



# THE CORNER INFORMER

*The Newsletter of The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association*

Volume 31 Issue 1 March 2025

## OUR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Hello and welcome to another year of exciting Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association (SEMVA) updates. My name is Kaitlin Lonc and I am this year's SEMVA president. I am a small animal internal medicine specialist who works at Oakland Veterinary Referral Services. I have been involved in organized veterinary medicine since I was a pre-vet student at MSU and have been a member of SEMVA since joining OVRs in 2018.

I'd like to thank Dr. Becky Dietlin for leading us through 2024 as president and for graciously continuing as past-president. Thanks also to Dr. Situnyiwe Walker and Dr. Tim Duncan who have finished out their terms on the Council. We'd like to welcome our new board members Drs. Kevin Windsor and Nathan Booth.

We had a great turnout at our membership celebration on January 8. This year's celebration was held at the Community House in downtown Birmingham. As always, it was a good time had by all—thank you again to Faithful Companion for sponsoring the open bar. Our speaker was Dr. Steve Carey, talking about his favorite subject, cat snot!

We have an exciting year of CE upcoming, featuring nationally known speakers on topics that we hope are interesting and relevant to you. There will continue to be both in person and virtual CE options! We also continue to offer technician CE. Remember that for each SEMVA member in your practice, one technician or staff member can attend each of the seminars at no expense. ***There does not need to be a DVM attending the veterinarian lecture that day to receive this benefit for your staff!*** If there are

specific CE speakers or topics you would like to see in the future, please contact us at [adminsemvma@semvma.com](mailto:adminsemvma@semvma.com) – our administrative secretary, Barb Locricchio, is always extremely responsive and will pass on your ideas to the Council. We are also always looking for sponsors for our CE events as well.

This upcoming year we are also continuing our efforts to engage and represent our technician community with our LVT council liaison, Sara Nunimaker, LVT. Please reach out to us at [adminsemvma@semvma.com](mailto:adminsemvma@semvma.com) if you have ideas on how to better serve our wonderful veterinary support staff!

We are also continuing our efforts to reach out to our local community through our public outreach committee. We have put together a database of local and online veterinary/animal health educational

resources. If you are engaged in public outreach—such as mentoring students or speaking at schools—and would like some support or need resources/ideas, or you know of schools that would like to have someone come speak with them, please reach out to me at [klonc@ovrs.com](mailto:klonc@ovrs.com). We have also started a pilot program where we sponsor local high school students at our hospitals to obtain a veterinary assistant certification. We recently approved funding for a need-based position in the program. For more information or if you are interested in getting involved, please email Dr. Pierre DePorre at [pdeporre@deporrevet.com](mailto:pdeporre@deporrevet.com).

I hope everyone can take some time as Spring approaches for some rest and relaxation and hopefully we see the sun soon!

—Kaitlin Lonc



*Kaitlin Lonc*

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Veterinary Medical  
Association**

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Kathy Christy

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Michelle Meyer

Dave Smith

Emily Socks

Kevin Windsor

**Editor**

Emily Socks, DVM

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**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**Norm and Gail Bayne** welcomed their third grandchild on December 3rd. **Mabel Elizabeth** was born to Norm and Gail's daughter and son-in-law in Virginia Beach.

*Congratulations* to Dr. **Kaitlin Lonc** and family on the addition of their newest addition, **Adelaide Robin!**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Our goal of this section is to let members know what is occurring in our lives outside of veterinary medicine. Please notify us of your recent family additions, graduations, honors, achievements, fund raising activities, civic group associations, outdoor activities and the like. Please call us at 248-651-6332 or email us at adminsemvma@semvma.com

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to SEMVMA...

**Dr. Lindsay Curtis**, MSU, 2024 – Veterinary Emergency Services (VES), West, Plymouth, MI

**Dr. Alex Schechter**, MSU, 2014 – Burrwood Veterinary, Royal Oak, MI

**Dr. Madeleine Vanderwall**, Ross University, 2024 – VES, West, Plymouth, MI

The 2025 membership committee is composed of 3 members: Jordan Roux, DVM jordanmroux@gmail.com, Barb Easton, DVM Easton@vet-vision.com, and Becky Dietlin, DVM bbarrdvm@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions. If you know of a veterinarian in the area who is not a member but may be interested in joining, please contact any member of the membership committee or the SEMVMA office and we will be happy to send them information.

**TECHNICIAN SPOTLIGHT**

We continually see the vital role our veterinary technicians play in our hospitals every day. From education to patient care, surgical assisting to laboratory testing, they are truly our life line! Do you have a special technician doing extraordinary things in your hospital? We'd LOVE to hear all about them and celebrate them in our local veterinary community! Submit a photo and a short summary about the great things this person does for you and your patients! Submissions must be received before May 15th to be included in the next newsletter. Email the newsletter editor, Emily Socks, at harri812@gmail.com with subject "Newsletter - Technician Spotlight."

## -2024 ACADEMY MEMBERS-

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Kathy Christy, DVM – Oakland Hills Veterinary Hospital  
Gurpreet Kaur, DVM – North Hills Veterinary Hospital  
Tari Kern, DVM, CCRP, CVMA, CVSMT – Pawsitive Steps Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine  
Molly Lynch, DVM – Ann Arbor Cat Clinic  
Michelle Meyer, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital  
Karen Michalski, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital  
John Parker, DVM – Briarpointe Veterinary Hospital  
Julie Sherman, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital  
Dave Smith, DVM – Leader Dogs for The Blind  
Emily Socks, DVM – Oakland Hills Veterinary Hospital  
Stephanie Tallis, DVM – Animal Medical Center of Troy  
Laura Van de Grift, DVM – Oakland Hills Veterinary Hospital  
Kelly Wilson, DVM – Leader Dogs for The Blind

The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association developed the SEMVMA Academy to celebrate the commitment of veterinarians to the continual improvement of their professional knowledge and competence achieved through continuing education. The Academy is the first institution in the State of Michigan to recognize and reward veterinarians for their commitment to advance their continuing education. Academy members must have earned at least 50 hours of continuing education.



**SAVE THESE**

**DATES!**

**UPCOMING**

**ACTIVITIES**



**30th Annual SEMVMA Golf Outing**

*Look for additional details on our website*

# MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION

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The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association (SEMVMA) hosted its annual membership celebration on January 8th at The Community House in Birmingham. With 73 members and guests in attendance, the event was made even more special thanks to the generous bar sponsorship by Faithful Companion whose continued support is greatly appreciated.

The celebration began with incoming president Dr. Kaitlin Lonc presenting Dr. Becky Dietlin with the Outstanding Service as President award for her incredible leadership throughout 2024. We recognized some extraordinary contributions, Dr. Renee Riepe received the award for Outstanding Contribution to Clinical Practice, honoring her 29 years as a dedicated cardiologist at Oakland Veterinary Referral Services. Her work has left an indelible impact, and while she is embarking on a new chapter in Kentucky, we are grateful for her service in our area and the legacy she leaves behind. Dr. Tim Duncan was also celebrated for his Outstanding Contribution to SEMVMA, reflecting his 12 years of tireless service on the council. From leading committees to organizing ultrasound wetlabs and milestone events like the “Party of the Century,” Tim’s

influence has been invaluable in advancing veterinary excellence and collaboration.

Looking to the future of veterinary medicine, SEMVMA awarded scholarships to outstanding Michigan State University veterinary technician students: 1st place Sidney Murray, 2nd place Jenna Driscoll, and 3rd place Emilie Rabbers—congratulations to each of you for your hard work! The evening also highlighted the recipients of the Student Debt Reduction awards: Dr. Emma Hoffmann of the Animal Emergency Center (Midwestern University, 2023) and Dr. Rae Quimby of Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital (Ross University, 2023).

New council members Drs. Nathan Booth, Dave Smith, Emily Socks, and Kevin Windsor were installed alongside President Dr. Kaitlin Lonc, President-Elect Dr. Barbra Easton, and Vice President Dr. Jordan Roux, setting the stage for an exciting year ahead. The evening concluded with an insightful presentation by Dr. Stephan Carey on chronic rhinitis and radiation therapy.

If you couldn’t make it this year, we hope you’ll join us for next year’s celebration.

*Incoming President Dr. Kaitlin Lonc and Outgoing President Dr. Becky Dietlin*



*Dr. Kathy Christy and technician scholarship winner, Jenna Driscoll*



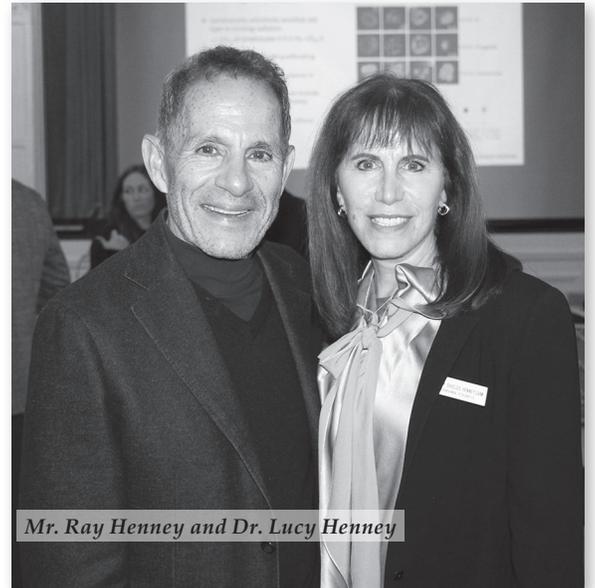
*Dr. Stephan Carey talking about his favorite subject, respiratory diseases.*



*Drs. John Simon, Jeff Rothstein, and Tom Kavanagh*



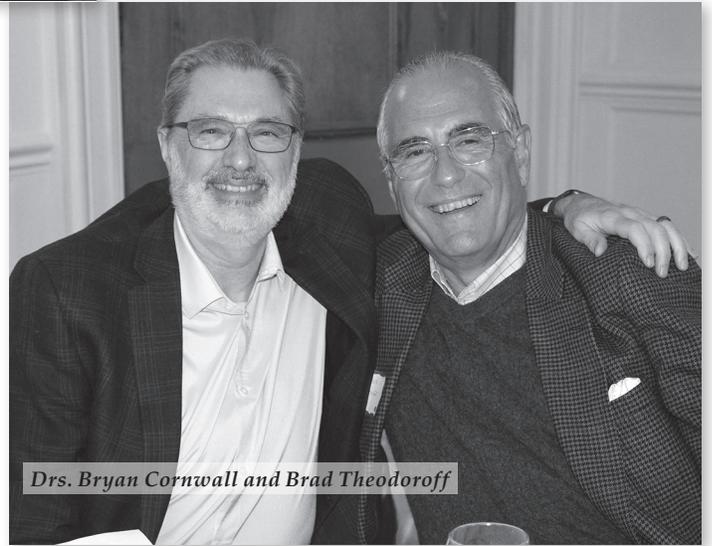
*Drs. Frank Carmona, Jasper Gill, Gurpreet Kaur, Nathan Booth, Lindsey Ramus, and Mr. Jason Ramus.*



*Mr. Ray Henney and Dr. Lucy Henney*



*Dr. Steve Bailey and Ms. Janine Shepherd*



*Drs. Bryan Cornwall and Brad Theodoroff*

# WHEN TO CONSIDER A C-SECTION WHEN IT'S NOT OBVIOUS?

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## **Gail McRae DVM, MS, DACT**

A lot of us have had dogs come in straining and febrile with puppies on the ground over 1 day old or possibly even a puppy that is stuck in the vagina unable to make its way out. After the initial workup those guys are no-brainers when it comes to going to a cesarean section. But how about the owners who insist on c-sections that you have never seen before because their dog is at increased risk of dystocia? When and how do you know what time is right to continue with the cesarean without having the risk of pulling out unhaired fetuses?

First and foremost, it starts with timing. Ovulation timing and/or reverse progesterone timing. However, not all progesterone machines are created equal (Zuercher, 2021). When measured via chemiluminescence or radioimmunoassay the LH surge occurs at ~2ng/mL and ovulation around 4-8ng/mL. If we know that information, then we can say that the bitch will be due 63 +/- 1 day post ovulation or 65 +/- 1 day after the LH surge (Hollinshead, 2019). However, if using in-house testing then those machines should be calibrated routinely in order to ensure their accuracy and LH surge and ovulation may not occur with the same numbers noted above. However, most animals coming into practice wanting a c-section usually do not have ovulation timing done previously. This is why it can be tricky.

There is often the scenario of an owner coming in demanding a c-section because it has been 63 days since the bitch has been bred or that they had their temp drop yesterday. This may be true, but it also may be too early for a c-section. This is because there is a two-week window post breeding that a bitch can be due if fresh semen is used. A bitch will be due 57-72 days after the last breeding (Siena, 2021). Additionally, the temperature drop (of 2°F or 1°C) is sensitive for a drop in progesterone, but not specific for birth (Copley, 2017). This is because at the end of gestation progesterone may go up and down, but not down far enough to indicate labor. Therefore, if you take a bitch to c-section just based on a breeding date or temperature drop then the fetuses may not be ready and not survive.

So, in these more unclear instances how do you know when is the right time?

If you do have access to a progesterone machine or a semi-quantitative progesterone test, then you possibly could proceed with reverse c-section timing. If the progesterone comes back <2ng/mL (on radio-immunoassay or chemiluminescence) then the bitch will likely go into labor within the next 24 hours and it is safe for her fetuses to come out (if all other signs support as well). Additionally, a recent study came out of South Africa/Australia showing that the idexx machine is validated for reverse progesterone timing (Nöthling, 2022). There are a few instances where this will not happen. A study from 2023 showed that 81% of bitches with litter sizes ≤2 did not have progesterone drop and thus did not go into labor normally (Cortes, 2023). Often by the time these bitches show that it is time, the fetuses have outgrown their placentas leading to fetal demise.

If you do not have immediate access to progesterone, if the litter size is ≤2, or if the “water breaks” but there is no green discharge there are additional ways to monitor for a c-section. When a bitch is in labor but potentially has an obstructive dystocia or primary uterine inertia, using a rigid endoscope (such as those that are used for transcervical inseminations) you may visualize the cervix and if it is open and there are appendages of the fetus coming through and it is an appropriate time post breeding then going to c-section would be appropriate. Regardless of endoscopic ability or progesterone testing, however, ultrasound would be the best way to initially evaluate these cases.

Ultrasonic findings starting with fetal heart rate can be incredibly useful to determine the appropriateness of the fetus to come out of the womb. This should be done with M mode on the ultrasound as counting can lead to mistakes/irregularities. If the fetal heart rate is 200+ at term this is normal and not an emergency. If the heart rate is dropping into the 180-190s the fetus is more stressed, and it may be time for c-section, but other clinical considerations of the fetus need to be taken into

consideration. If you find a fetal heart rate of <160 this would indicate an emergency and those fetuses need to come out in order to increase their chances of survival (Siena, 2021).

In addition to fetal heart rate, fetal maturation is important to consider. Some of the last fetal development includes peristalsis of the small intestine, distinct layering of the small intestine, and renal corticomedullary distinction (Siena, 2021). If all of these are present and the heart rate indicates the fetus needs to come out, then c-section is appropriate. Therefore, when you have a bitch that comes in that has a small litter or you do not have access to progesterone testing, fetal ultrasound is your greatest tool for deciding to go to c-section.

References:

1. Copley, K. et al, "26,000 Whelpings- the high points and high risk successes!" Clinical Theriogenology vol. 9 (2017): 277-288

2. Cortes, D. et al. Abstract of "Is decline in prepartum progesterone concentrations associated with litter size in dogs? A retrospective study of 42 cases." Clinical Theriogenology. Vol 15 (2023): 14-15.

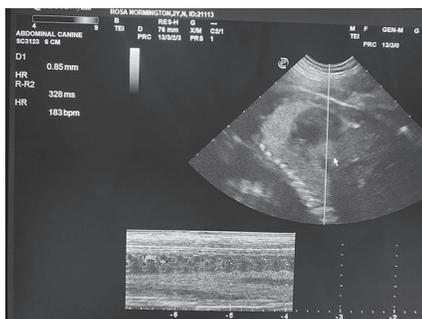
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6. Zuercher, Julia et al. "Comparison of a Point-of-Care Analyzer With a Chemiluminescent Immunoassay for Serum Progesterone Measurement in Breeding Management of the Bitch." Frontiers in veterinary science vol. 8 660923. 13 May. 2021, doi:10.3389/fvets.2021.660923

Take away messages	Know litter size (radiograph)
	Use ovulation timing if appropriate and available
	Use progesterone for reverse progesterone timing (litters $\geq 2$ )
	Be comfortable with fetal ultrasound for fetal heart rate, intestinal and renal development



Measuring fetal heart rate using M-mode



Ultrasound image of a neonatal kidney



The neonate's kidney is outlined in white



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# OPPORTUNITIES

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## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT POLICY

In order to preserve the educational and informative purpose of the SEMVMA newsletter, the SEMVMA council adopts the following policy regarding advertising. Ads should be submitted to Barb at [adminsemvma@semvma.com](mailto:adminsemvma@semvma.com)

Practices or businesses with a common owner shall be treated as one business or practice for the purpose of this policy (referred to as "Common Owner Business or Practice"). A common owner is a person or entity which owns 5% or more of an entity or practice. Shareholders or sole proprietors of an entity or practice shall be considered an owner along with the entity that holds an interest in the business or practice.

Corporate ¼ page ads are limited to one business, owner or corporation for each issue of the SEMVMA newsletter. This is in the interest of having the newsletter inform the association and not overwhelm them with ads. The SEMVMA council may modify or waive the application of this policy on a case by case basis at the discretion of the council.

Ads will run only once unless a request is submitted to the Administrative Secretary to run longer. Classified ads are \$15 for 60 words or less and \$25 for 61–100 words. Corporate ¼ page ads are \$135 per issue or \$500 for four issues. Payment is due at the time of the initial ad placement.

SEMVMA Members interested in providing Relief Veterinary Services can advertise in the newsletter at no charge. The classified ads must follow the same guidelines regarding number of words and deadline restrictions as all other classified ads. If you are a SEMVMA member interested in placing a classified ad, please contact Barb at 888-SEMVMA-5 or [www.adminsemvma@semvma.com](mailto:www.adminsemvma@semvma.com).

Newsletters are published quarterly: on March 15th, June 15th, September 15th and December 15th. All ads should be submitted to the SEMVMA office by the 15th of the month preceding publication.



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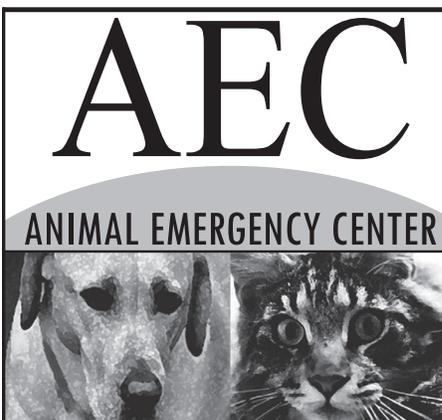
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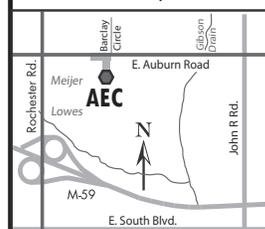
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