



# The McClave Tailwagger

Volume 25, Issue 4

Winter 2017

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>International Health Certificates</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Miracle of Love</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Hoodoo's Diary: Letter to Santa</b>	<b>3</b>

## Local Area Updates

- The Canine Flu continues to be identified in the southland with sporadic incidences appearing in boarding facilities. If you have a social dog who boards frequently or attends day care, we recommend you vaccinate him/her for the Canine Flu.
- An outbreak of Canine Distemper has been identified in the racoon population of the south bay. Dogs can contract distemper from racoons, so make sure any dog with potential wildlife exposure is current on his/her vaccines.

## Warm Wishes This Holiday Season

As I am writing this newsletter, the wind is howling outside. I peak through my window and I see the bright blue sky being infiltrated with patches of dense brown smoke. Fires have raged in the last 36 hours and more winds are being forecasted. I keep humming Christmas songs so that I can put myself in the mood, but reality bites and I find myself distracted by the news—fire storm! Yesterday, we opened the hospital to evacuated pets; small ones was our criteria as we only have seven runs and can not house many big dogs. We have welcomed four cats yesterday and two cats so far this AM. This fire thing does not show signs of abating and I find myself rehearsing how many natural disasters have beset our country this year. How can we provide support? Do we donate money when we can? Do we provide our skills? Do we keep our head afloat and persevere?

May be that everyone's role in life is different. May be some of us need to donate our skill or facility while others provide money or emotional support. On October 9th, the California Veterinary Medical Association deployed its Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC) to Santa Rosa. 375 volunteers participated in caring for and treating evacuated animals over 11 days and the entire industry donated supplies and temporary homes for displaced animals. While we hope that our current crisis does not warrant a new CAVMRC deployment, I am grateful to be in a nurturing profession and surrounded by people— staff and clients—who have opened their homes, hearts and skills to the defenseless animals.

As you gather with your families to celebrate the holidays, we wish you a blessed holiday season. May your homes always be filled with health, gratitude and joy and Happy New Year from all the staff at VCA McClave Animal Hospital.



*A Present? For me?  
Please Don't Let Me Swallow the Ribbon!*

## Meet the California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps

The California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC) is the largest veterinary medical reserve corps in the country. It is composed of veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and students in veterinary medical programs. The CAVMRC provides veterinary professionals with the training and credentialing necessary to deploy under state authorities during declared emergencies. The California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) has registered the CAVMRC as a unit of the Medical Reserve Corps under the California Emergency Medical Services Agency and works in cooperation with local, statewide, and national agencies.

The CAVMRC does not rescue animals, but it sets up shop at the evacuation centers and offers assistance to all the animals and strays that are hurt or displaced during a natural disaster. In addition to treating injured animals, the CAVMRC volunteers assist with animal intake and donation distribution, handles public questions and supports local veterinarians who may be overwhelmed with incoming patients. The CAVMRC is partially funded by the California Veterinary Medical Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the CVMA. To help aid animals in disaster, please visit <http://www.cvmf.net>.

# The Do's and Don'ts of Health Certificates

If you intend to travel with your pet by plane, the airline will require a health certificate before your pet is authorized to travel. Health certificates are documents required by the USDA for interstate and international animal movements. Health certificates are provided by veterinarians after they inspect an animal before travel. Said veterinarian must be accredited before issuing any Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).

The USDA requires that all traveling animals must be examined and determined to be healthy and fit to travel. It also requires that all traveling animals are identified with an official ID such as a microchip. All other requirements such as vaccines, antibody testing and deworming are determined by the state or country at destination. While domestic health certificates are simple one-page documents obtainable at most veterinarians, international health certificates are confusing elaborate documents that require extensive preparation and are becoming increasingly difficult to fill out.

The article below is simply a guideline for all traveling pets. While it may come too late for those traveling around the holidays, we hope that you will save it for future references.

## Domestic Health Certificates:

This is the document necessary to travel by plane to any U.S. or Canadian destination. The document is fairly easy to fill-out. Rabies vaccination is required for all dogs and many states require it also for cats. The exam must document that the pet is fit to travel and is free of communicable diseases. While a domestic health certificate lasts technically for 30 days, many airlines require that the health certificate be issued within 10 days of travel, so check with your airline before departure. Some airline place restrictions on pet travel during extreme weather if the pet will be placed in a holding area (not flying in the main cabin and not on a direct flight). Again, check with your airline. Domestic health certificates do not require USDA endorsement after they are completed.

## International Health Certificates:

Let's just say that international health certificates are a testament of paper complexity and deciphering them warrants a medal for patience. As a

matter of fact, many local veterinarians are no longer accepting to fill out international health certificates and are referring them out to pet transport agencies whose popularity has recently mushroomed. If you intend to take your pet out of the country, plan early and plan well. We can not tell you how many clients were unable to travel last minute because they had not gathered the necessary paperwork by travel time or had read them wrong. In general the following is necessary for international travel:

1. Determine the export requirement of your country of destination. In other words, what does Fluffy need in order to be admitted into country X. The requirements can be found by typing **APHIS PET TRAVEL** on any computer search engine and navigating to the country of destination.
2. Determine the timetable required for the required tasks. Special note should be made to the rabies vaccine, microchipping in relation to the rabies vaccine and the time elapsed for any diagnostic test.
3. Visit a veterinarian who will examine your pet and issue your international health certificate (see below). Please note that the required tasks may need to be performed well ahead of the health certificate visit and more than one visit to the veterinarian may be necessary.
4. Have your international health certificate endorsed by the USDA.

## Traveling to Rabies Free Islands

Islands that are rabies free such as Hawaii, Great Britain and Australia have extensive requirements and mandatory quarantines for incoming dogs and cats. Preparation six months ahead (at times, longer) is imperative before travel is considered. A shortened quarantine has recently been enacted for all travel to Hawaii, but it still

requires a lengthy preparation and impeccable paperwork.

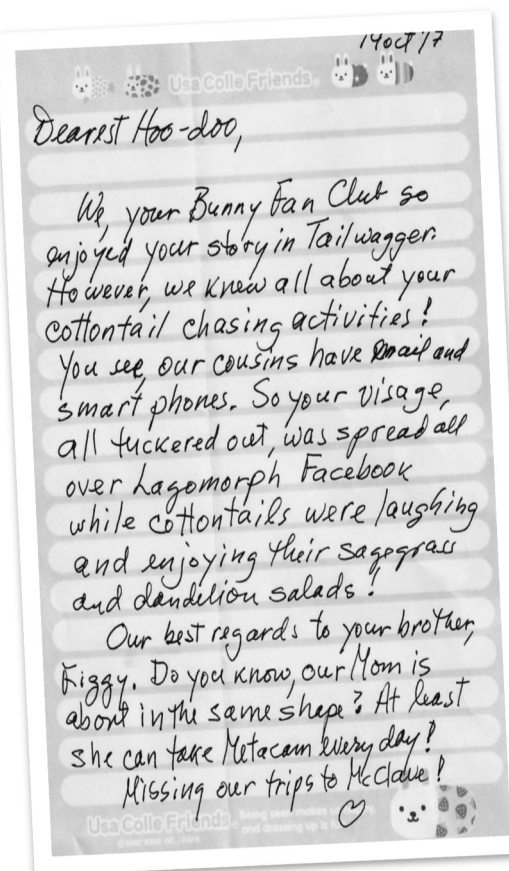
## Your Health Certificate Appointment at McClave's:

In order to make sure that you will be able to travel as intended, you will be required to speak with a veterinary assistant that has been trained to fill out your paperwork. Once we determine that you are within the required timeline, we will schedule you an apt. with our staff and doctor. Health certificates are by appointment only. Please be patient during the process.

A well designed plan is the only way to avoid putting a dent in your planned journey.



**Don't Be Caught Unprepared Before Travel**  
Visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel)



## The Miracle of Love by Gail Powers

Flipper is a three year old Labrador/Airedale. Mama had only eight teats for ten puppies and we were afraid Flip would not survive. When Flip was about a week old, he stopped nursing for two days. I sent a prayer to the Universe, "Please let him live. If he lives, I will take him and give him a good life." My prayer was answered and Flip started nursing again that night. I think I saved Flip that night but he saves me every day. Flipper is the happiest dog I have ever met. He always wants to play. Everyone who has met Flip says he is the sweetest and smartest dog they have met. And while Flipper is challenged with walking he loves to swim in the pool and body surf at the beach. My dream is for Flipper and I to become a Therapy Dog Team so that we can visit in hospitals, especially with children.

Flipper was born with four deformed paws. They are all unique in their deformities; each paw has it's own challenges. One of his back paws has no nails or bones poking out, it is just a big pad. Ironically, it is his best paw. In addition, all of his paws are atrophied which means they are very tender, dry and brittle. His pads are grey from the atrophy. They need regular oiling with balms and ointments and he has to wear socks and shoes when we go outside. It took many months before we could see what his challenges were. As he gets older, his paws seem to be getting more tender.

Dr. Nada Khalaf from VCA McClave, has been Flipper's vet since he was a pup and she knew of a special veterinarian, Dr. Kirk Wendelburg from Animal Specialty Group ([www.asgvets.com](http://www.asgvets.com)), who had performed restorative surgery for big cats - lions, tigers, cougars, etc. These cats were cruelly declawed when they were cubs. Declawing is actually an amputation of the first digit. Consequently, as the big cats grew, the bones began pushing through the bottom of their paws. They were in constant pain and could not walk.



In Flipper's case, the repair is very similar to the big cats. He only had 6 or so very abnormal nails that you could see outside of his body. There are little sharp nails and remnants inside of the paws that can only be seen by X-ray. His first surgery was August 1, 2017, on his right front paw. Dr.

Wendelburg amputated the first digits and wrapped the tendons around the end of the bones to relieve the pressure and protect the bones. The recovery was very challenging because he would not walk on his paw for many weeks, which meant his left front paw was bearing all the weight. The left front paw also needs surgery so he was very uncomfortable. Now, four months post surgery, he is walking well on the repaired paw and feels clearly better.

I cannot tell you how grateful I am that Dr. Khalaf came up with the idea of sending us to Dr. Wendelburg! How lucky are we to live so close to the one and only veterinarian who could help Flipper. The procedure for the big cats has never been performed on a dog before. Flipper is the first! We were not certain of the outcome because there is no precedent but Dr. Wendelburg felt confident that Flip would have significant improvement and he was right!

Flipper will need two more corrective surgeries to be pain-free but I have no doubt that we are on the right path. He may need prosthetics in the future and fortunately 3D printing has revolutionized prosthetics! I am working on putting up a Facebook page for Flipper documenting his unique journey. I made a small movie on YouTube if you want to see some of Flip's journey. <https://youtu.be/f1PmAngCWIU>

## Hoodoo's Diary: Letter to Santa

### Dearest Santa:

It is me Hoodoo, the really good Dachshund. I am really good, you know. There may have been some incidents that you may have heard about, but you must not believe it all... Like that Sunday when I chased squirrels and barked all day long? It was really squirrel's fault-he was taunting me. Not to mention that my momma has a bum ankle lately and has not walked me much. I needed to maintain my shape. You must understand that, you, of all people, since you carry a little extra weight on that belly of yours. If I gain weight like you, my back

will be history! So you must understand, that was plain old exercise for me. Momma always exaggerates anyway and is rarely in tune to my true needs: I am a Dachs-hund; I am supposed to bark; ask the AKC-they will confirm my story.

You may have also heard that I always eat the cat food. Momma probably told you that I eat it daily, but she lies, I have said that before. I only sneak a little bit of cat food here and there because Momma plainly underfeeds me. Is it true that

you see me when I am sleeping? What time do **YOU** go to bed?

Has Momma told you how nice I was with my cousins over thanksgiving? Even Momma acknowledged it. Those wretched little toddlers were all over the place for four long days, Santa, and I was an angel straight from Heaven. Bless you Santa for understanding... Please have a special gift in store for me-I am easy to please: squeaky toys, cat food, a cotton tail rabbit, a squirrel or two... Squirrel? Did someone say Squirrel???



VCA McClave Animal Hospital  
6950 Reseda Blvd  
Reseda, CA 91335

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Canoga Park, CA  
Permit No.250



6950 Reseda Blvd  
Reseda, CA 91335

Phone: 818-881-5102  
Fax: 818-881-2831

Regular Hours:  
M-F 9AM-8PM; Sat, Sun 8:30AM-4:30PM

## VCA MCCLAVE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

The McClave Tailwagger is a  
publication produced by  
VCA McClave Animal Hospital

We are open 24  
hours with a Doctor  
on the premises at  
all times.

## THE MCCLAVE TEAM

### Veterinarians

Dr. Greg Sauer  
Dr. Nada Khalaf  
Dr. Kelly Miller  
Dr. Senta Hutchinson  
Dr. Hughes Sanders  
Dr. Meredith Limber  
Dr. Lorie Kiss  
Dr. Galleet Khouban  
Dr. Yelena George  
Dr. Lorenzo Escobar

Hospital Manager  
Megan Potter

Administrative Assistant  
Jaymie Azevedo

Newsletter Editor  
Dr. Nada Khalaf

Tailwagger Columnist  
Hoodoo

### Front Office

Gissele Alvarez	Zaira Alzaga
Vanessa Amezcua	Victoria Anleu
Kimberly Conte	Jennifer Gomez
Erin Graham	Patrick Hernandez
Larry Herskovic	Marissa Lattimer
Jason Litinsky	Alexis Meza-Lara
Amber Muraro	Lynda Nelson
Angie Ochoa	Christina Sergoyan
Ashkan Shariat	Kristen Wendel

### Veterinary Technicians and Assistants

Diana Alcantar	Zulma Argueta
Paolo Ayala, RVT	Omar Barajas
Kyle Bishop	Jessica Farid
Ashley Franco	Rene Gates
Devin Groman	Saritt Konkankit
Sindy Maldonado	Matilde Gomez
Melissa Matheson, RVT	Diana Morataya
Randi Peterson	Kathy Puhl, RVT
Jessica Ponce	Rosa Rodriguez, RVT
Stephanie Rodriguez	Jose Ruiz
Denise Tapia, RVT	Stephanie Tohaza
Simone Trimm	Jasson Valenzo
Chelsea Weiland	Danya Yarcce
Kewan Williams, RVT	Jessica Zelaya
Dusadee Watanachang	

Visit us at [www.vcamcclave.com](http://www.vcamcclave.com)

Accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association