

FALL 2018



SFVMA

**SAN FRANCISCO
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

DOGS AND MARIJUANA

Currently there are 29 states that have medical marijuana laws on the books for people, and here in San Francisco, cannabis is freely available to all that can provide some form of identification. You can have it delivered for \$5 extra and you can buy it online. So what are the benefits of marijuana for animals and if it is beneficial why is not legal to prescribe? If it is to be legalized in California, what are the steps that need to be taken? Though it is now more common for owners to tell us that they are treating their pet with a cannabis product, the use of medical marijuana continues to be a confusing topic because of questions over legal issues, safety and lack of formal research. It seems that medical marijuana may be helpful for animals but veterinary science is not quiet sure.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT LEGAL POSITION ON THE USE OF MARIJUANA IN ANIMALS IN CALIFORNIA?

This is taken from the CVMA website.

**AB 2215 (Kalra) –
Medical advice: use of cannabis**

CVMA Position: Support

Summary: This bill would prohibit the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) from disciplining, or denying, revoking, or suspending the license of a licensed veterinarian for discussing the use of cannabis on an animal for medicinal purposes. The bill would also prohibit a licensed veterinarian from dispensing or administering cannabis or cannabis products to an animal patient.

This bill would require the VMB to develop guidelines for these specified discussions between a veterinarian and his/her client on or before July 1, 2019 and would require the VMB to post those guidelines on its website.

The CVMA knows that veterinarians are treating numerous cases of cannabis toxicity in animals due to clients medicating their animals or due to accidental poisoning. We strongly believe that veterinarians must be able to counsel their clients on cannabis use for the health and welfare of their patients. Currently, state law provides no protections or exemptions from legal action by state agencies for veterinarians who discuss cannabis, a schedule 1 controlled substance with clients.

Status: This bill passed the Senate Business and Professions Committee on June 25 and was referred to the Committee on appropriations.

Although many states are acting independently of the Federal DEA we should be reminded that it has ultimate jurisdiction over controlled substances, including marijuana. The DEA has listed cannabis and cannabinoid products as Schedule I controlled substances, meaning that these substances have a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use. The DEA has not given veterinarians the authority to possess, administer, dispense, or prescribe cannabis or cannabinoid products. Therefore, under Federal Law, veterinarians are prohibited from engaging in such activity. As of January 13, 2017, the DEA announced a new drug code, DEA No. 7350, which defines any extract of the marijuana or hemp plant, including cannabinoids (e.g. THC, CBD, etc.), as Schedule 1 drugs under the Controlled Substance Act (CSA).

WHAT IS MARIJUANA AND WHAT IS CANNABIS? DO I WANT THC OR CBD?

It should be noted that as of June 27, 2017 all references to “marijuana” under the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act were changed to “cannabis” and in general this is becoming the more accepted term. Cannabis is the genus that contains the two psychoactive plants, Cannabis sativa and Cannabis indica. Cannabis itself has more than 100 active components. THC (which stands for tetrahydrocannabinol) is the chemical that causes the “high” that goes along with marijuana consumption. CBD-dominant strains (which stands for cannabidiol) have little or no THC, so patients report very little if any alteration in consciousness. THC is best known for its psychoactive effects whereas CBD, is better known for its wide-ranging health and wellness benefits?

WHAT ARE THE SUPPOSED BENEFITS OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS?

People are giving cannabis to dogs and cats to reduce noise phobia, anxiety and itching, to control pain, especially with arthritis and to lessen the severity and frequency of seizures. In addition, it has been used to treat many other conditions. The wiring that makes cannabis effective in humans and animals is called the endocannabinoid system, a series of receptors in the human brain and throughout the body that regulate many physiological processes like pain, mood, appetite, memory and more. As cannabis markets expand, consumers have more choice than ever. And one of the most important choices is how much THC and CBD should be in an individual product?

WHAT RESEARCH HAS BEEN DONE IN PEOPLE?

Human patients report many benefits of CBD, from relieving insomnia, anxiety, spasticity, and pain to treating potentially life-threatening conditions such as epilepsy. One particular form of childhood epilepsy called Dravet syndrome is almost impossible to control, but responds dramatically to a CBD-dominant strain of marijuana called Charlotte’s Web. The most common use for medical marijuana in the United States is for pain control. While marijuana isn’t strong enough for severe pain (for example, post-surgical pain or a broken bone), it is quite effective for chronic pain. Marijuana is also used to manage nausea and weight loss, and can be used to treat glaucoma. A highly promising area of research is its use for PTSD in veterans who are returning from combat zones. Many veterans and their therapists report drastic improvement and clamor for more studies, and for a loosening of governmental restrictions on its study. Medical marijuana is also reported to help patients suffering from pain and wasting syndrome associated with HIV, as well as irritable bowel syndrome and Crohn’s disease.

WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE OF CANNABIS USE IN ANIMALS.

Whatever the benefits of cannabis, there is a downside. Dogs are as susceptible to the high as their human companions and there are more cases of cannabis intoxication because of the increased availability and often more palatable forms eg cookies, chocolates, granola bars. While all animals have encocannabinoid systems, able to process compounds found in cannabis, dosage isn't as simple as just feeding your pet the same form of medicinal cannabis that works for you. Each animal absorbs cannabis differently, and has unique sensitivities to different cannabinoids. Dogs, for example, are much more sensitive to THC, the primary psychoactive compound in cannabis, than humans. So extreme caution must be taken when administering broader cannabis compounds to dogs.

There is little research about the use of marijuana in animals although many institutions including CSU and UC Davis are currently conducting some research into the beneficial or otherwise effects. There are numerous pet owners who have reported marked improvement of various symptoms after using a cannabis product on their animals. In a survey conducted by one of the companies providing cannabis products for animals (CannaPet), it was found that over 60% of dog owners felt hemp products helped either moderately or a great deal.

Why is important to differentiate between marijuana and hemp? The DEA (drug enforcement agency) states that marijuana is Schedule 1 drug under Federal Controlled Substances Act. Veterinarians cannot prescribe the drug. However the DEA has no authority over hemp as the act does not include the plant's stalks under the definition of marijuana. The FDA (food and drug administration) currently does not allow for the use of medical marijuana for dogs or other pets.

WHERE CAN YOU GET CANNABIS AND IN WHAT FORM?

There are several companies that provide cannabis as capsules, treats, drops or tincture, e.g. Therabis, Canna-Pet, Canna-Companion and there are an increasing number. Earlier this year, Medical Marijuana, Inc.—the first public company in the legal cannabis and industrial hemp markets—acquired Phyto Animal Health, which offers a line of products targeted to cats, dogs, and horses, including CBD oil and hemp bedding and litter. Australian pet pharmaceutical company CannPal is working with the CSIRO to develop better ways to safely administer medicinal cannabis to a variety of household pets. The research is developing microencapsulation techniques to make sure the cannabis oils can be delivered to each patient in the correct dose.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN FURTHER ADVANCING THE CASE FOR THE USE OF CANNABIS IN ANIMALS?

Legislators are pushing to open marijuana up to more scientific research and extend the potential benefits of medical marijuana to pets. Two years after the launch of its human medical marijuana program, the New York Assembly has been presented with legislation that would authorize licensed veterinarians to prescribe medical marijuana to their patients for the treatment for medical conditions. If passed, the bill would provide animal owners and caregivers with an alternative option to alleviate their pets' pain. California will hopefully attempt to follow in New York's footsteps.

— Philip Watt



SFVMA
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VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

“THE COST OF CARING: How To Defeat Compassion Fatigue”

Julie Squires



Julie Squires is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Specialist who brings a unique perspective and approach to support the sustained energy and passion of those exposed to the highly stressful and traumatic environment of animal welfare, veterinary medicine,

lab animal research and animal rescue. She does this in a very distinct way, by empowering them to help themselves through easy-to-implement yet powerful, practices and insights.

Julie has over twenty-five years of experience within the veterinary industry leading organizations, developing and executing training, workshops and 1:1 coaching most notably for Nestlé Purina, Bayer Animal Health and IDEXX Laboratories. She is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Specialist through the Traumatology Institute. Julie's clients also gain from her training and experience as a Certified Life Coach.

Her company, **Rekindle LLC**, offers on-site seminars, workshops, online courses and private coaching and is the result of the need Julie saw to help those that work with animals maintain their wellbeing and mental health. Julie lives in New York's Hudson Valley with her husband John, pugs Ernie & Mabel and Gregg & Duane, their two cats.

www.rekindlesolutions.com

julie@rekindlesolutions.com

HORS D'OEUVRE

Marinated Ahi Tuna on Crisp Wonton +
Spiced Potato Samosas, Cilantro Chutney

SALAD

Assorted Sonoma Baby Greens

DINNER

Grilled Filet Mignon with Shallot Crust

-OR-

Vegetarian Option

-OR-

Vegan Option

DESSERT

Triple Chocolate Mousse Cake

AGENDA

6:30 pm **Hors d'oeuvre and No Host Bar**
7:15 pm **Dinner and Meeting**
8:00 pm **Program**

ALL MEETINGS AT THE CLIFF HOUSE

1090 Point Lobos
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 386-3330
www.cliffhouse.com

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL DVMS

Non-members pay \$75
Annual membership \$230

**RSVPs required individually via the SFVMA website
by Friday, September 14: www.sfvma.net/rsvp**

Remember: The Association pays for uneaten meals. If you have RSVP'd and will not be able to make it, we need you to send in your cancellation no later than Monday, September 17, 2018.



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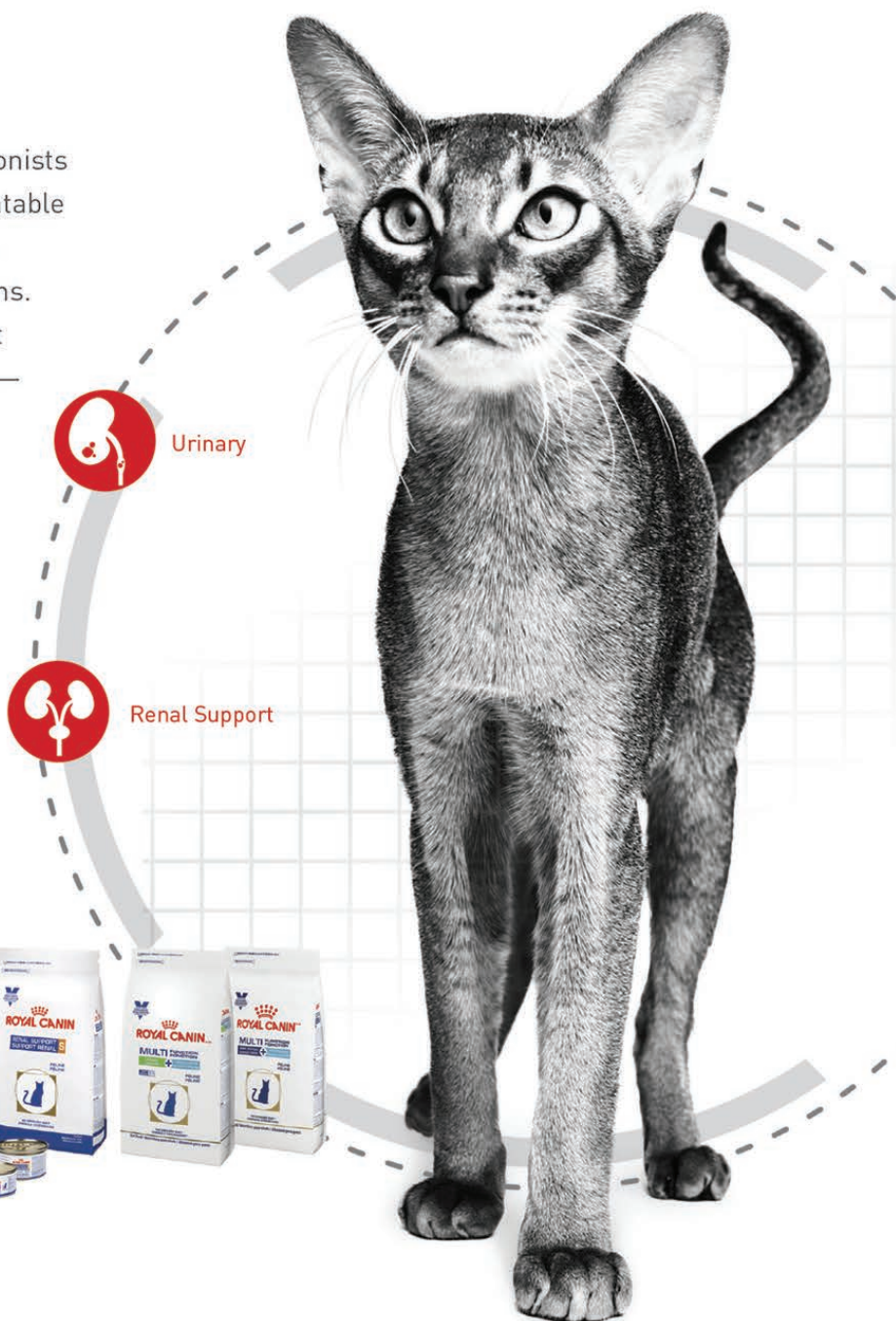
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RABIES CLINICS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

10am – 1pm

\$6 per Vaccine!

(Dogs Only / Cash Only)

The SFVMA sponsors Rabies Clinics on four Sundays each year. Rabies clinics are held at **Animal Care and Control (ACC), 1200 15th Street** (at Harrison), in the “Get Acquainted” Room.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to all the volunteers that continually make these clinics a success! *Volunteers are still needed for the December Rabies Clinic and we are starting sign ups for the 2018 clinics.*

Please email sfvmavp@gmail.com with your information to sign up for a clinic. Rabies clinics will be held at Animal Care and Control (ACC), 1200 15th Street (at Harrison) from 10am–1pm.

Please contact **Anna DeVincenzi** if you have any questions or would like to volunteer: sfvmavp@gmail.com

2018 RABIES CLINIC SCHEDULE

(Always on Sunday)

DECEMBER 9

SPONSOR A FUTURE MEETING

In order to continue to contract with the Cliff House as our meeting venue, support our charitable and scholarship funds, and generally maintain the organization (with keeping dues payments reasonable), the Board will continue to seek sponsorships that help to cover the costs of our programs.

If you are interested in sponsoring a future meeting, please contact **Philip Watt**: sfvmapresident@gmail.com

PRESIDENT

Philip Watt, BVSc, MACVSc, FACVS
sfvmapresident@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Anna DeVincenzi, DVM
sfvmavp@gmail.com

TREASURER

Keely Commins, DVM
sfvmatreasurer@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Amy Lightstone, BVSc
sfvmasecretary@gmail.com

LATEST NEWS FROM SFAfA

We are pleased to announce that we have **108 veterinarians** from **fifteen hospitals** enrolled in our **Grant-in-Aid (GIA) program** for this year.

If you have clients who are in a financial pinch please remember that we have **over \$70,000** available for GIA awards as well as the **Tauber Fund** to help you save pets. We also have a small balance remaining in our fund for fire victims. Should you see a fire victim case please contact us before promising any SFAFA funds.

All of the funds that we distribute come from donations. Please consider supporting us by telling your clients about SFAFA, following us on social media, joining our In Memoriam program, and/or by attending our fundraising events or donating directly to SFAFA.

We have just started a small pilot program with four Bay Area hospitals (North, South and East Bay). We are hopeful that by expanding SFAFA to different counties we can get the word out and help save more beloved pets.



SFAfA
SAN FRANCISCO AID for ANIMALS

The **Ingrid Tauber Fund for Animals (TFA)** will be available in FYE19: For those special cases where the anticipated costs are high and the client is in need of financial assistance please remember the TFA program. The animal must have an urgent need for veterinary care, a reasonably good prognosis and the client must have exhausted all other financial options. Funding of up to \$5,000 per case will be considered provided that you make a matching donation of in-kind services or discounts equivalent to 25% of the TFA funding. More information is available on the "For Provider's" page at: sfafa.org or by emailing request@sfafa.org.



CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The SFVMA Board will consider charitable grants to organizations that support the care and welfare of animals in our community and promote the veterinary profession.

Please contact **Keely Commins** for details on requests for donations: sfvmatreasurer@gmail.com

SFVMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Veterinary Students

If you know a good candidate for 2019, please encourage them to apply! Applications are accepted from **October to December annually** as determined by the college.

REQUIREMENTS

- Current enrollment in the vet med program
- Current or former employment by an SFVMA member
- Letter of recommendation from the same

CONTACT

Hnouzong Her

Scholarship Accounting
UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine
hher@vetmed.ucdavis.edu

We will also offer a scholarship at **Western University** next year.

REQUIREMENTS

- Current enrollment in the vet med program
- Current or former employment by an SFVMA member
- Letter of recommendation from the same

CONTACT

Tim McPheron

Director of Development
College of Veterinary Medicine
tmcpheron@westernu.edu

RVT Students

To support and encourage RVTs in San Francisco, the SFVMA has established a scholarship program for students enrolled in an accredited RVT program. We will award \$1000 to two candidates who are currently or have previously worked in the practice of an SFVMA member, and have a stated desire to return to SF after graduation.

Submissions should include a personal statement from the student, a letter of recommendation from the veterinarian, and proof of enrollment at an accredited RVT program. The deadline for applications is **May 1 annually**.

Questions should be sent to **Phil Watt** at sfvmapresident@gmail.com.



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- Maximizing Quality of Life

Success Story:

Kira is a 14 year old senior dog who had been progressively losing the use of her rear legs. Eventually she could not walk or stand on her own without maximal assistance.

Due to degeneration of spinal nerve function and ongoing arthritis- Kira was not able to sense how best to place her paws as she moved, so she was walking on the tops of her feet, causing painful sores and limiting her ability to get around. After her initial rehab evaluation we fitted her with 'Toe-Ups', a device that helped Kira tell which way her feet should be placed before she put weight on them. Very quickly, she gained in confidence and was able to start taking steps with her feet in the correct position on her own as well as going up and down the back porch steps using her rear legs with much less assistance!

Once we fitted her with her 'Toe-Ups' and we eliminated the pain from her walks, she started fully bearing weight on both of her back legs and was quickly ready to advance in exercises that focused on improving her overall coordination and balance. Her treatment plan included targeted assisted swimming, underwater treadmill walking, and targeted home exercise to help her relearn how to deliberately place her legs when moving in different directions and to help her keep her balance. And as her coordination improved, Kira experienced a regaining of muscle mass and strength: she began to walk more normally, and no longer needed to be carried or pulled in a doggie wagon, her atrophied rear leg muscles became stronger and she began to run and trot to the park again!



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Ilana Strubel, MA, DVM, CVSMT, CCRT

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A Well Adjusted Pet at The Rex Center:

Dr. Strubel and A Well Adjusted Pet are located in the same building as The Rex Center. For Dr. Strubel's services, please make your appointment through our offices at **415-967-3861**

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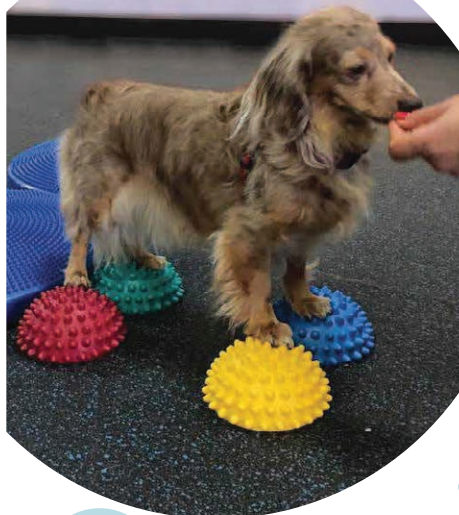
Why Choose Rehabilitation?

- Maximize Mobility and Quality of Life
- Accelerate healing time
- Reduce pain
- Build muscle mass
- Facilitate weight loss
- Customized exercise programs

Benefits of Hydrotherapy:

Hydrotherapy in conjunction with veterinary treatment is an extremely effective method of rehabilitation for dogs. Studies have shown that with hydrotherapy, dogs recovering from surgery or injury heal up to 60% faster than with other therapeutic methods.

- It helps decrease inflammation and improves circulation.
- Muscle conditioning in water is not only an effective way of building up cardiovascular strength and endurance, but it can also be fun!
- Hydrotherapy treatment is conducted using a warm water resistance pool or Aqua PAWS Underwater Treadmill, located at The Rex Center in Pacifica.



Custom Braces and Mobility Devices:

Custom Orthotics (Braces) are a truly viable and highly functional alternative to surgery. Orthotics and Prosthetics are especially useful for helping with chronic, ongoing conditions such as arthritis, traumatic injury, post-operative support, cruciate ligament injuries and other tendon or ligament injuries. From custom-made boots that protect paws to braces or splints that provide support or even prosthetic limbs or wheelchairs, the variety of options is ever increasing.





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ANESTHESIOLOGY (T - Fri.)

Krisine Siao, DVM, MS

BEHAVIOR (Monday)

Leslie Cooper, DVM, DACVB

CARDIOLOGY (M, T, W, Sat)

Justin Williams, DVM, DACVIM
Kristine Chan, DVM, DACVIM

DENTISTRY (Mon - Fri)

Maria Soltero-Rivera, DVM, DAVDC
Amalia Zacher, DVM

DERMATOLOGY

Carlo Vitale, DVM, DACVD

EMERGENCY/CRITICAL CARE (24/7)

Erin Burdette, DVM
Elyse Hammer, DVM
Thomas Hansen, DVM, DABVP
Samantha Keat, DVM
Thomas McEntegart, DVM
Allegra Roth, DVM
Emily Wong, DVM

INTERNAL MEDICINE (7 days a week)

Staci Goussev, DVM, DACVIM
Craig Maretzki, VMD, DACVIM
Laura West, DVM, DACVIM
Winnie Ybarra, DVM, DACVIM

NUTRITION (Mon, Thurs, Sat)

Lily Johnson, DVM, DACVN

NEUROLOGY (Thurs, Fri, Sat)

MRI & CT Scanner on-site
Lisa Klopp, DVM, DACVIM

ONCOLOGY (Mon- Fri)

Stephen Atwater, DVM, DACVIM
Jason Kidd, DVM, DACVIM

SURGERY (Mon - Fri, Emergency 24/7)

Margo Mehl, DVM, DACVS
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Meet our newest ophthalmologist!

Dr. Katie Freeman, Feb 7, 2018
Flare: Diagnosis and management of uveitis

Dr. Albert Mughannam, May 14, 2018
Cataracts: Diagnosis and Treatment

Dr. Cynthia Cook, Aug 28, 2018
Pigmented Ocular Masses,

Dr. Gwendolyn Lynch, Nov 7, 2018
The Red Eye



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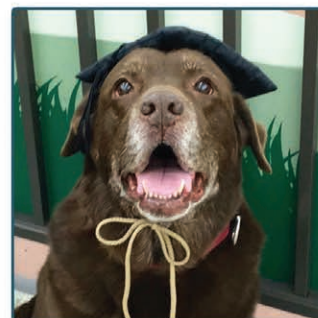
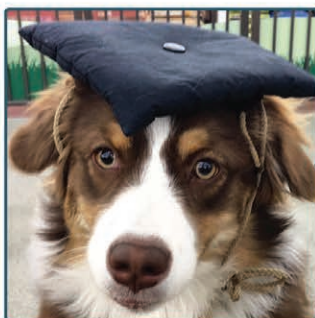
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Veterinary Street Outreach Services (VET SOS) is recruiting volunteers—DVMs and veterinary assistant/technicians — for its monthly mobile clinics serving the companion animals of homeless San Franciscans. Visit www.vetsos.org for more information, including upcoming clinic dates. Support the human-animal bond in this vulnerable population and work with outstanding volunteers from all over the Bay Area!

Voicemail: (415) 355-2248



Email: vetsos@sfccc.org

**Want to do something that saves lives,
feels good and helps your community?
Then volunteer to help animals when
disasters strike in California!**



Thousands of animals need care during and after disasters. Some 63% of California households have pets, including an estimated 10 million pet cats, nine million dogs, and one million horses. Other pets, farm animals, and wildlife also need assistance during and after disasters like earthquakes, floods, and wildfires.

Veterinary professionals are vital to animals during disasters. The mission of the California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC) is to provide veterinary professionals with the training and credentialing necessary to support animal health and public health.

Deployment is always voluntary. Volunteers get involved at whatever level works for them – assistants are needed as well as leaders, part-time responders are as welcome as those who can help out for a week or two, plus there are ongoing roles in areas such as planning and disaster response. Volunteer participation can be a matter of life or death for rescued animals and means the world to the owners of those animals.

BENEFITS OF JOINING THE CAVMRC

The CAVMRC provides veterinary professionals:

- Credentialing necessary to support animal health and public health emergency response.
- Continuing education and training opportunities that allow you to strengthen your skills to better serve your practice, your community and our state.
- Networking and information sharing opportunities with veterinary team members across the state.

WHO CAN JOIN THE CAVMRC?

You don't need any prior disaster response experience or training to join the CAVMRC. The entire veterinary practice team is welcome, including:

- Veterinarians
- Registered veterinary technicians
- Veterinary assistants, office managers and all support staff members
- Students in veterinary medical programs
- Retired veterinary professionals with a current license

PROGRAM AFFILIATION

The CVMA registered the CAVMRC as a unit of the Medical Reserve Corps under the California Emergency Medical Services Agency and works in cooperation with local, statewide, and national agencies. The CVMA has played an important role in preparing for and responding to disasters in California since 1994 and builds on this experience with this new affiliation.

For more information visit the CAVMRC website:

cvma.net/resources/disaster-response-program-2/california-veterinary-medical-reserve-corps-cavmrc/

CLASSIFIED ADS

Larkspur Landing Vet Hospital Looking for Rockstar Vet

Larkspur Landing Veterinary Hospital is looking for part or full time veterinarian. We are located in Marin County, right across the golden gate bridge from San Francisco. We are a fun, face paced small animal daytime practice. We offer tailored personalized progressive medicine and surgery.

Our hospital is fully equipped and our clients are great, including multiple rockstars. Thus we are looking for a highly skilled veterinarian with great people and medical skills to join our busy boutique practice. We offer matching 401K, Trupanion Pet insurance, \$110-150K per year for a four day work week.

Please send resume to pressdogs@me.com



SFVMA

**SAN FRANCISCO
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

Volunteer Vet Techs Needed at PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support)

PAWS mission is to preserve, support and nurture the human-animal bond for those most vulnerable in our community, low-income San Francisco residents who are seniors (over 60 years old) and/or persons living with a disability, with pet food and vet care, among its services.

Volunteer Vet Techs assist one of our licensed Volunteer Veterinarians with exams and nail trims at our Ask The Vet consultations. Our vet exam room is located in the PAWS building in the Mission neighborhood of San Francisco.

Volunteer Vet Techs do not need to be licensed vet techs, but must have a minimum of one year experience working in a veterinary environment, and feel comfortable performing animal restraint and animal handling tasks within a limited clinic environment.

Please contact Program Coordinator, Volunteer Services,
Walter Campbell for more information and to apply to volunteer:

wcampbell@shanti.org

415-830-7026

IN MEMORIAM OF

Dr. Christina LaCerde

For those who may not know, **Dr. Christina LaCerde** passed away early in the morning of Saturday August 18, surrounded by her family. Christina has been a part of the SF SPCA family since 2006. She has cared for animals and people within the shelter, both hospitals and through prevention programs. Because she was so respected and trusted by staff across the organization, she was selected to facilitate BLISS training and to participate in our Hospital Improvement Team. She was genuinely adored by her clients and co-workers. In February 2017, Christina began her medical leave and many staff members pitched in to support their colleague and friend. Hundreds of hours of PTO were donated, dozens of meals were delivered and countless visits were made to check in with Christina and her husband, Scott, and their daughter, Wallis.

Christina was born and raised in Ohio, and attended Oberlin College where she received her BA in Science. She graduated from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1996. After a brief stay in the Pacific Northwest, she settled in the Bay Area and joined the SF SPCA team.

Christina was down-to-earth and had a witty sense of humor. She had an un-erring knowledge of what was right and saw the positive attributes in all people. Some might say it was her Mid-Western sensibility, but mainly she had an inherent respect for others and a commitment to her beliefs. She was a compassionate and outstanding veterinarian and human, and she really adored animals. One of the first things she did after finding

out she was ill, was to adopt two pygmy goats, a species she had recently fallen in love with. They joined her dog, Tuesday, as part of the family. Most important of all, Christina loved her husband and daughter.

Thank you to the many team members who supported Christina and her family during the difficult time of her illness by donating hundreds of hours of sick time, dropping off meals, and sending messages of love.

