

MECA NEWS

Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals
Greater Milwaukee's Choice for Prompt Animal ER Care, 24/7



Defenseless Dogs No More!

Police Dog Demonstration at MECA July 14

by Marla Lichtenberger, DVM, DACVECC
Owner, Board-Certified in Emergency & Critical Care

Get out the armor. These dogs deserve some protection. Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals and Specialty Services (MECA) and Fox Sports Network of Wisconsin are teaming up to help save the lives of Wisconsin's loyal police dogs. The goal is to vest every K-9 police dog in the state of Wisconsin.

Nationwide, more than a dozen police dogs die each year in the line of duty. Did you know that many times a police dog is sent into harm's way to confront a suspect before an officer is sent in, in response to an incident? Some of these dogs are shot, stabbed and killed while protecting their partners and the communities in which they serve. However, we can change that. The majority of law enforcement agencies are unable to afford bullet and stab-proof vests for their K-9 partners.

These valuable dogs risk their lives to save ours, and MECA is committed to giving each one a fighting chance by providing essential equipment. MECA's Wisconsin Police Canine Vest Foundation, Inc. will accept tax-deductible donations through its not-for-profit website: www.mecavestak9policedogwi.org/donate.html. All donations made to the foundation will go toward vesting a police dog and will make an impact on the police dogs that sacrifice so much, as well as the officers who love and care for them.

We will partner with FSNetwork to raise awareness during the Brewers games, in addition to holding a fund drive at MECA on July 14th, which will include demonstrations from



Wisconsin's police dogs and other exciting events. Please join with us, by helping raise awareness of this event through our newsletter.

Help us, help them.

MECA First Veterinary Clinic to Host "Little Free Library"

By Steve Busalacchi



MECA is now part of "The Little Free Library" movement that started in Wisconsin and has spread nationally, as well as to other countries.

MECA's library, adorned with vibrant, artist-drawn animals typically treated at the hospital, was installed on April 13. MECA is the first veterinarian clinic in the world to establish a "Little Free Library." Alicia Rheel, recently featured in national media for her pet portraiture, is the artist.

"This is such a wonderful opportunity to promote reading, advocate for animals and create a community around our mutual love for pets," said Dr. Marla Lichtenberger, MECA's founder. "Our 'Little Free Library' will feature animal books, which anybody is free to read and take home," says Dr. Lichtenberger. One can't steal any books from this library because they're always free. The concept, proven with dozens of other free libraries over the past year, is that the community adopts the library and those who use it want to replenish it with new books.

Asthma Can Attack Cats

By Christine Venema, DVM, DACVIM

Asthma is a relatively common condition in cats. An allergic response to inhaled particles from the environment is believed responsible for the illness. Resulting inflammation, spasms and coughing are among the problems these animals suffer from. Just like people, cats with asthma can experience "asthma attacks," during which the airways close and the patient gasps for breath. Many cats with asthma have a sporadic, hacking cough much like a "hairball cough." Asthma can develop in cats of all ages but is most often seen in young cats. For unknown reasons, dogs do not develop asthma.

Tests, which include X-rays, differentiate asthma from conditions associated with similar signs, such as heart disease and heartworm infection. However, it is usually impossible to determine what environmental particles trigger an asthmatic reaction in certain cats. Because of this, exposure to the offending allergens cannot be avoided, and the allergic response cannot be prevented. Feline asthma is therefore treated with medication to reduce the inflammation in the airways. Most cats experience a dramatic improvement with treatment, but asthmatic cats must be treated for life because there is no cure for the disease.

Many cats undergoing treatment can have a normal lifespan with few problems. By studying asthma in cats, researchers have gained insight into the human version of this disease and are working to develop better treatments that will help both people and our feline friends.

Dog Survives Train Rollover

By Lisa Leone, CVT, Marla Lichtenberger, DVM, DACVECC



Sadie Mae and her owner, Amanda Lazarski

Playing on train tracks is always a bad idea, but how would a dog know that? Sadie Mae sure didn't. She had gotten out of the yard and was on the train tracks behind her house when a train approached. Without time to run, she ducked under the train while it passed over her. Astoundingly, she still managed to get back into her yard before collapsing. The dog's owner witnessed the whole sad event and rushed her to MECA.

A critical patient, Sadie Mae received fluids and a solution to help increase blood flow throughout her body. She lost a large amount of blood from wounds all over her body. Thanks to our blood donation program and the immediate availability of blood, she was also given a blood transfusion to help with her blood loss. Additionally, she received medications to help with the pain. Upon examination, Sadie Mae had a broken upper canine tooth, head trauma, skin abrasions, a fractured pelvis, along with difficulty breathing. Radiographs were taken to assess internal damage to her body that could not be seen with the naked eye. The radiographs revealed a broken skull, multiple pelvis fractures, sacral dislocation, and a collapsed lung.

Dr. Mitch Robbins, our board certified surgeon, repaired the fractured pelvis and sacral-ileal dislocation. After a few more days of around-the-clock nursing care after surgery, MECA discharged her.

While Sadie Mae's battle is far from over, she has made an amazing recovery. The upcoming weeks and months will involve lots of grueling physical therapy and continued pain management, but MECA staff look forward to seeing her jump, run, and play again—far away from train tracks.

MECA Offers Pet Dental Care

By Steve Busalacchi



Dogs, cats and other pets rely on a good set of teeth just as their owners do. And that's why oral health care is necessary for pets, too. "Excellent oral health is critical to maintaining general health for your pet," says Dale Kressin, DVM, a veterinary dental specialist who offers his services at MECA. "Many oral problems

are painful, and if something looks or smells bad, that's a sign that professional care is needed," explains Dr. Kressin, of Animal Dentistry and Oral Surgery Specialists, LLC.

During an examination, facial anatomy, symmetry and function are all evaluated. Braces and special appliances are also available for pets to provide a comfortable bite. In addition, MECA treats animals with broken teeth, jaws or dislocated TMJ's to return them to normal function.

"Unfortunately, automobile accidents, bite wounds and falls are all common examples of injuries pets suffer," says Dr. Kressin. Root canal therapy and crowns are sometimes necessary, as well, to fully treat these injuries.

Just as humans endure an array of problems in the mouth, such is the case for animals, too. The good news is that treatments are now available for pets to deal with cysts, tumors, foreign object removal, such as glass or metal, in addition to repair of lacerations and various surgical procedures.

For a dental appointment at MECA, call Animal Dentistry and Oral Surgery Specialists, LLC at (920) 233-8409.

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