
TVMA

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

TIDBITS

TVMA Tidbits April 1, 2025

My Two Cents

By: Walter Clark, DVM, DABVP

"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

~ Chief

Seattle



Nothing deep or profound this issue (of course, some would argue that nothing I write is particularly deep or profound). My last column about the lack of respect for our profession was enough of a downer to last for a while.

This time, I'm just going to write about something that I read that I thought was interesting. Hope you do, too.

I'll be the first to admit that I wasn't totally sold on the whole One Health thing when it was first floated. It kind of made sense to me, but I thought it would be a tough sell to the human healthcare field. I did think the environmentalists would buy in.

If you would like a deeper dive into One Health, I would encourage you to go back and take a look at the excellent article by Dr. Midge Phillips on the concept in our magazine, The Tennessee Veterinarian. It goes into a lot more detail than I do here.

In summary, One Health emphasizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. It advocates for collaborative efforts across disciplines to address global health challenges like zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and ecosystem changes. By recognizing these connections, One Health promotes integrated solutions to improve health outcomes for people, animals, and the planet.

A few months ago, I ran across an interesting article that really illustrates this interconnectedness. It's about vultures in India. [Read more...](#)

Urgent: Help Us Stop SB128/HB164 – TVMA Continues the Fight

Thank you to everyone who has called, emailed, and testified to oppose SB128/HB164—your voices are being heard! Despite our efforts, the bill continues to advance and will be heard by the House Health Committee on Tuesday, April 1st, with a vote in the full Senate as early as next week.

If passed, this bill would allow non-veterinarians to practice veterinary medicine without adhering to the Tennessee Veterinary Practice Act. Human chiropractors would need six additional hours of certification to treat animals and would report to the Chiropractic Board—not the Veterinary Licensing Board. Meanwhile, veterinarians certified in animal chiropractic care would face new, unprecedented reporting requirements.

TVMA supports veterinarians trained in chiropractic care, but we firmly believe that diagnosing and treating animals requires veterinary expertise and oversight.

We need you to act now. Contact your legislators, especially those on the House Health Committee and the Full Senate, and urge them to oppose SB128/HB164. Encourage your colleagues, clients, friends, and family to do the same. Every call and email makes a difference.

You can also amplify our message by submitting editorial and opinion letters to your local newspapers and newsletters.

Together, we can protect the integrity of the veterinary profession and the animals we serve. Thank you for standing with us.

Heather Vaughn
Executive Director



"The Animal Loss Grief Journey" Webinar Series Hosted by UT's Veterinary Social Work Services



UT Veterinary Social Work Services is offering a free webinar series! Each webinar will have an educational presentation with slides followed by an Q & A. The presentation will be recorded and available afterwards on their YouTube channel.

This is open for anyone that wants to learn more about the journey through grief we experience when we lose a beloved animal. Each month will have a different topic - you are welcome to come to as many as you would like!

April 24 - Creative & Healing Ways to Memorialize Your Animals
May 21 - What's Next? Navigating Life After Loss

Please note: This is not a support group or therapy group. This is not a substitute for psychiatric care, psychotherapy, or medical treatment. Questions? Please reach out to Veterinary Social Work via vetsocialwork@utk.edu or 865-755-8839.

All webinars will be presented at 5:15 pm Central.

License Renewal Reminder

You may need to renew your license if your birthday is in the month of April. [Click here](#) to see if your license is due for renewal



Nominations for AVMA Volunteer Positions Still Open



Please visit the [Volunteer Opportunities](#) section of the AVMA website to learn more. The list of vacancies includes incumbents whose terms end in August 2025 and are identified by an asterisk (*) next to their names. Please note that those individuals eligible for reappointment must still be nominated to be considered.

For those positions with the Nominations Due date listed as "Ongoing", nominations are accepted on an ongoing basis until all positions are filled. The candidate's nomination form and resume must be received at least 30 days prior to the Board of Directors meeting at which the appointment is to be considered.

For positions expiring in August, the deadline to submit nominations is May 1, 2025.

REMINDER:

A nomination is considered complete only when each of the following has been received: Nomination Form, Campaign Guide document, photo and 2-minute video. Complete nominations received by the May 1 deadline will be included in the Campaign Guide that is disseminated to the House of Delegates members prior to the HOD meeting. Nominations received after the May 1 deadline will require a nomination from the floor during the HOD meeting and must be received no later than 10 days before the HOD Session at which they will occur.

Please submit all nominations via email to OfficeEVP@avma.org.

If you have a question or would like to learn more about a specific entity, please contact AVMA at the above email address or at 847-285-6605.

Protecting Animals From Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza type A (H5N1) has been found in dairy cattle, cats, people, and other mammals, as well as poultry and wild birds. The impact on poultry and cats is severe. Here's what you need to know:

[Avian Influenza](#)

[H5N1 in Dairy Cattle](#)

[Protecting Cats](#)

PAW Act Reintroduced To Congress

The bipartisan People and Animals Well-being (PAW) Act was reintroduced to congress by Congresswomen Deborah Ross (NC-02) and Claudia Tenney (NY-24) to help increase access to pet insurance. The bill, if passed, would make veterinary care expenses eligible under tax-advantage health care spending accounts, particularly Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs).



“Pets are more than just animals – in many households, they’re family members. While household costs continue to rise, paying for pet insurance can become a financial burden that people can’t afford,” expressed Ross. [Read more...](#)

When To Pursue Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing?



AVMA's tool suite helps you make quick decisions about whether and when to pursue antimicrobial susceptibility testing for patients—whether dogs, cats, cattle, or food fish.

Judicious therapeutic use of antimicrobials is critically important regardless of your patient's species. Proper antimicrobial use optimizes therapeutic efficacy, enhances treatment success, and minimizes resistance to antimicrobials. Antimicrobial resistance threatens animal health and welfare, food production, and public health, and can impact the results of biomedical research. [Read more...](#)

Research May Lead To Earlier Identification Of GI Disease In Dogs



Signs that can be used to identify dogs with a high risk of gastrointestinal disease before they develop symptoms have been found by Texas A&M Gastrointestinal Laboratory (GI Lab) investigators. Results of the study, published in the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine, showed changes in several biomarkers used to identify preclinical inflammatory bowel disease in healthy soft-coated wheaten terriers.

Soft-coated wheaten terriers have a predisposition for developing protein-losing enteropathy (PLE), which causes the intestines to stop functioning normally. The disease sometimes leads to death in less than 6 months after diagnosis. However, the study’s authors indicated that early recognition of PLE may improve outcomes for soft-coated wheaten terriers and other canine breeds at higher risk for the disease. Breeds prone to GI disease include German shepherds, Yorkshire terriers and Staffordshire bull terriers.

GI disease accounts for more than 10% of all new veterinarian visits, according to Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences’ (VMBS) in College Station. “Sometimes, dogs that are predisposed to GI disease can go their whole lives without having any clinical signs. For others, signs develop after some kind of stressor in the gut, like an unbalanced diet or having to take antibiotics, triggers the GI disease to develop,” Katie Tolbert, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Nutrition, SAIM), a board-certified veterinary nutritionist, small animal internist and associate professor in the VMBS department of small animal clinical sciences, said in a news release. [Read more...](#)

Study Identifies Possible New Treatment For Cats With Urinary Obstructions And Elevated Potassium Levels



Cats—especially male cats—are prone to urinary obstructions, which can be life-threatening because they cause potassium to increase, potentially leading to cardiac arrest. But findings published today in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association suggest a new and effective way to rapidly decrease potassium in cats.

Inhaled albuterol decreases whole blood potassium in under three minutes and exhibits peak effects 30 minutes after administration in cats, according to the study by researchers at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine in Glendale, AZ, and Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI.

The research, led by veterinarian Dr. Jared A. Jaffey at Midwestern, involved 20 cats who were administered the inhaled drug via a mask over their muzzles. Blood potassium concentrations remained significantly decreased for three hours, the study found. [Read more...](#)





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