

HOMELAND SECURITY

FIRST CROSS-COMMODITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST BEGINS RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

A new position has been created in Veterinary Medicine Extension to provide outreach and research related to homeland security.



Dale Moore, associate professor at the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center in Tulare, is the first specialist in livestock and poultry disaster management. Dr. Moore, a veterinary epidemiologist who holds DVM, MPVM and PhD degrees, will be associated with the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense, located in the School of Veterinary Medicine (see

story, page 3). The center is funded by Homeland Security to decrease the nation's vulnerability to bio- or agroterrorism, in collaboration with other national centers.

Livestock and poultry will be the focus of disaster preparedness themes—prevention, detection (surveillance), response and recovery—for both outreach and research. For the next three years Dr. Moore and her collaborators will develop and deliver educational tools to help identify risky behavior in large and small animal operations to decrease California's vulnerability to impacts from foreign animal and zoonotic diseases. She also will do extensive evaluations on six of 14 educational projects under the national center grant.

"Good biosecurity measures for everyday disease prevention will also prepare animal owners for rare, yet devastating, animal disease outbreaks," says Dr. Moore. "Our objective is to get information out immediately to producers and veterinarians while we begin to train professional, graduate, and MPVM (Master of Preventive Medicine) students for employment in Department of Homeland Security positions."

GENETIC DISEASES

LAB OFFERS TWO NEW TESTS

Polycystic Kidney Disease

Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is a well documented abnormality in domestic cats. A test for PKD in Persians, Exotics, Himalayans and Persian first-generation out-crosses is now available through the school's Veterinary Genetics Laboratory.

Glycogen Branching Enzyme Deficiency

The Veterinary Genetics Laboratory has obtained a license from the University of Minnesota, where glycogen branching enzyme deficiency (GBED) was first identified, and has developed a diagnostic test that is now available to horse owners and associations. GBED is a fatal disease that occurs in some newborn foals of Quarter Horse bloodlines. Affected foals lack the enzyme necessary to store glycogen in its branched form. Because the animal cannot store sugar molecules, the heart muscle, brain and skeletal muscles are unable to function.

For more information about these DNA tests, visit the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory Web site (www.vgl.ucdavis.edu).



Clinicians Examine Giant Pandas

Autumn Davidson (DVM, UC Davis, 1985), (lower left), clinical professor of medicine, and Tom Baker, principal ultrasonographer at the VMTH (lower right), visited the Chengdu (China) Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding June 14-28 to evaluate the health of the endangered giant panda. They were members of a Chinese-American collaborative research team organized by veterinarians and scientists from the Smithsonian National Zoological Park, including Drs. Lucy Spelman (DVM, UC Davis, 1990), (second from left), Kati Loeffler (center) and JoGayle Howard (with panda). Mr. Baker performed abdominal ultrasonographic evaluations, while Dr. Davidson was invited to conduct the first known gastrointestinal endoscopic examinations on giant pandas (photos, right).



Belgian Cat Receives Kidney Transplant

The renal transplantation team is all smiles as "Spikey," a 3-year-old cat (on left) from Belgium, recovers from a successful kidney transplant in November. The first European cat to undergo the procedure pioneered at the school, Spikey is one of more than 300 cats and dogs to have successfully undergone kidney transplants at UC Davis since 1987. "Homer," the donor cat (center), has been adopted by a California family.

Front row: Marni McChesney, RVT, Renal Transplant Program coordinator; Melinda Persson, 4th-year student (holding Spikey, the transplant recipient); Amber Behnke, 4th-year student (holding Homer, the transplant donor); Clare Gregory, DVM, director, Renal Transplant Program and Comparative Transplantation Laboratory; Kim Goodrich, small animal surgery resident.

Back row: John Patz, manager, Comparative Transplantation Laboratory; Andrew Kyles, BVMS, PhD, chief of the Small Animal Surgery Service; Gigi Remark, RVT, coordinator, soft-tissue surgery service.

Details about the clinical renal transplant program are online: www.vmeth.ucdavis.edu/vmeth/clientinfo/info/sasurg/felrenaltransplant.html (or [/k9rentrans.html](http://k9rentrans.html)).