

Veterinary Teaching Hospital News



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vet.osu.edu

601 Vernon Tharp St.
Columbus OH 43210
(614) 292-3551 (small animals)
(614) 292-6661 (large animals and equine)
Regular hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon.–Fri.;
evening/weekend appointments available
Emergency hours: Open 24 hours,
seven days a week



A billboard on SR-315 south near campus announcing new 24/7 emergency services (artist's rendering).

Veterinary Hospital now offers 24/7 emergency services for all animals

After years of closing the clinic doors when the clock struck midnight, the small animal portion of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital is now staying open for emergencies all night long. The Galbreath Equine Center and the large animal section have been available for emergencies for years, but the decision to offer 24/7 emergency services for small animals is new. For the past several years, we recognized a need to add a 24/7 Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Service in order to better serve the public. The new service augments student-learning opportunities and resident-training programs and improves private practitioner consultation and referral services. We are happy to provide an emergency option for people living near campus and in Columbus and surrounding areas when time is critical. Saving 10 or 15 minutes in transportation time can sometimes make the difference between life and death. Emergency and critical care services are provided by interns, residents, and faculty. An on-call anesthesia and surgical team is also ready for any emergency needs.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR



Rustin M. Moore

Grant S. Frazer

Greetings! The crisp, cool days of autumn are here, along with a brand new class of veterinary students.

Last summer we welcomed a new class of resident veterinarians and interns, as well as some new faculty members. Our small animal emergency service is now open 24 hours, seven days a week, and continues to grow and serve more pets and people. We acquired a state-of-the-art canine treadmill, and our rehabilitation and weight management programs have been busy since their initiation. Inspiring and unique cases continue to come through our clinic doors every day. This diversity not only strengthens our clinical program but provides invaluable opportunities for veterinary students to learn from

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Canine rehabilitation helps patients make great strides

By Kristine McComis

At the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, new physical rehabilitation facilities, including a new water treadmill, provide the opportunity for more rapid recovery in patients following surgery. In a recent case, the facilities helped a previously paralyzed patient regain the ability to walk. The use of physical therapy to assist with recovery in human patients is well-accepted medical practice, and similar methods will allow advanced care for our veterinary patients.

Following orthopedic and neurosurgeries, patients risk developing pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and bed sores if they don't regain mobility right away. Unlike a "land" treadmill, the underwater treadmill supports the entire weight of an animal. "The buoyancy of the water enables them to move better," explained Dr. Jon Dyce, associate professor of surgery. Depending on the patient, the underwater treadmill can shorten the recovery time from months to weeks.

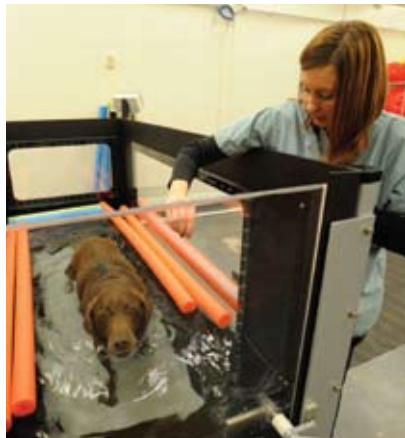
In addition to the underwater treadmill, the canine rehabilitation facility houses a land treadmill, an agility course, balls, and other toys to encourage play and movement. Although the majority of patients will be recovering from joint or spinal surgeries, arthritic and obese patients also will

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benefit from the treadmill through the Veterinary Hospital's Healthy Weight Management program. In addition, strength and conditioning training for working dogs and rehabilitation of athletic injuries will be offered.

Registered veterinary technician Tracy Marsh, who is in the process of getting certified in canine rehabilitation, has jumped right in—literally—getting her feet wet when assisting with treadmill sessions.

The Canine Rehabilitation project was facilitated by a generous gift from Mrs. Barbara Trueman. Other donors, including Leota and John



Vet technician Tracy Marsh assists Tessa on the treadmill.

Folsom and William Meeks, are recognized for their generous contributions toward the purchase of equipment.

“We are incredibly grateful to the supportive friends of the hospital,” said Dr. Dyce. “Their generous donations have greatly increased our quality of care.”

Please join us to make a real difference in the lives of thousands of animals.

Everyone can take part—individuals, foundations, and corporations. In partnering with The Ohio State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, you help to improve the quality of life for all animals and promote excellence in veterinary education. To make a tax-deductible donation, please make your check payable to the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine and mail to: Development Office, Room 125L, 1900 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210.

If you have any questions or prefer to give by phone, please contact Katie Kostyo at (614) 688-8433.

Supporting canine rehab

By Melissa Weber

When Leota and John Folsom's beloved Sheltie developed complications, their veterinarian, Ohio State alumnus Dr. David Williams, recommended the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Hamish-Bean

“Our first experience with Ohio State was when Hamish developed adrenal Cushing's disease,” said Mrs. Folsom. “The veterinarians, the students—everybody at Ohio State was just fabulous in assisting us with Hamish.”

After Hamish passed away, the Folsoms bought two other shelties, Duncan and McTavish. Soon after the adoption, McTavish (aka Mickey) developed a limp. Tests to determine the source of the

problem were inconclusive, and, again, Dr. Williams recommended Ohio State.

This time, they met with Dr. Jon Dyce, who assessed the situation and charted a course of treatment. “We really appreciated Dr. Dyce's thoroughness,” she said. “And the student, Rebecca Pentecost, was so helpful. We appreciated Dr. (Blake) Hildreth's kindness also. He never minded our phone calls and questions. We were very lucky because after the affected joint was treated, Mickey hasn't had any other problems.”

After Mickey's treatment, they learned that Dr. Dyce was interested in developing a physical rehabilitation facility for dogs. The Folsoms decided to support this program with a gift.

“We decided that it was very exciting and we wanted to help out with it,” she said. “We have been so impressed with Ohio State,” added Mr. Folsom. “We know that people are aware of Ohio State's great reputation in areas like law and medicine, and we want people to remember their pets too. Our contribution will benefit the animals in our lives who give us so much, and we hope other people will want to help with their care. We really appreciated how well we have been cared for in the College of Veterinary Medicine.”

Healing Utah: intensive care saves baby burro

By Kristine McComis

Two years ago, Carolyn and Jim Loxley decided to adopt a wild burro from the Bureau of Land Management to deter predators on their farm. They intended to adopt just one burro, a jack (male) named “Edward R. Burro,” until they spotted a jenny (female) of the same age they couldn't resist. Throw in a nine-month-old mustang, and the Loxleys came home with three family additions.

Mrs. Loxley experienced some difficulty gentling the burros and eventually turned back to the Bureau of Land Management for advice. After separating the burros and altering their feeding habits, the burros settled down, but the jenny, named Nevada, was already pregnant. On May 19, 2008, little Utah was born, a first-generation domestic burro. Soon, it became clear that Utah was not doing well. Despite the Loxley's efforts, Utah began to appear lethargic and dehydrated, so they brought her to Ohio State's Galbreath Equine Center for treatment.

“Upon presentation to the neonatal intensive care unit, Utah was very still, unable to stand, and dehydrated,” explained Dr. Phoebe Smith, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. “Blood work revealed that she had consumed adequate colostrum produced by her dam (mother), but it also showed evidence of



Nevada and baby Utah at the Equine Center

septicemia, an infection in her bloodstream and throughout her body. We began treating her aggressively with intravenous antibiotics and fluids and providing nursing care.”

Utah then developed additional complications. The bacteria in her bloodstream settled into her hock joints and then into her stifles and left elbow. She required multiple general anesthesia sessions to flush and treat the infected joints. Two of the growth plates in her hind limbs also became infected—a very serious infection that meant prolonged

antibiotic therapy, multiple anesthetics, and many more treatments.

Despite the gravity of her disease, Utah grew stronger and more independent as treatment progressed. Before long, she began having supervised visits with her mother for short periods of nursing. By the 12th day of hospitalization, Utah was strong enough to be free in the stall with her mother. Her last exam was in August 2008, and, to date, she has made a full recovery.

Mrs. Loxley sings the praises of Ohio State during this difficult time. “It was a combination of a horrible (Utah's illness) and wonderful (the care and compassion Dr. Smith and others at Ohio State provided) experience.” She thanked Dr. Smith on being a great role model for her grandniece, who someday dreams of being a veterinarian.



Betty and her babies

By Alan Woods

Difficult medical cases are often referred to the Ohio State Veterinary Teaching Hospital. In one particular case, a pregnant ewe arrived with vaginal prolapse, an affliction often attributed to a number of underlying factors. Correcting a prolapse—not an uncommon problem for ewes late in their pregnancy—is a relatively straightforward procedure, but delivering ewes through natural birth after a recent surgery can cause complications and can trigger further prolapse. After mending the prolapse, the veterinarians decided to keep the ewe in the hospital through delivery to avoid complications.

“The assumption was that we would have to perform a C-section,” explained Dr. Susie Vogel, a former instructor in clinical sciences. When animals require a long hospital stay, students are quick to give them a proper name, and this ewe was dubbed “Betty.”

“When Betty came in, she was an ornery little booger,” said Dr. Vogel. “She wasn’t pleased with all the attention she was getting, especially the attention to her back side. But she eventually warmed up to the students and would actually stick her nose through the bars if anyone would walk by.”

The students warmed up to Betty, too, and began appeasing her cries for attention by scratching her nose and spoiling her with peppermints.

“Then, one morning, she just had her babies without any help and without any prolapse,” Dr. Vogel said. “The births went quickly and smoothly with no assistance and she proved to be a great mother. She was talking to them right away and they were responding right back.”

Betty had two strong and healthy lambs, one ram and one ewe—two more naming opportunities. Students named the boy Bret Maverick, and the girl was affectionately named Boop. All three were able to be sent back home with their owner a few days later.

It is these kinds of stories that Dr. Vogel hopes will attract veterinary students to large animal practice, an area in which there is currently a need for students. She said it’s great to see students who come into their rotations intimidated by large animals and before long are bringing them treats.

“I decided that if there was this shortage of food animal veterinarians in the United States that maybe I ought to step up to the plate,” she said. “It’s great to get to do what I love while contributing to the ultimate good.”

Editor’s note: Dr. Vogel is now at the University of Montreal (Canada), where she started a three-year food animal surgery residency in July.

Healthy weight pays off for pets

By Kristine McComis

While the country’s obsession with dieting and losing weight often makes headlines, our pudgy pets usually don’t make the news. With some 30 percent of dogs and cats tipping the scales at their vets’ offices, the Ohio State Veterinary Teaching Hospital has launched a Healthy Weight Management Clinic, under the direction of nutrition expert Dr. Tony Buffington, professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences.



Dr. Tony Buffington

Some people dismiss a veterinarian’s concern that a pet is overweight, often assuming that their pet simply eats too much. They often realize the importance of a weight loss program too late, after a pet experiences health problems caused by or exacerbated by extra weight, such as breathing problems, osteoarthritis, decreased immune function, and diabetes. In many cases, losing the weight greatly relieves or lessens the severity of the disease and allows the pet to live more comfortably.

The Healthy Weight Management Clinic looks at the deeper issues behind pet obesity, including behavioral issues. Owners may think their animal is begging for food, when the animal is simply begging for attention. Or there could be stressors in the environment at home such as a constant flow of people in and out of the house. Family members may not be aware of each other’s behavior as well. One sibling may be throwing a treat to the dog without realizing that another sibling did the same thing a half hour before.

Another factor contributing to obesity may be a lack of environmental stimulation for indoor animals. Dr. Buffington explained that instead of just providing food in a bowl for our animals, we can make them work a bit harder for it. For example, we can stuff a mouse toy with hard pieces of food so the cat has

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faculty who are respected worldwide for their clinical expertise and research.

The stories in this newsletter reflect only a portion of the exciting developments in services and advancements in patient care that the Ohio State Veterinary Teaching Hospital has to offer. We thank you for your patronage and continued support of our program.

With appreciation,

Grant S. Frazer, BVSc, MS, MBA
Director, Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Rustin M. Moore, DVM, MS, PhD
Chair, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences

About the College of Veterinary Medicine

The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine is ranked fifth in the nation among veterinary schools according to the 2008 *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Graduate Schools." The college includes more than 1,000 faculty, staff, and students in the Departments of Veterinary Biosciences, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, and Veterinary Preventive Medicine. The Veterinary Teaching Hospital is a comprehensive referral center for veterinary practitioners and is among the largest facilities of its kind in the world, with more than 35,000 large and small animal patients each year. In addition, the college operates a nationally recognized large animal ambulatory practice and teaching unit in Marysville, Ohio, and a Food Animal Health Research Program in Wooster at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. More information about the College of Veterinary Medicine can be found at vet.osu.edu.

About VTH News

VTH News is provided to clients of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

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Design and style editing: University Marketing Communications/Creative Services

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to work to extract the morsels. The challenge of getting to the food or treat will also provide some mental stimulation. Even animals can get bored!

The clinic also provides rehabilitation therapy for patients. Obese animals often have arthritis and other problems due to extra weight. "These refinements and improvements in thinking about obesity—beyond overeating—lead to better ways to treat it," noted Dr. Buffington.

Patients are either referred to the clinic, which is run through the Community Practice service, or clients can make appointments on their own. Animals will receive a complete physical exam and consultation with a veterinarian. An environmental and behavior evaluation also will be conducted with the client to determine which tools will be most appropriate for each animal's case. To set up a consultation or enroll in the Healthy Weight Management program, please call (614) 292-3551 or visit vet.osu.edu/nssvet.

Keeping indoor cats healthy

Are you an indoor cat owner? Check out the tips and techniques for preventing stress-related health problems in cats on a DVD featuring Dr. Tony Buffington, professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Produced by the Indoor Cat Initiative, the DVDs are \$15 for one copy and \$10 for each additional copy. If you are located on Ohio State's Columbus campus, the cost for one DVD is \$12 (additional copies are still \$10 each). All profits over direct costs go to support the Indoor Cat Initiative.

To order a copy, download and complete an order form at vet.osu.edu/769.htm and send a check to:

The Indoor Cat Initiative
c/o CVM Continuing Education
601 Vernon Tharp St.
Columbus, OH 43210-108

More information about keeping your cat healthy and happy can be found at www.indoorcat.org.



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