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ABKA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006



## BOARDERLINE NEWSLETTER TO GO ELECTRONIC

Beginning in September 2006, ABKA's Boarderline newsletter will merge with the E-Newsletter to become the Boarderline E-Newsletter. This newsletter will be emailed to all members who have indicated they would like to receive the existing E-Newsletter and will also be accessible in the Members Only section of ABKA's Web site.

If you are not currently receiving the E-Newsletter and would like to ensure that you continue to receive the Boarderline once it becomes an electronic publication, please send an email to [lisa@abka.com](mailto:lisa@abka.com).

We will offer advertising in the Boarderline E-Newsletter. For more information, contact [lisa@abka.com](mailto:lisa@abka.com) or call 877-570-7788, ext. 23.

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## ABKA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Return of the Membership Poll

Those of you who have been receiving ABKA's E-Newsletter for a number of years will recall that we used to include a Membership Poll in each edition. We'd like to re-visit these polls and encourage our members to submit poll questions for publication to [lisa@abka.com](mailto:lisa@abka.com). We're kicking things off with the following rather open-ended question:

### What do you think of the reformatted E-Newsletter?

Love it? Hate it? Let us know! Please send your responses to [lisa@abka.com](mailto:lisa@abka.com) by Monday, June 26th. We will post the information in the July issue of the E-Newsletter.

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### News from ABKA Region 6

Region 6 Director Katherine Halton Berns writes:

Greetings to all! This has been a very busy spring for me! I know that the summer grooming rush always seems to sneak up on me and suddenly we are inundated with hairy dogs we haven't seen in 6 months along with our regulars. We spent most of April without our electric table due to a motor problem (darn thing was only 10 years old!) but [Edemco](#) was quick to the rescue for us!

We have started work on our "Formal Garden" play area although I may revise the plans yet again after a fascinating lecture on leptospirosis by Jenny Orme, the ACES expert that presented at Region 3's Spring Meeting in Indianapolis in April.

I am putting in several new programs and activities in the next several months due to suggestions and advice received at Spring Meetings in Regions 11, 3 and 6. I still have one more meeting I plan to attend this year in New Hampshire (by the time you get this newsletter, I'll be back at home). I'll stay busy all summer refining the ideas and deciding which ones I'll be putting in place at my business.

We held the Spring Meeting for Region 6 in St. Louis from May 9-May 11. In past years, attending members asked that we extend

our meeting for another day and include more speakers and more roundtable time so this year we had seven seminars and two roundtable discussion times built in to the schedule. I believe I have taken home ideas that will possibly save me several thousand dollars and some that will probably make me several thousand in income over the next two years. You can't ask for more from the low registration cost of these meetings!

I believe that if you only learn one new thing at a conference that will protect you, your employees and your guests or only one new thing that will bring in or save money for you, you have usually more than paid for the expense of traveling to a meeting, whether it is a dinner meeting, regional meeting or our national convention. Historically, we have had about 20% participation by the membership at these conferences. Usually, the people who are doing the best with their businesses are the ones who recognize the importance of getting the opportunity to listen to live speakers and to ask questions of those speakers and other ABKA members.

So what are your plans for November 8-11? I hope you give serious thought to giving your business and yourself a needed boost and come to Orlando, Florida for our National Convention and Trade Show. I've attended 10 national conventions; eight of them during the past nine years. During this time, my annual income has quadrupled. I do not feel that this is a coincidence. My business has been in operation for 29 years and I've been the owner for the last 11 years. Even if you have to close your business for six days to come to this convention, it will be worth your while for years to come!

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### **Announcement - Congratulations to the Following VFA Facilities:**

We would like to congratulate the following ABKA Member Facilities on their VFA accreditations:

**Bayside Bed and Biscuit, Kenmah, TX (first accreditation)**

**Countryside Veterinary Hospitals, Chelmsford, MA (first accreditation)**

## Westbury Pet Care Center, Summerville, SC (re-accreditation)

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### Reminder - ABKA Calendar of Events

Remember: You can find the most current information on ABKA's National Convention and Trade Show by visiting our [Calendar of Events](#).

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## ARTICLES

### Article of Interest - Deramaxx Debate

The Washington Post recently ran an article about the controversial drug Deramaxx, a Vioxx-like anti-inflammatory drug used to treat dogs with arthritis and other ailments. You can read the article [here](#).

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### Article of Interest - Boarding Your Pet: What to Know Before You Go

ABKA Executive Director Jim Krack was recently interviewed by St. Louie Tales Pet Magazine for a feature article entitled "Boarding Your Pet: What to Know Before You Go." You can read the article [here](#).

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### Article of Interest - Cat Disease Infecting Metro Pets Has Feline Lovers on Edge

According to an article posted at [ChannelOklahoma.com](#), a deadly disease that comes from ticks has infected at least one cat in Oklahoma City. Click [here](#) to read the article.

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### Article of Interest - Study Finds Use of Collars Increases Ocular Pressure in Dogs

In dogs with ocular conditions, such as glaucoma or weak or thin corneas, increased intraocular pressure (IOP) may lead to severe eye damage and vision loss. A new study published in the May/June 2006 issue of the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association (JAAHA) finds that the pressure created by the use of neck collars significantly increases IOP in dogs.

"In dogs with some type of ocular disease, such as glaucoma, even brief increases in IOP could have a detrimental effect on the eye, resulting in further damage to the optic nerve and retina," says Amy M. Pauli, DVM, ophthalmology resident at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and principal author of the study. "Based on our study findings, it is highly recommended that harnesses, rather than neck collars, be used in dogs with glaucoma."

The JAAHA article tested the hypothesis that application of neck pressure via a leash to a harness results in less of an increase in IOP than application of pressure via a leash to a neck collar. Intraocular pressures, measured before and after the test, were found to increase significantly from baseline levels when pressure was applied via a collar but not via a harness. The study findings indicated that dogs with weak or thin corneas, glaucoma or conditions for which an increase in IOP could be harmful should wear a harness instead of a collar.

"Many general practitioners are not aware of the anecdotal evidence that collars significantly increase IOP," says Ellen Bentley, DVM, DACVO, clinical assistant professor of comparative ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and study co-author. "We hope that the results of this study will prompt them to routinely recommend harnesses for patients with certain ocular conditions."

Interestingly, a trend in breed differences in the degree of IOP change during tension against a collar versus a harness was also revealed. The study included 26 healthy dogs of both sexes, including the Alaskan malamute, Siberian husky, Staffordshire terrier, American cocker spaniel and Chinook. While the Alaskan malamute and Siberian husky generated the greatest tension when pulling against a collar, these two breeds experienced less of an increase in IOP when pulling against a collar than did the other three breeds. Evidently, dogs bred to pull objects may be somewhat resistant to an increase in IOP.

"Pulling when being walked on a leash may be more than just an annoying behavior; it may have a detrimental impact on a dog's health," says Dr. Pauli. "Since the long-term risks of transient IOP increases associated with ocular disease are not fully understood, any pet that tends to pull while being walked on a leash may benefit from the use of a harness rather than a collar."

Additional study authors included Kathryn A. Diehl, DVM, MS, DACVO and Paul E. Miller, DVM, MS, DACVO. The article is available online at [www.jaaha.org](http://www.jaaha.org).

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### Reminder for AOL Users

ABKA has been experiencing a number of email delivery issues with members who have America Online (AOL) accounts. It has come to our attention that email sent from the ABKA office destined for AOL accounts is being blocked from delivery after being designated as "Junk Mail." This is happening even if ABKA did not generate the original communication, but is trying to respond to an email sent in from a member with an AOL account.

The explanation offered by AOL is that some of our members with AOL email addresses have, at some point in time, designated incoming ABKA email as "Junk" so the AOL filters then recognize all subsequent ABKA email as "Junk" and block delivery.

ABKA has tried repeatedly to resolve this issue by utilizing AOL technical support, but a satisfactory solution has not been reached. Therefore, we are suggesting that members with AOL accounts consider the following action(s):

- AOL account holders should not identify ABKA emails as "Junk" but rather simply delete the ABKA email when it is no longer needed. (Note: ABKA only uses mail to correspond with members for legitimate association-related business.)
- ABKA members currently using AOL may want to consider opening an alternate email account. Many providers, such as Yahoo and Hotmail offer free email services. If you do choose this option, however, please be sure to notify ABKA of your new email address. It is worth mentioning that many free email accounts are very sensitive to storage quotas and it is necessary to clear old emails frequently to make room for incoming mail.

Please keep in mind that these suggested actions are general in nature and if you are uncertain of what to do we strongly suggest you contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) for specific technical support.

As a general rule, if an ABKA member with an AOL email account has not received a response from the ABKA staff within two business days, the member should assume that the AOL Junk Filter has impacted the delivery and should follow up with ABKA by phone.

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Thanks for your dedication and support! See you next month!

