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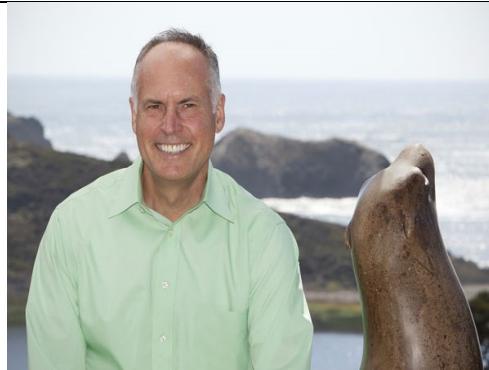
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PENINSULA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
PVMA News

SEA LIONS TELL THE STATE OF COASTAL WATERS

PRESENTED BY

JEFF BOEHM, DVM



Dr. Jeff Boehm is a San Francisco Bay Area native and a graduate of UC San Diego followed by UC Davis where he received his DVM. He is a founding member of the American College of Animal Welfare. Dr. Boehm joined The Marine Mammal Center as its Executive Director in 2008, coming from the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago where he was the Senior Vice President of Animal Health and Conservation Science.



Dr. Boehm oversees the MMC's Sausalito headquarters and its operations at Monterey Bay, San Luis Obispo, Ft. Bragg and its newest facility in Kona, Hawaii.

What can Sea Lions teach us about the state of coastal California fisheries? They can teach us plenty. What do they have to tell us about cancer? There's a tale to tell there, as well. Dr. Jeff Boehm will describe the work of this non-profit hospital for seals and sea lions and will explain the connection between their patients and our understanding of the health of our oceans.



www.PeninsulaVMA.org

Next PVMA Meeting: Tuesday January 17, 2017

This PVMA meeting program 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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email address is:
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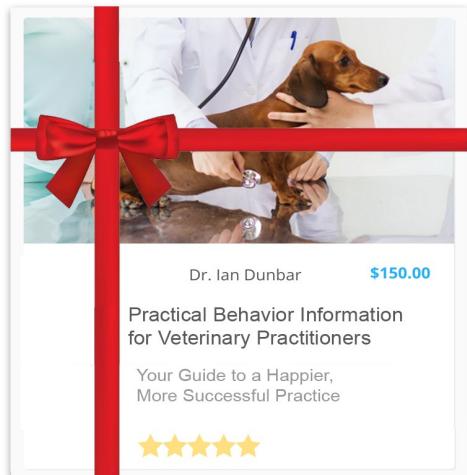
We welcome submission of brief articles, news items or suggestions for topics.

SAVE THE DATE

Sage Small Animal Symposium

Sunday March 19, 2017

All submissions must be received by
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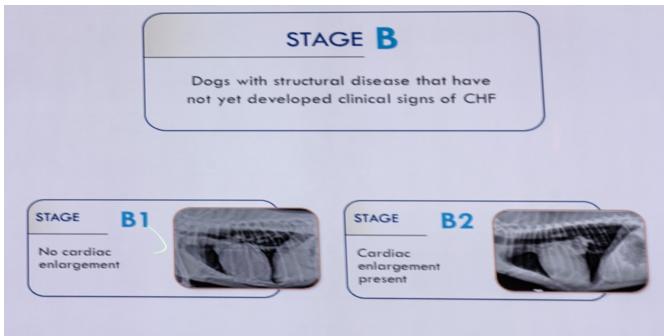
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PVMA November Meeting Highlights



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FREEDOM THE EAGLE



“Freedom” and Jeff have been together for 17 years. When Jeff found her, she could not stand and both wings were fractured, the left one in four places. She was emaciated and covered with lice. Jeff took her to an avian veterinarian who repaired the fractures and instructed Jeff on home-care. He fashioned a large dog-carrier, with its top removed, into an eagle-size hospital bed using shredded newspaper for bedding. He also learned to tube-feed the big bird and spent considerable time just sitting with her and encouraging her to get up and walk . . . But she wouldn’t. After six weeks of this, Jeff made the decision to give her one more week before giving up. It seemed that death was winning.

Of course, when the last day came, Jeff walked in and found the proud bird standing for the first time. Clearly, she was ready to live. She progressed well in her recovery, but was never able to fly. However, she had a high calling instead. Jeff glove-trained her and together they visited schools in western Washington for “show-and-tell” programs. Stories of the pair soon appeared in newspapers and on TV.

In 2000 Jeff was diagnosed with Stage 3 Hopkins Lymphoma. It required many months of chemotherapy to cure this problem during which Freedom helped Jeff cope with his disease thereby returning the favor he had done for her. Jeff reports that the two visited many hospitals and convalescent homes where patients were greatly moved by the success story. Freedom may be the first and only “Therapy Eagle” on duty.





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Chicago to Feral Cats: “Sharpen your claws and stay awhile!”

Chicago is awash in rats! A mild winter last year allowed broods of baby rats to survive, leading to an explosion of the critters, terrorizing residents in their own yards. By September, there had been 27,000 complaints, a 40% increase from 2015. This situation is turning the alley-cat, once considered an urban menace, into a prized possession. The Tree House Humane Society’s “Cats at Work” program places feral cats that have been trapped, spayed and microchipped, with rat-plagued Chicagoans. It’s manager admits he’s had multiple offers of bribes by desperate cat-seekers as the waiting list has stretched to six months. Feral cats are more akin to wild raccoons than cuddly house-pets, scratching and hissing at people who try to pick them up. Coaxing these rat-catchers to stay in one’s yard requires new owners to spend some time talking, feeding gourmet cat-food and waiting patiently for acceptance. Release them too soon, and they’re gone.

Chicagoans have tried high-tech traps, rat-repelling frequencies and even firecrackers but nothing worked. It’s back to basics with cats but some neighbors sneered and laughed at the efforts at first. As more strays came on duty and went to work, rats disappeared from those yards and homes. The owner of Empirical Brewery brought in cats to keep rats out of the grain bags at the craft brewery. Their team designed a multi-level cat condo which took a week to build. It includes a tower with a separate unit for litter boxes, a front porch and multiple hiding places. The rat problem is being solved. As more strays are showing up, no one is laughing any more.





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