Distinguished Speakers

Jeannine Berger, DVM, DACVB, DACAW, CAWA
San Francisco SPCA, San Francisco, CA

Dr. Jeannine Berger is among very few in her field. Dr. Berger first obtained her veterinary degree in 1991 in Zurich, Switzerland. She moved to Davis, California in 1998, where she completed her residency in veterinary behavior and attained board certification with the American College for Veterinary Behaviorists from UC Davis in 2007. In 2014, she attained board certification from the American College of Animal Welfare. She has been with the Society since 2011, first as Director of Behavior Resources and currently holds the position of VP of Rescue and Welfare. Her advanced training and certifications associated with board certified status ensure the highest level of expertise. Dr. Berger focuses on strengthening the human-animal bond by improving the lives of owners and their pets through understanding of animal behavior, psychology, sound principles of learning, and communication. When behavior problems are addressed early-on, the likelihood for a “happily ever after” relationship increases and animals are at a lower risk of being surrendered to a shelter. Dr. Berger wishes that more people would turn to their veterinarian for behavioral advice since many behavior problems can have underlying medical causes.

Christine Bohn Kinos, VMD
The Cat Hospital of Media, Media, PA

Dr. Christine Bohn Kinos earned her degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. Since 2003 she has worked exclusively in feline hospitals. While working in corporate veterinary medicine, she was medical director of a cat hospital and helped manage up to six additional hospitals in her region. In 2016, Dr. Kinos bought The Cat Hospital of Media. She is a member of many professional organizations, including the AAFP, VMG, AVMA, AHAH, NAPM, AAVA, and the Pennsylvania VMA. She lives in Media, PA with her husband, two kids, and four Devon Rex cats.

Tony Buffington, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVN
UC Davis Department of Medicine & Epidemiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA

Dr. Tony Buffington is a clinical professor (volunteer) at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and an emeritus professor of veterinary clinical sciences at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He received his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in nutrition and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from UC Davis and is board-certified (now emeritus) in veterinary nutrition. Dr. Buffington’s clinical interests include developmental origins of health and disease, stress effects on disease, obesity, evidence-based medicine, and effective medical communications. His research has documented the effects of environmental stressors on disease in cats and the role of effective environmental enrichment in mitigating them to promote recovery. Dr. Buffington has published more than 130 scientific papers, 30 book chapters, three books (one an iBook), an iTunes U course, and created the Indoor Pet Initiative website. He currently describes himself as an “effective environmental enrichment evangelist.”

Kara Burns, MS, Med, LVT, VTS (Nutrition)
Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians, Wamego, KS

Kara Burns is a licensed veterinary technician with a master’s degree in physiology and a master’s degree in counseling psychology. She began her career in human medicine working as an emergency psychologist and as a poison specialist dealing with human and animal poisonings. Kara is the Founder and President of the Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians. She teaches nutrition courses around the world and on the VN/Veterinary Support Personnel Network and VetMedTeam. Kara is a consultant for the Lafeber Company and Emerald. Kara is the Director of Nursing for Brief Media as well as the Editor of Veterinary Team Brief. She also works as an independent nutritional consultant. She is a member of many national, international, and state associations and holds positions on many boards in the profession: American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition executive board technician liaison; Western Veterinary Conference Technician Education Manager; NAVTA President; LEVM board member; International Society for Sports Nutrition; and the Pet Nutrition Alliance executive board, to name a few. She has authored many articles, textbooks, and textbook chapters and is an internationally invited speaker, focusing on topics of nutrition, leadership, and technician utilization. Ms. Burns has been featured on the cover of the Veterinary Technician Journal and the NAVTA Journal. She was named the North American Veterinary Conference Technician Speaker of the Year in 2013 and in 2016. She was granted an honorary VTS (Internal Medicine) in 2011. She was also granted an honorary VTS (Dentistry) in 2012. She is the 2010 NAVTA Veterinary Technician of the Year, as well as the 2011 Dr. Franklin Loew Lecturer.

Mike Chaddock, DVM, EML
Michigan State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, East Lansing, MI

Dr. Chaddock received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University (MSU) and an Executive Master’s Degree in Leadership from Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business. After private practice ownership, Dr. Chaddock worked for industry, was the State Veterinarian and Director of the Animal Industry Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and completed fellowships in food and agriculture policy and biodefense strategies. He was an American Veterinary Medical Association’s (AVMA) American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellow serving in U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu’s office. After his AAAS fellowship, he went to Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies. He was appointed Director of the AVMA’s Governmental Relations Division in 2003. In 2006, he joined the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. Dr. Chaddock was Assistant Dean for One Health and Strategic Initiatives at Texas A&M University, College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and Biomedical Sciences from 2012 to 2015. Currently he is the Associate Dean for Administration and Professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at MSU, CVM. As a volunteer, he has been recognized for his work in many professional associations. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the MSU CVM, the Presidential Distinguished Service Award from the Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA), and the Broad Spectrum Veterinary Student Association’s LGBT+ Veterinary Awareness Award. He currently is a member of the board of directors of the International Council for Veterinary Assessment.

Elizabeth Colleran, DVM, MS, DABVP (Feline)
Chico Hospital for Cats, Chico, CA

Dr. Elizabeth Colleran is the CEO and hospital director of Chico Hospital for Cats in Chico, California. She is a board certified specialist in feline practice, founding member and co-chair of the Cat Friendly Practice® Committee, and a board member of the American Association of Feline Practitioners. She is also Editor in Chief of Decision Support in Medicine: Feline Medicine, first author of seven chapters in the new edition of the Feline Patient, and under contract to complete a book, The Senior Cat, to be published in 2019. She speaks about her passion - the care of felines - around the world. A favorite quote from H.L. Mencken that helps to explain my love of teaching and writing: “You can’t do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth.”

Diane Eignerr, VMD, MBA, CVPM, CHPV
The Cat Whispurr, Barnegat, NJ

Dr. Eigner is a 1980 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and earned her MBA in 2015 from Temple University’s Fox School of Business. She received her Veterinary Practice Manager’s Certification in the fall of 2015 and was certified as a hospice and palliative veterinarian by the International Association of Animal Hospice and Palliative Care in 2017. Diane founded The Cat Doctor in May 1983, serving as the practice’s CEO, CFO, and COO until August of 2016 when she sold the practice. Now she provides end of life care to Jersey Shore cats and is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine where she organizes their practice management elective.
Audra Fenimore, DVM, MS, DACVIM
Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital, Englewood, CO
Dr. Audra Fenimore is an internist at VRCC Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital in Englewood, Colorado. She graduated from Colorado State University and completed her small animal internal medicine and surgery rotating internship at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital in Red Bank, New Jersey. She also completed a small animal internal medicine residency at Colorado State. Dr. Fenimore was a practicing internist at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, before joining the internal medicine team at VRCC. She is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

Christina Fernandez, DVM, MRCVS, DACVECC
Kindred Biosciences, Inc., Burlingame, CA
Dr. Christina Fernandez graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology from SUNY Stony Brook in 2002. She obtained her DVM degree from St. George’s University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2007 and membership with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2008. She held a clinical instructor position at St. George’s University Small Animal Clinic from 2007-2008 and served as Medical Director and Associate Professor from 2013-2017. In 2013, she completed a three-year residency training program in Small Animal Emergency Critical Care and obtained board certification with the American College of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care. Dr. Fernandez has practiced small animal emergency critical care medicine in the US and abroad, providing veterinary relief services to local animal shelters and community clinics throughout her career. In 2017, Dr. Fernandez joined Kindred Biosciences as a Small Animal Technical Services Veterinarian. She is a published author and her veterinary interests include supporting the critically ill patient, CPR, and infectious diseases.

S. Dru Forrester, DVM, MS, DACVIM
Hill’s Pet Nutrition
Dr. S. Dru Forrester received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University and completed an internship, residency, and MS degree at Texas A&M University. She is a 1994 graduate of the University of Bristol and, after spending two years in mixed practice, returned to Bristol to undertake a PhD in mucosal immunology and then a residency in small animal internal medicine. He is a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Recognized Specialist in Internal Medicine, and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. His clinical and research interests include comparative osteoarthropathy, gastrointestinal, and evidence-based veterinary medicine.

Alex German, BVSc, PhD, CSAM, DECVIM-CA, SFHEA, FRCVS
University of Liverpool, Cheshire, UK
Dr. Alex German holds the position of Royal Canin Professor of Small Animal Medicine at the University of Liverpool. He is a 1994 graduate of the University of Bristol and, after spending two years in mixed practice, returned to Bristol to undertake a PhD in mucosal immunology and then a residency in small animal internal medicine. He is a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Recognized Specialist in Internal Medicine, and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. His clinical and research interests include comparative osteoarthropathy, gastrointestinal, and evidence-based veterinary medicine.

Margaret Gruen, DVM, MVPH, PhD, DACVB
North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC
Dr. Gruen is a board-certified veterinary behaviorist at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She received her PhD in Comparative Biomedical Sciences from North Carolina State University with a project designed to better understand pain behavior in cats with naturally occurring degenerative joint disease. Her home has never been without a cat and she hopes it never will be!

Jennifer Johnson, VMD, CVPP
A Philadelphia native and Penn Vet graduate, Dr. Johnson worked as an associate veterinarian for 14 years before owning and operating Stoney Creek Veterinary Hospital in Morton, PA, for 10 years. During her tenure as practice owner, the hospital grew from a two-doctor practice to employ six veterinarians and 45 team members, emphasizing preventive care and personalized medicine. Pain management has always been a priority in her practice. Her special interest is the use of therapeutic laser for the treatment of pain. In 2013, she achieved Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner (CVPP) qualification through the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAPM). Now relocated to Arizona and a full-time educator, Dr. Johnson speaks nationally on pain management, stressing the importance of using objective tools for pain identification in veterinary patients as well as evaluating multimodal analgesia treatment success. She recently authored the chapter on pain management for Laser Therapy in Veterinary Medicine, published in 2017. Dr. Johnson serves on the board of the IVAPM, currently as President-elect and is also a board member of eagleYcondor, providing children’s education and high volume spay/neuter and medical care for animals in poor communities in Ecuador.

Justine Lee, DVM, DACVECC, DABT
VETgirl, LLC., Saint Paul, MN
Dr. Justine Lee is a board-certified veterinary specialist in both emergency critical care (DACVECC) and toxicology (DABT). Dr. Lee attended veterinary school at Cornell University and completed her internship at Angell Memorial in Boston, Massachusetts. She completed her fellowship and residency in emergency and critical care at the University of Pennsylvania. Previously, she was on faculty at University of Minnesota (2008) and the head of an animal poison control center (2008-2013). She is the founder and CEO of VETgirl, a subscription-based podcast and webinar service offering RACE-approved, online veterinary continuing education. Dr. Lee is the author of two humorous pet reference books entitled It’s a Dog’s Life… but It’s Your Carpet and It’s a Cat’s World… You Just Live In It. She has also published several veterinary textbooks along with book chapters and has been aired on radio and television to promote preventive medicine, animal health, and the overall well-being of pets. Dr. Lee lectures throughout the world on emergency and critical care, and recently was honored with “Speaker of the Year” at the North American Veterinary Conference (2011, 2015, 2016).
Bonnie Lefbom, DVM, DACVIM
Cardiac Care for Pets, Virginia
Dr. Bonnie Lefbom is a veterinary cardiologist and a founding partner of CVCA – the largest cardiology group practice in the U.S. with 12 locations and growing. She is passionate about the benefits of co-managed care. Having spent several years as a primary care veterinarian before specializing, she understands the complexity of providing day-to-day care along with the challenge of maintaining profitability. She is also the current president of the all-volunteer VetSOAP initiative – bringing primary care and specialty veterinarians together to provide optimal care for companion animals across the nation.

Gregory R. Lisciandro, DVM, DABVP, DACVECC
FASTVet.com & Hill Country Veterinary Specialists, Spicewood, Texas
Dr. Gregory R. Lisciandro received his DVM from Cornell University, completed an internship at The Animal Medical Center in New York City, NY, a residency in Emergency and Critical Care at the Emergency Pet Center, San Antonio, Texas, and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. He serves on their Scientific Committee, is an at-large regent on the ACVECC Board of Directors, and serves on the Education Guidelines Committee. He is also a Diplomate of ABVP and President of the International Veterinary Point-of-Care Ultrasound Society. Dr. Lisciandro developed and has extensively published studies on point-of-care ultrasound including AFAST and its fluid scoring system, TFAST and Vet BLUE, and is editor of Focused Ultrasound Techniques for the Small Animal Practitioner translated into six languages. He has been guest lecturer to medical doctors at the TRISAT Critical Care Webcast Series, and has lectured nationally and internationally on AFAST, TFAST and Vet BLUE when combined referred to as Global FAST, our 3rd standardized veterinary ultrasound examination.

Susan E. Little, DVM, PhD, DACVM-Parasit
Oklahoma State University, Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, Stillwater, OK
Dr. Susan Little is Regents Professor and the Krull-Ewing Chair in Veterinary Parasitology at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, Oklahoma State University where she is active in veterinary parasitology teaching and oversees a research program that focuses on zoonotic parasites and tick-borne diseases. She is past-president of both the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists and the Companion Animal Parasite Council and currently serves as co-director of the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology. Dr. Little has authored more than 150 publications on veterinary and human parasites and tick-borne disease agents. She is also recognized as an outstanding teacher and has been awarded two Excellence in Teaching Awards from the national Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA). In 2017, Dr. Little received the Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award from the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists.

Linda Lord, DVM, MS, PhD
Merck Animal Health
Dr. Linda Lord is the Academic and Allied Industry Liaison Lead for Merck Animal Health. In this position, Dr. Lord leads strategic initiatives and program development with academic institutions as well as veterinary industry associations. Linda is the project leader for the Merck Animal Health Veterinary Wellbeing Study released in January 2018. She joined Merck Animal Health in February 2017 after a career in academia at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU CVM) as a faculty member in Veterinary Preventive Medicine and as the Associate Dean for Professional Programs. During her time at OSU CVM, Linda formed the first Office of Career Management at a veterinary school and was instrumental in hosting the first Health & Wellness Summit held at OSU CVM. She also served as the chair of the Veterinary Wellness Advancement Group for the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. Dr. Lord completed her DVM and master’s degree in 1999 and her PhD in 2006 at OSU CVM after practicing five years in companion animal medicine. She has conducted extensive research on companion animal issues specifically in the areas of pet reunification and identification. Linda currently serves on the board of directors for NAVC’s Veterinary Innovation Council as well as the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA). For OVMA, Linda serves as the alternate delegate for the AVMA House of Delegates and was named Veterinarian of the Year for 2016 by the organization.

Cathy Lund, DVM
City Kitty Veterinary Care for Cats, Providence, RI
Cathy Lund owns and operates City Kitty Veterinary Care for Cats, a cat practice located in Providence, Rhode Island. She is a board member of the AAFP and is a past president of the Companion Animal Parasite Council. She was awarded the 2007 AVMA Meritorious Service Award for her work as board president and founder of the Companion Animal Foundation, a statewide, veterinary-based nonprofit organization that helps low-income pet owners afford essential veterinary care. She was veterinarian of the year in RI in 2010. She currently serves on several architectural and preservation commissions in the city of Providence, but her favorite activity is to promote the countless virtues of the purr-fect pet, the cat!

Gary Norsworthy, DVM, DABVP (Feline)
Alamo Feline Health Center, San Antonio, Texas
Dr. Gary N. Norsworthy has been in private practice for 46 years, 25 in small animal practice and 21 in feline practice. He is the owner of Alamo Feline Health Center in San Antonio, Texas. In addition to practice, he lectures frequently on feline diseases and is the editor and major author of seven feline textbooks, the most recent being The Feline Patient, 5th Edition, published in 2018. His practice hosts externs from veterinary schools across North America and other continents. He is a charter Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in the Feline Practice Category and an Adjunct Professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University, and the Western University of Health Sciences. He was chosen for the 2009 Practitioner of the Year Award in the Medical Specialist category by the Texas VMA and has received Speaker of the Year at several conferences. He is the only person to be Speaker of the Year two times each at the North American Veterinary Conference and the Western Veterinary Conference.

Adesola Oduenayo, DVM, MS, DACVECC
University of Tennessee, Small Animal Critical Care Unit, Knoxville, TN
Dr. Adesola Oduenayo is a clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency and Critical Care at the University of Tennessee. She graduated with her veterinary degree from Oklahoma State University in 2005 and completed a residency in Emergency and Critical Care at the University of Missouri in 2010. At the end of residency, she worked as a clinical instructor at Auburn University until she joined the faculty at the University of Tennessee in 2012. Her special interests include stabilization of the ER patient, transfusion medicine, sepsis, and ventilator therapy.
Jessica Quimby, DVM, PhD, DACVIM
Small Animal Internal Medicine, The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center, Columbus, OH

Dr. Quimby received her veterinary degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and completed a small animal rotating internship in Sacramento, California. She subsequently spent two years in feline practice in Grand Rapids, Michigan before moving on to Colorado State University for a combined small animal internal medicine residency and PhD program. She completed her PhD entitled “Feline Chronic Kidney Disease: Novel Approaches to Etiology, Specific Therapy and Supportive Care” in 2012, and was faculty at Colorado State until 2017. Dr. Quimby is now a faculty member at The Ohio State University. Her research continues to focus on chronic kidney disease in cats. Current research areas include the study of renal aging, telomere length and cellular senescence, novel treatment strategies, and evidence-based supportive care strategies. She has an interest in clinical trials and clinical pharmacology, which is aimed at improving supportive care and quality of life in cats with chronic kidney disease.

Ilona Rodan, DVM, DABVP (Feline)
Cat Care Clinic, Madison, WI

Dr. Ilona Rodan was the owner and medical director of the Cat Care Clinic, Madison, Wisconsin from 1987-2015, and continues to work there as the behavior consultant and board certified feline specialist. She has been an ABVP Diplomate in Feline Practice since 1995. She also started Feline-Friendly Consultations to help practices with handling techniques and environmental changes to benefit cats and cat owners. Dr. Rodan is an avid volunteer, a past-president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), co-chair of the AAFP’s Cat Friendly Practice Committee, and co-chair of many guidelines, including the Feline-Friendly Handling Guidelines and the Environmental Needs Guidelines. In 2005, she was awarded the AVMA Animal Welfare Award for her leadership and contributions to advancing feline welfare. She is co-editor and co-author of the book, Feline Behavioral Health and Welfare.

Elke Rudloff, DVM, DACVECC, cVMA
Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists, Grafton, WI

Dr. Rudloff is a 1991 graduate of Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her residency training at the Animal Emergency Center and achieved board certification in the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care in 1995. She has supervised/mentored 28 ACVECC diplomates and is currently a clinical supervisor at the Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists in Glandale, Wisconsin. She is certified in veterinary medical acupuncture by the CURACORE Integrative Medicine and Education Center. She has served as the EVCCS Program Director from 1999-2009, and from 2013 until now. She is the 2008 recipient of the Ira Zaslow Award for distinguished service in the field of veterinary emergency and critical care and is an internationally recognized educator in the field of veterinary emergency and critical care. She routinely incorporates her medical acupuncture skills into her everyday practice to enhance the well-being and pain management of critically ill and injured patients. Her special interests include fluid therapy, emergency surgery and anesthesia, and trauma management, topics on which she has published in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters.

Margie Scherk, DVM, DABVP (Feline)
catsINK, Vancouver, BC

Dr. Scherk graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1982. In 1986, she opened Cats Only Veterinary Clinic in Vancouver, British Columbia, practicing there until 2008. She published several clinical trials while in practice. She has written numerous book chapters and is an active international speaker as well as enjoys teaching online. She is co-editor of the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery. Margie has served extensively in the American Association of Feline Practitioners as well other veterinary organizations. She is one of the six Canadian feline boarded members of Cat Healthy (www.cathealthy.ca). Her interests include all things feline, in particular: analgesia, the feline digestive system, renal disease, nutrition, and enabling more positive interactions with cats.

Kelly St. Denis, MSc, DVM, DABVP (Feline)
Charing Cross Cat Clinic, Brantford, Ontario

Dr. St. Denis is currently a full-time clinician at the Charing Cross Cat Clinic in Brantford, Ontario, which she opened in 2007. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics and a Master of Science in Immunology. In 1999, she completed her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the Ontario Veterinary College. Dr. St. Denis has been certified with the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in the specialty of feline practice since 2013. Dr. St. Denis is a consultant for the feline medicine boards on VIN. She has been a member of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Feline Practitioners since 2017 and sits on the Advisory Council for the AAFP Cat Friendly Practice Program. Dr. St. Denis is proudly one of the six Canadian feline specialist members of Cat Healthy.

Debra Zoran, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVIM-SAIM
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Dr. Deb Zoran is a Professor of Small Animal Internal Medicine and a foundational member Veterinary Emergency Team at Texas A&M University. She is a 1984 graduate of Kansas State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed a master’s degree and her residency in Internal Medicine at Iowa State University. In 1992, she moved to Texas A&M University and completed a PhD in Animal Nutrition in the laboratory of Dr. Joanne Lupton. Since 1996, Dr. Zoran has been a member of the faculty in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at Texas A&M University where she is actively involved with clinical, teaching, and research activities in small animal nutrition, disaster preparedness, gastroenterology, and feline medicine. Since 2015, she is also a member of the Texas Task Force 1 Urban Search & Rescue team, serving as their veterinary specialist.