



Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 43, No. 1 - Winter 2021

Meet Your Peers

AVSAB MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Brian Bourquin

Dr. Brian Bourquin became interested in behavior through his academic advisor at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Katherine Houpt, VMD, PhD. Dr. Bourquin is not pursuing an advanced degree in behavior, but he wants to spread the message that you don't need to be a specialist to make a life changing impact!

Prevention and early intervention are his focus. His hospital, Boston Veterinary Clinic, takes a proactive stance on recommending positive reinforcement trainers by name in new puppy kits and performs behavior screening to detect concerns early. He works closely with their Behavior Resident and starts emergency medication if there is a patient that cannot wait to get in. This partnership extends behavioral care to as many patients as possible.

He strives for a healthy work-life balance. "When I am run down and tired, I unplug for the night, so I get a good night's sleep and am ready to start the next day with all I have! As simple as it may sound, helping others still brings meaning to my journey." Seeing healing in action keeps him going. "The success of a case that goes well, a client understanding why you make certain recommendations and following them, or just answering all 100 questions a

new puppy or kitten pet parent has, there is nothing like it!" Dr. Bourquin encourages those new to behavior to build a good support system. "There are going to be tough times, but if your family and/or friends have your back, it all becomes manageable."

Thank you Dr. Bourquin!

Did you know you can expand your behavioral network by adding "friends" on our website?

Expand Your Behavior Knowledge

Blog Highlights

*We've recently expanded our authorship to bring you **EVEN MORE** of the latest behavior topics!*



Can We Keep Our Cats Warm Enough?

Dr. Mikel Maria Delgado discusses how to keep your furry feline in their thermoneutral zone. [more >](#)

Scaredy Dogs and Strangers Part 1 [more >](#)

Scaredy Dogs and Strangers Part 2 [more >](#)

With isolation and the pandemic, this is an important read on understanding and interacting with dogs who are fearful of strangers, by **Dr. Jen Summerfield**.

If Your Dog Is Afraid, Avoid These Two Mistakes

by **Zazie Todd**, PhD details two common pitfalls in working with fearful dogs—and how to avoid them. [more >](#)

[FORUM POSTS](#) - Join the Conversation!

We are excited to announce that we have made the move to Groups.io for all our future forum discussions! By now, all Members should have

received an invitation, via email, to join. If you have not received an invitation, please [reach out](#) at your earliest convenience.

POST A NEW QUESTION on AVSAB's forum by visiting the [forum](#), or by [emailing](#) directly from your own inbox. Start a new question or comment on the questions, concerns and cases of other behavior-oriented individuals, and help us get the community talking! The forum is available to AVSAB members only.

Need help accessing the new forum? [Contact us](#).

TECHNICIANS CORNER

We are looking for an avid behavior-oriented technician who might be interested in sharing SVBT updates and technician-focused behavior information. Contact [Gage Houser](#) for more information.

TRAINERS RING by Juliana Willems CPDT-KA, KPA CTP

Hi again everyone, and Happy New Year! In an attempt to be optimistic that 2021 will bring more normalcy than 2020 did, I'm going to share information on something that has been on every dog owner's mind since this pandemic started: acclimating our dogs to being left alone again.

While it's unclear how much all this time together will impact dogs who were previously fine with being left alone before the pandemic, there is no doubt some of these puppies and rescue dogs who were brought home during the pandemic lockdown and know nothing but 24/7 time with their owners are going to struggle.

Here are some resources you, your friends, or your clients can use to both prevent or treat separation distress and anxiety:

[Certified Separation Anxiety Trainers](#) – CSATs are one of the best resources because they are truly experts in this behavior issue

[Veterinary Behaviorists](#) – If you think you have a dog with severe separation anxiety (destruction when left alone, house soiling, excessive vocalizing, etc.), meeting with a vet behaviorist can be critical

['Mission: Possible'](#) – An online course for dog owners

["I'll Be Home Soon"](#) by Patricia McConnell – A quick and owner-friendly book

Separation anxiety is one of the most challenging behavior issues to address, so working with an experienced certified trainer is important. Trainers are urging pet owners to start preparing *now* for the inevitable return back to real life. As they say, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!



Upcoming Behavior Seminars and Conferences

Did you know as a new Member Benefit, you can request to have your regional seminars, lectures and conferences added to the AVSAB website calendar? For more information on how to add your event, click [here!](#)

- **FREE LIVE Webinar from Vet Vine and Family Paws Parent Education! [March 8, 2021, 8PM Eastern - Crawling Babies, Conflicted Dogs: 5 Ways to Decrease Heartbreaking Dilemmas in](#)**

COMPLICATED DOGS: 5 WAYS TO DECREASE HEARDBREAKING DILEMMAS IN YOUR PRACTICE

Veterinary professionals are providers of public health. They see families and their dogs on a daily basis; families who are seeking guidance on the best way to prevent problems and maximize welfare. Veterinary professionals are uniquely poised to provide client education for child-dog safety. This webinar provides an excellent opportunity to gain insight from experts as well as develop techniques that can make an immediate difference. The content will be relevant and practical for every veterinary professional who communicates to clients with children. Approval pending by AAVSB RACE.

Check out the ACVB webinars including information on behavior supplements (including CBD), pain-management, and dog bites to children—with many more topics to come. [Get more information here.](#)

AVSAB/UCD Webinar Series

- **Top 10 Behavioral Tips You Can Implement Today** (Dr. Melissa Bain, DACVB). [View on-demand anytime for FREE.](#)
- **Low Stress = High Satisfaction** (Dr. Sally Foote, DACVB) [Click here to sign up.](#)
- **Use of Psychotropic Medication and Alternatives** (Dr. Liz Stelow, DACVB) [Click here to sign up.](#)

Other Continuing Education

- **Fear Free**SM continuing education available ongoing
- **Low Stress Handling** continuing education available ongoing

Get the Latest Behavior Updates

President's Message

Dear Members:

Welcome to a new year! The board has been very busy the past 3 months and we are excited about all the updates we have coming your way. We've updated the forums, finalized a new position statement, decided to offer access to the Journal of Veterinary Behavior to all members, and worked out the details of the previously approved dues increase. I am excited to have a forum with more functionality and reliability. We will use the Groups.io listserv to send out the new position statement for a member preview.

Beginning January 1st of 2022 all AVSAB members will have online access to the Journal of Veterinary Behavior as a benefit of membership! This is so exciting but did come with a few hiccups to figure out. Since the JVB runs on a calendar year schedule, we will be transitioning from an anniversary date membership year to a calendar year membership. For this year we will prorate the \$50/year membership dues for the number of months remaining in 2021 at the time of your renewal. Toward the end of the year you

of months remaining in 2021 at the time of your renewal. Toward the end of the year, you will receive a renewal notice for 2022 dues in the amount of US\$95. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

I hope you are all staying healthy and safe and looking forward to 2021.

Ashley Elzerman, DVM, DACVB, AVSAB President

Board and Committee Member Updates

AVSAB-SVBT Clinical Behavior Conference: Gage Houser, AVSAB Executive Director

Planning for the 2021 Clinical Animal Behavior Conference is underway and we cannot wait to see everyone in October. It was decided at the last committee meeting that we will be going virtual this year! Our next committee meeting is set for February, where we will discuss our virtual platform options.

Website: Gage Houser, AVSAB Executive Director

AVSAB is continuing to make updates to their website in order to build a better members experience. We'd like to thank you in advance for your patience with our ongoing updates. If you have any questions, please visit our [our support page](#) or [contact us](#).

AVSAB Position Statements: Lynn Honeckman DVM

The position statement committee has sent the new updated punishment-based training statement for formatting and is looking forward to presenting it to the membership.

Diplomate Department: Dr. E'Lise Christensen, DVM DACB, Secretary ACVB

This winter, the ACVB has been organizing the next Veterinary Behavior Symposium (VBS) meeting as well as launching a new webinar series available to veterinarians, trainers, and the public.

VBS will be held virtually again this year, and I will be sure to get the final details out to AVSAB when they are available.

Our first ACVB webinars covered behavior supplements (including the ever-popular CBD), pain-management, and dog bites to children, and we have many more topics to come. [Get more information here](#).

Thinking about doing a residency? Have other questions about ACVB? Reach out to our wonderful Executive Director, [Betsy Grenier](#).

Resident Rounds: Lori Rockwell, DVM

As always, the residents have been busy this quarter—stay tuned for updates from the residents in our next newsletter!

Take Advantage of Your Membership

AVSAB Membership: Gage Houser, AVSAB Executive Director

Did you know as a Member of AVSAB, you can take advantage of a variety of discounts? [Become a member today!](#)

Until January 2022, AVSAB Members are eligible for deeply discounted subscription rates of only \$30/year for online (electronic) access, or just \$45/year for both print and online access—and after this, subscription will be included in membership. For more information on the currently discounted rate, visit [here](#).



VetVine is an online resource for veterinary professionals and pet parents, which offers access to webinars, publications and other excellent information to its membership.



10% savings on books produced by Dogwise.



25% savings on books published by Wiley.



Neuroscience Education Institute

Discounted one year membership for continuing education, provided to professionals working in mental health.

New Member Benefits include free listing of job positions and upcoming Regional Seminars, Lectures and Conferences on the AVSAB Website!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

NEW POSITION - Behavior Vets is growing! We are excited to announce Associate Veterinarian positions open to either DACVBs, veterinarians interested in pursuing residencies with the American College of Behaviorists, or veterinarians with a special interest in behavior. Behavior Vets is located in Castle Pines, CO and Westchester, NY. Please contact info@behaviorvets.com, ATTN: Laura Rhodes.

Opportunities for vets and technicians can be found [here](#).

Have a position available for a veterinarian or technician? Post in the [AVSAB Forum](#) to have it listed in next quarter's newsletter.

The Next Generation of Leaders in Behavior



By Louisa Beal DVM

Members of the student liaison committee have been discussing how we might adapt student requirements and student outreach to better meet the changing learning environment of veterinary students.

- *Do you need a veterinarian who is well versed in various behavior topics for your next Continuing Education Seminar? Then check out the AVSAB Speakers Bureau! [More >](#)*
- *Need a behavior rotation? [More >](#)*
- *Does your school have an official student chapter (SCAVSAB)? [More >](#)*
- *Do you want a student chapter (SCAVSAB)? [More >](#)*
- *Why should you join SCAVSAB? [More >](#)*

General Information

NEWSLETTER NOTES by Kayla Bilsborrow, DVM

It has been a pleasure working with AVSAB and the newsletter—thank you to those who have written for, and read, the newsletter, and best of luck to the future newsletter coordinator!

Did you know that subscribing to the newsletter is **free**? Please feel free to share the [link](#) on your personal or professional social media sites to encourage more subscribers and members!



ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

For information on placing a product ad in future editions of the newsletter, please contact [Gage Houser](#). [Pricing Information](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any previous links on continuing education opportunities that you would

If you have any reviews, links, or continuing education opportunities that you would like to have included in future newsletters, please send that information to [Gage Houser](#) for consideration.

Contact

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