



## July, 2010

### **USDA Grants Full License to Canine Flu Vaccine**

A canine influenza vaccine that has been tested under a conditional license for the past year was granted the full license by the U.S. Department of Agriculture this week, reports the industry Web site [veterinarypracticenews.com](http://veterinarypracticenews.com).

This means that the USDA has confirmed the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, Nobivac Canine Flu H3N8, made by Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health. This is the first vaccine against CIV. The manufacturer issued a statement saying that the vaccine "has been shown to significantly decrease the signs, severity and spread of CIV infection and has reduced the incidence and severity of lung lesions."

The vaccine had been evaluated by veterinarians since May 27, 2009. Nearly one million doses of the vaccine have been sold in the U.S. since that time.

The vaccine, made from inactivated virus, is administered by injection in two doses, two to four weeks apart. It can be given to dogs six weeks of age or older.

### **Pet Cancer Drug Goes to Human Trials**

A breakthrough Queensland drug that has cured cancer tumours in pet dogs, cats and horses is to be trialled on humans.

Queensland life science company QBiotics Limited's chief executive Dr Victoria Gordon says it will fast track human trials for their cancer drug EBC-46. She said EBC-46 would be the first drug discovered from Australia's unique rainforests to enter human clinical trials.

Dr Gordon said the drug had successfully reduced or eliminated inoperable solid tumours in more than 100 pet dogs, cats and horses. She said the drug could help treat human skin cancer, head and neck cancer, breast cancer and prostate cancer.

"Many pet owners involved in veterinary trials of EBC-46 have ... literally watched the deadly tumours on their pets disintegrate within five to seven days of being treated," she said in a statement.

"It is absolutely amazing to see this drug in action.

"The tumours almost shrink before your eyes."

The drug was developed over six years of research into the seed of a Queensland rainforest plant. "The drug, which is a previously unknown molecule, works differently to most current chemotherapy agents, in that it is not highly toxic to cells," Dr Gordon said.

The company QBiotics, established in 2004, is raising \$10 million to fund human trials which will be run in Australia. The capital raising is being managed by corporate finance manager Reuben Buchanan.

QBiotics has a target of making EBC-46 commercially available for veterinary markets in Australia this year with human clinical trials commencing in early 2011.

However, it will be some time before it is commercially available for humans. - AAP

*Source: nzherald.co.nz*

## **SB 460 Dog Regulation Dies in Committee**

SB 460 which would have brought excessive regulation to many NC dog breeders ended in House Finance Committee as legislators prepare to adjourn the short session. The bill did not have enough support to pass.

Sen. Don Davis, a Greene County Democrat who sponsored the bill in the Senate, was quoted last week saying it was meant to "take precautionary measures to make sure dogs are not kept in the worst conditions." Pet shops and animal shelters in the state are subject to similar regulations, Davis said. Apparently Senator Davis prefers to ignore the fact his bill is too far-reaching and that forcing small-scale breeders to raise dogs in a shelter-type environment is not in the best interests of dogs or their breeders.

Senator Margaret Dickson (Bladen/Cumberland) also backs the bill even though Bladen County Commissioners voted to oppose. SB 460 is finished for this year, but the issue is not over. The bill has numerous supporters in the legislature. HSUS Director Kim Alboom plans to regroup and introduce the bill again in 2011.

It would be advisable to use this time to educate county officials, legislators and others on the true HSUS agenda and why HSUS should not be writing NC law.

## **SB 254 Susie's Law**

Governor Perdue signed Susie's Law last week. The bill, named for a puppy that was beaten and burned, gained bipartisan support and passed both houses unanimously.

The Level H felony specified in Susie's Law would allow a judge to impose up to eight months in jail for first time offense. Under existing law, malicious torture was subject to a Class I felony penalty. At one time this level felony allowed a sentence of 4 months to one year. As minimum and maximum sentences were revised under the State's structured sentencing laws, Class I felony became punishable by only community service or supervised probation unless the offender had a previous record of multiple felony convictions. Susie's Law goes into effect December 1.



## **N.C. State Vets Head to Gulf**

The North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine received an emergency request from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for marine animal experts to assist in the Gulf Coast oil spill response.

Dr. Greg Lewbart, professor of aquatic animal medicine; Dr. Craig Harms, an associate professor of aquatic, wildlife, and zoologic medicine; and Shane Christian, marine animal veterinary technician, are working with the Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans to rescue sea turtles who have encountered the spill. The CVM will maintain a presence in the sea turtle rescue operation for at least two weeks.

The affected species include the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles, green sea turtles, loggerheads, and hawksbills.

In addition, in response to an earlier request, avian expert Dr. Greg Massey is working in the Gulf Coast area rescuing pelicans and other sea and shore birds as part of an ongoing relationship with the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

The latest figures show that 783 birds, 353 turtles and 41 mammals have died since the spill.

*Sources: WRAL; NCSU News*

## **Camp Trains Future Vets**

Thirty-one middle school students from Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton and Wilson counties donned stethoscopes and participated in a week-long veterinary camp at the Gateway Technology Center last week.

The camp was conducted by the N.C. State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in partnership with the ECU/NCSU Collaborative at the Gateway Technology Center.

Students were selected to participate based on grades, letters of recommendation and student essays, said Marilyn Anselmi, director of ECU/NCSU academic programs in Rocky Mount.

"This year, the students traveled to the NCSU vet school as well as the N.C. Zoo in Asheboro," Anselmi said. "At the vet school, they toured the school as well as dissected a pig heart. At the N.C. Zoo, they toured the African exhibit (and) the vet hospital."

Dr. Allen Cannedy, N.C. State director of diversity and multicultural affairs, led the camp and said one of its goals was to try to recruit students from "underrepresented schools" into the veterinary field.

Students looked through a microscope at wiggling, mosquito-borne heart worms in dog blood and took multiple online veterinary quizzes during the camp.

"The NCSU vet camp at the (Gateway Technology Center) is another fine example of the type of academic enrichment offered at this facility," Anselmi said. "These wonderful students were exposed to the type of work vets encounter every day as well as the more exotic world of zoo animals and care."

*Source: Rocky Mount Telegram*

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/camp-trains-future-vets-20845>

## Foundations Fund Study of Cancer in Golden Retrievers

The Golden Retriever Foundation and Morris Animal Foundation have announced a \$1 million, three-year study of the two most common cancers in Golden Retrievers, hemangiosarcoma and lymphoma.

Both foundations are funding the project, which is part of Morris' Canine Cancer Campaign to prevent and treat cancer in dogs. Leading the study are Dr. Jaime F. Modiano at the University of Minnesota; Matthew Breen, PhD, at North Carolina State University; and Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, PhD, at the Broad Institute.

The study will investigate mutations involved in the development and progression of hemangiosarcoma and lymphoma in Golden Retrievers. The researchers also will profile the susceptibility of specific tumor types to various chemotherapy compounds. *Source: JAVMA. July 15, 2010*

## Rescue? Why?

There is a scheme afoot to make us feel guilty when we set out to acquire a purpose bred, purebred homebred dog.

Why not consider a rescue? I'll tell you why. Look at the statistics folks. Examine the yearly AKC registrations from the last two decades. Purebred dogs bred on purpose by hobby breeders are becoming an endangered species.

People who say that you should think first about getting that rescue are some of the same people who are currently responsible for holding raids on kennels and creating anti breeder laws in municipalities, and states, and the federal government.

Purebred breeders are not responsible for the turn-in or stray dog found in a shelter. A shelter dog will NOT die if you get a healthy purebred from a breeder. They are not interchangeable.

In the '70's it was true there was an overpopulation of dogs, but today in many regions of the country there is an underpopulation and dogs are regularly getting shipped from one region that has a surplus of dogs to another whose shelters are empty.

Wake up folks, before it is too late. If there is no purpose breeding of top quality dogs, and all shelter dogs are surgically rendered sterile, where are your children and grandchildren going to get dogs?

So why not consider first, calling your local responsible, knowledgeable hobby breeder when you set out to get that healthy pup with no problem behavior baggage, and few future surprises? You'll expect to meet his littermates, dam, and adult relatives. You'll have the backup of a person versed in animal husbandry and specifically your individual dog to answer questions on food, health care, behavior issues for the rest of his life.

Why not consider a purpose-bred, purebred when next you go to get your special pup? ■

*Barbara Axel, breeder/trainer/exhibitor, Board Member of North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance (NCRAOA), has organized and participated in programs promoting responsible pet ownership since the late '60's. Positive interactions between dogs and children under the supervision of adults has been a primary goal.*

## **AVMA Solicits Member Input Regarding Animal Welfare Policies**

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has created a new online tool that gives its members an opportunity to provide direct input that will help shape the association's animal welfare policies.

"Few topics in veterinary medicine today stir as much passion and interest from our members as animal welfare," says Dr. Larry R. Corry, president of the AVMA.

Members can now visit the AVMA website to provide input on animal welfare policies under review or being considered for adoption. The webpage lists animal welfare policies currently under consideration by the AVMA's Animal Welfare Committee, provides background information on those policies, and asks members to "submit a comment." This new tool illustrates the AVMA's dedication to understanding and incorporating the expertise, perspectives and needs of AVMA members so that the association can continue to serve them in the best possible way.

"We're not asking our members to 'vote' on AVMA policies, so to speak, but rather we're offering an opportunity to provide substantive comments on animal welfare topics in which they may be particularly interested or about which they have special expertise," explains Dr. Gail Golab, director of the AVMA Animal Welfare Division.

"In short, the AVMA recognizes that our best policies are those that recognize and incorporate the expertise and experience of our members."

To protect the privacy of AVMA members, comments are not available for public review, but the association will make a summary of the comments received public. The summary will be posted together with the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee's response to that input. The response may include new actions or policies adopted by the AVMA.

For more information, visit [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org), and to learn more about this online tool, visit <http://www.avma.org/beta/issues/policy/comments/default.asp>.

## **Pit Bulls Lose in San Bernadino**

June 23, 2010. San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved a measure requiring all pit bull owners to spay or neuter their animals or face fines. In the last five years, pit bull attacks have killed four people in the county, including a 2-year-old San Bernardino boy who was mauled in May by one of the family's two pit bulls and a 3-year-old Apple Valley boy who died after a similar attack in January.

Under the ordinance, owners of pit bulls or pit bull mixes would be required to spay or neuter dogs more than 4 months old. Owners who fail to do so would face a \$100 fine for the first offense and more severe fines for subsequent offenses. A final vote on the ordinance, considered a formality, is scheduled for July.

## **NY: Ban Suspended On Pit Bulls, Rottweilers...For Now**

The controversial Rockville Centre ordinance banning two breeds of dogs has been suspended – at least for now. Hundreds of people turned out at Rockville Centre Village Hall Tuesday night, urging local leaders to repeal the ban on pit bulls and Rottweilers. The ban went into effect three weeks ago. Newsday reports the village board, facing intense opposition and questions about legality, voted unanimously in favor of the suspension. The Mayor said the ban was a result of neighborhood complaints. Rockville Centre's mayor says a public hearing on the pet ban ordinance will be held July 20th.

## Public Comment Period on Plan to Restrict Constrictor Snakes Reopens

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reopened the public comment period on a proposed rule to designate nine species of large constrictor snakes as “injurious wildlife” under the Lacey Act. The Service seeks comments from the public for an additional 30 days.

The action will be published in the Federal Register and open from July 1 – August 2, 2010. The 60-day comment period on the proposed rule initially closed on May 11, 2010. Reopening the comment period for 30 days will give the public time to provide additional biological, economic, and other data regarding the addition of these species to the list of injurious reptiles. Comments already submitted on the proposed rule need not be resubmitted and will be fully considered in the decision-making process. To submit comments go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). For questions contact: Andrew Wyatt [president@usark.org](mailto:president@usark.org)

## Your Cat's Keen Sense of Smell

**Your pet uses her well-equipped nose as a primary way of interacting with the environment. Here's how.**

When it comes to nosing around, a cat has a major advantage over its human caregiver. The adorable feline that occupies your house has a whopping 60-to-80 million olfactory cells compared to a human's five-to-20 million cells. Because of their well-equipped [IMGCAP(1)]noses, cats may use their sense of smell as the primary way of interacting with their environment. "They have a large olfactory area in the nose and do a lot of sniffing," says Katherine A. Houpt, VMD, PhD, the emeritus James Law Professor of Animal Behavior at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. The sense of smell plays an important role in how cats communicate with each other, their social behavior, their contact with or avoidance of other animals, sexual activity and food appreciation.

Pheromones. Like all mammals and some insects, cats respond not only to simple odors (such as a baked chicken or an open can of tuna), but also to more subtle chemicals, called pheromones, via the vomeronasal (Jacobson's) organ. The vomeronasal organ consists of a pair of tubes lined with sensory cells. Access to the outside is via the nasopalatine ducts, located on the roof of the mouth behind the incisors (front teeth). The main difference between ordinary olfactory receptors and those in the vomeronasal organ is that the latter can detect non-volatile compounds. Whereas air is analyzed by the nose, pheromones in urine or other liquids can be analyzed by the vomeronasal organ.

Pheromones are organic compounds that activate a neurophysiological mechanism that is not completely understood. The vomeronasal organ is connected directly to the parts of the brain that control social and sexual behavior. All cats detect pheromones, but the reaction may not be obvious. Some cats, however, react with the Flehman response. A cat raises his or her upper lip with the mouth slightly open and touches the tongue to the roof of the mouth where the entrance to the vomeronasal organ is located. The Flehman response can occur when a cat smells another cat, an object or even its human companion. "It's called gaping or grimacing," says Dr. Houpt, who is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. "It seems to be idiosyncratic, because not all cats do it."

The Flehmen response seems to be most obvious among intact cats during breeding. "Females urinate, and males put their nose over it to get the molecules into their vomeronasal organ," says Penny Bernstein, PhD, an associate professor of biological sciences at Kent State University's Stark Campus. "Then they can detect the breakdown of products of hormones. If it's the right amount for mating, they pursue the female."

The exact chemical composition of pheromones is unknown, but facial pheromones common to all cats have been isolated and manufactured synthetically and marketed as Feliway (which is used primarily to solve urine marking behavior). "Cats spray when anxious," says Dr. Houpt, "and the cat that sprays is usually the odd cat out rather than the dominant cat."

Feliway can also be used to acclimate cats to new surroundings and reduce the stress associated with moving to a new environment. "Feliway calms them," says Dr. Bernstein. "Using facial pheromone products is like putting a photo of a boyfriend on the bedside table in a hotel room," says Dr. Houpt. "It makes you feel better in unfamiliar surroundings."

**Scent Identification.** Cats have scent glands on their cheeks, heads, mouth, pads of their feet, base of the tail and area around the anus. They deposit pheromones on objects in their environment, other cats in their group, their human caregivers and other companion animals by scratching, head-butting or rubbing their mouths, cheeks or sides against them. Scent marking is an identification process: It is the way cats define their space, the members of their social group and its dynamic hierarchy, objects that populate their environment, and the boundaries of their comfort zones, hunting domains and sexual territories. Cats leave scent markers in the same way we decorate our homes with personal memorabilia. The process tells others who they are and who lives in the space. Marking other cats, animals or humans in the social group may be simply a pleasurable part of social contact, the feline equivalent of a hug or handshake. Marking is not like installing an alarm system to keep other cats out or to claim turf.

Intact male and female cats deposit scents via urine marking. If a castrated male cat is exposed to a queen in heat, the brain hormones may become activated, but there are no testicles to release testosterone; instead, his adrenal glands may release male hormones. "Sex in cats is more between the ears," says Dr. Houpt. Sexually altered cats urine-mark less frequently, and indoors it is often associated with overcrowding or aggression.

**The Nose Knows.** Cats have a reputation for being finicky when it comes to food, and the way a food smells plays a big role in whether they will eat it. A cat will turn up his nose at food that is old, spoiled or just plain unappetizing. "If canned food sits out too long, cats won't eat it," says Dr. Bernstein.

Most cats respond to the odor of catnip. Catnip is a type of mint often put in cat toys or sold dried in containers. Cats that enjoy catnip sniff, lick or even chew it, then roll around, often developing a glazed expression. Catnip occasionally elicits a negative response, however, resulting in hissing or swatting. Roughly one-third of all cats have no reaction at all. Typically, kittens under the age of six weeks exhibit no response to catnip. If you want to give your cat a "scentual" high, offer some fresh or dried catnip.



**The Litter Box.** Even when the litter box smells okay to a person, it may smell bad to a cat. "Plastic litter boxes absorb odors," says Dr. Houpt. Use of certain litters or cleaning products, particularly citrus, or the use of scented litters may discourage a cat from seeking the litter box to eliminate wastes. "Some things smell good to us and may smell good to some cats, but other cats may not like them," says Dr. Houpt. To keep the litter box smelling clean, scoop it out daily, but also completely change the litter frequently. It helps to replace the box every year or so, as well.

*CatWatch July 2010* <http://www.catwatchnewsletter.com/>

## Vernon NJ Bear Activist Sentenced

Known anti-bear-hunt activist Susan Kehoe, of Vernon, was sentenced to one-year probation and \$1,250 in fines Tuesday. Her attorney said an appeal is being considered.

Municipal Judge Richard A. Bowe found Kehoe guilty of interfering with state Division of Fish and Wildlife officials who were attempting to tranquilize a bear and change its radio collar batteries Oct. 8, 2008, in Vernon. The judge also found Kehoe guilty of obstructing a government function and resisting arrest for refusing to be handcuffed by Vernon police officers.

Kehoe was found guilty under New Jersey's so-called hunter harassment statute, which prohibits animal rights activists from interfering with hunters. In his written decision finding Kehoe guilty, Bowe interpreted the statute to include state wildlife biologists.

Anti-bear hunt activism is expected to increase as New Jersey considers bringing back a hunt to help curb the state's growing bear population. The New Jersey Fish and Game Council recently voted unanimously to recommend a six-day bear hunt in December. Wildlife biologist, Dr. Len Wolgast, noted that black bears in New Jersey have exceeded the state's "cultural capacity." That is the capacity of the state to carry a species before significant problems arise between residents and members of that species. The generally accepted optimum bear density is one bear per three square miles. In northwest New Jersey, the bear density is three bears per square mile.

## Animal-Rights Activist Forces Pharmacy out of Texas Shopping Mall

By David Paulin, American Thinker blog, [www.americanthinker.com](http://www.americanthinker.com)

A family-run pharmacy in Texas, which opened the day before Pearl Harbor was bombed, is the latest victim of a tyrannical mall owner -- an animal-rights zealot who has reportedly driven away a number of business from the mall she inherited, due to strange edicts in her leases.

"Every drug we sell depends on animals, so there was a potential for trouble in the long term there," Mark Newberry, the pharmacy's owner, told columnist John Kelso of the *Austin American-Statesman*. "Every drug that humans take has been tested on animals in clinical trials."

The once-popular Tarrytown Shopping Center in an upscale part of Austin, Texas, has been in decline since 1999, according to local media reports. That's when Jeanne Crusemann Daniels, of Houston, inherited the place from her mother. Soon, Daniels -- a supporter for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals -- demanded that tenants comply with her worldview.

As Kelso explains: Since Daniels inherited the shopping center in 1999, several restaurants that sold meat products -- the Grocery, Texas French Bread, Formosa, the Holiday House -- have moved or closed.

A former hardware store in the shopping center was told to stop selling mousetraps. The Austin Shoe Hospital was asked to keep the leather shoelaces in the back out of sight. Steve's Liquor couldn't sell caviar in its Christmas baskets. There were restrictions on how to deal with pests, such as insects. Under Daniels, bereavement counselors might be sent to an ant hill after spraying.

The popular mall's demise happened in the "blink of an eye" after Daniels took over, according to an article in *Texas Monthly* magazine in September, 2007: "Her flunkies insist that the center is 'thriving' and point to its 93 percent occupancy rate, but there is no place to buy groceries, no place to eat lunch, no heart, no soul.

## House Subcommittee Zeros Out NAIS Funds

Drovers news source <http://www.drovers.com> | Friday, July 02, 2010

The House Appropriations Subcommittee has completed its fiscal 2011 budget and has cut all funding for the voluntary National Animal Identification System. The subcommittee also reduced USDA's overall funding from what the administration requested.

"We have zeroed out funding for the voluntary National Animal ID System (NAIS)," writes Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (D – Conn.), who chairs the subcommittee. "We have spent over \$147 million on this program since 2004. And six years later, we still have not seen a clear plan from USDA on successful implementation, even after they shifted to a more fragmented system in 2010. While the administration asked for \$14.2 million for this program, we do not feel it is a good use of resources to fund NAIS until the agency develops a clear plan for a mandatory system with measurable goals, long-term funding levels, and a plan for successful implementation.

So we have gone through last year's bill with a close eye, and tried to trim the fat wherever possible. And as a result, we believe that this bill moving forward is now both leaner and stronger. And we also believe that we have crafted a bill that helps our government to better serve the American people. It is our task to do the people's business, and we are all here – Republican and Democrat – to fulfill it. Let me now explain some of the important funding choices we have made in this bill, and why."

USDA is funded at \$20.2618 billion, which is \$81.7 million less than the administration's request. *(Editors Note: \$25 million was cut from the Animal Plant health Inspection Service (APHIS); \$27 million from USDA buildings and facilities; and \$13 million from the USDA APHIS Avian Influenza Program as compared to FY 2010.)*

The Food and Drug Administration is funded at \$2.571 billion – \$55 million above the budget request.

The Commodities Future Trading Commission is funded at \$261 million – meeting the budget request.

The full text of the [subcommittee chair's statement](#) is available online at <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

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