

Table of Contents

New Officer Nominees	2
AVSAB Annual Scientific Meeting Schedule	4
ACVB Annual Scientific Paper Session Schedule	5
Interesting Posts from the AVSAB Listserve	8
Upcoming Behavioral Meetings	12

Officers 2002-2004

President

Dr. Lynne Seibert
Animal Emergency & Referral Center
1951 I 24th Ave. West
Lynnwood, WA 98036
(425) 697-6106 • fax: (425) 697-4746
E: ocddoc@msn.com

President-elect

Dr. Melissa Bain
University of California School of Veterinary Medicine
Center for Animals in Society
I Shields Ave.
Davis, CA 95616
530-757-8440 • fax: 530-792-8165
e-mail: mjbain@ucdavis.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Steve Feldman
1535 Rugby Circle
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
e-mail: avsabe@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Dr. Lisa Radosta
3504 Brokenwoods Drive
Coral Springs, FL 33065
954-755-5116 • fax: 954-755-5889
e-mail: lisaland1@earthlink.net

Immediate Past President

Dr. Amy Marder
New England Veterinary Behavior Associates
8A Camellia Place
Lexington, MA 02420
781-862-5060 • fax: 781-862-2920
e-mail: amarder@gis.net

Member-at-large

Dr. John Ciribassi
Chicagoland Veterinary Behavior Consultants
1042 Mountain Glen Way
Carol Stream, IL 60188
630-231-1544 • fax: 630-231-1544
e-mail: drjdvmsn@msn.com

Member-at-large

Dr. Petra Mertens
University of Minnesota
315 Veterinary Teaching Hospital
1352 Boyd Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108
612-625-0227 • fax: 612-624-0751
e-mail: merte006@tc.umn.edu

President's Message

As I write this spring greeting to the AVSAB membership, I am more encouraged than ever about the future of behavioral medicine. I envision a future where pet owners are taught how to understand and communicate with their pets in a humane manner, where every veterinary college employs a full-time behaviorist and every veterinary student receives training in this area, where mental and physical health are no longer viewed as separate entities, but rather as inseparable and equally worthy of our attention. We have the power as an organization to effect positive changes and promote progress in the field, but we need our members to get involved.

As we prepare for the 2004 meeting in Philadelphia, plans are already underway for the 2005 meeting in Minneapolis. There is still time to volunteer for a

position on the 2004-2006 AVSAB Executive Board, and there are opportunities to assist with many aspects of meeting planning, as well as other areas.

The format for the behavior meetings in Philadelphia will be very similar to last year: general AVMA behavior sessions on Saturday and Sunday (July 24, 25), the ACVB Diplomate and Resident papers on Sunday evening, and a full day of AVSAB papers and posters on Monday (July 26). The registration for the ACVB and AVSAB meetings will be separate this year, so be sure you register for both! Please submit any agenda items for the AVSAB General Business meeting to me at your earliest convenience, and plan to attend the business meeting on Monday evening.

I wish you all a glorious spring and hope to see you in July!

Thank You to Our Sponsors for the 2004 AVSAB Meeting!

We would like to thank our sponsors:
Elanco, Novartis, and Premier.

ELANCO
Lilly

We would also like to thank:

- Novartis and Premier for co-sponsoring the Student Award
- Premier for sponsoring the lunch buffet and poster reception
- Elanco/Eli Lilly for sponsoring the proceedings

 **NOVARTIS**

PREMIER
Your Pets, Our Passion™

Welcome New Officer Nominees

Our Bylaws allow us to elect officers at the Annual meeting. Since all of our candidates for Board positions are uncontested this year, we will be taking the official vote on the officer slate at the Annual meeting in Philadelphia. Anyone who wishes to vote for a write-in nominee can send a written vote to any member of the Executive Board.

President



Melissa Bain, DVM, DACVB

Dr. Melissa Bain received her DVM from the University of Illinois in 1994. After working in both a small animal practice in the Chicago suburbs for 2 years and a mixed animal practice in southwest Wisconsin for another 2 years, she entered into a Clinical Behavior Residency at the University of California-Davis. She completed the residency in October 2000 and passed her ACVB boards in October 2001. She is employed at UC Davis as a lecturer and researcher, where she currently is teaching, working on clinical research, and seeing cases in the clinic. During her time working in behavior, she has given many lectures to veterinarians and lay people. She lives with her family in Davis, California.

President-elect



John Ciribassi, DVM

Dr. Ciribassi was born and grew up in Jersey City, NJ, attended Southern Illinois University and graduated with a BS in Biology from the University of Illinois. He graduated from

the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984. After graduation he practiced dairy medicine in Pennsylvania along with his wife, Elise, also an '84 graduate of Illinois. In 1988, they established the Gary at North Veterinary Center, a small animal practice in Carol Stream, Illinois a Chicago suburb. John became interested in veterinary behavior in 1997 and began working in a non-conforming ACVB program with Dr. Andrew Luescher at Purdue University in 1998. In 2002 he began the Chicagoland Veterinary Behavior Consultants, seeing behavior cases part time at specialty referral practices in the Chicago area. His reasoning for running for President-elect of AVSAB is to try to give something back to the behavior community. "There has been a long line of dedicated individuals who have made organized veterinary behavior a reality and have been driving force for advancement of behavior as a respected specialty. I hope to continue that tradition."

Immediate Past-President



Lynne Seibert, DVM, MS, DACVB

Dr. Seibert is the behavior specialist at the Veterinary Specialty Center in Lynnwood, WA, adjunct faculty at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, and adjunct faculty of liberal studies and psychology at Antioch University in Seattle. She received her DVM degree from the University of Tennessee in 1994, and her Masters and PhD degrees in psychology from the University of Georgia. She is a board-certified Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and was the President of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior from 2001 until 2004. She lives in the Seattle area with her two dogs, Charlie and Laylee, her blue and gold macaw, Virginia, her Moluccan cockatoo, Leo, her rose-breasted cockatoo, Jerome David, and her blue-headed Pionus, Ernest. Her primary interests are pet bird behavior and compulsive disorders.

Recording Secretary



Steven Feldman, DVM

Steve Feldman, DVM has been on the Executive Board of AVSAB as Secretary-Treasurer for two terms now. Steve resides in the Los Angeles area with his spouse Betty (a University of Illinois classmate) and twin High School senior daughters, Emily and Lindsay. His son Brian goes to school and works in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and turns 21 this month.

When not working as a relief veterinarian and seeing behavior housecall cases, Steve enjoys swimming, gardening, hiking, and bicycling, and soaking up the California sun. Although it was fun living in the Maryland suburbs of DC for 25 years, I am having a blast living the good life in scenic Ventura County now. Carpe Diem!"

Secretary-Treasurer



Lisa Radosta, DVM

Dr. Radosta graduated from University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in 2000. Immediately afterwards she completed a small animal internship at Coral Springs Animal Hospital. For the next 2 years, she worked in private practice in Coral Springs, Florida. In September, 2003, she began a residency program in Veterinary Behavior at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She has been the recording secretary for AVSAB for the past 2 years and edited the proceedings for the 2003 Scientific meeting. She has competed actively in obedience competition with her personal dogs for the past 12 years, and now currently resides in Pennsylvania.

Member-at-large



Laurie Bergman, VMD, DACVB

Dr. Bergman grew up in Englewood, New Jersey, received her BS from Barnard College and her VMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. After Veterinary school, she entered into an internship in Wildlife Medicine at Tufts University, and also worked in small animal practice, as a relief veterinarian, as a director of a wildlife Clinic in Massachusetts, and for a Behavior-only practice in the East Coast. Laurie completed a residency in Clinical Animal Behavior at the University of California-Davis, becoming one of the newest members of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. She currently is a Clinical Specialist at the University of California Veterinary Medical Center-San Diego Behavior Service. She is the mother to Daniel Owen Long, born on December 29, 2003, and 2 Australian Terriers, Wilbur and Fern, with whom she competes in agility.

Member-at-large



**Petra A. Mertens, Dr. med. vet., FTAV,
CAAB, DECVBM-CA, DACVB**

Dr. Petra Mertens received her veterinary degree from the University of Munich. After completing her doctorate in Animal Behavior and Animal Welfare (Dr. med. vet.), she enrolled in the Behavior Residency program at Tufts University. In 1995, she returned to the Veterinary School in Munich, Germany. Since 1999, Petra has held her current position as Assistant Professor in Behavior Medicine at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine. Petra is certified in her specialty through the German Veterinary Association (FTAV), the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (DACVB), the European College for Veterinary Behavior Medicine (DECVBM-CA), and the Animal Behavior Society (Certified Applied Animal Counselor). She is the author of numerous articles, book chapters, as well as a speaker at national and international veterinary meetings.

American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior Annual Scientific Meeting

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Monday, July 26, 2004

7:30 - 8:15 am	REGISTRATION, COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS
8:20 – 8:45 am	The evolution of herbal medicine: animal origins Benjamin Hart
8:50 – 9:15 am	Barking in dogs: a positive solution for reinforcing quiet Sophia Yin, Eddie Fernandez, Sarah Richardson
9:20 – 9:45 am	DAP reduces the anxiety of aggressive dogs in veterinary practice Daniel Mills, C. Hargrave
9:45 – 10:00 am	BREAK
10:00 – 10:25 am	Salivary cortisol measurement in dogs Nancy Dreschel
10:30 – 10:55 am	Effect of clicker training on trailer loading and novel object approach in weanling horses Jennifer Weeks, Wailani Sung, Gary Heusner
11:00 – 11:25 am	Cannibalism in pigs: is it related to environment or to some individuals? Patrick Pageat, Dominique Safray, Ciline Laffont
11:30 am – 1:00pm	LUNCH and POSTER SESSION (Sponsored by Premier Pet Products)
	Invited Posters:
	Effects of OHE on territorial aggression in German shepherd dogs Seong-chan Yeon, Hyeon-hui Kim, Katherine Houpt, Hong-hee Chang, Hyo-jong Lee
	Acoustic features of barks in German shepherd dogs after OHE Seong-chan Yeon, Hyeon-hui Kim, Katherine Houpt, Hong-hee Chang, Hyo-jong Lee
	Litter depth preference in the domestic cat Daniel Mills, Charlotte Munster
	A case of territorial aggression in an Appaloosa gelding Jennifer Weeks
1:00 – 1:25 pm	AVSAB Student Research Award
1:30 – 1:55 pm	Effect of DAP on behavior during medical examination Emmanuel Galtier, Laurence Bonnafous, Patrick Pageat,
2:00 – 2:25 pm	Picking and mutual feather picking in poultry: differential diagnoses Patrick Pageat, Dominique Safray, Ciline Laffont
2:25 – 2:40 pm	BREAK
2:40 – 3:05 pm	Interaction between genetic and phenotypic response surfaces in canine anxiety disorders Karen Overall, Steven Hamilton, Arthur Dunham
3:10 – 3:35 pm	Efficacy of an automated repellent for preventing or controlling unwanted undesirable behavior Gary Landsberg, Richard Beaudet
3:40 – 4:05 pm	Prevalence of canine behaviors in homes Amy Marder, Meghan Rogers, Joan Engel
4:15 – 5:30 pm	AVSAB BUSINESS MEETING

American College of Veterinary Behaviorists Second Annual Scientific Paper Session

ACVB Scientific Presentation Program • Philadelphia 2004

5:00 – 5:30 – Register – Introductions

- 5:30 – 6:00** **Beth Strickler DVM**
An analysis of enrichment and behavior problems in the general feline population
- 6:00 – 6:30** **Emily Levine DVM**
Intercat Aggression within a Household
- 6:30 – 7:00** **Jacqui Neilson DVM, Dipl ACVB**
The use of oral flourescien in cats to identify participants in house-soiling
-

7:00 – 7:30 box dinner / refreshment break

- 7:30 – 8:00** **Andrew Leuscher DVM, Dipl ACVB**
Factors predicting outcome of canine behavior cases
- 8:00 – 8:30** **Emily Levine DVM**
Welfare Perspectives of Veterinary students
- 8:30 – 9:00** **Vint Virga DVM, Dipl ACVB**
SARI augmentation of SSRI function in SSRI refractory dogs
- 9:00 – 9:30** **Mami Irimajiri DVM**
Regional cerebral glucose metabolism in normal dogs

ACVB Scientific Paper registration is separate from other meeting registrations such as AVMA and AVSAB

Registration fees:

Before May 15, 2004: \$35
After May 15, 2004*: \$40

***Meal and proceedings subject to availability for those registering on site**

Please do not mail registration forms after July 15, 2003 – contact by email to arrange registration or register on site.

Registration fees may be paid by check or money order.

Make checks payable to: ACVB. Checks must be payable in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. Bank. Credit card payment is not accepted.

** Special payment arrangements can be made for foreign attendees, please contact via email (abcjndvm@hevanet.com) for options.

Please send completed registration form and payment to:

Dr. Jacqui Neilson
ACVB Secretary/Treasurer
9630 NE Prescott St.
Portland, OR 97220



Join us in

PHILADELPHIA

*for a packed schedule of lectures and topics related to
Behavior, Human-Animal Bond, and Welfare!*

Saturday, July 24, 2004

Morning

A Case of Canine Aggression to Family Members: Case Discussion and Topic Review

Dr. Ilana Reisner

A Case of Feline Inappropriate Elimination: Case Discussion and Topic Review

Dr. Debra Horwitz

A Case of Storm Phobia: Case Discussion and Topic Review

Dr. Crowell-Davis

A Case of Feline Marking: Case Discussion and Topic Review

Dr. Jacqueline Neilson

Technician Track — Behavior Problem Triage

Ms. Jenny O'Conner

Afternoon

Utilizing Behavior Management Products in the Prevention and Control of Behavior Problems

Dr. Gary Landsbern

A Case with the Use of Dicyclanil Behavior Modification Steps in Dogs

Dr. Lore Haug

A Case of Canine and Feline Cognitive Dysfunction

Dr. Kelly Moffat

Age Dependent Learning and Memory Decline in Dogs

Dr. Joseph Araujo

Neurobiological Correlates of Cognitive Dysfunction in Dogs and Cats

Dr. Elizabeth Head

Technician Track — Shaping Behaviors in a Zoo Setting

Ms. Dianna Lydick

Sunday, July 25, 2004

Morning

A Behaviorist's Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment of Compulsive Disorders

Dr. Andrew Luescher

Canine Self-directed Compulsive Disorders

Dr. Vint Virga

Feline Self-directed Compulsive Disorders

Dr. Gary Landsberg

A Dermatologist's Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment of Compulsive Disorders

Dr. Craig Griffin

Afternoon

A Neurologist's Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment of Compulsive Disorders

Dr. Elizabeth Shull

Neurological or Behavioral? How Do I Decide?

Dr. Lisa Klopp

Psittacine Self-directed Compulsive Disorders

Dr. Lynne Seibert

Neurotransmitters, Neurochemicals, Drugs and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders

Dr. Karen Overall

Evening

5:00 to 10:00 p.m. ACVB Paper Session (see schedule on page 5)

Monday, July 26, 2004

All Day

AVSAB Annual Meeting (see schedule on page 4)

Tuesday, July 27, 2004

Morning

Leo Bustad Memorial Lecture: Strengthen the Bond

Dr. Brenda Griffin

Animal-assisted Therapy with Children: The Illusion that Creates the Reality

Dr. Aaron Katcher

An International Perspective: Cultural and Spiritual Differences in Attitude

Dr. Corrie Brown and Dr. David Sherman

Afternoon

Lessons for Children from Fish, Rodents, Birds, and Reptiles

Dr. John Pitts

Physiological and Behavioral Markers of Well-being in Therapy Horses

Dr. Marie Suthers-McCabe

The Human-Animal Bond in Art and Art History

Dr. Corrie Brown

Wednesday, July 28, 2004

Morning

Factors Affecting Veterinary Students' Attitudes to Animals

Dr. James Serpell

Honoring the Human-Animal Relationship Through Client Communication

Dr. Caroline Schaffer

Human-Animal Interaction Research – The University of Missouri View

Dr. Richard Meadows

Integrating Animals and Nature Into the Education of Children at Risk

Dr. Aaron Katcher

What Every Veterinary Technician Should Know About Animal-assisted Therapy

Dr. Heather Toland

Veterinary Care of Therapy and Service Animals: Tips from Virginia Tech

Dr. Marie Suthers-McCabe

Interesting Posts from the AVSAB Listserve



Compiled by Sheila Segurson, DVM, University of California Davis

The AVSAB listserv is a valuable means of communication between us colleagues interested in clinical behavior. This discussion group is for the benefit of the members of our organization, and all aspects of clinical behavioral medicine and psychology are fair game for this forum.

Topic: Noise Phobia

Hi, I have been considering the use of a White Noise machine to aid in the management of dogs with noise phobias. When placing them in their safety or retreat areas, I wanted to try using the White Noise machines to help drown out other remote noises and reduce triggers.

Has anyone else tried this and to what effect have the results been? Thanks for your input.

Shelley Breadner, DVM
Saanichton, BC

Reply

I routinely recommended sound machines (or radios tuned to static) for a wide variety of fearful animals, both dogs and cats, and in general have found these very effective. If I'm not sure how the animal and owner will react to this, I have the owner begin with the volume low and work up from there. On the human end of the equation, Walkmen work well for owners who have difficulty ignoring animals who use vocalization as an attention-seeking mechanism.

Myrna Milani
Charlestown, NH

Reply

Hi Shelley,
I often recommend white noise to reduce auditory stimuli. I've had some

clients report that their territorial dogs were fine over the summer when a noisy window air conditioning unit was running, but barked excessively during other times of the year, so muffling outside noises is very effective in some instances. I've used the sound machines quite a bit for storm phobic dogs as well as dogs that are reactive to other outside noises. For territorial dogs, I usually tell the owners to place the sound machine unit(s) by the window(s) or door where the dog does most of its barking. Of course, in those cases the windows are also covered to limit visual stimuli, as well. The most economic sound machine models I've found are the HoMedics. I've purchased them for about \$25 from various catalogs.

Kathy Meyer, VMD
Gaithersburg, MD

Reply

This may be an odd question, but I just haven't thought of this before. Has anyone used the rain/thunderstorm sound on sound machines to desensitize for thunderstorm phobia?

Just a thought.

Linda Register, DVM
Land O Lakes, FL

Reply

While advising systemic desensitization and counter conditioning to the sounds of thunder (usually in the off-storm months), I discovered a second form

white noise. Some of my dogs learned not respond to the CDs and tapes of thunderstorms but continued to be fearful of real storms. I have had these clients put the thunderstorm CDs onto their sound system which effectively buffered out the outside storm. This was effective in some cases. Just a thought (sorry a bit off topic).

Gerrard Flannigan DVM, MSc., DACVB
Greensboro/Charlotte, North Carolina

Topic: Dreaming behavior/seizure

Hi - I am new to this group (first post). I am a general small animal practitioner in private practice. The case involves a 10-month-old Bassett Hound puppy. All her life she has been very active/twitchy/vocal when sleeping. Lately this has become extreme and is happening on a daily basis. Recently she has begun waking up from these episodes in a very agitated state – racing through the house in a state of high anxiety. Does anyone have any experience with such a thing? Thoughts? Help!

Thanks.....
(posted by Dr. Carol Brunette,
Williamston, MI)

Reply

Hi, don't know if it's "kosher" to mention alternative treatments on this list; if not, please forgive, and let me know...

My partner recently consulted for a cat with “nightmares.” She would wake up terrified and urinate/defecate right where she was. It had gone on for several months; unknown etiology. I created a flower essence formula for her; the owner gave it just once, the cat stopped and has not had a problem since (we’re about 2 months out).

Jean Hofve, DVM
Jamestown, Colorado, USA

Reply

I don’t have any personal experience with this type of behavior, But from what you are describing this may be a REM sleep disorder.

I would recommend the usual workup, Neuro exam, CBC, profile and UA. I would also recommend to the owners to video tape the episodes if possible. A Phenobarbital trial can be done 2-4 mg/kg Q12 hrs. If it helps (usually in 3-5 days), it’s a seizure, if not then it is a REM sleep disorder. There are medications to treat REM sleep disorders with mixed success, one of the drugs is KBR.

I strongly recommend contacting Dr. Cheryl Chrisman at the University of Florida. She has done a lot of research in this area. If she is not available then Roger Clemmons is the next person I consult with. (they are both neurologists) (352) 392-4700 ext. 5700.

Linda Register, DVM
Land O Lakes, FL

Reply

Dear Carol,

I’ve had a case with a Great Dane that was very agitated during REM sleep, to the point where it would destroy furniture and go with the feet through dry wall. I approached a sleep clinic at the time and was recommended to use amitriptyline for treatment. Supposedly, that is a well-known condition in people. Since this was several years ago, you may want to approach a sleep clinic for updated information.

Andrew Luescher DVM PhD DACVB
Purdue University

Reply

In addition to the excellent comments already offered, two of the cases of canine “nightmares” I’ve seen involved very intelligent, more introverted dogs of low confidence whose owners were highly reactive toward them. Both dogs responded very well to a combination of changes geared to put a calm and confident human rather than an overwhelmed canine in the leadership role, i.e., the learn-to-earn program, serene home-coming, Gentle Leader, D.A.P., etc. Beat me over the head for being anthropomorphic, but experience leads me to conclude that dogs are a lot like little kids (and grandkids): the more jazzed up and stressed they get during the day, the more trouble they’re likely to have sleeping at night. Once owners start worrying that the dog might wake up with a nightmare, that adds to the stress and a self-fulfilling prophecy can be set into motion.

Myrna Milani
Charlestown, NH

Reply

Re: Dream disorders:

In my experience, several behavior problems and organic diseases modify sleep and could induce such disorders. The first step during the clinical approach is to know during which part of the sleep it occurs. Is it during REM or NREM sleep? It is critical to choose the drug to treat. So, from a practical point of view my advice is:

1. Complete examination and specially neurological: does the puppy have his food before the sleeping time. If yes, measure the biliary acids and maybe NH₃ if possible. Porto-systemic shunts can induce such disorders.

2. Observe the dog during sleep and especially the eyes movements and the tonus of the body to distinguish REM and NREM sleep.

3. Behavior examination: it is important to identify clinical signs of hyperactivity and/or hypersensitivity: is this puppy able to control himself, is he able to control his jaws during games (is he biting more and more when he gets excited, are the owners able to play with him or not because he bites too much)

4. Is the growth of this puppy normal? If he looks too small, it is interesting to assess the pituitary function and specially the GH (it is generally easier to measure IGF1 that is the hepatic active metabolite of this hormone), prolactin, T4 and TSH. If there are some important sleeping disorders (chronic stage) you’ll have a hypoGH. In a case of chronic severe anxiety you can observe hyperprolactinemia and it’s very interesting to treat the puppy with selegiline (0.5 mg/kg once in the morning).

5. If there is no organic problem and if the disorder appears during REM sleep: prescribe 5HT re-uptake inhibitors. In my experience, clomipramine is very interesting (it has also an interesting anti-histaminic effect which is very interesting in the control of REM sleep) and the active dose is 2 mg/kg twice a day. To obtain a good control of the REM sleep, the drug has to be given 4 hours before the time you want the dog to sleep (for example give it at 8:00 p.m. if you want the dog to sleep at 12:00). If it is during NREM sleep, it seems to be more interesting to control the excitability of the neurons, and GABAergic drugs (benzodiazepines or carbamazepines) or lithium salts are very effective. In my experience, I have obtained better results with lithium salts than with other drugs.

PAGEAT Patrick
DVM, MSc, PhD, BDFVS, Dipl ECVBM/
CA

Reply from original poster

Thanks to all for your excellent and timely suggestions. I will certainly let you know what becomes of this case.
Carol

Topic: Castration for Interdog Aggression

Hi,

I was wondering what people thought about the advice to castrate dogs when there is an interdog aggression problem. I know that for years this has been the standard recommendation but I also know that some people are starting to question this recommenda-

tion. Do you still recommend this as a matter of course? Does castration alone have any positive benefits on an aggression issue? What other behavioral changes are seen following castration of an adult dog?

I would be glad for any thoughts and observations anyone had to make.
Janice Willard
Moscow, Idaho

Reply

If a pre-existing case of aggression is present, I recommend castration based mostly on the two studies below. There are many intact dogs (mainly working dogs and show dogs) that are intact because they are used for breeding. Many of these dogs can be housed with other males and compete with other dogs without showing aggression. Testosterone does not necessarily mean that aggression will occur. However, castrating an aggression dog may decrease aggression so it is worth recommending.

Check out:
Vet Rec. 1997 Jun 14;140(24):617-9. Influence of orchiectomy on canine behaviour. Maarschalkerweerd RJ, Endenburg N, Kirpensteijn J, Knol BW.

From abstract:
“...Objectionable sexual behaviour, inter-male aggression, roaming, and abnormal urination were reduced after orchiectomy in approximately 60 per cent of the dogs.The clinical signs of testosterone-dependent disease in most of the dogs either decreased or disappeared after orchiectomy.”

And, J Am Vet Med Assoc. 1997 Jul 15;211(2):180-2. Effects of castration on problem behaviors in male dogs with reference to age and duration of behavior. Neilson JC, Eckstein RA, Hart BL.
From abstract:

“...Problem behaviors of interest included urine marking in the house, mounting, roaming, fear of inanimate stimuli, aggression toward human family members, aggression toward unfamiliar people, aggression toward other dogs in the household, aggression toward unfamiliar dogs, and aggression toward human territorial intruders. RESULTS: Effects of castration on fear of inanimate stimuli or aggression toward unfamiliar people were not significant.

For urine marking, mounting, and roaming, castration resulted in an improvement of > or = 50% in > or = 60% of dogs and an improvement of > or = 90% in 25 to 40% of dogs. For remaining behaviors, castration resulted in an improvement of > or = 50% in < 35% of dogs. Significant correlations were not found between the percentage of improvement and age of the dog or duration of the problem behavior at the time of castration. CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS: Castration was most effective in altering objectionable urine making, mounting, and roaming. With various types of aggressive behavior, including aggression toward human family members, castration may be effective in decreasing aggression in some dogs, but fewer than a third can be expected to have marked improvement. Age of the dog or duration of the problem behavior does not have value in predicting whether castration will have a beneficial effect.”

Gerrard Flannigan DVM MSc. DACVB
Greensboro/Charlotte, NC

Reply

I don't recommend castration until the clients have a bond/behavioral program up and running. I also ask referring veterinarians not to recommend castration as a last ditch option before sending these clients to me, although I have mixed feelings about this. Whether it works or not in my experience is a function of the owner's belief in the surgery. If they believe it will help, then having it done will relax them which, in turn, may help the dogs. If they don't, then it may make the problem worse and they'll give up or euthanize the animal. Generally those referring veterinarians capable of getting a good bond/behavioral as well as medical history can pick the animals likely to benefit from castration. Those who can't or don't want to defer to me.

I really do wish that studies of conventional medical and surgical approaches would acknowledge and report any placebo effects. Some in certain quarters are so quick to deride complementary treatments that work based on this concept, but the potential most certainly exists in all treat-

ments across the board. As Hippocrates said, faith in the patient's ability to heal the self is paramount in the treatment process, followed by faith in the physician, with faith in the treatment being third, and I've seen nothing in vet med to suggest it doesn't hold true in that realm, too. The more hype a treatment gets, the more likely those who receive it or administer it to their animals will expect it to work. And, yes, I know, the scientific method supposedly eliminates this potential. But having been a participant in such (animal and human) studies, I find that very hard to believe. True, you could probably eliminate those variables in a highly artificial lab situation, but in the real world it ain't gonna happen.

Myrna Milani
Charlestown, NH

Reply

IME, as a first step, castration is always indicated in such a situation. Then, if the situation is not severe, wait three months or so and see what happens, and apply further therapy as indicated.

If the situation is severe and one cannot safely wait the three months, begin with the general workup at the time of surgery, and the behavior consult and suggested therapy very soon (a several days) after surgery.

The castration may or may not fix the problem, more likely the latter. But it will reliably “turn down the volume” on the intensity of the patient(s) emotional involvement, thus making subsequent therapy easier, quicker, and more reliable.

As always, by far most of these interdog aggression problems are owner oriented. That is, the dogs get along just fine when the owner is not present, but go into their act when the owner is present. Thus, in these cases, the aggression is really, mostly a learned aggression taught, inadvertently, by the owner. If that is the case, the prime therapy target is getting the owner to quit reinforcing the aggressive behavior of her pet(s).

DB Cameron
Nevada City, California

University of Minnesota

Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Three Year Residency in Animal Behavior

The Department of Small Animal Clinical Science will have one three-year residency in Animal Behavior designed to provide the resident with a broad educational experience in all aspects of behavior medicine. The program is designed to fulfill the requirements of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists for board certification eligibility. The resident is encouraged to pursue board certification as part of the program.

Applicants must have completed a D.V.M. degree or an equivalent degree from a foreign university by start date plus the successful completion of a one-year rotating internship or equivalent practice experience. In addition, applicants who choose to pursue a Masters program must have the academic qualifications for admission to the University of Minnesota Graduate School. These qualifications include: Undergraduate GPA of 3.0, TOEFL score of 550, evidence of completion of DVM degree, and letter of intent stating career goals and defining area of graduate study selected.

The Behavior program is supported by 2 faculty behaviorists; one of which is ACVB and ECVBM-CA board certified.

The primary duties and responsibilities of the resident are related to all aspects of behavior medicine. The resident will participate in the teaching program on a limited basis by clinical contact with students during daily rounds and case management, participation in teaching lecture series, and participating in the departmental seminar series. The resident is expected to be involved in research projects which will be published by completion of the residency program to meet the requirements for board certification. Scheduled off-clinic

time will be offered to permit course attendance, involvement in research, and scholarly activity.

The resident's performance will be evaluated on a semi-annual basis and the resident will be given performance updates. Reappointment to the second and third years of the program is based on satisfactory performance.

This position will be available July 1, 2004, or as soon as the position is filled, at an annual salary of \$25,500 for the first year, \$26,500 for the second year and \$27,500 for the 3rd year. Professional Development funds are available for residents of the VTH. Other benefits include: Graduate School tuition benefit, individual health insurance provided through the Graduate Assistant Health Plan, professional liability insurance, and time off to attend one professional meeting per year. Residents are eligible for 15 days of personal leave time per year during the course of the resident program. All unused personal leave time is forfeited at the end of the residency period.

The applicant should send a letter indicating reasons for applying to the program, a transcript of University performance, a curriculum vitae, and the names and phone numbers of 3 individuals with direct knowledge of the applicant's level of clinical aptitude and scholastic achievement. Send to Dr. Petra Mertens, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, 1352 Boyd Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. A detailed program description and additional information may be obtained by calling (612) 625-0227 or by email to merte006@umn.edu.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Upcoming Behavioral Meetings

March 11 – 13, 2004

Student Chapter of the AVMA (SAVMA) Symposium

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee

1-day of lectures in Behavior

Contact: Website: <http://www.vet.utk.edu/savma>

March 12 – 14, 2004

Pain Management for the Dog and Cat – Perception, Diagnosis and Treatment

Tufts Veterinary School, Grafton, MA
Includes Hands-On Wet Lab. For veterinarians and technicians.

Contact: Continuing Education Dept.

508-887-4723; E-mail:

susan.brogan@tufts.edu, Website:

www.tufts.edu/vet/continuedu.

March 20 – 24, 2004

American Animal Hospital Association - AAHA 69th Annual Meeting

Tampa, Florida

Contact: AAHA Member Service Center:

800-883-6301; 303-986-2800;

Website: www.aahanet.org

March 31, 2004

Companion Animal Behaviour Study Group

Birmingham, United Kingdom

Topic: Attachment and its effects on the pet-owner relationship

Contact: Mrs. P. Appleby, CABTSG

Study Day Organizer, Interface Event

Management Ltd, Hillside, Upper

Street, Defford, Worcs WR8 9AB;

Phone: (44) 01386 750534; Fax (44)

01386 750743; Email:

Pauline.interface@virgin.net; Website:

<http://www.cabtsg.org>

April 1 – 4, 2004

7th British Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress

Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Contact: Congress Manager, BSAVA,

Woodrow House, 1 Telford Way,

Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley,

Gloucester GL2 2AB, England. Ph. +44

145 2726700; Fax +44 145-2726701; E-

mail: congress@bsava.com; Web site:

www.bsava.com.

April 4 – 9, 2004

The Animal Behavior Management Alliance Annual Conference

Baltimore, Maryland

This conference will provide attendees

with basic through advanced training

theory and methods through lectures,

workshops, and site visits to zoos and

the National Aquarium.

Contact: Website: www.theabma.org

May 6 – 8, 2004

International Conference on Exotics

Naples, FL

Early information of possible behavior lectures. Check website for latest information.

Contact: Email:

dana@exoticdvm.com; Website:

www.exoticdvm.com/icehome.htm

May 21 – 23, 2004

Practical Management of Feline Behavior Disorders, International Veterinary Seminars

Santa Fe, New Mexico

1-day seminar by Dr. Jacqui Neilson

Contact: International Veterinary

Seminars, 210 Carbonera Drive, Santa

Cruz, CA 95060; Phone: 1-800-IVS-

5650; Fax: 408-972-1038; Website:

<http://www.ivseminars.net/santa%20fe%202004.htm>

May 23 – 29, 2004

Advanced Behavioral Medicine Course, North American Veterinary Conference Post-Graduate Institute (NAVC PGI)

Orlando, Florida

This course is open to: (1) all those who have passed the survey Clinical Behavioral Medicine courses in 2002 & 2003 at NAVC PGI, (2) anyone engaged

in an active conforming or non-con-

forming residency program meeting

the requirements of the US ACVB, (3)

any veterinarian engaged in a certifi-

cate course or graduate degree pro-

gram elsewhere (eg, Europe, the UK,

Australia), or any veterinarian who has

completed such a course, (4) any prac-

titioner who devotes full-time practice

to behavior medicine, or (5) anyone

else who feels that they can justify

their reasons for wishing to take the

course and is sufficiently persuasive

that the course instructors agree. If too

many people apply for the course, ac-

ceptance will be based on the enu-

meration assigned to each of these

categories.

Contact: Website: www.tnavc.org

May 22 – 26, 2004

DOGS!



Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification

The DOGS! Course is directed mainly toward veterinary technicians and dog trainers, but veterinarians and anyone interested in dog behavior are welcome. The course format includes lectures and hands-on workshops. The following topics will be covered:

- Normal canine behavior
- Puppy development
- How to run a puppy class
- Prevention of behavior problems
- Principles of learning
- Humane and effective training techniques
- Behavior modification techniques: systematic desensitization, counter-conditioning, response substitution
- Understanding behavior problems
- Application of behavior modification techniques as part of the treatment of behavior problems

There will be in-class workshops focusing on how to apply the principles of learning and behavior modification techniques to problem cases. Four hands-on practicum sessions will focus on puppy classes, training normal dogs, and on applying behavior modification techniques to problem dogs.

Participants will have the opportunity to take a written, closed book exam to earn a DOGS! course certificate. Participants will designate a proctor in their area to administer the exam. After having passed the exam, participants should be qualified to:

- Offer high-quality puppy classes and obedience training classes
- Educate owners on pet choice and prevention of problems
- Educate owners on training and learning
- Assist a veterinarian or certified animal behaviorist in the treatment of behavior problems. **A veterinarian is responsible for the diagnosis and differential diagnosis** of a behavior problem, as well as for the medical work-up, pharmacological treatment and the development of a treatment plan (including behavior modification techniques to be used on the case). The veterinarian or applied behaviorist would then refer clients with this treatment plan to the veterinary technician or trainer who can help the client to implement the required behavior modification techniques.
- In cooperation with the veterinarian, incorporate a behavior program into a veterinary service

Participants of the DOGS! course will thus become an essential part of the “behavior team”, sharing responsibilities for a comprehensive behavior program with veterinarians and/or certified animal behaviorists. We believe that this is a niche with great potential.

The registration fee for the course is \$700 and includes course notes, training equipment, snacks, lunches, banquet dinner, DOGS! 2003 T-shirt, and a trip to Wolf Park.

Email Julie Shaw RVT, (shawjk@purdue.edu) with your mailing address if you would like to be added to the DOGS! 2003 waiting list. People on the waiting list will be sent registration information in early March 2003. The first 40 registrants will be accepted into the DOGS! 2003 course. You can also visit the website at www.vet.purdue.edu/animalbehavior.

June 4 – 5, 2004

Canine Behavior Conference

Tufts University, Grafton, Massachusetts
For owners, breeders, trainers, veterinarians, technicians; with Tufts Vet School; Faculty includes Alice Moon-Fanelli, Karen London, Amy Marder, Emma Parsons.
Contact: Continuing Education Dept. 508-887-4723;
susan.brogan@tufts.edu, web site:
www.tufts.edu/vet/continuedu

June 11 – 13, 2004

Western States Horse Expo

Sacramento, CA
Daily lectures on equine behavior.
Contact: Phone: 530-295-1424, 800-352-2411; Website www.horsexpo.com

June 12 – 16, 2004

Animal Behavior Society 41st Annual Meeting

Oaxaca, Mexico
5 days of behavior seminars, poster sessions, and lectures.
Contact: E-mail: Conference Organizers (Intermeeting):
imeeting@infosel.net.mx; Website:
www.animalbehavior.org/ABS/Program/Oaxaca_04/

July 24 – 28, 2004

American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Many hours of topics covering animal behavior, welfare, and human-animal bond.
Contact: Website: www.avma.org

July 25, 2004

American College of Veterinary Behaviorists Scientific Paper Session

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (in conjunction with AVMA Annual Meeting)
Evening session of scientific research and papers presented by leaders in the field.

Contact: Dr. Jacqui Neilson, E-mail: abcjndvm@hevanet.com; Website: www.dacvb.com

July 26, 2004

American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (in conjunction with AVMA Annual Meeting)
Contact: Dr. Steven Feldman, 1535 Rugby Circle, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, Email: avsab@yahoo.com, Website: www.avma.org/avsab See registration form for more information.

August 3 – 7, 2004

37th International Congress of Applied Ethology (ISAE)

Helsinki, Finland
Including topics on: feeding and foraging behaviour, environmental enrichment, and behaviour, health and production.

Contact: Anna Valros / ISAE 2004, Research Centre for Animal Welfare, Department of Clinical Veterinary Sciences, P.O. Box 57, 00014 University of Helsinki, Finland; Phone: +358 9 9149508; Fax: +358 9 19149799; E-mail: isae@congreszon.fi; Website: www.isae2004.org

October 6, 2004

International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) – 13th Annual Conference

Advances in the Science and Application of Animal Training
Glasgow, Scotland

Held in conjunction with IAHAIO (see below)

Contact: Dr. Deborah Goodwin, University of Southampton, School of Psychology, Animal Behaviour Programme, New College Campus, Southampton, SO17 1BG, UK; Phone: +44 (0)23 597306; E-mail: dg1@soton.ac.uk; Website: www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAB/isaz.htm

October 6 – 9, 2004

International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organisations (IAHAIO)

People and Animals: A Timeless Relationship
Glasgow, Scotland
Held in conjunction with ISAZ
Contact: Website: www.glasgow2004ad.com

October 7, 2004

The District of Columbia Academy of Veterinary Medicine

Fairfax, Virginia
1-day seminar by Dr. Jacqui Neilson
Contact: Website: www.dcavm.org

October 22 – 24, 2004

Open Paw National Humane Education Conference

Los Angeles, California
Three-day conference covering different aspects of shelter animal behavior, training, and medicine.
Contact: Phone: 707-745-4237; Fax: 707-745-8310; E-mail: events@puppyworks.com; Website: www.puppyworks.com

Other Continuing Education Opportunities

The Post Graduate Foundation runs a 10 month distance education program in Behavioural Medicine. The course is designed to:

- Dramatically improve the ability to help client's better understand their pet's behaviour.
- Gain further understanding to diagnose behavioural problems.
- Develop skills in differential diagnosis, which is important to ensuring treatment success.
- Improve awareness of medication use when treating behavioural problems, including when to use medications.
- Gain exposure to the latest updates in behavioural medicine.
- Interact with other veterinarians who have similar interests in animal behaviour.

The course is primarily intended for veterinarians in practice who wish to enhance their current clinical skills, or develop expertise in a particular area. Students are encouraged to research extensively in the area, with access to the Veterinary Information Network (VEIN), and full research support, included in the cost of the course (which is AU\$4275, if paid in total before 30 November). The course runs from February to November each year, and include two optional workshops.

Contact: Caroline Compton, Distance Education Coordinator, Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science, Level 2, Veterinary Science Conference Centre, B22, Regimental Crescent University of Sydney NSW 2006
Phone: +61 2 9351 7979
Fax: +61 2 9351 7969
Email: ccompton@pgfvet.usyd.edu.au
Website: www.pgf.edu.au, follow the link to Distance Education. The VEIN website is : <http://vein.library.usyd.edu.au/community/>.

AVSAB Award For Student Excellence In Applied Animal Behavioral Research

DEADLINE IS April 1st, 2004.

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 disk 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** which the student can use 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.

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

Address Service Requested

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit No. 2609

Welcome New Members!

Ms. Christie Bartow

Madison, WI
Student

Dr. Elizabeth Boynton

Pomona, CA
Regular

Dr. Craig Datz

Columbia, MO
Regular

Ms. Sonia Dieter

Holicong, PA
Subscription

Dr. Aubrey Fitch

Glastonbury, CT
Regular

Mr. Tyler Greene

Raleigh, NC
Student

Ms. Devon Hague

Columbus, OH
Student

Dr. Deirdre Hall

Rockford, MI
Subscription

Ms. Elizabeth Kistner

Columbia, MO
Regular

Dr. Jerry Quance

Frederick, MD
Regular

Dr. Matthew Riegel

Manhattan, KS
Regular

Ms. Maura St. John

Raleigh, NC
Student

Dr. Ayako Tubouchi

Sakura City, Chiba
JAPAN
Regular