WINTER 2026

SFVMA | SAN FRANCISCO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT — NOVEMBER 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Behavioral concerns are something we encounter across every area of veterinary medicine, from primary care and emergency medicine to specialty practice. It's also a topic I'm personally passionate about, and one where I've learned so much from collaborating with Dr. Kevin Pflaum and his colleagues and sharing patients with them.

Those experiences have changed the way I approach some of my own patients. I'm now able to work up even extremely aggressive dogs by using Fear Free techniques to facilitate sedation, making necessary medical care safer and less stressful for both the patient and the veterinary team. It's a great example of how collaboration and continued learning can directly impact the care we provide.

I'm excited that our next SFVMA CE lecture will feature Dr. Pflaum presenting "Beyond Trazodone: Psychopharmacology for General Practitioners." I hope you'll join us for an opportunity to learn more about this important topic and take home practical tools we can use in our everyday practice.

I look forward to another great evening of learning and connecting with our local veterinary community!

Warmly,

Emily Adamson, DVM
President,
San Francisco Veterinary Medical Association

SFVMA OFFICER POSITION UPDATE

Please join us in thanking **Dr. Karen Truong**, our outgoing treasurer, for all of her work over the last four years on the board. She is stepping down, and **Dr. Anne MacFarlane** will be taking on the Treasurer position.

THE SECRETARY POSITION NEEDS TO BE FILLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Since several current officers are SFAMC DVMs, we are asking for representation from another hospital, so our board can be as diverse as our community!

If you are a long-term San Francisco DVM, it's your opportunity to step up — and if you are newer to the city, this is your opportunity to impress your new colleagues with your dedication to serving the profession.

We hope to hear from interested doctors before — OR at — the November meeting, so we can elect a new Secretary!

Please contact **Anne MacFarlane** for more information:
sfvmasecretary@gmail.com



UPCOMING *IN-PERSON* CE MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026

"BEYOND TRAZODONE: PRACTICAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY FOR THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER"

SPEAKER:

Dr. Kevin Pflaum, DVM, DACVB



Dr. Kevin Pflaum earned his DVM from the University of California, Davis, in 2017. After several years in general practice, he began a residency in veterinary behavior through the University of Tennessee in 2021. He owned a veterinary behavior practice in Asheville, North Carolina, before joining the San Francisco SPCA Behavior Specialty Service in 2025. In 2026, he became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. His published work includes research and case reports on psychotropic medications in dogs and cats.

Originally from the Chicago area, Dr. Pflaum enjoys hiking, video games, and cheering on the Chicago Bears.

(Agenda, Menu and RSVP info on page 4)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026

Please RSVP with your Meal Choice via the SFVMA website by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13! www.sfvma.net/rsvp

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**

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

March 19 ▪ June 18

September 10 ▪ November 19

DINNER MENU

HOR D'OEUVRES

- **Classic Mini Grilled Cheese Sandwich**
- **Yellowfin Tuna Poke**
- **Bacon Wrapped Scallops**

FIRST — (choose one)

- **Boom Boom Ahi Nachos** — mango, jalapeño, avocado purée, boom boom sauce, taro chips
- **Chef's Seasonal Whipped Burrata Salad** — watermelon radish, citrus, herb vinaigrette (Vegan on request)

COFFEE AND TEA AVAILABLE
CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

MAIN COURSE — (choose one)

- **7 oz. Butter Poached Filet Mignon** — potato cake, grilled asparagus, port demi sauce
- **Chilean Sea Bass** — black garlic glazed, parmesan, pea risotto, chili oil
- **Herb Roasted Cauliflower Steak** — caponata, roasted fingerling potatoes, chimichurri sauce (V)

DESSERT — (choose one)

- **Signature Butter Cake** — Ghirardelli caramel, nuts, vanilla ice cream
- **Triple Chocolate Mousse Cake** — fresh berries
- **Trio of Fruit Sorbets** (V)

Remember: The Association pays for uneaten meals. If you have RSVP'd and will not be able to make it, we need you to send in your cancellation ***no later than Monday, November 16.***

(Topic and Speaker info on page 3)

MEETING SPONSOR

SFVMA

SAN FRANCISCO
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

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 **Emily Adamson**: **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**



SFAfA
SAN FRANCISCO AID for ANIMALS

TEA PARTY AT THE ZOO

Thank you to all of you who attended this year's annual fundraiser for San Francisco Aid for Animals. A Tea Party at the Zoo, held at the Osher Great Hall at the SF Zoo was a super fun and successful day. It was filled with good food, lots of educational animal experiences, zoo strolls, carousel rides and of course lots of wonderful SFAfA supporters. We are so very grateful that so many of you were able to attend. As our biggest fundraiser this year, your support will give us a big boost next year when it is time to allocate grant funds to our member hospitals.

Thank you so much to everyone for your generosity, kindness, loyalty to our program and your support. We couldn't do this important work without each and every one of you.









MEET "SIR CHARLES"



Late this summer, **"Sir Charles"** a five-year-old Frenchie was out for a walk with his family when his pet parents saw him sniffing a foxtail. Before they could stop him, the foxtail was gone. "Sir Charles" started sneezing uncontrollably and rubbing his nose. They rushed him to VCA Animal Care Center of Sonoma. After a thorough exam, his vet and his family agreed that the foxtail needed to be removed as soon as possible.

This was an urgent issue. They needed to remove the foxtail before it migrated and caused even more problems. The family did not have pet insurance and did not qualify for Care Credit. They just couldn't afford the procedure. Luckily by joining forces, VCA ACC was able to offer the family an SFAfA Grant in Aid and a generous hospital match. The family paid what they could afford. "Sir Charles" was sedated and a very large foxtail was removed from his right nostril. He has been doing great at home, with no residual problems after a very stressful day.

"Sir Charles's" story is just one of many that we hear all the time. We hope that every one of you continue to take advantage of our program and help as many families as you can. The next time that a "Sir Charles" or a limb fracture, a parvo puppy, or a blocked cat walks into your office, remember we have Tauber and GIA funds available right now. We are here to help you save even more lives.

Please reach out if you have any questions or we can help in any way.
Thank you for all that you do!

Daniel, **Joanne**, **Sandra**, **Lea**, **Hanna** and **Anne Marie**
The Grants Team @ SFAfA: Grants@sfafa.org
San Francisco Aid for Animals
sfafa.org

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
- Abcesses
- Blood transfusions if good prognosis
- Immune mediated thromocytopenia
- 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 2026. 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 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 **Maggie Li Puma** at **sfvmavp@gmail.com**



SFVMA CURRENT OFFICERS



PRESIDENT
Emily Adamson, DVM
sfvmapresident@gmail.com



VICE PRESIDENT
Maggie Li Puma, DVM, DACVO
sfvmavp@gmail.com



TREASURER
Karen Truong, DVM
sfvmatreasurer@gmail.com



SECRETARY
Anne MacFarlane, DVM
sfvmasecretary@gmail.com



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.

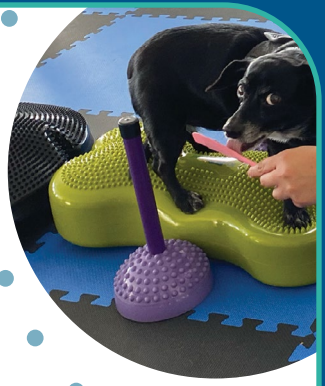
The city is currently using licenses made by Pet Hub (**www.pethub.com**) that include a QR code where the basic plan enables anyone who finds a dog to scan the code and obtain owner-supplied information about the pet and its family, speeding reunification. Last fiscal year, SFACC reunited 54% of stray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

Refer to
A Well Adjusted Pet
for Physical Rehabilitation!





- We're currently Credentialed by the Canine Rehabilitation Institute to serve as an Intern Training Site for Graduating Animal Rehabilitation Students
- We are only 10 minutes south of San Francisco
- We see patients Tuesday-Saturday
- We will keep you up to date on your patients' progress

We Can Help Improve Your Patients' Quality of Life and Surgical Outcome With The Following Conditions:



- Pain Management
- Mobility Impairment
- Non-surgical Neuromuscular Conditions
- Faster Neurosurgical Recovery
- Conservative Management of Joint Instability and Pain



We Offer the Following Services:

- Underwater Treadmill
- Custom Therapeutic Exercise Programs
- Electrical Stimulation Therapies
- Custom Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Support Wraps
- Mobility Cart Fittings
- Therapeutic Laser as well as Low Intensity Focused ShockWave (PiezoWave2)
- Manual Therapies for Improved Range of Motion and Muscle/ Joint Flexibility
- Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Acupuncture & Herbal Consultation
- 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.

A Well Adjusted Pet
415· 967· 3861

Ilana Strubel, MA, DVM, CVSMT, CCRT, CVAT
www.awelladjustedpet.com
info@awelladjustedpet.com

NEW LOCATION!
100 Eureka Square, Pacifica, CA 94044

SAGE
VETERINARY CENTERS
SAN FRANCISCO

24/7 EMERGENCY AND SPECIALTY CARE

San Francisco VMA members!

The unparalleled emergency and specialty care you've come to know and trust for your patients at SAGE Centers across the Bay Area continues to thrive and expand in our historic 600 Alabama Street hospital in the Mission.

We aim to be your referral partner of choice for complex cases, unexpected emergencies, and specialty interventions. Please reach out anytime if we can help you and your patients.



- **Emergency Services 24/7/365**
- **Critical Care** - NEW Summer 2024
- **Surgery** (soft-tissue, orthopedic, laparoscopic, thoracoscopic)
- **Anesthesiology**
- **Cardiology** (medical and interventional including pacemaker, balloon valvuloplasty, pulmonary artery stenting)
- **Oncology** (medical, surgical, clinical trials, electrochemotherapy)
- **Internal Medicine** (NEW - tracheal stenting)
- **Radiology** (ultrasound, CT)
- **Animal Ambulance**

SAGE San Francisco | 600 Alabama St. | (415) 566-0540 | **SAGE**Centers.com

CLASSIFIED ADS





A Gentle Rest
in-home pet euthanasia

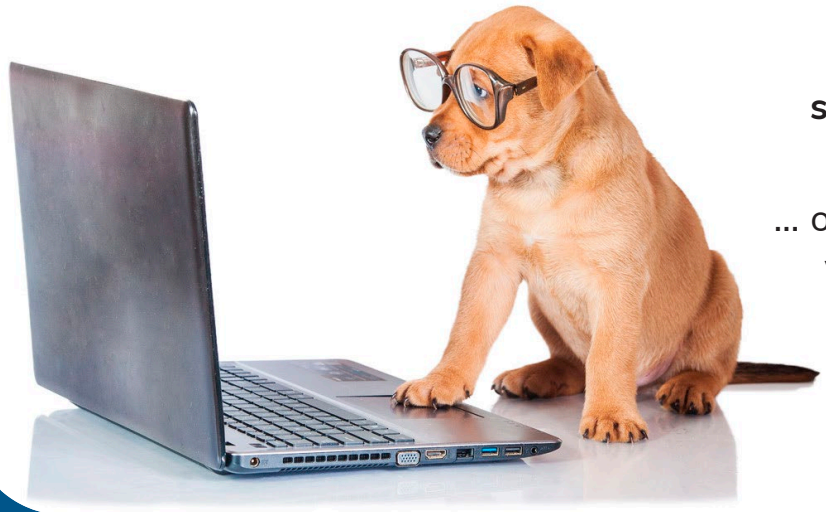
We make euthanasia less stressful for your patients, clients, team and you.

... serving Marin, SF and San Mateo Counties

www.AGentleRest.com | 415-729-5435 | agentlerest@gmail.com

ADVERTISE WITH SFVMA

Interested in advertising with the San Francisco Veterinary Medical Association?



For more information, please contact **Anne MacFarlane** 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!

CAVMRC
CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

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/

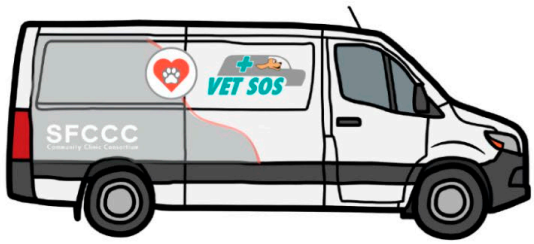
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VET SOS

Join the Vet SOS volunteer team!

We're looking for veterinarians, vet techs, and experienced veterinary assistants to help provide free veterinary care to the pets of unhoused San Franciscans at our twice-monthly pop-up clinics.

@SOS.VetSOS



Fill out an application online or contact us for more info at:

(415) 355-2237

vetsos@sfccc.org

https://www.sfccc.org/volunteer-sfccc

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**