

A newsletter  
for referring  
veterinarians

WINTER 2010



# METROPOLITAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATES

Providing emergency care & specialized veterinary services

## INSIDE:

p2

Focus on Emergency  
Services

p3

Meet our Emergency Team

p4

Pet Loss Support Group

p4

Monthly Lecture Series

p4

Red Flags Rule



## WELCOME TO the second edition of our newsletter

**Established in 1986, Metropolitan Veterinary Associates & Emergency Services is a veterinary group that provides referral veterinary services.** We concentrate on specialty and emergency cases, allowing us to dedicate high-level care to the following disciplines: behavior, cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, emergency, internal medicine, neurology, ophthalmology, radiology (including CT and MRI) and surgery.

In order to maintain a high level of patient care, MVA moved into a newly renovated 18,000 square foot facility with state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic equipment in 2006. If you haven't been able to visit our practice, we hope you can join us at one of the upcoming hospital lectures mentioned on page 4.

Please enjoy this newsletter and let us know of any topics of interest you'd like to see explored in future editions.

Catch us **24 HOURS A DAY** at **610/666/1050!**

## DO YOU WANT TO GO GREEN?

Have this newsletter electronically sent to you by contacting Stacey Connell at 610/666/1050 or email to [sconnell@metro-vet.com](mailto:sconnell@metro-vet.com)



**SPROCKETT**



## FOCUS ON EMERGENCY SERVICES

Metropolitan Emergency Service is available every day of the year – twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. We triage every patient upon arrival in order to insure those with the most urgent need are taken care of swiftly and effectively.

### Behavior

Laurie Bergman, VMD, ACVB

### Cardiology

Michael Miller, MS, VMD, ABVP  
Risa Roland, DVM, ACVIM  
(Cardiology)

### Dentistry

Paul Orsini, DVM, ACVS, AVDC

### Dermatology

Karen B. Farver, DVM, ACVD

### Emergency Services

James Buckman, VMD, PhD  
Franciszek von Esse, VMD, ABVP  
Owen Fink, DVM  
Hilary H. Fordyce, VMD  
Jennifer McGough, VMD  
Marisa Suvannavejh, VMD  
Ryan Wheeler, DVM

Julie Banyacski, CVT, VTS (ECC)  
*Practice Manager*

### Internal Medicine

James F. Dougherty, MS, VMD  
John DeBiasio, DVM, ACVIM  
Damon B. Rodriguez, DVM, ACVIM

### Neurology

Jerry W. Northington, DVM

### Ophthalmology

Stephen L. Gross, VMD, AVCO

### Radiology

Robert C. McLear, VMD, ACVR

### Surgery

Lori W. Cabell, DVM, ACVS  
A. Jon Nannos, DVM  
Jacqui Niles, BVetMed, SAS, ACVS  
Catherine Popovitch, DVM, ACVS  
Timothy M. Schwab, VMD, Resident

### “Sprockett’s journey begins with Emergency Services...”

Sprockett began his journey with Metropolitan in November, 2009. He was referred to our Emergency Service after his owners found him collapsed in their yard with a large amount of vomit matted in his fur. They had rescued him 4 weeks prior from a Mississippi shelter where he had been brought in as a stray and was thought to be about 1 ½ years of age. The rescue diagnosed him with heartworm disease and Sprockett was treated for the disease. Once in Pennsylvania with his new family he remained thin despite being provided a high protein diet and they felt he was uncharacteristically lethargic for such a young dog, particularly because he had been more active and alert before they had changed his food.

When Sprockett arrived at Metropolitan he was clinically dehydrated, IV fluids were instituted and by the morning he had perked up significantly. At this time, the owners reported that they had scheduled vacation plans and requested that he remain with us for continued monitoring during their trip. About five days into Sprockett’s stay at Metropolitan he began vomiting and suddenly became extremely lethargic and unrousable. His owners reported similar events happening at home, particularly around mealtimes. These episodes coupled with several bloodwork abnormalities and Sprockett’s thin body condition caused suspicion that he may have a portosystemic shunt.

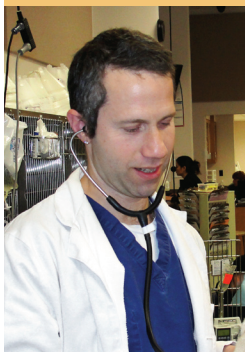
An abdominal ultrasound was performed by Dr. McLear (Radiology) which revealed a right divisional intrahepatic portosystemic shunt. Given the location of this vessel within the hepatic parenchyma, this type of shunt is not as easily amenable to surgical attenuation or ligation as extra-hepatic shunts are and is often associated with more significant intra and peri-operative concerns for the patient. Fortunately, Dr. Roland (Cardiology) is one of the specialists who is able to perform an interventional procedure using the placement of an intravenous stent for insertion of coils to induce gradual embolization of the aberrant vessel.

Dr. Roland discussed Sprockett’s condition with his owners along with the progression of disease and limited long-term quality of life if left unaddressed. The decision was made to proceed with the treatment in hopes of achieving a resolution. Dr. DeBiasio (Internal Medicine) then designed a several week plan for out patient medical management to improve body conditioning for his coil embolization procedure. During this time a short anesthetic procedure allowed Dr. McLear to perform a contrast CT scan to better define the specific course taken by the shunt and to allow Dr. Roland to obtain specific measurements for appropriate coil size selection.

Sprockett arrived at Metropolitan on January 13th, 2010, after having gained 8 pounds with improved blood parameters and overall general health. He successfully underwent the procedure for intra-vascular placement of the shunt coils and recovered uneventfully. He is now back home with his adoptive family and is scheduled for re-evaluation with Drs. DeBiasio and Roland in 3 months. At that time, an ultrasound will be performed to assess the reduction of shunt flow. If flow is shown to be successfully attenuated or completely eliminated, Sprockett has the potential to have a normal length and quality of life.

We are very excited to have the ability to offer intravenous coiling for the treatment of intrahepatic portosystemic shunts. Please contact us if you have suitable cases of this nature. Additionally, Dr. Roland is happy to discuss other interventional radiology procedures such as placement of coils for occlusion of patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) or placement of tracheal and urethral stents.

# MEET OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM



**JAMES BUCKMAN**  
VMD, PhD

James Buckman received a BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 1994, a PhD in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the University of California San Francisco in 2000, and a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 2007. His research interests included enzymology and protein-small molecule interactions.



**OWEN FINK**  
DVM

Dr. Fink is originally from the suburban D.C. area. He studied physics at Brown University and veterinary medicine at the University of Georgia. He completed a rotating internship at the University of Pennsylvania before joining Metropolitan in 2009. His professional interests include trauma medicine and surgery.



**HILARY H. FORDYCE**  
VMD

After completing her undergraduate studies Dr. Fordyce went on to pursue her veterinary degree at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. After graduating in 1996 and completing an internship in small animal medicine and surgery in 1998, she researched with PennHIP for two years as a post doctorate fellow. She has been working at MVA on a full time basis since 2004.



**JENNIFER MCGOUGH**  
VMD

Jennifer McGough received a BA in Biology from Amherst College, Massachusetts, in 1997 and a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 2002. She completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Friendship Hospital for Animals, Washington DC, in 2003 and has been practicing emergency medicine ever since, joining MES in 2008.

## THANKS

Our experienced, compassionate and dedicated team of CVTs and Assistants play an integral role in supporting MVA specialists and veterinarians. They have, on average, seven years' experience and either a two- or four-year college degree from an AVMA approved program.

## FOR ALL YOU DO



**MARISA SUVANNAVEJH**  
VMD

Dr. Marisa Suvannavejh is a 2006 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her undergraduate education at Boston College in 2001 with a major in Biology. Dr. Suvannavejh joined Emergency Services in January 2008. She is originally from Scarsdale, NY and was in general practice before joining MES.



**FRANCISZEK VON ESSE**  
VMD, ABVP

Dr. von Esse is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He has been an emergency veterinarian with Metropolitan Veterinary Associates since 2000 and is the current Administrative Director of the Emergency Service. In 2007 he was certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. His professional interests include emergency surgery and critical care.



**JULIE BANYACSKI**  
CVT, VTS (ECC)

Julie graduated as Valedictorian at Manor College with her degree in Veterinary Technology in 1998. In 2000 she was certified as a Veterinary Technician Specialist in Emergency and Critical Care, and was recertified in 2006. Julie has been with Metropolitan Veterinary Associates since 2000 when she was employed as Head Technician. Julie Banyacski is the current Practice Manager of Metropolitan Veterinary Associates.



**RYAN T. WHEELER**  
DVM

Ryan Wheeler is originally from California and received his B.S. in animal science from Chico State University in 2003, and his degree in veterinary medicine from Ross University in 2007 with his fourth year clinical rotations done at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Wheeler completed a small animal internship at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston in 2008 with a passion for emergency medicine and critical care.



# SHOULDN'T IT BE PREDICTABLE?

PROFESSIONAL  
IT SUPPORT

EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE 24/7

FANATICAL CUSTOMER  
SERVICE



CONTACT

THE  
**LOGIC  
GROUP**

610.293.2077  
WWW.THELOGICGROUP.COM

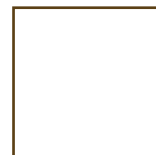


## METROPOLITAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATES

2626 Van Buren Avenue • Norristown, PA 19403

tel 610/666/1050 fax 610/666/1199

website [www.metro-vet.com](http://www.metro-vet.com)



## PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Many of our employees have experienced and understand the depth of loss one experiences when a beloved four-legged family member has passed. For that reason, Metropolitan provides a pet loss support group to help grieving owners in need. Our pet group is designed to provide grieving pet parents with a safe, confidential environment to share their feelings with others who have experienced pet loss.

The meetings are held once a month onsite at Metropolitan and are free of charge for your clients (all family members are invited to attend). The group is led by Dr. Cari Thomson and co-led by psychiatrist Dr. Carol Tavani.

Please contact us at 610/666/1050 if you would like to have Pet Loss Support Group brochures mailed to your office. Clients are able to visit our website to find meeting dates and times, general information and recommendations on obtaining help outside of the group setting.

**Pet Loss Support Group meeting dates – all from 7pm to 8:30pm – February 4th, March 4th, April 1st.**

## SUMMER JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY HOSPITAL LECTURES

### DATE/TIME

### PRESENTER/TOPIC

2/18/10/6pm

Dr. Jon Nannos  
Elbow Dysplasia

3/5/10/1pm

Charlene Wandzilak,  
Executive Director of the PVMA  
Roundtable Discussion for Veterinarians,  
in a talk on what's new with the PVMA  
and how they can help the veterinary  
profession (lunch will be provided).

3/18/10/6pm

Dr. Mary Peacock  
Portosystemic Shunts

4/15/10/6pm

Dr. Laurie Bergman  
Veterinary Psychopharmacology

5/20/10/6pm

Dr. John DeBiasio  
Blood Products



## CE FOR TECHNICIANS FROM HILL'S

on 4/22/10/7pm to 9pm

Presented by Dr. Kristin Dance

**UNDERSTANDING PET FOOD LABELS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**  
Please join us for this informative seminar.

All lectures will be held at Metropolitan  
Dinner provided :: Space is limited

Stacey Connell at 610/666/1050 or [sconnell@metro-vet.com](mailto:sconnell@metro-vet.com)

RSVP