New: Clinical Nutrition Services in Southern California

Pets, clients and veterinarians have a new resource in Southern California, the WALTHAM UC Veterinary Medical Center-San Diego Clinical Nutrition Program. Launched in March 2007, the program is staffed by highly trained veterinary nutritionists who offer the following clinical services:

- Recommendations for commercial or formulated home-prepared diets to treat diseases that have a nutritional foundation or require dietary intervention
- Individualized weight-loss and weight-management regimens and follow-up care
- Parenteral nutrition formulations (such as intravenous or intramuscular formulas administered outside the digestive tract)
- Nutritional support and consulting on feeding strategies for critically ill animals
- On-site appointments and remote consulting services.

WALTHAM, the science behind Mars Pet Care brands such as Royal Canin, Pedigree and Whiskas, is partnering with UCVMC-SD to provide start-up support to establish the initiative and secure its successful future.

“Initiation of the WALTHAM UCVMC-SD Clinical Nutrition Service will provide a unique, clinically relevant and highly visible opportunity to bring advanced nutrition for the maintenance of health and function to the care of companion animals,” says Dr. Catherine Woteki, Global Director of Scientific Affairs for Mars, Inc.

The founding of the WALTHAM UCVMC-SD Clinical Nutrition Program extends the school’s highly-regarded nutrition program at UC Davis. Both the Davis and San Diego programs are led by Associate Professor Andrea Fascetti, a board-certified veterinary internist and veterinary nutritionist.

In addition to the surgery, the dogs also received thorough physical examinations, vaccinations and identifying microchips.

“Spay Day is a fantastic opportunity for us to help the community,” says Dean Bennie Osburn. “Volunteers are making a difference in reducing the number of homeless pets euthanized in shelters.”

Sponsors estimate that the regional total of 800 Spay Day surgeries, coordinated by the Sacramento Area Animal Coalition, will prevent approximately 11,000 puppy and kitten births over the next year.

A spayed or neutered pet has a longer, healthier life, with fewer reproductive problems, less cancer and fewer behavior problems. Owners of spayed or neutered animals are also less likely to surrender them to shelters, UC Davis veterinary researchers have found.

The school extends special thanks to the Yolo County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights, Schering-Plough Animal Health and Abbott Animal Health. The organizations provided funds and in-kind contributions to support the Spay Day effort at the School of Veterinary Medicine.