

The New York City Veterinarian

VMA NYC Newsletter



Veterinary Medical Association of New York City

PO Box 959
NYC, NY 10024

212-246-0057 (tel)
212-721-1620 (fax)

www.vmanyc.org

Managing Editor: Dr. Sally Slavinski

2013 Executive Board

President

Dr. John Sykes

President-Elect

Dr. Deirdre Chiamonte

Secretary

Dr. Sandra van der Woerd

Treasurer

Dr. Sam Soliman

NYSVMS Representative

Dr. Allan Bregman

Past President

Dr. David Wohlstadter

Dr. Lisa Esposito

Ethics Chairperson

Dr. Lisa Esposito

Members-at-Large

Dr. Jack Bregman

Dr. Cathy Langston

Dr. Mark Peterson

Dr. John Sangiorgio

Dr. Sally Slavinski

Ethics/Grievance Committee

Dr. Allan Bregman - Brooklyn

Dr. David Bessler-Bronx

Dr. Jeffery Levy-Manhattan

Dr. David Wohlstadter-Queens

Dr. Lisa Esposito- Staten Island

December 2013, VOL. 55, NO. 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	
2	President's Message
4	Committee Updates - Liaison
6	- Program and Calendar of Events
7	Member Spotlight
8	Circovirus AVMA
13	Holiday Tips
14	Classifieds



SANTA ROSA DE TEMUCO, Chile — Pictures of a hero mother dog risking her life to save her day-old puppies, carrying them one-by-one in her mouth as she rescues them from a burning house and setting them on a fire truck, are causing tears across the internet. The mother dog — a German Shepard named Amanda — rescued her pups in southern Chile last Thursday after a car bomb exploded, causing her home to burst into flames. After rescuing all of her puppies and placing them one-by-one on the steps of a firetruck, Amanda laid down beside them and protected them with her body while firefighters battled the blaze. Four of Amanda's five puppies survived the blaze. The fifth, whose side Amanda refused to leave, died of severe burns.

© J. Monsalve

President's Message

Dr. John Sykes

As my presidency is drawing to a close, I'd like to thank the membership, the board, and Solutions Plus for all their support over the past year. We have weathered a few changes over this year, but our Association has proved strong enough to withstand them. The most significant challenge has been the loss of the use of the Pfizer meeting space. Unfortunately, with the separation of Pfizer Animal Health (now Zoetis) from the parent company, the Pfizer headquarters are no longer available to us. The board and Solutions Plus has been working hard to find a suitable replacement since we first became aware this might happen. Our current location, at Cicatelli Associates on 8th Ave, is working well for us. This organization is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of health care and social services delivered to vulnerable populations worldwide. As we are also a non-profit health-related organization, they permit us to use the space at a discounted rate. However, we do currently pay more for the use of this space than we did when Pfizer was hosting us, so there has been an impact on our budget. We continue to look for space that would be convenient for our members, meet our space requirements, and be more economical than our current space. So please continue to read your emails to be sure the meeting space has not changed!



We have also worked hard this past year to update and re-vamp the website. With the help of Solutions Plus, our new site will be easily updated and current, provide more information for the public, and help us communicate with the membership better. Be sure to check it out and let us know your thoughts: www.vmanyc.org.

Looking to the future, we have a great year planned for continuing education. In addition to our core monthly meetings, we are planning an all-day CE event for Feb 12. This event will focus on the more non-medical aspects of practice. Importantly, we have scheduled a talk by the DEA to discuss controlled drug handling. Note that 2 hours of controlled drug continuing education is required every 3 years for you to renew your license in NYS (see <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/vetmed/part62.htm#cevt>; section C.1.ii) . This talk will fulfill this requirement. Be sure to clear your calendars for this day and sign up early- space is limited.

On the social side, we are starting to plan the annual Awards event. In an effort to find new ways to celebrate the award recipients and attract all members of our organization, this year we are planning a casino night. The date is March 22 and it is shaping up to be a lot of fun!

Hopefully you have all been reading your updates from the NYSVMS regularly. As a regional veterinary society, we have a representative attend and vote at all the NYSVMS meetings. They have been working very hard this past year to protect your license and livelihoods on both the legislative and regulatory fronts. The most significant issue facing the Society right now is the issue of lay "dentistry." As this issue affects both large and small animal practitioners, the Society has been working to not only bring these different aspects of the profession together, but has also been reaching out to related organizations to build a consensus to help protect animal oral health. Your NYSVMS dues and contributions to the PEC are critical to these efforts – please help us educate your non-member colleagues about the importance of supporting your local and state veterinary societies, and consider making a donation to the PEC.

Lastly, I'd like to say goodbye to two long-term members who are retiring from the VMA board: Drs. Sam Soliman and Jack Bregman. Sam has been involved with the VMA since joining in 1989. He was President in 1998 and has served as our Treasurer for many years. Sam has been presented with our Merit, Veterinarian of the Year, and Outstanding Service to Veterinary Medicine awards. Jack likewise has been involved with the VMA since joining in 1969. He has served as a member-at-large for many years, and has received the Distinguished Life Service award. Please join me in thanking them for their outstanding commitment to our organization and wishing them good luck in their future endeavors.

Sincerely,

John M Sykes IV, DVM, DACZM

Announcing a Breakthrough in Canine Screening.

▶ AccuPlex⁴™ Better Science for Better Medicine.



SUPERIOR HEARTWORM DETECTION

Detects 35% more single-worm infections than in-house kits



MORE INFORMATIVE LYME TEST

Indicates both natural exposure and vaccination status



EARLIER E. CANIS DETECTION

Detects exposure one to two weeks earlier than in-house tests



BETTER VALUE FOR YOUR HOSPITAL

No more fretting about test kit inventory, expiration dates and faint blue dots!



Brought to you by ANTECH's revolutionary Bio-CD.

The ANTECH® Bio-CD platform is a first for the veterinary industry, employing a combination of laser beams and fluorescence to detect antibodies and peptides on a bioactive silicon disc surface. This automated system, adapted from advanced physics research, gives ANTECH the capability to run highly-multiplexed assays on a single drop of serum.



For more information, visit AntechDiagnostics.com/AccuPlex.

Liaison Committee

The liaison committee interacts with our local specialty hospitals, educational institutions and not for profit organizations and lists in this column any information which is relevant for our membership. Specifically, we highlight continuing education which is complementary to our membership and new hires in specialty areas. Please contact us if your hospital has information that you would like to share with our membership

The Animal Medical Center's Continuing Education:

PARTNERS IN PRACTICE TUESDAY (7 - 8:30PM) CLINICAL WORKSHOPS

- **Thursday, December 5:** Pearls of Clinical Oncology. Presented by Dr. Maria Camps

PIP COMPREHENSIVE CONFERENCES—8AM TO 4PM

- **Sunday, December 1:** Essentials of Dental Health, Diagnosis and Management,. Presented by Drs. Paul Mitchell and Django Martel
- **Sunday, January 26, 2014:** Dermatology – New Insights and Therapies. Presented by Dr. Michelle Rosenberg
- **Sunday, April 6, 2014:** Pain Management and Rehabilitation – What You Need to Know. Presented by Drs. Dennis Caywood and Leilani Alvarez.

REGISTER ON LINE: <http://www.amcny.org/pipseminars>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DR. PHILIP FOX AT PHILIP.FOX@AMCNY.ORG OR CALL 212.329.8606

News from Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners:

Continuing education lectures are free and open to all area veterinarians. There are also veterinary technician CE lectures which are open to all veterinary technicians and assistants. Registration is required and is done by contacting Dr. David Wohlstadter at david.wohlstadter@bluepearlvet.com . Dinner begins at 7 PM and the lectures start at 7:30 PM. BluePearl is approved as a New York State sponsor of CE for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Unless otherwise noted, lectures are given in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan at the addresses listed below:

Check the Bluepearl website for upcoming CE events at

<http://newyork.bluepearlvet.com/veterinary-community/calendar-of-events/>



A young male deer stands with a hunter's arrow through its head, in New Jersey. New Jersey wildlife officials successfully removed the arrow from the 5-month-old male deer's head while the animal was tranquilized at a wooded private property in Morris County, N.J., The deer was later released into the wild. The biologists who did the procedure say the arrow had not damaged any major arteries or organs and the deer's prognosis for survival is excellent.

Picture: AP Photo/New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection



King Kong throwback
(Scott Lynch / Gothamist)



Barksy
(Scott Lynch / Gothamist)



Dogtor Zizmor, I presume
(Scott Lynch / Gothamist)



HULK!
(Scott Lynch / Gothamist)

Calendar of Events

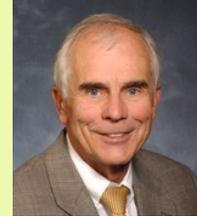
Program Committee

Dr. Mark E. Peterson, Chairman , Dr. Deirdre Chiaramonte, Dr, Sally Haddock

The schedule of the VMA of NYC Continuing Education meetings for the 2013 calendar year is listed below, including the speakers and topics. All meetings will be held at the ASPCA 520 Eighth Avenue (near the corner of 36th St) on the seventh floor, NYC. The meetings will start at 7 PM. Please bring photo ID with you to allow entry into the facility. Members of the VMA of NYC are automatically registered to attend the meetings, but guests need to be added to the attendance list in advance of each meeting date.

December 4, 2013

Speaker: Ed Breitschwerdt, DVM, Dip. ACVIM
North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Tick Diseases



January 8, 2014

Speaker: Elizabeth A, Giuliano, DVM, MS, Dip. ACVO
University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Ophthalmology

February 5, 2014

Speaker: Andrew Loar, DVM, DACVIM
STAT Veterinary Lab- Clinical Laboratory Director and Cytologist
Topic: Clinical Pathology

March 5, 2014

Speaker: Richard B. Ford, DVM, MS, DACVIM, DACVPM (Hon)
North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Vaccine Updates

April 2, 2014

Speaker: Lynelle Johnson, BA, DVM, MS, PhD
UC Davis Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Respiratory

May 7, 2014

Speaker: Stan Marks, BVSc, PhD
UC Davis Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Gastrointestinal

June 4, 2014

Speaker: Karen Rosenthal, DVM, MS
St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Exotics

September 3, 2014

Speaker: Rodney Bagley, DVM, DACVIM
Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Neurology

October 1, 2014

Speaker: Cindy Charlier, DVM, FAVD, DAVDC
Fox Valley Veterinary Dentistry and Surgery
Topic: Dentistry

November 5, 2014

Speaker: Kim Selting, DVM, MS, DACVIM
University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Oncology

December 3, 2014

Speaker: Tammy Grubbs, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVAA
Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Anesthesiology/ Pain Management

Remember, our Continuing Education program is meant for our VMA of NYC members, so please do not ever hesitate to provide your input and suggestions for great speaker or timely topics to make our C.E. program the best it can be. I can always be contacted via email at mark@animalendocrine.com or feel free to call me in my office (212.362.2650) if you have any suggestions.

Membership Spotlight

Dr. Sally Haddock

Q1. Where did you grow up and when did you move to NYC?

Although I was born in Pennsylvania, I grew up in Mentor, Ohio which is located on Lake Erie. I came to NYC for a preceptorship at AMC in 1980 for 3 months where I was doing cystos, fundic exams as well as unblocking and deobstipating cats on almost a daily basis. I was fascinated by the caseload and the energy of the vets and staff of the Animal Medical Center. In those short few months I felt like I had just received a full 4-year veterinary school education and I was a transformed vet student. Although I accepted my first job at Castle Shannon Animal Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA upon graduation from vet school, the following year (1981) I moved back to NYC to start an internship at the AMC...followed by a medical residency program.

Q2. Why did you become a veterinarian and when did you know you would become one?

Of course, as a child, I loved animals... from crayfish to our family dog, Topsisie, a Cocker/Labrador mix. I can't say that I had wanted to become a vet since childhood because a woman veterinarian was basically nonexistent when I was young. I just knew that somehow I wanted to work with animals. As I was following the pre-med track at Miami University, I decided to apply to vet school, however my parents tried to convince me otherwise. Apparently our family physician informed my parents that it was nearly impossible to be accepted into vet school in the US. Unlike today, if you had a vet school in your state, you had ONLY one choice of vet schools in which to apply. Fortunately I didn't succumb to family pressure, and I was ecstatic upon receiving my acceptance letter from Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. And I'm still ecstatic today that I'm a veterinarian!

Q3. Where did you go to veterinary school?

DVM from Ohio State University; undergrad degree at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio

Q4. What was your first job as a veterinarian?

My first job as a vet was at Castle Shannon Animal Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. Upon arriving to my new job, the owner of the practice said he had good news and bad news. The good news was that I was working a 4 day work week which sounded pretty wonderful to me. The bad news was that I was working Saturday night emergencies. I thought that wasn't so bad since I didn't have any friends or relatives in southern Pittsburgh, so what's better than saving pets' lives on a Saturday night? The tiny bit of information that was not revealed to me was that I would be working from 8-5 pm with 4 other vets during the day Saturday, and from 5 pm until 8 am, Sunday morning by myself. Since I was the only vet available for emergencies in all of southern Pittsburgh, I saw patients all night long! During the course of one evening I remember seeing a blocked cat, a dog with an abscess, a rabbit with Cuterebra, a parrot with a broken blood feather and a St Bernard with a GDV. Although exhausting, it was an invaluable experience, particularly for a new grad.

Q5. Where do you practice now, and how long have you been there?

My husband, Tom Birchard, did research while cashiering at his restaurant Veselka, and discovered there were no vets in the immediate East Village area. Soon afterward, based on my husband's "research," I started St Marks Veterinary Hospital in 1986. My initial plan was to move to Ohio within 5 years to join my friend's veterinary practice, but somehow life took a different turn and St Marks Vet and NYC have been my home for 27 years.

Q6. What pets do you have?

A 4 year old beloved Bernese Mt dog, Fonzi, and Barley, a 3 year old adorable yellow Lab from Guiding Eyes for the Blind

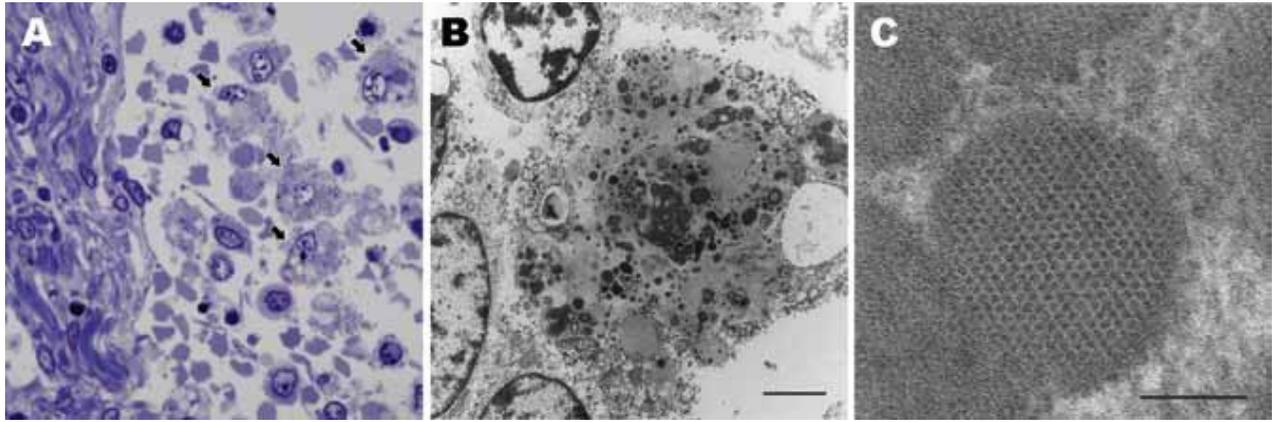
Q7. What are your hobbies/interests?

Cycling with my husband, photography, gardening, and enjoying our children and grandchildren.



DR. SALLY HADDOCK

NYC VMA
MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT



Lymph node from sentinel dog from which dog circovirus was identified. A) Toluidine blue stain shows multiple macrophages within the medullary sinus contain vacuoles and discrete, oblong to round, variably stained cytoplasmic bodies (arrows). B) A single macrophage adjacent to a lymphocyte (upper left) and partial profiles of other cells. Intracytoplasmic inclusion bodies are distributed throughout the macrophage cytoplasm, along with mitochondria and vacuoles. Scale bar indicates 2 μ m. C) Intracytoplasmic inclusion bodies contain granular content and sometimes paracrystalline to herringbone arrays of 10–11 nm diameter viral-like particles. Scale

Circovirus Infections in Dogs: Guidance for Veterinarians

AVMA website

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Pages/Circovirus-infections-in-dogs-guidance-for-veterinarians.aspx>

November 22, 2013

Update November 22, 2013: There has been a media report about the possibility of cats being infected with this virus. We have contacted the Michigan authorities with a request for more information.

Circovirus may be present as a primary or co-infection with other enteric pathogens, but there is still much to learn about its significance as an enteric pathogen. Li et al (2013) documented co-infection with circovirus and canine enteric coronavirus, *Cryptosporidium* spp, *C. perfringens* α toxin, *Giardia* spp, *Salmonella* spp, *Campylobacter jejuni*, or *Campylobacter coli* in 19 circovirus-infected dogs with diarrhea. Circovirus was detected in the feces of 19/168 dogs with diarrhea and 14 of 204 healthy dogs. Sixty-eight percent of dogs positive for circovirus were co-infected with at least one additional enteric pathogen.

Circovirus infection was rumored to be the cause of dog illnesses and several dog deaths in Ohio in late August/early September 2013, but the Ohio Department of Agriculture is no longer considering it a primary cause as of October 3, 2013. Listen to our podcast on the status of the investigation (Sept 23) and the investigative process.

In late September/early October 2013, similar illnesses were reported in dogs in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is investigating the illnesses.

Please note, this information is based on a very limited number of cases and may change as more is learned about this new circovirus.

.....continued on page 9

Case presentation: Dogs infected with circovirus may present with progressive vomiting, diarrhea (possibly hemorrhagic) and hematochezia. Ascites, pleural effusion, hypovolemic shock, biventricular hemorrhage and disseminated intravascular coagulation may also be present. According to Li et al, circovirus “should be considered in cases of unexplained vasculitis in dogs.”

If you suspect circovirus infection, please contact your state animal health authorities regarding sample submission.

Pathology: According to the report published by Li et al, examination of tissues from all infected animals revealed fibrino-necrotizing vasculitis. The location and severity of affected vessels varied among the cases, with most cases demonstrating abnormalities in the intestine and kidneys. Affected organs included the intestine, urinary bladder, spleen, liver, lungs, kidneys, heart, pancreas, adrenal glands and meninges (in a dog with tetraparesis). Lymph node necrosis was also observed in several cases and all dogs had histiocytic or granulomatous lymphadenitis in Peyer’s patches. One dog hemorrhaged into the thoracic and abdominal cavities.

Treatment: At this time, there is no indication to treat these cases any differently than other enteric infections. Because of the virus’ association with fibrinonecrotic vasculitis, careful monitoring of coagulation and cardiovascular status may be necessary.

The AVMA would like to thank the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians for their assistance in creating this resource.

Circovirus in tissues of dogs with vasculitis and hemorrhage

Li L, McGraw S, Zhu K, Leutenegger CM, Marks SL, Kubiski S, Gaffney P, Dela Cruz FN Jr, Wang C, Delwart E, Pesavento PA. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2013 Apr;19(4):534-41.

Abstract

We characterized the complete genome of a novel dog circovirus (DogCV) from the liver of a dog with severe hemorrhagic gastroenteritis, vasculitis, and granulomatous lymphadenitis. DogCV was detected by PCR in fecal samples from 19/168 (11.3%) dogs with diarrhea and 14/204 (6.9%) healthy dogs and in blood from 19/409 (3.3%) of dogs with thrombocytopenia and neutropenia, fever of unknown origin, or past tick bite. Co-infection with other canine pathogens was detected for 13/19 (68%) DogCV-positive dogs with diarrhea. DogCV capsid proteins from different dogs varied by up to 8%. In situ hybridization and transmission electron microscopy detected DogCV in the lymph nodes and spleens of 4 dogs with vascular compromise and histiocytic inflammation. The detection of a circovirus in tissues of dogs expands the known tropism of these viruses to a second mammalian host. Our results indicate that circovirus, alone or in co-infection with other pathogens, might contribute to illness and death in dogs.

Complete genome sequence of the first canine circovirus

Kapoor A, Dubovi EJ, Henriquez-Rivera JA, Lipkin WI. *J Virol.* 2012 Jun;86(12):7018.

Abstract

We found a highly divergent circovirus in serum samples from several dogs. Phylogenetic analysis indicates that canine circovirus genotype 1 (CaCV-1) represents the first circovirus reported in dogs and is genetically most closely related to the only known mammalian circovirus, porcine circovirus. Here we report the complete genome sequence of the CaCV-1 strain NY214, which will help toward understanding the evolutionary and pathogenic characteristics of mammalian circoviruses.

Circovirus in Dogs: Frequently Asked Questions

AVMA website

November 22, 2013

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Pages/Circovirus-in-Dogs-Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx>

Update November 22, 2013: There has been a media report about the possibility of cats being infected with this virus. We have contacted the Michigan authorities with a request for more information.

Canine circovirus infections have been documented in dogs with vomiting and diarrhea. The distribution of the virus in the U.S. is not yet known, but dogs infected with circovirus have been reported in California and circovirus may be associated with recent illness and death of dogs in Ohio.

Q: What are circoviruses?

A: Circoviruses are small viruses that have been known to infect pigs and birds. They are also known to survive well in the environment once shed from affected animals. Porcine circoviruses are very common throughout the world. Porcine circovirus 2 can cause postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome in 2-4 month old piglets, resulting in weight loss, poor growth and high death rates. Although porcine circoviruses were first identified more than 30 years ago, there is still much unknown about the viruses. Circovirus can also infect birds, causing beak and feather disease in psittacine birds (such as parrots, parakeets, budgies and cockatiels), infectious anemia in chickens, and deadly infections in pigeons, canaries and finches.

Q: What is canine circovirus/dog circovirus?

A: The circovirus identified in dogs shares more similarity to porcine circovirus than to the avian circovirus, but it is not the same as porcine circovirus. This canine circovirus was first reported in June 2012 as part of a genetic screening of canine samples for new viruses (Kapoor et al 2012). Circovirus was detected in 2.9% of canine sera collected for routine serological testing. In April 2013, a similar virus was detected in a California dog that presented to the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine for worsening vomiting (containing blood) and diarrhea. PCR tests on dogs with and without clinical disease indicate a prevalence rate of between 2.9-11.3%. The data suggest that this new virus, either alone or as a co-infection with other pathogens (disease-causing organisms, such as bacteria and viruses), might contribute to dog illness and deaths. However, the authors also reported that circovirus was identified in the stool of 14 out of 204 healthy dogs, suggesting that infection with circovirus does not always result in illness.

There is still much to learn about this newly identified virus, including its role in disease.

Q: Are the dogs in Ohio infected with circovirus?

A: No. Circovirus was suggested as a possible cause of illness and death of dogs in several parts of Ohio in late August/early September 2013, but it is no longer being considered as the primary cause of the illnesses. Circovirus was detected in the stool of one ill dog in Ohio, which is the first time the virus has been identified in Ohio, but this does not mean that circovirus has been confirmed as the cause of any of the recent illnesses. The Ohio Department of Agriculture continues to investigate the illnesses, and this will take time.

Q: Are the dogs in Michigan infected with circovirus?

A: As of October 3, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has been investigating illnesses similar to those observed in Ohio. The investigation will take time, and at this time they are not confirming that circovirus is involved.

.....continued on page 11



...continued from page 10

Q: How are dogs being infected with circovirus?

A: The route of infection is still unknown, but the basic principles of viral spreading suggest that direct contact with an infected dog or its vomit or diarrhea would present a higher risk of infection. However, many viruses can be spread from animal to animal through the use of shared bedding and equipment or through human contact with an infected animal prior to handling of an uninfected animal. In pigs, circovirus is spread through the manure and through contact with respiratory secretions.

Although some of the dogs showing clinical disease were recently boarded or at doggie daycare facilities, this should not be taken as an indication that this virus is only spread at boarding kennels or that boarding your dog or taking it to daycare will result in infection. Any parent who has taken their child to daycare knows that a high concentration of children in an area can increase the spread of colds and other illnesses; the same thing can happen when dogs are gathered in an area.

Q: Are there other diseases that are similar to circovirus infection?

A: There are many potential causes of vomiting and diarrhea, so the presence of these signs does not mean your dog is infected with circovirus. For example, vomiting and diarrhea can also result from infection with canine parvovirus, canine enteric coronavirus, Salmonella bacteria, canine distemper virus, Campylobacter bacteria, Clostridium perfringens enterotoxin A gene bacteria, and Cryptosporidium and Giardia species (both of which are single-celled parasites). Even a simple “dietary indiscretion,” such as getting into the garbage or overeating rich foods or treats, can result in vomiting and diarrhea. Not all of these problems are life-threatening, and many cases of diarrhea and vomiting resolve with simple treatment.

If your dog is showing signs of illness, contact your veterinarian to get the correct diagnosis (including any necessary laboratory testing). Even if it turns out to be something minor, you can have peace of mind knowing that your dog’s health is not threatened.

Q: What should pet owners do?

A: If your dog is vomiting or has diarrhea, contact your veterinarian. Dogs with diarrhea and vomiting could have a range of diseases, some of which can be life-threatening unless diagnosed and treated early. Prompt treatment of vomiting and diarrhea, regardless of the cause, gives your dog a better chance of a quick recovery and can also cost you less in the long run – delaying veterinary care can mean that your veterinarian has to treat a dog that’s much more sick than he/she would have been if seen earlier, and that costs more. In the small number of cases so far, prompt veterinary treatment was critical to a good outcome for that dog.

Although we still have a lot to learn about this circovirus, there’s no cause for panic. We know that dogs infected with circovirus don’t always become ill, but we don’t know how much of the virus they may shed in their stool or how much risk these dogs present as sources of infection for other dogs. Theoretically, it’s possible, and that’s one of many reasons why it’s so important that you pick up after your own dog and avoid contact with stool from other dogs when possible.

Simple, common sense measures are in order, including the avoidance of contact with ill animals (and if your dog is ill, avoid contact with other dogs until your dog has fully recovered) and cleaning up after your pet passes stool. A healthy pet is more likely to have a fully functional immune system to fight infections, so keeping your pet healthy with good preventive care is also important.

Q: Is there a vaccine for circovirus?

A: Not at this time. This is a very recent development, and it takes years to develop vaccines and get approval for use in pets.

Q: What should kennels and doggy daycare facilities do?

A: Follow good hygiene and sanitation measures, as you should always do: don’t allow ill dogs to mix with others; clean and disinfect areas where ill animals have been, and regularly clean and disinfect all dog areas; and monitor dogs for signs of illness, and immediately report any signs of illness to the dog’s owner.

Q: If my dog has circovirus, can I become infected?

A: There is no evidence to date that this virus can be transmitted to you from your dog.

The AVMA would like to thank the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians for their assistance in creating this resource.

A dense cloud of starlings momentarily forms the shape of a dolphin in the evening skies above Longtown, Cumbria, as the birds return to the roost at nightfall

Picture: Paul Kingston / NNP



A massive cloud of birds takes off from a British beach. The huge flocks of birds were caught on camera by photographer Craig Jones while visiting Snettisham, Norfolk. The intense noise made by the thousands of birds is known as the 'Norfolk Rhapsody'.

Picture: CRAIG JONES / CATERS NEWS



A murmuration of starlings fly close to power lines at sunset near Gretna on the Scottish borders
Picture: Owen Humphreys/PA



HOLIDAY TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

Adapted from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

“This is the time of year that many veterinary hospitals report a significant increase in emergency calls particularly those relating to digestive track disturbances resulting from exposure to foods pets simply should not have received.” says Dr. Clark K. Fobian, president of the AVMA. “Holidays bring together family and friends, but it they also can carry some hazards for our pets. Overindulging in the family feast can be unhealthy for humans, but fatty and bony table scraps, like the turkey neck or skin or other dietary indiscretions can lead to severe and sometimes even deadly digestive track conditions.”

- **Keep the holiday feast on the table—not under it.** Table scraps may seem like a fun way to include your pet in the holiday, but there are a number of hazards to feeding your pets from your plate. Many foods healthy for you are poisonous to pets, including onions, garlic, raisins and grapes. There are many healthy treats available for dogs and cats, so don't feed them table scraps. Instead, make or buy a treat that is made just for them. Make sure the pet treat is not a part of any ongoing recall.
- **Put the trash away where your pets can't find it.** A carcass sitting out on the carving table or left in an open trash container or one that's easily opened could prove deadly if the family pet eats it. What your pet thinks is a tasty treat can cause a condition called pancreatitis, which is extremely dangerous and can cause death fairly quickly. Dispose of turkey carcasses in a covered, tightly secured container (or a trash can behind a closed, locked door) along with anything used to wrap or tie the meat and any bones left on plates.
- **No pie or other desserts for your pooch.** It can't be said often enough, chocolate is poisonous to pets, and the darker it is the more deadly it is. It's an important reminder, because many dogs find it tempting, and will sniff it out and eat it if they find it, including extremely dangerous baker's chocolate. Also, an artificial sweetener called Xylitol has also been shown to be deadly if consumed by dogs. Xylitol is a common sweetener used in baked goods and chewing gums.
- **Quick action can save lives.** If you believe your pet has been poisoned or eaten something it shouldn't have, call your veterinarian or local veterinary emergency clinic immediately.
- **Visitors can upset your pets.** Some pets are shy or excitable around new people, and holidays often mean many new people will be visiting. If you know your dog or cat is overwhelmed when people visit your home, put them in another room or a crate with a favorite toy. If your pet is particularly upset by houseguests, talk to your veterinarian about possible solutions to this common problem.
- **Watch the exits.** If your pets are comfortable around guests, make sure you watch them closely, especially when your guests are entering or leaving your home. While you're welcoming hungry guests and collecting coats, a four-legged family member may make a break for it out the door and become lost. It's also a good idea to make sure your pet has proper identification, particularly microchip identification with up-to-date, registered information, so that if they do sneak out, they'll be returned to you.
- **Watch your pets around festive decorations.** Special holiday displays or candles are attractive to pets as well as people. Never leave a pet alone in an area with a lit candle; it could result in a fire. Don't forget that some flowers and festive plants can be hazardous if swallowed by your pet. Pine cones and needles can cause an intestinal blockage or even perforate the animal's intestine.

VETERINARIANS AVAILABLE

PER DIEM OR STEADY PART-TIME WORK. Available most Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Excellent people skills. Good practice builder. 35 years experience. References available. Contact Dr. Tobias Jungreis at 516-295-1125.

RELIEF - PER DIEM. General practice. Orthopedic and Soft Tissue Surgery. DVM, Cornell. Internship Oradell. Residency in Small Animal Surgery, Cornell. Phone Dr. Kathy Sevala at 1-718-267-6489 or 1-718-578-9085.

RELIEF VETERINARIAN. Experienced with excellent medical, surgical and client skills. Contact Dr. Christine Asaro at (631) 806-9343 or (718) 238-2513, or e-mail: chrisasaro@hotmail.com

EXPERIENCED RELIEF VETERINARIAN - small animals and exotics (also available for wildlife, zoo and aquarium relief) for work in Manhattan and possibly surrounding boroughs. Licensed (including DEA and USDA) in NY, PA, NJ, FL and CA. Please send inquiry via e-mail to: Donald W. Stremme, VMD at CCACDWS@aol.com

EXPERIENCED VETERINARIAN AVAILABLE for relief work including surgery. Please call Shirley Koshi 212-288-9088 or Email: kitydogdoc@gmail.com

RELIEF/PER-DIEM VETERINARIAN: experienced, capable, personable. Dan Grayson, DVM. 917-755-1615.

FULL OR PART-TIME Dr. Eduarda Krieger. NY Licensed. Seeks work at small animal practice in NYC. Phone: 917-239-3377.

VETERINARIAN AVAILABLE for permanent Per Diem any weekday except Friday. Experienced LI vet with strong medical, surgical and people skills seeks position in Queens 2-4 days per month. Call Dr. K. at 516-374-5050.

PART TIME OR RELIEF VETERINARIAN AVAILABLE in NYC. Currently practicing in Westchester. Please contact me at drmartinvet@gmail.com

VETERINARIANS NEEDED

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL : Of NYC is seeking full-time, per-diem and on-call veterinarians to work in our Care Centers in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Join a team of dedicated and caring professionals who provide veterinary care for homeless and abandoned animals. You will work with a wide variety of species, medical conditions, emergency and public health issues. Volunteer opportunities are also available. Competitive Salary, full benefits. See www.nycacc.org for a full description. Send cover letter and CV to hr@nycacc.org or 212-442-2066. Call 212-442-2061 for more information.

WANTED: Part-time or per-diem vet with interest in preventive and shelter medicine needed for one or two days a week with Williamsburg, Brooklyn clinic. New York State license and prior experience required. Email resume to feltonvet@verizon.net or fax to 718-388-6968.

LOOK TO YOUR FUTURE: Join our modern, well equipped Brooklyn practice. We've been here 4 years and are looking to expand. We will be interviewing for energetic, smart graduates and experienced clinicians for part time work schedules. Compensation will be production based and is negotiable. Practice and live as you dreamed. We supply the facility and staff. You bring your energy and expertise. We can fulfill our goals of balanced work and family life in the great borough of Brooklyn. Contact Dr. Edward Osterman, Kings Bay Veterinary Hospital; 718-339-0557 or (c) 917-916-4012.

WANTED: Full-time caring, compassionate and competent Veterinarian wanted for four-doctor progressive well-established practice in the Greater New York Area. State of the art modern equipment: full lab, digital radiology, and ultrasound. Superior, qualified, well trained and friendly colleagues form our team. Flex time scheduling available. Two or more years experience preferred, but recent graduates will be considered. Email us at: vetonclove@verizon.net

Hiring Home Euthanasia Veterinarians

Part-time veterinarians needed to provide private pet euthanasia in the comfort of home throughout entire greater NYC and Long Island areas (and nationwide). Earn \$2000/month for 10 home visits, \$4000/month for 20 home visits, \$8000/month for 40 home visits. Study www.PetLossAtHome.com. Email DrKaren@PetLossAtHome.com. Also **Pet Loss At Home** provides FREE INFO: sedation protocols, how to do quick & easy clay paw print impressions, home euthanasia techniques & signs of suffering handouts for clients. Simply request via email DrKaren@PetLossAtHome.com.

Want to place a classified ad? Please send your submissions to info@vmanyc.org. Submissions will only be accepted from NYC VMA members. Be sure to provide a brief description of the posting and appropriate contact information.

LVT DESIRED

LVT needed in SW Nassau County, 5 miles east of Kennedy Airport. 2 Dr. practice. FT weekdays 11-7. Strong dental and surgical skills a plus. Fax resume to Abby 516-374-6817.

FOR SALE

One year old Veterinary Practice for sale. Good for a retiree or a new graduate. High potential – very reasonable. Please contact Kay at 917-751-1906

Shoreline Stainless Steel Cages—all sizes, 40 total available. Call Kay at 718-592-2022 or 917-751-1906.

VARIOUS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL OF NYC (AC&C) has many new and exciting job openings available at this time. If you love working with animals and helping people they may have a great career opportunity for you. Some of the positions that are available are Communications Associate, Volunteer Liaison, Veterinarian, Licensed Vet Tech, Animal Care Officer, and Animal Control Officer. If you are interested in learning more about the available positions or want to apply, please visit their website at www.nycacc.org.

ZOETIS Diagnostic Technical Service Manager— F/T Marketing & Sales/Commercial Business in New Jersey. With minimal guidance take an aggressive and impactful role to provide both sales and US Dx operations personnel with support to drive the revenues of the Diagnostic and Reproductive Services portfolio and provide superior customer, medical and scientific support so that Zoetis may achieve a sustainable competitive advantage. Actively serve as a medical and scientific advisor to operations personnel on matters related to veterinary medicine. Enhance scientific/professional image of Zoetis. Effectively manage Zoetis resources (finances, projects) to achieve the above. Apply: <http://www.zoetis.com/careers/jobsearch/diagnostic-technical-service-manager>.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL— Of NYC. Executive level position responsible for providing leadership and direction for the efficient and smooth provision of medical and surgical care and maintenance of health for all animals cared for by AC&C. Knowledgeable of best practices and standards for veterinary care in shelters. Manages medical inventory and budget, including oversight and authorization for purchasing of supplies, equipment, and medications. Supervises medical staff within the department. Develops treatment protocols and written policies/guidelines for medical and surgical care, including timely and appropriate attention to emergency cases. Ensures quality programming that is in accordance with AC&C's mission, goals and management. Maintains compliance with relevant laws. See www.nycacc.org for a full description. Send cover letter and CV to hr@nycacc.org or 212-442-2066. Call 212-442-2061 for more information.

Marley the sheep is a favourite with the both adults and children at the Big Sheep family attraction in Bideford, North Devon. The ewe is named Marley after the legendry Bob Marley. She now has the name of Bobbie Marley.

Picture: Richard Austin



Want to place a classified ad? Please send your submissions to info@vmanyc.org. Submissions will only be accepted from NYC VMA members. Be sure to provide a brief description of the posting and appropriate contact information.