



UC DAVIS OFFERS NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VETERINARIANS AND CLIENTS

■ Rob Warren, UC Davis VMTH Communications & Marketing Officer

While the UC Davis veterinary hospital is located several hundred miles from Southern California, clients in that market can still utilize some UC Davis services through its satellite facility, the UC Veterinary Medical Center – San Diego. Located in the Sorrento Valley section of San Diego County, UCVMC-SD offers clinical programs in nephrology, cardiology, pharmacy and nutrition.

The center's nutrition services are supported by UC Davis veterinary nutritionists and are an extension of the Nutrition Support Service at the hospital in Davis. Led by board-certified nutritionists Drs. Andrea Fascetti, VMD, PhD, DACVN, DACVIM and Jennifer Larsen, DVM, PhD, DACVN, the team can work with veterinarians and clients to recommend commercial diets or formulate home-prepared diets to help manage disease and treat pet obesity with individualized weight-loss and weight management programs.

As obesity is the most common nutritional problem in dogs and cats in the United States, affecting 30-40 percent of them, the service has established the Healthy Weight & Nutrition Clinic to provide the tools necessary for veterinarians and owners to work together to help ensure optimum health and longevity for pets.

Just as staying trim and healthy is vital for humans, it's equally important for pets. The maintenance of a lean body condition is the only intervention that has been proven to improve quality of life and promote longevity in companion animals.

Residency training also plays a large role in nutritional services offered through UCVMC-SD. More board-certified veterinary nutritionists have been trained in UC Davis' nutrition residency program than at any other program in the country. Following completion of a residency, many veterinary nutritionists have gone on to work in academia, government, pet food and pharmaceutical industries, private practice and consulting. Veterinarians interested in pursuing a residency in nutrition can find more information on the hospital's website at www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vmth/small_animal/nutrition/residency_program.

Veterinarians interested in nutritional consults for their clients can consult with the UC Davis veterinary nutritionists. To learn more about how UC Davis can help with the nutritional needs of your patients, please see www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vmth/small_animal/nutrition or call 530-752-7892. **P**



UC Davis' Dr. Jennifer Larsen prepares a meal for a hospitalized patient in need of a specialized diet.



UC Davis Nutrition Support Service technician Dawn Cauthen, left, and Dr. Jennifer Larsen discuss a specialized diet for a dog.