

WINTER 2018



SFVMA

SAN FRANCISCO  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

I was trying to do some work at home but was constantly being interrupted by Kui, my 5 year old dachshund cross who was pawing at me to be picked up. Or at least that is what I thought. He seemed anxious to get down whenever I picked him up. After several times doing this, he seemed to give up and then proceeded to go over to his water bowl and nudged that around on the floor and then proceeded to scratch at the floor. I finally cottoned on that the water bowl was empty and as soon as I filled it he immediately drank and went back to the couch for a nap, seemingly satisfied that he had been able to communicate with his not so smart human companion.

I thought how smart he is. I compared this to his house mate, Billy who is a beagle-lab cross who probably would have died of thirst had I not filled the bowl. This was also the dog that when he first heard a siren and began to bay for the first time could not work out where the sound was coming from: not the siren but his own bay. Every time he made the noise, he ran around furiously appearing as if he was looking for the dog that made it. So it is apparent that dogs differ in their innate intelligence. Kui

may have a future in astrophysics but Billy may be my stay-at-home freeloader for life.

So it did make me think. **HOW SMART ARE DOGS?** Well according to a study that came out of the UK recently ....not very. The bottom line is that "Your dog may be smart but they are not exceptional!" Now, this may well spark an international debate among dog owners and scientists who study animal behavior. The study was the work of Dr Stephen Lea, an emeritus professor in the psychology department at the University of Exeter. He is the editor of *Animal Cognition*, a journal that seeks to explain cognition among humans and animals. He noted that the journal had received a formidable number of articles showing the remarkable things that dogs could do. However there were very few scientific studies on intelligence on other animals. Almost everything a dog could do, other animals could do as well. In essence, Dr. Lea (a confessed cat owner and lover) "was quite wary that dogs were special."

The study compared dog cognition with members of three groups: carnivores, social hunters and domestic animals. Among

the animals they studied were wolves, cats, chimpanzees, dolphins, horses and pigeons. Basically, what they found is that dog cognition does not look exceptional. Although debatable, Dr Lea said that dogs cannot use tools (Kui was definitely using the water bowl as a tool... ok maybe not) unlike dolphins, some bird species and chimpanzees. Horses can be trained to do a number of tricks. Apparently cats have more in common with dogs but dogs look smarter because they like to be trained. Who knew? Apparently everyone who owns a cat.

Dogs are about as intelligent as a 2 year old child according to some animal psychologists. They are capable of learning up to 250 words, can count to five and can do simple mathematical calculations. Actually that is better than quite a few people I know.

We like to think that dogs understand us and maybe they do. Research facilities the world over are doing canine cognitive research. There are canine research facilities at Duke, Tufts and Yale University in the USA. The Association for Psychological Science (APS), which is a human research journal, devoted an entire issue of its journal Current Directions in Psychological Science in 2017 to the canine mind. The findings were often impressive: Dogs can to some degree count. They can look at two boards with geometric shapes and choose the one that has more. They can read human faces understanding the importance of using gaze to communicate and to direct our attention. They can excel at what is known as object permanence—understanding that when an object is out of sight, it has not vanished from existence. It takes humans a lot longer to learn such a basic reality.

While the sizes of the brain in humans vs dog differ, the structures seem very similar.

MRI research over the last few years has focused on the part of the brain known as the striatum. Rich in dopamine, the striatum mediates reward, pleasure and expectation—three pillars of a dog's world. There in lies our curiosity about the cognitive function of our canine companion, in essence we love them and at least for the time we are in their presence we behave better. We both can experience joy, empathy and curiosity.

— Philip Watt



**SFVMA**  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**VETERINARY MEDICAL**  
**ASSOCIATION**

PRESIDENT

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# UPCOMING MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

**“BRAIN BASICS: Localization and Treatment Tips”**

**Dr. Alexander Tun, DVM, DACVIM (neurology)**

## Dr. Alexander Tun

received his BA in Music from Amherst College. He went on to earn his VMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 2013.

Dr. Tun then completed his small animal rotating internship at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, MA, followed by a neurology specialty internship at the Animal Specialty Center in Yonkers, NY. He finished his residency in veterinary neurology and neurosurgery back at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and then joined the SFVS team. His clinical interests include the research and study of inflammatory brain diseases.



## DR. ALEXANDER TUN'S VIDEO BIO:

<https://vimeo.com/293995050>

## HORS D'OEUVRE

House-made Bruschetta +  
Chili Crusted Crispy Calamari

## SALAD

Shaved Kale Salad

## DINNER

Petit Filet Mignon and Lobster Tail

-OR-

Vegetarian Option

-OR-

Vegan Option

## DESSERT

Cocoa Dusted Chocolate Marquis

## 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](http://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, November 9: [www.sfvma.net/rsvp](http://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, November 12, 2018.*

# MEETING SPONSOR



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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  
Daniel Polidoro, DVM, DACVS



# RABIES CLINICS



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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 2019 clinics.*

Please email **[sfvmavp@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sfvmavp@gmail.com)**



## 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](mailto:sfvmapresident@gmail.com)**



## LATEST NEWS FROM SFAfA

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the **Dr. Phil Durfee Fund** in recognition of Phil's five years of service as an SFAFA Board member and his continuing volunteer service to Vet SOS and PAWS.

The purpose of this Fund is to help hospitals that wish to accept patients who are eligible for **SFAFA Grants in Aid** but have already exhausted their annual GIA



**SFAfA**  
SAN FRANCISCO AID *for* ANIMALS

funding. The Fund will provide **up to \$1,000** to the first hospital that has used its entire GIA grant and does not need to be matched. Details will be available through SFAFA.org.

A generous SFAFA Board member has offered to **match all donations until our goal of \$5,000 is reached** enabling us to extend this fund for many years. Please consider making a donation today!

Our existing programs continue to fund life saving care to pets in need. Since July 1 our **Grants-in-Aid program** has provided **over \$10,000 in funding** and **helped save 22 pets** while the **Ingrid Tauber Fund for Animals** has **donated nearly \$23,000** and **helped save 7 pets**. Together with the matching donations generously provided by our participating hospitals that is **over \$53,000 worth of life saving care** provided in the last three months alone.

More information is available on the "For Providers" page at: [sfafa.org](http://sfafa.org) or by emailing: [requests@sfafa.org](mailto:requests@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](mailto: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.

We will 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 \$1,000 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](mailto:sfvmapresident@gmail.com).





#### We can help with:

- Orthopedic & Neurosurgery Recovery
- Arthritis Pain Management
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- Spinal Disease
- Orthopedic Disease
- Soft Tissue Injuries
- Building Muscle Strength
- Poor Posture / Balancing / Limping
- Anxiety / Emotional Health
- Sports Conditioning
- Canine Athlete's "Pre-hab"
- 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!



## A Well Adjusted Pet

Ilana Strubel, MA, DVM, CVSMT, CCRT

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#### Find us online:

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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

#### A Well Adjusted Pet Integrative Veterinary Practice offers:

- Animal Physical Rehabilitation Services
  - Custom Orthotics and Prosthetics
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- Acupuncture and Herbal Consultation
  - Chiropractic Care
  - Behavioral Consultation
- Nutrition Consultation and Weight Loss

#### 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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**Dr. Jacqueline Brady**  
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Cynthia Cook, DVM PhD  
Albert Mughannam, DVM  
Gwendolyn Lynch, DVM  
Carol Szymanski, DVM  
Katie Freeman, DVM

**San Carlos office**  
(Mon-Sat)  
210 Industrial Rd, Ste #100

**San Francisco office**  
(Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat)  
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### Surgery and Treatment of the Eye

Applanation tonometry and ultrasonography  
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### Quarterly CE newsletter

Sign up at [VeterinaryVision.com/nl/](http://VeterinaryVision.com/nl/)

### RACE Approved Continuing Education

Sign up at [VeterinaryVision.com/seminar/](http://VeterinaryVision.com/seminar/)

#### 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



[www.VeterinaryVision.com](http://www.VeterinaryVision.com)

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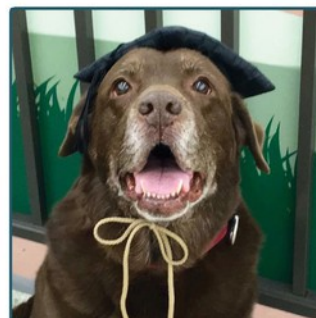
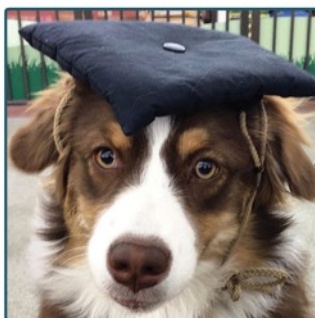
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**Voicemail: (415) 355-2248**



**Email: [vetsos@sfccc.org](mailto: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/](http://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 day-time 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.

**We are also looking for relief veterinarians** to perform spay and neuter procedures all day on Tuesdays for \$800 per day.

Please send resume to [pressdogs@me.com](mailto: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](mailto:wcampbell@shanti.org)

**415-830-7026**

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Emergency Veterinarian Wanted

**PETS Referral Center** ([www.petsreferralcenter.com](http://www.petsreferralcenter.com)) in Berkeley, CA is a 24-hr specialty and emergency hospital. We are one of the last remaining, non-corporate owned specialty hospitals in the Bay Area. Our hospital sees over 10,000 cases per year and we are looking to add an additional full or part-time, internship or residency trained, emergency veterinarian to join our team. We have a history of long-term retention of our emergency doctors and believe in providing a schedule conducive to a work-life balance. We have a busy case-load and an enthusiastic team of veterinarians and paraprofessionals. We also provide learning opportunities for veterinary students and Cal Berkeley pre-vets and periodically host veterinary student externs. We have day, swing, and overnight shifts 7 days a week with every shift overlapping with a colleague. Applicants must have a good work ethic, strong medical skills, dedication to excellent client service and support for our referring veterinarians.

Please send resume including references to our hospital director, **Dr. Mike Barlia** at [ervet@petsreferralcenter.com](mailto:ervet@petsreferralcenter.com) or fax (510) 944-0155.

