

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

Professional skills by Associate Dean Dr. Snider

What are professional skills in veterinary medicine? While there is no “dictionary definition,” there is reasonable consensus that we need to expose and educate future veterinarians to various non-technical skills, attitudes and knowledge. The spectrum of issues is quite large and ranges from professional diversity to client relationships to animal welfare to environmental and sustainability issues. An ad hoc team of faculty and staff came together last summer to launch a “professional skills” suite of topics for VM1 students. We’re nearing our halfway point on implementation, and we are hopeful these sessions are making a positive difference for our future veterinarians. Four, one-half credit courses are now offered to VM1 students in IPs 1, 2, 3 and 4. Each half credit offering is Professional Skills, but is sub-titled around themes to make the various topics fit in some way. In IP1, Dr. Hancock led the theme “veterinary student success,” and students were introduced to study skills, DEI, recognition of student distress, lifelong learning and many other topics. In IP2, the theme is “preparing for practice,” and students have learned about licensure, early exposure to NAVLE testing, social media and cyberbullying in clinics, alternative careers and other topics. In IP3, the theme is “the client-patient encounter,” and in IP3, students will be exposed to topics centered around ethical scenarios, spectrum of care, pet insurance and payment alternatives, conflict resolution and cultural differences in animal care and value. Finally, the IP4 course is sub-titled “caring for all animals.” In this course, we recognize our excellence in caring for mainstream domesticated animals — individually and in groups — and we extend those care discussions into learning about animal welfare, animal abuse investigation, wildlife conservation, environment and sustainability, humane livestock slaughter and other similar topics. We have faculty and staff dedicated to effective delivery of these topics, and we hope they are valuable to our students. If you are interested in contributing, this is certainly still a “work in progress.” Feel free to reach out with any ideas.



REGULAR FEATURES:

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MONTHLY NAVLE PREP QUESTION

A 4-year-old domestic short haired cat presents for anorexia and weight loss of one week. Physical exam reveals a body condition score of 7/9, jaundice of the skin and sclera, and dehydration of 4%. Temperature is normal. Bloodwork shows: ALT=303 (25-97 U/L) GGT=1.8 (0-6 U/L) ALP=1170 (0-45 U/L) bilirubin=3.0 (0-0.1 mg/dl). Radiographs show an enlarged liver. What is the most important treatment for the cat's likely diagnosis?

- A. Oral clavulanic acid and amoxicillin for four weeks
- B. Parenteral vitamin K injections
- C. Esophagostomy tube feeding
- D. Oral S-adenosylmethionine for at least one month

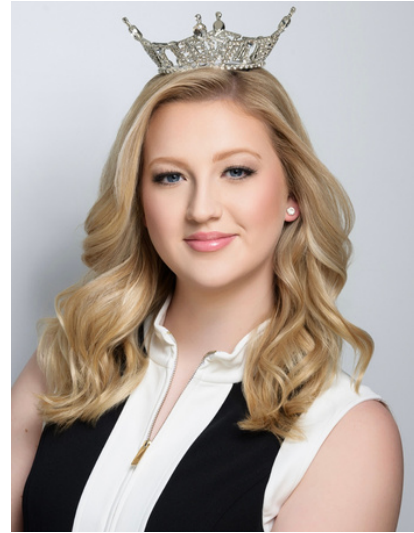
(ANSWER ON PAGE 5)

CVM REPRESENTS!

Two of our very own CVM students, Tina Rossi and Kate Czarny, were recently selected to be Miss Missouri delegates to the Miss America competition. Fun fact #1: Debbye Bell Turner, a 1991 CVM graduate, was crowned Miss America in 1989. Fun Fact #2: The vet school has more Miss Missouri delegates than any other school at Mizzou and any other college in Missouri.



Hi everyone, I'm Tina Rossi. I grew up in metropolitan St. Louis and attended Mizzou as an undergrad, joining the military my freshman year. I've always loved community service and received a letter from the president my first year of college. Commissioned in May 2023 as an active duty officer in the Army, I know it is my turn to feed into the next generation of soldiers. The Miss America Organization is built on serving your community, making it the perfect place for me to achieve my goals. I have dedicated my platform as Miss Southern Missouri to ending sexual violence in the military. My plans for my year of service include traveling all over Missouri to educate soldiers and learn what has been effective or ineffective in preventing and responding to sexual violence in their unit. I plan to present my findings to the military to help change policies for the better. I also plan to speak on the house floor at our state capitol about changes I believe the military needs.



Kate Czarny, a current VM3, was crowned Miss Mark Twain 2025 on October 26th. She will go on to represent Hannibal, Missouri at this year's Miss Missouri Scholarship Competition in June. Kate will be further promoting her community service initiative, The Lasting Impact, during this coming year. Kate suffered a traumatic brain injury as the result of a concussion in high school. In response, she created The Lasting Impact to focus on the importance of concussion education and awareness. Throughout her time competing within The Miss America Opportunity, she has accumulated thousands of dollars of scholarship money and is very grateful to spend another year promoting life as a veterinary student and pageant titleholder.

TOUR TIME

Members of the Class of 2027 had an opportunity to tour Bowie International the weekend before Thanksgiving. Bowie International is the sole North American manufacturer of veterinary ambulatory boxes that aid rural practitioners in the delivery of field veterinary services. The tour was offered by Steve Sinnard, vice-president of Bowie International. He explained: "Bowie has been in business since the 1950's with Dr. Bowie's original model. We have since purchased our main competitor PORTA-VET, and we now make 14 different Bowie and PORTA-VET models that fit nearly all chassis and truck models of US-made pickups." Tour participants were able to observe all aspects of the production and finishing facility from mold development, mold casting, fiberglass application, electrical engineering, finishing, final assembly, installation and rehabilitation of trade-in models. Pictured L-R are tour participants: Cody Frizzell, Heather Gaudette, Victoria Michel, Dr. Snider and Karen Rigdon.



COOKIES FOR STUDENTS

The tradition of holiday treats for students continues! We're looking for faculty and staff to bake or bring holiday treats (cookies, cupcakes, snack mix — whatever you like!) to help our vet students through a tough week of exams. If you have a kitchen that is vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free or otherwise ingredient-restricted, we would appreciate your contributions as well! If you'd like to help, please drop your goodies off to Room 213W in the Veterinary Medicine Building by 3 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9.

Students: Cookies will be available after 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the hallway between Adams and the auditorium.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

12/6/24 - SOUP DAY

12/13/24 - END OF IP 2,7 (VM1 AND VM2)

12/14/24-1/5/25 - WINTER BREAK (VM1 AND VM2)

12/25/24-1/1/25 - WINTER HOLIDAY
(OFFICES CLOSED)

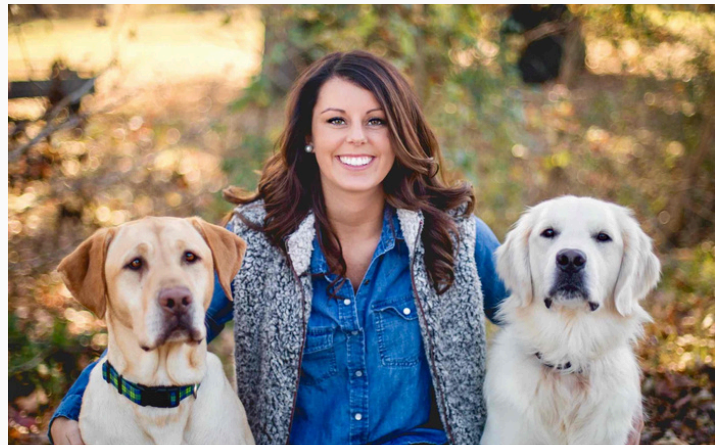
CLUB CORNER: THE BEHAVIOR CLUB

The ability to recognize and understand behavioral cues of various species is an integral part of being a veterinarian. Our primary responsibility is to look at our patients, figure out the problem and determine a diagnosis without exchanging a word with them. The Behavior Club at the University of Missouri focuses on teaching veterinary students how to read nonverbal cues, gauge pain levels and pick out minute details in our patients' body language, mentation, attitude, expression and much more.

So far this year, we have had many interesting meetings including hearing from Shelby Helmerich, professor at Murray State University, about the importance of canine socialization and how to detect when it is going "wrong." She taught us methods for how to intervene and turn it back into a positive experience appropriately. MUPD Officer Joan Haaf spoke to the club about how to properly handle working dogs in a clinical setting — bringing along her bomb-detection dog Brass to provide a demonstration of how they train those intelligent and hard-working canines. Don Cherry, PhD behaviorist candidate and founder/owner of Crafty Canine Club, recently spoke about the importance of the human-animal bond and how we can utilize it to improve the relationships with our patients. We have also had meetings about canine and feline behavior with various clinicians and behaviorists around the nation. These have focused on how to recognize negative cues and appropriately modify the clinical setting to make it less stressful — helping improve animal health care for the owner, pet and veterinary staff.

After the holidays, our club members can expect meetings about the different behaviors of exotic and large animals, with concurrent labs that will teach students handling methods and provide hands-on experience allowing them opportunities to recognize attitude or behavioral shifts in our patients and discuss ways to improve our methods to smooth this veterinary care process.

-Caileigh Linton, Behavior Club President



FREE STUDENT ON-CAMPUS MEALS AND ACTIVITIES

Students: Do you need a little boost to get through the end of the semester? How about some free food? Head over to the MU Engage website (<https://engage.missouri.edu>) for more information and to register for events/meals.

Feeding for Finals is Monday, Dec. 9 through Wednesday, Dec. 11: Mizzou has partnered with local restaurants and grocers to provide students with a free meal each day to get through finals week. This is a first come, first served event, so be sure to head over to the Engage site to RSVP. Note: The RSVP form will open on the day of the event and close once capacity is met.

Other activities include:

- Take a Break Tuesday: Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. Join us to make a care kit for finals with snacks and stress-busting activities.
- You've Got This Tigers Student Affairs Stop Day Brunch: Friday, Dec. 6 in the Mizzou Student Center
- Pause Before You Panic: Dec. 2-6 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop in to the Wellness Resource Center for one-on-one, judgement-free support sessions for your stress, sleep or time management needs before finals. No appointment necessary.
- Massage chair: Dec. 2-19 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location given at sign-up. Boost your wellness.
- Finals Fuel: Wednesday, Dec. 4 from 10:30 a.m. to noon Stop by Townsend Hall for finals snacks, games and prizes

FOCUS ON WELLNESS

The holiday season can be fun and relaxing — and also stressful. Here are some tips to help make your holidays happy:

Maintain healthy habits: Enjoy holiday foods in moderation, get adequate rest and make time for regular exercise.

Accept imperfection: Set realistic expectations and accept that things might not always go as planned.

Don't forget your own needs: Set boundaries, take a break when needed and beware of taking on more than you are comfortable doing. Use your break as an opportunity to recharge.

HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST

Congratulations to our coloring contest winners: Melanie Avery, Catriona Chew, Mia Gerdts Emily Helmick and Tara McDavid.

PAWSOME AWARD

Congratulations to David Barker as the November 2024 PAWsome Award Winner. Thank you for all your Pawsome work!

A veterinarian's love for animals is contagious and spreads joy to all who encounter it.

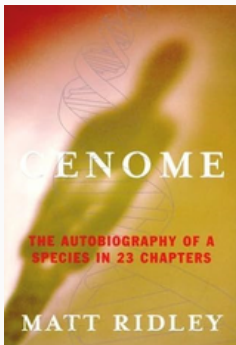
MONTHLY MEME



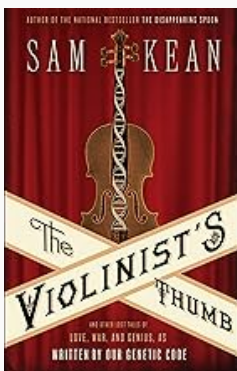


A MONTHLY BOOK SUGGESTION FROM DR. SNIDER'S BOOKSHELVES

Genomics!



We see exciting developments surrounding genomics in news and advertising daily — from solving certain genetic mutations that underpin disease to customized therapies utilizing pharmacogenomic principles. A similar explosion is occurring in veterinary medicine and applied animal science. From the AQHA five panel to Wisdom or Embark canine panels to Neogen's Igenity platform to Zoetis SNP50 platform for beef production, veterinary medicine is harnessing the power and information of modern genomics research. Throw in the gene editing studies on coat color, viral resistance, polledness and others, and we're anticipating some revolutionary change. Thus, if you're interested in this, some ways to engage the basics comes in the form of these two books recommended this month. The older one — now considered a classic — is Matt Ridley's "Genome." Published around the time of the release of the human genome project, this book does a good job of giving everyone a baseline of understanding. Then, Sam Kean's book "The Violinist's Thumb" looks at the exciting developments from a different lens and gives an updated technological take on the exciting field of applied genomics. I highly recommend both of these books. — Dr. Snider



TORTILLA SOUP DAY

Friday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.
W235, Vet Med Building

The Office of Academic and Student Affairs, with financial support from the Baines Fund for Wellness, Mental Health and Inclusivity Work, will provide ingredients for Tortilla Soup for you to make and enjoy during this winter season. Choose what ingredients you like; leave behind what you don't. There will be a limit of one set of ingredients per person. Vegetarian options will also be available.

**This is open to all CMV faculty, staff and students on a first come, first served basis, so be sure come early.

Let's relieve some stress together and enjoy a warm meal during this busy time. See you there!

OUR OFFICE

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Lisa McCubbins
Executive Assistant for Student Affairs

Lisa Thompson
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Educational Program Coordinator II

Stephanie McClaren
Educational Program Manager

Kathy Seay
Admissions Manager

Kerry Karaffa
Psychologist

Tiffany Sanford-Martens
Psychologist

Doug Tindall
Recruiter

A LITTLE DAD JOKE HUMOR

What do reindeer say before telling a joke?



This one will sleigh you!

Answer to this month's NAVLE prep question:
C) Esophagostomy tube feeding