Volume 11 Issue 1

January/February 2015

# PHILOSOPHY OF ZOO/AQUARIUM MEDICINE

#### PRESENTED BY

# DR. FREELAND DUNKER



ASSOCIATION

MEDICAL

VETERINARY

ENINSULA

# Dr. Freeland Dunker is Staff Veterinarian at the California Academy of Sciences & Steinhart Aquarium where he has been employed since 1993.

Dr. Freeland Dunker is Staff Veterinarian at the California Academy of Sciences & Steinhart Aquarium where he has been employed since 1993. Following graduation from UCDavis Veterinary School in 1982, he entered primarily equine and mixed animal private practice for eight years. He began branching out from there by moving to southern California where he assisted an equine veterinarian who worked on exotic animals at the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park. He did consulting as well as caring for the hoofed stock at both locations. From there he pro-

gressed to an internship at the Riverbanks Zoo in Colombia South Carolina for a year before moving back to a position as Associate Veterinarian at the San Francisco Zoo. He became Senior Veterinarian there in 1995. At the same time, he took a part-time position at the California Academy of Sciences which involved caring for the fish, bird, reptile and amphibian collection at the Aquarium. In 2008 he left the San Fr4ancisco Zoo for a full-time position as Staff Veterinarian at the newly opened Steinhart Aquarium with a large and diverse collection.



**Examining an "Alligator Snapper"** 

# www.PeninsulaVMA.org

# **Tuesday January 20, 2015**

# This PVMA meeting offers 1 hour of CE Credit

The meeting will be held at **The Vans Restaurant** in Belmont located at **815 Belmont Avenue**, west off El Camino Real, up the hill. There is parking adjacent and also across the street to the northwest.

6:30pm for adult beverages - 7:00pm for dinner and program PVMA members FREE \* Life Members \$25 \* Guests \$60

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### Newsletter Editor Notes

email address is:

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We welcome submission of brief articles, news items or suggestions for topics.

All submissions must be received by the 20th of the month preceding publication

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Animated discussions coexist at the November PVMA meeting.

Drs. Glahn, Tanzella, Szymanski and Lerner share their secrets.

Can you spot the former vet-school classmates here?

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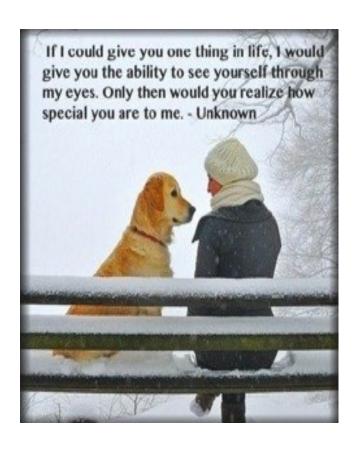
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# **Veterinary Specialties:**

Internal Medicine • Surgery • Emergency/Critical Care • Oncology Neurology • Cardiology • Alternative Medicine • Physical Rehabilitation

# **SEA TURTLES TAKE TO THE SKY**

#### COAST GUARD FLIES THE LITTLE FELLOWS TO FLORIDA FROM CAPE COD





The world's rarest sea turtles are being rescued from the lethally chilly waters and beaches of Cape Cod Bay by volunteers. About the size of a dinner plate and weighing only 2 to 10 pounds, the highly endangered young Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles ((*Lepidochelys kempii*) have found a friend. Turtle rescue happens every year in the northeast in late Fall with the destination being Sea World Orlando aquarium in Florida. 101 banana boxes holding about 200 turtles await their luxury coach for the first flight.

The event this year is turning out to be epic according to a spokesman for the New England Aquarium's marine-animal hospital in Quincy, Massachusetts. It appears that the number of cold-stunned turtles could quadruple this year which would be by far the largest quantity in 25 years of rescue. The record number of rescued turtles was 242 in 2012 but this year it's already about 600. More turtles turned up in recent years in Cape Cod Bay for their usual summer feast on crabs, so more became trapped there when water temperatures began to drop in September. The geographic configuration of the bay requires the turtles to swim 25 miles north to find an outlet to the open ocean so they could swim south to their native breeding grounds. Too many don't make it without assistance. Rescues are being done by volunteers with the Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary at Wellfleet Bay. Transportation for the box-loads of turtles lucky enough to be caught is via a Coast Guard HC-144, a twin-propeller plane from the Air Station in Bourne Massachusetts.. The pilots have experience in animal transport having participated in air-lifting pelicans and a dolphin from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010.

Nearly two dozen veterinarians, biologists, drivers and government officials, coordinated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, participate in the complicated logistics of the rescue operation.

Seven aquariums from North to South Florida took some of the reptiles for rehabilitation. Sea World Orlando took 72 of them. Recently, turtles have gone to other states also including North and South Carolina, Georgia and Pennsylvania. The Florida turtles are likely to be released into the Gulf of Mexico which is probably the survivors' birth waters. More than 90% of nesting occurs along beaches of the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico.



Sea Turtles Range

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Drs. Sickafoose, Boyanowski and Mincheff discuss their experiences in specialty practice at the November meeting.

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