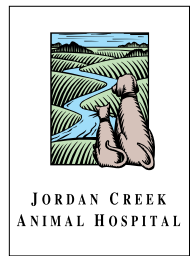




# FALL 2012 Gazette

A newsletter for people and their pets



3401 E.P. True Parkway  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

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## Iowa Animal Hall of Fame

Veterinarians are in the unique position to witness the strength of the human-animal bond. This bond goes beyond companionship. It refers to the strong positive interaction that exists between humans and animals – the special bond that actually enhances human quality of life.

Each year the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA) and Schering-Plough sponsor a program called the Iowa Animal Hall of Fame. Nominations are made by veterinarians and staff that are members of the IVMA. This is a way to recognize and honor animals that have made outstanding contributions to our communities and our lives. There are three award categories – Hero, Companion, and Professional – and one award per category is given each year.

This year, Dr. Whitney and Amy King nominated "Rony", the police dog for the City of West Des Moines. We have worked with Rony for the last 8 years and his accomplishments and contributions not only to Officer Kock but to the community are AMAZING! A panel of members from the IVMA Public Relations Committee read all of the submissions and selected the winners. Rony was chosen as the winner of the Professional category!

Rony started his police career in April 2004. He has been assigned to midnight patrol (11pm-7am) for 7 years. During his time on patrol, Rony has been called on for assistance by local, state and federal law

enforcement agencies. Rony had been deployed over 900 times in his working career and has assisted in apprehending fleeing felons as well as locating hundreds of pounds of illegal narcotics and nearly \$200,000 in U.S. currency used in the drug trade.



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Contact us by calling 515-224-9500 or visit our website at [www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com](http://www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/jordancreekanimalhospital](http://www.facebook.com/jordancreekanimalhospital)



# Iowa Animal Hall of Fame *Continued*

One of Rony's most rewarding deployments was when he was called upon to help locate a suicidal person in a heavily wooded park. When Rony arrived, officers had already searched the park, contaminating the area with additional human scent. They had only been able to locate the individual's parked car. They made entry into the car and took a shoe from the back seat. Rony sniffed the shoe and quickly began guiding them into the woods. Along a trail, Rony located a pool of blood and several beer bottles next to a log. He then tracked about 100 yards off of the trail and located the person lying behind a fallen tree. The person had deep cuts to both wrists and was almost unconscious. Paramedics were on hand to administer first aid and transport the individual to the hospital where he received lifesaving medical care.

Officer Kock states: "K-9 Rony had been an unbelievable partner. He constantly watches my back and does not

hesitate to enter dangerous situations when required. It is comforting not only to me, but also my family and fellow officers to know that a K-9 such as Rony is watching out for us and ready to assist at a moment's notice. I can not repay Rony for everything he has done for me but I go to great lengths to provide him the best care possible."

Rony has continued to serve the community of West Des Moines despite enduring several medical conditions, including back and knee surgeries and arthritis. Congratulations to K-9 Rony for all he has done, and as he nears retirement, his work and successes will never be forgotten.



## OPTIMIZE

### Your Pet's Health with Fatty Acids

In the 1970s, doctors observed that Eskimos had a lower risk for heart disease than the general population, and after further investigation, it was believed to be related to the marine based oils that they consumed in their diet.

Since that time, fatty acids have emerged as an integral part of a daily health regimen for humans and animals alike. Building upon the growing body of scientific data, we now know that omega-3 fatty acids, most notably EPA and DHA, have important health benefits for domestic pets as well as humans including cardio-protective effects, neurologic development and altering the body's inflammatory response.

The most beneficial omega-3 fatty acids are found in fish oil, Eicosapentaenoic Acid (EPA) and Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA). EPA supports the skin and hair and helps in the man-

agement of normal joint function. DHA helps maintain normal nervous system health, cognitive function, as well as healthy cardiovascular function. Beneficial effects have been seen with heart disease, hypertension, renal disease, arthritis, inflammation of the skin, autoimmune disorders, gastrointestinal disease and cancer.

#### **We recommend fatty acid supplements to:**

- Aid in the management of skin disease in allergic pets
- Support joint health function in arthritic dogs
- Promote cognitive health in older patients
- Help reduce inflammation associated with kidney disease
- Support cardiovascular function with heart disease
- Reduce inflammation associated with inflammatory bowel disease

When fatty acid supplementation is needed, there are many commercial products available to choose from. Unfortunately many of these products contain fatty acids that are in a chemical form that requires additional breakdown by the intestinal system before they can be absorbed, making it difficult for the body to use them. Some of them are so poorly absorbed that your pet receives little benefit from them.

Free form fatty acids can be directly absorbed from the intestine without metabolism enhancing their availability to the body.

Before you buy any fatty acid supplement, check with our staff. We can offer you products that will maximize the absorption of EPA and DHA, ensuring that your pet receives the most benefit from treatment.

# The Afya Serengeti Project – Sharon's Story

The Serengeti and the surrounding Serengeti National Park are home to one of the most abundant ecosystems of wildlife in the world. Six million people, including several indigenous tribes, and 500,000 domestic dogs inhabit the area in and around the Serengeti National Park.

To the families who live in the Serengeti, the relationship they share with their dogs is one of necessity. Not just a source of companionship, domestic dogs play an important role in everyday life. They are used for protection of livestock, hunting, and security at home.

## Rabies in Africa

Rabies is a virus that is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. It is a disease that can affect wild and domestic animals as well as humans. Rabies is a threat throughout the globe, and in Africa alone, 24,000 human deaths are caused by rabies infection. Of human rabies cases reported in the Serengeti, 84.2% are attributed to infection from a domestic animal. Because signs of rabies often appear when they are too late to treat, many people and animals die without ever visiting a hospital or veterinary clinic. As deadly as rabies is, it is equally as preventable.

## The Afya Serengeti Project

When veterinarian Sarah Cleveland, went to Tanzania in 1997, she saw the great impact rabies had on the animals and people of the Serengeti. Her research turned into a full-blown initiative, "The Afya Serengeti Project", with a goal of eliminating rabies in the Serengeti National Park and surrounding areas. Afya Serengeti means "Health for Serengeti" and that's exactly what the Afya Serengeti project set out to do. With a vaccine donation program, the Afya Serengeti project began to significantly reduce the occurrence of rabies in affected areas and improve the quality of life of pets and people.

Now this is where the story hits closer to home. While

attending an Iowa State University track team reunion four years ago, Dr. Brian Darrow, a veterinarian in Anamosa, Iowa, learned about the death of Sharon Korir, the daughter of a fellow teammate. Sharon was the 8-year-old daughter of Barnaba Korir, a Kenyan who years ago ran track for ISU. In 2003, Sharon was harvesting guavas with her cousins outside a Kenyan village when a loose dog began chasing the children. The dog bit Sharon on her upper back. Her parents cleaned the wound and immediately took her to the nearest hospital. There, she received a rabies vaccine that they now suspect was expired. Sharon returned to school and life as normal, but on January 12, 2004, she was rushed to the hospital and diagnosed with active rabies. She died the next day.

Brian Darrow began researching the issue of rabies in Africa, and with the help of Barnaba, former teammates, the Kenyan government, and other organizations (both in Kenya and the United States), developed a program for vaccinating livestock and domestic pets in the Serengeti. "We brought everyone together as a team and created a program to go out and do mass vaccination," Darrow said. Sharon's Project, or Sharon Live On, was born.

## How we can help

The drug company Merck initially donated 30,000 doses of vaccine, and the group's original goal was to vaccinate 8,000 dogs, 1,000 cats, and around 300 donkeys. When they traveled to Kenya in January 2012, they vaccinated 14,991 dogs, 1,600 cats, and more than 300 donkeys. "The response was overwhelming," Darrow said. Brian is already planning a second trip for 2013.

At Jordan Creek, each time we vaccinate your pet with a Merck vaccine, a dose of rabies vaccine will be donated to the Afya Serengeti Project. Merck Animal Health has donated over 1 million doses to the Afya Serengeti project and will continue to donate up to 250,000 doses each year.



**Dr. Brian Darrow (left) and Dr. Ron Tapper (center), former ISU track athletes, journeyed to Kenya last January to help administer the rabies vaccine donated by Merck. For his work with this project in Kenya, Dr. Darrow received the "President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Veterinary Medicine".**



### Monthly Meetings

The doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital feel that monthly employee meetings are essential to promoting communication and educational opportunities. Because of this, we will be closed from 1:30-2:30 PM on the following Wednesdays: **October 17, November 7, December 12.**

### Parasite Prevention Refills

As your heartworm/intestinal parasite prevention starts to run low in the next few months, don't forget to call our office to get a refill. Remember, it is recommended that parasite prevention be given each month all year round. For those pets on Interceptor or Sentinel, we are still experiencing a shortage due to an FDA recall on human medication produced by Novartis and will likely put your pet on Heartgard in the interim. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

## Meet some of our recent Boarders of the Week



### WELCOME HOLLY!

We are pleased to announce the addition of Holly to our reception staff! Prior to joining the Jordan Creek Animal Hospital team, she gained experience working with animals in hospital, rescue, and boarding settings. She is particularly interested in dog behavior and training as well as promoting pet adoption.

We are so excited to have Holly as a member of the JCAH family! Make sure to say "Hi" the next time you stop in!

## MEET THE STAFF/our editors for this issue of Pet Gazette



**Dr. Dan Whitney** was born and raised in West Okoboji, Iowa and received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Iowa State University in 1979. Prior to building Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in 1991, he worked for 12 years at a multi-doctor veterinary practice in Barrington, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Dr. Whitney's family consists of his wife Loraine, daughter Lauren and son Daniel. His family also includes an American Water Spaniel named Murphy and a cat named Yogi. In addition to spending time with his family and pets, Dr. Whitney enjoys photography and gardening.



**Amy King, RVT** grew up in Milford, Iowa near Lake Okoboji. In September 1999, she received her Associate of Applied Sciences degree from the Medical Institute of Minnesota. She moved to the Des Moines area shortly after and began working at Jordan Creek in April 2001. Amy, husband Rawley, daughter Elizabeth, and sons Ethan and Emmett share their home with their "3 Felines" – Rudy, Buzz, and Ace. When she isn't busy at work or spending time with her family, she enjoys biking, swimming, and shopping.