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As the summer season ends, I hope that all of you found some time this summer to explore this great state. If you haven't been able to get away for that summer vacation, fall can be a wonderful time to explore California. For those of you new to our state, I encourage you to take advantage of the diversity of landscapes, climates and cultures within about three hours of Davis. There aren't too many other places in the world where you can experience beaches, mountains, deltas, lakes and oceans all in the same weekend. Whether you like to surf, ski, hike, bike, shop or camp, you can find it all just outside our front door. Reward your hard work with a weekend to the mountains or taste some of the best wine anywhere in the world. You've earned it.

Regards,

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

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The latest winners include: Dr. Melissa Bain, Erica Becerra, Bethany Bishop, Megan Bradley, Dr. Diana Budreckis, Brandie Cates, Sandy Chancellor, Andrea Engwis, Raymond Esquivel, Rhonda Galbreath, Karen Haflinger, Alysia Hanes, Josh Jackson, Dayhanna Juarez, Tony Juarez, Penny Kilpatrick, Dakin Oliver, Kristi Sein, Lindsay Stevens, Erica Winants and Jacque Young.

Congratulations and thank you for all you do every day to make the VMTH such a great place to work and learn.
CASE OF THE MONTH – BRYGGEN

Horse Equipment Solves Breathing Problem for Large Dog

Bryggen is a 112-pound, 2-year-old female Iberian mountain dog, was brought to the VMTH’s Internal Medicine Service because she was having trouble breathing, and was also vomiting and regurgitating. Her condition had been persisting for months, but, after many tests and medications, veterinarians were unable to find the root of her problems. Bryggen’s condition worsened to daily episodes of gasping, wheezing and open mouth breathing. Finally, though, her veterinarians caught a break in the case. The internal medicine specialist witnessed intermittent episodes of severe inspiratory wheezing associated with development of “blue” gums, indicating that she was not receiving an adequate amount of oxygen to her lungs. Neck and chest x-rays revealed a large, irregular mass in her trachea. For help with this problem, the Small Animal Internal Medicine Service turned to colleagues in the Large Animal Clinic, who had specialized equipment designed to perform laser procedures in the upper airways of horses. They recommended using cautery and laser energy to remove the mass. Due to Bryggen’s large size, the veterinarians were confident the horse equipment could be used on her.

Prior to the procedure, the VMTH’s Anesthesia Service delivered a low oxygen mixture that would maintain Bryggen’s blood oxygen while reducing the dangerous risk of cautery in a high oxygen environment. Surgeons passed a specialized equine endoscope into Bryggen’s windpipe. A wire snare was then passed through the endoscope and looped around the mass to cauterize the base of the growth. Following this, a laser catheter was passed into the windpipe in order to destroy the region where the growth was. Following this, a laser catheter was passed into the windpipe in order to destroy the region the growth was passed into the windpipe in order to destroy the region where the growth was.

Dr. Richard LeCouteur Named Chief Veterinary Officer of the NAVC

Dr. Richard LeCouteur, professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, has recently been named the Vice President of Scientific Content/Chief Veterinary Officer of the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC). The position was created to assist NAVC’s expansion into the largest veterinary professional development resource throughout its online materials, live events, scholarship programs and global community outreach. Dr. LeCouteur’s appointment to this progressive and visionary leadership role ensures that the most up-to-date, reliable and leading-edge medical information is shared throughout all NAVC products and services.

In his new role as CVO, Dr. LeCouteur will lead potential research activities undertaken by NAVC and its partners, serve as the editor-in-chief for all on-line, NAVC-developed content, and oversee many of the NAVC professional development programs, including the OnCampus Program, NAVC Institute, NAVC Expeditions and Online Learning Program, as well as

Livestock Nursery a Hit at the California State Fair

One of the most popular exhibits every year at the California State Fair is the Livestock Nursery. Organized by VMTH clinicians and staff, the nursery provided families with some of their most memorable experiences at the fair. For many youngsters, it was their first experience seeing farm animals close up. For others, it was a great opportunity to learn about a potential career in veterinary medicine or farming.

While providing a learning experience for the younger generation, the VMTH also provided an invaluable resource to the fair, its visitors and other exhibitors. Beyond organizing the nursery and hand milking exhibits, the VMTH provided the following services: health checks for incoming livestock, residue avoidance program, daily health checks on all livestock, on-call veterinary services for sick or injured livestock, referral veterinary services for animals that required hospitalization, veterinary services for those when held, recruitment of staff for veterinary exhibits, and management of budget and supplies.

Faculty coordinator for the VMTH activities at the fair was Dr. Joan Dean Rowe, a 30-year veteran specializing in the preventive health care and reproduction of livestock. Joining her in many of the activities were fellow VMTH clinicians Drs. Bert McNabb and Catalina Cabrera and residents from the Livestock Reproduction and Herd Health Service. Invaluable contributions were made by Sophia Najera, Paula Lee and Rhonda Calbreath. As with successes in all veterinary clinics, the dedicated staff members were the ones truly responsible for the successful student experience and veterinary animal care. In addition, practitioner friends of the VMTH made major contributions, including official State Fair veterinarian Dr. Spring Halland, a faculty member at Western University and a former UC Davis resident in Large Animal Medicine, as well as practitioners Drs. Randy Anderson, Tom Graham, Nancy Martin and Frank Mongini, who provided species-specific expertise with health exams of incoming livestock. Faculty and staff of the CAHFS reached out to the public. Students made presentations about the nursery and answered individual questions about animal breeds, reproduction and related topics. The UC Davis team also spent considerable time talking with future veterinarians about preparing for veterinary school. Whether it was a family wanting to see farm animals, a student wanting to learn about a career in veterinary medicine, or a fair exhibitor in need of veterinary assistance, the VMTH was there to provide help and expertise at the 2013 California State Fair.
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Small Animal Internal Medicine Service collaborated with large animal clinicians to save Bryggen.

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Bryggen’s breathing was almost immediately back to normal, and a biopsy of the removed mass proved it to be a benign mass of cartilage.
From The Director’s Corner

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