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PVMA

PENINSULA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PVMA News

## ADVANCES IN GI DISEASES

PRESENTED BY

**BRIAN HARDY, DVM, MS, ACVIM**



After receiving board certification in Internal Medicine, he practiced at a private specialty hospital in Santa Cruz, CA before joining Infiniti Medical. Dr. Hardy's areas of clinical interest are gastroenterology, minimally invasive procedures, immune-mediated diseases, infectious diseases and endocrine disorders.

Dr. Hardy's presentation at the July PVMA meeting will be an evidence and case-based discussion on the latest diagnostics and treatments for GI diseases in dogs and cats.

Dr. Brian Hardy is the Director of Medical Affairs for Infiniti Medical, LLC. He graduated with high distinction and a degree in biology followed by a DVM from the University of Minnesota. His postgraduate training included a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the Ohio State University followed by a combined small animal internal medicine residency and Master's degree program back at Minnesota.



Cat Carrier

[www.PeninsulaVMA.org](http://www.PeninsulaVMA.org)

**Next PVMA Meeting: Tuesday July 21, 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

# Classified Ads

## Veterinarians Wanted

**Veterinary Assoc. wanted at Nob Hill Cat Clinic**  
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**For other advertising rates, contact the Editor**

## 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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# SHEEPDOGS REPLACED BY DRONES

Robots are setting their sensors on one of the world's oldest jobs: herding sheep. Tech-savvy livestock farmers from the Australian outback to the Irish countryside are starting to use drones as a relatively cheap alternative to the cowboy and the sheepdog. Copters can be bought off the shelf for as little as \$500. While the rancher operates the device remotely, drones bearing cameras can find and guide sheep or cattle over hilly terrain quickly. According to the 22-year-old owner of a small quadcopter drone in New Zealand, this is the fastest way to move the thousand sheep on their family ranch. Sheep seem to respect the drone since they are naturally afraid of anything that might attack them. Ranchers are also using unmanned aircraft having thermal sensors to count livestock, locate animals and even spot which ones are sick, in heat or in need of help.

Roboticians have been working for at least two decades on using machines to herd livestock. UK universities launched the "Robot Sheepdog Project" in 1995 and first developed a box-size device that could chase a dozen ducks to one place in an enclosed area. Researchers in Australia currently are building a four-wheel robot that can pursue cattle at walking pace. Other engineers have tried developing drones that can automatically spot sheep and round them up. Academics claim that the presence of people and dogs among livestock stresses them while robots mean calmer, happier animals. In the Australian Outback, many ranchers use helicopters to herd cattle that roam areas of up to a million acres. So far, drones don't have the multi-hour capability to remain in the air for the time required to cover such large areas, but work continues on developing that.

Human beings have bred dogs over centuries to create more specialized herders or guards for their livestock. There are now more than 70 breeds of herding dogs. Herding is one thing, but guarding the flock and fending off predators is quite another. Drones are yet to exhibit that greater skill. Dogs aren't expensive to keep and they are definitely better company than drones. No one talks about a drone being man's best friend.

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