



The Animal Neurology Center

JANUARY 2026



www.AnimalNeurologyCenter.com

A word from the owner

January marks the official one-year anniversary of The Animal Neurology Center, and it's a moment that invites both reflection and gratitude. In just twelve months, we've learned an extraordinary amount and grown in ways that continue to energize us—but what has remained constant is our unwavering commitment to excellent patient outcomes and to informed, supported clients navigating some of the most difficult moments of pet ownership.



Over this first year, ANC has grown to a 14-member team, performed more than 900 MRI studies, and completed over 380 surgeries—helping paralyzed animals walk again, restoring comfort to pets with intractable pain, and removing nefarious tumors of the nervous system. These outcomes feel especially meaningful during the holiday season, when families come together and the presence of healthy, comfortable pets matters more than ever.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this year has been watching our staff grow into leaders in every sense. Veterinary medicine can be a very top-down, hierarchical profession, where some of the most essential voices are too often the least heard. With the guidance of a professional coach, we've intentionally leaned into building a culture that supports universal growth and shared ownership. This approach not only elevates patient care—it creates an environment where ANC truly belongs to everyone who works here.

As we launch this newsletter as a monthly touchpoint, my hope is that it helps you feel just as much a part of ANC as we do. Our educational offerings for veterinarians have brought the community together in ways that feel both organic and enduring, creating a stable platform for learning, connection, and collaboration. I've long believed that the St. Louis veterinary community is special because we are colleagues, not competitors, and ANC is proud to be a hub that helps foster that spirit.

Wishing you a wonderful beginning to the new year. We're deeply grateful for your trust and partnership—and excited to see what 2026 brings.
Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred".

Fred Wininger, VMD, MS, DACVIM (Neurology)

Owner / Neurologist / Neurosurgeon

Meet an ANC Team Member

Kristin Linda, Hospital Director



Kristin Linda was lured from Charlotte to St. Louis to serve as a founding leader at The Animal Neurology Center. We may have promised that it never snows, traffic is nonexistent, and the pizza is second to none... some of those things turned out to be true. What is absolutely true is that Kristin has been instrumental in shaping the culture, systems, and experience that define ANC today.

With a background in corporate management and event planning, Kristin excels at bringing teams together, keeping a sharp focus on our core values, and prioritizing luxury-level care for both patients and the people who love them. Her leadership style blends structure with warmth, creating an environment where excellence and compassion coexist seamlessly. Kristin's lesser-known—but widely celebrated—superpower is her ability to produce the best grilled cheese in the Midwest, reliably lifting staff morale during even the most stressful moments. When she's not supporting the internal team, Kristin is actively connecting with our referring veterinary hospitals, reinforcing ANC's commitment to open feedback, strong relationships, and continuous improvement in service to the primary care teams who trust us. And she's rarely alone—her dachshund is never far behind. This little soldier packs a big personality into a small body, and if you've ever owned a wiener dog, you understand completely. When you stop by, ask to meet him—a smile is guaranteed.

AnimalNeurology.com/our-home-our-heart/

Case of the Month: Mia

Signalment & Presentation

Mia Joy is a 1.5-year-old spayed female Dachshund who presented to The Animal Neurology Center after being involved in a motor vehicle accident while riding in the cabin of a car. While her owner was recovering from injuries sustained in the crash, our team had the privilege of caring for Mia. On presentation, she was paralyzed in her hind limbs, prompting immediate advanced diagnostic evaluation.

Diagnostic Highlights

Advanced imaging with MRI and CT showed that several of the bones in Mia Joy's spine (T8-9) had fractured and shifted out of their normal alignment following the accident. This shift caused a bruise to the spinal cord, which explained her paralysis in the back legs. While the spinal cord itself was not severed, the displaced bones created a serious concern that any further movement could worsen the injury, potentially leading to permanent damage.

Because the injured vertebrae were unstable, the primary goal of treatment was to prevent additional shifting, allowing the spinal cord the best possible chance to heal safely over time.

Scan to watch more of Mia's story!



Case of the Month: Mia (cont'd)

Treatment & Innovation

Given Mia's young age and small size, traditional invasive stabilization surgery was felt to carry an unacceptably high risk. Instead, a custom external splint was recommended to provide spinal alignment and protection while minimizing risk. Fortunately, ANC is not the only innovative enterprise located at 11652 Studt Avenue. Dr. Winger is also the owner and operator of [3D Veterinary Printing](#), a company specializing in patient-specific anatomic models and custom surgical tools. Leveraging this expertise, we designed and 3D-printed a bespoke spinal splint tailored precisely to Mia's anatomy, providing optimal alignment, protection, and comfort during her recovery.

Outcome

Several weeks later, Mia Joy returned for re-evaluation, including repeat CT imaging. Clinically, she was ambulatory with minimal support, and imaging confirmed excellent spinal stability. She has since been cleared to return to normal activity without the splint, an outcome we are profoundly grateful to share.

Referring Veterinarian Spotlight

This case was referred to us by the [Veterinary Emergency Group in Brentwood, MO](#). We extend our sincere thanks for their excellent emergent care, continued support, and trust in our team. This case highlights what is possible through thoughtful referral, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovative problem-solving in service of our shared patients.





Industry Partners

PRN Pharmaceuticals is a valued industry partner whose mission closely aligns with our own commitment to thoughtful, evidence-based patient care. PRN develops a range of medications for veterinary use, and the product we rely on most frequently in neurology is potassium bromide—a time-tested anticonvulsant that is experiencing a well-deserved resurgence.

Potassium bromide is an older medication with renewed relevance, valued for its proven efficacy, once-daily administration, and relatively broad safety profile when used appropriately. It has conditional use specific to animals and can be an excellent option for select patients. Common, typically mild side effects may include sedation, increased thirst and urination, and mild pelvic limb wobbliness. More serious adverse effects, such as pancreatitis, are considered rare. If you're wondering whether bromide may be appropriate for your pet or patient, our team is always available for consultation.

Beyond bromide itself, PRN has been a true supporter of ANC, with a genuine emphasis on partnership. For us, partnership means far more than cost-conscious products—it reflects a shared recognition of the value we provide each other as we look toward the future of veterinary medicine.



PRN has consistently demonstrated a commitment to translating traditional pharmaceuticals into veterinary-specific applications, advancing care in ways that are both practical and impactful.

Dr. Winger frequently works with PRN as a subject matter expert, advising on which medications warrant development, their potential clinical applications, and the nuances of real-world patient care. PRN has also sponsored numerous ANC continuing education events with a philosophy of "above-brand learning." By this, we mean providing resources to support high-quality educational programming without expectation of direct product promotion—simply elevating the field as a whole.

This is exactly the type of industry alliance we value at The Animal Neurology Center—one grounded in trust, collaboration, and a shared goal of advancing veterinary medicine for patients, clients, and clinicians alike.

From the CE Lecture Hall

Highlights From Last Month's Continuing Education Event Topic: Taking a Better Approach to HCM

Speaker(s): Natalie Marks, DVM, CVJ, CCFP, Elite FFCEP-V
Attendance: More than 50 veterinarians from Missouri and Illinois!

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the discussion—we're grateful to learn with our community.



Scan to watch
the lecture!

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Feline HCM is most often a subclinical disease.** The majority of affected cats fall into **Stage B (especially B1 or B2)** and may appear completely normal at home. Absence of clinical signs does not equal low risk, particularly in cats with left atrial enlargement.
- ✓ **Diagnostics remain imperfect—risk stratification is the challenge.** Echocardiography is essential but our current tools have **limited positive predictive value** for identifying which preclinical cats will progress to CHF or thromboembolism. Emerging biomarkers, including **microRNA**, may represent the future of earlier and more accurate risk prediction.
- ✓ **Therapeutic options are limited, but progress is emerging.** There is no curative therapy for HCM, and treatment in preclinical stages remains controversial. However, **calcium channel modulation (e.g., felycin)** may represent a step forward in targeted management, particularly as our understanding of disease mechanisms evolves.



Education & Events Calendar



**Thursday,
January 22nd
7:00 pm**

Trivia Night-Neurology Edition (ANC | St. Louis, MO)

Veterinarians will break into teams for three rounds of video based trivia-Prizes to be Awarded!



**Thursday,
February 26th
7:00 pm**

Ophthalmology Faux Paws | Dr. Zimmerman of Animal Eye Associates (ANC | St. Louis, MO)

Most common misdiagnosed or mismanaged ophtho cases!



WHERE YOU'LL FIND ANC DOCTORS SPEAKING

• January 17–20, 2026 – Veterinary Medicine Expo (VMX)- Orlando, FL

Speaker: Dr. Fred Wininger

Topics include veterinary monitoring technologies and seizure management

• January 29–31, 2026 – Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) -Columbia, MO

Speaker: Dr. Fred Wininger

Vestibular syndrome, neurologic gait analysis, and neurologic challenges in French Bulldogs

• February 14–18, 2026 – Western Veterinary Conference (WVC)-Las Vegas, NV

Speaker: Dr. Fred Wininger

12 hours of lecture including 3D printing in veterinary medicine, seizure management, and management of megaesophagus

• March 12–15, 2026 – International Veterinary Seminars (IVS)-kauai, HI

Speaker: Dr. Fred Wininger

8-hour module on emergent neurologic conditions and their management

• March 31 – April 2, 2026 – Southeast Veterinary Neurology Conference-Miami, FL

Speaker: Dr. Fred Wininger

Electrophysiologic techniques for neuromuscular disease, presented to veterinary residents

• 4/29-5/1 – Siemens Innovation Summit-Nashville TN

Speaker: Dr. Fred Wininger

"Fur Fields and Paw Pulses: Inside Veterinary Neuroimaging". Dr. Wininger teaches human imaging technologists about the challenges faced in veterinary imaging.