

▶ HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND TRACK AT AVMA . . . 2

▶ THERAPY ANIMALS . 2

▶ AVMA PRESENTATION PREVIEWS 6

NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND VETERINARIANS



President's Message

Emilia Gordon, DVM

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter! We are very excited about the upcoming AVMA Convention in Denver (July 25-29). For our track this year we decided to tackle an important (and at times controversial) challenge that veterinary medicine currently faces: issues surrounding financially limited pet owners and strategies for practitioners when faced with these issues.

We have brought together a diverse, multidisciplinary team of colleagues representing the areas of private practice, academia, animal welfare, and the pet insurance industry to share ideas. Our all-day track of one-hour lectures will take place on Monday, July 28th in the Mile High Ballroom 3C at the Colorado Convention Center.

The day will kick off with Dr. Benjamin Hart, 2013 Bustad Award Winner, presenting his Award Winner lecture. Other notable speakers will include Dr. Michael Lappin, Director of the Center for Companion Animal studies at CSU, and Dr. Brian Forsgren, a private practitioner who has built a unique veterinary practice serving mostly inner-city clients and their pets. While there isn't room here to recognize all of our outstanding speakers, you will find a full schedule inside this Newsletter. Please join us!

We also invite all members to attend our AGM on Sunday, July 27th at the Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral Hall G, from 2:00-3:00 pm. We are working on some exciting projects and welcome anyone who is interested in getting more involved.

In other news, our new website launched in January at www.aah-abv.org with a new online membership renewal process and searchable member directory. There is also a members-only section that contains information about member benefits such as participation on our listserv and a Purdue University Press discount. Don't forget, veterinary student memberships are now free!

Our organization continues to grow and thrive. Our overall membership has grown by 43% over the past year, including a 160% increase in the number of student members. Our Facebook page followers have increased by 63%. Thank you for being a member; none of our work would be possible without you!

As my term as AAH-ABV President comes to a close, I would like to warmly welcome our next President, Dr. Gregg Takashima, who will serve from July 2014- July 2016. Dr. Takashima is an award-winning small animal companion



Dr. Emilia Gordon with Solo

practitioner, human-animal bond advocate, and longtime AAH-ABV member who previously served as President of AAHA.

From Dr. Takashima: "We are in interesting times, where the importance of collaboration and the "world view" are more important than ever. We can no longer act alone as veterinarians, an association or as a profession... What we do impacts many, as we are impacted by what others do." Dr. Takashima has traveled extensively, especially in Asia and North America, giving presentations on the human-animal bond and standards of care.

Dr. Takashima will undoubtedly lead AAH-ABV in exciting directions over the next two years with his expertise and perspective. We hope to see you in Denver!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT AVMA CONVENTION IN DENVER ON SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting at the AVMA Convention on Sunday, July 27th at the Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral Hall G, from 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Learn more about AAH-ABV's upcoming plans and how you can get involved!.

Get **INSPIRED** at AVMA's Annual Convention
DENVER 2014 •

AAH-ABV TRACK AT AVMA IN DENVER ON MONDAY JULY 29, 2014 Colorado Convention Center: Mile High Ballroom 3C

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM *Bustad Award Winner Lecture (15781)* **Benjamin Hart**

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM *A Key to Practice Success: Appreciating the Intensity of the Human-Animal Bond (15779)*
Brian Forsgren

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM *How Pet Insurance Impacts the Human Animal Bond (15783)* **Kerri Marshall**

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM *Working Together - Good for Business, Great for Pets (15785)* **Sharon Harmon**

1:00 PM - 1:50 PM. *Parasite Control is Good for People and Pets, But it Comes at a Price (15784)* **Michael Lappin**

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM *Animal Hospice Models of Care (15780)* **Kathleen Cooney**

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM. *How Much is Enough? How Much is Too Much? Navigating Complex End-of-life Decisions with Companion Animals (15782)* **Jessica Pierce**

5:00 PM - 5:50 PM *Inside the Issues: Is Pet Ownership a Right or Privilege? (15609)*
Michael Lappin, Jessica Pierce, Sharon Harmon

COMET AND KAYLEE AN UNCOMMON THERAPY TEAM

Therapy Animals

By Kris Betker - online at www.petpartners.org

The minivan in the McDonald's drive-through line looked like any other until it reached the window and the cashier got a peek inside. Reclining in the back of the van was a 275 -pound llama named Comet, patiently waiting for Kaylee, his owner, to hand over the apple slices.

The two are very close. Comet and Kaylee met when the llama was only five days old – small enough for her to pick him up and carry him around. Kaylee had been helping out on a farm, and watched as the young black and white llama struggled to grow. His breeder wasn't convinced he would make it because he was

so small; Comet was so passive, the other baby llamas pushed him out of the food bucket. At about four months of age, Comet started getting sick. And even though he eventually learned to stand his ground while eating – planting himself right in the trough – Kaylee knew he would do better on his own.

So when he was 10 months old, Comet went home with Kaylee, who had already raised alpacas on the family farm for a number of years. Comet started gaining weight and grew into a gentle, curious three-year-old, who loves to bob his head up and down in a minivan version of hide and seek. . . . *continued on page 4 . . .*



Therapy Animals

PHILIA'S FRIEND

By Katharine W. Harding

@ Katharine W. Harding, March 5, 2014

In early August, Karisto, Philia and I made goodbye visits to our friends at Lakeview Senior Living, in Lincoln City, Oregon, explaining that the reason for our absence during the autumn months would be my upcoming hip surgery. The residents were delighted to hear that both of my Pet Partners would be on duty caring for me in my recovery.

Five months later we were ready to return to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Our first stop was to see Beryl, one of our favorite residents as she always has stories of the dogs she had growing up. Philia walked eagerly at my side but when we arrived at the familiar door the sign was blank, the usual flower decorations were gone and a starkly empty room greeted us. My heart stopped fearing what might have happened. We went directly to ask the receptionist who said Beryl had been moved to another part of the facility during our absence.

We walked briskly down the hallway, punched in the code to open the decorated doors and entered the world of memory care. As we got closer to the dining area I spied Beryl in an armchair at the periphery of the group. She was listing a bit to one side, her fragile hands curled up by her face.



She must have caught a glimpse of Philia's bouncy trot coming toward her as she sat up a bit, stretched out her arms and said quietly but distinctly, "Oh, Philia, I've missed you so much."

I immediately scooped up Philia and all her black and white fluffy curls and placed her in Beryl's lap. I kneeled down next to Beryl's chair so I could understand her faint voice of gratitude and see her eyes flicker with recognition. Even after five months of not seeing Philia, Beryl's 92 years of loving dogs came naturally as she stroked and cuddled Philia. This simple act of providing soft comfort in Beryl's new world nourishes me. In my handler role I can keep my tears at bay, but at this welcome reunion it was difficult to contain them.

Note from the Editor: Laura Baltodano, DVM



Dr. Laura Baltodano with Rosie

I hope you have been having a wonderful summer! This newsletter will focus on the upcoming AVMA conference and therapy animals. Animals play such an important part in our lives. This powerful bond that we share has been the foundation for the study and practice of animal-assisted therapy. Animals all over the world have facilitated treatments for children, the disabled, senior citizens, people undergoing treatment for different life threatening diseases and more. The healing power of animals is wondrous! The articles on therapy animals in this newsletter are courtesy of Pet Partners. Pet Partners established a Therapy Animal Program in 1990 and is 'the only national registry that requires volunteer training and screening of animal-handler teams.'

Please contact me at Dr.LauraB@yahoo.com if you have a theme that you would like to see incorporated into the winter newsletter. Hope to see you at the conference!



COMET AND KAYLEE AN UNCOMMON THERAPY TEAM . . . *continued*

Kaylee, a senior at Tahoma High School in Maple Valley, Washington, connected with llama guru Niki Kuklenski through 4-H, and got hooked on the idea of training Comet to be a therapy animal.

“Comet is so laid back, he seemed like he would be perfect for therapy work,” Kaylee said.

Niki and her husband Jeff own JNK Llamas in Bellingham, and Niki has been showing llamas since the mid- 80s. She owns three registered therapy llamas, including two that were recently evaluated at Pet Partners in Bellevue. Niki wrote the animal therapy evaluation criteria Pet Partners uses for llamas, and was on hand to advise as seven llama teams – including Comet and Kaylee – went through the testing process.

Mary Margaret Callahan, Pet Partners’ National Director for Program Development, said 12 llama teams are now registered with Pet Partners, and she is excited about adding more to the agency’s pool of registered therapy animal teams. Dogs, cats and miniature horses make up the majority of Pet Partners teams, but Callahan says llamas are unique.

“There is definitely a surprise factor,” she said. “I know that if I were recuperating somewhere and a llama walked in, it would certainly take my mind off of things.”

During the evaluation, each of the llamas and their handlers went through a checklist of fixed criteria and role-playing exercises to see whether the teams are ready to do therapy visits in nursing homes, hospitals and other settings.

Both handlers and their llamas were evaluated on such things as walking through a crowd, backing up, standing in place for 30 seconds, staying calm in busy and noisy environments, and dealing with exuberant strangers. They even were tested to see how they would respond when a dog entered the room, and whether they could walk past a bouquet of flowers without stopping to investigate.

Mary Stratton, one of three Pet Partners evaluators that day, said she was essentially looking for three things: “Do I feel safe? Does the animal team inspire confidence? And is the animal reliable, predictable, and controllable?”

The Bellevue evaluation was only Mary’s second with llamas – one of the challenges in increasing the number of registered teams is finding evaluators who are willing to take it on “As evaluators, we just have to remember that we’re representing the public, and in a way, it’s best if we don’t know how the animals are supposed to behave,” she explained. “Because if I’m nervous, knowing nothing,

that’s not inspiring confidence. I think that’s the biggest takeaway I have.”

Llamas that pass are determined to be either “Complex” or “Predictable,” based on their score. The ratings indicate where the teams can go: a “Complex” rating means the llama is registered to visit any setting, while a “Predictable” rating

includes limitations. Once approved, the llama teams must be re-evaluated every two years. Niki said one of the reasons llamas are a great addition to animal therapy teams is that they tend to be aloof, which can be reassuring to someone who isn’t used to being around animals. They also have a way of sensing the needs of others and are intuitive and curious with new people and surroundings.

Niki tells the story of a visit to Camp Korey in Washington state, which serves families dealing with childhood illness and serious medical conditions. She and one of her therapy llamas met a young child who was confined to a blanket on the floor. Niki’s llama got on his knees and crawled up to the child, sitting down on the blanket with him.

During another visit, Niki and her llama, Flight, spent time with a group of kids with skeletal dysplasia who were unable to reach up and pet her.

“Flight laid down with them for an hour and a half,” Niki said. “She let all of them sit and pet her. She knew they couldn’t reach her.” Acclimating llamas to a variety of environments is a significant part of training them for therapy visits, and Kaylee and Comet have visited parks and other public settings. But it was a recent visit to a nursing home that made the biggest impact.

“It was really rewarding seeing people respond – their eyes would just light up,” Kaylee said. Kaylee’s grandmother recently started a homeless shelter, and Kaylee is eager to begin taking Comet to visit the residents; sharing the comfort that llamas can bring to people who are going through hard times.

Unfortunately, although Comet did fairly well during his first



Photography by Dani Weiss

evaluation, he didn't quite make the cut and the pair will have to come back and try again. Kaylee said she was a little nervous during the testing and that Comet likely picked up on her feelings. She isn't deterred, and plans to keep practicing until they're an official Pet Partners team.

Meanwhile, Kaylee has begun taking classes at Green River Community College and is planning to become a veterinary technician – hopefully attending Washington State University.

Also in her future is a commitment to sharing Comet with as many people as possible as a Pet Partners team.

"I love the happiness that animals bring. I want to spread that to other people," she said. In early August, Karisto, Philia and I made goodbye visits to our friends at Lakeview Senior Living, in Lincoln City, Oregon, explaining that the reason for our absence during the autumn months would be my upcoming hip surgery.

The residents were delighted to hear that both of my Pet Partners would be on duty caring for me in my recovery.



HAB in the News

PET THERAPY: HOW ANIMALS AND HUMANS HEAL EACH OTHER

By Julie Rovner - online at npr.org/blogs/health

Those of us who own pets know they make us happy. But a growing body of scientific research is showing that our pets can also make us healthy, or healthier.

That helps explain the increasing use of animals — dogs and cats mostly, but also birds, fish and even horses — in settings ranging from hospitals and nursing homes to schools, jails and mental institutions.

Take Viola, or Vi for short. The retired guide dog is the resident canine at the on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. The inn is where families stay when their children are undergoing experimental therapies at NIH.

Vi, a chunky yellow Labrador retriever with a perpetually wagging

tail, greets families as they come downstairs in the morning and as they return from treatment in the afternoon. She can even be "checked out" for a walk around the bucolic NIH grounds.

Thelma Balmaceda, age, 4, pets Viola, the resident canine at the Children's Inn on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. Families stay at the inn when their children are undergoing experimental therapies at NIH.

"There really isn't a day when she doesn't brighten the spirits of a kid at the inn. And an adult. And a staff member," says Meredith Daly, the inn's spokeswoman.

Read Full Article: <http://n.pr/KZclv6> (*short-link*)

TOP 10 THERAPY ANIMALS - online at <http://nation.time.com>

From an alpaca to a monkey, TIME highlights the animals that help provide healing and companionship to people with special needs around the world

A girl feeds a sheep during a visit to the iWay Bi interactive farm in Tecpan, Chimaltenango region, 88 km from Guatemala City, on July 19, 2012. This trip was organized by the Meritorious Committee for the Blind and Deaf of Guatemala and the farm for 58 children, who are either visually impaired or deaf, to participate in an Animal Assisted Therapy session in hopes of helping them develop skills to integrate socially.

Read Full Article: <http://ti.me/1zmNj41> (*short-link*)



JORGE DAN LOPEZ / Reuters / Corbis

HAB in the News. . . continued on page 7 . . .

PRESENTATION PREVIEWS: AVMA/AAH-ABV SESSIONS

Selected presenters at the AVMA Convention in Denver, July 25 - 29, 2014 are pleased to share these previews with you and hope that you will find them an enticing sample of what we will experience in Denver.

Parasite Control is Good for People and Pets, But it Comes at a Price - Michael Lappin, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Dr. Lappin will review the classic parasitic diseases shared between animals and man and re-emphasize which parasite control is important to maintain on all pets, all the time, no matter where you live. Emphasis will be placed on strategic deworming for enteric parasites and the flea and tick borne zoonoses.



How Pet Insurance Impacts the Human-Animal Bond

- Kerri Marshall, DVM

Dr. Marshall will review a brief history on the bond between pets and people and the role pet insurance plays in maintaining this relationship. The partnership between dogs and humans is unique and has a long and rich history, starting thousands of years ago, resulting in a lasting and deep bond. As medical care for pets has advanced, the practice of “economic euthanasia” has put a huge stress on veterinarians who subsidize care or feel forced to euthanize because of a client’s inability to pay for the cost of care. Pet insurance is a powerful tool to prevent “ethical exhaustion” by helping pet owners afford the care their pet needs, allowing veterinarians to practice medicine they are trained to provide. Dr. Marshall will be available for feedback following her presentation and will hand out USB drives with the talk on it at the Trupanion booth #1102.



Animal Hospice Models of Care - Kathleen Cooney, DVM

To date, there are four basic animal hospice business models: veterinary-clinic based, mobile-practice based, animal hospice caseworker operated, and sanctuaries/rescues. The provision of care by a transdisciplinary team is a central tenet in palliative care and hospice philosophy and, therefore, is necessary regardless of the model of care. This lecture will describe the 4 current business models of care and highlight a company for each one so that we may learn from their successes and challenges.



Supporting Clients as Advocates for their Pets

- Benjamin Hart, DVM, PhD

Leo Bustad, in honor of whom this lecture is traditionally given, championed the perspective of enhancing and expanding the relationship between people and the beloved pets with which they share their lives. This presentation attempts to follow this philosophy in recognizing the close bond between people and their companion animals, in allowing clients to make health care decisions, in the best interest of their pets, with options presented to the clients based on the current available information. Whether it is an end-of-life decision, treatment for cancer, or deciding when and if to neuter or spay, an emerging emphasis is on giving clients options based on the available information to make informed decisions.



A Key to Practice Success: Appreciating the Intensity of the Human-Animal Bond - Brian Forsgren, DVM

The veterinary profession has the responsibility to be the glue that holds the HAB together. Modern times bedazzles us with technology and debt and entitlements. At this critical time in the evolution of the practice of veterinary care giving its is remarkably important that we as a profession think and reflect on the intensity of these HAB relationships. By appreciating these human conditions we have an opportunity that goes way beyond the banality of marketing products. We can be real doctors, not widgets. Our self esteem, our value and even our bank accounts will flourish. These are times for contemplation and focused leadership on our roles and responsibilities as practitioners serving the HAB. This presentation will discuss this dynamic with clinical examples and ample time for discussion.



THE DOCTOR'S DOG WILL SEE YOU NOW Therapists Use 'Canine Assistants' to Comfort, Cheer Patients; Duke Senses an Anxiety Disorder

- online at <http://online.wsj.com>

Walk into psychiatrist Drew Ramsey's office in Manhattan and you'll likely be greeted by Gus, a four-year-old shih tzu. After escorting you through the waiting room, he may hop onto the ottoman and go to sleep or sit beside you on the couch.

Some patients pat Gus while they talk to Dr. Ramsey. A few talk to Gus instead. And if they get emotional, Gus provides physical comfort that therapists can't offer. "We can't hug patients, but patients can hug Gus," says Dr. Ramsey, who began bringing his dog to his office two years ago. Now, he says, "I think about Gus the way a cowboy thinks of his horse—he's part of the job."

A small but growing number of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and other therapists are bringing their dogs to work in their private practices, where they help calm patients down, cheer them up and offer a happy distraction with a wagging tail. The

job is similar to what therapy dogs do when they visit at hospitals or nursing homes, but these "canine therapy-assistants" often work full days and get to know the patients just as well as the doctors.

Even some medical doctors have put their pups to work. Lacey, part golden retriever, part spaniel, entertains waiting patients at New York plastic surgeon Janis Di Pietro's office, though she isn't allowed in the procedure room.

Lola and Wolfie, mutts aged three and 17, put elderly patients at ease for New York neurologist Gayatri Devi, who specializes in memory disorders. "Coming to this office can be unnerving for dementia patients, but when they see a dog, it's disarming. They feel comforted and safe," she says.

Read Full Article: <http://on.wsj.com/1IR4MHJ> (*short-link*)

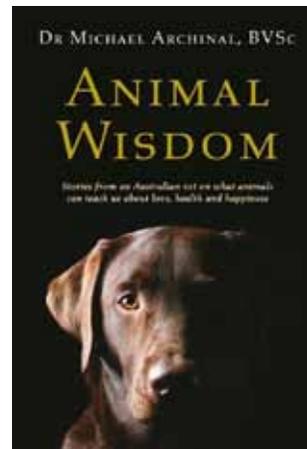
BOOK REVIEW

By Dr. Laura Baltodano

ANIMAL WISDOM

By Dr. Michael Archinal

Growing up in a major city in Australia with his mother, 4 older sisters and a plethora of pets, Dr. Archinal developed a strong connection with animals at an early age. As a practicing veterinarian he began to take special notice of the connection that pet owners had with their pets. This led him to further his study and practice to include a holistic approach and understanding of animal behavior. In this book he emphasizes how "animals teach us to connect in a deeper and more satisfying way, not just with them but also with our environment and with other people in our lives." He proposes that by looking at the habits of other animals, we can learn a lot about our own physical health (by eating better and incorporating exercise into our lives) as well as our emotional health (by relaxing, connecting more to our emotions, instincts and senses). Dr. Archinal explains how our connection to and relationship with animals can also help us overcome difficult



life challenges. Our lifestyles have become very "busy". We have so much on our minds daily resulting in perpetual stress and worry. Animals can serve as a model for us to learn

how to be present and live in the moment. His argument manifests into a compilation of heartwarming stories that demonstrate the strong connection we have with animals. "We can look to admire the ways animals live according to their true nature and realize that we share so much of that true nature."

Animal Wisdom is enlightening and engaging. Archinal's heartening view on the wisdom that animals can impart on humans about life, love and health will have you contemplating what life lessons the presence of your furry friend may bring.

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