

Board of Directors

2001-2002

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President's Message

The Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians is growing by leaps and bounds. As we go to press, we have 94 members which means our membership has more than tripled in 3 months. I want to thank each one of you for joining this behavior organization. This commitment to learning and teaching in behavior medicine will improve animal's lives all around the world. Oh yes, we have gone international! We have a new member from Canada.

Our listserv has been active and interesting. Recent discussions have involved the development of puppy classes and ideas for shaping the behavior of active children attendees. It is an amiable listserv where we treat each other with respect while spreading ideas and knowledge. Really a breath of fresh air! If you are a professional or student member and have not signed up for the listserv send your email address to Julie Shaw and get involved in the exchange of ideas.

I hope all of you have made plans to join us in Nashville at the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) conference.

We will hold our first annual business meeting on Saturday night, July 14th. I can't wait to meet everyone face to face. The internet is great for the exchange of information but lacks that personal touch we all thrive on. Afterward, we will have a cocktail party so we can mingle and enjoy each other's company. It will be a celebration for our society and behavior technicians.

As a society, we would like to thank AVSAB (American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior) for their support during our first year of existence. It has meant the world to us and has opened the world for us. The symbiotic relationship of veterinarians and veterinary technicians in animal behavior medicine is what we have worked for.

Pat yourselves on the back, make your travel plans and meet us in Nashville where the adventure really begins!

Sincerely,

Ginny Price, C.V.T.

President S.V.B.T.

Thank You to Our Benefactors

SVBT is very fortunate that we have another benefactor to thank for their generous support. Novartis has joined in helping SVBT maintain their high standards and quality in producing its newsletter. Novartis makes a variety of human and animal health products. The one that those of us in the behavior field are most familiar with is, of course, Clomicalm™. Clomicalm™ is the only medication specifically approved for the treatment of Separation Anxiety. When you are at a continuing education conference and see the Novartis booth, be sure to stop in and tell them how much we all appreciate their support.

NOVARTIS

Hill's
Supporting The Veterinary
Technician For Over 25 Years

PREMIER

Editor's Bark

By Julie Shaw, R.V.T.



I begin this Spring edition of The Behavior Perspective while I watch my three children, who are on "Spring Break", filling each other's hats with large volumes of the two feet of snow that has fallen in the last 24 hours. I believe they have christened this activity "The Brain Freeze Game". There is an impressive igloo standing where my impatiens will soon be planted and the snowman family will have to be relocated before the swimming pool can be opened in three weeks. I now know what it takes to make me look **forward** to cleaning up dog poop in the yard—a blizzard at the end of March.

Now that I have vented on the Indiana weather (hey, since Bobby Knight left the state I have nothing else to complain about!) I can turn my attention to some exciting announcements and additions to The Behavior Perspective.

Congratulations to Nicole Hendrich, BA, R.V.T. on winning the first SVBT sponsored DOGS Course scholarship contest.

See Nicole's bio and winning essay on page 4. The selection committee had a difficult time choosing among the excellent entries submitted. This scholarship contest will become an annual event so begin pondering your entry for next year. Also, many of you took advantage of the \$25 SVBT sponsored DOGS Course tuition scholarship. There are more credentialed veterinary technicians registered this year than in all past years. If I may borrow my 8 year-old son's favorite phrase, "This is rock' in!".

In this edition of The Behavior Perspective you will find a new section called "**Ask the Expert**". We will present your questions to an appropriate behavior expert and print their response in future editions. Please email me your questions or post them on the SVBT listserv and we will direct them to the appropriate expert.

As Ginny mentioned in her president's message, the SVBT listserv has had excellent discussions about animal behavior as it pertains to veterinary technicians. I am personally on many listservs including ones for dog training, service animals, pet therapy groups, etc. but this is the only list that is focused toward credentialed veterinary technicians with the same specialized interest. If you are a professional or student member and are not receiving emails from svbt@purdue.edu please contact me so I can get you on the list. New professional and student members who submit email addresses are automatically placed on the

list when their applications are processed. I occasionally have problems with mail from the list "bouncing" back to me. If this occurs multiple times I will attempt to contact the person whose mail is coming back, the next step is that the person will be removed from the list until their email server can resolve the problem.

In the near future the Member Only pages on the www.svbt.org website will become password protected. Members may access the site by typing in SVBT and the password will be your assigned SVBT membership number. You should have received this membership number along with a welcome letter. If you have not received this information please contact Amy Parmer at amymparmer@hotmail.com.

We plan on presenting many interesting, thought provoking, and maybe a little controversial topics for articles in future editions of The Behavior Perspective. It is for this reason I feel the responsibility to include a disclaimer that the opinions and information presented in The Behavior Perspective will not always represent the opinion of the SVBT board of directors. After all, that wouldn't be much fun, now would it?

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our annual meeting at the AVMA in Nashville, Tennessee this year. Maybe by then my snow boots will be retired and my kids will be in the process of inventing a new and creative game of torture to practice on each other in the swimming pool.

It's a Meeting / Gala!!

Mark Your Calendar, Book Your Flight, Reserve Your Days Off!

We are very excited to announce the first SVBT Annual Business Meeting and Get-together will be held at the AVMA Conference in July in Nashville, Tennessee. Visit www.avma.org for conference registration information. A brief business meeting will be held and election results will be announced. New board members will then be inducted. The business meeting will be followed by festivities with hors d'oeuvres and beer/wine/soft drinks.

The particulars as they stand at this time are:

When: Saturday, July 13th 2002 6:30pm

Where: Jackson Room at the Opryland Hotel

Come celebrate with colleagues and enjoy a bit of jocosity and merrymaking!



SVBT 2002 Executive Board of Directors Election

President-Elect and Treasurer SVBT Executive Board positions are currently up for election. The following are brief descriptions of each position. Please visit the www.svbt.org website under Board Member Responsibilities for detailed information for each position.

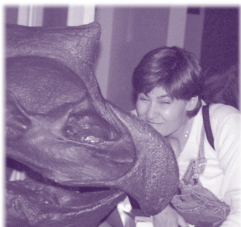
President-Elect: This position has a 1 year term with automatic succession to the office of President. The President - Elect serves as President in the temporary absence of the President and has responsibilities at the annual meeting including the continuing education program. The President-Elect cooperates in promotional activities, particularly in the relationship of student members. If the Treasurer would be incapacitated the President-Elect would sign checks for SVBT.

Treasurer: This position has a 2 year term. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements for the SVBT accounts. The treasurer is also responsible for supplying the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries with regular new member information. The Treasurer will become bonded.

Enclosed in this edition of The Behavior Perspective you will find the 2002 executive board election ballot. Please complete this ballot and return to the Election Committee by May 31st 2002.

The following two members have been nominated for positions on the Board of Directors. Write-in candidates are welcome:

The Nomination for the office of President-Elect:



Ms. Shaw demonstrates her unprejudiced love for all animals as she kisses a dinosaur at the Field Museum in Chicago.

Julie K. Shaw, R.V.T., C.P.D.T.

Julie obtained her Associate's degree in Veterinary Technology from Purdue University in 1983. She worked in private practice for 16 years. She began training dogs in 1984 and began teaching organized classes in 1992. She owned and was the head trainer for the Academy for Obedient Paws, a training organization utilizing clicker training methods. She trained a service dog for her child who has cerebral palsy and she has a special interest in assistance dogs and their training.

Julie became the Animal Behavior Technician at the Purdue Animal Behavior Clinic in 1999. Julie's current responsibilities at Purdue University include organizing and assisting in teaching the 5-day DOGS Behavior Modification course and teaching veterinary and veterinary

technician students in various behavior settings. One of her current projects is to work at a national level to develop positive training curriculums for 4-H dog training programs. Julie also assists Dr. Andrew Luescher during referral behavior consultations, teaches puppy classes, clicker training classes and does pre-purchase counseling.

Ms. Shaw recently received the title Certified Pet Dog Trainer by passing the first examination given by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

Ms. Shaw is one of the three co-founders of SVBT and is currently the acting Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Website Editor and List serve Moderator for SVBT.

The Nomination for the office Treasurer:



Kimberly Reed BS R.V.T. (Kimberly Clark in June)

Kim obtained her Associate's degree in Veterinary Technology in 1999 from Purdue University. In 2000 she attended and passed the written examination for the 5-day lecture and practicum course DOGS. She received her Veterinary Technologist Bachelors of Science degree in 2001 with a focus in animal behavior. Kim also

spent 6 months assisting and observing in the Animal Behavior Clinic at Purdue University.

Kim is an active member in the Indiana Veterinary Technician Association, along with her local chapter the Wabash Valley Veterinarian association. She has also spent time learning to train service dogs for the disabled. Thus far she has successfully trained two mobility service dogs one of which has retired due to hip problems and the other is a great companion for an older man with spinal mobility problems. She has plans to train another dog in mobility as soon as she finds the right dog. She was a panel speaker at last year's Veterinary Technician Fall conference at Purdue University. The panel discussed "What Works and What Doesn't in Puppy Classes."

Kim is currently employed in a small animal practice in Wabash Indiana. She teaches puppy socialization classes, clicker classes, fits gentle leader head collars, does pre-purchase counseling, assist owners with behavior modification techniques and counsels clients in problem prevention techniques.

Ask The Expert

Question from Sarah in Elkhart, IN: I am assisting our veterinarians with behavior medicine in our hospital and my veterinarians are attempting to find a title for me which is descriptive yet with which they are comfortable. I have heard some people call themselves "behavior consultants" or "behavior counselors" but my employers do not feel comfortable with these titles. What should credentialed veterinary technicians call themselves when they have a special interest or focus in behavior in their hospital without misleading the public?

Expert: Dr. Andrew Luescher, DVM, PhD, DACVD

The titles "Behavior consultant" and "Behavior Counselor" don't really mean anything, but these misnomers do mislead the public into thinking that the person using the title meets certain minimal standards in how he/she practices. The public may be led to believe there is control over how these people practice, which is not true. So while it is not illegal for a lay person to call themselves "Behavior Consultant" or "Behavior Counselor" it is misleading, and for credentialed veterinary professionals it would be illegal to use this terminology.

*Editor's Note: At this time, it is the position of the SVBT to **not** endorse any kind of special title to identify those of us working in the field of behavior. We feel that there are already too many confusing titles for people in our field. We recommend that you use the credentials you already have (ie CVT, RVT, LVT). Once specialty status has been granted, those people who meet the criteria will earn the title of Veterinary Technician Specialist (Behavior) and become members of the Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians. See Page 5 for specialty title information.*

Congratulations! Nicole Hendrich, BA, R.V.T.



Nicole with her 'inspiration,' Lucy

Congratulations Nicole Hendrich, BA, R.V.T.

Congratulations to Nicole Hendrich for winning the first annual SVBT sponsored scholarship contest to Purdue University's DOG'S Course: Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification. Nicole will receive a fully paid \$700 scholarship and a reserved place in the course.

Ms. Hendrich grew up in Palmyra Indiana surrounded by horses, dogs, cats, hamsters and reptiles. It was obvious at a young age that a career with animals was in her future. She received a BA in Biology from Indiana University in 1998. She then attended and graduated from Purdue University's Veterinary Technology program.

Nicole currently works for Old Capitol Veterinary Hospital in Corydon, Indiana. She is training for the Head Veterinary Technician position in the two-veterinarian mixed animal (including exotics) practice. One of her primary goals is to incorporate a behavior program into the hospital.

The Human-Animal Bond: "Why We Love Animals"

By Nicole Hendrich, BA, R.V.T.

Editor's Note: References for this article may be viewed at www.svbt.org

The human-animal bond has advanced dramatically over the last two decades. Our canine companions have come to the aid of the disabled, improved the quality of life for the sick and elderly and improved the general well being of humans.

What is the human-animal bond? The term "Human-Animal Bond" was borrowed from the term 'parent-infant bond.' A.M. Beck states, to be a 'bond,' the effect on each partner must be mutual and significant. The human-animal bond involves complex psychological and physiological interactions between people and their pets that have influence on human and animal health and behavior.^{1,2,3,4} The human-animal bond is what drives the veterinary medical profession. As the human-animal bond grows stronger, so does the veterinary profession.

Out of the Doghouse into Our Hearts and Homes

Over twenty years ago, dogs were not common house pets. They were more often seen fenced in or chained up with a small doghouse behind the house; "Out of sight, out of mind". Humans have owned domestic animals for thousands of years. Currently, over 61% of U.S. households (52.5 million) have pets.^{1,5} Today, pet owners refer to their pets as part of their family. A bumper sticker declaring "The Other Family Doctor... Your Veterinarian" is not an uncommon sight. One major reason companion animals are becoming integral components of the family unit is because we have better communication and updated material about behavior. Today, pet owners seek help for their pet's behavior problems rather than delegating them back to the doghouse.

The Children-Animal Bond

Companion animals are teaching our children responsibility, love, respect, and companionship. Children showing their companion ani-

mals in 4-H has increased over the years. It has been documented that people who interact with animals are younger than the general population. It is far more common for companion animals to be in families with children than without children. Surprisingly, 68.3 % of households with young children have at least one companion animal.⁶ Interest in animals is not related to exposure or background; urban children, with less animal ownership experience, have been reported to be more attached to animals than rural children.⁷ It is evident that the desired contact with animals is no accident and has important implications for child development.

Living Longer, Healthier, Happier Lives

The increase in the human-animal bond has helped humans and companion animals live longer healthier lives. The first epidemiological report documenting the value of pet ownership was in 1980. This study revealed that 94% of pet owners who experienced a heart attack were still alive a year after the attack compared to only 72% of non-pet owners.²⁰ Research has also revealed that human-animal companionship had the following beneficial effects; decreased loneliness, stimulated speech, encouraged touch, improved focus of attention, stimulated exercise, encouraged laughter, and improved social contact.¹

A Decrease in Loneliness

A study of elderly people done over twenty years ago, found animals improved psychological status. Elderly owners of dogs experienced an improvement in morale and went to the doctors less than those without animals.^{1,9} Many nursing homes have incorporated programs in which volunteers bring in pets to visit the elderly.¹⁰ A select few nursing homes allow the elderly to keep their pets or have a mascot living in the nursing home.

Speech Stimulation

It is now common to see people talking to their pets like they are human. Nearly 50% of adults pet owners and more than 70% of ado-

lescents pet owners confide in their pet.¹² Studies have found people experience a greater decrease in blood pressure while talking to their pets than when talking to people.^{1,13,14,15} Elderly people who own pets talk less about their personal illnesses or their physical discomfort and more about their pets. Animals have the capability of stimulating speech from people who have previously not been verbal. There are reports of older patients speaking to animals after not having spoken in years.²⁰

Increase in Touch

Touch and care is encouraged by the presence of animals for people of all ages. Studies show some pets stimulate affectionate care and nurturing from prisoners who have long histories of violence toward human beings. It also has been documented that people's blood pressure decrease in the presence of animals when petting their dog, or even just watching an aquarium of fish.^{1,13} Caring for animals is a focus of nurturing and source of comfort at all ages.¹

Improved Focus and Attention

Children and adults have a natural fascination for animals which can be capitalized on in education and therapeutic settings. Animals are now being used for psychotherapy and physical therapy.²⁰ Green Chimneys Children's Services, Inc. in Brewster, New York is an innovative service which utilizes animals in therapy for children. Green Chimneys is a facility for children who have been physically abused, have behavior disorders, or have been abandoned. Animals are brought to Green Chimneys because they were also abandoned or abused. The children develop a strong connection with these abandoned and abused animals. Children go to school and are taught to care for the animals as part of their therapy. They learn responsibility, respect, caring and most of all how to love.

The benefits of improved focus are also utilized in the therapeutic setting of THE CHAPS program (Therapy, Health, and Education through

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Children and Horses As Partners) in Brookston, Indiana. Donated horses and ponies are used to give horseback riding therapy to the mentally, emotionally and physically disabled. Therapeutic games and activities are done while on horseback. Therapeutic horse back riding has been shown to improve motivation, coordination, self-esteem, self-confidence, and to reduce muscle spasticity while increasing muscle elasticity.²⁰

Stimulate Exercise

People have used their pets for an excuse for walking or engaging in physical activity.^{1,2} Psychiatrist Michael McCulloch studied patients with serious physical disabilities and depression. The patients with pets reported participating in physical activities with their pets which otherwise would not have been part of their lives.^{1, 18}

Increased Laughter

Laughter is the best medicine. Animals are a frequent source of alternative medical intervention.¹ Animals often encourage people to laugh at themselves or their surroundings. Animals help patients maintain a sense of humor.^{1,18}

Improved Social Contact

People perceive individuals in the company of animals more positively than people without animal companions. Animals also improve the social attractiveness of people.¹⁹ People walking their dog are more likely to make eye contact and receive a smile from other people passing by than walking without a dog.

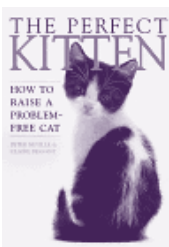
With the development of the human-animal bond there has been a demand for additional and improved services in the field of veterinary medicine. Owners are less concerned with the cost of medical care and more concerned with

care choices and the quality of that care. The development of animal behavior programs in veterinary practices has become an integral part of this increased demand by clients. Pet owners are demanding information on behavior problem prevention and intervention. They are less likely to immediately euthanize the family pet and more likely to seek behavioral treatment.

We are only beginning to appreciate how animals improve the quality of our life through their unconditional love and acceptance. It is this new appreciation that should drive the veterinary profession to meet the added expectations of the pet owner. Ernest Hemingway summed up the veterinary profession when he wrote, "When you love you wish to do things for. You wish to sacrifice for. You wish to serve."

Book Review by Julie Shaw, R.V.T.

The Perfect Kitten by Peter Neville and Claire Bessant



I'll keep this review simple. This book is truly a must have.

Thinking about starting kitten classes? Add the cost of this book to the client's registration fee and then include the book with the other class materials you provide.. Providing Pre-purchase counseling to a client who is considering a feline addition to their household? Recommend this book.

From pre-selection considerations (including an excellent section on cat breeds) through equipment, toys, potentially dangerous plants, to declaw or not to declaw, introducing the new addition to an older cat, or dog or even a baby—this book covers it all and covers the subjects well.

The authors spend much time describing the developmental stages of kittens. The socialization phase for cats is between 3-9 to 14 weeks of age. The "sensitive" period for socialization to humans and other animals is between 2 and 7-8 weeks of age. *"Behavioral studies have demonstrated that a kitten must be handled by a bare minimum of four different people during this phase, in order to be*

friendly with everyone whom it encounters later in life. In addition, it needs to be individually handled for a minimum of 40 minutes every day if it is to cope well with close human contact as an adult cat." I suspect this may at least partially explain why we see so many fearful cats.

I found the sections describing feline communication and the feline senses to be especially fascinating. I did not realize how important olfactory cues are to a cat's psychological well being. Until I read this book I did not appreciate that scratching *"is a fundamental method of scent communication between felines and makes a cat feel more secure in that environment. ...if a cat is anxious or stressed, it will feel the need to scratch other objects as well as its designated post, and may do so in several locations around the home. If your kitten is insistent on using many different areas and items of furniture for scratching, there may be an anxiety problem. This should be investigated as soon as possible, so ask your vet for a referral to a cat behavior expert."*

This is the book to recommend to every potential cat owner, new kitten owner or even veteran cat owner. You can't go wrong recommending this book. Those who are serious about behavioral medicine should have a copy of this book in their personal or hospital reference library.

By-Laws are Boring: Use of the SVBT Name/Logo in Advertising

From the SVBT Board of Directors

We know that reading by-laws for any particular organization is the quickest way to cure insomnia. The By-laws for SVBT are posted on our web-site but we don't imagine many of you have had the time or inclination to peruse them. One item mentioned in the by-laws has come up and we thought we would take this opportunity to clarify the following information.

Section 6 is titled "Advertisement" and reads as follows:

Members are prohibited from using the society name or logo in advertising including use of the society's name or logo on letterheads, business forms, business cards, and advertising copy.

We have followed AVSAB's (American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior's) lead on this particular item. We believe that it would be almost impossible for lay people to determine if being a member of SVBT means that said member has attained a higher level of edu-

cation and proficiency than non-members. We also feel that it would be difficult for most to make a distinction between those who are members of the society and those who are members of the future academy. Once we achieve specialty status, those meeting the criteria set forth by NAVTA will be in the Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians and will receive the title of Veterinary Technician Specialist (Behavior).

Therefore, to avoid, confusion, membership in SVBT cannot be used in any form of advertising.





NOVARTIS Scholarship Offer for Veterinary Staff Members

Novartis Animal Health realizes the value that veterinary staff members can add to animal behavioral services. In addition to sponsoring a multitude of educational programs throughout the year, a scholarship is being offered to attend the Association of Pet Dog Trainers' Ninth Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show in Portland, Oregon September 25-29, 2002.

Application for the scholarship is easy and open to veterinary technicians and staff members with a sincere interest in veterinary animal behavior and a desire to develop behavioral services into their clinic or animal shelter. But, you must act fast because the deadline for entry is June 1st.

The winning entrant will receive free admission to the APDT Conference and Banquet and up to \$1500 toward travel and hotel expenses. For more information about the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and the APDT conference, log onto www.apdt.com.

Entries will be scored by an independent judging board, including APDT board members and Dr. Karen Overall, boarded behaviorist.

CE Opportunities

The Following is a partial list of continuing education opportunities in animal behavior. Visit www.svbt.org for a more detailed listing.

April 4-7, 2002 45th British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) Congress Birmingham, United Kingdom

The largest small animal veterinary conference in the world Behavioural content: 1-day on feline behavior, 1-day nurses program, specialist sessions, and research abstracts congress@bsava.com

April 27, 2002 "Understanding the Horse's Mind" University of Montreal, Canada—Dr. Robert M. Miller Contact Micheline Filion Carriere 450-773-8521, ext 8379

May 3-4, 2002 Behavior Problems, Aggression and Motivational Training by Dr. Ian Dunbar Pittsburgh, PA 707-745-4237 www.puppyworks.com

May 4-5, 2002

W.B. Saunders and Mosby Animal Behavior Conference Fear and Anxiety in Companion Animals: Prevention, Detection, and Treatment Boston, MA -Westin Copley Place Drs. Sharon Crowell-Davis, Debra Horwitz, Katherine Houpt, and Gary Landsberg Contact: Jenny Besser at Mosby Continuing Education and Training, 800-826-1877; 314-453-4172 (FAX) www.mosby.com/Animal

May 19-25, 2002 Postgraduate Course in Applied Clinical Behavioral Medicine North American Veterinary Postgraduate Institute, Continuing Education Symposia; Orlando, FL Instructors: Drs. Karen Overall, Jacqui Neilson, Kersti Seksel, and Vint Virga Contact The North American Veterinary Conference (TNAVC) 352-375-5672; fax 352-375-4145; Email tnavc@navconline.com; www.navconline.com

May 29 - June 1, 2002 The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) National Conference on Animals in Disasters Fort Worth, TX Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification Phone 202-452-1100

May 30 - June 2, 2002 National Association for Search and Rescue Charlotte, NC Coordinator Mylea Wade 703.222.6277 myleaw@nasar.org www.nasar.org

June 5-9 2002 DOGS! Course: Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification Purdue University - West Lafayette, IN DOGS! 2002 is currently filled. Please visit the website at www.vet.purdue.edu/animalbehavior and add your name to the list to receive 2003 registration information

June 5-9, 2002 Ladies Equine Clinic - Drs. Robert Miller and Curtis Pate Clark, CO Home Ranch, 970-879-1780

June 12, 2002 Behavior Seminar for Veterinary Technicians Chicago Veterinary Medical Association Chicago, IL Dr. Andrew Luescher and Julie Shaw, R.V.T., CPDT

June 12-15 Southeast Vet Conference Myrtle Beach, SC
www.vetmeetings.com Hands on Gentle Leader wetlab - DonnaDyer

*****July 13-17 American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conf Nashville, TN SVBT and AVSAB annual meeting www.avma.org ******

July 13-17, 2002 Animal Behavior Society (ABS) 39th Annual Meeting Bloomington, Indiana contact Emilia Martins at emartins@bio.indiana.

Requirements for Entry:

- Entrants must be employed as a veterinary technician at an animal hospital or animal shelter.
- Entrants must submit a brief letter (500 words or less) stating why they would like to attend the conference and how they will utilize the knowledge they gain to promote veterinary animal behavioral services in their clinic or animal shelter.
- A letter from the entrant's supervisor should be included stating that this person would be a good candidate for the award. Please send only one letter – extra letters will not be considered.
- Entries must be received at the APDT Business office by **June 1, 2002**. Entries must be in hard copy format and should be sent to: Jackie Loeser, APDT Awards Committee Chair, 13160 Skunk Creek Road, Bozeman, MT 59715.
- Winners will be notified by July 15, 2002.
- If you would like to be notified that your entry has been received, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope.

Contact Awards Committee Chair Jackie Loeser at jackie@blackdog.cc

edu or Meredith West at mewest@indiana.edu <http://www.animalbehavior.org:8080/ABS/ABSPostings/1005331022>

July 31 - August 4, 2002 Seminar on Equine Behavior at "Ride with the Stars" - Dr. Robert M. Miller Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY Contact Pam Alford at 800-411-0857

August 11 - 17, 2002 Chico Basin Conference - Dr. Robert M. Miller Chico Basin Ranch, Colorado Springs, CO Contact Duke Phillips at 719-683-7960

August 16-20, 2002 Society for the Study of Social Problems Chicago, Illinois "Exploring irrationalities in the human-nonhuman relationship" Contact Lisa Anne Zilney, Department of Sociology, University of Tennessee, 906 McClung Tower, Knoxville, TN 37996; Email Izilney@utk.edu

August 17-20, 2002 Central Veterinary Conference Kansas city, MO The Central Veterinary Conference (CVC) is a four-day conference with more than 450 clinical, practice management, and team-oriented educational sessions and 30 hands-on wetlabs. Behavior sessions: Drs. Andrew Luescher and Julie Shaw, R.V.T., Petra Mertens, and Amy Marder. Sponsored by Premier Pet Products. Contact: 800-255-6864 ext 6, cvc@vetmedpub.com <http://www.vetmedpub.com/cvc/>

August 22-25, 2002 Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy Reno, Nevada 516-883-7767, FAX 516-944-5035

August 27-31, 2002 Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) Annual Conference and Expo Monterey, CA Avian behavior section included Contact: 561-393-8901 www.conferenceoffice.com/aav/

September 5-8, 2002 Equine behavior lectures - Dr. Robert M. Miller Pagosa Springs, CO 800-642-3335

A Case History— Aggression Between Cats After Reintroduction

By KM Martin, DVM, Resident Animal Behavior, Purdue University

All cases outlined in the "Case History" section must have been diagnosed and treated by a veterinarian. This case has been summarized.



Signalment and Statement of Problem

"Armond" (Mx, 3 yrs old, 4 kg) and "Wolfe" (Mx, 8 yrs old, 5 kg) are two Tonkinese cats presented for acute aggression toward each other.

General History:

The owner reported "Armond" and "Wolfe" had an affable relationship until "Wolfe" was removed from the home for

24 hours for a dental prophylaxis at the veterinary hospital. The cats are indoors only and were housed separately after several failed attempts at reintroduction.

Behavior History:

When "Wolfe" was reintroduced into the home "Armond" became aggressive to "Wolfe". "Armond" was identified as the aggressor and "Wolfe" demonstrated fearful behavior. Previously there was no evidence of active or passive aggression between the cats.

Significant Physical and Laboratory Finding:

Physical and blood analysis on both cats were within normal limits.

Behavioral Diagnosis:

Intercat Aggression secondary to olfactory cues and fear.

Previous Treatment:

"Armond" (the aggressor) was placed on Paxil (5mg sid) and "Wolfe" on lorazepam (1mg sid) 4 weeks previous. "Wolfe's" lorazepam was discontinued due to profound hyper excitability, tachycardia and myosis after the initial dosage.

Prescribed Treatment Plan:

Treatment included Paxil (1 mg/kg PO sid) for

"Armond" and "Wolfe" was placed on lorazepam at a dosage of 0.05mg/kg PO SID

Behavior modification included:

- 1) Separating the cats and ignoring them most of the time to increase the value of attention during the counter-conditioning exercises
- 2) Systematic desensitization, counter conditioning and clicker training at reintroduction
- 3) Artificial allomarking of scents with Feliway®
- 4) Feeding both cats free choice and creating multiple food, water and litter box stations (core areas).
- 5) Adding perches to increase vertical living space.

Results:

1 week after diagnosis the owner reported improvement with increased friendliness and no episodes of aggression or fear. 8 weeks post diagnosis the cats have shown no aggression toward each other.

This case demonstrates the importance of treating the aggressor, as well as, the fearful recipient of aggression with appropriate drug regimens.

Client Education

Reintroduction of Cats After a Visit to the Veterinary Hospital

By KM Martin, DVM and AU Luescher, DVM, PhD, DACVB

Cats that have been separated from each other for even short periods of time may show aggression to each other when they are reintroduced. Usually, the cat that was removed from the house is the recipient of the aggression at reintroduction. The reason for this aggression is often associated with odor or scent. Groups of cats have a communal scent. Occasionally when a cat is taken to the veterinary hospital its scents can become altered and the cat is not recognized as a member of the group by the other cat(s). The returning cat may be treated as an intruder by the other cats.

The following steps can be taken to reduce or possibly prevent this problem:

1. Take a small towel and rub one cat, then the other, then once more the first one, then the second one, etc. This helps to "mix" the odors and makes both cats smell similar.
2. Change the room in which you want to reintroduce the cats. Place a "cat tree" or large cardboard box, etc., in the middle of the room. Something new will attract the cat's attention and take it off the cat being reintroduced.
3. Set up two food dishes with the cats' favorite food at opposite ends of a room from each other. Bring the cats to these food dishes so they associate seeing each other with a pleasant experience. Alternatively, one person can take one cat and another person the other cat(s) and play with them with interactive toys or catnip toys at some distance from each other.
4. When you reintroduce the cats, you may want to have them on different levels, e.g., one on the floor and one up on a couch, so they are not at each others' eye level.
5. Avoid negative experiences while reintroducing the cats.
6. You may want to apply Feliway®, a synthetic feline facial pheromone, to prominent objects in the home before reintroduction. This may reduce anxiety, and aggression.
7. If the cats are still aggressive to each other, contact your veterinarian. Cats will not "flight it out", but there are accepted and effective methods to treat aggression between cats.



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