Veterinary Medical Center

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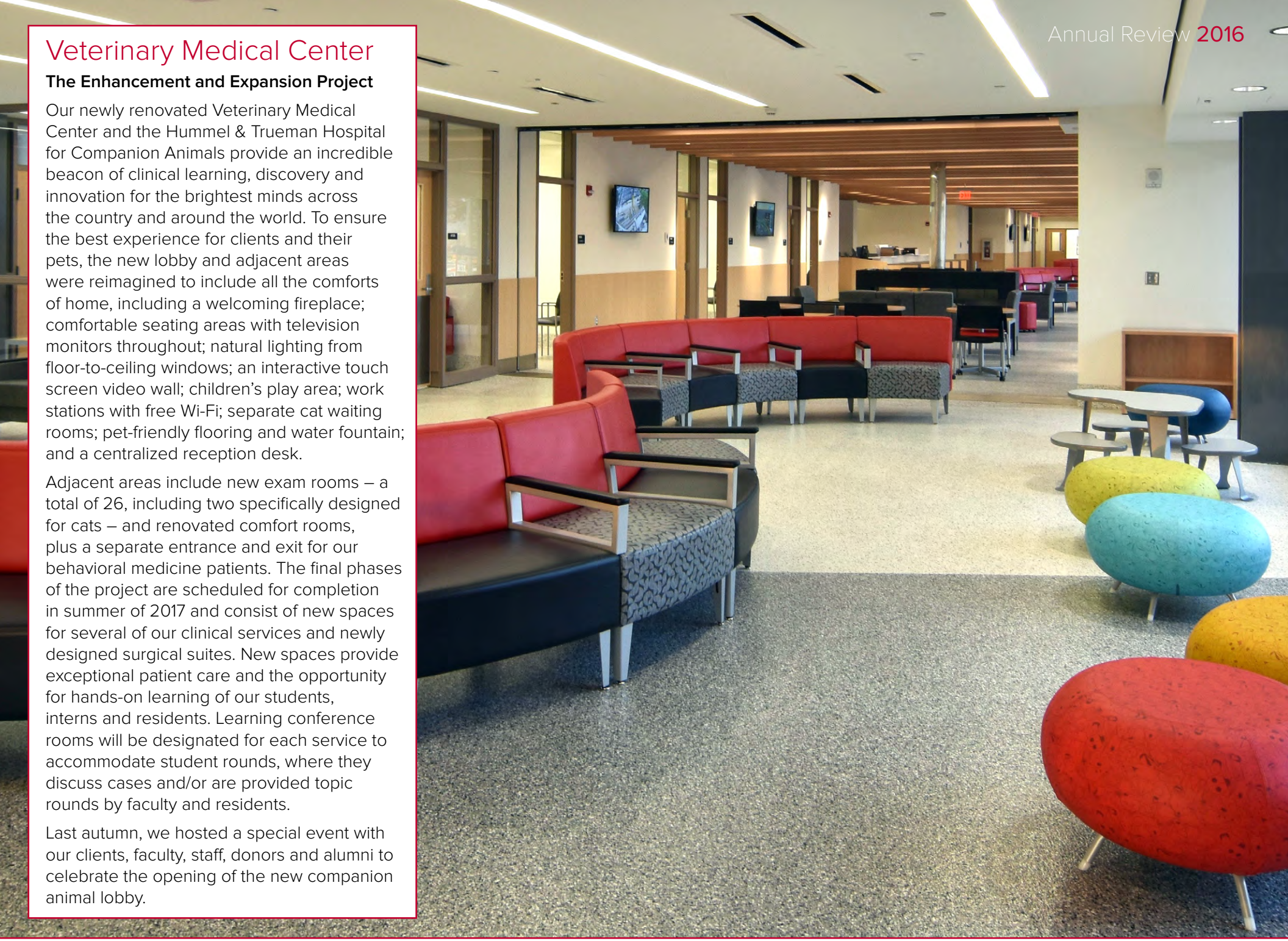
The Enhancement and Expansion Project

Our newly renovated Veterinary Medical Center and the Hummel & Trueman Hospital for Companion Animals provide an incredible beacon of clinical learning, discovery and innovation for the brightest minds across the country and around the world. To ensure the best experience for clients and their pets, the new lobby and adjacent areas were reimagined to include all the comforts of home, including a welcoming fireplace; comfortable seating areas with television monitors throughout; natural lighting from floor-to-ceiling windows; an interactive touch screen video wall; children's play area; work stations with free Wi-Fi; separate cat waiting rooms; pet-friendly flooring and water fountain; and a centralized reception desk.

Adjacent areas include new exam rooms – a total of 26, including two specifically designed for cats – and renovated comfort rooms, plus a separate entrance and exit for our behavioral medicine patients. The final phases of the project are scheduled for completion in summer of 2017 and consist of new spaces for several of our clinical services and newly designed surgical suites. New spaces provide exceptional patient care and the opportunity for hands-on learning of our students, interns and residents. Learning conference rooms will be designated for each service to accommodate student rounds, where they discuss cases and/or are provided topic rounds by faculty and residents.

Last autumn, we hosted a special event with our clients, faculty, staff, donors and alumni to celebrate the opening of the new companion animal lobby.



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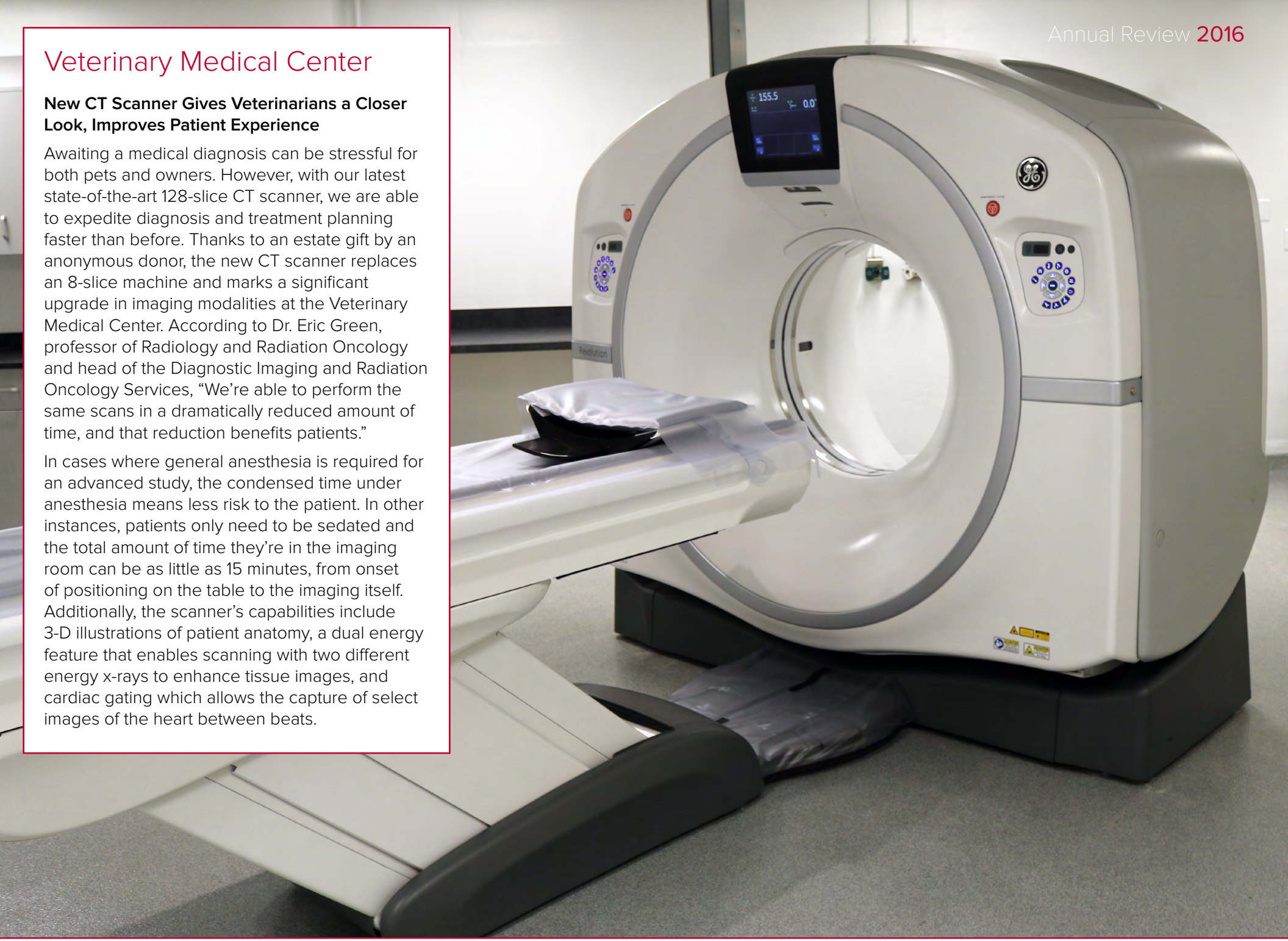
New CT Scanner Gives Veterinarians a Closer Look, Improves Patient Experience

Awaiting a medical diagnosis can be stressful for both pets and owners. However, with our latest state-of-the-art 128-slice CT scanner, we are able to expedite diagnosis and treatment planning faster than before. Thanks to an estate gift by an anonymous donor, the new CT scanner replaces an 8-slice machine and marks a significant upgrade in imaging modalities at the Veterinary Medical Center. According to Dr. Eric Green, professor of Radiology and Radiation Oncology and head of the Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology Services, “We’re able to perform the same scans in a dramatically reduced amount of time, and that reduction benefits patients.”

In cases where general anesthesia is required for an advanced study, the condensed time under anesthesia means less risk to the patient. In other instances, patients only need to be sedated and the total amount of time they’re in the imaging room can be as little as 15 minutes, from onset of positioning on the table to the imaging itself. Additionally, the scanner’s capabilities include 3-D illustrations of patient anatomy, a dual energy feature that enables scanning with two different energy x-rays to enhance tissue images, and cardiac gating which allows the capture of select images of the heart between beats.



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Cancer-Fighting Technology Arrives at the VMC

With a recent upgrade to the Veterinary Medical Center's linear accelerator, radiation oncology specialists can deliver more precisely focused radiation to tumors without affecting surrounding healthy tissue. Acquired from Ohio State's The James Comprehensive Cancer Center, the linear accelerator can deliver intensity modulated radiotherapy using a multi-leaf collimator (MLC), a device containing thin tungsten components, or leaves, that shape high-energy radiation beams to target only tumor cells. The machine's built-in CT scanner, with its image-guided radiation therapy capabilities, can also help better position patients.

"Due to the fact that we can now be very precise with the help of the MLC, as well as on-board imaging, we can safely perform stereotactic radiation therapy, which delivers high doses of radiation in fewer treatments," said Dr. Noopur Desai, clinical assistant professor of radiation oncology. "This means we can safely treat a number of different tumors like brain tumors, nasal tumors and osteosarcoma." The VMC is one of a few facilities in the United States that offers radiation therapy to large animals, and is only one of two facilities in Ohio and surrounding states that offers this type of precision radiation therapy. In addition, the VMC is the only veterinary hospital in the state with two radiation oncologists on site. The technology upgrade is just one of several efforts that provide patients and referring veterinarians with options for improved cancer treatment.

Drs. Noopur Desai (L) and Eric Green (R)

Veterinary Medical Center

Teaming Up to Save Lives:
New Service Streamlines Patient Care

When humans are diagnosed with cancer, experienced physicians focus on educating their patients, collaborating with their colleagues and exploring the best treatment options available. Why should it be different for our pets?

Our newly established Integrated Oncology Service streamlines the treatment experience of pets diagnosed with cancer from initial consultation and diagnosis, through the prescription and implementation of a comprehensive treatment plan. Now, instead of being evaluated and treated by individual services — which often requires separate visits — our clients receive input and information from doctors with specialties in medical, surgical and radiation oncology during a single visit.

This holistic team approach offers a superior level of care, planning and execution, and provides clients with a more comprehensive understanding of their pet's diagnosis and the best course for overall treatment. With our new Integrated Oncology Service, we proudly join only two other veterinary colleges in the United States providing this patient and family benefit-centered service to referring veterinarians and our clients.

Veterinary Medical Center

Pet Cancer Grants Create Access to Treatment

Cancer can affect anyone, even our pets. Unfortunately, some owners are unable to finance treatment. The Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo Foundation are currently working to change that with Pet Cancer Grants. Our college is one of six top-ranked veterinary schools chosen to receive a three-year, $350,000 grant. Now with the help of the two foundations, we are making it possible for more pets to have access to world-renowned treatment and care in situations where their owners could not have been able to afford the cost of care. Pam McClung received a pet cancer grant when her therapy dog, Baarlo, was diagnosed with lymphoma. “I can’t overstate how much it’s meant to me because my funds were extremely limited but I wanted to give Baarlo every opportunity to keep living and making the world a more comfortable place for others as a service dog.”

Veterinary Medical Center

Advancing Patient Care in Equine Medicine

The VMC's new nuclear medicine unit, the MiE Equine Scanner H.R.-Scintron's Gamma Camera system, allows the imaging team to perform nuclear scintigraphy on horses. Also known as a "bone scan," nuclear scintigraphy uses small amounts of radioactive material injected intravenously to depict regions of increased bone activity, such as osteoarthritis and occult fractures. A nuclear medicine bone scan is often used when a lameness is identified, but the area or limb is difficult to pinpoint.

The advantage of the MiE Equine scanner is that it is compact and mechanically superior to systems that use pendulum suspension. The unit contains ParalyzerPLUS software, which has real time motion correction should the slightly sedated and standing horse sway during the procedure. The shorter image acquisition time improves diagnostic quality and speeds the scanning process. The camera is mounted on a support column one centimeter above the floor and can be easily and quietly maneuvered by hand along any axis. "This method is particularly useful in racehorses with stress fractures that are difficult to localize with a physical examination or in horses where a diagnosis cannot be determined by other imaging modalities," said Dr. Matthew Brokken, clinical assistant professor of equine surgery.