

# The New York City Veterinarian

## VMA NYC Newsletter



### Veterinary Medical Association of New York City

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June 2013, VOL. 55, NO. 2

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Tiny 8-week-old tabby kitten Cindy is seen cuddling up to her canine friend, 8-year-old golden retriever Harvey, at the Lost Dogs Home in Melbourne, Australia. The pair have put the difference of their species aside to be the new furry faces of the animal shelter's latest campaign. However, judging by the close paw protective Harvey is keeping around the cute cat the pair are looking for a home together.

Picture: David Caird/Newspix / Rex Features



## President's Message

Dr. John Sykes

As I write this message, I am looking out of my window on a warm sunny day. Spring is now in full swing. Flowers are blooming and the birds are active. As this weather warms up, we can all come out of hibernation in our practices and engage with other people again! We have two exciting social outings planned for this summer- a baseball game on Staten Island and a trip to the Bronx Zoo. Keep your eyes peeled for the invitations to these events and I look forward to seeing you all there.



This time of renewal is also a great time to think about renewing your commitment to organized veterinary medicine. The VMANYC is growing steadily and is strong. Under our new management, Solutions Plus of NYC, our ranks have increased to over 300. With this growth come new opportunities for the VMA to become more engaged with our larger community. But we need your help to keep our organization strong. Please consider joining a committee this year and helping to shape the future of our organization and the veterinary profession as a whole. I've included a description of the various active committees of the VMA below. Feel free to contact the committee chair to find out more information:

**Program-** organizes our outstanding scientific program and all social events, including the annual awards reception. Chair: Mark Peterson, [mark@animalendocrine.com](mailto:mark@animalendocrine.com).

**Practice-** promotes veterinary practice and protects veterinarians and the veterinary profession. Includes activities such as veterinary rehabilitation, practice enhancement and client education, animal health alerts, and addressing illegal practice. Chair: Mary Buelow, [maryebuelow@gmail.com](mailto:maryebuelow@gmail.com).

**Community Outreach-** Includes activities such as dog/cat show veterinary support, high school student awards, maintaining relationships with other animal related organizations in the city (VERT, Mayor's alliance), and pre-veterinary student activities. Chair: John Sykes, [jsykes@wcs.org](mailto:jsykes@wcs.org).

**Ethics and Grievances-** Helps to mediate disputes between affected parties. Chair: Lisa Esposito, [lisaedvm@aol.com](mailto:lisaedvm@aol.com)

**Legislative-** monitors legislative activity in NYC affecting veterinarians, coordinates with the NYSVMS on State-wide issues. Chair: John Sangiorgio, [jfsangiorgio@gmail.com](mailto:jfsangiorgio@gmail.com).

**Budget and Auditing-** prepares the annual budget and financial reports; organizes our corporate sponsorship program. Chair: Sam Soliman, [jan947@aol.com](mailto:jan947@aol.com).

**Nominating-** nominates members for positions on the board and for our annual awards. Chair: Deidre Chiaromonte, [deirdre.chiaramonte@gmail.com](mailto:deirdre.chiaramonte@gmail.com).

**Member Services-** coordinates the induction of new members, manages communications such as the website and the newsletter; Chair: Sandra van der Woerdt, [sandra.vanderwoerdt@amcny.org](mailto:sandra.vanderwoerdt@amcny.org).

You are also encouraged to submit pieces to publish in the newsletter. Consider sharing photos, articles, poems and other items with NYC VMA members by contacting Sally Slavinski at [sslavins@health.nyc.gov](mailto:sslavins@health.nyc.gov). As always, members are invited to attend our monthly board meetings- please come and hear more about what our volunteer board members are doing to help move the organization forward. Meetings start at 4:30 on the first Wed of the month (same day as the continuing education meetings). Please contact Linda at [lchiaverini@vmanyc.org](mailto:lchiaverini@vmanyc.org) to be sure you are on the list to get into the building early.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our continuing education meetings and social outings.

Sincerely,  
John M Sykes IV, DVM, DACZM  
President, VMA of NYC

# Expect something different.



DAY  
1

88% of dogs and cats lost weight  
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DAY  
60

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## SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

We are looking for members to submit medical articles, photographs, stories and essays. If interested, or you want to know more, please contact Sally Slavinski at [sslavins@health.nyc.gov](mailto:sslavins@health.nyc.gov)



### 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 and new hires in specialty areas. Please contact us if your hospital has information that you would like to share with our membership

**Manhattan**  
410 West 55th St  
(Bet 9th and 10th Avenues)  
New York, NY 10019

**Queens**  
107-28 71st Rd  
(Bet Austin St and Queens Blvd)  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

**Brooklyn**  
32 4th Ave  
(at Pacific St)  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

### News from Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners:

Continuing education lectures are free and open to all area veterinarians. There are also veterinary technician CE lectures which are open to all veterinary technicians and assistants. Registration is required and is done by contacting Dr. David Wohlstadter at [david.wohlstadter@bluepearlvet.com](mailto:david.wohlstadter@bluepearlvet.com). Dinner begins at 7 PM and the lectures start at 7:30 PM. BluePearl is approved as a New York State sponsor of CE for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Unless otherwise noted, lectures are given in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan at the addresses listed below:

#### June

**Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome in Cats and Dogs** *(for veterinarians)*

E'lise Christensen, DVM, DACVB

June 18-Queens

June 19-Manhattan

June 20-Brooklyn



Volunteers attempt to free an elephant stuck for 11 hours in a sewage drain at Ugab Rest Camp in Namibia. The animal had fallen into the 3ft by 4ft channel during the night and it took a group of volunteers three hours to fill the ditch with stones, rocks and sand to allow the elephant to step out.

**Picture: Laramon Tours / Barcroft Media**

## The Animal Medical Center's Partners in Practice

### **PARTNERS IN PRACTICE TUESDAY (7 - 8:30PM) PRACTICAL EVENING WORKSHOPS**

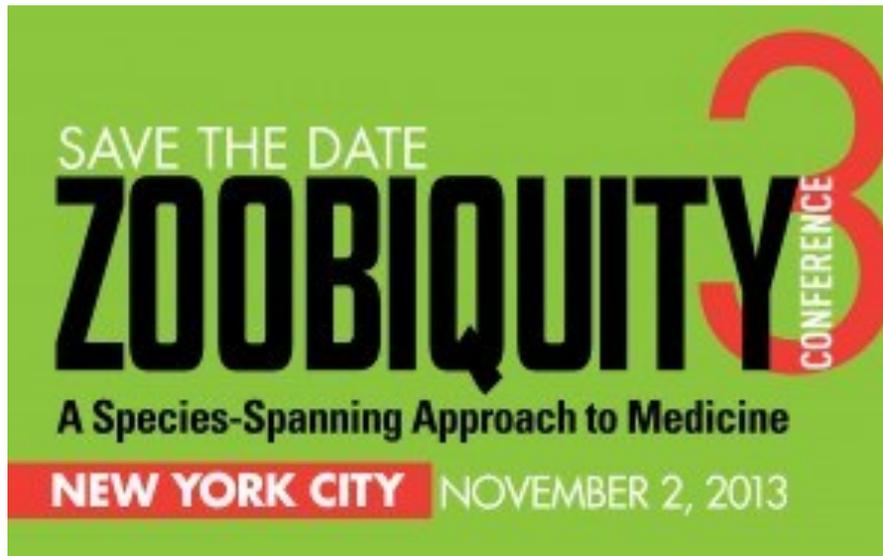
- **June 18** – Skin, Allergies and Therapy, Speaker: Dr. Mark Macina
- **September 17** – Radiology-What's Your Diagnosis?, Speaker: Dr. Anthony Fischetti
- **October 15** – Urinary Tract Surgery; Speaker: Dr. Janet Kovak McClaran
- **October 29** – How to Manage Renal Disease; Speaker: Dr. Cathy Langston
- **November 12** – Endocrine Diseases, Speaker: Dr. Beth Appleman
- **November 26** – Rehabilitation - Who, What, When; Speaker: Dr. Leilani Alvarez
- **December 10** – Pearls of Clinical Oncology, Speaker: TBA

### **PIP CONFERENCES**

#### **Clinically Useful Tips and Techniques for Veterinary Technicians—Sunday, September 22**

REGISTER ON LINE: <http://www.amcny.org/pipseminars>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DR. PHILIP FOX AT [PHILIP.FOX@AMCNY.ORG](mailto:PHILIP.FOX@AMCNY.ORG) OR CALL 212.329.8606



The 3rd Zoobiquity Conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2013 in New York City. Leading physicians from Weill Cornell Medical College, Columbia University, NYU Langone Medical Center and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, along with veterinarians from The Animal Medical Center and the Wildlife Conservation Society will come together for a conversation between doctors treating the same diseases in different species.

At this one-day conference, the morning session will be held at The Rockefeller University and “Walk Rounds” will be hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Bronx Zoo.

The conference schedule and registration information will be available soon. Please visit [www.zoobiquity.com](http://www.zoobiquity.com) for updates and <http://zoobiquity.com/conference-research/conference/2013-pages/conference-program/> for the conference program agenda.

Veterinarians attending Zoobiquity will receive RACE or New York State continuing education credits. Physicians attending Zoobiquity will receive CME credits.

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## The Membership Committee

Dr. Alexandra van der Woerd

A total of 4 veterinarians were introduced as new or returning members of the VMA of NYC in April and May, 2013. They are as follows:

### **New members April 2013**

Dr A Kantor

### **New members May 2013**

Dr Catrina King

Dr Martin Kopel

Dr Frank Scandaglia

As always, we welcome these new members into our association, and hope to see them regularly at our meetings.



March 8, 2013: Terrier mix Milo, 6, guides blind Labrador retriever Eddie, 7, during a walk in Cardiff, Wales, on March 6. The loyal pooch acts as a guide dog for his big friend, says owner Angie Baker-Stedham. The two were close before Eddie went blind, but now they are joined at the hip. Milo helps Eddie with everything & their unusual relationship has touched many people. (© Matthew Horwood/caters News)

# Calendar of Events

## Program Committee

Dr. Mark E. Peterson, Chairman , Dr. Deirdre Chiaramonte, Dr, Sally Haddock

The schedule of the VMA of NYC Continuing Education meetings for the 2013 calendar year is listed below, including the speakers and topics. All meetings will be held at the Pfizer Headquarters Building, 235 E. 42nd Street, NYC. The meetings will start at 7 PM. Please bring photo ID with you to allow entry into the Pfizer facility. Members of the VMA of NYC are automatically registered to attend the meetings, but guests need to be added to the attendance list in advance of each meeting date.

### June 5, 2013

Speaker: Hock Gan Heng, DVM, Dip. ACVR, ECVDI  
Purdue University, Veterinary Clinical Sciences  
Topic: Radiology



### September 11, 2013

Speaker: Tina Wismer, DVM, Dip. ABVT & ABT  
ASPCA, Animal Poison Control Center  
Topic: Clinical Toxicology: When Pets Ingest Human Medications

### October 2, 2013

Speaker: Linda Barton, DVM, Dip. ACVECC  
Veterinary Specialty Center of Seattle  
Topic: Fluid Therapy

### November 6, 2013

Speaker: Debra Horowitz, DVM, Dip. ACVB  
Veterinary Behavior Consultations  
Topic: Behavior

### December 4, 2013

Speaker: Ed Breitschwerdt, DVM, Dip. ACVIM  
North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Topic: Tick Diseases

Remember, our Continuing Education program is meant for our VMA of NYC members, so please do not ever hesitate to provide your input and suggestions for great speaker or timely topics to make our C.E. program the best it can be. I can always be contacted via email at [mark@animalendocrine.com](mailto:mark@animalendocrine.com) or feel free to call me in my office (212.362.2650) if you have any suggestions.



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Annual Awards  
Reception Sponsors*



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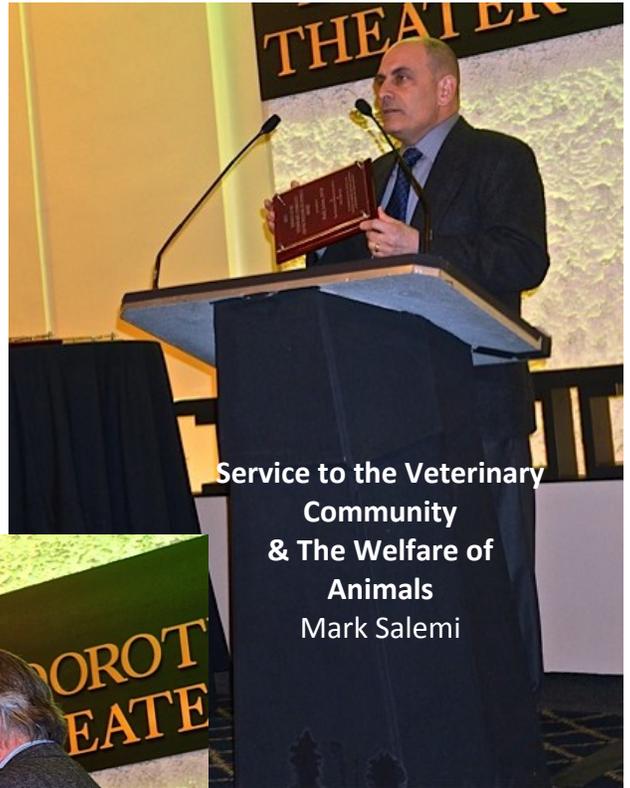
**And a great time was had by all!!  
Photos from the Annual Awards Reception at the Gershwin Theatre**



**Congratulations to the 2013 Award Recipients!**



**Merit Award**  
Gamal Youstry



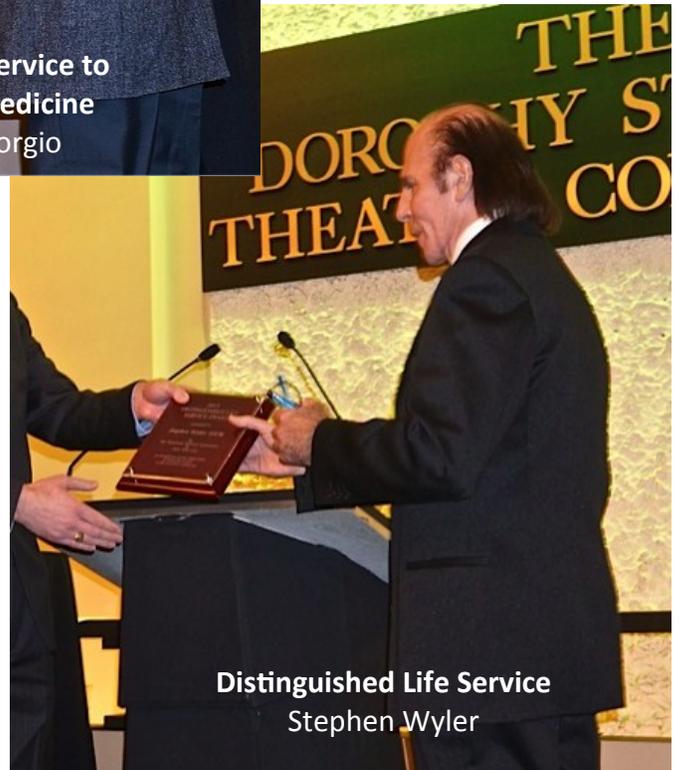
**Service to the Veterinary  
Community  
& The Welfare of  
Animals**  
Mark Salemi



**Outstanding Service to  
Veterinary Medicine**  
John Sangiorgio



**Veterinarian of the Year**  
Allan Bregman



**Distinguished Life Service**  
Stephen Wyler

## Membership Spotlight

Dr. David Bessler

### Q1. Where did you grow up and when did you move to NYC?

I grew up in Rockland county and moved to NYC in 2003

### Q2. Why did you become a veterinarian and when did you know that you would become one?

I became a vet because I always had an interest in nature in general, and animals specifically. I'm the kind of person who enjoys sharing my knowledge and using that knowledge to help people. In college I realized that by becoming a vet, I could have a job working with animals every day and at the same time directly helping people. I always tell people I became a vet because I enjoy helping people with their pets.

### Q3. Where did you go to veterinary school?

U Penn. Class of 2003.

### Q4. What was your first job as a veterinarian?

After I finished my internship at the Center for Specialized Veterinary Care in Westbury, they kept me on to head the Emergency Service there. I did that for a couple of years.

### Q5. Where do you practice now, and how long have you been there?

I work at BluePearl in Manhattan. I've been there since it opened in 2006 .

### Q6. What pets do you have?

We have 3 two-legged pets (our boys) and one 4-legged pet (our cat Lucy)

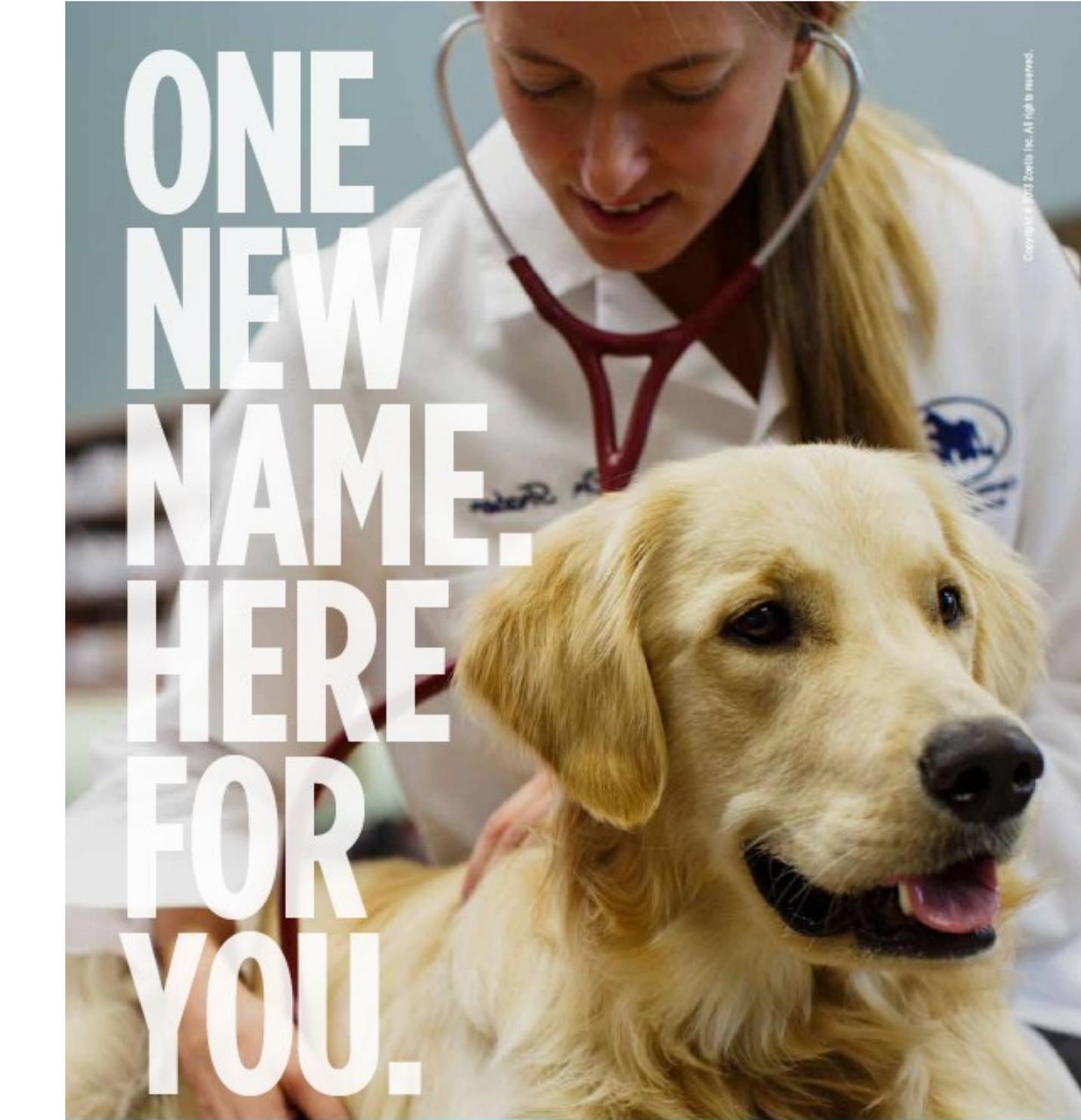
### Q7. What are your hobbies/interests?

I'm a nerd. I love reading! I read books that I either should have read in high-school, like Walden, Moby Dick, and Plato, or books that are so obscure I'm embarrassed to mention them. I go camping a lot with my kids and like to spend time outdoors identifying plants and animals. Lately, I've completely taken over Nerdlandia and have become addicted to a card game called Magic: The Gathering, which I play with my oldest son, Noah. He kicks my butt every time. He's 7.



*DR. DAVID BESSLER*

**NYC VMA  
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



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# When to Recommend Root Canal Therapy

Dr. Mary Buelow

Endodontic disease refers to disease of the inside of the tooth. Left untreated, it can cause chronic pain and infection. This can be difficult to identify due to the stoic nature of our patients, but with a good oral examination and dental radiographs, we can help them to live long, healthy, and pain-free lives. This newsletter addresses endodontic disease, and will aid the general practitioner in diagnosing and treating this common problem.

## What is endodontic disease?

Endodontic disease refers to pathology within the pulp of a tooth. The pulp tissue occupies the innermost portion of a tooth and contains blood vessels, nerves, and many different types of cells and fibers. It is this tissue that responds most drastically to any type of tooth injury.

The most common cause of endodontic disease in dogs is tooth fracture and wear. In cats, it can be a result of both tooth fracture and tooth resorption. Teeth are most commonly fractured due to cage chewing behaviors, chewing on hard objects such as nylabones or marrow bones, or blunt trauma (hit by car).

## How is endodontic disease diagnosed?

Endodontic disease is diagnosed through a complete oral examination and dental radiographs. To identify suspected pulp exposure, a periodontal explorer tip can be used to probe the fractured or worn tooth. A fine tipped explorer is needed to explore a feline cuspid (canine tooth). Pulp exposure should be expected in most broken feline cuspids due to the close proximity of the pulp chamber to the tip of the tooth crown.

On oral examination, tooth discoloration is one indication of endodontic disease. Discoloration is caused by pulpal hemorrhage secondary to trauma. Because injuries of this nature often cause death of the pulp tissue, endodontic disease should be suspected in any discolored tooth.

Dental radiographs are an important component to the diagnosis of endodontic disease. Changes on dental radiographs that indicate endodontic disease include, but are not limited to, lucency around the apex of the tooth (periapical lysis), resorption of the root apex, asymmetrical root canal sizes, and irregularities of the root canal. A recently fractured or discolored tooth will not always display signs of endodontic disease on radiographs as these changes can take weeks to months to develop. Instituting therapy immediately in these instances, however, can save the patient discomfort and prevent infection.

*Continued next page*

## When to Recommend Root Canal Therapy

continued



Pictured is a fractured canine tooth with endodontic disease indicated by a wide pulp cavity, periapical lysis, and apical resorption.

### How is endodontic disease treated?

The treatment options for endodontically-diseased teeth are often limited to root canal therapy or extraction. Root canal therapy involves the removal of the pulp tissue followed by cleaning and filling of the root canal space. Success is dependent on adequate cleaning of the canal and complete obturation (filling) of the canal space. Root canal therapy is a technically challenging procedure and should be performed by a veterinarian with experience in this realm. Good candidates for root canal therapy.

In conclusion, a thorough oral examination and dental radiographs will aid in diagnosing and treating endodontic disease appropriately. By doing this, we will help our loved animal patients live a long, happy, and pain-free life!

***"Teeth that have significant periodontal disease in addition to the endodontic disease, or those that are fractured under the gumline, are usually not candidates for root canal therapy."***

## Case Study: Toby

Toby, a 3-year-old Labrador Retriever, presented for evaluation of three broken canine teeth. The owner was unsure of when these fractures occurred, and he did not display any signs of apparent oral pain. The owner gave him hard chew toys, including nylabones, but they have since removed these toys from his environment.

A complete oral examination was performed under general anesthesia. Toby had mild-to-moderate wear on his cheek teeth, and moderate-to-significant wear on the distal aspects of his canine teeth. This pattern of wear is typical of a dog with cage-chewing behaviors. Interestingly, Toby did not have a history of being crated. Both maxillary canines and the right mandibular canine were fractured with pulp exposure.

The owner was interested in preservation of the canine teeth. Root canal therapy was chosen to treat Toby's three fractured teeth. All three teeth were filled with gutta percha and AH Plus sealant. Permanent restorations were placed with a compactible composite material.

The procedure was performed successfully in one anesthetic episode, and Toby recovered very well and is now happily playing with his toys again. Toby is scheduled for yearly radiographic rechecks of his root canal treatments to ensure continued health of his teeth. The owner was educated on proper dental care at home and removed all nylabones from Toby's environment.



***"Both maxillary canines and the right mandibular canine were fractured with pulp exposure."***

## *Toby's Broken Teeth*



Both right canine teeth are fractured with pulp exposure. There is also distal aspect wear of the lower canine tooth, which likely predisposed to fracture.



The left maxillary tooth is fractured with pulp exposure. There is also distal aspect wear of the lower canine tooth.

## *After Root Canal Therapy*



Right side



Left side

# *Toby's Final X-rays Following Root Canal Therapy*



Lower right canine



Upper right canine; lysis can be seen around the apex of this tooth, indicating chronic endodontic disease. This will resolve following successful root canal therapy.

***All three canine teeth were filled with AH plus sealant and gutta percha (an apical plug plus a cone). They were restored with a compactible composite material.***



Upper left canine

## THE BRONX ZOO-JUNE 15th

### Special Social Function for VMA of NYC Members and their Families

**Mark your calendar!!!** On Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have the opportunity to visit the Bronx Zoo before it opens to the general public. The Wildlife Conservation Society has graciously invited us to join them on this morning when the zoo opens two hours early at 8 AM for the exclusive benefit of their generous patrons.

This year's celebration, *I SPY* will focus on spotting unique traits of Bronx Zoo animals. You and your families will compare similarities of the raptors at Birds of Prey to their ancient ancestors...dinosaurs! You will learn how the neck of the snowy owl, the claws of the bald eagle, and the wings of the Andean condor evolved from prehistoric ancestors. You will discover what makes the Nile crocodiles (seen in the exhibit Madagascar!) the dinosaur's closest living relative. The day will also include the new temporary attraction, Bronx Zoo Dinosaur Safari which features 16 life sized animatronic dinosaurs and a replica of a paleontologist's dig site. You are invited to bring your families to enjoy all of the activities planned for this special day including breakfast and enjoy more personal time at the exhibits before the crowds arrive at 10am. Please note, family member can only attend in the presence of a VMA member. Of course, you are welcome to remain in the zoo for the entire day.

At 10AM for those veterinarians who are interested, we will be offering a tour of WCS's Wildlife Health Center, home base of the Global Health Program; this opportunity will be limited to veterinarians only. Although we all work in animal hospitals, this will be a unique opportunity to see how the Health Center handles the wide variety of their patients and their needs (think about doing endoscopy on a giraffe!). It is our hope that there will be no patients in hospital at that time since we prefer them all healthy and in their exhibits but despite that, I am sure that you will appreciate the unique nature of their facility. We are invited to enjoy the zoo and tour the Wildlife Health Center free of charge. However, I encourage any of you so motivated to support the wonderful work done by WCS's Global Health Program by making a tax deductible contribution to support their program.

You must register at the below link to join us on June 15<sup>th</sup>. I am sure that it will be a terrific day!

[www.wcs.org/VMANyc](http://www.wcs.org/VMANyc)



**WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY**

# BRONX ZOO

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO WILD NATURE





March 6, 2013: Frank Owen of New York reads a descriptive plaque on 'Bad Dog,' a sculpture by 74-year-old artist Richard Jackson shown at the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach, Calif., on Feb. 22. The 28-foot-high puppy is rigged to spray yellow paint on the side of the building. The sculpture, which stands amid tall office buildings, has been getting a lot of positive attention from passersby. (© Ken Steinhart/The Orange County Register/Zuma Press)

## VETERINARIANS AVAILABLE

**PER DIEM OR STEADY PART-TIME WORK.** 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.

**RELIEF - PER DIEM.** General practice. Orthopedic and Soft Tissue Surgery. DVM, Cornell. Internship Oradell. Residency in Small Animal Surgery, Cornell. Phone Dr. Kathy Sevallla at 1-718-267-6489 or 1-718-578-9085.

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## 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.nycacc.org](http://www.nycacc.org) for a full description. Send cover letter and CV to [hr@nycacc.org](mailto:hr@nycacc.org) or 212-442-2066. Call 212-442-2061 for more information.

**WANTED:** Part-time or per-diem vet with interest in preventive and shelter medicine needed for one or two days a week with Williamsburg, Brooklyn clinic. New York State license and prior experience required. Email resume to [feltonvet@verizon.net](mailto:feltonvet@verizon.net) or fax to 718-388-6968.

**LOOK TO YOUR FUTURE:** 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, Kings Bay Veterinary Hospital; 718-339-0557 or (c) 917-916-4012.

**WANTED:** 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](mailto:vetonclove@verizon.net)

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