

## LIFESTYLES OF WILDLIFE

PRESENTED BY

DR. RICHARD HAARS



Dr. Dick Haars grew up on the family's farm in Atkinson, Illinois and attended a one-room grammar school. He became proficient handling hogs, chickens and horses as well as in hand-milking cows.

Dick is a 1966 graduate of the University of Illinois CVM where he gained much experience with "wild life" at popular hangouts like *Cam's*, and *The Jolly Roger*. During school vacations he worked for various veterinarians, one of which paid him \$20/week for working 6 11-hour days per week and for farmers who paid \$1/hour. Following graduation, Dick joined the

Air Force where he met his wife, Gloria, who was a nurse. The couple moved to Palo Alto in 1968 and raised three children. They have now been married 50 years.

Dr. Haars worked with the late Dr. Chuck Smith at Sequoia Veterinary Hospital in Redwood City for 15 years before buying that practice and staying on another 15 years. His favorite area of practice was orthopedic and soft-tissue surgery.

Dr. Haars has been retired for over a decade and has successfully combined travel with his hobby of photography. They have been on all the continents. Currently, they travel the U.S. in a motor home along with four Dachshunds. Photographing wildlife continues to be Dick's passion.



Bonorong Wildlife

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

**Next PVMA Meeting: Tuesday January 15, 2019**

**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.

6:30 pm for adult beverages - 7:00 pm for dinner and program

PVMA members FREE \* Life Members \$25 \* Guests \$60

# Classified Ads

**Relief or Service ads of 1 or 2 lines are free to  
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For other advertising rates, contact the Editor**

## **Relief Veterinarians**

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## **Save the Date!**

Sage Small Animal Symposium  
Day-long CE event on March 24, 2019  
At the Oakland Marriott  
[www.sagesymposium.com](http://www.sagesymposium.com)

## Newsletter Editor Notes

email address is:

[PVMAeditor@comcast.net](mailto:PVMAeditor@comcast.net)

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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## Tortoises Are Escape Artists

Turtles live near water while tortoises are land-based. Tortoises can walk really fast and soon get very far away, often leaving heartbroken owners and bewildered bystanders posting lost and found photos on social media. One British tortoise, Bertie, was clocked at a pace of 0.92 feet-per-second which makes him the Guinness World Record holder for fastest tortoise. One family's pet tortoise of 15 years escaped and was found 8 months later when their 7-year-old son was at school and spotted it eating clover on the playground. Unfortunately, such escapees carry the threat of spreading diseases among native wildlife.

There could be as many as a million pet tortoises in California according to The Tortoise Group, a Las Vegas non-profit group. Beware that a cute baby tortoise from a pet shop can grow to be over 100 pounds!



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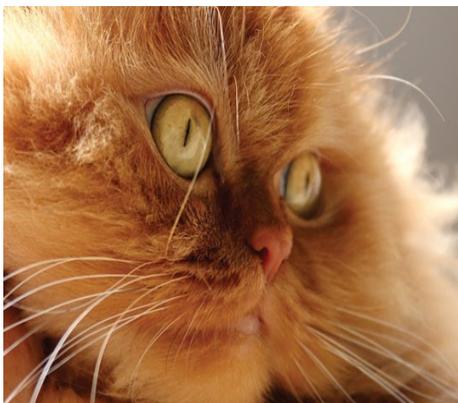


# BRACHYCEPHALIC SYNDROME IN CATS

Drs. Heidi Phillips and Hadley Gleason, veterinarians at the University of Illinois, are working on a new study focusing on the problems of brachycephalic cats which are largely unstudied as a population of significant risk for systemic and quality-of-life issues characterized by certain breeds. Several brachycephalic cats have been presented to them with abdominal hernias resulting from their struggle to breathe while combating anatomical airway obstructions. It is now recognized that a feline brachycephalic syndrome exists similar to that which is well-known in dogs. Both species have unfortunate quality of life issue in animals with these severe facial deformities. These two doctors have initiated a study to thoroughly define brachycephalic syndrome in cats and to identify effective treatments. Ultimately, their goal is to advance the care of cats and to advocate for responsible breeding.

Their study design calls for a comprehensive evaluation of 32 brachycephalic cats. They plan to image the head, neck and chest using CT, the nose and throat using visual and endoscopic exams, the esophagus and stomach using endoscopy and biopsy tissues as well as the assessment of cardiac enzymes. Using CT, they will also investigate the external and middle ear as well as dental issues often present in these cats.

Each study cat will undergo a vestibuloplasty and other airway surgery only as needed. The efficacy of surgery will be evaluated by comparing pre-op and post-op physical examinations, oxygen saturation and owner pre-op and post-op questionnaire responses. Many of the study subjects will be enrolled through a large Midwest purebred feline rescue organization that cares for hundreds of brachycephalic cats each year. Referring veterinarians may also direct the owners of brachycephalic cats to the University of Illinois veterinary service for evaluation and possible enrollment as well as treatment.





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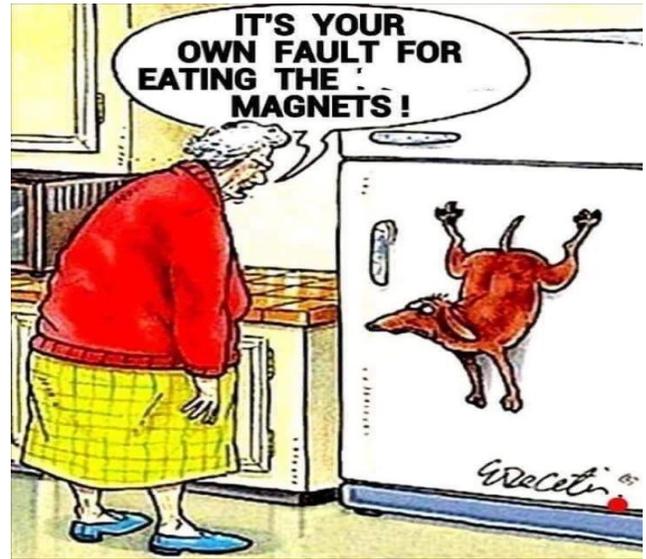
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