

Veterinary Medical Center News

IN THIS ISSUE

Ohio State takes expertise to Asia	1
Message from the chair/director	1
Clinical trial saves horse's vision	2
Community Practice offers "Happy Visits"	3
Your support makes a difference	4
Indoor Cat Initiative welcomes dogs	4

About VMC News

VMC News is provided to clients of the Veterinary Medical Center at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Subscribe via e-mail: newsletter@cvm.osu.edu

Editor: Melissa L. Weber, director of Communications and Marketing, weber.254@osu.edu

Contributing writer: Kristine McComis

Veterinary Medical Center

601 Vernon Tharp St.
Columbus OH 43210
(614) 292-3551 (small animals)
(614) 292-6661 (equine/farm animals)
vet.osu.edu

Regular hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon.–Fri.;
evening/weekend appointments available

Emergency hours: Open 24 hours,
seven days a week

We're Going Green

Help us save postage costs! Subscribe via e-mail at newsletter@cvm.osu.edu.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR/DIRECTOR

Spring is a time of renewal, growth, and change, and we are proud to announce that the Veterinary Teaching Hospital has been re-named The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center. The Veterinary Medical Center consists of the Hospital for Companion Animals, the Hospital for Farm Animals, and the Galbreath Equine Center. This new name builds upon our strengths of the past and represents our established distinction and continued growth into an exciting future. We are proud to be a comprehensive veterinary medical center offering compassionate patient care combined with cutting-edge technology and advancements in veterinary medicine that you expect from the tradition and excellence of Ohio State.

Bringing your animal to an academic veterinary hospital offers a wealth of advantages. This is where many of the experts or specialists were taught and trained. Our faculty members are internationally acclaimed experts who have written and published extensively in their fields of veterinary specialty medicine. They are often the first to discover and incorporate new treatments that will improve the health and well-being of animals and even of people. Our numerous board-certified specialists work as a team to provide a comprehensive and thorough approach

Continued on page 2



Collaboration with Ohio State establishes total hip replacement program in Thailand

By Kristine McComis

When the King of Thailand's dog has an ailment, there is no question His Majesty will seek the best possible veterinary care. "Hom," an eight-year-old St. Bernard owned by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, had been living with the pain resulting from an osteoarthritic right hip for some time. Like with many large breed dogs, Hom developed abnormal hip instability (hip dysplasia) in his youth. Over time, the normally friction-free cartilage surfaces of the hip joint degenerated (osteoarthritis), leading to bone-on-bone contact across the joint, and the clinical signs of hip pain, stiffness, reduced muscle mass, and loss of stamina. Although veterinarians at Kasetsart University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Thailand were appropriately managing Hom's care with medication and physical therapy, including the use of an underwater treadmill and exercise pool, Hom's symptoms were worsening. Two faculty members from the university, including Dr. Monchanok Vijarnsorn (chief of orthopedic surgery), decided to attend the BioMedtrix Total Hip Replacement (THR) workshop at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center. After completing the course, they decided a little more guidance would be necessary before jumping into performing not only the first total hip procedure in Thailand, but on a dog with such important royal connections.

The dean of the Veterinary School at Kasetsart University asked if Dr. Jon Dyce, associate professor of orthopedic surgery at Ohio State, would be willing to travel to Thailand to perform the surgery, as well as to conduct a continuing education course in orthopedics for veterinarians from areas across Southeast Asia. Dr. Dyce flew to Bangkok in June 2009 (or year 2552, in the Thai calendar) and proceeded with three days of lecture and workshops and two days in surgery, during which Hom was scheduled to receive his new hip. "Unfortunately, routine preoperative bloodwork (in Hom) revealed a low platelet count due to anaplasma infection. Anaplasma is a parasite of the blood which is a tick-borne disease," Dr. Dyce explained. "As THR is an elective and not an emergency surgery, it is always prudent to ensure the patient is in the best possible health, and a low platelet count can be associated with increased blood loss during surgery and complications of wound healing. In view of this, the medical team decided it was inappropriate to proceed with surgery. The good news was that anaplasmosis is generally easily cured with antibiotics."

It was agreed that Dr. Dyce would return to perform the procedure on Hom once he recovered. As a result, Thong Tae, a young yellow Labrador Retriever with disabling hip dysplasia, became the first recipient of a cementless total hip replacement in Thailand, and he recovered beautifully.

Dr. Dyce flew back to Thailand in February 2010 to deliver THR-specific continuing education and perform surgery on three more dogs, including

Continued on page 3



to patient care. We offer services in innovative fields such as interventional medicine (non-invasive procedures), behavioral medicine, and canine and sports rehabilitation. Veterinarians in private practice, many of whom are our alumni, refer their patients here to be seen for orthopedic and soft tissue surgery, ophthalmology, dermatology, neurology, emergency and critical care, oncology, cardiology, internal medicine, and reproduction services. We have extensive diagnostic imaging capabilities, laboratory services, and support services all under one roof. Like with human medicine, our clients can choose to enroll their pets and animals in a clinical trial in order to explore the latest available therapies that could extend the life of a pet and save other animal lives in the future.

Since the College of Veterinary Medicine was established in 1885, patient care has been an integral component of our program—from a small clinic on Neil Avenue serving livestock and horses to the facility we have today across the Olentangy River from Ohio Stadium. We treat 35,000 animals every year. Our strength in the number of veterinary clinicians, scientists, and educators, combined with our rich history and tradition, provide the foundation for an individualized and humanistic approach to the care of your beloved animals at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center. We are honored to serve you and your animals with the highest quality of veterinary medical care available. We thank you for your continued support of our program and encourage you to provide us with your candid and constructive feedback regarding our services.

Respectfully and appreciatively,



Rustin M. Moore,
DVM, PhD, DACVS
Chair, Department
of Veterinary
Clinical Sciences
Acting Director,
Veterinary
Medical Center



Learn more about the benefits
of an academic veterinary
medical center: vet.osu.edu/6611.



Clinical trial treatment saves horse's vision

By Kristine McComis

Tess is a 19-year-old female thoroughbred mare that first came to the Veterinary Medical Center in October 2003 for equine recurrent uveitis (ERU), an inflammatory autoimmune disease in which the horse's immune system actually causes damage to its own eye. With symptoms such as swelling, pain, and clouding of the eye, the horse experiences reduced vision; over time, the condition

may worsen. This chronic condition cannot be cured. The horse can have "quiet" periods, but eventually something in the environment will trigger the inflammation again.

Dr. Anne Gemenksy-Metzler, associate professor of ophthalmology, recommended surgery to insert a cyclosporine implant. First developed in the late 1990s, cyclosporine implants are still under clinical trial because the FDA has not approved the treatment in horses.

"My veterinarian recommended that I come to Ohio State because of the clinical trials they offer and their expert care," said Diana Schwerha, Tess's owner. "I decided to proceed with the cyclosporine implant because it was either that or she'd lose the eye. We had nothing to lose."

The implant was successful in preserving Tess's vision for two years. Unfortunately, in 2006, the uveitis recurred to such a level that Tess's painful right eye needed to be removed.

In October 2009, Tess's left eye became severely inflamed. "I was in a panic," Schwerha recalled. "Tess was basically blind, and the trainer said she wouldn't even go into the trailer." Her referring veterinarian medicated Tess enough for her to feel comfortable getting into the trailer for a visit to Ohio State. She was medically managed to reduce the inflammation; two weeks later, she returned and Dr. Metzler placed a cyclosporine implant in that eye. At her six-month check, Tess was doing very well with no signs of inflammation.

"Catching this condition early makes surgery more successful," Dr. Metzler pointed out. "We acted very quickly once Tess's remaining eye became inflamed, and we are very pleased that she is doing so well." Dr. Metzler noted that the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center has performed nearly half of the implants studied in this clinical trial. (By participating in the study, Tess's vision was saved, and she provides valuable information that will continue to improve the technology and research in treating ERU.)

Tess has been back to work as a second-level dressage horse since March 2010. "She goes out with all of her [equine] friends every day and works evenly on both sides, despite not having the right eye," Schwerha said proudly. "She is an athlete and likes to work. Ohio State totally saved her eye—she is a walking miracle."

The Comparative Ophthalmology service offers comprehensive care for animals with eye abnormalities. For more information, visit vet.osu.edu/584.htm.



Hom, a local Rottweiler, and a Siberian husky from Malaysia. Assisted by specialists from Kasetsart University's anesthesia and surgery services, Dr. Dyce performed the procedure with no complications. Hom's diseased hip was replaced with an artificial ball and socket joint manufactured by BioMedtrix, a New Jersey company with strong links to Ohio State, both as an implant supplier and a CE and clinical research partner. Hom's new hip is a press fit titanium and polyethylene (cementless) pelvic socket that articulates with a spherical cobalt chromium ball on a stem anchored by acrylic bone cement into the femur (thigh bone). Hom recovered in his carpeted, air-conditioned suite with around-the-clock attention. He stayed in the hospital for a week and had two dedicated ex-military caretakers in charge of walking him several times a day. Extremely serious about their assignment, they took particular care to walk properly on non-skid surfaces with a sling underneath him to prevent any stumbles. On the day after surgery, Hom was bearing almost full weight on the operated hip. Recent progress reports indicate that he is very comfortable and mobile and enjoying life at the Palace with his sister and father, a grand 10-year-old St. Bernard. At this point, Dr. Dyce predicts that surgery on his other hip will not be necessary.

To be chosen by the King of Thailand over any other caregiver worldwide speaks highly of the program at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center. "This is a testament to the quality of the Ohio State surgical training and continuing education programs," said Dr. Dyce.

Dr. Dyce spoke highly of his hosts' graciousness and appreciation for the knowledge sharing and collaboration between veterinary colleges. As a result of his visits, four dogs have received the procedure and more are sure to follow. "The goal was to establish the first university-based total hip program in that region of Asia, and they are well on their way," he proudly noted. No doubt His Majesty King Adulyadej is quite pleased about this as well.

Editor's note: *The political unrest in Thailand prompted a postscript from Dr. Dyce: "It is with deep sadness that I have watched media coverage of the turbulent scenes of unrest on the streets of Bangkok. Bangkok is a bustling and cosmopolitan metropolis, and KU Faculty of Veterinary Medicine lies in its northern quarter. The work of the hospital continues in spite of the disturbances, and my thoughts are with my new friends as they continue to care for their patients."*



The total hip replacement procedure was developed for use in dogs in the 1970s, pioneered by Dr. Marvin Olmstead at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Community Practice service offers Happy Visits to pets

By Kristine McComis

The caregivers at the Hospital for Companion Animals at The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center understand that a visit to the veterinarian's office can be stressful for a pet. Our Community Practice clinicians and behavior specialists have teamed up to provide "Happy Visits" for any pet that does not cope well with a vet visit or has had a bad experience at another clinic.

During a Happy Visit, staff reward pets with food treats, plenty of affection, and fun, playful activities. Visits last from five to 20 minutes, depending on the patient, and no vaccinations or medical procedures are conducted. After a few Happy Visits, a pet will be calmer and happier at the next visit because of the positive associations.

Patients that come for visits range from "unmanageable" to simply timid. "Even those animals that are just a little shy are welcome," said applied animal behaviorist Traci Shreyer, who leads the program. "Puppies and young animals are good candidates for Happy Visits since they will learn early on that a trip to the vet can be pleasant."

Client Wendy Williams can vouch for the success of the Happy Visit program. When she brought her newly acquired Boxer puppy to the Veterinary Medical Center for vaccinations, "Ghillie" exhibited some nervousness. Williams decided to be proactive and start

conditioning her puppy to love coming for a visit. "Traci and others explained the importance of having animals be comfortable going to the vet and how that related to them having better care," she said.

Ghillie came in to the hospital once a week for several months. Medical visits were staggered in between the Happy Visits. While there, everyone greeted Ghillie by name, and she received treats and walked around the clinic to get used to the sights and smells. Williams reported that Ghillie became comfortable with the veterinarians and vet students touching her, and any fears, such as standing on the scale, were worked out in subsequent visits. When Ghillie was spayed, Williams immediately brought her back for another Happy Visit in order to counteract any anxiousness. Everyone was pleased to discover that she had no change in behavior. "She loves the Veterinary Medical Center," says Williams. "When we turn into the parking lot, she can't wait to get out of the car."

Dr. Hannah Minch, clinical instructor of Community Practice, Shelter, and Outreach Medicine, has noted a

positive change in her patients that have completed some Happy Visits. "I have seen many patients vastly improve in tolerating handling during physical exams and other procedures," Dr. Minch said. "The patient, clinician, and owner all benefit when the animal is less stressed. I encourage owners with pets that are afraid of the veterinarian to take advantage of this wonderful program."

To make a Happy Visit appointment, call (614) 292-3551 and ask to speak to Dawn or Michelle, both registered veterinary technicians in the Community Practice service. If you do not live close enough to Columbus to take advantage of a Happy Visit, consider calling your primary veterinarian to inquire if they offer something similar. Dr. Meghan Herron, board certified specialist in Behavioral Medicine, welcomes calls from veterinarians who are interested in setting up a Happy Visit program. She can be reached at (614) 292-3551.





Your support makes a difference

Animals enrich our lives with the gift of unconditional love and companionship. In turn, a gift can make a big difference to an animal in need. Our excellent patient care is thanks to clients like you who have chosen to make a difference in the lives of animals. A tax-deductible gift to The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center enhances the lives of our future patients as well as our faculty, staff, and students.

No matter the amount, every gift makes an impact. For a list of programs that would benefit from your support, visit vet.osu.edu/4930.htm. For more information, please contact Danielle Ford, Director of Development, at (614) 292-3010 or ford.566@osu.edu.

Indoor Cat Initiative expands to include dogs

The original Indoor Cat Initiative was the creation of Dr. Tony Buffington and his team at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. This collection of web-based educational information has been helping to enrich the lives and diets of cats and strengthen the human-cat bond for nearly a decade. The web site receives more than 150,000 hits per year from cities across the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia. The recent addition of animal behavior experts to the college provides the opportunity to expand this program to include more companion pets, such as dogs, rabbits, birds, and horses. The expanded Indoor Pet Initiative (IPI) web site launches this month, offering information for both pet owners and veterinarians to provide

environmental enrichment suited to each individual pet's needs. Veterinarians now have access to the behavioral and wellness expertise of the IPI Team to ensure that the recommendations they offer their clients for problem prevention and management are based on sound, up-to-date science. Our goal is to enhance the health and welfare of companion animals worldwide. Please visit indoorpet.osu.edu for more information.



CS10172

Address Service Requested

29391-110028-61804
Columbus, OH 43210
601 Vernon Tharp St.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS, OHIO
Permit No. 711