



November - December 2018

Update for Veterinarians



VMC Practitioner Outreach Continues to Grow

If Dr. Doug Graham's busy schedule is any indicator, referring veterinarians have a growing connection with the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), and from what they say, the VMC's efforts to reach them — in the field, through continuing education (CE) programs and with ongoing service updates — is helping improve care for their patients.

Since March 2017, Dr. Graham, the VMC's practitioner liaison, has visited more than 350 practices throughout Ohio and a few beyond.

"My goal is to make sure the veterinarians are aware of what we offer and to find out what we can do better to help them," he says.

"A lot of veterinarians who use the VMC regularly, notice that we have made a sincere effort to improve our communications, both in speed and in detail, from receiving their referral reports more quickly to getting more frequent updates about new services or changes in service."

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From the Director



As we near the end of the year, I'm proud to share just how extensively the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) practitioner outreach has grown in the last two years.

In this issue of *Update for Veterinarians*, we feature the work of **Dr. Doug Graham**, who joined us in early 2017 as Practitioner Liaison to strengthen our outreach with you. Dr.

Graham's practice visits, and his development of continuing education programs and ongoing communication about the VMC's services, illustrate how our collaboration with referring veterinarians is advancing the quality of care for your patients and service to your clients.

We also highlight several specialists from our Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery service. Surgeon **Dr. Joe Lozier** and team members discuss an unusual farm animal case that illustrates the distinctive capabilities we offer in this arena. You'll also read about **Dr. Austin Hinds**, board-certified internal medicine specialist in farm medicine, whom we feature in our new Faculty Spotlight that we've introduced to help readers learn more about our faculty members and the work in which they are involved.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership. I am happy to answer any questions you have about our services.

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VMC Director

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Practitioner Outreach *continued from page 1*

He says practitioners also cite the medical center's new and expansive facilities — more exam and operating rooms — with creating a better and more efficient experience for clients and patients.

Many veterinarians say the practitioner outreach visits are helping them become more aware of the VMC's existing and new services, says Dr. Graham. For instance, veterinarians know that the medical center offers an oncology service, but not necessarily the advantages of this integrated service.

"Thanks to our marketing efforts, most of our referring veterinarians know we now offer 30 or more clinical trials for companion animals," says Dr. Graham. "What I try to do is explain the breadth and scope of those trials and encourage them to consider patient candidates they encounter in practice. It's a win-win situation."

In terms of farm animals, says Dr. Graham, the VMC is generally the option in the state for tertiary care. "We want to make sure referrers are aware of this option, and for equine cases, we're the most complete referral center in the state."

Practitioners most frequently ask about getting appointments scheduled earlier and others ask



Drs. Evan Morse and Doug Graham

for services that are already offered. "If you're not using one of our many referral specialty services on a regular basis, it's easy to forget that we have it."

CE programs remain popular. In 2018, the VMC hosted more than six continuing education programs. Most recently, this included an onsite companion animal CE program in August with over 120 participating veterinarians, who also received a tour of the VMC and met new faculty.

This past fall, Dr. Graham had seven more CE programs on the road, with four companion animal CE programs

in Cincinnati, Columbus and Lima, and in Wheeling, West Virginia. Three equine and farm CE programs were held in Columbus, western Ohio and northeast Ohio.

On January 4, 2019, the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine is offering its second annual large animal CE day with a full day of equine lectures, plus an option of three hours of farm animal presentations. Dr. Graham estimates that in 2019, the VMC will offer approximately 12 CE programs around the state.

He enjoys the outreach and notes that practitioners feel the VMC is working hard to meet their needs. Key goals include helping veterinarians become familiar with the college's clinical faculty and gaining more updates on current topics through CE, he says.

"Referrals are all about relationships, so if the referring veterinarians and VMC clinicians know each other on some level, whether it's on the phone or in person, the referral partnership improves."

There's a lot of excitement ahead in 2019, he adds. "You can see and feel the momentum. A lot of really good things are going on here at the Veterinary Medical Center."

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: cvm-clinicaltrials@osu.edu or 614-247-8706.

Cats with Bladder Stones

This study will evaluate the efficacy of a new diet specially formulated to dissolve struvite stones in the bladders of cats.

Evaluation of an Investigational Product on Metabolic Bone Disorder Progression in Dogs with Kidney Disease

The study's purpose is to evaluate the safety and mechanism of action of an investigational veterinary product believed to be important in the disease process of canine chronic kidney disease and its sequelae, mineral and bone disorder.

Biomarkers during Chronic Kidney Disease

The primary objective of this study is to characterize the natural disease progression of chronic kidney disease in dogs during their patient visits to the Veterinary Medical Center by monitoring their health status, including their blood and urine values, at regular intervals.

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

Urinary Stone Removal a Success in Large Bull



Urinary tract obstructions in goats or young cattle are not unusual, but such an obstruction in a mature, 2,500-lb bull is rare and calls for more clinical expertise in its surgical removal.

In a recent case, the VMC Farm Animal Hospital team successfully performed a cystostomy and urethrotomy on perhaps the largest bull the farm animal medicine and surgery team had ever cared for.

In early September 2018, a client brought in a four-

year-old Santa Gertrudis bull named Little Walker, after the owners noted the animal could not urinate.

“It was interesting because his dad had the same obstruction four years ago,” says **Dr. Joe Lozier**, the primary surgeon on the case and a farm animal clinical instructor. Dr. Lozier had worked on the elder bull when he was a resident. In that case, however the bull was brought in at a much later stage and was subsequently much more unstable and sick, and wasn’t able to be saved. This time, the owners recognized the signs early on and brought in the bull.

The farm animal medicine and surgery team includes two surgeons — one of whom is board certified — two internists, two residents, one intern and three technicians.

The team first performed a thorough exam and workup, which included blood work and a rectal ultrasound to confirm the stone was indeed in the bladder and would require surgery. **Dr. Jeff Lakritz**, Vernon L. Tharp Professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, confirmed the diagnosis and assisted with the ultrasound.

“The blood work confirmed what we suspected,” says Dr. Lakritz. “Doing surgery on an animal that size can be a daunting task,” he adds. At one point there were up to 15 individuals trying to move the bull onto the surgery table after putting him under general anesthesia, he says.

The team used a new motorized tug and a tilt table to move Little Walker and hoist him onto the surgery table.

“We first drained 10 liters of urine from his bladder and made an incision,” says Dr. Lozier. He reached into the bladder by hand and pulled out two stones. The team

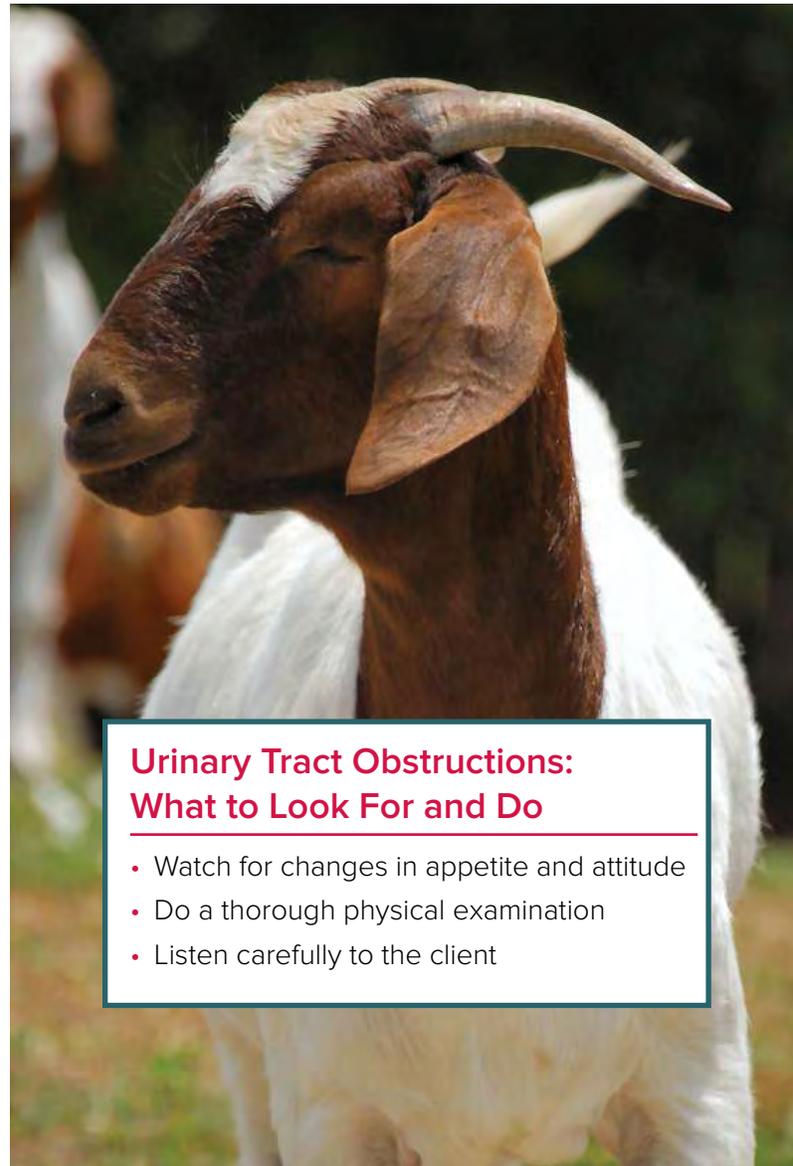
closed the incision and used ultrasound to find the location of the other stone, which could be felt through the skin. A cut was then made in the urethra and the team removed the third and final stone.

“IV fluids didn’t work for him because of his size,” says Dr. Lozier, “so we gave him more salt to increase his thirst so that he drank more water to flush out his system that way.”

Other key team members included **Dr. Brianna Jordan**, an intern on the case who was not only part of the surgical team, but also managed the day-to-day monitoring.

“Although Little Walker was a docile bull, he was still a bull,” she says. “We worked in pairs and always ensured he was adequately restrained when performing any diagnostic procedures.” Little Walker stayed for just over a week before returning home.

Dr. Lozier adds: “Many referring veterinarians are able to handle bulls, as owners have chutes and sedation, but they also know we have the facilities and capabilities with such an enormous animal if the client wants to pursue that.”



Urinary Tract Obstructions: What to Look For and Do

- Watch for changes in appetite and attitude
- Do a thorough physical examination
- Listen carefully to the client

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Austin Hinds



Like a number of farm animal veterinarians, for **Dr. Austin Hinds**, clinical assistant professor of Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), farm experience began early on.

“I grew up in rural Mississippi where we raised broiler chickens, beef cattle and row crops,” he says.

From there he went on to veterinary school at Mississippi State. He completed his internship and residency at Ohio State in 2011, went into private practice in rural Ohio, spent four years at the University of Idaho, and in 2016 returned to Ohio State as a faculty member with the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Save the Date

College of Veterinary Medicine Continuing Education

January 4 – Equine and Farm Animal, Columbus

For more information, please visit:
vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education

Find us on 

The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine
The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center
The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center at Dublin

A board-certified specialist in internal medicine, Dr. Hinds spends most of his time working with individual animal medicine and surgery cases. Often these animals have higher than average production value or sentimental value. Over the years, Dr. Hinds has developed a special interest in small ruminant medicine. “Some common cases we see in these animals are anemia caused by chronic parasites and urinary obstruction,” he says.

He also enjoys being able to address bovine lameness cases, a clinical interest of his. “One of the advantages that we have here at the VMC is the large equipment to position the animal for treatment. With our tilt table and tilt chute, we can really get to all of the feet and do a thorough job.”

Another rewarding aspect of his job, he says, is teaching veterinary students and helping them understand how to communicate with clients.

“I really enjoy helping them learn how to talk with the client in a way they would understand what is going on with their animal and how to care for it.”

He also appreciates the time spent consulting with referring veterinarians. “I want them to know we’re always available. It’s a great collaboration and a wonderful way for us all to improve our practice.”

Announcements



Dr. Richard M. Bednarski, faculty member in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) since 1986, and professor of Anesthesia and Pain Management at the College of Veterinary Medicine, is serving as Interim Department Chair.

A 1977 graduate of the Ohio State College of Medicine, Dr. Bednarski served as director of the VMC from 1993 to 2006. He has provided anesthesia instruction to more than 5,000 veterinary students, interns and residents, and has been recognized over the years as an educator. Among his numerous teaching awards are the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, the 2010 John Lyman Award for Clinical Teaching Excellence, the 2010 Dean’s Award for creativity in teaching, and the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians 2013 Faculty Achievement Award. He is past president of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists and the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association.