



MCVMA

**MARIN COUNTY VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 2493
Mill Valley, CA 94942
www.marinvets.org



Our Officers:

President:	Dr. Nicole Eckholm
President:	Dr. Geena Ng
Treasurer:	Dr. Nicole Captanian
CE Coordinator:	Dr. Kathleen Olson
CE Coordinator:	Dr. Audra Pompeani
CVMA Delegate:	Dr. Kathleen Olson
CVMA Delegate Alternate:	Dr. Ben Otten
Disaster Preparedness Liaison:	Dr. Mary Beth Goetting

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Notes from the MCVMA Presidents

Dear MCVMA members,

Happy first quarter of the century! We hope you enjoyed a relaxing and fulfilling holiday season with your loved ones.

We are excited to kick off the new year with MCVMA Board elections. Voting will be conducted next week, January 21st, prior to our dinner lecture. See below for the list of nominations and interested individuals we have so far. Additional nominations are welcomed - please reach out to me before the meeting to let us know if you want to nominate yourself or someone else for a role on the board.

MCVMA Board Nominations and Interested Candidates

President - Geena Ng

Vice President - Kat Olson

Treasurer - AJ Kallet

CE Coordinator - Audra Pompeani

CVMA Delegate and Alternate - Kat Olson, AJ Pheils

Disaster Preparedness Liaison - Rebecca Hirsh-Boyle

Nicole Eckholm, Nicole Captanian, Ben Otten, and Mary Beth Goetting are stepping down from their roles on the board - we thank them for their service!

It is also time to renew your **annual memberships** - you may do so in person at any of our meetings, where we will have printed applications available for your convenience (we do have a plan to add online registration - more on this to come). Last year, we were happy to provide all of our CE lecture dinners thanks to sponsors (i.e. no cost to members), and we added a complimentary social hour prior to lectures, which we plan to continue. We look forward to bringing you another exciting lineup of speakers this year and will start by hosting Dr. Heather Spain, local radiologist, for our first CE meeting. These CE meetings will continue per the previous rotation on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November).

Looking forward, the MCVMA is proud to support the training of future veterinarians at UC Davis and our county veterinary technicians and assistants, as well as the CVMA with annual monetary contributions. We are also planning to bring back an **annual MCVMA social event**, so please be on the lookout for more information about this!

RVT/ Veterinary Assistant Scholarship Announcement:

Marin VMA will continue to award four \$500 scholarships to any RVT or veterinary assistant working at a Marin County veterinary practice who has shown commitment to our field. If you are currently working with someone you feel would be a good candidate, please refer to the application on our website. Scholarships will be awarded at our May meeting.

Hope to see you next week,

Geena Ng
MCVMA President



H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Marin County

Overview:

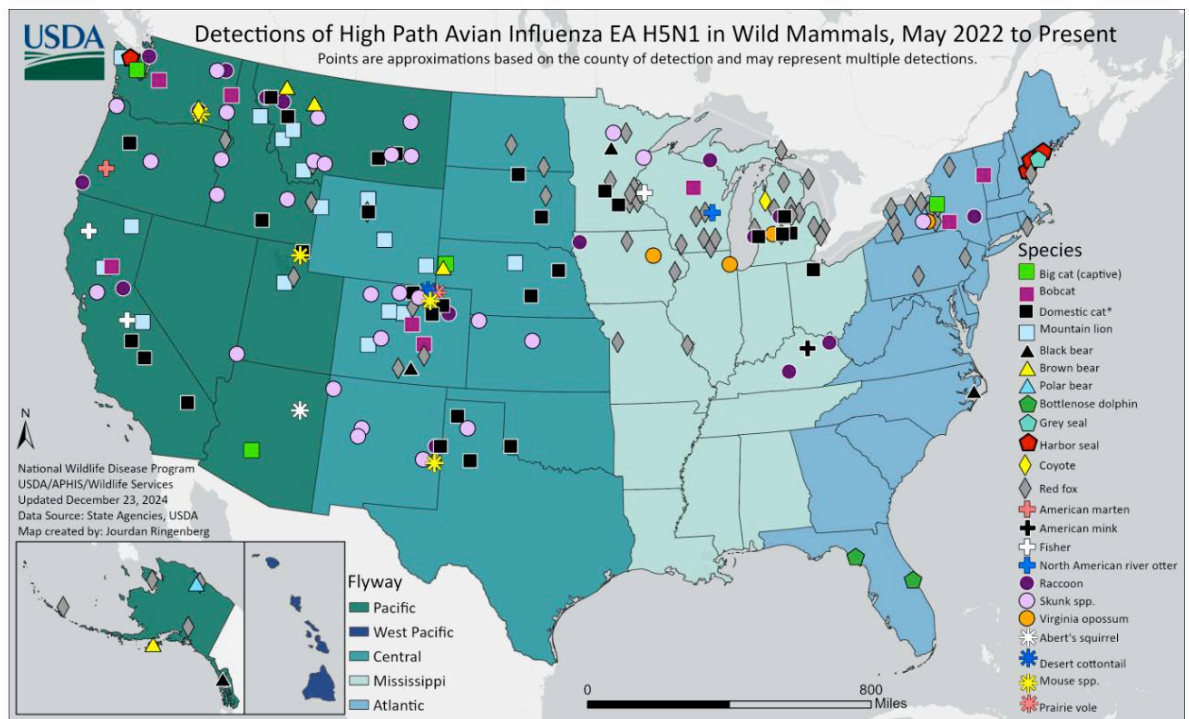
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a strain of the H5N1 influenza virus that has high morbidity and mortality rates amongst domestic poultry. It's spread by wild birds that expose dairy cows and domestic poultry flocks.

This strain has been detected in different poultry and dairy farms across California, so on 12/18/2024, the **Governor declared a state of Emergency** to allow for more resource allocation to control the outbreak. At this point, the risk to human health is low. It is highly pathogenic to birds, which poses a catastrophic risk to California's ag economy and food supply.

Primary species of concern:

- wild and domestic birds
- dairy cows
- wild and domestic cats

(see map below of reported cases as of 12/23/2024)



Cases to consider testing:

- feline patient with respiratory signs, neurological signs and exposure to wild birds, poultry, dairy cows, and raw milk**
- avian patient with respiratory signs, neurological signs, and sudden death
- if warranted, submit standard infectious disease testing to Idexx (at owners' expense)
- if suspicious, submit to the **UCD CAHFS Lab** (no cost to owner); form attached - please include my email address on submission form

****note:** there are no current USDA/ CDFA guidelines on non-avian/ bovine suspicion criteria

Infectious Control In-Hospital

(see Marin County Dept HHS advisory on page 7)

PPE: When working with a patient who is suspicious, based on factors described above, staff should wear:

- disposable gloves
- disposable gowns
- eye protection
- N95 facemask or respirator

Cleaning: All supplies and surfaces should be cleaned after coming in contact with the patient or the patient's body fluids, excretions, etc.

- clean non-porous solid surfaces with Rescue (accelerated hydrogen peroxide) with 5 minute contact time
- launder porous bedding with bleach

Your Health:

- Even with some **documented cases from human farm workers**, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) still considers the risk to humans low.
- If you develop flu-like symptoms within 10 days of working with a suspect patient, please alert your healthcare provider.

This guidance was provided to PESC staff.

Make a world of difference...

Marin Humane is looking for a Veterinarian to oversee the veterinary care of animals in our Foster Program.

\$10,000 hiring bonus • Competitive pay and excellent benefits • Shelter medicine vs a more corporate veterinary environment • Flexible hours (part time or full time) – no weekends • Opportunity to earn student loan forgiveness

Learn more about this opportunity by contacting Valerie Robbins, Human Resources Director
vrobbs@marinhumane.org • (415) 506-6279
Apply at: MarinHumane.org/employment





PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY



December 17, 2024

Lisa Warhuus, PhD
 DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues:

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH
 PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Marin County

As of December 16, 0 human cases of H5N1 avian influenza have been reported in Marin County. There has been 1 suspect case of avian influenza linked to raw milk consumption and no cases linked to livestock exposure. While the risk to the general public remains low and human-to-human transmission remains rare, it is essential to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions.

Exposure

Since spreading to North America in 2021, H5N1 viruses have rapidly evolved and developed mutations that enable easier transmission to mammalian species including cows, humans, and cats. Clinicians should consider the possibility of HPAI A (H5N1) virus infection in symptomatic persons who have [relevant exposure history as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#):

- Close exposure (within six feet) to animals with confirmed or suspected avian influenza A virus infection.
- Direct contact with contaminated surfaces, inhalation of infected materials, exposure to live animal markets, laboratory exposure, exposure to an individual with confirmed or suspected H5N1 influenza A.
- Preparing or consuming raw animal products, including *unpasteurized milk*, or consuming uncooked or undercooked food or related uncooked food products, from infected animals (CDC [Avian Influenza Case Definitions](#).)

Clinical Presentations

While the human respiratory tract is a major site of avian influenza A (H5N1) infection, humans infected with H5N1 can also present with gastrointestinal tract symptoms. Many farmworkers diagnosed with H5N1 presented with mild symptoms, including conjunctivitis and mild upper respiratory symptoms. Patients may present with:

- Mild illness: cough, sore throat, eye redness or eye discharge, fever, rhinorrhea, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, myalgia, arthralgia, and headache.
- Moderate to severe illness: shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, altered mental status, and seizures.

Read the Entire Advisory Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y24enfss>



Our Hospital is Moving

to a New Location

**COMING
Soon**



We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new state-of-the-art hospital in **early 2025**, which will improve our specialty and emergency care services

WE WILL BE LOCATED AT
**1 Thorndale Drive
San Rafael**



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Email: pescminfo@pescm.com



A Gentle Rest

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Pet Portrait Paintings by Veterinarian Ken Gorczyca

COMMISSIONS, IN LIFE OR IN MEMORIAM



Ken Gorczyca, DVM
VetDoula@gmail.com

Follow me on Facebook, Instagram and my Website Blog
www.KenGorczyca.com

Classifieds

Point Reyes Animal Hospital

Seeking DVM

Point Reyes Animal Hospital is seeking an associate Veterinarian to work in a privately owned small animal hospital in beautiful Point Reyes Station. Well equipped with digital dental radiology, in house lab, and experienced support staff. Wonderful community, small town atmosphere where we are greatly appreciated. Practice quality medicine in a unique rural setting adjacent to a pristine protected National Seashore. Stress free scenic commute.

Full or Part time, Regular Relief considered. Hours are Mon-Friday, 9 to 5

Serious Ownership Potential!

Contact Mary Whitney DVM, 415-497-7256, docwhitney@att.net

Fairfax Veterinary Clinic

Come join our team in wonderful, charming, quirky Fairfax! We are a growing and thriving, privately/locally owned practice that is currently expanding into a spacious state-of-the-art facility. With our team of 6 DVM's, we offer a collaborative and supportive environment where you can create and define your own niche, enabling you to have the career you imagined, back when you first decided you wanted to become a veterinarian. Some of our associates focus on cats and dogs exclusively, some see exotics and birds, or small mammals and pocket pets. Some of us have a passion for surgery and dentistry, others for acupuncture, internal medicine, or preventive care.

What passion will you bring to our practice? We are seeking an **associate veterinarian** who understands the importance of exceptional client service in obtaining good outcomes for our patients. We strive to provide top-notch medical and surgical services for our patients, excellent service to our customers, while maintaining an upbeat and enjoyable work environment. Convenient access to local specialists and emergency services allows us to always provide the very best care for our patients while maintaining work-life balance personally.

Excellent mentoring available. The majority of our associate veterinarians started as new grads or with only 1 or 2 years' experience and have remained at our practice. Our "practice culture" is one of support, compassion, and providing excellent customer and patient care while maintaining a light hearted work environment and a strong work-life balance.

We offer a generous and competitive compensation package with starting salary from \$120,000-\$200,000+, depending on experience level and work schedule. Ample PTO, CE allowance, health insurance including dental and vision, all veterinary organizational membership fees and dues covered, hospital discounts, bonus pay, profit share, retirement plan, flexible work schedule, etc!

Email resume and cover letter to aaronwentzell@hotmail.com to apply.

View our website at www.fairfaxvet.com. See our excellent Yelp reviews 😊.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Let your commitment to quality guide you here.

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. (GDB) offers an especially rewarding career for veterinary professionals. As a Staff Veterinarian at our beautiful campus in San Rafael, California, you will work at the top of your profession in our compassionate and mission-driven veterinary department. We will rely on you to play a key role in ensuring optimal health for our breeding dogs, puppies, and those selected to become successful guides. Duties include:

- Providing professional veterinary care, including surgery (traditional and laparoscopic), radiology, and internal medicine
- Providing veterinary assistance for the Oregon campus, as needed
- Addressing the specialized medical and surgical needs of all program dogs, including breeding colony, neonates and weaned puppies on campus
- Handling obstetric, neonatal, and pediatric cases
- Providing 24-hour support to non-veterinary staff managing broods through challenging whelps
- Performing cesarean sections
- Participating in the design of protocols and methodologies for diagnosis and treatment of medical issues in our breeding colony and neonates
- Conferring with outside veterinarians caring for GDB dogs to assure that their recommended treatment is consistent with our protocols
- Consulting with breeder custodians, puppy raisers, and guide dog users concerning veterinary care
- Supervising, training, and providing guidance to paid and volunteer clinic staff
- Updating veterinary-related concepts through continuing education
- Writing veterinary-related articles for GDB publications
- Returning to campus, when necessary, for medical emergencies

Qualifications:

- California veterinary license and USDA license for interstate and international health certificate
- Current and renewable Drug Enforcement Agency license, Class II, IN, III, IV, V
- Willing to become Penn Hip certified and APHIS accredited within six months
- Willing to become Fear-Free certified within three months of hire
- Desire to train in both laparoscopic and non-laparoscopic surgical techniques
- Excellent analytical, communication, and interpersonal skills
- Availability for weekend rotations and/or on-call work

What sets us apart?

- You'll become an expert on our yellow and black Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Lab/Golden crosses – incredible patients who do not require muzzles.

- GDB is deeply committed to the care and well-being of our program dogs, and you will be empowered to deliver all the care that you deem necessary with minimal financial constraints.
- You can hone and expand your knowledge in a wide variety of areas like neonatal care, breeding, canine reproduction, spaying/neutering, laparoscopic surgery, ultrasound, and more.
- We support continuing education and professional development that aligns with our goals.
- Teamwork at GDB is exceptional, both within the veterinary department and across the organization. Because we all share the same passion for our mission, you'll experience strong support from colleagues and make meaningful connections.
- We offer balance, flexibility, and reasonable schedules, with ample time off.
- Our generous benefits package includes medical/dental/vision/life/disability insurance, 403(b), tuition reimbursement, and great wellness perks like yoga, circuit training, and an onsite gym.
- You can bring your dog to work!

Guide Dogs for the Blind

At Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB), we believe that everyone deserves to move through the world safely and confidently – to live the life they want to live. As the largest guide dog school in North America, we have graduated more than 16,000 guide dog teams from across the U.S. and Canada since our founding in 1942. GDB not only improves mobility for our clients, we further inclusion. Join our team of more than 300 employees and share your passion for our mission.

Apply Now:

https://app.jobvite.com/j?cj=oNxdufwL&s=Marin_County_Veterinary_Medical_Association

Pay Range: \$160,000 - \$195,000 + On Call Stipend

At Guide Dogs for the Blind, we respect, value, and appreciate all differences. We welcome all qualified candidates irrespective of your race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status. Individuals with disabilities, especially those who are blind or visually impaired, are encouraged to apply. If you have a disability and need assistance and/or accommodation with applying for a job, please feel free to contact Human Resources.

Grace Bransford. Just sold my practice and available for small animal relief work. Over 20 years experience.
Contact me at 415-238-3069, call or text.

Mark Willett, DVM. Experienced **relief veterinarian.** Small animal and exotics.
Contact: 415-686-6092, or mwillett@ucdavis-alumni.com.

Golden Gate Veterinary Specialists is a boutique specialty clinic in northern Marin providing highly competent and compassionate care to the pets that need us. We currently offer veterinary dermatology, oncology, surgery, and internal medicine. We are an entrepreneurial, family-focused, doctor-owned practice where helping animals is our mission and taking care of our people is our priority. We are growing, and we are looking for superb **RVTs** and **Veterinary Assistants** that bring a positive attitude and a passion for pet care to join our incredible team.

In the tiring yet rewarding career we've chosen, it's critical we have each other's backs. We're proud of our culture of supporting each other as we all invest ourselves in the care of our pets. What we do is a big commitment, and GGVETS rewards your commitment by offering industry-leading benefits, including high pay, excellent health care plans, a matching 401k, paid holidays, and 3 weeks PTO. I know you have choices, but I truly believe you will not find a better place to work than here.

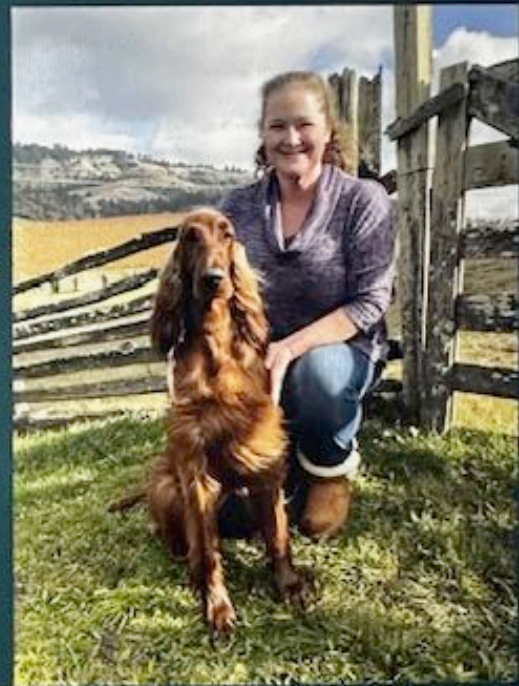
If you're excited about joining a special practice with an amazing team, or even if you're just thinking about it, then please let me know. I would love to talk to you. Email me directly at Nicole.Eckholm@ggvets.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Golden Gate Vet Specialists

Introduces Dr. Caitlyn Glick, Internal Medicine

Dr. Caitlyn Glick received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Iowa State University. She went on to a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery and internal medicine in Rochester, New York, followed by an internal medicine residency on Long Island.

Dr. Glick is originally from California. She moved back to Sonoma County in 2015 and practiced at VCA Animal Care Center, prior to joining GGVETS in 2023. In her spare time, Dr. Glick enjoys traveling, photography, being outdoors and spending time with her dog, Lyra.



4460 Redwood Hwy, STE 11, San Rafael

(415) 726-2458

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ggvets.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MCVMA!

Professional Camaraderie ☘ Continuing Education ☘ Charity ☘ Political Action ☘ Service