



The Newsletter of The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association

Volume 30 Issue 4 December 2024

OUR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Hello Colleagues!

It's the end of the year and the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season is in full swing! All the prepping and planning will soon come to fruition. Your SEMVMA Board, and more specifically, our CE Committee has prepared and planned to have a fabulous CE series provided for you in 2024-2025. Our first 2 lectures on ophthalmology and soft tissue surgery had good attendance and a lot of practical information that you could implement at your practice the very next day (as I did in both cases!). We have 2 more CE days upcoming- don't miss out! While our attendance for veterinarians has been good both online and in-person, we have been struggling to get participation for our technician CE program. We have been unable to offer in-person CE for the last 2 sessions because of low attendance numbers. This 2-hour CE credit is FREE of charge if there are DVM members in the practice. Spread the word so we can get our technician numbers up. If there are any additional suggestions on how we could increase attendance for our CE programs, we'd appreciate your feedback.

You'll find the ballot in this newsletter to elect our board members for 2025. Don't forget to vote!

Then, join us as we induct our new board members into their positions. As a bonus, enjoy great food, drink and camaraderie! Our Membership Celebration will be on January 8th at the Birmingham Community House, a new venue for a new start in 2025! Our guest speaker, Dr. Erica Ward, will discuss her work with elephants in Thailand. Stay tuned for additional information and watch for more info in your mailboxes. As always, it is FREE for members!

I'd like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president in 2024.

I look forward to continuing to work with the board and general membership in the coming years. A final personal reminder: Please check in on everyone's mental health within your practice. Our daily work lives are stressful enough, and the additional pressures of this busy time of year—with family obligations, gatherings, and more—can be overwhelming. In this wonderful profession where we give so much of ourselves, we need to watch out for one another. Please continue to do so in 2025 and beyond.

— *Dr. Becky Diellin*



Dr. Becky Diellin

**Southeastern Michigan
Veterinary Medical
Association**

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2024/2025 CONTINUING EDUCATION

VETERINARY PROGRAM

02/12/2025 – Dr. Sheilah Robertson – Palliative Care/Hospice

Sponsor: Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice

03/12/2025 – Dr. Justine Lee – Emergency Medicine

Sponsor: Idexx

Sign-in for the conference begins at 8:15 am, with the seminar beginning at 9:00 am. Continental breakfast and full lunch are included. The seminars will conclude at 5:00 pm.

TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

02/12/2025 – Dr. Sheilah Robertson – Anesthetic/Perioperative

Complications; Feline Pain – Analgesia/Anesthesia

03/12/2025 – Mallory Olson, LVT, VTS – Recover Protocol for CPR

Sign-in and dinner for the conference begins at 5:45 pm with the seminar starting at 6:30 pm. The seminars will conclude at 8:30 pm. For each SEMVMA member in your practice, one technician or staff member can attend each of the seminars for FREE. The cost for additional staff members or for the staff of non-SEMVMA members is our regular charge of \$35. You must RSVP to ensure a meal and proceedings. Seminars will be held at the Management Education Center – 811 West Square Lake Road, Troy, MI, (248) 879-2456.

You can attend our meetings in person or virtual, your choice! Please contact Barb at the SEMVMA Office to register (248) 651-6332 adminsemvma@semvma.com.



MEMBER Spotlight



We are delighted to announce that **Heidi Reuss-Lamky, LVT, VTS** (Anesthesia and Analgesia), (Surgery), has been honored with the prestigious 2025 Dr. Earl H. Rippie Veterinary Nurse Leadership Scholarship. This recognition is a testament to her outstanding leadership abilities at **Oakland Veterinary Referral Services** and her positive contributions to the growth of the veterinary profession.

The scholarship, awarded to credentialed veterinary nurses/technicians who have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, will provide her with an all-expense-paid trip to Orlando, Florida, to attend the Veterinary Meeting & Expo (VMX). Hosting over 24,000 attendees annually, VMX is the largest veterinary conference sponsored by the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC). The 2025 VMX Conference will take place from January 25-29th.

The rigorous scholarship application process, initiated in April of the previous year, required candidates to submit a comprehensive curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation. Additionally, applicants are evaluated based on their association, academy, and committee involvement. Leadership roles, community service, and efforts in promoting the veterinary profession were meticulously documented. The scholarship winners are determined through a points system, reflecting their exceptional achievements in these areas.

The Dr. Earl H. Rippie Veterinary Nurse Leadership Scholarship pays homage to the legacy of Dr. Rippie, a distinguished leader in the veterinary profession. Dr. Rippie's vision acknowledged veterinary technicians and nurses as crucial components in the practice, forming the spokes in the wheel and the heart of the hospital. He strongly believed in the equality of voices among veterinary team members.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Heidi for her well-deserved achievement and commend the other 2 scholarship recipients for their dedication to advancing the field of veterinary nursing.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Our goal of this section is to let members know what is occurring in our lives outside of veterinary medicine. Please notify us of your recent family additions, graduations, honors, achievements, fund raising activities, civic group associations, outdoor activities and the like. Please call us at 248-651-6332 or email us at adminsemvma@semvma.com.



SAVE THESE

DATES!

UPCOMING

ACTIVITIES



Membership Celebration

Birmingham Community Center
380 S Bates St, Birmingham, MI

Speaker: Dr. Erica Ward will speak on her career working with elephants in Thailand.

Look for your formal invitations in the mail.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to SEMVMA...

Dr. Emma Hoffmann, Midwestern University, 2023 – Animal Emergency Center, Novi, MI

Dr. Erica Hawker, MSU, 2001 – Union Lake Veterinary Hospital, Waterford, MI

Dr. Alicia O’Toole, MSU, 2022 – Westarbor Animal Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI

Dr. Shanti Subramanian, Univ of Illinois, 1992 – Wilson Veterinary Hospital, Washington Township, MI

Dr. Rae Quimby, Ross University, 2023 – Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital, Harper Woods, MI

Dr. Madison Lorenz, Ross University, 2024 – Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital, Harper Woods, MI

Dr. Marti Notarius, MSU, 1995 – Union Lake Veterinary Hospital, Waterford, MI

Dr. Kaitlyn Philpot, Ross University, 2022 – Animal Emergency Center, Novi, MI

Dr. Gurpreet Kaur, MSU, 2015 – North Hills Veterinary Hospital, Rochester Hills, MI

Dr. Gail McRae, University of Sydney, 2020 – Leader Dogs for The Blind, Rochester Hills, MI

Dr. Jennifer MacDonell, Univ of Illinois, 2014 – Pawsitive Steps Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine,
Rochester Hills, MI

Dr. Sandra Danes, MSU, 1997 – Westarbor Animal Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI

Dr. Hanna Martines, University of Arizona, 2023 – Greenfield Animal Hospital, Southfield, MI

Dr. Mary Panagos, MSU, 2024 – Platz Animal Hospital, Grosse Pointe Park, MI

Dr. Elisabeth Kraus, Cornell, 1996 - Zoetis

The 2024 membership committee is composed of 3 members: Barb Easton, DVM

Easton@vet-vision.com, Becky Dietlin, DVM bbarrdvm@gmail.com, and Tim Duncan, DVM,

Duncan@oaklandanimal.com. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions. If you know of a veterinarian in the area who is not a member but may be interested in joining, please contact any member of the membership committee or the SEMVMA office and we will be happy to send them information.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT REDUCTION AWARDS

SEMVMA has a long history as a successful veterinary organization in an educational, social and community support perspective. We are proud to have implemented an additional way to continue this standard. We all know that the cost of veterinary education has grown tremendously. The Student Debt Reduction Award was developed and instituted by SEMVMA to support members who have recently graduated. There will be two yearly awards in the amount of \$5000 to help offset some educational debt. The application will be due each Fall with two awards presented at the Membership Celebration the following January. The selection process is random in the presence of a quorum of the SEMVMA Board. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Have graduated in the last 3 years (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Are members of the SEMVMA
- Work in one of the 9 counties that our membership derives from (Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw, Macomb, Monroe, Livingston, Lapeer, Genesee, St. Clair & Windsor).
- Have active student loan debt that can be verified from a lending institution. Each award shall be granted to a recognized student loan provider or debtor organization.
- Have not received the award in the past

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 2024 RECIPIENTS:

- **Dr. Rae Ann Quimby** of Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital
- **Dr. Emma Hoffmann** of Animal Emergency Center

Please join us in congratulating them and welcoming them to our fine association at the Membership Celebration on January 8, 2025. We hope this award represents the commitment to our community and membership.

Did you know that new veterinary graduates get **FREE** SEMVMA membership? If you have a new graduate at your practice, let them know about the Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association and about the Student Loan Debt Reduction Award!

SEMVMA ACADEMY

The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association developed the SEMVMA Academy to celebrate the commitment of veterinarians to the continual improvement of their professional knowledge and competence achieved through continuing education. There are many reasons to apply for Academy membership. Members are listed on the SEMVMA Academy web page for the current year and there is a link for members of previous years. The Academy web page listings show up on web searches when clients search an Academy member's name.

Membership in the Academy is free to members and the application process is simple. To qualify, you must demonstrate 50 hours of CE during the prior year; this can include web based learning, self-study, and more (see SEMVMA.com/academy for more information). Visit our website at www.semvma.com/academy to download your application.

Applications must be submitted by February 13, 2025

-2023 ACADEMY MEMBERS-

Steven Bailey, DVM, DABVP – Exclusively Cats Veterinary Hospital

Kathy Christy, DVM – Oakland Hills Veterinary Hospital

Judy Duderstadt, DVM – Gibraltar Veterinary Hospital

Tari Kern, DVM, CCRP, CVMA, CVSMT – Pawsitive Steps Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine

Molly Lynch, DVM – Ann Arbor Cat Clinic

Michelle Meyer, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital

Karen Michalski, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital

John S. Parker, DVM – Briarpointe Veterinary Clinic

Julie Sherman, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital

Dave Smith, DVM – Leader Dogs for The Blind

Sandy Smith, DVM – Animal Health Clinic

Emily Socks, DVM – Oakland Hills Veterinary Hospital

Stephanie Tallis, DVM – Animal Medical Center of Troy

Laura Van de Grift, DVM – Oakland Hills Veterinary Hospital

Kelly Wilson, DVM – Leader Dogs for The Blind

CONE-BEAM CT: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO NEW TECHNOLOGY

Rachel Smith, DACVR and Jody Lawver, DACVR, DACVR-EDI

Cross-sectional imaging of our patients continues to evolve at a rapid pace. Traditional fan-beam multi-detector CT (MDCT), introduced in the 1970's, has become an imaging modality offered at specialty and referral centers to improve 3D visualization of the osseous and soft tissue structures of our patients. Introduced to the US market in 2001, cone-beam CT (CBCT) has recently gained ground in veterinary medicine and is starting to appear in clinics marketed as an alternative to its more expensive counterpart. You may have heard CBCT referred to by other names such as C-arm CT, Digital Volume Tomography, or flat panel CT. Just like with any new technology, it is important that we fully educate ourselves on the appropriate uses, advantages, and disadvantages as well as a basic understanding of how this technology differs from traditional multi-detector computed tomography (MDCT). Here is a reference guide on the differences between these technologies.

HOW DOES IMAGE ACQUISITION FOR CBCT OCCUR AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM MDCT?

CBCT uses a large rotating flat panel detector (typically 1000 detector rows and columns), similar to a standard radiograph detector plate. This forms a pyramid-shaped x-ray beam imaging the patient in a single rotation or partial arc and obtains a large volumetric dataset. Through software techniques the dataset is reconstructed to individual 2D stacked slices or maintained as a 3D volume image for viewing.

MDCT, in contrast, utilizes a thin fan-shaped x-ray beam, created by multiple separate detectors in a curved linear arrangement. This geometry acquires smaller slabs (slices) of patient anatomy (much like a slice of bread) through hundreds of rotations around the patient. The slabs of data are then reconstructed into thinner slices, if desired, or combined to allow for both 2D stacked slices and 3D volume imaging.

WHAT ARE BENEFITS TO USING CBCT COMPARED TO MDCT?

CBCT was developed as an alternative to MDCT to provide more rapid acquisition of an entire field of view and lower radiation exposures, though in recent years advances in MDCT allow faster acquisition

times than CBCT. CBCT uses a less expensive detector arrangement and delivers a smaller radiation dose requiring less radiation shielding, and is therefore more mobile and affordable.

Diagnostically, the main benefit of CBCT is the smaller voxel size (which represents a 3D pixel). The resolution of any CT is determined by the size of the volume elements which depend mostly on the size of the area detector. CBCT detectors and therefore voxels are typically smaller than MDCT and can provide more detailed resolution of high contrast structures (bone vs soft tissue edges), even when they are very small, as with exotic patients or tooth roots.

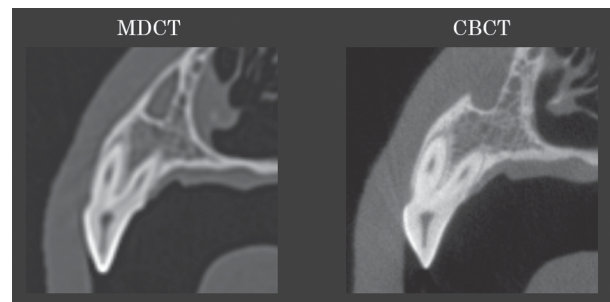


Figure 1: Comparison maxillary teeth of the same large breed dog. MDCT (left image) has blurrier bone margins of compared to CBCT (right image). The MDCT image is inferior though remains diagnostic.

WHAT ARE DISADVANTAGES TO USING CBCT COMPARED TO MDCT?

The cost-effective, more mobile flat panel detector plate also produces many important limitations. The large surface area geometry of the beam causes many more artifacts than traditional MDCT which greatly affects the diagnostic utility of the images. The most severe and common of these artifacts are partial volume averaging, under sampling, and cone-beam effect which causes a large amount of scatter. Some of these artifacts appear as distortions of the image, or large hyperattenuating streaking lines along the edge of cortical surfaces (see Figure 2).

The overall increase in scatter affects the clarity of the images through increased image noise and reduced resolution of inherently low contrast tissues (soft tissue vs soft tissue or soft tissue vs fluid edges, to some degree soft tissue vs fat). Image clarity is also adversely affected by the lower kilovoltage of the beam. Typically, soft tissue evaluation in CBCT requires the use of intravenous contrast to yield low contrast soft

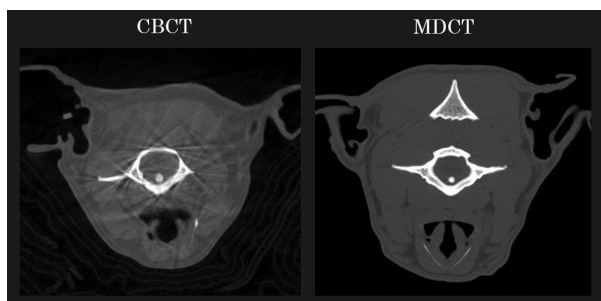


Figure 2: Streaking artifacts from a CBCT image of the cervical spine in bone window (left image). Comparison MDCT image without streaking artifacts (right image).

tissues as higher contrast structures to differentiate closely apposed organs, vessels, and pathology. Soft tissue interpretation in CBCT is also usually performed in a wider lung or bone window rather than a true soft tissue diagnostic viewing window. Ultimately, this results in limited soft tissue information compared to MDCT (Figure 3 and 4).

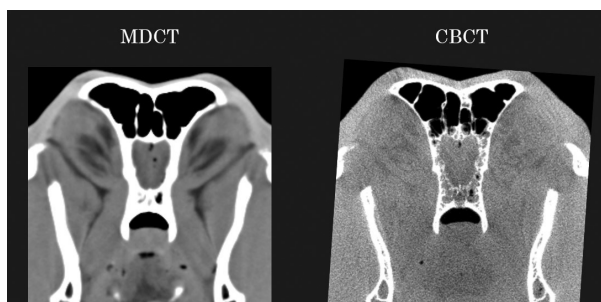


Figure 3: Comparison soft tissue structures of the same canine head. Differentiating the muscles of the optic cones, pterygoids and lingual tissues is severely limited in CBCT (right image), particularly when compared with MDCT (left image).

WHEN SHOULD I CHOOSE A CBCT FOR MY PATIENTS OVER A MDCT?

CBCT is developed and best utilized for the assessment of bony and dental pathologic conditions of head, particularly maxillofacial deformities, fracture recognition, pre-operative assessment of impacted teeth, tooth root infection, and temporomandibular joint imaging (see Figure 4). CBCT may also be well-suited for evaluation of the osseous structures of small exotics (rodents, rabbits).

CBCT is not currently appropriate for use in soft tissue imaging of the thorax, abdomen, spine, or appendicular limbs due to the above-described limitations on soft tissue resolution, field of view, and artifact production. Use of CBCT for soft tissue evaluation risks missing lesions as well as misinterpreting them since the information is not comprehensive and prone to artifacts. As overseeing clinicians of our cases, it is



Figure 4: Comparison CBCT (left image) and MDCT (center and right images) images of a left bicipital muscle mass. Visualization of the muscle nodules (single nodule shown here (center image, red arrows)) were originally missed on the non-contrast CBCT images due to inherently poor contrast resolution. Additionally, the artifactual central hypoattenuation within the biceps muscle in the left CBCT image is easy to misdiagnose as fat. As contrast use in musculoskeletal CT is often determined by pre-contrast evaluation no contrast was given to the patient on the day of the CBCT. Since the CBCT images did explain the cause of lameness, MDCT was performed. MDCT revealed intramuscular nodules pre-contrast (middle image, red arrows) which are more conspicuous after intravenous contrast administration (right image). The patient was diagnosed with a cavitated intramuscular neoplasm which had also involved the shoulder joint (not shown), likely histiocytic sarcoma. It is not known if contrast administration would have provided enough contrast resolution to overcome inherent artifacts in the original CBCT to avoid the original missed diagnosis in this case. The overall difference in biceps muscle size between CBCT and MDCT is due to differences in limb flexion and does not reflect pathology.

important to select the most appropriate test in each case. MDCT remains the gold standard for comprehensive assessment of both soft tissues and osseous structures in veterinary medicine.

I'M INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CONE-BEAM CT. WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

CBCT is emerging as a diagnostic tool in the veterinary field and therefore, please stay tuned for enhancements in the quality of the imaging as well as the literature produced. Below are a few references currently available.

REFERENCES:

1. A clinician's Guide to understanding Cone Beam Volumetric Imaging (CBVI) (online pdf document): https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/22671317/a-clinicians-guide-to-understanding-cone-beam-ineedcecom#google_vignette
2. Van Thielen et al. Cone Beam Computed Tomography in Veterinary Dentistry. J Vet Dent 2012; 29 (1); 27-34.
3. K Bannon. Cone Beam Computed Tomography in Veterinary Dentistry. Today's Veterinary Practice, Issue March/April 2022. <https://todaysveterinarypractice.com/dentistry/cone-beam-computed-tomography-in-veterinary-dentistry/>

OPPORTUNITIES

VETERINARIANS

D'Adamo Veterinary Hospital in Livonia is looking for a full or part-time associate veterinarian. We are a privately owned small animal hospital. We have an amazing team of long-term employees, including 6 LVT's. We have ultrasound, therapeutic laser, digital radiographs, dental radiographs and a full in-house laboratory, monitoring equipment and in-house and online pharmacy. An interest in dentistry and surgery would be great, but not required! We are open every other Saturday a month, so limited Saturday hours (only open 9-12:30). We are family friendly and believe in work life balance. Appointments are scheduled for 40 minutes to allow thorough exams, client education and diagnostics. There are multiple after hours and specialty referral hospitals in our area available for our clients. Our core values are Compassion, Excellence, Service, Integrity and Team work. We strive to create a practice that embodies these ideals. Typical full-time schedule would be four days a week and one Saturday a month. Benefits: Salary plus production bonus, \$100,000 + for full time, PTO and paid holidays. Simple IRA with employer contributions, Medical Insurance, License and Dues Paid. Generous CE allowance and Employee Pet Discount. Come and enjoy practicing medicine again! We would love to discuss opportunities with you further. Please email jessica@dadamoveterinary.com or call (734) 421-1800.

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CLINICS FOR SALE

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT POLICY

In order to preserve the educational and informative purpose of the SEMVMA newsletter, the SEMVMA council adopts the following policy regarding advertising. Ads should be submitted to Barb at adminsemvma@semvma.com

Practices or businesses with a common owner shall be treated as one business or practice for the purpose of this policy (referred to as "Common Owner Business or Practice"). A common owner is a person or entity which owns 5% or more of an entity or practice. Shareholders or sole proprietors of an entity or practice shall be considered an owner along with the entity that holds an interest in the business or practice.

Corporate ¼ page ads are limited to one business, owner or corporation for each issue of the SEMVMA newsletter. This is in the interest of having the newsletter inform the association and not overwhelm them with ads. The SEMVMA council may modify or waive the application of this policy on a case by case basis at the discretion of the council.

Ads will run only once unless a request is submitted to the Administrative Secretary to run longer. Classified ads are \$15 for 60 words or less and \$25 for 61–100 words. Corporate ¼ page ads are \$135 per issue or \$500 for four issues. Payment is due at the time of the initial ad placement.

SEMVMA Members interested in providing Relief Veterinary Services can advertise in the newsletter at no charge. The classified ads must follow the same guidelines regarding number of words and deadline restrictions as all other classified ads. If you are a SEMVMA member interested in placing a classified ad, please contact Barb at 888-SEMVMA-5 or www.adminsemvma@semvma.com.

Newsletters are published quarterly: on March 15th, June 15th, September 15th and December 15th. All ads should be submitted to the SEMVMA office by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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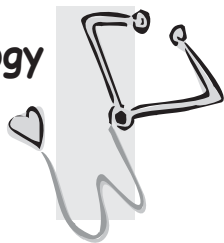


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