3 hospitals this week. Discussion on resurrecting nongeographical chapters for groups like exotics or shelter medicine
- Mentorship committee - Constantino speaks with high school students about the veterinary profession. Lindsey will host meetings at own practice.
- Social Media - Hornick posting to LinkedIn and Facebook. Twitter account also set up.

#### New Business:

- Gibbins, Sartor, Seitz & Hornick to report on vendor meeting & feedback. • Specialists' Update speaker policy review



### April 1, 2020

9 Board members present

#### Association Office/Director's Report:

- Science Fair 3.11.2020 - SDCVMA Judges selected two winners (senior & junior divisions) Each winner receives a commemorative plaque and check for \$100 • Mesa Scholarship Awards Luncheon cancelled due to COVID-19. Shufelt and College Director selected a winner. • Spring Endocrinology Conference - cancelled due to COVID-19. Registrants offered full refund or transfer of funds towards Fall Conference. Speakers agreed to reschedule for Spring 2021 • Fall Special Senses/Dermatology Conference & RVT Seminar - all confirmed. Promotional brochure mailed first week of June. • To this date AVMA Annual conference has not cancelled. • Beginning sponsor solicitation and feedback project.

#### Committees for 2020:

- Community service committee - SDHS Walk for Animals is now virtual. Gossard met with Meals on Wheels: currently 300 pets in the homes of ppl receiving Meals on Wheels. Details concerning medical care to pets is being worked out. Hibi is gathering info on St. Vincent de Paul volunteer opportunities.
- Membership committee - Outreach in person halted due to COVID-19
- Mentorship committee - Creating documentation about program to share with members.
- Social Media - Lots of COVID-19 posting. Sartor shared video link on making facemasks

#### New Business:

- Veterinarian Student Interview request. Constantino to conduct.
- Idexx reached out to offering free CE webinars to SDCVMA members • Hornick to work on creative packages for advertising and sponsoring opportunities



## Meetings • Seminars • Events • Webinars

June	5 & 17	VCA EAH & Referral Center Radiology Seminar, Dr. Craychee, MS, DACVR, 1-2pm
	<i>anytime in June</i>	ACVIM Forum On Demand, Register at <a href="http://www.acvim.org">www.acvim.org</a>
	19-20 & 27-28	CVMA PacVet Live! Register at <a href="http://www.cvma.net">www.cvma.net</a>
July	31-August 4	AVMA Annual Meeting, <del>San Diego, CA</del> , <a href="http://www.avma.org">www.avma.org</a> <b>CANCELLED</b>
September	<b>12-13</b>	<b>*SDCVMA Fall Veterinary Conference, Special Senses: Dermatology with a Twist for the GP</b> 12 CEUs, Handlery Hotel San Diego
	<b>13</b>	<b>*SDCVMA Technician Seminar, Behavior and Fear Free Essentials for the RVT</b> 6 CEUs, Handlery Hotel San Diego
	30- October 4	AAHA Connexity Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, <a href="http://www.aaha.org">www.aaha.org</a>
October	9-11	CVMA Fall Conference, Renaissance, Palm Springs, <a href="http://www.cvma.net">www.cvma.net</a>
November	21	<b>SDCVMA Holiday Gala:</b> Location TBA: Save The Date!

*\*SDCVMA is closely monitoring developments related to COVID-19 and we will continue to follow recommended public health guidelines leading up to all scheduled SDCVMA events.*

**🐾 LatinAmerica VMA:** Meets last Saturday of each month. For any questions, please contact Dr. Al Guajardo 619-582-2560 or Dr. Miguel Constantino 619-278-000



## New Membership

### **Veterinarians:**

Vanessa Chen, DVM (CAL15)  
 Katrina Fedorka, DVM (MSU14)  
 Lara Garman, DVM (TEX06)  
 Zarah Hedge, DVM, DACVPM, DABVP (WES09)  
 Sarah Kain, DVM (STG15)  
 Jennifer Lonsky, DVM (MIN08)  
 Shamli Malik, DVM (ROS16)  
 Monica McCann, DVM (CAL17)  
 Karla Nova, DVM (PHU)  
 Joshua Yonas, DVM (WES14)  
 Melody Aitchison-Steed, DVM (CAL05)  
 Jonathan Chapman, DVM (ROS13)  
 Lonny Pace, DVM, DACVECC (COL00)  
 Morgan Thomas, DVM (WES14)  
 Brittni Jones, DVM, DACVS (OSU15)  
 Jennifer Luke, DVM (UIL91)

### **Affiliates:**

Monica Gutierrez  
 Mark Kurowski  
 Lisa Liners, RVT  
 Stefanie Liu, RVT  
 Sandra Rodriguez  
 Jordan Adkison, RVT  
 Carolyn Guajardo, RVT  
 Donna Fontana  
 Danyelle Kovacs, RVT  
 Irina Lockwood-DeVries  
 Kristi McKinney  
 Gail Owens  
 Ellie Randazzo, RVT

### **Life Members:**

Sharon Sprouse, DVM  
 Louis Serrano, DVM  
 Douglas Macdonald, DVM  
 Grafton Houston, DVM



**Brokers and Appraisers**  
*Practice and Real Estate Sales*  
*Transition Specialists*  
*Practice Appraisals*

**Ellie Wattles, DVM, President, Broker**  
**Beka Herrera, Vice President, Broker**  
**Connie Burke, CPA, CVA, CM&AA**

**GREATER SACRAMENTO- NEW LISTING:** This historic town is located just 30 minutes north of Sacramento within Placer County, paradise for outdoor enthusiasts, wine connoisseurs, foodies and history buffs alike. The practice is located on a major thoroughfare with excellent visibility and ample parking. Efficient ~1,900 sq. ft. free-standing facility. Computerized practice includes digital X-Ray and IDEXX lab 2019 Gross ~\$798,000. Currently operated as a 1 DVM practice with a great staff. **PRACTICE PRICE: \$500,000. REAL ESTATE PRICE: \$420,000.**

**LOS ANGELES, COASTAL- MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION:** Rare opportunity to own a well- established practice located in an excellent area. The city includes a state university, along with a harbor port, airport. ~1,100 sq.ft free-standing facility. Equipment includes Abaxis VS2 lab, dental unit, Digital DR X-Ray. 2019 net sales ~\$556,000. **NEW PRACTICE PRICE: \$350,000. NEW REAL ESTATE PRICE: \$550,000. OWNER WILL CONSIDER CRE SELLER FINANCING AT ASKING PRICES. MOTIVATED SELLER, MUST SELL NOW.**

**ORANGE COUNTY, COASTAL- Priced to sell quickly:** This charming community offers ideal weather, a diversified economy & excellent educational system. The city is located near three airports: (SNA), (LGB), & (LAX). PX is located in a newly renovated urban shopping center. Efficient leased facility ~ 1,200 sq. ft. w// 2 exam rooms, 3 runs & several cages. 2019 Gross ~\$554K produced w/**extremely limited**, part time DVM hours. Significant growth potential with new energetic owner-operator. Currently, the PX values at greater than 1 year's gross. **PX PRICE ONLY: \$470,900.**

**VENTURA COUNTY, COASTAL:** Located in a beautiful coastal city, just 60 miles north of LA. Endless outdoor activities, including kayaking, surfing, whale watching, diving, and hiking. City offers wide variety of restaurants & shops. Diverse economic base & excellent schools. Attractive, spacious, well organized ~3000 sq. ft. facility with excellent visibility & ample parking. 3 exam rooms. 2019 Gross ~\$714K. **PX PRICE: \$400,000.**

**SOLANO COUNTY, on the Sacramento River:** This growing suburban community is located between the East Bay & Sacramento. ~ 3,900 sq. ft. leased facility offers 2 exam rooms, several cages & separate storage area. Well staffed PX with 3 RVTs. Equipment includes IDEXX lab station & CR- X-Ray. 2019 gross ~\$816,000 produced with no weekend hours. Excellent profitability. Areas for growth. **PRACTICE PRICE: \$740,000**

**CAMARILLO: Great Community! Price reduction, PX offered at less than a start-up.** Located in an upscale community w/ excellent amenities, desirable demographics & highly rated schools. Attractive & modern, ~1,800 sq. ft leased facility is strategically located in popular shopping center. Under utilized practice with limited DVM hours. 2018 Gross ~\$407,000. **Motivated Seller. NEW REDUCED PRACTICE PRICE: \$225,000.**

**MENDOCINO COUNTY:** Just 2 hours north of the San Francisco Bay Area & west of Sacramento. This area boasts spectacular scenery & distinctive wineries. Hundreds of miles of hiking trails, verdant hills & secluded lakes residents can easily find solitude & beauty. 1 PT DVM PX. ~1,500 sqft leasehold facility located in a small strip-center. 2019 Gross~ \$396,000 produced with very limited hours. **PX PRICE ONLY: \$120,000.**

**ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH:** The city is located within easy driving distance of beaches, theme parks & mountains and all of SoCal s attractions. Well-established PX located along a major thoroughfare and surrounded by housing communities. Roomy leasehold facility ~ 3,200 sq. ft. w/ 3 exam rooms, 35+ cages & 10+ runs. 2019 Projected Gross ~\$700K produced w/ limited DVM hours. Growth potential. **NEW LISTING! PX PRICE: \$550,000.**

**GREATER SAN DIEGO:** Wonderful community known for its high quality suburban lifestyle. Easy access to retail, commercial areas, beach cities & outdoor activities. Outstanding school district. Leased facility ~ 2,000 sq. ft. w/ 3 exam rooms, digital X-RAY, digital dental X-RAY & complete in-house lab. 2019 Gross ~\$607,000 produced with limited DVM hours. **MOTIVATED SELLER. PRACTICE PRICE ONLY: \$350,000.**

**SOLD**

**545 Sespe Avenue** **Fillmore, CA 93015**  
**Phone: 805.524.3195** **Fax: 805.524.3192**  
**E-mail: PacProInc@aol.com** **Website: www.pacificproinc.com**



# California **Veterinary Specialists**



**We hope you, your staff and families are staying safe and healthy during this uncertain time. We remain ready to help if you need us.**

**Staying Strong Together  
From our Family to Yours**

**+**  
**24-Hour  
Emergency  
Care**

**Carlsbad**  
760-431-2273  
2310 Faraday Ave.  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

**Murrieta**  
951-600-9803  
39809 Avenida Acacias  
Suite E  
Murrieta, CA 92563

**Ontario**  
909-947-3600  
2409 S. Vineyard Ave.  
Suite 0  
Ontario, CA 91761

**california  
veterinary  
specialists  
.com**

Address Service Requested

# FOR CRITICAL CARE THAT GOES BEYOND BASIC. TOTAL WELLNESS IS HERE.



## VCA Emergency Animal Hospital & Referral Center

### Consider us a 24-Hour critical care ward extension of your practice!

Our emergency clinical team, lead by Dr. Elizabeth Leech, and her staff Drs. Marisa DeAvilla, Jeanine Persano, Barrie Sands, Michele Chin, Amy Nadolski, Stefan Gordon and Andrew Trempe, provide 24-hour emergency and critical care. We are available for telephone consultation 24 hours a day. We work with our patients' referring veterinarians in a team approach to providing the best care for San Diego area pets. We're here for you when you need us!.



*Elizabeth Leech, DVM  
DACVECC  
Medical Director*



*Amy Nadolski, DVM  
DACVECC*



*Barrie Sands, DVM*



*Michele Chin, DVM  
Intern/Extern Director*



*Jeanine Persano, DVM*



*Andrew Trempe, DVM*



*Marisa DeAvilla, DVM  
Practice Limited to ECC*



*Stefan Gordon, BVSc*

### EMERGENCY/CRITICAL CARE 24 HOURS EVERY DAY:

- Intensive Care Unit
- Ultrasound
- 24-hour Laboratory
- Digital Radiography
- Ventilatory Support

### COMPLETE EMERGENCY/CRITICAL CARE SERVICES INCLUDING:

- Traumatology
- Blood transfusion
- Metabolic emergencies
- Respiratory emergencies
- Cardiac emergencies
- Urinary blockage
- Gastrointestinal emergencies
- Shock
- Bite wounds
- Renal failure
- Foreign bodies

**OPEN 24/7**

*Ask for our Referral Coordinator, Rhonda Nevins, to help facilitate your referral appointments.*



2317 Hotel Circle South  
San Diego, CA 92108

P • 619-299-2400

F • 619-299-0413

[www.VCAemergency.com](http://www.VCAemergency.com)

MON-SUN: OPEN 24 HOURS

Ask for our Referral Coordinator, Rhonda Nevins, to help facilitate your referral appointments.