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 Drs. Bruce Christensen and Ghislaine (Gigi) Dujovne to rebuild the program.

Dr. Christensen, assistant professor, will serve as Chief of Equine Reproduction Service. He comes to us 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 (clinical reproduction and obstetrics).

Drs. Christensen and Dujovne provide routine and advanced reproductive care for mares, including but not limited to, diagnostic work-ups on infertile mares, artificial insemination, ultrasonographic pregnancy diagnosis, twin reduction, pregnant mare care, obstetrics and foaling management. Services provided for stallions include fertility evaluation, investigation of infertility, 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.

Dr. Hoareau Receives AKC Fellowship

The Research Committee of the School of Veterinary Medicine selected Dr. Guillaume L. Hoareau as the first recipient of the AKC Canine Health Foundation's Clinician Scientist Fellowship at UC Davis. The fellowship includes a research grant and funding to present his results at a national scientific meeting. UC Davis was one of only five institutions in the country invited to participate in this award program.

Dr. Hoareau, who recently completed his 3rd year of residency at the VMTH, received the news in late August. “It is with great honor and pleasure that I accept the nomination for the fellowship,” stated Dr. Hoareau. “This is a fantastic opportunity for me and my group. I am extremely enthusiastic about working with the AKC.” Dr. Hoareau’s research will be promoted by the AKC CHF and his personal journey as a young scientist will be shared with its donors.

Dr. Hoareau’s research will focus on brachycephalic dogs, which are mostly noted for their short noses. Common breeds include English bulldogs, Boston terriers, Shih Tzus and pugs. Respiratory and cardiovascular problems are common in these breeds. Dr. Hoareau will be leading projects centered on those two areas. He hopes to also use this research as groundwork for his PhD studies.

Congratulations, Dr. Hoareau!
Could Your Dog Be a Blood Donor?

Have you ever wondered where blood comes from when dogs need it during surgery? Well, dogs can be blood donors just like us. In fact, the VMTH has a blood bank on the premises and is always looking for new donors.

The UC Davis Veterinary Blood Bank opened as a service and implemented its community-based canine donor program in February 2008. The hospital’s blood bank collects, processes and stores the canine blood needed for transfusions to treat a variety of conditions in dogs. To date, the blood bank has dispensed over 3100 units of blood products for use in canine patients within the hospital.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated team of Dr. Sean Owens (medical director), Julie Burges (transfusion medicine supervisor), Dyne Hansing (small animal technician) and Sasha Hickman-Beoshanz (large animal technician).

In order to be a blood donor, dogs must meet the following criteria:
- Must weigh at least 55 pounds
- Must have never been pregnant
- Must be between the ages of 1 and 8 years
- Must be in excellent health
- Be willing to be on flea, tick and heartworm preventatives

If you think your dog may be a candidate, please contact the Small Animal Clinic at 530-752-1393. Donations are done on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, as well as two Saturdays a month. All dogs who are able to donate will be given a “goody bag” full of treats in appreciation for their service, and will also receive blood products for life at UC Davis if they should ever be in need of a transfusion. If a donor donates at least every other month, Advantix and Advantage Multi will be provided for the dog courtesy of Bayer (as long they are enrolled in the program).

Happy National Veterinary Technicians Week

In recognizing the significant contributions that veterinary technicians make as an integral part of the veterinary healthcare team, the week of October 9-15 was designated as National Veterinary Technician Week. At the VMTH, we are fortunate to have so many highly qualified and committed veterinary technicians who play a crucial role as members of the VMTH team.

“We recognize your contributions in providing quality care to our patients, as well as helping to assist our clients with your words of encouragement and compassion during their pet’s treatment and hospitalization,” states Frank LaBonté, Hospital Administrator. “We sincerely appreciate all of your contributions, hard work and dedication in providing the best patient care possible. We are also grateful for your contributions and involvement in extending your knowledge and skills to the students and residents who come to the VMTH for their training as veterinarians and specialists.”

“I’d like to personally thank all of the veterinary technicians for their commitment to providing quality care and instruction,” states Dr. David Wilson, VMTH Director. “Our patients, clients, students and residents benefit greatly from your contributions.”
From The Director’s Corner

Welcome to the October issue of VMTH View. Thank you for all the positive feedback on the inaugural issue. Your comments were greatly appreciated. I am happy to hear that View has been so warmly welcomed and trust that you will also enjoy this issue.

We continue to add to the VMTH’s already outstanding faculty and staff. Replenishment of our Equine Reproduction Service has been a priority since the departure of Drs. Liu and Ball. The addition of Drs. Christensen and Dujovne will re-establish our connection to the equine breeding industry and allow us to expand that Service to fulfill our teaching and service visions. I want to welcome them to the VMTH family.

Our already excellent reputation as a world-renowned facility received a few boosts in the past month with Drs. Gregory Ferraro and Larry Galuppo both being featured in the New York Times. Dr. Ferraro took a bold stance against the medicating of racehorses solely for performance purposes, and was prominently featured in a lengthy article on the subject. Meanwhile, Dr. Galuppo contributed to an article on the ever-emerging topic of One Health that is taking hold throughout the medical and veterinary world. Congratulations and thank you for your efforts on these innovative and thought-provoking articles.

I want to personally thank everyone for the hard work and hours you devote to the VMTH. It reflects in the quality of care we are able to offer our patients and clients. When I see the same cars in the parking lot or bikes in the bike rack early in the morning and later into the evening, I am touched by your dedication and commitment to making the VMTH the best it can be. However, I do want to remind you of the importance of finding a good work-life balance. Please don’t hesitate to ask your colleagues for help when things get overwhelming. You will find that others are always willing to pitch in and lend a helping hand.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to contribute items for the VMTH View. Rob Warren, our Communications Officer and View editor, is always looking for great ideas for the next issue. You can reach Rob via email at rjwarren@ucdavis.edu or drop by his office in VMTH 2013 to discuss your suggestions.

All the best,

Dr. W. David Wilson, BVMS, MS
Director, William R. Pritchard VMTH

Did You Know?

…that the VMTH now sees almost 40,000 patients a year?

…that dogs require gold crowns in their mouths because porcelain crowns are not strong enough to sustain the pressure created by the power of their jaws?

…that gorillas turn their backs on each other as a sign of trust?

…that some animals are right or left-pawed? Studies show that dogs, cats, and even horses, have right and left preferences.

This cat appears to be right-pawed.
Thanks and Praise from Grateful Clients

“Trying to save Mystery’s life was a decision that I do not regret for a nanosecond. He meant the world to me like no other. Thank you again for the magnificent work that you do. We felt very privileged to have all of the power of your facility working on our behalf.”
-Kirk Hylan, Novato

“Thank you C Barn staff and the folks in overnight reception. You were all incredibly kind to our hog, Lady Violet.”
-Amy Leonard

“The night receptionist was so nice. It was 1 a.m. and she gave us a lovely rundown of Davis, directing us to some possible hotels. After three hours of driving with a crying/paralyzed dog, I was supremely grateful.”
-Sharon L., Mariposa

Who’s That in the Hall?

Faculty
Dr. Bruce Christensen, DVM, MS, DACT
Chief of Equine Reproduction Service, Assistant Professor of Equine Reproduction
- Hometown – Yakima, Washington
- DVM, Cornell University
- Hobbies: bird watching, racquetball, skiing
- DYK…Dr. Christensen is fluent in Hungarian?

Staff
Ramon Andres
Maintenance
- Hometown – Manila, Philippines
- PATTS College of Aeronautics
- Hobbies: cooking and basketball
- DYK…Ramon’s parents immigrated to the U.S. in the early ‘80s, prompting him to join them in the mid ‘90s?

House Officer
Dr. Cecily Bonadio
1st Year Resident
- Hometown – San Diego, California
- DVM, UC Davis
- Hobbies: scuba diving, horseback riding, triathlons
- DYK…Dr. Bonadio was an Intercollegiate Dressage Association national champion in 2006?

Student
Tracy Huang
2nd Year
- Hometown – Bangkok, Thailand
- BS (Bio Chemistry), UC San Diego
- Hobbies: surfing, hanging out with her dog Tiger (T-Dawg), traveling
- DYK…Tracy learned to play guitar from YouTube?

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(530) 752-1393
Large Animal Clinic
(530) 752-0290

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