Veterinary Urgent Care Service Now Open

As of March 1, your clients with pets in need of non-life threatening, after hour, weekend and holiday veterinary care, have access to a new urgent care service at the Veterinary Medical Center–Dublin (VMC–Dublin). The service joins our orthopedic and ophthalmology services already established at the VMC–Dublin. The decision to launch an urgent care service has been in the planning stages for almost a year, says Joanne Fleming, RVT, practice manager at VMC-Dublin. “We evaluated the community needs and also looked at the success of urgent care in human health care,” Fleming says. “We believe there is a similar need in veterinary medicine that we can fill.”

From the Director

In this issue of Update for Veterinarians, we are excited to feature the new Urgent Care service at the Veterinary Medical Center–Dublin (VMC–Dublin). We are proud to be among the first in the state of Ohio to help address the growing need for after hour, non-life threatening urgent care services.

Jo Fleming, RVT, VMC–Dublin practice manager, provides an overview of what you and your clients can expect, and introduces the service’s two veterinarians — Dr. Emily McConnelly and Dr. Hillary Wentworth — both of whom have extensive experience in both general practice and emergency care.

We also bring you the latest in neonatal foal research, led by Dr. Ramiro Toribio at the Galbreath Equine Center.

In other exciting news, on April 1, we launch the VMC’s new hospital information system. Among the key features is a referring veterinarian portal, providing a more secure and reliable communication channel. Finally, on April 15, we break ground for the Frank Stanton Veterinary Spectrum of Care clinic, which will provide our fourth-year students with more real-world general practice clinical experience.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me or our practitioner liaison, Dr. Doug Graham.

Karin Zuckerman, MHSA, MBA
VMC Director

vet.osu.edu/vmc
Dedicated veterinary urgent care centers are still hard to find, with most located on the East Coast, Fleming notes. At Ohio State, however, “this new service now helps complete a full spectrum of care at the VMC.”

According to Fleming, adding a dedicated urgent care service allows the VMC’s 24/7 emergency and critical care service on campus to focus on truly emergent cases, realizing greater operational efficiencies. Pet owners seeking care for their pets after hours, but who aren’t necessarily facing an emergency, will now have an alternative to sitting in an emergency room, where they would potentially be served after the critical patients are seen. The urgent care does not require an appointment.

The urgent care is staffed with two veterinarians — Dr. Emily McConnelly and Dr. Hillary Wentworth — and a skilled group of RVTs trained in emergency medicine.

Jo Fleming, who has been with the VMC–Dublin since 2018, has worked in emergency and critical care at the main campus, and has more than 20 years of practice management experience. A registered veterinary technician, Fleming says she steps in to help in the clinic as needed, including supporting the urgent care, orthopedics and ophthalmology services at VMC–Dublin.

She says Drs. McConnelly and Wentworth bring both emergency room and general practice experience, important skills in working with referring veterinarians. “We are the bridge for our general practitioners, and we want to be a true extension of them,” Fleming says.

“Dr. McConnelly and Dr. Wentworth have also recently received immersive training with critical care on campus to ensure that the level of care provided at Dublin is aligned with the level of care provided on campus,” she says.

Dr. Wentworth is a 2010 graduate of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine, practiced as an emergency clinician at a busy multi-referral hospital, and most recently served as medical director of Honeoye Falls Veterinary Hospital in Rochester, New York.

“I’m excited about joining the team at VMC–Dublin,” Dr. Wentworth says. “The opportunity to offer clients and patients support in times of crisis when their regular veterinarians are not available is important to me. My practice style is collaborative, evidence-based and built on trusting relationships. I look forward to forging partnerships with referring veterinarians in the Columbus region and providing the best care possible to our mutual patients.”

Dr. McConnelly is a 2013 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her rotating internship in small animal medicine, surgery and emergency care in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She went on to work in general practice, while continuing her emergency care practice. She most recently saw general practice appointments and treated urgent and emergent patients in Mount Vernon and Ontario, Ohio.

“I’m thrilled to help launch the Ohio State veterinary urgent care service in Dublin,” Dr. McConnelly says. “I look forward to the opportunity to provide prompt, compassionate care for patients and reassurance to their families. From my time as a primary care provider, I understand how important it is to know your patients are well cared for after your doors close for the night. I’m excited to bring together my experience in emergency medicine and primary care with the skilled team and resources of Ohio State, to offer high quality after hours care to our community.”
Foal Research Explores Sepsis, Progesterone Response

Foals make spring an exciting time on the farm, but less so for many horse owners whose foals become ill with septicemia — bacteria in the bloodstream. Septicemia, which happens when the foal does not get enough antibodies from the mare, is the number one cause of foal mortality.

According to Dr. Ramiro Toribio, professor, equine medicine at the Veterinary Medical Center’s Galbreath Equine Center, foals are at the highest risk of sepsis during the 12-hour window post-birth, which leaves the foal gut “open” to bacteria that can be absorbed into the blood.

Dr. Toribio and his team are leaders in this equine research and have been studying foal hormones to more fully understand how the neonates’ system responds to the lack of antibodies.

“We know that when a foal gets sick, they have abnormal glucose and blood pressure, and if they lose fluids and can’t handle milk, they get dehydrated and diarrhea. Things can go downhill really fast at this point,” he says.

“We also discovered two years ago that the longer the foal’s progesterone level remains high, the more severe the disease and the more likely the foal will not make it,” Dr. Toribio says.

“We wondered if some of these abnormalities and deaths occurred because something in their systems was not responding properly.”

Dr. Toribio’s research team has examined foal hormones from the brain, and the adrenal and thyroid glands. They are currently examining the pancreas and other hormones that come from the placenta in the mare prior to birth. “If we know what is failing, we can replace these hormones,” he says.

Some studies are producing answers. For example, he says, “We know that if a foal is not producing enough cortisol, we can supplement the foal with the exogenous glucocorticoids. If we think they are not producing insulin and cannot handle glucose, then we can give them insulin.”

The team’s study has also found that around 50 percent of foals with severe septicemia have low vitamin D levels.

Dr. Jacob Swink, a third-year resident in Dr. Toribio’s lab, is working on a study exploring the effect of exogenous (synthetic) progesterone on neonate foals. “Exogenous progesterone is a pretty common treatment in pregnant mares, and we don’t know what effect it has on the foal’s hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and the foal’s response to the disease,” he says.

Dr. Swink says the clinic receives a fair number of foals that present with a wide array of symptoms, for example, that can’t nurse and have seizures. “Some research shows that foals with this syndrome have developed elevated levels of progesterone.”

He adds that sick foals have also shown elevated levels of androgens and estrogens, and that the sicker ones have higher levels for longer periods of time. In 2018, around 200 foals were enrolled in the progesterone study at Ohio State.

For more information on these studies and other foal research, contact 614-292-6661 or equineoffice@osu.edu.

What to know about foal complications

- Rapid intervention is important
- Refer quickly if extremities are cold
- Ensure nursing, early and often
- Keep foal hydrated
Equine Medicine

Online Equine Skills Survey Needs Your Input

How well are today’s equine graduates prepared to practice?
Are there aspects of their education that would help them improve their clinical skills?

Those are just some of the questions that Dr. Emma Read, associate dean for professional programs, and Dr. Jonathan Yardley, assistant professor-clinical equine field services, have for equine veterinarians. Your feedback will help The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine address important areas during an upcoming equine curricular revision.

See go.osu.edu/equinesurvey for more information and to participate. Questions? Email Yardley.8@osu.edu or Read.65@osu.edu.

Blue Buffalo Veterinary Clinical Trials Office Seeks Participants

If you have a patient that might be eligible for any of the following trials, please contact our Blue Buffalo Veterinary Clinical Trials Office at 614-247-8706 or cvm-clinicaltrials@osu.edu

Current
- Management of sudden onset of diarrhea in dogs
- Constipation in dogs
- Gabapentin to decrease stress in cats with chronic kidney disease
- Evaluation of the effect of omeprazole in cats with chronic kidney disease
- Effect of aluminum pet food cans in cats with kidney disease
- Aluminum concentrations in cats with kidney disease
- Aldosterone in dogs with kidney disease

Upcoming
- Bladder Stones in dogs
- Impact of Diet on Cats with kidney disease

For a full list of current trials, visit: vet.osu.edu/vmc/clinical-trials

CareCredit Available

The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center now accepts CareCredit.
For more information, please call our accounting office at 614-292-1360.

Upcoming CE Events

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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
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<td>May (TBD)</td>
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<td>May (TBD)</td>
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<td>June (TBD)</td>
<td>CE dinner – Cleveland/Akron (Cleveland Academy of Veterinary Medicine)</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
<td>3rd Annual Small Animal Conference at the Veterinary Medical Center</td>
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<td>Oct. 24</td>
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For more details, please visit: vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education