

Volume 16 Issue 5

September/October 2020



PENINSULA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**PVMA News**

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**PVMA Meetings are cancelled for 2020**

**Please watch the PVMA website  
for important information  
and updates!**

**Newsletters will continue bimonthly  
and notices will be sent to members.**

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

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## PVMA Leaders for 2020



2020 PVMA President  
Dr. G.G. Riggs

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Past President: Dr. Amy Farcas  
Vice President: Dr. Kristine Siao  
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Newsletter: Dr. Nancy Lerner  
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CVMA House of Delegates: Dr. Chris Cowing  
Webmasters: Dr. Kathy Tyson  
Dr. Charlene Edinboro

## We Love Our Pets!

Dogs were the first species to form a relationship with humans some 26,000 years ago as verified by a Paleolithic site inside Chauvet Cave in southern France where canine paw prints were found alongside those of a human child.

Humans have kept animals as companions long before we domesticated livestock some 10,000 years ago. By contrast, horses were tamed in Eurasia only about 6,000 years ago. One of the first pet dogs, whose name was *Abutin*, belonged to an Egyptian pharaoh in the early third millennium B.C. In Homer's *Odyssey*, the old dog *Argos* waits 20 years for Odysseus to return, then dies content once he has seen his master. But by around 1,000 B.C., the Egyptians' love of dogs had given way to an obsession with cats which they revered as semi-divine creatures. It was illegal to kill a cat or even to take one out of Egypt. Cardinal Richelieu, an advisor to the French King Louis XIII, shared his rooms with 12 cats. The Romans made pet of cats, dogs, snakes, insects and birds. However, goldfish didn't become household pets until 1369 when China's Hongwu Emperor ordered the creation of the first fishbowl.

In 19th century Europe, a pet became more than just a companion. It was an alter ego and "loving friend" as Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote in her poem, "*To Flush, my dog.*" Charles Dickens had his pet raven, *Grip*, Ernest Hemingway has his six-toed cat *Uncle Willie* and of course John Steinbeck had his poodle *Charley*, whom he immortalized in his 1962 book "*Travels with Charlie*". Steinbeck once admitted to his publisher, "I need a dog pretty badly. I dreamed of dogs last night!"

# 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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## Associate Veterinarian Wanted

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## 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  
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## Talking With The Dog

“*Fluent Pet*” a product intended to help pets express themselves using buttons was launched this summer by a startup in San Diego called “*CleverPet*”. A speech pathologist last year claimed to have taught her dog how to communicate using a new augmentative technique composed of 24 labeled buttons arranged on mats. The company said it has sold thousands of kits costing \$30 - \$200 since June. This product gives dogs the opportunity to say the words they understand and hear every day. The concept isn’t new; training is similar to teaching a dog to ring a bell when it wants to go outside. according to a veterinarian at Penn. One pet owner started training her guinea pigs with the buttons and she reports they quickly learned how to press the button that asks for a treat.

An author in Maine has been teaching her two cats to communicate using this button method since March this year. It took three months for her eight-year-old cat to start using four buttons consistently. The cat could say phrases like “Play + Laser Pointer”. Another couple in the Netherlands began teaching their dog to manipulate the buttons in March. What started at four buttons quadrupled in a matter of months. One day the dog looked at them and pressed the buttons “Look! Play!” while wagging his tail. A cat’s first words were “food”, “pets” and “mad”. Its owner reports it uses the “mad” button often when she’s not getting her way. Not every pet feels the need to chat with its owner. Some dogs or cats are just content being a pet and don’t seem to have the need to communicate with us on our level.



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# Medical Alert Dogs

Seizure-alert dogs are part of a growing class of service animals that can detect warning signs of epileptic seizures, diabetic emergencies and other medical conditions. Many training centers have long wait-lists. People pay up to \$50,000 for a dog with a purported ability to help people with medical or life-threatening conditions. Although researchers haven't yet identified the specific compounds that the dogs are smelling, these dogs are trained to respond with a certain action such as barking or pawing at their owners. Some dogs might be trained to alert another person or to send a phone text to a caregiver at the press of a button.

"Rosebud" is a yellow Labrador Retriever trained as a service dog at *Canine Partners for Life* in Cochraneville, PA. Rosebud can detect a seizure about 15 minutes before it happens. She lets her epileptic owner know with a whine or a bark and then lies down with her until the seizure is over. Prior to acquiring Rosebud, the dog's owner was in college but had to drop out during her sophomore year because of her seizures. After acquiring Rosebud, she was able to return to college, graduate and now works at a crisis-management center. Rosebud truly turned her life around.

*The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners* suggests that assistance dogs should have a minimum of 120 hours of training over six months or more. However, such training isn't yet regulated at the state or federal level. A handful of national organizations are introducing standards to help people find reputable service dogs. Unfortunately, too many false or deceptive dog marketers exist in this critical field.

*Assistance Dogs International* certifies nonprofit dog training programs across the country. *Dogs4Diabetics* is also developing and publishing national standards for medical dogs training and performance.

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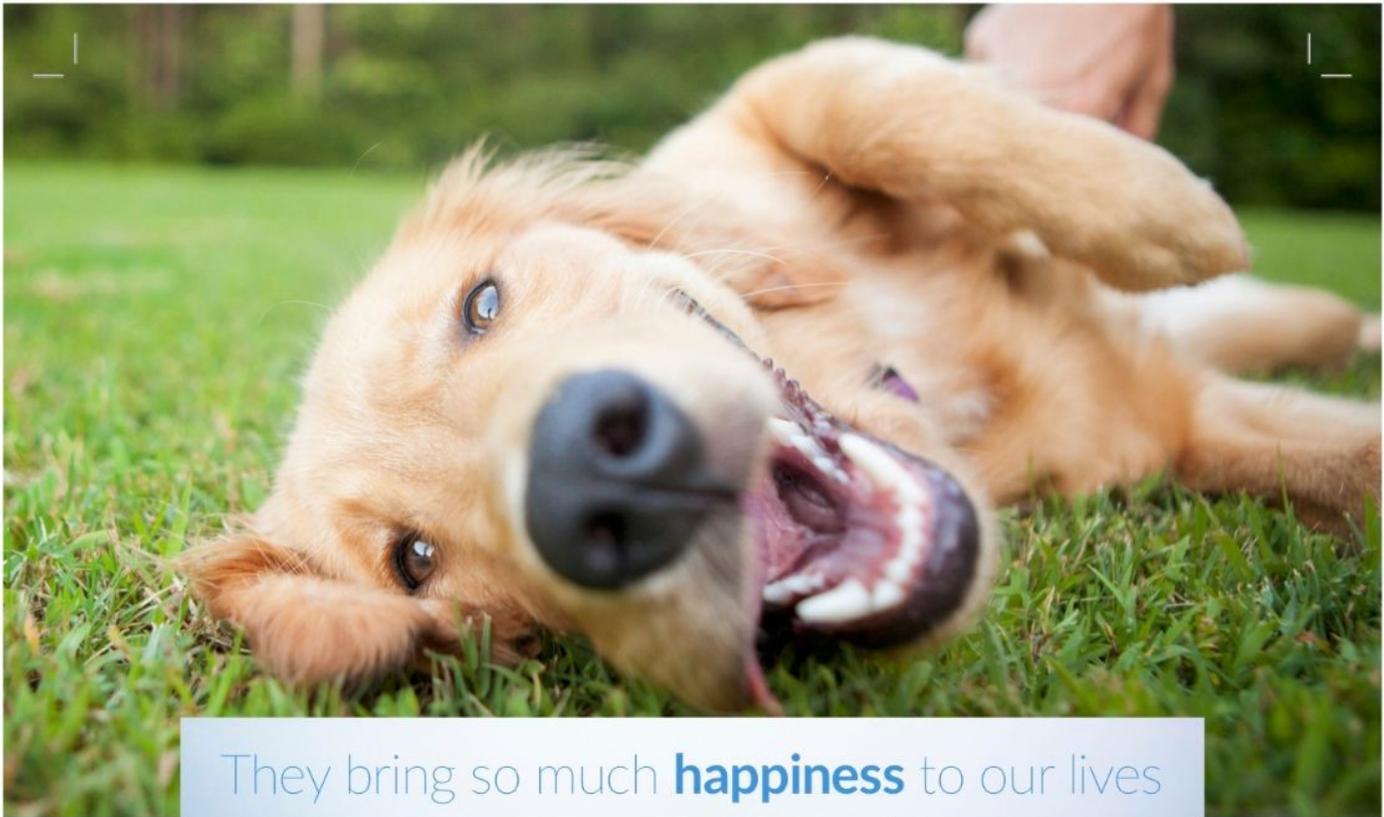
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### NEWS:

Veterinary Vision is now part of the SAGE network of specialty hospitals.

### DOCTORS:

Dr. Albert Mughannam  
Dr. Gwen Lynch  
Dr. Katie Freeman

### NOTE:

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## OUR TEAM

### ANESTHESIOLOGY

Kris Kruse-Elliott, DVM, Ph.D., DACVAA

### CARDIOLOGY

Sarah Silverman, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)

### INTERNAL MEDICINE

Winnie Ybarra, DVM, DACVIM  
Abbey Kaufman, DVM, MS, DACVIM  
Heidi McClain, DVM, DACVIM  
Noelani Reinker, DVM, DACVIM  
Diane Roberts, DVM, DACVIM

### NEUROLOGY

Vivian Lau, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Neurology)  
Beryl Swanson, DVM, Practice limited to Neurology

### ONCOLOGY

Bryan Marker, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)  
Naoko Sogame, Ph.D., DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)  
Marissa Ruppel, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

### PHYSICAL REHAB

Alexandra Salch, PT, DPT

### SURGERY

Alice Bugman, DVM  
Leigh Glerum, DVM, DACVS  
Colleen McCoy, DVM  
Sharon Ullman, MS, DVM, DACVS

### EMERGENCY/CRITICAL CARE

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Kim Oparil, DVM, DACVECC  
Amy Bell, DVM, DACVECC  
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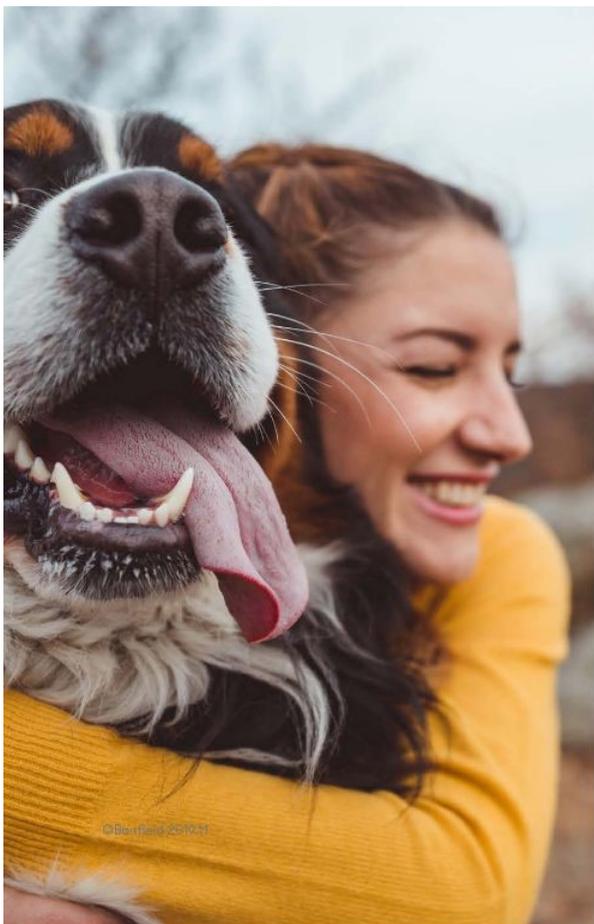


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