Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to bring you the inaugural issue of VMTH Heartbeat, a new publication geared specifically toward the VMTH’s referring veterinarians. Each quarter, we will bring you the latest happenings throughout the hospital, as we focus on the services and advances in veterinary medicine that impact you, your clients and your patients the most.

Over the past year, we have focused our efforts on improving communication with you and with the community at large. We have appointed our first VMTH Communications Officer, Rob Warren. Rob is a seasoned communications and marketing professional with a background in healthcare and businesses in the private sector. You will get to know Rob well, as he leads our efforts to keep you updated with VMTH news on a timely basis beyond this quarterly newsletter.

Additionally, we will continue to reach out to referring veterinarians, seeking their input through surveys, our two External Advisory Boards (large and small animal), and face-to-face meetings, as we move forward with our efforts on how to best complement your services. We will use the results of all these contacts to guide improvements to better meet your needs in the prompt, professional ways you expect and deserve from us.

Enjoy this first issue of VMTH Heartbeat. Please give us your input and let us know how we can improve it. Your comments are important to us. We also greatly value your feedback on how we are doing as your referral hospital, and how best we can serve you, your clients and your patients.

Regards,

W. David Wilson, BVMS, MS
Director, VMTH

As befitting of the name of this newsletter VMTH Heartbeat, you, our referring veterinarians, are vital to our school’s mission. Enjoy our newest publication, and please let us know how you like it.”

– Michael D. Lairmore, DVM, PhD, Dean, UC Davis SVM
Equine Reproduction at Full Strength Once Again

Following a two-year hiatus, we are once again up to full strength with our equine reproduction services at the VMTH. In the past few months, we have brought on board reproduction specialists Bruce Christensen DVM, MS, DACT, and Ghislaine Dujovne, DVM, MS, DACT, to rebuild the program.

Dr. Christensen, assistant professor, will serve as Chief of Equine Reproduction Service. He comes to UC Davis from Iowa State University where he was Assistant Professor of Clinical Reproduction. Dr. Dujovne, who will serve as associate staff veterinarian and Clinical Professor of Equine Reproduction, previously served as a clinical instructor at Auburn University, where she also completed her residency in theriogenology.

Drs. Christensen and Dujovne provide routine and advanced reproductive care for mares, including but not limited to, diagnostic work-ups on subfertile mares, artificial insemination, ultrasonographic pregnancy diagnosis, twin reduction, pregnant mare care, obstetrics and foaling management. Services provided for stallions include fertility evaluation, investigation of subfertility, stallion breeding management, semen collection and evaluation, preparation and shipment of cooled semen, and freezing of semen. Also available are advanced reproductive technologies, including embryo transfer and collection and freezing of epididymal sperm.

In addition to equine reproduction, Drs. Christensen and Dujovne will also work with camelids and, in the future, small animals, and, perhaps, non-domestic species as they develop student teaching and resident training programs in comparative theriogenology. To learn more about reproductive services at the VMTH, call Drs. Christensen and Dujovne through the Large Animal Clinic at 530-752-0290.

Dr. Jane Sykes Appointed New Director of Small Animal Clinic

Jane Sykes, BVSc(Hons), PhD, DACVIM, has been appointed the new Director of the Small Animal Clinic (SAC) at the VMTH. Succeeding Dr. Dick Nelson, she will lead the educational, patient care and client/referring veterinarian service programs in the SAC and fulfill an important role as a key member of the VMTH Leadership Team. Dr. Sykes’ interaction with faculty, staff, house officers and students will be essential in maintaining the pre-eminent position of our clinical programs.

A faculty member since 2002, Dr. Sykes has served as Chief of the Small Animal Medicine Service and as Biosecurity Officer for the SAC. Outside of the VMTH, she is President of the Specialty of Small Animal Internal Medicine within the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Dr. Sykes has also served as President of the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases, an organization she founded in 2006.

Dr. Sykes looks forward to participating in the design of a world-class hospital that optimizes patient care and provides a pleasant work environment, in which faculty, staff, house officers and students can look forward to coming to work each day. She will also strive to improve external communications with referring veterinarians and increase community awareness of our world-class clinical services.

Dr. Sykes hails from Melbourne, Australia. She completed her residency at the University of Minnesota, where she was also a clinical faculty member before coming to the VMTH.
Dr. Julie Dechant Now Board-Certified Surgeon and Critical Care Specialist

Dr. Julie Dechant, Associate Professor of Clinical Equine Surgical Emergency & Critical Care and faculty Surgeon in the Large Animal Intensive Care Unit, recently passed her board exams in large animal emergency and critical care. Already certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS), she will now be one of the few equine/large animal veterinarians in the world to be dual certified by the American College of Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care (ACVECCS) and ACVS. Dr. Dechant becomes the second Large Animal Clinic faculty member to become ACVECC certified. Dr. Gary Magdesian, who served as Dr. Dechant’s mentor, is board certified by ACVECC, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the American College of Veterinary Pharmacology.

Founded in 1965, the ACVS is the American Veterinary Medical Association-recognized specialty board that sets the standards for advanced professionalism and competence in veterinary surgery. The ACVECC upholds the same stringent standards for emergency and critical care.

Canine Bone Regrowth Trial Successful

Dogs who have had bone tissue removed from the mandible now have hope for a permanent fix. VMTH oral surgeons, Frank Verstraete, BVSc(Hons), DAVDC, DECVS, DEVDC, and Boaz Arzi, DVM, DAVDC, recently teamed with UC Davis biomedical engineers, Kyriacos Athanasiou, PhD, and Dan Huey, PhD, to develop a technique to grow jaw bone.

The four UC Davis colleagues have successfully used commercially available scaffold and an innovative surgical procedure in 12 dogs to date. The dogs either suffered an injury causing a bone gap or have had part of their jaws amputated to remove a tumor. Those dogs now have fully and properly formed mandibular bone and normal jaw and mouth function. This treatment is not approved for human use, but these spectacular results in dogs could shorten the time to human clinical trials, so that this procedure developed by our faculty can ultimately benefit people, as well as their pets.

In the surgery, Drs. Verstraete and Arzi use a specialized titanium plate, molding it to the native jaw bone’s shape. Pilot holes are drilled into the jaw so that later the original shape will be maintained. The plate is then removed, and the diseased portion of the jaw is amputated. Dr. Huey prepares the scaffold by saturating it with bone morphogenetic proteins while Drs. Verstraete and Arzi work. Following the amputation, the plate is re-applied to the remaining bone, followed by implantation of the scaffold. Although a major part of the jaw is amputated, the surgery preserves the shape and integrity of the jaw.

Within two weeks of the surgery, X-rays reveal bone formation. At four weeks, solid bone fills the gap. By three months, the dogs are completely healed.

The dogs’ owners gave consent for these groundbreaking experimental surgeries, and are delighted with the results. If you think your patients could benefit from this groundbreaking procedure, contact Drs. Verstraete and Arzi through the Small Animal Clinic at 530-752-1393.
Got DNA? We’ve Got Answers

The Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL) at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is internationally recognized as a pioneer in DNA-based animal testing. The VGL offers genetic tests to veterinarians, breeders and pet owners that confirm parentage and reveal the presence of inherited diseases and desired genetic traits. Tests are available for horses, livestock, cats, dogs, alpacas and numerous other species.

The International Society for Animal Genetics recognizes the VGL’s parentage tests as international standards, and its forensic unit was the first accredited crime lab dedicated to animal DNA profiling under the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board International program. Learn more about their services at www.vgl.ucdavis.edu or call 530-752-2211.

Access VMTH Website for Information on Your Referrals

The VMTH encourages its referring veterinarians to utilize the Veterinary Medical & Administrative Computer System (VMACS). Through VMACS access, referring veterinarians are able to view cases they have formally referred to the VMTH, as well as cases for which they were identified by the client as the “local veterinarian.” VMACS allows referring veterinarians the ability to see information on their patients such as procedures performed, laboratory results, imaging reports, discharge instructions, pharmacy dispensations and much more. Information on how to access VMACS can be obtained by visiting the “Referring Veterinarians” box on the VMTH homepage at www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vmth.

CE Calendar

Veterinary Continuing Education
(530) 752-3905, Fax: (530) 752-6728
center4cpe@ucdavis.edu

Upcoming Veterinary Continuing Education Events:
- February 9, 2013 – 9th Annual Behavior Medicine Club Symposium, UC Davis
- February 9–10, 2013 – Wildlife and Aquatic Medicine Club Symposium, UC Davis
- March 2–3, 2013 – Avian and Exotic Medicine Club Symposium, UC Davis
- March 9, 2013 – Equine Medicine Club Symposium, UC Davis
- April 6, 2013 – Veterinary Business Management Club Symposium, UC Davis
- April 13–14, 2013 – Canine Medicine Club Symposium, UC Davis
- April 27, 2013 – Holistic Veterinary Medicine Club Symposium, UC Davis
- May 11–12, 2013 – Student Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Symposium, UC Davis

For more information on these and other 2013 CE events, please visit www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ce

Connect with us

For Appointments Call:
Small Animal Clinic: (530) 752-1393
Large Animal Clinic: (530) 752-0290

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