



THE CORNER INFORMER

The Newsletter of The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association

Volume 31 Issue 2 June 2025

OUR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcome to summer! Things are in full swing with summer vacations, end of the school year activities and seemingly everyone needing to get their pets seen over the summer!

Your SEMVMA board has been busy as well. We have a social outing planned on July 12 to see Detroit City FC take on Hartford Athletic. It should be a fun event for the whole family. For more information including purchasing tickets, see our website or use the QR code in the Save the Date section.

We've also been hard at work preparing for our annual golf outing on August 6th at Tanglewood Golf Club. All proceeds from this event go to Leader Dogs for the Blind. For registration, see the insert within this newsletter.

We have some bittersweet news to share. After 20 years, our wonderful administrative secretary

Barb Locricchio is retiring from her position with SEMVMA. Barb is truly irreplaceable and has been a friendly, organized face at all of our SEMVMA events. She is truly the unsung hero of our organization and will be dearly missed. We wish you all the best in your retirement, Barb!



Kaitlin Lenc

Although it will be impossible to fill the big shoes she's leaving, the SEMVMA council is currently interviewing candidates for the administrative secretary position and we will keep you posted.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer season and that we can all take some time to relax.

— Kaitlin Lenc

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Veterinary Medical
Association**

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Administrative Secretary

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2025/2026 CONTINUING EDUCATION

VETERINARY PROGRAM

10/22/2025 – Dr. Jane Quandt – Anesthesia/Pain Management

Sponsored by: Zomedica

11/19/2025 – Dr. Saki Kadotani – Cardiology

12/10/2025 – Dr. Stephan Carey – Respiratory

Sponsored by: Zoetis

02/04/2026 – Dr. Ross Palmer – Orthopedics

Sponsored by: Zoetis

03/25/2026 – Dr. Patty Lathan – Internal Medicine

Sponsored by: Dechra

Sign-in for the conference begins at 8:15 am, with the seminar beginning at 9:00 am. Continental breakfast and full lunch are included. The seminars will conclude at 5:00 pm.

TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

10/22/2025 – Dr. Jane Quandt – Anesthesia Monitoring

11/19/2025 – Tabitha Brown, LVT – ECG and Cardiology Basics for LVTs

12/10/2025 – Dr. Kate Cummings – Updates in Brachycephalic Anesthesia
and Autonomic Nervous System And Pharmacologic
Intervention

02/04/2026 – Kristen Klebba, LVT, KPA CTP, VTS – Behavior

03/25/2026 – Alicia Smith, LVT – Cytology

Sign-in and dinner for the conference begins at 5:45 pm with the seminar starting at 6:30 pm. The seminars will conclude at 8:30 pm. For each SEMVMA member in your practice, one technician or staff member can attend each of the seminars for FREE. The cost for additional staff members or for the staff of non-SEMVMA members is our regular charge of \$35. You must RSVP to ensure a meal and proceedings. Seminars will be held at the Management Education Center – 811 West Square Lake Road, Troy, MI, (248) 879-2456

You can attend our meetings in person or virtual, your choice! Please contact the SEMVMA Office to register (248) 651-6332 adminsemvma@semvma.com

Dear Members of the Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association,

After 20 very rewarding years with this incredible association, the time has come for me to step into retirement. As I reflect on the two decades spent serving this community, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude, pride, and affection for the people, the mission, and the meaningful work we've accomplished together.

It has been an honor to support and advocate for the dedicated veterinarians who devote their lives to the health and welfare of animals. Whether through policy initiatives, professional development programs, or day to day operations, I have always been inspired by your passion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to excellence in veterinary care.

This association is more than a workplace; it has become a home. The relationships I have formed over the years, the collaborations, the challenges overcome, and the celebrations shared will remain with me as some of the most fulfilling experiences of my work career.

As I turn this page, I do so with full confidence in the future of the association. I know it will be in capable hands, and I look forward to seeing how it will continue to grow and evolve in the years ahead.

Thank you for the trust, support, and camaraderie you have shown me over the years. I will carry the memories with deep appreciation and look forward to staying in touch in new ways.

With warmest regards and heartfelt thanks,

Barb

LET'S HAVE A (WATCH) PARTY!

Do you want to encourage camaraderie between your staff members? Do you want to promote continuing education? You can do BOTH! Who doesn't love getting together with friends over a pizza and a good movie? Substitute a SEMVMA CE seminar for the movie and you're set! Maybe staff can't make it out in person? Maybe you had late patients? Whatever the case may be, inviting staff to watch the CE together in the clinic is a perfect way to build strong relationships and strong minds! (All attendees must be registered for the seminar to receive CE credit)



SAVE THESE DATES! UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Look for additional details on our website



SEMVMA Soccer Outing: Hartford Athletic at Detroit City FC

Keyworth Stadium, Hamtramck, MI

Gates Open at 5:30, Match Starts at 7 PM

Tickets: Please select Rouge seats so that we are sitting in the same area
FAQ information including parking is available on our [website](#)



Scan the code for tickets!



30th Annual SEMVMA Golf Outing

Tanglewood Golf Club

9:00 AM Shotgun Start

See the insert for registration information



Membership Celebration

Birmingham Community House, Birmingham, MI

STUDENT LOAN DEBT REDUCTION AWARDS

The SEMVMA is concerned about the cost of a veterinary education and the accumulated student debt. We realize student debt only adds to the stress of new graduates and we would like to take action to reduce the debt load.

The SEMVMA is proud to announce that we will be awarding two \$2500 awards to recent graduates during the January Membership Celebration Dinner to reduce their student debt. This grant will be awarded to two members who meet specific requirements. We intend to choose 2 recipients per year who meet the following requirements:

- Have graduated in the last 3 years (2023, 2024, 2025)
- Are members of the SEMVMA
- Work in one of the 9 counties that our membership derives from (Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw, Macomb, Monroe, Livingston, Lapeer, Genesee, St. Clair & Windsor).
- Have active student loan debt that can be verified from a lending institution. ***Each award shall be granted to a recognized student loan provider or debtor organization.***
- Have not received the award in the past

An application may be obtained via the SEMVMA office and submitted in October 2025. The award will be chosen at random in the presence of a quorum of the SEMVMA Board of Directors during the November or December BOD meeting. Awardees will be notified and invited specifically to the January Membership Celebration Dinner. The award will be submitted directly to the loan originator or institution.

Please spread the word and encourage your new graduates to apply. We hope this effort will make a difference in the lives of the awarded individuals and make you proud to be a member of the SEMVMA. An application to apply is available on the [SEMVMA website](#).

THE CORNER INFORMER ONLINE

Do you like having a printed copy of our newsletter, The Corner Informer? Would you prefer to receive it via email? Coming September 2025 we will only be providing printed newsletters to those that opt in. If you would like to receive a printed copy, email adminsemvma@semvma.com with the **subject: Printed Newsletter**. If you want to be sure you have an email address on file with us to receive the newsletter electronically, email adminsemvma@semvma.com with the **subject: Email for the Newsletter**. You will see these options on your membership dues invoice as well. As always, you can find the newsletter on our [website](#).

ANESTHETIC AND ANALGESIC MANAGEMENT OF BRACHYCEPHALIC BITCHES PRESENTING FOR AN EMERGENCY CESAREAN-SECTION

Kirk Muñoz, DVM (Hons), MRCVS, MSc, PgCert BA, DACVAA, cVMA
Board Certified Specialist in Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia
Fear Free Certified Professional

This summary article focuses on the anesthetic management of dystocias in brachycephalic bitches, and not on the medical management or physiological changes that occur during pregnancy.

As the popularity of brachycephalic dogs increases, and with the likelihood of these animals presenting with a dystocia at one or multiple times in their lives, it is important to understand the additional steps that should be taken when managing their anesthetic event. It is critical that the time spent under anesthesia is minimized in an attempt to improve the survivability of the bitch and the puppies.

On presentation, it is important to obtain and perform the following: a signalment, full history, physical examination which should include a vaginal examination, a pain score using an objective pain scoring scale, and a CBC and biochemistry panel if indicated. The additional time taken to perform diagnostic imaging, at the time of an emergency presentation, such as abdominal radiographs and ultrasound could lead to a lower APGAR score – a lower survivability of the puppies at birth. The decision to perform additional tests would also be based on if this is a new patient or if the bitch has been routinely seen throughout her pregnancy at your clinic. However, it is up to the clinician to decide if one or more of these tests are warranted to assist with making the decision to take the bitch to surgery.

Sample anesthetic and analgesic plan:

As far as the author is aware, there are no studies demonstrating the safety of cerenia (maropitant) in pregnant bitches and is therefore generally not used in these cases. Metoclopramide, a prokinetic, is sometimes used in brachycephalics in an attempt to reduce the risk of regurgitation and aspiration during the anesthetic event. The use of this drug in these cases is controversial and clinical judgement should be used to assess its benefit in each case. Additionally,

studies have shown that oral administration of metoclopramide, after delivery of the puppies, was helpful in stimulating milk lactose production in the bitch.

Pre-anesthetic period: The surgical site should be clipped and prepared as much as she will allow prior to the induction of general anesthesia. This is done to limit the amount of time that the puppies are exposed to the anesthetic drugs.

It is important that these animals are preoxygenated for about 3 to 5 minutes prior to induction. The benefit of this is to fill the functional residual capacity (FRC) in the lungs with about 100% oxygen. This will provide the bitch with a limited supply of oxygen for her and her puppies to utilize if she becomes apneic during induction or if intubation is challenging and takes longer than anticipated. Since these animals are often not premedicated prior to induction of general anesthesia they may not tolerate a tight fitting oxygen mask over their face. If she resists preoxygenation, the mask should be slowly moved away from her face to the point that it is tolerated. Fighting with the bitch to keep the mask on its face is likely to increase the bitch's stress level and may therefore not provide the intended benefit.

Premedication: Most often, these animals are not premedicated as anesthetic drugs will cross the placenta and potentially decrease the survivability of the puppies.

Induction of general anesthesia: Two main drug recommendations for induction of general anesthesia are alfaxalone 1 to 2 mg/kg or propofol 2 to 5 mg/kg, administered intravenously to effect. Always have more of the induction agent available as it may be needed during the intubation and maintenance periods.

A laryngoscope should always be used to help facilitate intubation, but especially so in brachycephalic animals. This will allow for proper visualization of the oral cavity as these breeds can sometimes be challenging to intubate. There is also the increased risk of regurgitation and aspiration, associated with the physiological changes that occur during pregnancy, which is why a fast and safe intubation is so

important in these pregnant bitches. At least three sizes of endotracheal tubes (ETTs) should be selected, with the middle size being the one that is thought to be the ideal size for the bitch. It is important to remember that the size of ETT needed for a brachycephalic animal will often times be smaller than that needed for a non-brachycephalic breed of a similar size and weight.

A bougie, or flexible stylet, should also be available to help improve the intubation process. The bougie should be placed inside the ETT with about 2 to 3 inches protruding from the end of the ETT. This technique usually makes the intubation process easier as compared to attempting to intubate these animals with only a laryngoscope and an ETT.

After the surgical site is fully clipped and prepared, a line block should then be performed on midline along the incision line. A skin incision is very stimulating and may cause the bitch to be reactive, especially since she would not have received any analgesics up to this point. Local anesthetic drugs such as lidocaine, ropivacaine or bupivacaine can be used for this block. Caution is recommended when performing a line block in pregnant bitches as there are many dilated blood vessels in this area, and systemic administration of ropivacaine or bupivacaine can be detrimental. As always, be sure to calculate the appropriate dose and be aware of the toxic dose of the drugs used. Due to the urgency of delivering the puppies in a timely manner, lidocaine is often used because of its fast onset of action which will allow surgery to begin shortly after its administration. It does however have the shortest half-life as compared to the other local anesthetics, so the effect of the block will not last as long.

Maintenance of general anesthesia: Sevoflurane or isoflurane in 100% oxygen. Intravenous fluids (Lactate Ringer's Solution) at an infusion rate of 3 to 5 ml/kg/hr.

Additional doses of alfaxalone or propofol should be available in case the bitch becomes "light" under anesthesia due to the effect of surgical stimulation. Increasing the percentage setting on the vaporizer is not recommended if the bitch becomes "light" as the time it takes for the concentration of the inhalant to change in the system can be about 5 to 10 minutes (time constant of an anesthetic inhalant).

Analgesic options and considerations:

Analgesics can be administered intravenously after all of the puppies have been delivered. Analgesic options consist of either a pure-mu agonist such as hydromorphone, morphine or methadone, or a partial-mu agonist such as buprenorphine. The choice is usually based on clinician preference and availability of analgesics. Pure-mu opioid agonists are often preferred due to their higher efficacy as compared to a partial-mu agonist, but their duration of action is shorter and can cause more sedation.

Subcutaneous and/or oral administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are based on clinician preference. Studies have shown that carprofen was safe to be administered to lactating bitches, however caution should be taken in bitches with mastitis as the concentration of carprofen in the milk from the teats with mastitis was higher than those without mastitis.

An epidural can also be performed but it should be done after the puppies have been delivered and not before, as this would lengthen the amount of time that the bitch is under anesthesia and therefore increase the amount of time that the puppies are exposed to the effect of the anesthetic drugs. The choice of drugs used for the epidural could affect the time to discharge and it is generally recommended that only morphine preservative free (PF) be used as this will only affect sensory function as compared to adding a local anesthetic. If motor function is blocked, with the use of a local anesthetic, then the bitch will not be able to use her hindlimbs and would need to be hospitalized until she regains use of all four limbs.

Recovery: The bitch's oral cavity should be suctioned before extubation. This is performed to remove any regurgitated material to reduce the risk of aspiration once the bitch's airway is no longer protected by the presence of the ETT.

Outcome: The goal, once the bitch and puppies are doing well, is to discharge them as soon as possible to reduce the risk of the puppies acquiring nosocomial infections and also to return the bitch to her familiar surroundings so that she can begin taking care of her puppies.

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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."

OPPORTUNITIES

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Want to join a great family friendly private practice in Livonia, Michigan? D'Adamo Veterinary Hospital is a 6 DVM practice that is looking for a part time or full time DVM to join our team. We practice high quality medicine in a well-equipped hospital. Our clients allow us to take great care of their pets. We work hard to have a safe, caring environment. We have an amazing team of LVTs, assistants and CSRs. We have a full Idexx lab, ultrasound, therapy laser, full digital and dental radiology. We offer competitive salaries, PTO, simple IRA, medical insurance, and CE. Please apply at www.dadamoveterinary.com

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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 adminsevmma@sevmma.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.

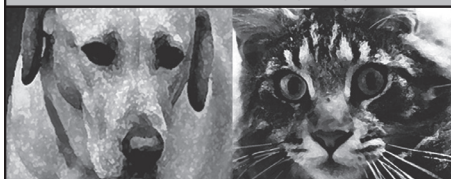
Ads will run only once unless a request is submitted to the Administrative Secretary to run longer. Classified ads are \$15 for 60 words or less and \$25 for 61–100 words. Corporate ¼ page ads are \$135 per issue or \$500 for four issues. Payment is due at the time of the initial ad placement.

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.adminsevmma@sevmma.com](mailto:adminsevmma@sevmma.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.

AEC

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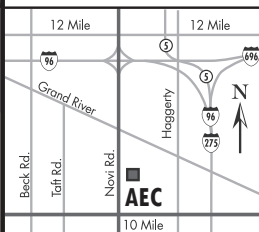
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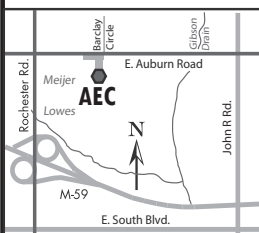
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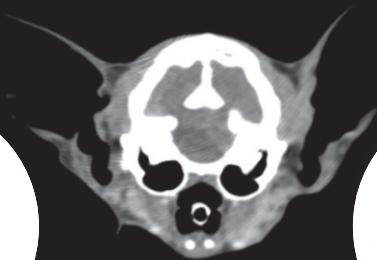
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