

# Veterinary Teaching Hospital News



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**vet.osu.edu**

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## Hope for horses with cancer

By Kristine McComis

The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital’s equine service has started to successfully treat cancer in horses with a combination of surgery and radiation therapy. In the past, little was done to treat cancer in horses beyond surgical removal of the tumor because diagnostic and radiation treatment facilities did not exist to accommodate the large-sized patients, and chemotherapy was often cost-prohibitive. Now, at Ohio State’s Galbreath Equine Center, there is a new focus on equine oncology thanks to collaboration between the equine surgeons, radiation oncologist, and the cutting-edge technology available for diagnosis and treatment.

Tracie Springer’s gelding “Bustout”—named because the mischievous thoroughbred liked to break out of his stall—had a three-year history of increased difficulty in breathing, accompanied by weight loss. Using a CT scanner, clinicians discovered a mass that occupied the horse’s entire right nasal passage. The large mass was pushing into the left nasal passage as well, impeding the air flow. Understanding that the tumor might grow back after removal, Springer elected to go forward with surgery to remove the mass.

“Surgery was performed using an innovative approach to remove the mass entirely through the nose,” said Dr. Yvonne Elce, who performed the delicate procedure to remove the tumor. “Blood

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## Companion Animal Remembrance Ceremony

June 20, 2009 Noon

Please join us at The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital, 601 Vernon Tharp St., as we celebrate the lives of the beloved companion animals who are no longer with us. The ceremony will include a remembrance slideshow. For information on submitting a photo for the slideshow, please visit our web site at [vet.osu.edu/5070.htm](http://vet.osu.edu/5070.htm).

Indicate your interest in attending by sending an e-mail to Joelle Nielsen at [remembrance@cvm.osu.edu](mailto:remembrance@cvm.osu.edu) or calling (614) 247-8607. This information will be used to send you updates regarding the event.



## Dog travels 6,700 miles for surgery



A “Scrappy” stray born in South Korea may need to have his name changed to “Lucky.” When Air Force Staff Sergeant Nick Starkey left the rolling hills of Jackson County, Ohio, for an air base in Seoul, South Korea, following tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, he found himself truly homesick. That’s when a friendly stray dog became his loyal friend—as well as his unit’s unofficial mascot. “The dog went everywhere with Nick,” said Lynn Starkey, Nick’s mother. Scrappy even went on a training exercise to the observation deck on top of a three-story building. Then—near tragedy. “He took a jump off the roof of an observation area,” Nick said. “He broke his back left leg, so we sent him to a hospital in Korea.”

According to Lynn, the base vet said that he had a badly broken distal femur, and he wouldn’t be able to fix it. Next stop for Scrappy was the University of Seoul, where they wanted to amputate the leg. Nick had a better idea.

“Scrappy was his friend in Korea,” said Lynn Starkey. “So when he called and said, ‘Mom, I need to send him home to you,’ I said, ‘OK.’ That’s all that had to be said.”

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Whether in business or our private lives, the economic downturn is weighing on everyone's minds, and we certainly understand the impact this has had on Ohio's citizens as well as those in nearby states. For the last few years, approximately 15 percent of the Veterinary Hospital's operating budget has been provided by state support, leaving about 85 percent of our budget to be generated from the veterinary services that we provide. Last spring, the Veterinary Hospital underwent a reorganization to streamline operations. This foresight has helped us deal with the current economic downturn while we continue to provide outstanding medical care.

We want to express a special thank you to those friends of the hospital who have contributed to our Good Samaritan fund and the Jane E. Orosz Endowment that allow us to provide veterinary care for animals without financial resources.

Despite the economic challenges, we are committed to expanding our services. We have three new surgeons who bring additional skills to the Small Animal Surgery Service, including arthroscopy and laparoscopy. We have hired two neurologists/neurosurgeons; two theriogenologists who provide comprehensive reproductive medical services for companion animals, farm animals, and horses; a clinical veterinary microbiologist who provides consultative services to our veterinarians; and an additional faculty member in our general pet care service where we provide wellness care, weight management, dentistry, and primary care for acute and chronic illnesses. We also have recently hired a third cardiologist with a special interest in interventional medicine, an emerging and growing field that uses stents, balloons, and catheters to provide minimally invasive diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. For more information on our new faculty hires, visit [vet.osu.edu/733.htm](http://vet.osu.edu/733.htm).

The articles in this newsletter reflect only a portion of the many exciting developments that enable us to continually advance veterinary medical care at The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital. For more information about our clinical programs, visit [vet.osu.edu/hospital](http://vet.osu.edu/hospital); for news about our college, visit [vet.osu.edu](http://vet.osu.edu).

As always, we are pleased and honored to be able to serve your current and future veterinary medical needs. We continually strive to provide the best veterinary medical care and client services, and we seek your candid and constructive feedback. We thank you for your patronage and your continued support of our program.



Wishing you all the best,

Rustin M. Moore, DVM, PhD, DACVS  
Chair, Department of Veterinary  
Clinical Sciences  
Bud and Marilyn Jenne Professor



Sincerely,

Grant S. Frazer, DVM, MS, DACT  
Director, Veterinary Hospital  
Associate Professor

## “Tricky” diagnosis requires veterinary specialists and pediatric surgeons

By Kristine McComis

Many people consider their pets as children. And every once in a while, a family pet may actually require a pediatrician's care—like Tricky Woo, a female three-year-old bichon friese who arrived at The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital experiencing vomiting, intermittent abdominal pain, and fever after ingesting a foreign object. Dr. Joao Galvao, a resident in internal medicine, suspected an infection or reaction to the ingested object. When initial treatments didn't work, an ultrasound revealed an enlargement of the renal pelvis of both kidneys. Consultation with Dr. Dennis Chew, professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, suggested there could be a problem with the connection between the ureter and renal pelvis. Veterinary interventional medicine specialist Dr. Brian Scansen found a narrowing of the ureter during a fluoroscopically guided scoping procedure and placed stents across the stenoses to decompress the kidneys. Without surgery, however, Tricky Woo's condition would steadily get worse and cause damage to her kidneys.



Dr. Aimee Kidder holding the beloved Tricky Woo.

Dr. Chew consulted the chief of pediatric urology at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Dr. Stephen Koff, whose team included pediatric urologist Dr. Seth Alpert and pediatric urology fellows Dr. Dan Hirselj and Dr. Doug Storm. The pediatricians recognized the condition as Ureteropelvic Junction (UPJ) stenosis, a congenital disease that presents itself early in human development. The surgeons at Nationwide Children's Hospital perform 40 to 60 UPJ corrective surgeries a year. However, the condition, especially bilaterally, is very rare in dogs, and the veterinary specialists had never seen a case like it. Dr. Koff, also a bichon owner, eagerly offered assistance. Experts from both sides of medicine—the team from Children's and Dr. Christopher Adin, assistant professor of Small Animal Surgery with an emphasis in renal medicine and surgery—decided to collaborate on Tricky Woo's surgery.

Surgery took about three hours. Stents were inserted to connect the kidney to the bladder until the new connection healed. “The surgery went very well, and it was a great team effort,” confirmed Dr. Adin. “The veterinarians performed the surgical approach and the surgical team from Children's stepped in to perform the microsurgery required to reattach the ureter to the pelvis.”

Did working on an animal pose any challenges for the pediatric surgeons? “The actual appearance of the obstructed ureter was essentially the same in a dog as in a child, as was the repair performed,” said Dr. Alpert, although “some of the internal abdominal anatomy of a dog is slightly different in terms of the amount of fat around the kidneys and the spatial relationship of some of the organs.”

A few weeks later, Dr. Aimee Kidder and Dr. Scansen removed the stents during a minimally invasive procedure. To date, Tricky is currently doing quite well and continues to show improvement.

“All of us truly enjoyed our experience working with the surgeons at the vet school and learning more about surgery and anesthesia on small animals,” said Dr. Alpert. “I was very impressed with the depth and breadth of procedures that are routinely being performed there and how similar they are to some of the things that we do at Children's.”

## You can make a difference in the lives of thousands of animals

In partnering with The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital, you help to improve the quality of life for all animals and promote excellence in veterinary education. To make a tax-deductible donation, please make your check payable to the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine and mail to: Development Office, Room 125L, 1900 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210.

If you have any questions or prefer to give by phone, please contact Katie Kostyo at (614) 688-8433.



Surgeons utilize a Stryker surgical navigation system during the hospital's first total knee replacement.

## Ohio State a leader in joint replacement surgeries

By Melissa Weber

Joint replacement can relieve pain in dogs with end-stage degenerative joint disease that isn't responding to medical management. Ohio State is a leader in total hip replacement and has recently introduced total knee replacement as a clinical option for dogs. In a typical year at Ohio State, about 100 dogs will undergo total hip replacement surgery, during which the ball (head of the femur) and socket (acetabulum) are replaced with prosthetic implants made of metal and surgical grade plastic.

The most common indications for total hip replacement (THR) surgery are hip dysplasia and arthritis. Patient selection is critical to the success of surgery, and the outstanding clinical results at Ohio State are largely the result of thorough patient evaluation prior to surgery.

"Only one in every four dogs referred to Ohio State for THR will actually go on to surgery," explained Dr. Jonathan Dyce, orthopedic surgeon in the Veterinary Hospital and associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. "Common reasons why this procedure is not indicated for some dogs include cranial cruciate ligament rupture, pyoderma, and neurologic disease."

The total hip replacement procedure was developed for use in dogs in the 1970s and pioneered by Dr. Marvin Olmstead at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The original implant system was designed to be secured to bone using acrylic cement. In recent years, as is the case in human THR, there has been a move toward the use of cementless systems in which the implant relies on ingrowth of bone into a textured surface for stabilization. Both cemented and cementless THR are offered at the Veterinary Hospital using the Biomedtrix implant systems.

"Much of the clinical research we've done here over the past 10 years has been geared toward improving surgical outcomes," said Dr. Dyce. "In fact, twice a year we host surgical workshops at Ohio State, during which we teach the latest THR techniques to surgeons from across the country and around the world."

Total knee replacement is a more recent development in the field of canine orthopedic surgery. Approximately 30 procedures have been performed worldwide to date. Dr. Matthew Allen, associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, joined the faculty at Ohio State in March of 2008. His extensive experience with total knee replacement in dogs has allowed Ohio State to expand its joint replacement service to include this procedure. "As is the case with other complex orthopedic surgeries, dogs undergoing total knee replacement benefit from physical rehabilitation, something that is now available at the Veterinary Hospital" (see more about canine rehabilitation: [vet.osu.edu/4214](http://vet.osu.edu/4214)).

In December 2008, the first veterinary total knee replacement was performed at Ohio State. This surgery, the first in the world to be performed utilizing the Stryker surgical navigation system, was performed by Drs. Dyce and Allen.

"The use of this computer-based navigation has been shown to improve surgical accuracy in human patients undergoing total joint replacement, and we anticipate similar improvements in surgical care and post-operative outcomes in veterinary patients," said Dr. Allen. "In addition, the navigation system has tremendous potential in the education of both surgical residents and veterinary students. While it's not a substitute for good surgical technique, it provides immediate feedback on the surgeon's accuracy.

"This has been a great collaboration with Stryker," he added. "We hope to be able to obtain the funds needed to purchase the system in the near future, which will expand the possibilities of what we can offer to our patients."

## Expanded services in theriogenology and reproductive medicine

By Kristine McComis

The terms "breeding" and "reproduction" are common, but theriogenology—the medical specialty that deals with animal reproduction and obstetrics—may be unfamiliar outside the veterinary profession. Coined in the 1970s by Dr. David E. Bartlett, the first president of the American College of Theriogenologists, and Dr. Herbert Howe of the Department of Classics at the University of Wisconsin, the term was created by combining *therio* (beast, animal), *gen/genesis* (beginning, birth), and *ology* (study of).

The Veterinary Hospital's Theriogenology and Reproductive Medicine Service includes Dr. Carlos Pinto, associate professor; Dr. Cristiane Rubio, clinical instructor; and Dr. Marco da Silva, assistant professor (arriving in July). Drs. Pinto and da Silva are board certified by the American College of Theriogenology. These clinicians provide reproductive expertise for companion animals (dogs and cats), as well as horses, camelids, and ruminants.

Selected services include:

- Artificial insemination using fresh, chilled, or frozen semen
- Embryo transfer for equine and ruminant species
- Breeding soundness examinations
- Semen cryopreservation (freezing)
- Advanced reproductive ultrasonography
- State-of-the-art semen analysis
- Pregnancy determinations
- Management of high-risk pregnancies (including monitoring and assisted deliveries)

Cases in theriogenology range from routine to the unusual. In a recent case, Dr. Pinto was able to preserve semen from a stallion that passed away. "This was not only a valuable breeding animal, but also one of sentimental value for his owners," he said. "It was the owners' last attempt to preserve the genetics of the horse."

Dr. Pinto is also pleased to report to dog breeders that the Ohio State Veterinary Hospital is now an AKC-approved semen collection site.

Appointments can be scheduled Monday through Friday by calling (614) 292-6661. For more information, visit [vet.osu.edu/654](http://vet.osu.edu/654) or contact Dr. Pinto by e-mail: [Carlos.Pinto@cvm.osu.edu](mailto:Carlos.Pinto@cvm.osu.edu).



## Behavioral Medicine Clinic

Beginning in July, Dr. Meghan E. Herron will offer behavioral services for companion pets with issues such as separation anxiety, aggression, inappropriate elimination, phobias, compulsive behaviors, and cognitive dysfunction. A 2005 graduate of Ohio State's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Herron is completing a behavioral medicine residency at the University of Pennsylvania. For more information, visit [vet.osu.edu/3354](http://vet.osu.edu/3354).

## Summer traffic restrictions

The Ohio Department of Transportation has announced a major renovation project for SR 315 beginning June 15. For a map and full details, go to [vet.osu.edu/5379](http://vet.osu.edu/5379).

### About VTH News

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loss during the procedure required a transfusion. However, he recovered well from surgery and was discharged just four days afterwards and sent home for pasture rest."

Bustout returned for a re-check two months later. He exhibited a great attitude and some weight gain. Unfortunately, a biopsy revealed some re-growth of cancerous cells, and the decision was made to begin radiation treatment. There are less than a half-dozen linear accelerator facilities in the United States that are capable of providing external beam radiation treatment for a large animal, and The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital has one of them. Bustout stayed in the hospital for several more weeks receiving radiation on his right nasal passage three times a week. During his stay, he was walked twice a day, had plenty of attention, and enjoyed a good quality of life. He was a star patient, according to Dr. Elce. "He did not need any medication and continued to be bright and a favorite among all the hospital staff," she said.

Bustout went home after radiation therapy and returned frequently for checkups. After two months, another biopsy was negative—no sign of recurrence. Bustout was breathing easily, gaining weight, and back to his feisty attitude. It has now been more than a year since his radiation, and he has returned to light riding and continues to enjoy life.

Even though the cancer may eventually return, this case demonstrates that tumors can be treated successfully, while maintaining a good quality of life in older horses.

DOG TRAVELS 6,700 MILES FOR SURGERY continued from page 1

It was then arranged to ship Scrappy more than 6,700 miles from South Korea to Ohio State veterinary surgeon Dr. Jonathan Dyce.

"The challenge really was that somebody else had repaired the leg several weeks previously and the muscle loss was the greatest concern," said Dr. Dyce.

He inserted screws and pins into Scrappy's hind leg. A few days later, the dog was deemed fit.

"He's 100 percent now," Nick said. "He's good. He's back to normal."

Nick is back in South Korea completing his enlistment, while Scrappy is staying in Jackson with Nick's parents.



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