First canine TATE total elbow replacement in Ohio performed by VMC surgeons

Lottie, a seven-year-old Labrador retriever, had developed osteoarthritis in one of her elbows. When medications no longer relieved her pain, her owner and VMC veterinary surgeon Dr. Laurent Guiot began considering other options.

Lottie’s osteoarthritis was severe, and if unchecked for long, could lead to a non-functioning joint. The only other option to relieve Lottie of her pain and keep her elbow functioning was a total elbow replacement – a new procedure that is now available in central Ohio at the VMC–Dublin.

continued on page 3

From the Director

We are celebrating spring at the Veterinary Medical Center! We are also celebrating the accomplishments and service of three of our faculty clinicians who are retiring July 1: Drs. Tony Buffington, John Hubbell and Sue Johnson. You may have known them as teachers and mentors, and also as valued clinicians at the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC).

Their impact has been immeasurable. We thank them and wish them the best of luck in this next phase of their lives.

In this issue, we highlight the first TATE canine total elbow replacement in the state of Ohio, performed by our surgeons at the VMC–Dublin. We offer this revolutionary procedure to your canine patients as appropriate; please contact the VMC–Dublin at 624-889-8070 for more details.

We are now offering a new online CE course series during your lunch hour. Vet Expert Express provides a short presentation by one of our faculty experts, followed by a Q&A and case discussion, all within the noon hour. The first series is on topics in nephrology, presented by Dr. Cathy Langston, a leading authority in the field. We hope you will join us for these discussions as well as future presentations on other veterinary topics.

Finally, please check out our improved website at vet.osu.edu/vmc. Our revised site offers a more personalized and streamlined approach that can save you time and effort. Please share with us any comments and suggestions regarding the website; we welcome your feedback.
Buffington, Hubbell and Johnson to Retire

Three distinguished faculty members at the College of Veterinary Medicine – Tony Buffington, John Hubbell and Sue Johnson – will retire on July 1.

We thank them for their exceptional teaching, research and service to the college and Veterinary Medical Center. We will miss you all!

Tony Buffington, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVN

Dr. Tony Buffington has spent his career trying to understand the causes of and treatments for chronic pelvic pain (specifically idiopathic cystitis) in domestic cats and women, leading him to conclude that the disorders can be treated and potentially prevented through effective environmental enrichment. His exceptional research has made him a well-known scholar and sought-after spokesperson in the field.

Dr. Buffington received his DVM in 1981, MS in nutrition in 1982 and PhD in nutrition in 1988 from the University of California-Davis. He was a clinical nutritionist resident at the Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital at UC-Davis and did a postdoctoral fellowship in the medical school there. He finished his dissertation after being hired by Ohio State's College of Veterinary Medicine, becoming a full professor in 1997.

Dr. Buffington’s clinical interests have focused on stress effects on health and disease, as well as obesity in animals. He received many awards for his work, including the Mark L. Morris Lifetime Achievement Award, the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Award for Excellence in Veterinary Healthcare and Promotion of the Human-Animal Bond, and the Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate Teaching.

Founder of the Indoor Pet Initiative website, Dr. Buffington published 113 peer-reviewed papers, 91 abstracts, 28 book chapters and is the author of three books. His book, *Your Home, Their Territory* and the iBook and iTunes U *Cat Mastery* have benefited cat owners all over the world. His research interests on the effects of early life events and environmental enrichment on health and disease in cats were published in a groundbreaking article in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*.

Thank you, Dr. Buffington, for your pioneering work and commitment to the welfare of cats – and humans – for the past 35 years!

John Hubbell, DVM, MS, DACVAA

In nearly 35 years at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. John Hubbell served many critical roles: interim dean, section head for Equine Medicine and Surgery, interim chair of the department of Clinical Sciences, associate dean for Academic Affairs, director of the veterinary hospital, as well as professor and clinician. He will be remembered for his exceptional service to the college and the VMC.

Dr. Hubbell received his DVM in 1977 from The Ohio State University and an MS in 1981. He then accepted a position as assistant professor of Veterinary Medical Sciences at the University of Florida, returning to Ohio State as an assistant professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences in 1982. He became a full professor in 1997.

As associate dean for Academic Affairs, he led the accreditation efforts of the college on three occasions and participated in two major changes in the curriculum. He was part of the group that started the efforts in business education for veterinary students and initiated the shelter program. As director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (now the VMC), Dr. Hubbell helped implement the first hospital information system.

Dr. Hubbell’s research interests include equine anesthesia and pharmacology of anesthetic drugs. He was co-author of two books, author of numerous articles and chapters, and editor of the anesthesia section of the *Veterinary Surgery* journal and interim editor of the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*.

Dr. Hubbell received many awards during his career, including the Alumni Recognition Award from the College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Society in 2014, the William Ingalls Award for Exceptional Service and the Veterinarian of the Year award from the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Hubbell is a proud Buckeye. His wife and son are graduates of Ohio State, his daughter is an athletic trainer at the Wexner Medical Center and his father, brother and sister are all graduates of the College of Medicine.
Total Elbow Replacement

Elbow replacements are unusual because good implants have only recently become available. “Three vital bones make up the elbow joint for both dogs and people,” said Dr. Girot. “Because the elbow is a complex joint, developing an effective design that can mimic the complex movements has been a challenge for medical professionals and engineers.”

The procedure was a team effort, he noted. “Our VMC–Dublin surgeons [Dr. Girot and Dr. Reunan Guillou], surgery technician Rachel and Dr. Loic Dejardin from Michigan State University worked together to make this surgery successful,” said Dr. Girot. “Our team-based approach and eagerness to advance the treatment of orthopedic diseases in dogs provides us with unique opportunities to better the lives of our patients.”

After Lottie’s surgery, Dr. Girot and his team gathered data by having her walk on a sensor-equipped mat so they could assess the way she walked with the restored elbow. At six months postoperatively, the dog showed a major improvement in limb function with a decrease in her pain levels associated with the joint motion. Tekscan analysis (objective gait analysis that measures loading patterns in each leg) demonstrated that Lottie was ahead of the recovery curve for the procedure, as most patients take 12 to 16 weeks to regain comparable mobility levels.

The TATE system used by the surgeons for this surgery has shown the best outcomes in cases like Lottie’s. For more information about the TATE system, visit www.biomedtrix.com/elbow.php.

For more information about this procedure at Ohio State, please call the VMC–Dublin at 614-889-8070.

Page 3
New Online CE Program – Vet Expert Express

The Nephrology Series

**When:** Noon to 12:45 p.m.  
the third Tuesday of every month

**Format:** 25 minute presentation,  
followed by Q&A and case discussion

**Cost:** Free

**Credit:** RACE approved for CE credit

**Register online:** vet.osu.edu/vet-expert-express

The Nephrology Series began on March 17, but we encourage you to join us for the remaining sessions, presented by Dr. Cathy Langston, a leading authority on nephrology. The sessions have been popular thus far, producing good questions and discussion from participants. For more information, please contact Dr. Langston at Langston.35@osu.edu or 614-292-3551.

Upcoming sessions:
- **May 19:** Managing Appetite in CKD
- **June 16:** Phosphorus Management

For more detailed information about specific sessions and future dates, please refer to vet.osu.edu/vet-expert-express-nephrology.

VMC website redesign

With input from clients, referring veterinarians, faculty and staff, the VMC launched a new website design on March 16. Phase 1 involved a revamped navigation and site layout design. Phase 2 will continue through the next few months and includes content revisions and additions throughout the entire site.

The redesign features individual hospital and referring veterinarian microsites within the overall site, with content customized to fit the needs of each site user. The website will also make it easier for you to locate information tied to each specialty area, as well as offering a new Care Team Directory search function.

Please visit vet.osu.edu/vmc to see what’s new!

Clinical Trials

The Ohio State Veterinary Clinical Trials Office is always looking for new participants.

For a list of current trials and recruiting needs, please visit: vet.osu.edu/vmc/clinical-trials.

If you believe you have a patient who is eligible for a specific study, or if you would like additional information regarding clinical trials at Ohio State, contact us at cvm-clinicaltrials@osu.edu or call us at 614-292-4559.

If you would like your clinic to receive updates regarding ongoing or future clinical trials, please call or email us and we will add you to our list of participating veterinary clinics.