



THE CORNER INFORMER

The Newsletter of The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association

Volume 31 Issue 3 September 2025

OUR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It's been a busy summer for everyone and the SEMVMA has been no different! We just wrapped up the Golf Outing at Tanglewood Golf Course on August 6, which raised **\$6825** for Leader Dogs for the Blind.

We also had a group outing to the Detroit City Football Club match on July 12, which was marked by a tough loss for DCFC, but a great time was had by those who attended! Unfortunately, we did not have a large group that attended—summer is a busy time for everyone. Your council is brainstorming ways to continue offering fun events that will garner more interest, so please let me know if anyone has ideas for activities they would like to do! You can email us at adminsemvma@semvma.com or post an idea on our Facebook page.

We also wished Barb Locricchio, our administrative secretary, a fond farewell as she wraps up her 20 year career with us. A small retirement party was held with the current council members and their spouses at Dr. Henney's home. If any SEMVMA members want to pass on well wishes to Barb in her retirement, please email me at klonc@ovrs.com. Barb, thank you again for the commitment, organization, and kindness you brought to every SEMVMA event! We will all miss you. *(See page 5 for some candid photos!)*

I'd like to use this opportunity to introduce our new administrative secretary, Emilie Evenson, LVT. Emilie was chosen from several candidates based on a review of the candidates' resumes by the SEMVMA

council, as well as an interview with a sub-committee of 4 council members and Barb. Emilie greatly impressed us—particularly in the interview—with her friendliness, eagerness to help, and knowledge of the veterinary profession. Emilie received her BS in animal science from Michigan State in 2009 and her AAS in veterinary technology from Purdue in 2019. She has over 20 years of experience in the industry—from positions in veterinary research, diagnostics, general practice, and emergency. She is excited to continue serving Michigan veterinarians in her new role.

Emilie is an avid equestrian who has also worked as a riding instructor, assistant racehorse trainer, and groom.

Emilie enjoys spending time with her mustang Cici; as former eventers, they are now focused on learning classical French dressage. Also an voracious reader, Emilie collects books. Emilie lives in Washington Twp with her husband, DSH, and Rhodesian Ridgeback – who talks using dozens of buttons. While thrilled to leave drool behind, she will most miss her rabbit patients in clinical practice.

I am so excited to continue to work together with Emilie and the rest of the council to serve veterinarians in Southeast Michigan. Our Fall CE series will be beginning in October (10/22 to be exact) and I'm sure everyone will give Emilie a warm welcome in her new role!

—Kaillin Lenc



Kaillin Lenc

**Southeastern Michigan
Veterinary Medical
Association**

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Emilie Evenson
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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

Sponsored by: Elanco Animal Health

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. Printed notes are available upon request for an additional \$10.

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 More

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

03/25/2026 – Heidi Reuss-Lamky, LVT, VTS (Anesthesia and Analgesia),
(Surgery), CFVP Elite FFCEP (Veterinary) – Implementing Fear
Free Anesthesia Practice

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 \$40. 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



TECHNICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Courtney Fraley graduated from the MCC Veterinary Technology program in 2014 and went on to pursue her passion for conservation medicine and animal welfare. This path led to incredible experiences, like rescuing bears from the bear bile trade in the Vietnamese jungle and rehabilitating monkeys in the South African bush. Eventually, she discovered her love for emergency medicine. Alongside her veterinary career, she became a big advocate for mental health and finding work-life balance in our field. That passion inspired her to explore her love of cooking, which led her to compete on Season 15 of MasterChef. Getting to cook on the MasterChef stage with a fellow vet nurse reminded her that there are so many different directions our careers can take us – and that we’re capable of so much more than we often give ourselves credit for.

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 November 15th to be included in the next newsletter. Email the newsletter editor, Emily Socks, at harri812@gmail.com with subject “Newsletter - Technician Spotlight.”

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Dr. Arianna Troia, MSU, 2025 – Briarwood Veterinary Hospital, Grand Blanc, MI

Dr. Jennifer Czapp, Ross University, 2008 – Creekside Animal Hospital, Macomb Twp., MI

Dr. Linda Okonkowski, MSU, 2016 – MOVES - Michigan

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.



SAVE THESE DATES! UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Look for additional details on our website



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 by the October 14, 2025 deadline. 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 SEMVMA Board celebrated Barb's 20 years as our administrative secretary.
Happy Retirement Barb!!!*



Barb Locricchio receiving her gift of a luggage set to take on all of her travels during her well deserved retirement.



← Barb Locricchio, Dr. Barbra Easton, Dr. Becky Dietlin, and Dr. Kathy Christy

↗ Dr. Kaitlin Lonc, Dr. Michelle Meyer, Barb Locricchio, and Dr. Frank Carmona.

↓ Dr. Grace Chang, Dr. Lucy Shields Henney, Barb Locricchio, Dr. Mary Oswald, Dr. Kathy Christy, and Dr. Michelle Meyer.



*We recently welcomed Emilie Evenson, LVT
as our new administrative secretary.*



BRACHYCEPHALIC ANESTHESIA

Kate Cummings, DVM, DACVAA

Oakland Veterinary Referral Services, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Breed related statistics worldwide have shown an increase in brachycephalic dog breeds across the world with the French Bulldog and English Bulldog holding two of the top ten spots on the AKC dog breeds list over the past decade.¹ The French Bulldog has surpassed the Labrador Retriever as the most popular dog breed according to the AKC in 2022 and 2023.¹ These numbers in prevalence indicate that brachycephalic breeds continue to increase in popularity; therefore, as a veterinary community we are tasked at knowing how to manage their sometimes diverse health issues and airway complexities that make sedation and general anesthesia more challenging.

Brachycephalic patients provide a unique challenge in the veterinary setting, especially during times when sedation or general anesthesia (GA) are required. Their complex anatomy that increases risks during sedation and anesthesia includes elongated soft palates, stenotic nares, hypoplastic tracheas, and everted laryngeal sacculles – these upper airway changes often make intubation challenging and make these patients more prone to upper airway obstruction – especially in the face of reduced consciousness.² When intubating these patients, it is important to position in sternal recumbency for the best visualization, have several endotracheal tube (ETT) sizes available (they often run much smaller than other similarly sized non-brachy breeds), use laryngoscope-guidance, and have a stylet available. Other anatomical differences that pose challenges during sedation and anesthesia include shorter, more muscular legs that can make IV catheter placement difficult and non-invasive blood pressure measures more inconsistent, given the shorter limbs and more conical limb circumference.

There is a large amount of supportive research that brachycephalic patients are at higher risk for anesthesia-related complications.³ Complications tend to occur most commonly during the pre-anesthesia, induction, and post-op/recovery time periods, but not during the actual anesthetic time period. The most common post-op complication is aspiration pneumonia followed by regurgitation and breathing difficulties.³ As a population, brachycephalic patients

tend to have a combination of both GI and respiratory signs that come in tandem with one another and treating one condition tends to help the other.^{4,5,6,7} Because of the GI/respiratory combination, however, these patients are at much higher risk for regurgitation and aspiration pneumonia. Because of this risk, it is recommended to have certain protocols in place for sedation and anesthesia that include GI protective medications (oral medications days in advance, injectable, and/or oral medications at the time of premed, or a combination of both), thereby reducing the risk of regurgitation and aspiration pneumonia.⁸ Any GI protective medications given orally on the day of sedation and/or anesthesia should be given at least 2 hours prior to the administration of sedative medications.

As with any patient undergoing sedation and/or anesthesia, it is imperative to evaluate each brachycephalic patient as an individual as breed and health differences may impact the anesthetic protocol design. English and French bulldogs and Pugs tend to be more “extreme” in terms of airway abnormalities, but there are several other brachycephalic dog breeds (e.g. Boston Terrier, Pekingese, Boxer, etc.). Along with often concurrent GI signs, these breeds may have other comorbidities that influence their anesthetic drug choices (e.g. heart disease, spinal issues, pneumonia, musculoskeletal issues). The main objective is to minimize chances of airway obstruction – this can be done by minimizing stress, providing appropriate analgesia, and minimizing peri-anesthetic nausea, vomiting, and regurgitation. Preparation is key!

Sedation and anesthesia of brachycephalic patients must be done carefully and safely. The quick escalation from excitement to respiratory distress can result in demise for the patient if not prepared. Having pre-hospital sedation protocols in place is helpful and knowing what drugs are best for these patients for additional sedation and prior to general anesthesia will help improve outcomes. Sedative drugs like butorphanol, dexmedetomidine, and acepromazine are very effective, and at often low doses, when used in combination. Because these patients have a higher incidence of underlying GI disease, it is recommended to avoid pure mu opioids in these patients when possible as drugs of this

class have a higher risk of adverse GI side effects.² If a patient is undergoing a painful procedure, it is recommended to use multimodal analgesia (e.g. dexmedetomidine, ketamine, local blocks, and NSAIDs) when possible, but if a patient needs a more potent opioid, methadone and fentanyl are better options for these patients. Buprenorphine is an alternative to pure mu opioids in brachycephalic patients, especially in combination with other analgesic agents, as it offers moderate pain relief, a long duration of action, and less sedation.

A slow and steady recovery is paramount in the brachycephalic patient – this is enhanced by having a quiet recovery area where monitoring and post-op care can continue. Those patients that wake up too quickly from anesthesia often have excitement and dysphoria and cannot appropriately manage their airway without intubation. If a patient displays signs of dyspnea after extubation, placing the patient in sternal recumbency with the head elevated, opening the mouth, and pulling the tongue forward can aid in opening the upper airway. Should this not be effective, IT IS CRUCIAL TO HAVE REINTUBATION SUPPLIES ACCESSIBLE IN CASE THE PATIENT NEEDS REINTUBATED (e.g. ETTs, laryngoscope, propofol). It is recommended to intubate with at least a half size smaller ETT if re-intubation is necessary. Monitoring of hemoglobin saturation via pulse oximetry and having accessible oxygen supplementation is important during the recovery time period, especially in patients displaying signs of respiratory difficulties. Having micro-doses of sedative drugs such as acepromazine and dexmedetomidine may be helpful, as well as reversal agents such as naloxone, flumazenil, and atipamezole.

As a final note for these patients, dialogue with the owner and use of brachycephalic specific protocols, checklists, and consent forms will help improve owner awareness of the medical complications that can occur more commonly within this dog population.⁹ Appropriate staff training goes hand in hand with owner education at improving outcomes for these higher risk breeds while under our care.⁹

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4. Poncet CM, Dupre VG, Freiche VG, et al. Prevalence of gastrointestinal tract lesions in 73 dogs with upper respiratory syndrome. *J Sm Anim Pract*. 2005;46(6):273-279.
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6. Fenner JVH, Quinn RJ, Demetriou JL. Postoperative regurgitation in dogs after upper airway surgery to treat brachycephalic obstructive airway surgery: 258 cases (2013-2017). *Vet Surg*. 2020;49(1):53-60.
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8. Costa RS, Abelson AL, Lindsey JC, Wetmore LA. Postoperative regurgitation and respiratory complications in brachycephalic dogs undergoing airway surgery before and after implementation of a standardized perianesthetic protocol. *J Vet Med Assoc*. 2020;256(8):899-905.
9. Claim Trend Alert: Brachycephalic Breeds Involve Intensified Risks. AVMA PLIT. Summer 2017;Vol 36(2).

If you have any additional questions regarding Brachycephalic Breed Anesthesia or other anesthetic-related questions I can be reached at OVRS by kcummings@ovrs.com or 248-334-6877.

2025 SEMVMA GOLF OUTING

It was another beautiful day at Tanglewood Golf Course in South Lyon for the 31st annual SEMVMA golf event on August 6th benefiting Leader Dogs for the Blind. The weather was gorgeous and the course was in great condition. The participants ranged from sponsors to veterinarians to avid golfers that love supporting a great cause. Golfers competed for the championship title, along with closest to the pin, longest drives, and a hole-in-one prize. After a lovely morning of golfing everyone enjoyed a raffle and delicious meal.

Prize sponsorship was generously donated by Faithful Companions Pet Cremation Services.

We also want to thank our many sponsors and organizations that generously donated to ensure this event was successful. Their support was instrumental in allowing us to help such a great cause! Those sponsors include Affiliated Veterinary Emergency Service, Animal Emergency Center, Cats Radioiodine, DePorre Veterinary Hospital, Idexx, Michigan Animal Rescue League, MWI, Oakland Animal Hospital, Oakland Veterinary Referral Services, Pawsitive Steps Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine, Veterinary Emergency Services, Zomedica

All proceeds from this event benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind. This year we raised just under \$7,000 for this extraordinary organization.

This amazing event would not be possible without the hard work of Barb Locricchio, Dr. Grace Chang, and the golf outing chairpersons: Drs Frank Carmona, Pierre DePorre, Jordan Roux, and David Smith.

Remember to be on the lookout for next year's outing in early August. Come join us for a fun-filled day benefiting such an incredible organization!



*All of Veterinary Emergency Service Plymouth
Dr. Marty Mlynarek, Dr. Anna Arthmire, LVT Mary Roux, and
Dr. Natalie McKeon.*



*Drs. Brad Theodoroff, Jen Covey, Lucy Shields
Henney, and Jordan James.*



*Part of our golf outing organizing team,
Dr. Jordan Roux, Dr. Frank Carmona, Barb
Locricchio, and Dr. Dave Smith.*



*All proceeds from the golf outing go to Leader
Dogs for the Blind.*

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 Emilie 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.

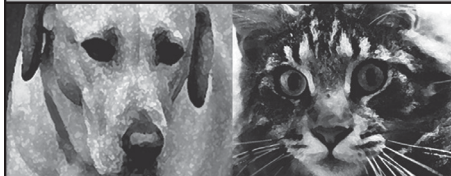
Corporate ¼ page ads are limited to one business, owner or corporation for each issue of the SEMVMA newsletter. This is in the interest of having the newsletter inform the association and not overwhelm them with ads. The SEMVMA council may modify or waive the application of this policy on a case by case 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 Emilie at 888-SEMVMA-5 or www.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.

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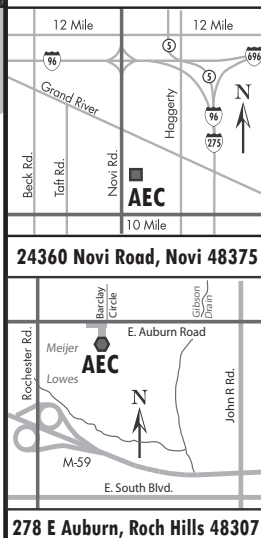
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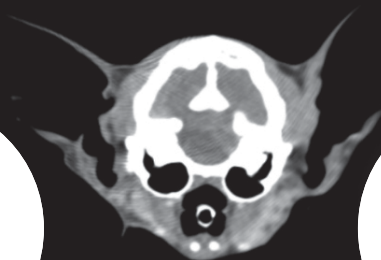
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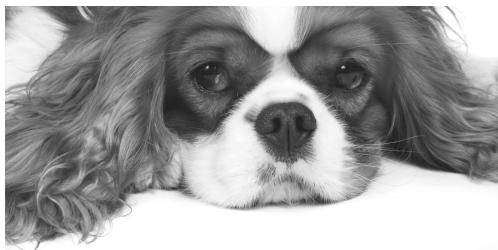
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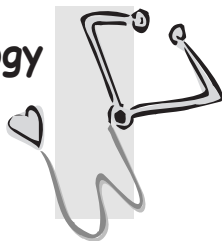


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