

The New York City Veterinarian



President's Message

Allan Bregman, DVM was voted to serve as the President of the Veterinary Medical Association of New York City for 2015.



Dr. Bregman completed his undergraduate studies at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and received a degree in Animal Science.

Upon graduation, he worked for the New York State Diagnostic Laboratory, and then attended Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Bregman's clinical year was spent at North Carolina State in Raleigh, North Carolina. He received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. Dr. Bregman is also on the Executive Board of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society and represents New York City.

Dr. Bregman comes from a family of veterinarians. His father and his brother have also both served on the Board of the VMA of NYC.

His term coincides with the arrival of the City's new Mayor - Bill DeBlasio. Dr. Bregman has been dealing with the various animal related issues that have come up with the new administration including the proposed carriage horse ban, new pet shop regulations mandating spay/neuter of puppies and kittens before they are sold, and the proposal requiring sprinkler systems in all veterinary hospitals.

Inside this issue

President's Message.....	1
Calendar of Events	2
VMANYC Annual Awards	3
Liaison Committee.....	5
Work Life Balance.....	9
Veterinary Suicide Study	10
Rabies in NYC 2014.....	11
Infection Control	15

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The Nation's First Cat Café Comes to New York City

(Bloomberg Business) - As the city that never sleeps, New York has a seemingly unquenchable thirst for decent coffee, a fact not lost on the likes of Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, and, most recently, Purina ONE, which opened the continent's first pop-up cat café on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The point—beyond OMG kittens—is to introduce coffee-drinking customers to felines up for adoption.

Cat cafés are popular in Japan, but this is the first time one has appeared in the U.S. It's a brilliant gimmick by the cat-food brand (owned by Nestlé Purina PetCare (NESN:VX), which, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, has drawn people willing to wait on line for more than an hour for the opportunity to pet a cat while enjoying a

cup of joe somewhere other than on their own couches. Which isn't to say the marketing effort is without charitable impact: By the end of the café's opening day, at least one of the 16 cats had been adopted from the North Shore Animal League America, and the Port Washington (N.Y.) shelter will park a truck full of other adoptees outside the café on Saturday.

Concerned about cat hair in your scone? Not to worry—to comply with food-safety regulations, baked goods are prepared off site and served in a room apart from the furry crew. As for your coffee, well, perhaps best to keep a lid on it.

Calendar of Events

Program Committee - Deirdre Chiamonte, DVM, Sally Haddock, DVM

The schedule of the VMA of NYC Continuing Education meetings for the 2015 calendar year is listed below, including the speakers and topics. All meetings will be held at Cicitelli Associates, 505 Eighth Avenue, 20th Floor, NYC. The meetings will start at 6:45 pm. Please bring a photo ID with you to allow entry to the facility. Members must register prior to each meeting.

April 1, 2015

Speaker: Ned Kuehn, DVM, MS, DACVIM, BluePearl Veterinary Partners, MI
Topic: Nasal Disease

May 6, 2015

Speaker: Eleanor Hawkins, DVM, DACVIM, North Carolina State University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Respirator Disease

June 3, 2015

Speaker: Michael Lappin, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, Colorado State University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Topic: Feline Infectious Disease

If you have a suggestion for a continuing education speaker or timely topic, please email the VMA of NYC at info@vmanyc.org.

The Veterinary Medical Association of New York City 2015 Annual Award Recipients

Service to the Veterinary Community and the Welfare of Animals - Eleanor Gibson

The Service to the Veterinary Community & the Welfare of Animal Award recognizes the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of faculty and staff who have devoted their time and talent to make substantial, enduring contributions to the veterinary community and to the welfare of animals.

Merit Award - Danielle Mossa, DVM

The Merit Award is presented to members in recognition of their significant contributions to the VMA of NYC and the advancement of the veterinary profession.

Outstanding Service to Veterinary Medicine - Alexandra van der Woerd, DVM

The Outstanding Service to Veterinary Medicine Award recognizes individuals who through their efforts in education, research, practice, or some veterinary-related activity significantly contribute to the advancement and improvement of veterinary medicine in New York State.

Veterinarian of the Year - John Sykes, DVM

The Veterinarian of the Year Award is given to members who over the course of many years have served the VMA of NYC and the veterinary profession in an exemplary and distinguished manner.

Distinguished Life Service - Sameh Soliman, DVM

The Distinguished Life Service award is the highest honor conferred on members of the VMANYC. This award honors individuals of the highest caliber in the profession; one who has been a good and faithful member for a period of 35 years and who has actively and fully partaken in association activities.



Veterinarians Needed to Staff Hall of Veterinary Health at the Great NYS Fair

NYSVMS will once again sponsor the Hall of Veterinary Health at the Great NYS Fair in Syracuse. This is the number one way NYSVMS promotes veterinary medicine to the public in a fun, hands-on way!

In order for the Hall to be successful, volunteers are needed to staff the Hall each day. Interact with fairgoers and educate the general public while giving back to the profession!

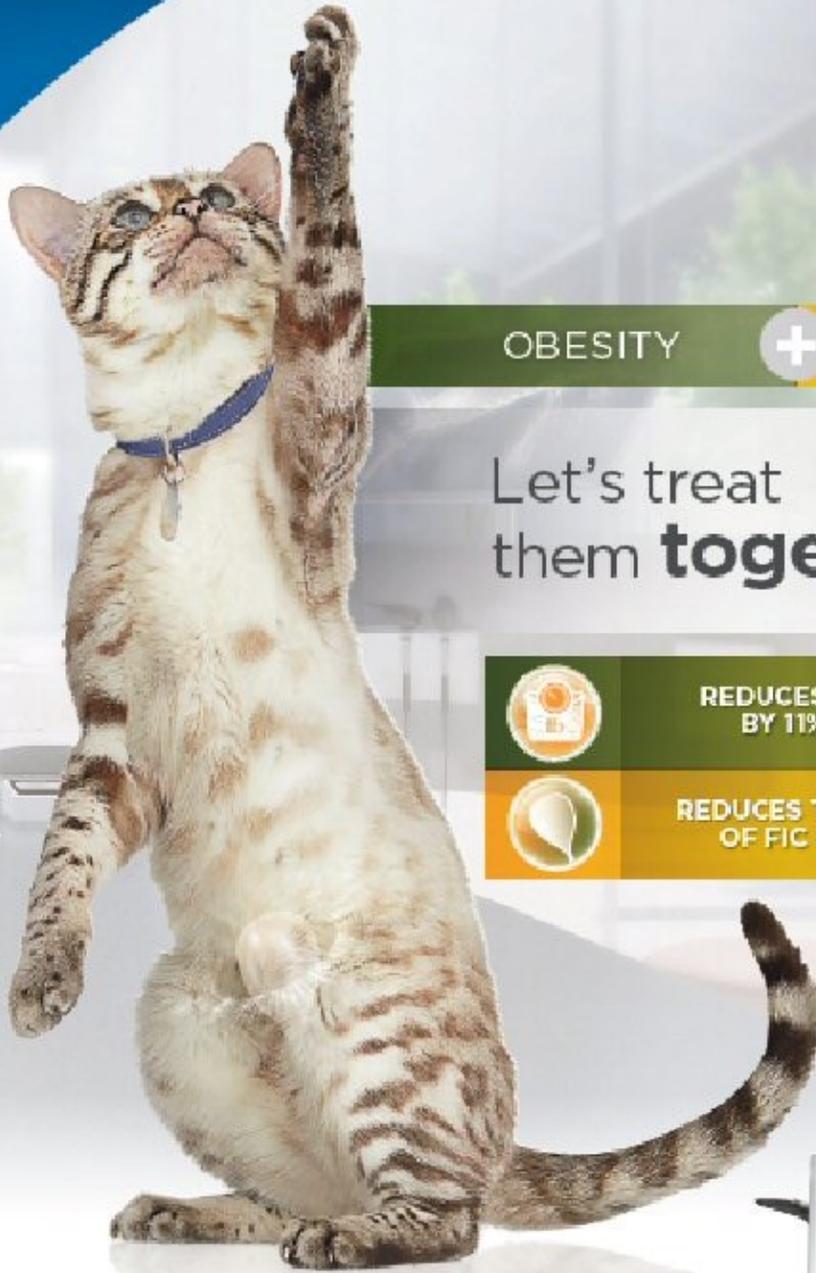
Volunteers receive two complimentary admission passes; one complimentary parking pass; a stipend to cover meal and travel costs and for those located more than 100 miles from the Fair, a stipend to help cover overnight room costs.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send your name, region, address, email, phone number and the day(s) you would like to staff@nysvms.org.

The New York State Fairgrounds is immediately adjacent to Route 690 just West of Syracuse. It is easily accessible from the New York State Thruway (Rt. 90) from the West and East, and from Route 81, North and South.



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BluePearl Veterinary Partners

Continuing Education lectures are free and open to all area veterinarians. Registration is required and is done by sending an email to Dr. David Wohlstader at david.wohlstader@bluepearlveter.com. Dinner begins at 7:00 pm and the lectures begin at 7:30 pm. BluePearl is approved as a New York State sponsor of CE. Unless otherwise noted, lecturers are given in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan at the addresses listed below.

Manhattan

410 West 55th Street
(between 9th and 10th Avenues)
New York, NY 10019

Queens

107-28 71st Road
(between Austin St. & Queens Blvd)
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Brooklyn

32 4th Avenue (at Pacific Street)
Brooklyn, NY 11217

April, 2015

April 14 - Queens
April 15 - Manhattan
April 16 - Brooklyn

Topic: Critical Care

June, 2015

June 16 - Queens
June 17 - Manhattan
June 18 - Brooklyn

Topic: Emergency Medicine

July, 2015

July 14 - Queens
July 15 - Manhattan
July 16 - Brooklyn

Topic: Dermatology

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. Please contact us if your hospital has information that you would like to share with our membership.

The Animal Medical Center

Partners in Practice (PIP) Comprehensive Clinical Conferences

PIP Comprehensive Clinical Conferences are intended to provide several hours of comprehensive review and updates of important and contemporary topics in veterinary medicine. Upon completion, participants should gain enhanced knowledge of the selected topic. Conferences are held at The AMC on **Sundays from 8:00 pm - 4:00 pm**, unless otherwise noted.

2015 Seminars

- **Sunday, May 3:** Feline Medicine
- **Sunday, November 22:** Surgery

Partners in Practice (PIP) Practical Clinical Workshops

PIP Practical Clinical Workshops are designed to promote sound diagnosis and effective therapies. Workshops are held at The AMC on **Tuesdays from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**.

2015 Workshops

- **April 7:** Diabetes, Presented by Dr. Carly Bloom
- **April 21:** Surgery, Presented by Dr. Janet Kovak McClaran
- **May 19:** Tips for Managing Geriatric Patients, Presented by Dr. Leilani Alvarez
- **June 2:** Periodontal Disease, Presented by Dr. Django Martel
- **September 8:** GI Medicine, Presented by Dr. Douglas Palma
- **September 22:** Cardiac Case Management, Presented by Dr. Dennis Trafny
- **October 6:** Neurology Case Management, Presented by Dr. Chad West
- **October 20:** Radiology Reading - What's Your Diagnosis, Presented by Dr. Anthony Fischetti
- **November 17:** Dermatology, Presented by Dr. Mark Macina
- **December 1:** Exotics Medicine and Surgery, Presented by Dr. Katherine Quesenberry

Register online at www.amcny.org/pipseminars

VETERINARIANS AVAILABLE

Full or Part-Time. Veterinarian seeks work at small animal practice in New York City. NY licensed. Contact Eduarda Krieger, DVM at 917-239-3377.

Part-Time or Relief. Veterinarian available in NYC. Please contact drmartinvet@gmail.com.

Permanent Per Diem. Experienced LI veterinarian with strong medical, surgical and people skills seeks position in Queens 2-4 days per month. Contact Dr. K at 516-374-5050.

Per Diem or Part-Time. 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.

Per Diem. Tufts graduate seeking small animal clinics in need of veterinarian for per diem shifts. I believe in comprehensive physical exams, excellent client communication and thorough medical record documentation. If interested, please call 201-213-3555 or email nelson-dvmrelief@gmail.com.

Relief or Per Diem. General practice. Orthopedic and Soft Tissue Surgery. DVM, Cornell. Internship Oradell. Residency in Small Animal Surgery, Cornell. Phone Dr. Kathy Sevalia 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: chrisasaaro@hotmail.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.nyacc.org for a full description. Send cover letter and CV to hr@nycacc.org or 212-442-2066.

Animal Medicine & Surgery Clinic. Full-time small animal veterinary position needed for 37 year established 3 DVM animal hospital in Brooklyn, New York. Experience preferred and new graduates are welcomed. Strong communication, diagnostic, medical, & surgical skills preferred. Equine work available for interested candidates. Please send resumes to schai4806@aol.com and call (917) 543-7379.

Banfield Pet Hospital is currently hiring for a relief veterinarian to help cover several of our Long Island hospitals. We are looking at all availability but prefer a candidate available for a mix of weekend and weekday shifts. Compensation will be dependent upon experience. We see a diverse caseload and focus on teamwork, compassionate pet care, and thorough client education. To inquiry, please e-mail Zakrey Coon at zakrey.coon@banfield.net or by calling 1-503-922-5444.

Banfield Pet Hospital is currently hiring an Associate Veterinarian in Pelham, NY! We have a thriving practice with growth possibility both in income and leadership potential. Join a team committed to practicing the highest quality preventative medicine with modern equipment and diagnostics, and committed, well trained paraprofessional staff. We see a diverse caseload and focus on preventative care, teamwork and long lasting relationships. Banfield offers medical, dental vision, prescription drug, life insurance, 401K, CE allowance, paid days off and several more benefits. To inquiry further, call Zakrey Coon at 1-503-922-5444 or e-mail zakrey.coon@banfield.net.

Greater New York Area. 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.

Greenwich Village Animal Hospital. A full-time position and a per diem position are available at Greenwich Village Animal Hospital for a New York licensed practitioner. The work week is five days, 40-45 hours/week. Experience is preferred but new graduates and interns will be considered. The candidate is expected to be able to perform the more routine surgeries, ie. spays, neuters, growth removals, etc. as well as oversee a great number of dental procedures. The pace is highly variable, with an approximately 75% canine to 25% feline breakdown. The owner of the hospital has special interest in laser-assisted surgery. Please have any potential candidates contact Dr. Tracy Sane at 212-691-1100 or 347-413-1482 or send resumes to fax 212-691-6991 or gvah504@gmail.com.

Kings Bay Veterinary Hospital. 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 at 718-339-0557 or (c) 917-916-4012.

Middletown Animal Clinic. Full-time experienced associate veterinarian needed for small animal practice located in the northeast bronx. Great middle class neighborhood close to westchester county and the long island sound. Very well equipped and modern facility with great support staff and established clientele. No after hours emergencies. Medical/dental/vision and 401-k benefits. Competitive salary. Two years experience preferred, but will consider all applicants. please contact Dr. Earle at 718 824-8300. or send CV to info@middletownanimalclinic.com.

Park Slope, Brooklyn. Experienced veterinarian wanted for immediate position for busy 3 doctor practice in Park Slope, Brooklyn immediately across the street from Prospect Park. The practice is very well equipped with ultrasound ,digital radiography, digital dental radiography, endoscopy and more. Excellent, experienced support staff. Salary and benefits to be discussed at interview. Interested applicants contact Dr. Leonard Silverman at 718 768-6125 or email lennyvet@gmail.com.

Pet Loss at Home. 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 \$2,000/month for 10 home visits, \$4,000/month for 20 home visits, \$8,000/month for 40 home visits. Study www.PetLossAtHome.com. Email DrKaren@PetLossAtHome.com. Also Pet Loss At Home provides free info on sedation protocols, how to do quick & easy clay paw print impressions, home euthanasia techniques and signs of suffering handouts for clients. Simply request via email to DrKaren@PetLossAtHome.com.

Urban Vet Animal Hospital. Manhattan Animal Hospital located in Village seeks full time, part time, relief doctor. Experience preferred but new graduate/intern trained considered. Send resume to 212-674-8600, or email to onedogtwo@aol.com.

Williamsburg Brooklyn Clinic. Part-time or per-diem veterinarian with interest in preventive and shelter medicine needed for one or two days a week. New York State license and prior experience required.

FOR SALE

Used Equipment. Stainless Shoreline animal cages in good condition. 224x24 (8) for \$75; 30x30 (11) \$85; 36x30 (6) \$90; 48x30 with double door (2) \$120. Other items include exam table, EL SAM table, surgery table, exam table with cabinet, anesthesia machine, automatic x-ray developer. For more information contact Lydia Perez at 718-829-2355, 718-829-8084, or 347-266-4190.

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



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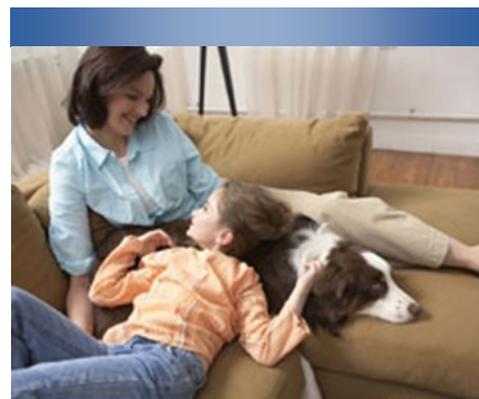


Work-Life Balance

Tips for Women on Work-Life Balance

(DVM 360) You really *can't* do it all, said certified nutritional consultant Robin De-Ivy Allen during a session at the AVMA conference in Seattle about life balance. Her evidence: Most of us start the day with a to-do list that we don't finish. Still, you can make time for the things that matter most to you. She recommends these seven steps to achieve a balance that will keep you happy and healthy:

1. **Figure out what matters most in your life.** If you give yourself one focus to start the day with, you can prioritize, she says. For example, perhaps your most critical need is peace of mind. Decide what you're going to do to achieve that daily goal, and then make that one of the first things you do every day.
2. **Give up what's unnecessary.** We all waste time on things we don't really care about. Look at your day, week, or month, and decide what you don't really need to do. Then apply that time toward something that really makes a difference to you.
3. **Protect your private time.** You need time to recharge. Otherwise, your batteries will wear down and you won't have the energy you need to achieve your goals. Whether for you this means an hour to read on the weekend or time by yourself in the bathroom, carve out personal time and protect it. The people who care about you will wait, and you'll have more to give them when you've made that investment in yourself.
4. **Lose the guilt.** Allen says one of the key reasons that we feel guilty is that we worry about people judging our actions and choices. And they will judge, she says. But don't let that worry you. You need to decide what's really important to you and be true to that.
5. **Ask for help and accept it.** You don't have to do it all yourself. In fact, it's better if you don't.
6. **Schedule time with your significant other.** Fun and relaxed time together helps you stay in touch and reminds you why you love each other.
7. **Schedule time with others you care about.** Your friends and family offer emotional support and a sense of connectedness that's important to your sense of well-being.



Chris Amaral/Getty images

Stress Check-List

Is Your Stress Level in Check? (AVMA)

Stress can help make you more productive but, when left unchecked, can cause a number of serious health problems.

Here are some ways to help manage stress.

- Exercise regularly
- Get sufficient sleep
- Plan for and follow a balanced diet
- Drink alcohol in moderation
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Balance work and play

Delegate tasks appropriately. Don't try to do everything yourself

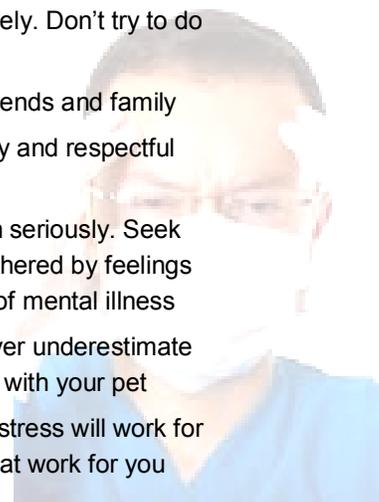
Spend quality time with friends and family

Resolve conflict in a timely and respectful manner

Take psychological health seriously. Seek professional assistance if bothered by feelings of depression or other signs of mental illness

And last but not least, never underestimate the health benefits of playing with your pet

No single strategy to reduce stress will work for everyone. Find techniques that work for you and then stick to them.



Notes from the Field

Prevalence of Risk Factors for Suicide Among Veterinarians — United States, 2014

Randall J. Nett, MD^{1,2}, Tracy K. Witte³, PhD, Stacy M. Holzbauer, DVM^{1,4}, Brigid L. Elchos, DVM⁵, Enzo R. Campagnolo, DVM^{1,6}, Karl J. Musgrave, DVM⁷, Kris K. Carter, DVM^{1,8}, Katie M. Kurkjian, DVM^{1,9}, Cole Vanicek, DVM¹⁰, Daniel R. O'Leary, DVM^{1,7}, Kerry R. Pride, DVM², Renee H. Funk, DVM¹¹
(Author affiliations at end of text)

Veterinarians are believed to be at increased risk for suicide compared with the general population (1). Few data on the occurrence of suicidal behavior and suicide risk factors among U.S. veterinarians are available. Veterinarians participating in two wellness summits held during September 2013 concluded that more research is needed on veterinarians and their mental health (2).

During July 1–October 20, 2014, an anonymous, Web-based questionnaire was made available through the Veterinary Information Network (VIN), an online community for veterinarians; VIN News Service; *JAVMA News*; and monthly e-mail messages to veterinarians in 49 states (Maine was excluded) and Puerto Rico sent through the state's veterinary medical association, agriculture or livestock department, or health department. The questionnaire asked respondents about their experiences with depression and suicidal behavior, and included standardized questions from the Kessler-6 psychological distress scale that assesses for the presence of serious mental illness (3). Respondents with nonresponses were included in the denominators when calculating prevalence estimates.

Responses were received from 10,254 currently employed veterinarians (10.3% of all employed U.S. veterinarians). The most commonly reported age category was 30–39 years (28.8%), and 31.3% were male. Thirty-four percent reported practicing veterinary medicine for <10 years, 24.6% for 10–19 years, 21.6% for 20–29 years, and 19.8% for ≥30 years. Most (68.6%) respondents practiced small animal medicine, and 37.8% were practice owners. In comparison, 44.4% of U.S. veterinarians are male, and 66.6% practice small animal medicine exclusively (4).

Approximately 6.8% (95% confidence interval [CI] = 5.9%–7.7%) of male and 10.9% (CI = 10.2%–11.6%) of female respondents were characterized as having serious psychological distress based on the Kessler-6 psychological distress scale, compared with 3.5% of male and 4.4% of female U.S. adults, respectively (5). Since graduating from veterinary school, 24.5% and 36.7% (CIs = 23.0%–26.0%, 35.6%–37.8%) of

male and female respondents reported experiencing depressive episodes, respectively, 14.4% and 19.1% (CIs = 13.2%–15.7%, 18.2%–20.0%) suicidal ideation, and 1.1% and 1.4% (CIs = 0.7%–1.5%, 1.2%–1.7%) suicide attempts. In comparison, male and female U.S. adults had a lower lifetime prevalence of depressive episodes (15.1% and 22.9%, respectively) and suicidal ideation (5.1% and 7.1%) but a higher prevalence of suicide attempts (1.6% and 3.0%) (6,7).

The findings in this report are subject to at least two limitations. First, the small number of veterinarians who responded compared with the number of those potentially eligible increases the likelihood of nonresponse bias. Second, the possibility exists for social desirability bias. Both of these factors could lead to overestimation or underestimation of the actual prevalence of risk factors for suicide among U.S. veterinarians. Nevertheless, these data suggest that nearly one in 10 U.S. veterinarians might suffer from serious psychological distress and more than one in six might have experienced suicidal ideation since graduation. Additional data, particularly data from representative samples, are needed to further characterize the underlying risk factors for suicidal behavior among veterinarians and identify effective prevention methods.

Acknowledgments

Veterinarians who participated in the survey. Veterinarians and Mental Health Investigation Team. State veterinary medical associations. State agriculture and livestock departments. State health departments. National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. Veterinary Information Network (VIN). American Veterinary Medical Association. Paul D. Pion, DVM, VIN. Mark Rishniw, PhD, University of California, Davis. Joni Scheftel, DVM, Minnesota Department of Health. Melinda Larkin, *JAVMA News*. Phyllis DeGioia, VIN News Service. Lori Kogan, PhD, Colorado State University. Bryan Buss, DVM, Division of State and Local Readiness, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, CDC.

¹Division of State and Local Readiness, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, CDC; ²Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; ³Department of Psychology, Auburn University; ⁴Minnesota Department of Health; ⁵Mississippi Board of Animal Health; ⁶Wyoming Department of Health; ⁷Pennsylvania Department of Health; ⁸Idaho Department of Health and Welfare; ⁹Virginia Department of Health; ¹⁰Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; ¹¹Emergency Preparedness and Response Office, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, CDC (Corresponding author: Randall J. Nett, rnett@cdc.gov, 406-444-5917)

References

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Rabies in New York City - Summary for 2014

Between January 1 and December 31, 2014, 12 animals collected from two of the five NYC boroughs tested positive for rabies at the DOHMH: 6 raccoons and 1 skunk from Staten Island, and 4 raccoons and 1 opossum from Brooklyn. The number of rabid raccoons in Staten Island decreased from 49 in 2013 to 7 in 2014, similar to numbers seen prior to the 2013 raccoon rabies epizootic. Brooklyn had the highest number of rabid animals since rabies was first detected in the borough in 2010. No rabid animals were reported from Queens for the fourth year in a row and none from the Bronx for the first time since 1996. The most up-to-date information regarding rabies can be found on our website at www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/cdrab.shtml.

Last fall the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Cornell University conducted raccoon oral rabies vaccine (ORV) baiting in parts of southern Brooklyn and Queens, as well as Staten Island. The effort was part of a larger program to vaccinate raccoons in 17 states and to eliminate raccoon rabies from Long Island. Oral rabies vaccine was used in Nassau and Suffolk counties in 2006-2010, with the last cases of animal rabies detected in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

In Queens and Brooklyn, about 70 fixed bait stations were set up in wooded areas in September to distribute the fish-scented bait, which encloses a small packet of liquid vaccinia-rabies glycoprotein (V-RG) recombinant virus vaccine. A low-flying helicopter was used to distribute the bait in October in less-populated areas of Staten Island. In November, raccoons were trapped and a blood sample collected to measure the level of rabies virus-neutralizing antibodies and assess the effectiveness of ORV. Veterinary alerts and press releases were sent out prior to each event with guidance for human or pet exposures to the bait. One contact incident was reported to the DOHMH: on a wooded path in Staten Island, a dog ingested and later vomited a bait packet whereupon the owner safely removed other intact baits from the area.

Throughout the US, different variants of the rabies virus are maintained in their respective vectors, following geographically distinct patterns. The raccoon variant is present along the Atlantic Coast and the bat variant throughout the US except Hawaii. Since the arrival of raccoon rabies in NYC in 1992, it has persisted enzootically, and raccoons remain the primary reservoir species in the City (**Table 1**). Occasionally, rabid raccoons transmit the virus to other wild animals, usually skunks. Historically, most rabid animals have been identified in the Bronx and Staten Island, with isolated reports of rabid raccoons in Queens and Brooklyn. The one exception was the large epizootic of raccoon rabies that occurred in Central Park from 2009 to 2011.

A much smaller number of rabid bats have been found in all 5 boroughs. Bats are the primary vector of human rabies infections in the US. Dogs and cats are also susceptible to rabies; however, vaccination and animal control have significantly reduced the numbers of rabid dogs and cats both in NYC and throughout the US. No rabid dogs have been reported in NYC since 1954, although dogs infected with the raccoon variant have been reported in neighboring areas outside NYC. Since 1992, only 14 rabid cats have been identified in NYC, 12 of which were strays.

Rodents (e.g., squirrels, rats, mice) and members of the rabbit family are not considered to be vectors of rabies. The one exception is the groundhog, which has tested positive for rabies in NYC (one in 2007 on Staten Island) and surrounding areas. Rabies infections in domestic rodents or rabbits should be considered only in unusual circumstances, such as when the animal has a history of a bite wound and has been housed in an outdoor hutch or when a rabies vector species (e.g., raccoon) has been observed in the vicinity.

Please review the annual summary, along with comparative data from the previous three years. For issues regarding rabies or other public health related issues call the provider access line (PAL) at 1-866-692-3641. For specific questions regarding the summary, general questions regarding rabies, or for consultation regarding rabies titer testing, rabies exposures or rabies vaccinations for you or your staff, please contact Dr. Sally Slavinski at 347-396-2672. To report an animal bite or for more information about pets that have been bitten, please contact Veterinary Public Health Services at 646-632-6604 or 646-632-6074.

Table 1. Laboratory-Confirmed Rabid Animals Tested in NYC, 1992-2014

* One cat from Columbia County and one cat from New Jersey were tested in NYC.

** Other includes 2 coyotes (1999 and 2010, Bronx), 6 opossums (1992, 1994, 2010 Queens, 2011 Bronx, 2013 Staten Island, 2013 Brooklyn), and 1 groundhog (2007, Staten Island).

SPECIES	BRONX	BROOKLYN	MANHATTAN	QUEENS	STATEN ISLAND	TOTAL POSITIVE	TOTAL TESTED	% POSITIVE
Raccoon	184	9	145	10	177	525	6651	7.9
Skunk	43	0	0	0	5	48	300	16.0
Bat	14	6	12	4	6	42	967	4.3
Dog	0	0	0	0	0	0	1930	0
Cat	3	1	2*	0	8	14	3021	0.5
Other**	3	1	0	1	4	9	2135	0.4
Total	247	12	159	15	200	638	15004	4.3

Table 2. 2014 Summary of Animal Rabies Testing Performed by NYC Rabies Laboratory

* Other animals = 1 rabbit, 4 squirrels, 1 gopher, 1 mouse

SPECIES	BRONX		BROOKLYN		MANHATTAN		QUEENS		STATEN ISLAND		OUTSIDE NYC		TOTAL	
	# test	# pos	# test	# pos	# test	# pos	# test	# pos	# test	# pos	# test	# pos	# test	# pos
Bat	5	0	5	0	8	0	7	0	3	0	1	0	29	0
Cat	11	0	35	0	18	0	14	0	12	0	1	0	91	0
Dog	7	0	9	0	7	0	8	0	5	0	2	0	38	0
Groundhog	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
Opossum	2	0	26	1	0	0	35	0	5	0	0	0	68	1
Raccoon	23	0	34	4	10	0	73	0	19	6	0	0	159	10
Skunk	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	7	1
Other*	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	7	0
Total	51	0	110	5	48	0	138	0	50	7	5	0	402	12

Table 3. Animal Rabies Testing Performed by NYC Rabies Laboratory in 2014 Compared to Previous Years by Species

ANIMAL	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	# tested	# positive						
Bat	20	3	37	3	44	5	29	0
Cat	88	1	77	0	89	1	91	0
Dog	28	0	26	0	35	0	38	0
Fox	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groundhog	0	0	2	0	2	0	3	0
Coyote	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Muskrat	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Opossum	26	0	35	1	76	1	68	1
Rabbit	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Raccoon	144	9	194	9	201	46	159	10
Skunk	5	0	11	0	20	4	7	1
Squirrel	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	0
Other	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Total	315	13	387	13	472	57	402	12

Table 4. Animal Rabies Testing Performed by NYC Rabies Laboratory in 2014 Compared to Previous Years by County

COUNTY	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	# tested	# positive						
BRONX	61	9	58	3	102	3	51	0
BROOKLYN	54	0	90	2	82	2	110	5
MANHATTAN	79	3	82	2	68	2	48	0
QUEENS	71	0	106	0	89	0	138	0
STATEN ISLAND	46	0	51	6	125	49	50	7
OUTSIDE NYC	4	1	0	0	6	1	5	0
Total	315	13	387	13	472	57	402	12

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Infection Control Experts Outline Guidance for Animal Visitations in Hospitals

NEW YORK (March 2, 2015) – New expert guidance by the [Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America \(SHEA\)](#) outlines recommendations for developing policies regarding the use of animals in healthcare facilities, including animal-assisted activities, service animals, research animals and personal pet visitation in acute care hospitals. The guidance was published online in [Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology](#), the journal of SHEA.

"Animals have had an increasing presence in healthcare facilities," said David Weber, MD, MPH, a lead author of the recommendations. "While there may be benefits to patient care, the role of animals in the spread of bacteria is not well understood. We have developed standard infection prevention and control guidance to help protect patients and healthcare providers via animal-to-human transmission in healthcare settings."

Since evidence on the role animals play in the transmission of pathogens in healthcare facilities is largely unknown, the SHEA Guidelines Committee comprised of experts in infection control and prevention developed the recommendations based on available evidence, practical considerations, a survey of SHEA members, writing group opinion and consideration of potential harm where applicable. The guidance was also endorsed by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), a professional association of more than 15,000 infection preventionists.

Guidance is grouped by the role of animals – animal-assisted activities (i.e., pet therapy and volunteer programs), service animals, research animals and personal pet visitation. Select recommendations are highlighted below.

Animal-Assisted Activities

- Facilities should develop a written policy for animal-assisted activities. An animal-assisted activity visit liaison should be designated.
- Allow only dogs to serve in animal-assisted activities, such as pet therapy.
- Animals and handlers should be formally trained and evaluated.
- Animal interaction areas should be determined in collaboration with the Infection Prevention and Control team and clinical staff should be educated about the program.
- Animal handlers must have all required immunizations, restrict contact of their animal to patient(s) visited and prevent the animal from having contact with invasive devices, and require that everyone who touches the animal to practice hand hygiene before and after contact.
- The hospital should maintain a log of all animal-assisted activities visits including rooms and persons visited for potential contact tracing.

Service Animals

- The policy allowing service animals of patients and visitors into the facility should be compliant with the Federal Americans for Disability Act (ADA), other applicable state and local regulations and include a statement that only dogs and miniature horses are recognized as Service Animals under federal law.
- If an inpatient has a service animal, notification should be made to the Infection Prevention and Control Team, followed by discussion with the patient to make sure the owner of the service animal complies with institutional policies.
- Healthcare providers or staff may ask the patient or visitor to describe what work/tasks the dog performs for the patient, *but may not ask* for a "certification" or "papers."

Personal Pet Visitation

- Pets should, in general, be prohibited from entering the healthcare facility.
- Exceptions can be considered if the healthcare team determines that visitation with a pet would be of benefit to the patient and can be performed with limited risk. Even then, visitation should be restricted to dogs.
- The patient must perform hand hygiene immediately before and after contact with the animal.

The authors note that as the role of animals in healthcare evolves, there is a need for stronger research to establish evidence-based guidelines to manage the risk to patients and healthcare providers.

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