The Oncology Service at the VMTH is pleased to announce the recent addition of Dr. Jenna Burton to the faculty. Dr. Burton earned her veterinary degree from The Ohio State University in 2006, followed by an internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery and a residency in Medical Oncology at Colorado State University. She is board certified in Internal Medicine with a subspecialty of Oncology.

“I am excited to join UC Davis and be part of a team providing world-class cancer care for companion animals,” said Dr. Burton. “I look forward to helping the VMTH further develop its clinical trials program in oncology, and strengthen our clinical oncology services for our clients.”

Dr. Jenna Burton Joins Oncology Faculty

Dr. Jenna Burton, DVM, MS, DACVIM

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Dr. Jamie Peyton to Lead Integrative Medicine Service

Dr. Jamie Peyton has joined the VMTH as our new chief of the Small Animal Integrative Medicine Service. Board certified in Emergency and Critical Care, Dr. Peyton also brings with her a wealth of knowledge and training in multiple aspects of integrative medicine.

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As always, this issue also showcases another exciting Case of the Month. We have received many compliments and positive reviews of our Cases of the Month. Many of them have been covered in leading veterinary publications such as Veterinary Practice News and The Horse. This type of exposure not only brings attention to the cutting-edge type of services we offer at the VMTH, but also adds credibility to our brand of being a leader in veterinary innovations and treatments. All of you should be proud of being part of a team featured in publications that are read by veterinary practitioners and enthusiasts throughout the world.

CASE OF THE MONTH – ROSIE

Dermatology Service Successfully Treats Vizsla’s Ear Infection

Being a Vizsla, 4-year-old Rosie is a very active dog that enjoys the outdoors. More than a year ago, she got a foxtail—a barley-type wild grass—caught in her ear. Covered with microscopic projections, foxtails can pose severe health risks to dogs, as they migrate into tissue causing allergic-like reactions. Microscopic projections, foxtails can pose severe health risks to dogs, as they migrate into tissue causing allergic-like reactions. Microscopic projections, foxtails can pose severe health risks to dogs, as they migrate into tissue causing allergic-like reactions. Microscopic projections, foxtails can pose severe health risks to dogs, as they migrate into tissue causing allergic-like reactions. Microscopic projections, foxtails can pose severe health risks to dogs, as they migrate into tissue causing allergic-like reactions. Microscopic projections, foxtails can pose severe health risks to dogs, as they migrate into tissue causing allergic-like reactions.

The foxtail in Rosie’s ear had to be removed under anesthesia, and what followed required her to be brought to the VMTH. The clinicians discussed long-term antifungal treatment options with her owner, as those would take several months to clear Rosie’s condition.

After the foxtail removal, Rosie’s ear continued to have a recurrence of a dark waxy build-up, with mild inflammation. Her owner brought her to the Dermatology Service where a CT scan showed a clear middle ear, so VMTH dermatologists removed the accumulated debris with flushing and suction using a video-otoscope. Video-otoscope technology allows clinicians to see into an ear canal using a state-of-the-art otoscope with a fiber optic camera system that projects images onto a large screen, such as a computer monitor. Fungal and bacterial cultures of the debris from Rosie’s ear confirmed that the ear was infected by a fungus known as Aspergillus niger, which can lead to serious health issues if not treated properly. Rosie was placed on antifungal medication, and the clinicians discussed long-term antifungal treatment options with her owner, as those would take several months to clear Rosie’s condition.

Over the course of about six months, in addition to an oral and topical medication regimen done at home, VMTH dermatologists performed multiple flushes of Rosie’s ear using the video-otoscope, which required Rosie to be sedated. Each procedure showed a marked improvement with lessening of the fungal build-up. Finally, almost a year after her initial encounter with the foxtail, Rosie’s ear was clear of the fungus, and she was back to her old self.

The Horse is a leading publication in the field of veterinary dermatology. VMTH dermatologists cleared a fungal infection in Rosie’s ear.

Curriculum Changes Will Temporarily Increase Number of Students in VMTH

A Special Report from Dr. David Wilson

Most of you are aware that the SVM implemented a “new” DVM curriculum in 2011, and that the first class to graduate from the new curriculum will do so in 2013. In addition to the many changes in course structure and teaching methodologies incorporated into the integrated block design of the new curriculum, students also enjoy clinical experiences in the VMTH during their first and second years. These experiences have enabled the graduating classes of 2013 and beyond to meet many of our staff, faculty and house officers, and also to develop an appreciation for the clinical teaching environment and the operation of many VMTH Services. We anticipate that these experiences will have better prepared them to start their senior clinical year.

Another change is that the new curriculum adheres to a semester schedule rather than the traditional quarter schedule. Additionally, the senior clinical year has been expanded from 46 to 59 weeks in duration, and “tracking” has been eliminated. The result is that the upcoming senior class has had more choice with regard to which clinical rotations they will elect and how many weeks they will spend on each rotation. In other words, the students have had more latitude to customize their senior clinical year to align with their individual educational and career goals. The senior clinical year in the new curriculum has been scheduled in two-week blocks so that, for the most part, students will rotate on and off each Service at the same time rather than having overlapping schedules, as is currently the case. This “all in, all out” schedule will allow for better sequencing of structured instruction during each rotation and will help students more consistently achieve the defined core competencies.

Whereas the senior clinical year in the current (“old”) curriculum extended from mid-June to mid-June, the clinical year in the new curriculum will run from early April to mid-May of the following year. Starting this year, students will spend the first two weeks of their senior year completing Clinical Pathology and Business/Communications rotations before coming into the VMTH on April 21. The outgoing senior class (class of 2014) and the incoming senior class (2015) will, therefore, overlap by eight weeks. The result will be a larger number of students in the hospital during that time, to the extent that many Services will be at or near maximum capacity, making space quite tight.

During these overlapping weeks, some Services will have only incoming seniors (class of 2015), some will have only outgoing seniors, and others will have students from both classes. Although Student Affairs Officer Judy Wall has worked very hard to smooth out fluctuations in student numbers in each

From The Director’s Corner

Keep up the great work. Our patients and clients depend on your talent, skill and the compassionate care you provide to help them through some difficult times while at the VMTH. I am proud that you continually go above and beyond to gain their trust and make them feel more at ease.

Regards,

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Please join me in welcoming the class of 2015 to the VMTH. Thank you in advance for your efforts to provide students in both senior classes with the best possible educational experience while delivering exceptional patient care and client service.
Dr. Jenna Burton Joins Oncology Faculty

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“I am excited to join UC Davis and be part of a team providing world-class cancer care for companion animals,” said Dr. Burton. “I look forward to helping the VMTH further develop its clinical trials program in oncology, and strengthen connections, not only between clinics and research, but with the School of Medicine as well.”

Following her residency, Dr. Burton remained at CSU as an Assistant Professor of Oncology where she was responsible for the day-to-day management of, and recruitment of patients to, clinical trials at the CSU Animal Cancer Center. Her research interests include comparative and translational oncology and development of novel therapeutics through clinical trials.

“We are thrilled to have Jenna join our oncology faculty,” said Dr. David Wilson, director of the VMTH. “Her extensive experience with the development and implementation of clinical trials will allow us to further expand the oncology services we can offer our clients.”

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“I am excited to have Jamie join us,” said Dr. Jane Sykes, director of the VMTH’s Small Animal Clinic. “Her experience in integrative medicine is a great addition to an already talented team that includes Drs. Lauren Frank and Marilyn Koski, as well as technician Ann Kitchen. We look forward to her leadership skills expanding that Service to serve our rapidly expanding client base.”

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VMTH VIEW
March 2014

WILLIAM R. PRITCHARD VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL • UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

LEADING VETERINARY MEDICINE, ADDRESSING SOCIETAL NEEDS