



Newsletter

March 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings,

It is hard to believe this month will mark a year since the Covid 19 outbreak. Many of us have experienced the effects of the pandemic personally and professionally. As the stresses of limited staffing and highly charged clients continue to be a part of our daily struggles, I commend everyone's resilience and resourcefulness. We as a profession are thinking outside the box as to how we want to practice veterinary medicine.

FVMA continues to fight on behalf of the veterinary community to get veterinary professionals prioritized in the next phase of vaccine rollout. Each county VMA was asked to write letters to government officials explaining why veterinarians should be included in the next phase protocol. The BCVMA will do our best to keep updated information as it is made available to us.

As we continue to work on selfcare and wellbeing, I see social media posts at local hospitals that are implementing activities that promote selfcare. From a walking team to spontaneous games that simply serve as a distraction for the day. Keep up the good work. For those interested in wellbeing here is a link to see where you stand: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/wellbeing/assess-your-wellbeing>

Stay safe and be well,

Stephanie Jones

President



Newsletter

March 2021

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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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2021 FVMA LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS



IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO ACT!

Veterinary medicine in Florida is at risk. Soon your practice may no longer resemble the profession for which you trained. Your patients' well-being is at risk.

[HB 911 – Medical Treatment of Animals](#) is moving through the Florida House of Representatives with incredible momentum to pass this year. Why is this important to you?

It will allow the core of the practice of Veterinary Medicine, the valid client patient relationship (VCPR), to be established by a simple phone call, text, or online interaction.

- No longer will the physical exam be central to the practice of Veterinary medicine.
- No longer will there be any oversight by the Florida Board of Veterinary Medicine of this type of practice, and no requirement or mechanism for a Telehealth Veterinarian's Florida license to be verified.
- No local community standards of care will apply, and
- No recourse for the owner of a now paralyzed dog who was misdiagnosed as constipation by a veterinarian during a Zoom call.
- It will allow the rabies vaccine to be administered by non veterinarians.

The FVMA is completely in favor of your ability to interact, follow up, and properly prescribe for your clients' animals by electronic means once a Physical Exam and/or Site Visit, as currently required, has been performed to properly create a VCPR. We need your help TODAY in trying to keep the practice of Veterinary Medicine safe for our patients.

Most of us do not like any type of conflict or being involved in politics. Today is the day you need to put those ideas aside.

[Please contact your State Representative and State Senator](#) and tell them NO on HB 911 and its companion in the Senate SB 1370.

Protect our patients and the quality of care we were trained to provide!

This call to action needs you

and it needs your action immediately!

Attach your name and credentials to the following letter and immediately forward it to your legislators. **Act today so we can all practice appropriately tomorrow.**

You can readily contact your State Representative and your State Senator by clicking on the link below and copying and pasting your letter in an email. You can also call or mail.

[**Letter to Your Representative**](#)

2021 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, June 3, 2020

Please contact Linda Tinsley with any questions:

linda.tinsley@myfloridalicense.com



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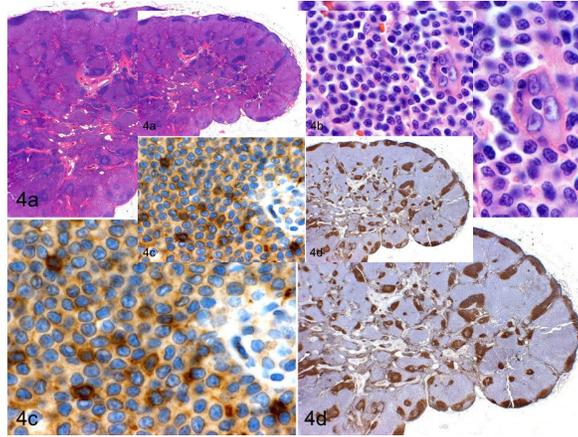
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Upcoming CE



TOPIC: "LYMPHOMA: THE ESSENTIALS"

Date: Thursday, March 18th, 7:00p.m. EST

Speaker: Evan Sones, DVM, MS

DACVIM (Oncology) Animal Cancer Clinic

[REGISTER](#)

TOPIC: "Case Discussions in Dermatology "

Date: Wednesday, April 7th, 7:00p.m. EST

Speaker: Dana Liska, DVM, Dipl. ACVD

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FAQs about Breed Predispositions for Acquired Cardiac Disease and Congenital Cardiac Defects

By: *Nick A. Schroeder, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)*

LeadER Animal Specialty Hospital

What is a genetic predisposition?

A genetic predisposition means that an individual may have a tendency to develop certain diseases as a consequence of inherited defects in the genes. A gene is a segment of a chromosome, which is the portion of a cell that contains the instructions to produce certain substances, commonly proteins. These proteins have a job to do, and abnormal proteins may be unable to perform their job correctly. This can ultimately lead to acquired cardiac (heart) disease.

What is a breed predisposition?

Since breeds are created by allowing closely-related individuals to procreate, a genetic predisposition for heart disease may develop. While certain traits and characteristics of the breed may be desirable, the tendency toward developing heart disease is not. Conscientious breeders do their best to eliminate individuals known to have heart disease from the breeding pool, however many breeds are well-known for their association with heart disease. Ongoing research is being performed in order to try to identify specific gene defects associated with acquired heart disease in certain breeds, and may someday allow us to offer genetic testing to help us identify young animals likely to develop heart disease later in life or breeding animals likely to have offspring at risk for heart disease. This may ultimately allow us to screen these individuals out from the breeding population.

Are certain breeds more likely to have a predisposition to develop heart disease?

Absolutely. A number of breeds we see commonly develop chronic mitral valvular disease (CMVDz, myxomatous valvular degeneration/MVD, mitral "endocardiosis"- all equivalent terms). **Cavalier King Charles Spaniels (CKCS)** are particularly afflicted, and are commonly used as models for studies of CMVDz. Polygenic modes of inheritance are suspected in CKCS and Dachshunds. Poodles, Papillon, Maltese and Chihuahuas are all commonly reported to develop CMVDz, but really *any* breed can be affected. In general, small breeds tend to get CMVDz, and large to giant breeds get dilated cardiomyopathy, but this is a generalization, and overlap can occur. The high prevalence of dilated cardiomyopathy (**DCM**) in Doberman Pinschers, Boxer dogs, American Cocker Spaniels, Newfoundlands, Irish Wolfhounds, Portuguese Water Dogs (PWDs), Mastiffs, and Great Danes suggest a genetic basis for the disease, arguably autosomal dominant or recessive. An X-linked autosomal dominant pattern has been identified in Great Danes, and an autosomal recessive pattern has been identified in PWDs.



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Recently, a specific gene mutation (autosomal dominant) has been identified in Boxers with cardiomyopathy. The trendy term right now for Boxer cardiomyopathy is **ARVC** (arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy), but it is arguable whether or not Boxers have the same exact disease that people have with ARVC. This is especially the case since the particular gene mutant identified in Boxers is not a mutation associated with the disease in people. However, many different defects may ultimately result in phenotypic dilated cardiomyopathy. Other commonly affected breeds with DCM include Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Saint Bernards, Springer Spaniels, English Sheepdogs, Afghan Hounds, Scottish Deerhounds, terriers, and English Cocker Spaniels, with males being more likely to develop severe disease in Dobermans, and conflicting reports of sex predilection or lack thereof in other breeds.

Most commonly, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (**HCM**) is reported in domestic short hair (DSH) cats, but strong evidence exists for a familial inheritance in Maine Coon cats, American Shorthairs, as well as Persians. Males are greatly overrepresented, and the nonobstructive form is most common. A particular gene defect in protein myosin C has been identified in the colony of Maine Coons at Davis. HUNDREDS of different genetic defects have been associated with humans with HCM, so we're pretty sure more than one defect in cats may be at work.

What is a congenital heart defect?

A congenital heart defect means that a problem occurred with the development of the heart when an individual was growing inside the womb. These defects commonly result from a mutation in one or more genes, and are often heritable. This means they can be passed from one or both of the parents to the puppy or kitten. These defects are usually detectable at birth or a very young age.

Are certain breeds more likely to have congenital heart defects?

Absolutely. Different breeds may be predisposed to developing different cardiac defects. Generally, the most common congenital defects in dogs include patent ductus arteriosus and subaortic stenosis. The most common congenital cardiac defects in cats tend to be septal defects and valvular dysplasias.

Patent ductus arteriosus (**PDA**): Commonly reported breeds that may be predisposed to PDA include



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Bichon Frise, Chihuahuas, Cocker Spaniels, Collies, English Springer Spaniels, **German Shepherds**, Keeshonds, **Labrador Retrievers**, **Maltese**, **Pomeranians**, **Poodles**, Shetland Sheepdogs, Welsh Corgis, and Yorkshire Terriers. **Newfoundlands** and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels may also be predisposed. Depending on the geographic region, PDA may be the #1 or #2 most commonly reported congenital cardiac defect in dogs.

Subaortic stenosis (**SAS**): Reported breed predilections include Newfoundland, **Boxers**, Rottweilers, **Golden Retrievers**, Bouvier des Flandres, and **German Shepherds**. The trait has been characterized with an autosomal dominant pattern with gene modifiers or polygenic pattern in Newfoundlands. Bull Terriers often have concurrent mitral valve abnormalities. Other cardiac defects have been associated with SAS and include mitral valvular dysplasia, PDA and aortic arch abnormalities. Studies in Newfoundlands have documented the development of progressive lesions in the early postnatal period, suggesting that "congenital SAS," at least in Newfoundlands, is technically a misnomer. Depending on the geographic location, SAS may be the #1 or #2 most commonly reported congenital cardiac defect in dogs.

Ventricular septal defects (**VSDs**) are familial in English Springer Spaniels, and an autosomal dominant pattern with incomplete penetrance or a polygenic trait is suggested. Probably the 3rd or 4th most commonly reported congenital cardiac defect in dogs.

Pulmonic stenosis (**PS**): Reported breed predilections include Beagles, **Keeshonds**, **English Bulldogs**, Mastiffs, Samoyed, Miniature Schnauzers, Cocker Spaniels, West Highland White terriers, Chihuahuas, **Newfoundlands**, Bassets and Chows. Risks may be higher for male English Bulldogs and Bull Mastiffs. Probably 3rd or 4th most commonly reported congenital cardiac defect in dogs.

Tricuspid valvular dysplasia (**TVD**) is a congenital malformation of the tricuspid apparatus. The defect is common in Labrador Retrievers, Old English Sheepdogs, Great Danes, German Shepherds, and Irish Setters. NOT UNCOMMON.

Mitral valvular dysplasia (**MVD**) is a congenital malformation of the mitral valve apparatus and is common in cats, Great Danes, German Shepherds, and Afghan Hounds. In Bull Terriers mitral dysplasia is **X-linked** (carried by females) and the defect is typically seen in males. RARE.



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Atrial septal defect (**ASD**) is common in Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, old English Sheepdogs and Samoyeds. Standard Poodles may also be predisposed. RARE.

Tetralogy of Fallot(**ToFF**): (0.25 per 1000 dogs), usually associated with other defects including tracheal hypoplasia, peritoneal-pericardial diaphragmatic hernia (PPDH), pectus excavatum, PDA, atrial septal defect (ASD) or persistent right aortic arch (PRAA), and is **autosomal recessive** in Keeshonds. RARE.

Do mongrel dogs/cats (mutts) develop acquired heart disease or have heart defects?

Absolutely. Acquired heart disease may develop in any dog or cat, and mixed breed animals may deliver puppies or kittens with congenital heart defects. Overall, the *risk* for developing heart disease or having heart defects is probably less in mixed breed animals. Generally, if an individual dog or cat is known to have offspring with congenital heart defects or have developed acquired cardiac disease, they should not be allowed to breed in the future.

Bio: Dr. Schroeder received his D.V.M. from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, served his internship at [LeadER Animal Specialty Hospital](#), and completed his cardiology residency under the guidance of renowned Cardiologist and author, Dr. Steve Ettinger at California Animal Hospital. He has also lectured locally and nationally. Dr. Schroeder offers a full range of services in cardiology and pulmonary medicine at [LeadER Animal Specialty Hospital](#).



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Latest News From Broward County Animal Care & Adoption

Emily Wood Named Director at Broward County Animal Care

Hi Broward County Veterinarians -

My name is Emily, and I am the new Director of the County's Animal Care and Adoption Division, which takes in more than 13,000 dogs and cats each year.



I moved here from a short stint in Northern California as the Director of Yolo County Animal Services. Prior to that I was at Pasadena Humane in Southern California as the Director of Placement and Customer Care. My previous positions include Admissions and Adoption Coordinator with Contra Costa County Animal Services from 2017 to 2018, and Client Care Manager with San Francisco SPCA from 2011-2017. I've also run humane education camps, been on the board of directors of a farmed animal sanctuary and am an educator with the House Rabbit Society.

I am very excited to be here! My main focus will include building trust and communication with the Animal Care Community and developing a true, collaborative team effort with service partners--such as the veterinary community--for the betterment of Broward County's pet population welfare.

I still volunteer with national groups, and I share my home with a fospice rabbit named Mary Lou. I'm a graduate of the University of California, Berkley where I earned Bachelor's Degrees in Math and Physics and later completed a Master of Science in Environmental Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh. I hold "Fear Free" and "Low Stress Handling" Silver certifications and am one of about 200 Certified Animal Welfare Administrators in the world. I am very proud of passing that test!

I look forward to partnering with you. Please feel free to contact me at emwood@broward.org



Classifieds & Advertising

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Broward County Veterinary Medical Association, Inc., 200 NE 12th Avenue Apt 8 B Hallandale, FL 33009.

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.

Display Ads: Please e-mail all submissions to Lcarran@gmail.com. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the officers of the BCVMA. Products and services advertised herein are not necessarily endorsed.

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