

THE MONTHLY MULE MEMO

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND
STUDENT AFFAIRS



Academic & Student Affairs

College of Veterinary Medicine

University of Missouri

W213 Vet Med Building

WORDS FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN

Veterinary History and Symbolism

From Associate Dean Dr. Snider

Aesculapius...Aesclepias...Escapleus...Escathalthias...Escalaious...Escilepius... Escalabious...Escalavious...all spelling challenges aside, inspiration for this month's column comes from a Plan D attempt to record attendance in a recent class, where I asked the students to send me that day's code word: The name of veterinary symbol that is in Adam's Conference Center – the Aesculapius. I found that most of my students did not know its name, and then realized that we may be missing teaching veterinary students about some of the history and symbolism of the profession we all love. Let's fix that!

The Aesculapius, depicted as a staff entwined by a single serpent, symbolizes healing and has roots in ancient Greek mythology. Named after Asclepius, the god of medicine, the figure first represented medical arts around 300 BC and became a symbol of human and animal healing alike. The serpent, often seen as a representation of rebirth and wisdom due to its cyclical shedding, embodies regeneration and transformation—key aspects of the healing process. Some may confuse it with the caduceus (a staff with two snakes, often accompanied by wings) which often represents human medicine (and even that association is mixed with respect to its history, adoption, and reception). The Aesculapius remains central in veterinary medicine, underscoring the ancient and enduring relationship between human and animal health. Today, this icon signifies the commitment of veterinarians to the health and welfare of all species. It is often accompanied in the background by the capital "V" character, an addition made official by the AVMA in 2015.



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MONTHLY NAVLE PREP QUESTION

A dog presents with acute onset vomiting, hemorrhagic diarrhea and fever. On fecal examination, you find many large fluke eggs. You question the owner and discover that the dog was recently in Oregon on a boating trip. What agent is most likely causing the clinical signs in this dog?

- A. *Rickettsia rickettsii*
- B. *Nanophyetus salmincola*
- C. *Oxytrema silicula*
- D. *Neorickettsia helminthoeca*

(ANSWER ON PAGE 4)

CLUB CORNER: INTERNAL MEDICINE CLUB

Mizzou's SCACVIM, or better known as Internal Medicine Club, began meeting in 2023, and since its inception, has continued to grow each year. Internal Medicine Club is a specialty club at heart, emphasizing experience commonly needed in the different specialties encompassed under the coin of Internal Medicine, such as echocardiography, ultrasonography, neurological exams, etc. However, SCACVIM has a little bit for everyone. No matter what path every veterinarian chooses, specialty or not, we will all be internists in our careers in some capacity. This is where the values of our club lie. Our goal for our members is to prepare them to be internists, to varying degrees, and give them as much clinical skills knowledge as possible to ready them for clinicals and practice. Internal Medicine Club has many great events planned for this upcoming year. Some of our meetings are more catered to individuals looking to specialize, such as an ACVIM informational session and an internship/residency match Q&A. However, most of our meetings will revolve around building skills and knowledge applicable to many fields, such as a bloodwork workshop, networking events and surgery labs.

-Aliyah Luntsford



WHITE COAT CEREMONY THANKS

Thank You for Making the White Coat Ceremony a Success!

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the White Coat Ceremony. It was a fantastic event, and I know the Class of 2026 deeply appreciated it.

A special shout-out goes to my incredible student helpers: Kylie Niederer, Olivia Hritzkowin, Morgan Patterson, Cody Frizell, and Samantha Nealy. I'm also especially grateful to my colleagues Jennifer Hamilton and Lisa Thompson for organizing such a wonderful reception. And of course, a huge thank you to the Mule Club members who volunteered their time to prepare the mules for photos with the white coat recipients and their families.

We couldn't have asked for better weather, and I hope everyone who attended had a memorable and enjoyable day.

Lisa McCubbins

MONTHLY MEME



FOCUS ON WELLNESS

Cultivate Gratitude: Feeling like you're in a slump? Research has shown that expressing gratitude on a daily basis can improve your energy levels and mood as well as help you get more sleep, boost your immune system, and lower your risk of disease. Try this "Three Good Things" practice to help cultivate gratitude in your own life.

3 Good Things Practice:

- Take out a piece of paper
- Write down 3 good things that you are grateful for today
- Keep up the practice for at least 2 weeks before reflecting on your experience

Source: University of Utah Health

PAWSOME AWARD

Congratulations to Molly Fogarty as the October 2024 PAWsome Award Winner. Thank you for all your Pawsome work!

A LITTLE DAD JOKE HUMOR



AVMHS VETERINARY HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST From Associate Dean Dr. Snider

The American Veterinary Medical History Society (AVMHS; www.avmhs.org) serves to increase awareness of the history of our beloved profession. One of their highlighted programs is the annual veterinary student history essay contest. Our own Scott Miller placed nationally last year and received a scholarship. In my previous role at OSU-CVM, I was privileged to mentor other winning essay writers. This article serves to bring awareness to the program, and secondarily, to let any vet student here at Missouri know that I am eager and willing to provide mentorship, guidance, and editorial input if you wish to pursue this. Essays should have a clear historical subject, be rigorously researched, and tell an interesting story. Only historical and veterinary topics will be considered. Examples include (but are not limited to): Development of treatments, biologicals, pharmaceuticals; instruments; public health issues; legislation; biographies; veterinary colleges and programs; and veterinary medicine in literature, art, and society. Deadline is April 15, 2025, and additional details can be obtained at the website listed above.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

11/4-12/21 - NAVLE TESTING WINDOW

11/23-12/1 - THANKSGIVING BREAK (VM1 AND VM2)

11/28 & 29 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
(OFFICES CLOSED)

2024 GENERAL ELECTION DATES

All Boone County voters can absentee vote at the Boone County Government Center between:
October 22 - November 4

Saturday Hours (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM): November 2

Election Day: November 5

for more info visit:

<https://www.showmeboone.com/clerk/elections>

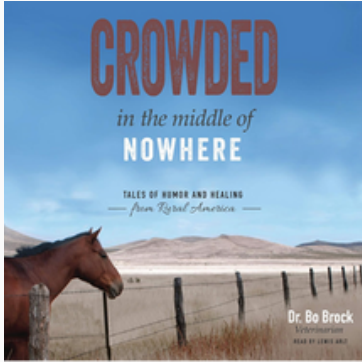
"Some superheroes don't wear capes... they're called veterinarians."

NAVLE TESTING WINDOW OPENS

The Fall NAVLE testing window opens this month (11/4-12/1). We wish all fourth year students the best of luck as they prepare to take this national exam.



**A MONTHLY BOOK SUGGESTION
FROM DR. SNIDER'S BOOKSHELVES**



If rural veterinary medicine is your thing – or if you just enjoy humorous animal storytelling – then “Crowded in the Middle of Nowhere” is a book you should consider. Written by rural southwest Texas veterinarian Dr. Bo Brock, he weaves medicine, animals, humor, and human nature into a series of wonderful stories from his time in rural Texas veterinary practice. If you know the work of James Herriott, just consider it a Herriott-style memoir, yet with more modern techniques and the hot, dry, windy landscape of southwest Texas versus the lush, chilly landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales.

CVM COMMUNITY CHEST FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all who donated during our fall Food Drive! We collected \$175 dollars during the drive (October 1 -15) as well as receiving many items for our food pantry.

The food pantry operates year-round so donations are always welcome! You may drop items off to W213, order from the Amazon Wish list (items to be delivered to W213): <https://tinyurl.com/2rxs3nrv>, or make a monetary contribution, as either a one-time or recurrent amount: <https://tinyurl.com/TheCommunityChest>.

Thank you for helping reduce food insecurity among our CVM community!



Answer to this month's NAVLE prep question:
D) *Neorickettsia helminthoeca*

OUR OFFICE

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