



Newsletter

February 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings colleagues,

Happy New Year. Here we are in 2022! Give yourself a round of applause for your consistent resilience, your resourcefulness, and your perseverance. You are steadily doing your part to provide quality patient care and service to your community.

The first in person meeting was the Pharmacy and Laws CE, February 8th at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club. We gained valuable information on the current pharmacy and law standards. Thank you to our sponsors Wedgewood Pharmacy, TD Bank, Servistree, and The Medi Law Firm. As our CE co-chairs plan for the upcoming year, please let us know if there are any lectures you would like to see at BCVMA.

Interested in being on the board? We have newsletter, secretary, and CE co-chair positions available. If you would like to know more about the positions please reach out to the current board member for more information.

2022. What does it look like for you? I had the opportunity to be one of the keynote speakers at the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference in January. The theme was The Future is Bright. Now when I was approached, they said it was going to be more of a storytelling presentation. My first response was I have no story to tell, but then I was reminded, everyone has a story. So as I pondered over what I wanted to talk about, I had to ask myself is the future bright? With all of the trials and tribulations we as veterinarians and the veterinary profession face that started as a struggle for me. I had to reach down deep and I found my why again. Listening to my colleagues tell their stories of how they faced challenges but were still in it, encouraged me. Finding the leadership skills of perspective taking, generous listening, empathy and getting into the space in my story, motivated me. Being around people that are excited about veterinary medicine and wanting to move the needle to help elevate the profession, inspired me. I chose this profession for reason, as we all did, and as we enter this new year, I encourage each one of you to reflect on your why. I challenge you to be a part of the narrative as veterinarians strive for a more diverse and inclusive profession, for more mentorship opportunities, for more wellbeing tools and resources, and for more access to veterinary care to all communities. Look to your story to help remind yourself that even in the midst of the storm the future is still bright.

Be well,

Stephanie Jones, DVM

BCVMA President



Newsletter

February 2022

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Membership Information

Enjoy the camaraderie and top-notch continuing education offered by the BCVMA! We offer five great CE meetings per year, a newsletter, and the best Holiday Party in South Florida! Membership is \$130 yearly.

You can join or renew by visiting our website: www.BrowardCountyVMA.com or e-mail bcvma@mail.com for more information. We look forward to seeing you!

Vet Directory

Please visit our website [Veterinary Directory page](#) to view our compendium of local resources. If you'd like to add your information to this list, please email Laura at Lcarran@gmail.com.



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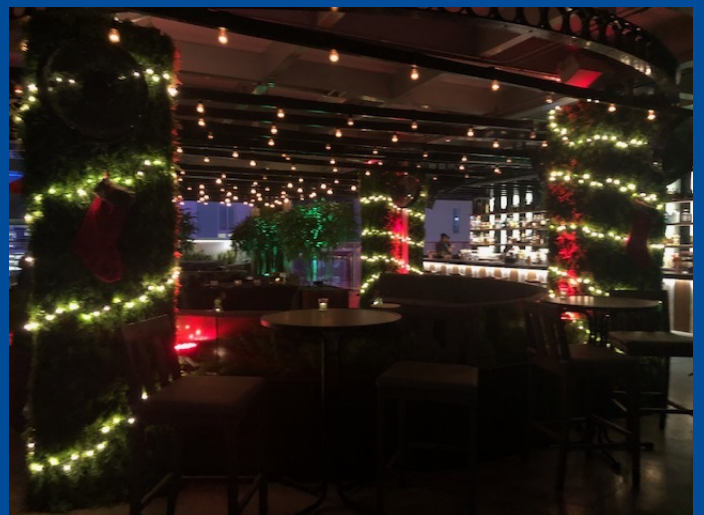
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BCVMA Holiday Party December 2021

"A Starry Night"





**Thank you to all our sponsors and members for joining us.
You can view more photos on our [website](#).**



February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. As veterinarians, we are in a high stress field so now is the time to think about our health and wellbeing.



Eat Smart, Move More!

Building healthy habits doesn't happen overnight, but **making small changes every day can make a big difference for your heart and brain health.** Eating a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight, and getting enough physical activity can help you lower your risk for heart disease and stroke.

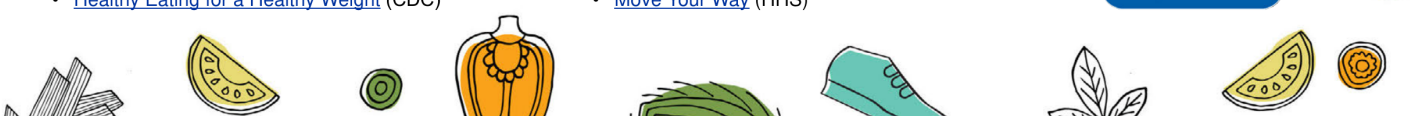
This calendar can help you reach your healthy eating and physical activity goals one step at a time. Here are some ideas to get you started and some space for you to fill in your own goals. Don't forget to celebrate the big AND small wins—you got this!



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| | Experiment with a new heart-healthy recipe, like these oven-baked sweet potatoes. https://bit.ly/2JioEwG | | Find small ways to get active throughout the day. Take the stairs, or power walk during your lunch break! http://bit.ly/2mOagPK | | | Headed to the grocery store? Check food labels for the amount of sodium per serving, and see if there are low/no sodium options available. http://bit.ly/2GcPqDw |
| Try mapping out your meals for the week. Planning ahead can help you stick to a healthy eating lifestyle! http://bit.ly/2sXykUo | | Instead of dining out, cook meals at home and pack leftovers to help cut back on sodium. These Brussels sprouts would make the perfect side! http://bit.ly/2memcbY | | Simple swaps can make your meals and snacks healthier. Go for veggies with hummus instead of chips and dip. http://bit.ly/3t0TF9u | | |
| | Power through your day with smart snacking. Bring sliced apples or bell peppers to satisfy your cravings. http://bit.ly/2iPRnGM | | Some of the saltiest foods may not even taste salty. Watch out for the top sources of sodium in your diet. http://bit.ly/2ccVH3a | | | Move a little more every day. Track your physical activities for the week—even vacuuming and gardening could count! http://bit.ly/2HVe8dg |
| | | Add flavor without the salt. Try a new spice or herb, like paprika or thyme. https://bit.ly/3eE20Mz | | Rethink your drink. Instead of soda or sweetened juices, try flavoring your water with cucumbers or lemons. http://bit.ly/2k5Wun0 | Ordering from a restaurant? Split your meal with a friend or family member to lower your sodium intake. http://bit.ly/2aXvxfR | |

Additional resources

- [Recipes for a Heart-Healthy Lifestyle](#) (Million Hearts®)
- [Sodium Reduction](#) (CDC)
- [Healthy Eating for a Healthy Weight](#) (CDC)
- [DASH Eating Plan](#) (NHLBI)
- [Healthy Eating Tools](#) (MyPlate)
- [Move Your Way](#) (HHS)



2022 State of Florida DBPR Veterinary Board Meetings

The Board of Veterinary Medicine meets throughout the year at different locations throughout the state.

Attending any of these meetings will earn you up to five CE law credits and will teach you what really transpires in Disciplinary Procedures that the Board considers. You will benefit by learning how to abide by state DBPR regulations and how to avoid being disciplined because of a violation.

Friday, March 18, 2022

Please contact Linda Tinsley with any questions: linda.tinsley@myfloridalicense.com

Upcoming CE

Nutramax Lecture

Wednesday April 6

In Person Dinner and CE

Fort Lauderdale Country Club



We like to welcome Dr Pedro Dominguez



Dr Dominguez is seeing
cases in Cooper City and
Palm Beach locations

For questions or referrals please contact us at

1 (844) PET-CHEMO
738 - 2436



Latest News From Broward County Animal Care & Adoption

2022 License Tags

The 2022 Broward County Pet License Tags have been distributed to all veterinary clinics who are contracted to sell the County license tag.

Due to supply shortages, Animal Care provided you with an initial number of tags. We anticipate that we will be able to distribute the remaining tags to you in April.

In the meantime, if you need more tags, or have any questions, please contact Modesto Mercedes at mamercedes@broward.org.

You're Invited

All Broward County Veterinarians are invited to a Zoom Call with Animal Care Director Emily Wood on Thursday, March 10th, from 6PM to 7PM. A link to the call will be provided to you next month.

**Interested in joining the BCVMA
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- ✓ CE Co-chair
- ✓ Newsletter
- ✓ Secretary

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FVMA Update from Dr. Robert Swinger

FVMA District 6 Representative

I hope this finds you all off to a great start in 2022!

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association has been quite busy in the legislative arena this spring, primarily with the Medical Treatment of Animals/Veterinary Telehealth bills.

Current Florida law allows veterinarians to utilize telehealth to provide advice to animal owners and to perform triage without a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). With an existing VCPR, veterinarians can also use telemedicine to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients. FL H.B. 723/S.B. 448 would negate the current requirement for a veterinarian to establish a VCPR via an in-person examination or visits to the premises where the animals are kept, creating conflicts with federal law that will result in confusion and potentially serious legal consequences.

Establishing a VCPR through physical examination or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises for animals treated as a group are foundational tenets for the practice of veterinary medicine. Veterinarians routinely utilize drugs across many diverse species under circumstances that require establishing a VCPR in this manner under federal law. Errors in establishing a VCPR have very real consequences, as the failure to comply with the federal law results in the use of the drug being deemed unsafe and, if in feed, the feed is deemed adulterated. Differing state and federal law for the establishment of the VCPR will result in confusion as to which requirement applies and will result in errors. Additionally, the bill provisions that would allow a veterinarian providing hospice care to prescribe controlled substances without examining the patient directly conflict with the federal Controlled Substances Act. A veterinarian following the bill provisions could be subject to criminal liability for violating the federal Controlled Substances Act.

Please take the time to reach out to your local representatives or contact the FMVA office to find out more ways you can help defeat this legislation.

A few of our upcoming CE meetings are listed below. Mark your calendars!!

- The Annual FVMA meeting will be held March 17-20 at SIGNIA by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek.
- The FAEP Ocala Equine Conference has been rescheduled for July 22-24 at Hilton Ocala.
- The Gulf-Atlantic Veterinary Conference will be held September 22-25 at the JW Marriott Miami Turnberry Resort and Spa. We are super excited about this new location and hope that many of you in our area will take advantage of this local event.

Have a great spring! As always, please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns.

Robert Swinger, DVM, DACVO



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Why we stage pet cancers:

The more we know, the better we do!

Pedro A Dominguez DVM

Diplomate ACVIM (Oncology)

Diplomate ACVR (Radiation Oncology)

As the human animal bond continues to strengthen during these days, the number of diagnosed cases of cancer in companion pets continues to increase. Advancements in nutrition, vaccination programs, preventive and therapeutic medicine allows for our pets to live longer. But with older age, our pets are at an increased risk of developing cancer. Cancer remains a major cause of death in the general pet population, and accounts for greater than 50% of deaths in pets over 10 years old. In fact, it is a greater cause of death as compared to the human counterpart where cancer accounts for about 25% of all deaths, second to cardiovascular disease. Today, our clients have greater awareness to cancer via breakthrough treatment in human cancer, media coverage, personal experience and ultimately the access to innumerable information on the world wide web.

So, what does this mean for us? Today, veterinarians will be called upon to diagnose, treat and manage pets with cancer. While becoming more knowledgeable, pet owners are optimistic, demand care for their pets with cancer and value our ability to care and treat their pets with cancer. We must approach pets with cancer in a positive and compassionate manner. Most are satisfied with honesty, as well as reasonable goals and expectations for their pets with cancer. Their pet's quality of life remains the top goal of treatment. However, the management of pets with cancer can be a rewarding experience of the attending veterinarian, pet owner and most importantly the pet.

Today, advances in cancer treatment and diagnostics are advertised everywhere. The race to find effective therapies or even a cure continues with drug development, artificial intelligence, basic research, and the influx of the private sector in developing newer state-of-the-art technology for cancer treatment. We have a better understanding of tumors and their biologic behavior. Our arsenal of cancer treatment modalities continues to grow and expand within the main categories of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, biologics and alternative therapies. Improved diagnostics allows us to define treatment goals, as well as evaluate response to treatment.

I would have to think that for most pet owners, one of the most dreaded statements to hear is: Your pet has cancer! And amidst all the emotional thoughts that they can feel, they ask questions like: what is it? how bad is it? Has it spread? What do we do about it?

Our answer is usually simple: we must perform staging to answer these questions.

Continued...



Why we stage pet cancers:

The more we know, the better we do!

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What is it? While most cancers are detected physically, it may be difficult to answer this question without further diagnostics. Simple tests like fine needle aspirates and cytology or biopsy and histopathology of masses or lymph nodes provide sufficient information to establish a diagnosis of cancer. While cytologic evaluation may not be definitive, it may simply answer the question of is it cancer or not and help guide further diagnostics and staging.

Once a cancer diagnosis has been established, we must answer the question of whether the cancer has spread. To answer this one, most will need complete staging. Staging starts with a thorough physical examination, evaluating not only the primary tumor but regional lymph nodes as well as vital organs and the pet's general status. A minimum database (ie. CBC, chemistry profile and urinalysis) allows for the identification of concurrent conditions and/or paraneoplastic syndromes that may affect treatment and prognosis. Imaging, which may consist of radiographs, ultrasound, contrast studies and advanced imaging (ie. CT, MR) aid in defining and identifying tumor margins, extent, and degree of invasion, as well as the presence of metastatic lesions or regional lymphadenopathy which we are unable to detect via physical examination. While these diagnostics may seem time consuming and sometimes costly, they aid in pre-treatment planning, prognostication, provide baseline for evaluation of treatment response and follow-up. The results allow us to facilitate the exchange of information among cancer care providers including and not limited to oncologists, surgeons as well as the primary care veterinarian. Staging results also aid in making valid comparisons among treatments and comparative assessment of among various cancer stages as well as inclusion for newer treatments and/or clinical trials. While sometimes not widely accepted, the TNM system remains as a simple and organized scheme of cancer staging. T for Tumor, N for lymph Nodes, M for distant Metastasis. Since its publication on 1968, the TNM system has been adapted for malignancies in domestic species. Throughout the years, further adaptation for different tumor types and locations has been developed to better assist in the treatment and prognostication of various tumors, like mammary tumors, lung tumors, nasal tumors to name a few.

Primary tumors, T, are usually assessed via three dimensional measurements, cytology or histopathology, differentiation and grade, degree of invasion. In addition, skin invasion, adherence to underlying tissues like muscle are considered when staging tumors. For some tumors, amenability to surgical removal has also been used for staging.

Continued...



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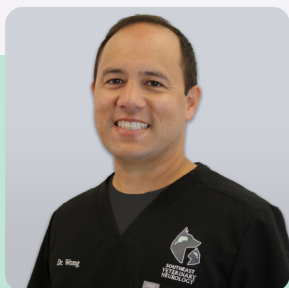


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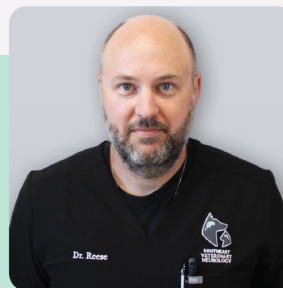
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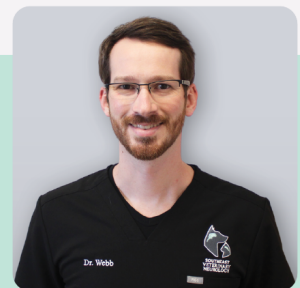
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Why we stage pet cancers:

The more we know, the better we do!

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It is worth mentioning, that recent advances have been made in tumor profiling (genomics and proteomics), however these have not been validated into staging systems and are more geared to the development of targeted therapies. Regional lymph nodes, N, are assessed based on their state of involvement while further assessed via cytologic or histopathologic evaluation. Factors include presence of tumor cells, laterality as well as their degree of moveability or adherence to underlying tissues. Distant metastasis, M, refers to areas infiltrated by cancer other than regional lymph nodes. While any organ or tissue may home cancer metastasis, common sites include lungs, liver, spleen and skin.

While cancers can be complex and sometimes their biologic behavior does not follow expected patterns, staging helps determine these aberrant patterns of disease progression. Staging determines extent of local disease and tumor burden and allows for pre-treatment planning as the two core principles of cancer treatment apply: 1) local disease gets local treatment (ie. surgery, radiation, electrochemotherapy, photodynamic therapy, intralesional therapy) and 2) systemic disease gets systemic treatment (ie. chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biologic therapy). This allows for determination of the most reasonable and better treatment combination(s) for each individual patient as well. It aids in the evaluation and monitoring of treatment response. It allows us to educate our clients on their pet's disease progression, expectation of treatment and goals. Simply, the more we know, the better we do!

Bio

Dr. Pedro Dominguez is currently working at [Pet Cancer Group](#) and seeing cases in the Cooper City and Palm Beach locations. Dr. Dominguez received his Bachelor of Science (BS) in 1996 and doctorate of veterinary medicine (DVM) in 2000 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He went on to complete a rotating Small Animal medicine and surgery internship at VCA West Los Angeles Animal Hospital followed by 3 years of general practice in his home country of Puerto Rico. He then completed his Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology residencies at Michigan State University from 2004 through 2008 attaining board certification in both specialties. Since then, Dr. Dominguez has been practicing and consulting in medical oncology and radiation oncology in various states and abroad. Dr. Dominguez enjoys many of the amenities South Florida has to offer including fishing and golf, and even though it does not show, he is an avid crossfitter!



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Humane Society of Broward County

Help Make a Difference

Participate in the 2022 VCA Walk for the Animals Benefiting the Humane Society of Broward County

The 2022 VCA Walk for the Animals benefiting the Humane Society of Broward County will be held in person on March 5th at Huizenga Park in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The 1.25-mile walk is accompanied by vendor booths, entertainment, prizes and more and will be a hybrid event this year. You can attend the walk, or you can raise money and walk in your neighborhood on walk day, or be a virtual walker – raise funds and sleep in. It doesn't matter how you choose to participate, raise \$150 and get the official walk t-shirt. All funds raised go to help the homeless animals in the HSBC's care and support the shelter's programs and services.

Walk participants who gather more donations will receive gifts for different fund-raising levels reached. For those who raise \$1,000 or more your dog will be entered into a contest for a chance to be the 2023 Walk Cover Dog. The 2022 Cover Dog is Moët who resides in Fort Lauderdale with her human parents Andrew and Tanya Heller.

Have friends you want to walk with? Create a "Pack" of 2 or more friends or co-workers, raise \$1,500 and get official walk pack perks. You can register now, visit www.Walk4theAnimals.com and start collecting donations.

Event Chairs Carey Morgan of Fort Lauderdale and Leslie Puro of Lighthouse Point are thrilled to be chairing the event, along with Jacey Birch of WPLG Local 10 News, iHeart Radio's Doc Reno from BIG 105.9, Letty B. from Totally 93.9 MIA and Mobile Mike.

For information about registering, forming a "Pack" or team, or if your business is interested in being a sponsor, contact Rachel Frank at 954-266-6817 or info@walk4theanimals.com. You don't need to have a pet to join in the fun.

To date, sponsors for the VCA Walk for the Animals are VCA Animal Hospitals – who have been sponsoring the event since 2003; Purina; Tidy Cats; Spirit Airlines; Animal Eye Specialty Clinic; Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health; JM Family Enterprises Inc.; MetLife; Subaru of Pembroke Pines; Clear Choice Tax & Lien Service; Chewy; RKD Group; WPLG Local 10, iHeart Radio, Totally 93.9 MIA; 610 WIOD; 103.5 The Beat; BIG 105.9; TU 94.9; Y100 Miami; and Mobile Mike.

The Humane Society of Broward County is a private, non-profit organization that is supported by people who care about animals. The shelter is not affiliated with any local or national organization with a similar name and has only one location at 2070 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale.

Disclaimer: The Humane Society of Broward County is making every effort to put precautions in place to protect our participants, staff, volunteers, and animals due to the pandemic. Because of the uncertainty of this virus, we reserve the right to make changes to our Walk Day activities if we feel it is necessary to avoid putting anyone at potential risk of exposure or danger of any kind. We respect and appreciate our participants and ask for your understanding as we prioritize safety for all involved.



Humane Society of Broward County

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This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Broward County Veterinary Medical Association, Inc.,

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Editorial Guidelines: Letters and articles are welcome. All submissions must be signed and the author's name will be published. Entries must be received 7 days prior to the publication date.

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All Referral Clients are required to sign the following on their registration form:

"Please be aware that we will only treat your pet's present problem. Under no circumstance will we accept your pet for unrelated problems unless once again referred by your veterinarian." This policy is strictly enforced, over 600 South Florida Veterinarians refer to us!

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