

## Back to the Beach! Still Time to Register for MVMA's Summer Conference



The Maryland Veterinary Medical Association is headed to the beach for its 2016 Summer Conference June 26-28. The Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel will host the region's premier event for education, developing business partnerships and networking.

[Click here for details](#)

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Attention Young Practitioners (graduates class of 2009 through 2016) – Come join us for the [MVMA Power of 10!](#) If you are interested in Leadership development, Team building, Growing your potential and Advancing your career, APPLY NOW! Period ends on June 26th.

[Please submit your application ASAP!](#)

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## Have You Submitted Your Stakeholder Survey?

The MVMA board of directors is depending on your feedback to align the association's goals with your needs as a member. [Click here to participate.](#)

[Click here to review MVMA's Strategic Plan.](#)

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## Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Future - A Veterinarian's Role

by Matt Lager, DVM



The summer show season is fast approaching and spring sales and shows have already begun. 4-H and FFA youth members are busy preparing their animals and projects for the year. As veterinarians know caring for animals is a 365 day job. Our youth take pride in their accomplishments for a job well done. Many of these youth aspire to be veterinarians one day just as we did.

Veterinarians play an important role in the success of our youth members. It does not matter if your veterinary practice is food animal, small animal, or mixed. It does not matter if you do research or are in the government and corporate industry. You can even be the State Veterinarian. All of us have the needed skills required to make a positive impact in the lives of a 4-H and FFA member and their projects. Volunteer your time at a 4-H or FFA event. Purchase an animal at a youth livestock sale. Donate an award at an exhibition. Create a scholarship for future endowment. Write health charts before the shows. Give a lecture at a 4-H meeting.

All of us are extremely busy but remember to give back to 4-H and FFA youth. It does matter whether kids win or lose, participation is the key to their success. The hard work our youth and their families contribute to this industry impact all of us.

### **Contributing to Your MVMA Political Action Committee (PAC)**

Every state allows associations like the MVMA to start an organization to raise money for political candidates. In Maryland, that is called a Political Action Committee (PAC). PACs can provide an added benefit to a legislative program that includes the grassroots efforts of the membership.

A PAC can do the following:

- Provide another way to support your legislative champions. Your legislative champions are valuable to you and your association, especially if he or she is able to continue in that role in your state assembly.

- Providing financial support through PAC contributions helps keep your legislative champions in office.
- Give association members a way to participate in the political process. People who contribute to a PAC have made a political decision to get involved with the issues they care about the most. An active, involved membership is a key part of state association's success.
- Add substance to your association by the power of 1 versus 100. Therefore by developing a state PAC, you will be able to increase contributions to candidates who support your issues.
- Legislators stand up and take notice when your state association has a PAC. Besides the funding mechanism, a PAC shows that you are committed to participating in the political process.

Alexander & Cleaver, our legislative representative, is equipped to work with our PAC to ensure that we are getting the most out of our association's political contributions. Your contribution to the MVMA's PAC allows us to continue to support those state representatives that champion our causes!

## MVMA PAC in Action



This year our PAC provided funds to Delegate Eric Bromwell who sponsored the MVMA's Compounding Bill in the House. Through the efforts of the Legislative Committee and the support provided by the PAC, MVMA had a successful outcome this session with the passing of HB1462/SB 614. The Compounding Bill became law on May 27 and goes into effect on October 1, 2016.

DONATE NOW! Contact MVMA: 410.268.1311

[Click here for a synopsis of MVMA's 2016 legislative activity.](#)

## MDA Animal Health Alert Concerning VFD and Rx Antibiotic Drugs

by Michael W. Radebaugh, VMD

### Background

Over the past several years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), with consultation from industry, the AVMA, academia, and other national agencies like USDA and CDC, has taken important steps on how medically important antibiotics used in humans can be legally and judiciously used in feed or water for food producing animals. The overall goal of these important steps is to decrease antibiotic resistance in medically important antibiotics that are used in both humans and in food producing animals.

To accomplish this goal, the FDA's two part strategy is: (1) require licensed veterinarians within the context of the veterinarian-client-patient relationship to issue either a Veterinary Food Directive (VFD) or prescription (Rx) for medically important antibiotics; and (2) alert the animal drug companies that they have until December 31, 2016 to transition over-the-counter, medically important antibiotics to either a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) or a prescription (Rx) drug status.

### What is the difference between VFD and Rx Antibiotic Drugs?

A VFD drug is approved for use in or on animal feed (a medicated feed). When the drug is not being approved for use in or on animal feed but delivered in water, the drug is approved as a prescription (Rx) drug.

### What should MVMA members know about FDA's final rule for VFD and Rx Antibiotic Drugs?

Effective January 1, 2017, veterinarians must issue a VFD order to treat any major or minor (all species) food producing animals containing a medically important antibiotic to be mixed in feed used only for a specific preventative or therapeutic condition. Use of medically important antibiotics for growth promotion only will not be allowed after January 1, 2017.

Effective January 1, 2017, a prescription (Rx) order from a veterinarian will be necessary for a client to obtain medically important antibiotics delivered in water. Clients will no longer be able to obtain these drugs over the counter.

Veterinarians issuing a VFD or Rx order must retain the original order for 2 years, and both the drug distributor and client must retain copies on these orders (VFD and Rx) for 2 years.

Note:

Extralabel use of medically important antibiotics mixed in medicated feed or delivered in water is not permitted.

At this time, injectable OTC antibiotics will not transition from OTC to Rx status.

For more information contact: AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov

Website: <http://www.fda.gov/safefeed>

### **Federal Regulations: 21 CFR 558.6 (VFD) and 21 CFR 225 (cGMP)**

I strongly urge all MVMA members - not just food animal veterinarians - to become familiar with the new FDA regulations. Due to these FDA regulatory changes, after January 1, 2017 certain antibiotics may be either hard to get or may be taken off the market.

Michael W. Radebaugh, VMD

Maryland State Veterinarian, Chief Animal Health Program

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Annapolis, Maryland

## **Positive Lyme Results: To Treat or Not to Treat**

*by Mariah Frank, DVM*

*Borrelia burgdorferi* is a spirochete bacteria, which has been recognized in Europe for nearly a century. It was first described in the United States as a clinical syndrome affecting children around Lyme Connecticut in 1975. It is transmitted by the Ixodes tick and is currently the most common vector-borne disease of people in the United States. Approximately 90% of humans exposed to *Borrelia* develop clinical signs consisting of a bull's eye rash at the site of tick attachment and flu like symptoms.

Persistent Lyme disease can lead to recurrent arthritis, neurologic disease, and myocarditis. Pets are not an immediate source of infection for people, however canines can be used as sentinels for human risk of exposure to *Borrelia*. The CDC reports that >5% canine seroprevalence at the county level is associated with emergence of human Lyme disease. Animals can also be a source of tick exposure for humans making tick prevention important for our clients as well as our patients.

In contrast to humans most canine patients that are exposed to *Borrelia* do not develop clinical disease with only 5% of seropositive dogs showing clinical signs within a 2 year monitoring period after documentation of a positive Lyme result. In endemic areas in the northeast United States 70-90% of canines tested are Lyme positive. Less than 5% of exposed canines develop signs such as fever, lymph node enlargement near the site of tick attachment, myalgia and polyarthropathy usually starting in the leg closest to the tick bite. Rarely severe glomerulonephritis with a rapid onset and high mortality rate has been described associated with Lyme exposure and is suspected to be an immune mediated glomerulonephritis.

Unfortunately we do not have a test available that proves clinical disease in dogs. The *Borrelia* organism is rarely found and routine tests are based on exposure alone (antibody). Canine patients will become ELISA positive for *Borrelia* 3-6 weeks post exposure and will remain positive for at least 18 months following exposure. Qualitative C6 peptide, which is a surface protein found on *Borrelia* during transmission is helpful in determining if there is natural exposure. C6 is not part of the Lyme vaccine so a positive C6 test proves natural exposure, but does not prove clinical disease. Diagnosis of Lyme disease is based on compatible clinical signs in an endemic area with proof of exposure.

When a positive Lyme result is found on screening tests the owner should be educated on the differences between Lyme disease in canines versus humans and the importance of tick prevention. Prophylactic use of antibiotics in asymptomatic patients is not recommended due to the high frequency of exposure and low incidence of clinical disease. When a positive Lyme result is found in an asymptomatic patient consider testing for other tick borne diseases as well as evaluating the urine for proteinuria. In symptomatic patients with a positive Lyme test it is important to rule out other disease processes prior to treatment. Current treatment recommendations for symptomatic Lyme positive patients is 5mg/kg of doxycycline twice daily for 1 month. Clinical improvement generally occurs within 24-48 hours so if signs persist additional testing is recommended. An additional resource for veterinarians is the ACVIM Small Animal Consensus Statement on Lyme disease in Dogs which is available online.

### **The Humane Society of Harford County Gets a New Shelter**



*by Jen Swanson, Executive Director, The Humane Society of Harford County*

Happy spring to you all (if you can call it that)! I am honored to provide this update regarding the new shelter at The Humane Society of Harford County (HSHC), and so grateful to you all, our partners in animal welfare!

As you may know, HSHC was founded in 1946 by Mrs. Elsa Horne Voss, when she purchased a small dairy farm at 2208 Connolly Road in Fallston. The farmhouse was then converted to the shelter that's been in use for the past 70 years. Now over 100

years old, the house was added to and renovated over the years, but was showing its age. The old shelter had holes in the walls and roof, leaked significantly during storms, the boiler was on its last legs and spouting water, and proper sanitation and disinfection was all but impossible. And while certainly it had its faults, we will never forget the impact that little shelter building had on the lives of thousands of animals and people over the years.



Over the Easter weekend, staff and volunteers came together to move into our beautiful new shelter building. Located on the same property as the original shelter, the new shelter boasts 19,000 square feet, state of the art mechanical systems, new kennels and caging, furniture and finishings that can be disinfected, and a proper veterinary department to handle the

approximately 4,000 animals that come into the shelter every year. We opened for business in our new building on Monday, March 28. While we still have another five months or so before the project is complete, we are now enjoying the long-awaited facility. The second and final phase of the project is now underway, which includes the demolition of the old buildings, construction of a 70-space lighted parking lot, widening of Connolly Road to include a turn-in lane, and a large LED marquee at the end of our driveway. So as you can see, while we are IN the new building, there is still a lot of work ahead. When phase two is complete, likely in late summer/early fall, we will have a grand reopening and ribbon



cutting ceremony, which I hope you will be able to attend!

The first question everyone asks is, “How many animals can you handle now?” The new building has 44 kennels for adoptable dogs, seven kennels for stray dogs, four kennels for quarantine dogs, six intake kennels for new dogs, and three kennels in the overnight drop off area for animal control. We also have 16 cages for adoptable cats, plus two cat community rooms with access to outdoor “catios,” 24 cages for stray cats, six intake cages for new cats, 10 cages for cat isolation, six cages for cat quarantine, and six more in the overnight animal control area. In addition, we have a separate room for nursing moms and babies, and another

room for kittens, so that they are away from the general population for the brief period of time before we can get them into foster. Last but certainly not least, we have a large room for small animals and reptiles, with two “bun runs” for rabbits, guinea pigs, and other animals to get out and stretch their little legs. While our footprint and capacity has increased, our staffing has not, so we are looking at ways to supplement our very small staff through expanded volunteer opportunities and partnerships with area agencies.



Our veterinary department is also an area of great pride. In November of 2015 we hired a full time veterinarian, Dr. Mary Zink, who came to us from her previous position as Shelter Veterinary Director at the Maryland SPCA. Dr. Zink has worked incredibly hard to put new protocols in place, and we are already seeing the benefits. Our cases of URI in both cats and dogs has decreased significantly, and we are now able to diagnose and treat animals much faster and in a more cost-effective way. The veterinary area at the new shelter has separate rooms for cat exams and dog exams, a room for

ethanasia, and an area designated for future spay/neuter of shelter animals.

Also helping with keeping airborne illness in check is our state of the art air handling system. The building is zoned, meaning if we have an outbreak in one wing of kennels, we can shut it down and

continue operations in the other areas of the building. The air is circulated 10 times per hour by these systems, which again, helps to decrease the spread of URI and other airborne bugs.

Some other highlights are a number of storage areas, a staff and volunteer breakroom, and of course, now we are all in one building, as opposed to being split up into several different buildings.

Finally, while the new building is our main focus right now, we have also implemented several new programs, and will continue to develop them, to increase our live release rate, decrease our intake through shelter intervention programs to help people and pets, and enhance the lives of the animals while in our care through enrichment programs.

But while I can tell you all about the new building, it's better to see it in person! Words simply can't do it justice, and there's even more that I couldn't squeeze into this article. If you would like to visit the shelter for a tour with Dr. Zink and myself, please let us know! We would love the opportunity to meet you (if we haven't met already), to show you our beautiful new facility, and to talk to you more about some of the operational changes we're making. Please contact me at 410-836-1090 x101 or [jen@harfordshelter.org](mailto:jen@harfordshelter.org).

## VMCVM Student Officer Profile



Katie Ronk  
President

I am a second-year DVM/MPH student from Bel Air, MD tracking food animal. I am incredibly excited to serve as the President of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association's Student Chapter, and hope to learn as much as possible from our parent chapter. I am primarily interested in public veterinary medicine, but would like to go into a food animal or mixed animal private practice after I graduate and learn from an experienced mentor. Outside of vet school I enjoy hiking and losing at tug of war to my corgi Winston.

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## Upcoming Events

June 26-28, 2016

### **MVMA Summer Conference**

Ocean City, MD

[Click here for details](#)

October 19, 2016

### **Maryland Veterinary Foundation "Golftoberfest"**

Waverly Woods Golf Club

November 4 - 6, 2016

### **Potomac Regional Veterinary Conference**

Omni Shoreham Hotel

Washington, DC

[Click here for details](#)

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## MVMA NEWS

### "Like Us" on Facebook

Click on the "like" icon below to follow MVMA on Facebook.



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### Don't Forget to List Your Externship with MVMA

MVMA is compiling a list of externship opportunities to support our relationship and communication with the students at VMRCVM. If you are a member and want to list your externship, [click here](#).

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### Welcome New Members

MVMA welcomes the following members who have joined since our last newsletter was published.

Srinivasulu Chigurupati, Phd.  
Kyshia T. Davis, DVM  
Megan C. Davis, DVM  
Catherine E. DeJesus, VMD  
David L. Dycus, DVM, MS  
Katryna A. Fleer, DVM  
Christopher M. Gauthier, DVM  
Megan C. Hensler, DVM

Denise Kessler – CVCA – Cardiac Care for Pets  
Tom Liskey, DVM  
Mike McClung – First National Bank  
Lauren E. Robinson - student  
Shadawn T. Salmond –Jimenez, DVM  
Jocelyn B. Spiga, DVM  
Mary K. Volker, DVM  
Matthew F. Weeman, DVM  
Derek D. Wilson, DVM

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### MVMA Classifieds

MVMA's most recent job listings and listings for practices and equipment for sale. [Click here read them.](#)