

SPRING 2024



SFVMA

**SAN FRANCISCO
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT — MARCH 2024

Hello all our members,

I am hoping that everyone is enjoying a prosperous 2024 so far. With our frequent wind and rain this year, I am told that Giardia associated diarrhea is keeping the Flagyl and Fenbendazole flying off the shelves. Seems like a good time to be in the soft stool treatment business. Please feel free to let me know what types of disease your practices are seeing increases in so that we can keep each other informed. Changes in the ways that reference laboratories share information with public health agencies make it more important for our local community to communicate what we are seeing on the frontlines.

On the topic of public health, I have been asked to invite our members to take part in a short survey. Dr. Kim Conway is the One Health lead veterinarian at the California Department of Public Health, Center for Environmental Health. They are conducting a statewide survey of California companion animal veterinarians on the topic of antimicrobial prescription practices. The data collected is aimed at combating antimicrobial resistance through the development of materials that may benefit California veterinarians and their patients. It is anonymous and only took me 10 to 15 minutes to complete. A link to the survey is here: <https://ncv.microsoft.com/Z02ISthvbd>. Please note this survey will only be open through the end of March.

On another note concerning the government's role in animal disease and welfare, we are expecting a visit to San Francisco by animal scientists from China in May or June 2024. The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau of Shandong Province is planning a delegation visit to America. The purpose of their visit is to meet face to face and “get an overall understanding of your policies and measures of: animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, [the] latest developments in veterinary medicine, and to exchange views and experience of animal disease prevention and control. Any of our members

whose shelter or practice is interested in meeting with them can contact me for the contact of their lead delegate.

This whole President's letter is turning out to be almost entirely public health themed. However, I also need to bring up Animal Care and Control's Rabies Clinics one last time. We voted in November to discontinue the SFVMA's association with future clinics. They have scheduled one last event where I committed to finding a DVM to be on site. It is on March 9th and I would consider it a personal favor if any of our members could volunteer. For future clinics, veterinarians can always volunteer directly through ACC.

Our next meeting will have CE presented by Doctors Ken Gorczyca and Ari Rozycki from A Gentle Rest. They will discuss hospice / end of life counseling for clients and advances in euthanasia protocols. In addition, they will address emotional support for doctors and support staff dealing with these challenging cases. There is much that can be covered in this discussion. In order to optimize our time Dr. Gorczyca has put together a brief survey for members that will be attending. Please see the following link and register your responses so we can make the most of our time:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7G53BF9> .

Lastly, I need to express tremendous appreciation to Doctor Emily Adamson for agreeing to take on the role of our new SFVMA Vice President. It is important that we recognize the work that goes into taking non-paid veterinary jobs in our community. Our SFVMA officers are working many unpaid hours to bring you great continuing education, a quarterly opportunity for local networking, and some nice hang out time four times per year. Consider taking on a volunteer veterinarian position in SF. Especially consider the seat on the SF Animal Control and Welfare Commission. I have filled the veterinarian's seat for many years and it is time for a new person to take over. The monthly meetings can be very interesting and address a myriad of issues like local food animal processing, community cats, neighborhood wildlife, feral pigeons, bats, neglected dogs, aggressive dogs, glue trap legislation, chinatown wet markets, local coyotes, and oversight of our Department of Animal Care and Control (amongst other engaging topics).

Looking forward to seeing everyone in March.

Dr. Brian VanHorn,
SFVMA President



SFVMA

**SAN FRANCISCO
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

UPCOMING IN-PERSON CE MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

"Best Practices for Pet Euthanasia"

Presented by:

Ken Gorczyca,
DVM, VHPC, CPEV

Ari Rozycki, DVM

Brandon Conley, RVT

We are excited to announce that **A Gentle Rest** and **Gateway Services** are partnering to sponsor a highly informative event on the topic "**Best Practices for Pet Euthanasia.**"

Dr. Ken Gorczyca will be leading this informative lecture alongside **Dr. Ari Rozycki** from A Gentle Rest, and **Bardon Conley** from Gateway. This lecture will cover a range of topics including the best practices for drug choices, techniques, client communication, and aftercare options. A special focus will be placed on understanding the hidden financial and emotional implications associated with these processes.

(continued next page...)

AGENDA

- 6:15 – 7:00 pm **Check-in and Hors d'oeuvres**
- 7:00 – 7:30 pm **SFVMA Announcements / Updates / Dinner Starts**
- 7:30 – 8:30 pm **CE Lecture**

DINNER MENU

HOR D'OEUVRES

- Mini Crab Cakes
- Vine Ripe Tomato Bruschetta Basil
- Blackened Chicken Quesadilla

FIRST

- McKormick's New England Clam Chowder

MAIN COURSE — (choose one)

- Chef's Seasonal Grilled Fish,
Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
— or —
- 6 oz Center Cut Filet Mignon,
Roasted Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes
— or —
- Roasted Beet Sirloin (vegan option)

DESSERT

- Chef's Seasonal Cheesecake

COFFEE AND TEA AVAILABLE
CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

**Please RSVP with your Meal Choice via the SFVMA website
by FRIDAY, MARCH 15!** 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, March 18.***

UPCOMING IN-PERSON CE MEETING (cont.)

We will introduce the Companion Animal Death Doula role and touch on creating Advanced Directives for our pets. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity to expand your knowledge in the field.

We kindly request your participation in a brief survey to tailor the content of the SFVMA Dinner Lecture to address the challenges faced by you and your veterinary practice in San Francisco.

Your valuable input will shape the discussions and provide insights for your practice. The survey will only take 5-10 minutes to complete, and we encourage you to invite your entire staff to participate as well. You can access the survey through the QR code provided or by visiting the SFVMA Facebook page. We greatly appreciate your time and contribution and look forward to your attendance at this important event as we strive to make San Francisco a leading example for best practices in pet euthanasia.



If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to **Dr. Ken Gorczyca** at vetdoula@gmail.com



Dr. Ken Gorczyca, born in Philadelphia, PA, completed his DVM at UC Davis in 1983. He is the founding veterinarian for Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) and the Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (now the Pride Veterinary Medical Community.) Currently, he teaches at the University of Vermont's Companion Animal End-of-Life Doula training program and practices IHE at A Gentle Rest. Apart from his veterinary work, Dr. Gorczyca is also a painter, writer, community activist and holds a Veterinary Hospice and Palliative Care certificate.



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UPCOMING IN-PERSON CE MEETING (cont.)



Dr. Rozycki was born in Providence, RI, grew up in Houston, TX. He completed his bachelor's degree in biomedical science at Texas A&M University in 1990 and obtained his DVM from UC Davis in 1995. He practiced small animal medicine in and around San Francisco for over 20 years before starting A Gentle Rest in-home pet euthanasia around 2015.

Brandon Conley, RVT

All meetings are open to all DVMs

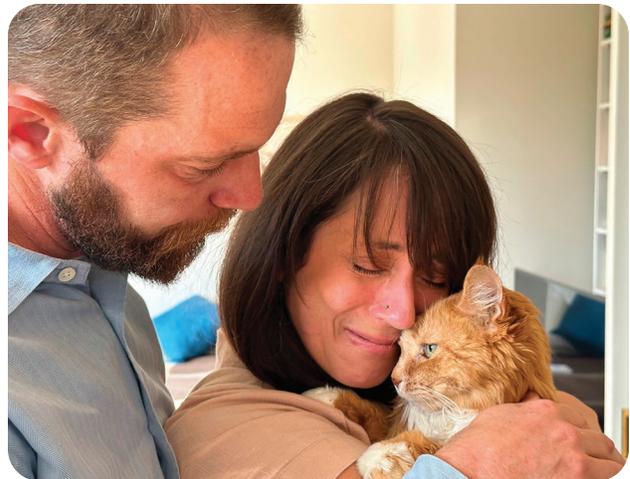
This meeting will be open to Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Staff at the non-member fee (\$125 per guest) — which is subject to change due to capacity limitations at the restaurant.

Non-members pay \$125



Kira visiting the Presidio Pet Cemetery in San Francisco

(Photo credit: Dr. Ken Gorczyca)



Squirrely Joe on his death bed with his parents

(Photo credit: Dr. Ken Gorczyca)



Ed's Funeral in Bolinas with Dr. Ken

(Photo credit: Elizabeth Furest)

MEETING SPONSORS



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2024 IN-PERSON CE MEETING SCHEDULE

JUNE 20, 2024

Dr. Carrie Jurney —
Sponsored by **Remedy**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Dr. Saelinger —
Sponsored by **Cardiac Vet, Inc**

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

[topic T.B.D.] —
Sponsored by **Blue Pearl**

SPONSOR A FUTURE MEETING

In order to continue to 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 **Brian VanHorn:**
sfvmapresident@gmail.com



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
Karen Truong
for details on
requests for donations:
sfvmatreasurer@gmail.com



SUBMITTING REQUESTS TO SFAfA

HAVE A FAMILY WHO CAN'T AFFORD THE CARE FOR THEIR PRECIOUS ANIMAL?

San Francisco Aid for Animals Can Help You Save a Life

SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR FUNDING



Go to www.sfafa.org



Select 'For Providers' and 'Funding Request Forms' (Password: sfafa)



Complete the GIA or Tauber form online



Scan and email invoices showing in-kind donation to requests@sfaidforanimals.org



SFAfA reviews and confirms application and then has a check issued



Hospital receives grant from Community Initiatives and receipt for donated services

SFAfA Grant Examples

General Guidelines

(GIA and Tauber Funds are available for any case, please use all of your funds)

- 1 The pet must have an urgent need for medical care.
- 2 The case has a good prognosis.
- 3 If it's a long term problem, the clinic must be able to provide ongoing care.
- 4 Your client must have exhausted all other financial options.
- 5 Your hospital will provide a matching or greater discount/donation of in-kind services
- 6 Your client must reside in, or have significant connection to, the San Francisco Bay Area.

Condition Examples

(List is not all inclusive. Please reach out to us with any questions!)

- Infectious diseases (Parvo virus, feline panleukopenia, influenza, anaplasmosis...)
- Hepatitis / Liver Disease
- Gastro-enteritis, hemorrhagic gastro-enteritis, inflammatory bowel disease
- Acute Pancreatitis
- Respiratory disease
- Abscesses
- Blood transfusions if good prognosis
- Immune mediated thrombocytopenia
- Corneal ulcers
- Skin conditions (Demodex, scabies,...)
- Toxin exposure
- Initial workup for any condition with good prognosis
- Cushings Disease
- Feline urinary obstruction
- Fractured bones
- Trauma cases (hit by car, fire...)
- Amputations
- Skin tumors
- Wound repair
- Skin grafts
- Severe dental disease
- Enterotomy
- Cruciate ligament repair, TPLO, Back Surgery
- Lens luxations
- Pyometra

SFVMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Veterinary Students

We will offer a scholarship to one UC Davis veterinary student and one Western Veterinary student in 2024. Applications are typically accepted between **October and December annually** as determined by the college.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be currently enrolled in the veterinary program at UC Davis or Western University
- Current or former employment with an SFVMA member
- Must be able to prove employment with member

CONTACT FOR WESTERN VET. STUDENTS

Tim McPheron

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

CONTACT FOR UC DAVIS VET. STUDENTS

Hnouzong Her

External Relations Manager
hher@ucdavis.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 **Anna DeVincenzi** at sfvmap@gmail.com



SFVMA CURRENT OFFICERS



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CVMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES REPRESENTATIVE
Joe Fong
jfong.cvmahodsf@gmail.com



CVMA[®] CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**If you haven't already
done so, please consider
becoming a CVMA member.**

The CVMA defends your right to practice by actively representing the veterinary profession on proposed federal and state legislation and regulations at the legislature and the Veterinary Medical Board.

<https://cvma.net/membership/>



LETTER FROM ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

Dear Practice Owners/Managers,

Thank you for being part of the San Francisco animal community and caring for the many pets in our City.

We understand that this is a demanding time for veterinary practices. We are writing to remind you that the San Francisco Health Code requires that all rabies vaccination information for dogs must be reported to the Department of Animal Care and Control within 30 days of administration.

To maintain compliance please submit copies of your rabies information to **acc.rabies@sfgov.org** by the 5th of every month. Attached is a sample spreadsheet containing the required information. If your system is unable to produce a report, please provide a pdf version of your rabies certificates. The rabies certificates must contain the following fields:

Owner — Last Name	Animal — Name
Owner — First Name	Animal — Sex
Owner — Email Address	Animal — Breed
Owner — Street Address 1	Animal — Date of Birth
Owner — City Name	Animal — Coat Color
Owner — State or Province Name	Animal — Microchip Number
Owner — Zip / Postal Code	Animal — Date Rabies Given
Owner — Primary Phone	Animal — Rabies Due Date
	Animal — Rabies Serial / Lot #
	Animal — Rabies Manufacturer

Dog licensing is required by law as part of our rabies control program. Licensing also remains an essential tool in returning lost pets to their guardians. It also helps SFACC determine where to focus our outreach and emergency planning efforts.

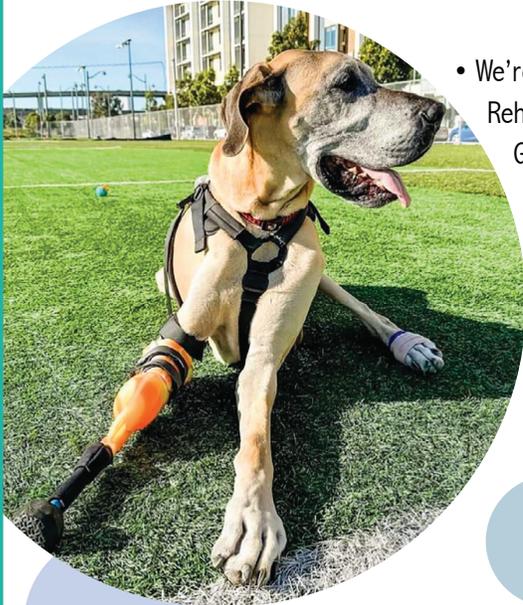
The city is currently using licenses made by Pet Hub (www.pethub.com) that include a QR code where the basic plan enables anyone who finds a dog to scan the code and obtain owner-supplied information about the pet and its family, speeding reunification. Last fiscal year, SFACC reunited 54% of stray dogs with their owners through our lost and found programs.

Licensing can now be done online at sfanimalcare.org/services/licensing-your-pet

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this important health and safety issue.

Virginia Donohue
Director, San Francisco Animal Care and Control

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 - Faster Neurosurgical Recovery
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- And More!



OUR TEAM OF PROVIDERS:

Rehabilitation Veterinarians: Dr Ilana Strubel and Dr. Jennifer Case, both Certified in Canine Physical Rehabilitation and Acupuncture, Dr. Molly Landeen, Certified in Canine Physical Rehabilitation, along with Licensed Acupuncturist, Dr. Ella Woods.



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WWW.AWELLADJUSTEDPET.COM
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CLASSIFIED ADS

Twin Cities Vet Hospital

Twin Cities Veterinary Hospital is a well established, privately female owned small animal practice in Marin County. We recently moved into our beautiful, brand new building in Corte Madera. We are a family owned practice with a wonderful team, and a loyal client base.

We are looking for a full time or part time small animal veterinarian who would like to work in a fun, caring environment with a dedication to practicing high quality medicine.

Our ideal candidate is someone who has a good sense of humor and cares deeply for our furry friends.

We welcome both experienced veterinarians and new graduates to apply.

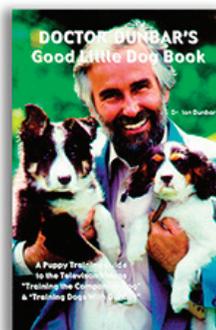
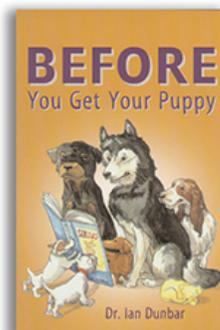
- Great benefit package included.
- Education: Doctorate (Required)
- Experience: Veterinarian: 1 year (Preferred)
- License/Certification: California Veterinary License (Required)

For more information, contact: twincitiesvethospital@gmail.com



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Daly City, CA 94014
- ✉ info.dalycity@bluepearlvet.com



Scan for more information

Incline Vet Hospital

Nevada Medical Director — North Lake Tahoe

Incline Veterinary Hospital is searching for a skilled veterinarian to lead our full-service, companion animal hospital in Incline Village, Nevada. Top consideration will go to those with 5+ years of clinical experience, a culture driven mindset, and a love for teaching. Scheduling for this position is flexible, however a 3-4 day schedule is ideal. We're happy to accommodate NO weekend, emergency, or on-call hours.

We are part of a highly affluent community, where clients have excellent compliance and receive the highest quality of care. In addition to general wellness and soft-tissue surgery, our services include stem cell therapy, dentistry, laser therapy, cancer treatment, and a broad spectrum of diagnostic procedures through in-house testing and the use of external laboratories.

Benefits include a competitive salary, generous bonus package, PTO, annual CE allowance, paid membership fees/dues, paid parental leave, health insurance (include an HSA option), and more!

Reach out to Corinne at cmaldonado@westernvetpartners.com to learn more.



"Troy --
my
beloved
black
lab
dog"

--Cam

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Veterinary Medical Association?**

For more information,
please contact
Jessica Lau at
sfvmasecretary@gmail.com

... or you can use our online form:
www.sfvma.net/advertise/



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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/

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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

Voicemail: (415) 355-2237 ■ Email: vetsos@sfccc.org

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

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

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

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

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

wcampbell@shanti.org (415) 830-7026