



Newsletter

June 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's hard to believe that summer is approaching. The weather is turning hotter and the days longer. Hopefully you have some fun plans for the summer. Practice owners will be looking for relief veterinarians to fill in the slots while they or their associates are on vacation. Thanks to a robust economy, unemployment is at all time low and relief veterinarians (and veterinarians in general) are in high demand. Where I work, we have to book relief way in advance.

Like the general economy, veterinary medicine is performing well. There is a shortage of veterinarians for open positions and in some U.S. locations, some practice owners are having difficulty finding associates. I myself have gotten a few Linked In emails and letters from middle of the state practices fishing for associates to fill in at their practices. An article I read mentioned that new graduates are not only looking at salary; they also want a good work environment and quality of life, sometimes as equally important as salary. Gone are the days when the new associate worked to death and took call every weekend, paying their dues to one day become the owner.

Lastly for better or for worse, corporate medicine is becoming more and more prevalent in veterinary medicine. Now Walmart is getting in on the action. I hear that Walmart will be opening small animal clinics within their stores and these clinics will accommodate basic veterinary care. Within a Facebook chat group that I belong to, some veterinarians expressed fear in losing business to the Walmart clinic. Others commented that the people going to Walmart with their pets would not be the people taking their pets to their clinic anyway, so it was neutral. Time will tell how corporate medicine ultimately affects veterinary practice.

Hope to see everyone at our upcoming continuing education meeting on June 12 at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club. UF Anesthesiologist Dr. Luisito Pablo, DVM MS DACVAA, will be lecturing on "How Can I Safely Anesthetize Patients with Heart Disease." This sounds very useful and interesting.

See you there,

Lisa Feinstein DVM MPH



Newsletter

June 2019

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2019 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 14, 2019 at 9:00 am

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Upcoming Events

2019 Veterinary Conference Schedule

"How Can I Safely Anesthetize Patients with Heart Disease"

Presented by: Luisito S. Pablo, DVM, MS, DACVAA

Wednesday, June 12th 6:30pm
Fort Lauderdale Country Club

RSVP: lrey@coralspringsanimalhosp.com

Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference

June 26-30, 2019
Destin, FL

<https://emeraldcoastvc.com/>

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Pets Help The Heart Heal Aims to Ease the Pain of Neglected, Abused & Underprivileged Kids



FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Animal Hospital of Ft. Lauderdale hosted the Pets Help the Heart Heal Foundation event on Saturday, April 27. More than forty students from the SOS Village attended the inaugural event at the hospital's Ft. Lauderdale location.

The goals of Pets Help the Heart Heal are to give youth the opportunity to learn about veterinary medicine and interact with animals to help heal the brokenness of abandonment, abuse, rejection and grief. The event and organization was the brainchild of Dr. Stephanie Jones, veterinarian and partner at Animal Hospital of Ft. Lauderdale after looking for a way to use the hospital and the animals as a way to help children.

Animals were first incorporated in mental health therapy in the early eighteenth century. Today there are a number of programs throughout the United States that use animals in a service capacity.

"I was aware of all the studies that showed the healing effects of animals and witnessed time and time again how interacting with pets can be life changing," said Dr. Jones. "Being able to use our practice to bring a bit of healing, fun and a little

education to children in need was a no brainer."

In addition to the snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy treats, the children enjoyed a hospital tour; watched a comprehensive exam; learned about what common household items and parasites could harm pets; viewed a pet x-ray; saw an ultrasound video; and learned about proper surgical attire and medical devices.



"Our entire community came together to make this happen. Our doctors and staff members as well as our clients and their pets rallied around this cause to make this event such a success," she added. "I wanted the kids to see veterinary medicine in action and to see what it is like to take care of the animals that bring them so much joy. And from the looks on the faces of the kids, that mission was accomplished."



To learn more about Pets Help the Heart Heal or to schedule an event contact Dr. Stephanie Jones petshelptheheartheal@gmail.com or phone at (954)998-2557.



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The New Horizons of Veterinary Oncology

By Dr J Armando Villamil, MS, DVM PhD, ACVIM (oncology)

Hi colleagues, I hope this summer brings us a lot of great personal and professional achievements. In this newsletter I would like to share some of the exciting things that are going on in the field of veterinary oncology.

It is evident that the bridge between human and canine oncology is becoming smaller everyday. We have realized that dogs are a good cancer model for humans. Advantages of the canine model include: both species share the same environment, dogs have spontaneous tumor development, shorter lifespan, rapid disease progression and similar tumor biology and genetics to humans. In addition there is no standard of care for most of canine tumors.

In 2005, one of the biggest advances in veterinary medicine was made when scientists finally completed the sequencing of the canine genome. Having the dog genetic code has opened a world of research opportunities that have strengthened even further the canine-human model. This data has allowed the detection of genetic changes between cancer patients and otherwise healthy individuals. Being able to assess those genetic changes responsible for cancer development and progression, will enhance our knowledge and lead to different diagnostics and treatment strategies.

In the last five years there has been a great drive to promote and maximize the canine model by government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and caretakers in both the human and veterinary fields. One of the main examples of this effort was the development of a Comparative Oncology Trial Consortium (COTC) that was developed in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). COTC facilitates research development and accrual of large number of cases by using multiple institutions while overseeing a single uniform protocol. Currently the COTC is conducting multiple trials across the United States.

With this support and funding from the NCI, many pharmaceutical companies are using canines in their drug development programs. One of the main hurdles in drug development is the big gaps between bench top research, rodents and humans. There are a lot of variables present in that pipeline that are less significant when the canine model is utilized. The major problem faced at this point with the canine model is that some of the specific targets utilized in human medicine (CD-20, Tyrosine Kinase receptors, etc) are not identical in the dog. It's been shown that the biology behind them is but the actual receptors are not.

That being said, the latest advances in human oncology, are thanks to these targeted therapies that have been developed. This strategy has revolutionized the outcomes and research efforts in human medicine. Due to the recent explosion of possible targets, drug developers are trying to increase the strength of their data and best utilize their investments by showing the efficacy of their new drugs at a higher level of evidence, the dog, rather than in rodents. Because of this strategy, finding these specific receptors in the dog is of primary importance. This is why currently; pharmaceutical companies are spending millions of dollars trying to optimize the canine model so they can gain full advantage of it.

With this new avenue of research, many cutting edge drugs are being evaluated in dogs and eventually may become available to the general public. As more drugs become available, we are going to see a change in the standard of care in veterinary oncology. In just the last five years, big changes have already been noted. There are at least four new drugs that are currently available, thanks to these new advances in the field.



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Some of the new drugs that target specific cell receptors include Palladia, which inhibit the receptor tyrosinase kinase KIT, commonly expressed in mast cell tumors. These drugs are currently licensed or conditionally licensed, by the FDA for the treatment of canine mast cell tumors and are now frequently used in the treatment canine mast cell tumor. Another example of recently FDA approved targeted therapies, is Oncept, also known as the canine melanoma vaccine. This is a xenogeneic DNA vaccine that targets human tyrosinase, essential in melanin synthesis and overexpressed in many canine melanoma cells. In recent years this vaccine has become one of the standards of care for canine melanomas.

As more targets are identified in canine cancers, we will continue to see additional drug development. Currently under investigation there are various lymphoma monoclonal antibodies are being tested. An anti CD-52 commonly expressed in T cell lymphomas and an anti CD-20, commonly expressed in B cell lymphomas. These antibodies if successful can change the way we treat canine lymphomas and hopefully increase the remission and survival times currently achieve with conventional chemotherapy.

The Fido Cure is a new company that offers genetic testing and enables veterinarians to prescribe personalized treatment options, based on the genetic mutation that may be driving your dog's cancer. This method is currently available but still under development. According to the company there are around 8 drugs that they are using to target specifics genetic mutations if noted on the DNA profile of the animal. The main tumor type this technique is being use are bladder tumors but other are being investigated.

In conclusion we realize that this is the beginning of an exciting and important era for veterinary oncology. The next few years are going to be pivotal in our community, optimizing the canine model, which will provide more funding and further advance the treatments for both canine and human patients. Please feel free to contact me at drv@petcancergroup.com to leave any comments or if you have any questions. Hope to see you around!



Dr Villamil is a Veterinary oncologist and owner of [Pet Cancer Group](https://petcancergroup.com). He received his Bachelor's in Animal Science, a Master's in Epidemiology and his DVM degree from Louisiana State University. Then he completed his Oncology Residency at the University of Missouri in combination with a PhD in Epidemiology. Dr Villamil is very active in the oncology community and is a board member of the BCVMA. He is now seeing cases out of Premier Veterinary Specialist in Miami, LeadER in Cooper City and Palm Beach Veterinary Specialist in Palm Beach. For any questions please feel free to contact him at drv@petcancergroup.com or 1-844-PET-CHEMO.



Latest News From Broward County Animal Care & Adoption

Broward County Animal Care Online Tag Service Suspended

Please note that Broward County Animal Care no longer offers online tag purchasing and renewal services.

Because of this, please DO NOT refer your clients to the online system, instead they need to be offered the following options in order to purchase the tag:

- **In person at our Adoption Center.** The address is 2400 SW 42nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, 33312. The shelter is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11AM to 6PM and is CLOSED on Mondays. Clients must bring a copy of the pet's current Rabies Certificate with them.
- **Veterinary offices that supply our tag.** If your office does not sell the tag, then customers can purchase it from other veterinary offices. A full listing of "Tag Suppliers" is available at our website: www.broward.org/animal. They must bring a copy of their Rabies Certificate with them.
- **One of our neighborhood Rabies Clinics events.** If the pet has already received a current rabies vaccination, then they can bring a copy of the Rabies Certificate with them to the event in order to purchase the tag. The date and location of each Rabies Clinic is listed on the Animal Care website: www.broward.org/animal.
- **Pet Supermarket stores located in Broward County.** All Pet Supermarket stores throughout Broward County sell the license tag. Please advise your Client to bring a copy of the pet's Rabies Certificate with them in order to buy the tag.

Also note, if you issue a Waiver to any Client because their pet cannot receive a rabies vaccine, then the pet owner must purchase a special Waiver Registration Tag. That tag is only available at Broward County Animal Care, 2400 SW 42nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, during regular business hours.

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact the Animal Care License Coordinator at 954-359-1313 ext. 9689.

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An Open Letter to the Veterinary Community

I am seeking input from the veterinary community regarding non-veterinary ownership of veterinary hospitals. About half of the states allow it including the state of Florida. The rationale is that Corporations can therefore own and operate veterinary clinics as can widows after their veterinary partner passes.

I have no concerns about non-veterinary ownership except for what I have recently learned. If a veterinarian works in a non-veterinary owned clinic, that veterinarian will be held responsible for every action that occurs the day he/she is present in that clinic. If the non-veterinarian owner instructs the staff to perform certain tasks or treatment that lead to a patient's harm, the DPR will hold the veterinarian present responsible, NOT the owner of the clinic.

This becomes especially troublesome for relief vets who are hired for just services like surgeries but have no involvement or oversight over the daily routines of the rest of the clinic. This happened to a local veterinarian and she almost lost her license of thirty years.

Oregon has recognized this problem and has started programs to address the issue ([see article](#)). This problem seems to be especially prevalent in not-for-profit hospitals where the non-veterinary owner tries to cut costs to improve revenue, often leading to operating below the veterinary standard of care.

After reviewing the Florida veterinary practice act, I don't see any rhetoric addressing non-veterinary ownership accountability. My question to you is should it? If we allow non-veterinarians to own hospitals shouldn't they share the accountability us veterinarians are held to on a daily basis? How do we educate unsuspecting veterinarians that work at these clinics that their license can be on the line due to decisions and actions of the non-veterinary owner?

I am looking for discussion on this matter and welcome your opinions. Please send any discussion to drkristylund@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Dr Kristy Lund



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FVMA Update from Dr. Marta Lista

FVMA District 6 Representative

Hello Colleagues,

Our FVMA is working diligently to advance our profession, promote animal health and well-being, and protect public health. Our unrelenting efforts include legislative action days and political advocacy, CE events, our Foundation work, and programs such as the Charlie Bild and Power of 10.

At the FVMA Legislative Action Days in March more than 45 FVMA member veterinarians and UFCVM students met with our elected officials in the Florida House and Senate to discuss new initiatives affecting veterinary medicine. Thank you to Drs. Gerry Diaz, Jaclyn Duenas Diaz, Jacqueline Shellow and Rob Swinger for representing us in Tallahassee. The Florida legislative ended on May 3. In total, we advocated for or against over 20 bills this session. Our proposal to revise and clarify the VCPR received a favorable hearing in the senate but ultimately did not pass in the House. The bill enhancing penalties for the harm or killing of police horses and police, fire, and search and rescue canines and the bill allowing veterinarians to report animal cruelty without notice to the client passed. We also helped forge further relationships with our legislators. On a national level, the misleadingly named Fairness to Pet Owners Act (H.R. 1607/S.1290), is once again gaining momentum in the U.S. House and Senate. We need everyone to write to their elected officials to oppose this unnecessary prescription mandate.

The FVMA 90th Annual Conference this May in Tampa was a great opportunity for learning for every member of the practice team and continues to be a profitable conference which helps fund our member services and programs. Our next small animal conference is the TGAVC in Boca December 6-8, 2019. If you are looking to further your education even more or have nostalgia for our vet school days, the Charlie Bild program allows practitioners 2 weeks alongside several specialty services at the UFCVM. Living accommodations are provided at a newly remodeled condo within walking distance to the UFCVM. For recent graduates, the Power of 10 will be launched in July and will engage our colleagues to advance their leadership skills and develop their network of peers. If any of these programs interest you, check on the FVMA website for more information or contact me via email or phone.

The FVMA has launched a wellness committee and added many resources dedicated to mental health and well-being. We are looking for a wellness representative from the local associations. Please let me know if you are interested in assisting in this much needed area of our profession.

On May 25, UFCVM and the FVMA welcomed our newest colleagues. The FVMA works closely with the UFCVM through scholarships, multiple events and legislative advocacy in large part for future generations to be afforded personal, professional and financial successes in our field.

As always, it's an honor to serve on the FVMA Executive Board for South Florida. Thank you for your membership. As the third largest state VMA, your membership is of vital importance for our programs and advocacy. If you want to find ways to become more involved in the FVMA or if you have suggestions on how the FVMA can better serve you, please feel free to contact me.

Marta Lista DVM

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Microchipped Dog Reunited After 2 Years!



Two years ago, the Peterson family of Southwest Ranches experienced a horrible loss. Their 4 month old German shepherd puppy, Cedar, disappeared from their property and they believe she was stolen, as their other dogs were still at home, but their front gate left open. After frantically searching for weeks, hiring a pet detective and posting flyers everywhere, they weren't sure if they would ever see Cedar again. Fast forward to Hugo, Colorado – more than 1,900 miles away - where a county marshal found a dog in a snow covered ditch. The marshal took the dog to a veterinary hospital where she was scanned for a microchip that was traced back to Dr. Balasky's office in Davie, a South Florida vet who had implanted the chip when Cedar was a puppy. The Peterson family were thrilled, but a bit shocked when they received the call in late March that Cedar had been found, but are unsure how she ended up in Colorado.

Thanks to [Wings of Rescue](#), Cloud Nine Rescue Flights and the Humane Society of Broward County, Cedar was flown to South Florida on Saturday, April 20th where she was reunited with her family on the tarmac at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. Cedar wagged her tail as she left the plane, and gave a few barks to pilot Ted DuPuis as if to thank him for bringing her home.

As you know, microchipping your pet and encouraging your clients to get their pets microchipped, is an essential way to prove ownership and help reunite lost pets. It is also important to remind clients to keep the information up-to-date if they move. If you don't offer chipping, please refer pet parents to the Humane Society of Broward County. Microchipping for owned pets is offered Monday – Friday – 9 AM – 4:30 PM with no appointment necessary and the cost is \$20 plus tax. The shelter is located at 2070 Griffin Road, a block west of I95.

The Humane Society of Broward County is a private, non-profit organization that is supported by people and companies who want to make a difference in the lives of homeless animals. The shelter is not affiliated with any local or national organization with a similar name and does not receive tax dollars to operate. To learn more or make a donation please visit www.humanebroward.com.

Wings of Rescue

Wings of Rescue is a donation-based charity flying large scale transports of endangered pets from overcrowded shelters and disaster areas to shelters where there is empty kennel space and where no local shelter pets are displaced by the flights. Founded in 2012, Wings of Rescue has a squadron of volunteer pilots flying rescue missions in their own planes as well as a fleet of chartered cargo planes. Since inception, 35,000 shelter pets have flown to safety. All personnel at Wings of Rescue are unpaid volunteers and the organization relies entirely on donations to fly its lifesaving missions.



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Dr. Tolulope Ogunyemi Small animals, relief, surgery, dentistry	302-464-8387	reliefvet4@yahoo.com
Dr. Carla Guzman Relief, small animals, high volume spay/shelter, dentistry	787-239-4731	animaliaveterinary@gmail.com



Classifieds & Advertising

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Broward County Veterinary Medical Association, Inc., 2801 E. Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308.

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.

Membership Cost: \$125 per year. For membership information, please visit BrowardCountyVMA.com or e-mail bcvma@mail.com.

FOR SALE:

DR Digital X-Ray System (IDEXX)

- Only 4 Years old
- Like new Condition. Valued at \$71,000 asking \$30,000
- Comes with FREE X-Ray Summit Table (Only 5 years old)
- Call 954-483-3313 or 954-748-9738 for further information.

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Laser K-Class with Surgical Table for Sale

- Only 3 years old
- Valued at \$50,000 asking \$14,000
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HELP WANTED:

Seeking PT/FT Relief Veterinarians

- New Graduates Welcome
- Energetic, Personable, and Willing to be Part of our Team
- Great Atmosphere and State of the art Equipment
- Call 954-483-3313 or 954-748-9738 for further information.

HELP WANTED: Unique opportunity to be at the forefront of modern House Call Practice! We are seeking Independent-minded veterinarians interested in practicing top quality in-home veterinary care for pets. We offer an array of on-demand services to clients, built in schedule flexibility, and complete logistical support for the practitioner.

Please email resumes, which will be kept confidential, to msanwald@fetchmyvet.com, or call Michael Sanwald, DVM at 954-626-6504 to inquire further.

HELP WANTED: [Bayview Animal Clinic](http://BayviewAnimalClinic.com) located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida is looking for an Associate Veterinarian to join our practice!! We are a five doctor small animal hospital with a small percentage of clients having exotic animals. We are located in east Fort Lauderdale, just minutes from the beach. Fort Lauderdale has one of the best beaches in the world, a multicultural population, fantastic weather, ethnically diverse restaurants, thriving night life, and rescue groups galore!! Our hospital has been at this location since 1970 and has recently expanded with a newly refurbished updated facility to include full digital radiography, in-house laboratory, wet tables, and a dual treatment area. For more information, please visit our website at: www.bayviewah.com. To Apply: Please send your resume to Lindsey Ryan, LRyan@nvanet.com



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HELP WANTED: [LeadER Animal Specialty Hospital](#) has an available position for an Emergency Veterinarian to join our 24 hour emergency & multi-specialty hospital. You would join a dynamic and collaborative team of specialists and support staff dedicated to providing outstanding medicine and customer service. This is an excellent opportunity for an energetic and experienced emergency doctor.

We are a 24 hour specialty, emergency and referral hospital in the suburbs of Fort Lauderdale, committed to excellence compassion and the highest level of patient care. We currently have specialists in surgery, critical care, cardiology, medical and radiation oncology, internal medicine, dermatology, and anesthesiology. We have excellent support staff including highly trained, caring licensed veterinary technicians and client service personnel.

Our location allows you to live in an urban, suburban or rural location and remain within an easy commute. South Florida has an abundance of nature and outdoor activities year round as well as arts, cultural events, shopping, excellent restaurants, nightlife, professional sports teams, a diverse and highly educated population, lower than average unemployment, moderate cost of living, and easy access to international travel. Our hospital is well equipped with Phillips ultrasound, Olympus flexible endoscopes, Stryker rigid endoscopes, fluoroscopy, digital radiographs, CT scan, linear accelerator. We offer laparoscopy, thoracoscopy, radio iodine therapy, progressive cancer care and 24/7 emergency services with an ICU lead by a board-certified criticalist.

We are looking for an Emergency Veterinarian who provides the highest quality of veterinary medicine with exceptional interpersonal skills! LeadER is highly focused on outstanding patient

care and exemplary client and referring veterinary service.

We offer an excellent compensation package with a base guarantee of \$100,000. Our benefit package includes CE benefits, 401K, and work life balance.

Come see why we are growing! Please contact HR@Leadervet.com to find out more about our hospital and the position. Visit our website for more information, www.leadervet.com.

HELP WANTED: Looking for associate for general small animal practice. 2531 North State Road 7, Margate, FL 33063 954-974-1136 Charles Byron DVM