

AVSAB

Newsletter of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior

DECEMBER 2002

Melissa Bain DVM, Editor

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President's Message

Happy Holidays! The AVSAB Executive Board has been hard at work preparing for our upcoming meeting in Denver, which will take place on July 21, 2003. We are lucky to have the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists hosting a paper session this year as well, which will take place the evening before the AVSAB paper and poster session (hopefully in the same location). Look for a combined registration form in your March newsletter for both meetings.

Our annual business meeting will be scheduled on July 21 immediately following the paper presentations. Any member who would like to suggest agenda items should send them to me via e-mail. Also, if there are members who wish to propose changes to our Constitution and/or Bylaws, suggestions can be made to a member of the Executive Board, or a petition signed by 10% of the voting membership for the proposed amendment can be submitted. These will be published in the June newsletter prior to the business meeting.

Please feel free to offer suggestions for how we can improve our meeting. We are in the planning phase now, so I welcome your comments.

A reminder about dues: the deadline for payment of membership dues is currently August 1. The membership voted in Nashville to change the date for collection of dues from August to January. The dues that you pay in August

2003 will cover 17 months of membership, and you will not need to pay dues again until January 2005. The dues will be increased accordingly to cover the extended period of membership for that period only: \$60, rather than \$40.

Please try to pay your dues on time. It becomes costly (and time-consuming) for AVSAB to send out multiple reminders for non-payment of dues. According to the Bylaws, if you are 3 months overdue, you will be removed from the membership database, and we do not want to lose any of our members.

If any of you travel to meetings or speaking engagements and would like to take along some **AVSAB membership brochures** to make available to meeting attendees, please contact our Secretary/Treasurer for current address labels (Dr. Feldman has moved to sunny California). Dr. Feldman can arrange to have brochures and labels sent to you, so you can promote AVSAB in your travels.

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to Steve Feldman for keeping AVSAB business together through his cross-country move. As someone who is about to embark on a 3000-mile move herself, I realize how hectic things quickly become. Steve, you have done a great job serving AVSAB during a difficult time.

Cheers,
Lynne

AVSAB Newsletter Submissions

Attention members! We need submissions from our members to make OUR newsletter as informative and interesting as possible. Some things to consider submitting are: upcoming meetings with behavior or other related lectures, worthy websites, news headlines, "members in the news", interesting cases that you have seen, etc., etc. Please submit your articles for the March 2003 newsletter by February 15, 2003 to Melissa Bain at mjbain@ucdavis.edu, or by regular mail to the address on the front of this newsletter.

Call For Papers

International Working Dog Breeding Conference

This is the first announcement and call for papers for the 3rd International Working Dog Breeding Conference, to be held 28-30, April 2003 at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Please visit our website (www.iwdba.org) to get the most current information on the conference.

Individuals interested in giving presentations at the conference are encouraged to submit proposed titles and 1 paragraph summaries by e-mail or FAX. Also, you may nominate or request a specific presentation if you wish. The format for the 2003 meeting will include 50 minute presentations, short presentations, and poster presentations.

Contact Information:

Walter F Burghardt, Jr, DVM, PhD
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Behaviorists
Chief, Behavioral Medicine and Military Working Dog Studies
Department of Defense Military Working Dog Veterinary Service
1219 Knight Street
Lackland Air Force Base, Texas 78236-5519
Telephone: (210)671-3991, DSN 473
FAX: (210)671-2308
E-mail: Walter.Burghardt@Lackland.af.mil

CABTSG Study Day

The Council House, Birmingham, UK
Wednesday April 2, 2003

Deadline January 1, 2003

A one day behaviour meeting will be held on Wednesday April 2, 2003 at the Council House Birmingham. The theme for the day will be "Exploring the link between behaviour and organic disease."

For more information contact: <http://www.esvce.org>
Send abstracts to:
Sarah Heath BVSc MRCVS
11 Cotebrook Drive
Upton
Chester Cheshire
CH2 1RA, England
Tel: 44 1244 377365
Fax: 44 1244 399228
heath@vetethol.demon.co.uk

ESVCE Meeting

Salzburg, Austria
Friday September 19, 2003

Deadline February 1, 2003

A one day behaviour medicine meeting will be held Friday, September 19, 2003 in Salzburg, Austria. The theme for the day will be "Therapeutic Approaches in Veterinary Behaviour Medicine" and the morning will consist of three 45 minute presentations by invited speakers. The late morning and afternoon will be divided into three sessions. The first two will be devoted to 30 minute (25+5) presentations on the specific theme of therapeutic approaches and it is hoped that papers will be submitted by those involved in both research and practice within the field of companion animal behaviour medicine. There will be a

total of 6 presentations in these sessions. The third session will consist of 20 minute (15+5) free communications relating to any aspect of companion animal behaviour practice or research and there will be a total of 4 presentations in the session. The AGM of ESVCE will be held during an extended lunch break.

For more information contact: <http://www.esvce.org>

Send abstracts to:
The Selection Committee Chairwoman
Dipl.Tzt. Sabine Schroll
Hohensteinstr. 22
A- 3500 Krems, Austria/Europe
Tel.: +43-2732-71600
mailto:sabine.schroll@aon.at

Biting Ferrets

By Ann Beebe, DVM

Ferrets are energetic fun pets, but bites and nips to humans are frustrating. Humans are most often the targets for bites during ferret play or handling. Ferrets play vigorously with their mouths open as they bounce side to side and then leap forward to the play target. They often vocalize during play – the most common sounds are the chatter, chuckle, and hiss. Ferrets often bite the head and neck region of another ferret during play. They shake their heads while biting the other ferret and then try to drag the other ferret in their grip. Therefore it should not be a surprise that when ferrets play with people, they often dart and leap with mouth open trying to grab and hold clothing or skin. Some ferrets are difficult to hold or restrain without the potential for a bite. This makes owners less willing to take them out of cages to get exercise and maintain preventative healthcare. The key to managing and preventing ferret bites is to provide appropriate ways for ferrets to play and introduce handling methods that reduce the opportunity for a ferret bite.

Ferret exercise is the best way to channel play behavior. Most ferrets are housed in cages for safety. Ferrets can put themselves in danger with their antics of climbing, stealing, or ingestion of objects. The best ferret cages are multi-level, which can give ferrets some exercise. Ferrets need to run, play, and climb about 20 – 30 minutes twice a day. Younger ferrets (less than 1½ years) may need

more exercise. Owners can direct ferret play so that they minimize their chance of being bitten.

Ferrets love to explore and play with almost anything. Ferrets can be entertained with a cat tree to climb, blanket/towel/pillow case to explore underneath, boxes, bags, and big stuffed toys. You may also use ferrets' natural urge to steal as a means to exercise. Many ferrets are delighted to get an object and place it behind fur-

The key to managing and preventing ferret bites is to provide appropriate ways for ferrets to play and introduce handling methods that reduce the opportunity for a ferret bite.

niture. They seem to like to hide shoes, dog toys like Gumma/Nyla Bones®, toy mice, pens, paper towel rolls, tennis balls, and smaller cat balls. Owners should place items for ferrets to steal and this will help occupy their time. Stairs are also a great place for ferret exercise. People can place a baby gate at the top of a set of stairs and keep returning the ferret to the bottom of the staircase so that the ferret has to keep climbing. The baby gate can be covered with plastic placemats so that the ferrets cannot climb over.

Ferrets may also get exercise by playing with other ferrets or cats. It can be difficult to introduce ferrets to each other, so adopting two ferrets together may be best. Cats and ferrets can play together. Cats may play-

stalk ferrets, and the ferrets tend to then pounce on the cat.

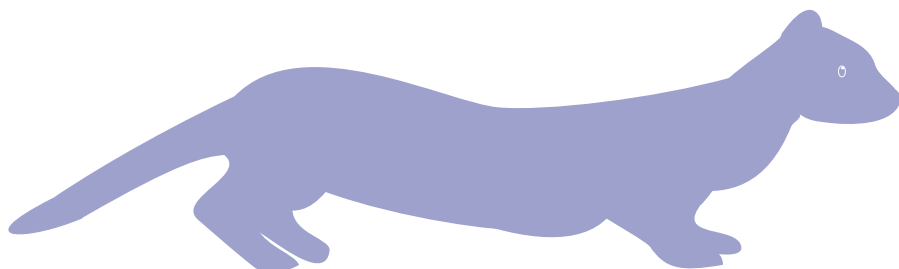
Ferrets usually sink to the ground when they are tired. Sometimes a tired ferret will find a hiding place to sleep, so keep an eye out as they tend to fall into a deep sleep.

Ferrets are social creatures and want to interact with people. Owners may get ambushed, even though they provide opportunity for ferret exercise. Owners can keep a big

stuffed toy to push at the leaping ferret or throw a towel on them. Ferrets can be easily distracted.

Some ferrets are difficult to hold without a bite or a nip. Many ferrets will get better with handling practice. One method is to use a product such as Laxatone®. Many ferrets like the taste of this product, so as they lick the Laxatone®, owners can pet them, brush them, or trim their nails. Another method to occupy the ferret mouth is with a small ball or toy mouse. Ferrets will usually keep holding the object, so people can practice handling the ferret without getting bitten. Owners can also practice ferret handling after a ferret is tired from exercise. An alternative effective method of restraint is “scruffing.” This immobilizes the ferret for handling.

Ferrets are fun companion pets. The number one complaint of owners is biting and nipping. Many times this can be managed with the above methods. The best thing an owner can do is exercise the energetic ferret. Owners should also be counseled to contact you for further help.



Assistant/Associate Professor of Small Animal Population Health and Shelter Medicine

Department of Medicine and Epidemiology
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of California, Davis

Salary

Dependent on qualifications and experience

Qualifications

Veterinarian with advanced training or experience in small animal population health and shelter medicine. Board certification or eligibility in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine ACVIM or in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine ACVPM or a relevant board preferred. PhD preferred; advanced degree in epidemiology or demonstrated knowledge of epidemiologic principles desired. Clinical experience and competence in health and disease issues associated with animal shelters and similar public and private institutions is preferred. Demonstrated ability to develop and apply appropriate epidemiologic methods to the diagnosis, control and prevention of diseases at the population level required. Demonstrated aptitude/experience in teaching and administrative work. Documented research record or potential to develop an independent research program in diseases and population health issues that are of contemporary importance to the shelter industry. Must possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and a demonstrated ability to work with others in a collegial team atmosphere.

Responsibilities

Teaching: Responsibilities include: 1) participation in lectures and laboratories in the DVM professional curriculum; 2) clinical teaching in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) and local animal shelters; 3) participation in the Shelter Medicine resident training program of the VMTH; and 4) participation in the graduate academic (MS and PhD) and clinical (residents) programs of the school and campus.

Clinical: The position includes a 50% clinical commitment to the Shelter Medicine Program of the VMTH. The individual will be responsible for directing, instructing and supervising veterinary students and residents; providing health care and service to shelters; and advising and consulting with referring veterinarians and clients.

Research: The development of a creative, independent and productive basic and/or clinically-oriented research program in diseases and population health issues that are of contemporary importance to the small animal shelter industry is a fundamental and indispensable requirement of the position, including publication of results in professional/scientific journals. Individual will provide leadership in directing research projects of residents and graduate students.

Service: This position includes a 10% administrative commitment as Director to the Shelter Medicine program. University and public service through committee work, participation in professional organizations, continuing education and other appropriate means is required.

Application Process

To receive fullest consideration, applications must be received by January 6, 2003; position open until filled. Interested applicants should submit 1) a letter of intent outlining special interest in the position, overall related qualifications and experience and career goals; 2) curriculum vitae; and 3) the names and addresses of three professional references to:

Dr. Richard W. Nelson, Department Chair
ATTN: Clarice Martin cjmartin@ucdavis.edu
Department of Medicine and Epidemiology
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of California
Davis, CA 95616
phone: 530 752-1363
fax: 530 752-0414

The University of California, Davis and the Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, are interested in candidates who are committed to the highest standards of scholarship and professional activities, and to the development of a campus climate that supports equality and diversity. The University of California is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

AVSAB AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE IN APPLIED ANIMAL BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

DEADLINE IS April 1st, 2003. Papers should be mailed to:

Dr. John Ciribassi
1042 Mountain Glen Way
Carol Stream, IL 60188
630-231-5210
drjdvm@msn.com

Papers must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a **current veterinary student**.
- The paper must be in the format for application to a scientific publication. i.e. it must have a cover page, an abstract, materials and methods, discussion and references.
- **Research must have been completed while in veterinary school.**
- The paper should not have been previously published, and not yet received final acceptance for publication in a journal prior to the submission deadline.
- Three copies are to be submitted to Dr. Ciribassi, typed, doubled spaced.
- Alternately, the paper can be submitted via email or computer disc as a Microsoft Word document. Send to the above address or email address.
- All identifying references to author, location, clinic or university must be deleted, except for on the cover page of the document.
- The winner must attend and present their paper at the AVSAB paper presentation session held in conjunction with the AVMA Annual meeting in Denver CO on July 21, 2003. The award will be given at the AVSAB meeting after the winner presents their paper.

The recipient will be notified by May 15 prior to the AVMA Annual Meeting

An abstract of the award winning paper will be printed in the AVSAB newsletter.

The cash portion of the award shall be a **\$1500.00** from which the student can be used to help defray the cost of attending the meeting.

An abstract of the winning paper will be provided for the meeting attendees and printed in a subsequent issue of the AVSAB newsletter.

If no suitable papers are submitted, the award will not be given.

ACVB Scientific Paper Session

Please plan to join the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists as they present their inaugural scientific paper session. The session will be a half-day of scientific papers to be presented on Sunday night July 20th at the 2003 AVMA conference in Denver. This session will follow two days of general behavior sessions and precedes the AVSAB paper and poster session and annual general meeting on Monday, July 21st. The meetings are open to all.

The new ACVB paper session is intended to offer behaviorists and those individuals in approved training programs and those who have completed programs an opportunity to present and share their research and findings with others. The program will take place in the evening and refreshments will be served. Registration details will be in upcoming AVSAB newsletters. We look forward to see you there.

ACVB Exam Tips

**From Bonnie Beaver, DVM, DACVB
Executive Director, American
College of Veterinary Behaviorists**

A few helpful tips for those who may be applying to take the 2003 ACVB Exam:

1. Submit your completed non-conforming program materials **BEFORE** the deadline, if at all possible.
 - a. Re-write all of the things you said you were going to do in the initial submission and then state how they were done and any variations needed.
 - b. The materials for the non-conforming program should be separate from the Application for Examination. The training program materials go to a different committee and all materials you want considered must be with that package. All materials submitted as the Application for Examination will be sent to the appropriate committee only after your non-conforming program has final approval. The Executive Director of ACVB will not separate out materials to be sure they go to appropriate committees; that is your job.
2. Start early in the Application for Examination process to be sure everything arrives on time and is of the quality that you want.

In the past, a number of case reports that were submitted were failed because there was poor grammar, spelling errors, and little mistakes that indicated they were done in a hurry.

Upcoming Behavior Meetings

January 4, 2003

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

Crowne Plaza, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton
Contact: midge.landal@avma.abca

January 13 – 15, 2003

Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association Winter Meeting

Omaha, NE
Twelve hours of behavior topics.
Contact: Don Ellerbee, Phone 402-563-4704; Email gmo@inebraska.com;
Website www.nvma.org

January 15 – 19, 2003

California Narcotic Canine Association (CNCA)

Burbank, CA
Wet labs on canine signaling; handlers course; detection
Contact: CNCA, Phone 707-226-8999; Fax 707-226-8219; Email info@cnca.com; Website www.cnca.com

January 18 – 22, 2003

The North American Veterinary Conference

Orlando, FL
Small animal behavior lectures by Drs. Horwitz and Landsberg
Contact: 4421 NW 39th Avenue, Bldg. 1-A, Gainesville, Florida, 32606; Phone: 800-817-9928 U.S. and Canada; 01-352-375-5672 International; FAX 352-336-6827; Email: info@navconline.com; Website www.navconline.com

January 24 – 25, 2003

South Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (SCAV) Conference

Charleston, SC
Contact: SCAV, Phone 252-747-8180

January 25, 2003

Psychopharmacology: Selecting Medications for Behavior Problems (#50975)

University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Contact: Sandi Kilgo, Phone 706-542-1451; Email skilgo@vet.uga.edu;
Website <http://www.gactr.uga.edu/conferences/2003/Jan/25/ctbehave.phtml>

February 6 – 8, 2003

Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VAVMA), Virginia Veterinary Conference

Roanoke, VA
Contact: VAVMA, Phone (800)-YES-VVMA; Email vavvma@aol.com;
Website www.vvma.org

February 17 – 20, 2003

Western Veterinary Conference

Las Vegas, NV
Contact: 2425 East Oquendo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89120-2406; Phone 702-739-6698; Fax 702-739-6420; Email info@westernveterinary.org; Website www.wvc.org

February 20 – 21, 2003

Equine Behavior Lab

Two-day Course for Veterinarians, Horse Professionals and Enthusiasts at New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
Social and reproductive behavior of equids - How horses communicate - Learning in horses - Behavior modification for common problems such as trailering, injection shyness- Stereotypies-cribbing, weaving, pacing, head shaking - Maternal and foal behavior and problems - Early intensive handling of foals - Discussion panel of experts on current products and methods of training and handling - Equine welfare - Current methods of veterinary behavior evaluation and therapy.
Tour a Semi-feral Herd
* Registration due December 1, 2002; \$500
Contact: Bonnie Millar, 610-444-5800,

X2121; Email millar@vet.upenn.edu;
Website <http://caltest.nbc.upenn.edu/behavior>

February 22, 2003

Fears and Phobias: Calming the Fearful Pet (#50976)

University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Contact: Sandi Kilgo, Phone 706-542-1451; Email skilgo@vet.uga.edu;
Website <http://www.gactr.uga.edu/conferences/2003/Jan/25/ctbehave.phtml>

March 15 – 16, 2003

Concepts and Skills for Safe, Efficient Handling and General Management of Breeding Stallions

Two-day Course for Veterinarians, Stallion Owners and Managers at the Equine Behavior Lab at New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
Contact: Bonnie Millar, 610-444-5800, X2121; Email millar@vet.upenn.edu;
Website <http://caltest.nbc.upenn.edu/behavior>

March 20 – 22, 2003

Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) Symposium

Athens, GA
Student conference including behavior lectures.
Contact: Michele Logan, Email slogan@arches.uga.edu; Website www.vet.uga.edu/savma/symposium.htm

March 29, 2003

Common Cat Behavior Problems: Diagnosis and Treatment (#50977)

University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Contact: Sandi Kilgo, Phone 706-542-1451; Email skilgo@vet.uga.edu;
Website <http://www.gactr.uga.edu/conferences/2003/Jan/25/ctbehave.phtml>

April 3 – 6, 2003

British Small Animal Veterinary Association

Main program: welfare section, dangerous dog legislation, electronic training aids. Behaviour section: compulsive disorders in canines, aging dogs, intraspecific aggression in canines, medical differential diagnosis for behavior cases, canine fears and phobias. Technician program. Contact: BSAVA Congress Office, Woodrow House, 1 Telford Way, Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4AB; Phone: 01452 726720; Fax: 01452 726701; International Phone: 44 1452 726720; International fax: 44 1452 726701; Email: congress@bsava.com; Website: www.bsava.com

April 3, 2003

Companion Animal Behaviour Therapy Study Group (CABTSG)

Emerging issues in behaviour and welfare
Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, England
Contact: Mrs. P. Appleby, Interface, Hillside, Upper Street, Defford, Worcs WR8 9AB; Phone: 01386 750534; Fax 01386 750743; Email: Pauline.interface@virgin.com; Website: www.bsava.com (Satellite meetings)

April 26, 2003

Canine Aggression: Diagnosis and Treatment (#50978)

University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Contact: Sandi Kilgo, Phone 706-542-1451; Email skilgo@vet.uga.edu; Website
<http://www.gactr.uga.edu/conferences/2003/Jan/25/ctbehave.phtml>

April 28 – 30, 2003

International Working Dog and Breeding Conference

Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX
Contact: Phone 210-671-3991; Fax 210-671-2308; Email Mail@iwdba.org; Website www.iwdba.org

June 11, 2003

Chicago Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Seminar

Oak Brook, IL
Dr. Karen Overall will speak on various behavioral topics, including behavioral modification drugs, canine and feline aggression, canine and feline anxiety problems and feline elimination disorders.
Contact: CVMA, Phone 630-325-1231; Fax 630-325-4043; Email ce@chicagovma.com; Website www.chicagovma.com

June 15 – 21, 2003

NAVC-PGI Behavior Survey Course

Intensive ~ 60 hour certificate short course. Maximum 32 participants. Requires pre-exam and exit exam. Contact: North American Veterinary Conference, Phone 352-375-5672

July 19 – 23, 2003

American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Meeting

Denver, Colorado
Contact: Website: www.avma.org

July 21, 2003

American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) Annual Meeting!!!!

Contact: Dr. Steven Feldman, 1535 Rugby Circle, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, Email: avsab@yahoo.com, Website: www.avma.org/avsab

August 18 – 20, 2003

Fourth International Veterinary Behaviour Meeting

Queensland, Australia (Caloundra)
Latest information in clinical behavioural medicine from around the globe will be presented in lecture and poster format from leading experts from all nations.
Contact: Doreen Culliver, Conference Manager, AVA Conference Organising Service, PO Box 4259, Kingston ACT 2604, Australia; Phone: 61 6273 8855; Fax: 61 6273 8899; Email: avacos@ava.com.au.

August 20 – 22, 2003

12th National Urban Animal Management Conference

Queensland, Australia (Caloundra)
Information on relationship between private client behavioural services and community based animal control services, social assets and liabilities associated with companion animals and their behaviour, information access in urban animal management and behaviour, rationalizing funding for animal management, community/public expectations about urban animal ownership, microchip performance testing, vertical and horizontal integration the pro pet approach to urban animal management, pest management.
Contact: Doreen Culliver, Conference Manager, AVA Conference Organising Service, PO Box 4259, Kingston ACT 2604, Australia; Phone: 61 6273 8855; Fax: 61 6273 8899; Email: avacos@ava.com.au; Website: www.ava.com.au/uam

September 19, 2003

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Ethology, 9th Annual Congress

Salzburg, Austria
Contact: www.esvce.org

October 19 – 22, 2003

World Small Animal Veterinary Association 28th World Congress

Bangkok, Thailand
Contact: Mr. Sarnit Karunyavanij, Phone +662-960-0141; Email Sarnit@bkkrai.com; Website www.wsava2003.com

Nov 1 – 2, 2003

Psychopharmacology for Veterinarians

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, Athens.
Enrollment limited to veterinarians.
Contact: Sandi Kilgo, Phone: 706-542-1451; E-mail: skilgo@vet.uga.edu.

Dr. Steve Feldman
1535 Rugby Circle
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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Welcome New Members!

Ms. Stephanie Day

Dublin, OH
Student

Ms. Elizabeth Feltes

Columbus, OH
Student

Ms. Jennifer Larsen

Davis, CA
Student

Dr. Mary Beth Stanton

Auburn, AL
Regular

Mr. Sagi Denenberg

Kosice, Slovakia
Student

Ms. Meghan Herron

Columbus, OH
Student

Mr. Claude Nagamine

Louisville, TN
Student

Dr. Karen Tjardes

Brentwood, TN
Regular

Dr. Deborah Dennis

Willoughny, OH
Regular

Dr. Karen Hoffmann

Sandy Spring, MD
Regular

Ms. Candy Rodriguez

Trump
Cleveland, OH
Subscription

Ms. Kari Wallentine

Manhattan, KS
Student

Ms. Rachel Emerson

Loveland, CO
Subscription

Ms. Samantha Keenan

Charlottetown, PE
Canada
Student

Dr. Sharon Sheehy

Livonia, MI
Regular

Dr. Lisa Wojan

Cornwall, CT
Regular