

Veterinary Medicine

NEWS

UCDAVIS School of Veterinary Medicine Newsletter

Vol. 20, No. 1, Spring 2003

Companion Animal Hemodialysis Unit Begins Service in Southern California

A hemodialysis service is the newest addition to the UC Veterinary Medical Center (UCVMC)—San Diego, a joint venture of the Davis and San Diego campuses of the University of California.

Until now, the only place dogs and cats could receive life-saving hemodialysis treatment in California was at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) on the UC Davis campus.

“The School of Veterinary Medicine handles up to 400 treatments each year in dogs and cats in Davis. The availability of this specialty in Southern California will save pets’ lives when time is of the essence,” says VMTH Director Bradford Smith.

UCVMC hemodialysis services are provided in a new facility at the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe.

The official opening last May included a continuing professional education course on renal (kidney) diseases and hemodialysis, and an open house for area veterinarians.

At the core of the San Diego-based hemodialysis team are veterinarian Julie Fischer and registered veterinary technician Paula Thomas, who treat



Paula Thomas, RVT, administers hemodialysis treatment to Jules, referred by her veterinarian for a workup that revealed chronic kidney failure. Two of only four hemodialysis facilities in the nation are located in California: the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at UC Davis, and the UC Veterinary Medical Center—San Diego.

both temporary (acute) and chronic renal failure.

Including the newest addition, only four such facilities exist in the United States, and UC Davis has the only

veterinary hemodialysis program in operation at two sites.

The professionals overseeing each of the four programs were all trained by Larry Cowgill, chief of the VMTH Small

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