Spring weather often means an increase in veterinary emergency calls to The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC). To meet the demand, our team of board-certified emergency and critical care specialists, our residents and interns, and our highly proficient technical staff, are available 24/7, 365 days per year to provide advanced care for small animals (dogs and cats), equine and farm animals.

The Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Service, housed within the VMC’s Hospital for Companion Animals, offers a new, state-of-the-art Intensive Care Unit with the latest monitoring equipment, including bedside ultrasound, remote ECG, direct blood pressure monitoring, and full blood work capability—all supported by a staff of dedicated registered technicians. It is the only Level I emergency facility in the state of Ohio, as certified by the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (VECCS).

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From the Director

While April showers bring May flowers, May also seems to bring an increase in veterinary emergencies.

In this issue of Update for Veterinarians, we focus on successful emergency and critical care cases within our Hospital for Companion Animals, Hospital for Farm Animals and Galbreath Equine Center, to provide an overview of the depth and breadth of the patients we serve and solutions applied. Spring also represents all things new—which is why we are excited to announce the completion of Phase 1 construction as part of the VMC Enhancement & Expansion (E&E) project. Many faculty and staff members have relocated to the new VMC office building, making way for Phase 2 construction to begin. This phase includes a new lobby and expanded client waiting area with floor-to-ceiling windows to allow natural lighting, and more space for patients and clients’ families, including a children’s play area.

These developments signify our continual effort to provide the highest level of service to you, your clients and patients.

Please let us know how we are doing. I welcome your comments and suggestions.
Small Animal Emergency

Dialysis Saves Feline

Earlier this year, clinicians in the VMC Small Animal Internal Medicine Service received a call from a clinician at the University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center in Columbia. The news was grim: Despite aggressive treatment, a 23-month-old cat named Phoebe who had eaten part of a lily plant, had been diagnosed with kidney failure and was in need of dialysis.

The owners, Michael and Christina Weller, reported that Phoebe had ingested leaves from a lily—either a Lilium or Hemerocallis species—that is highly toxic to cats and known to cause rapid kidney failure. Although told that dialysis promised only a 50 percent chance of saving Phoebe, the Wellers were willing to immediately drive her eight hours to the closest veterinary specialty hospital that offered dialysis—the Ohio State VMC Hospital for Companion Animals.

Dr. Catherine Langston, associate professor and service head of the VMC Small Animal Internal Medicine Service, received the patient record by email and consulted with the University of Missouri clinician by phone. “The clinician had worked in a dialysis unit before, and had the expertise to discuss the dialysis complications and outcome,” she said. “The Missouri team helped the Wellers get Phoebe stabilized before leaving so she could make the eight-hour trip.”

Christina Weller, who was traveling at the time, couldn’t make the trip; her husband and father-in-law drove. “When they got to Ohio, everyone—the VMC team—was ready for her,” she said.

“When Phoebe arrived, she was given a blood test that showed creatinine levels of 14 g/dL—10 times higher than normal,” said Langston. Phoebe was given a blood transfusion and placed on dialysis a day later. The results were immediate, and after two treatments and a week of recovery, the cat’s creatinine levels fell to 3 mg/dL. “Phoebe is healthy again!” said Christina.

“Only 22 veterinary hospitals in the United States offer dialysis,” said Langston. “The next nearest includes a private practice in Chicago and Michigan State University.”

“Kidney dialysis is just one of the extracorporeal therapies the Small Animal Internal Medicine Service offers,” Langston said. Other therapies include therapeutic plasma exchange for select immune diseases and toxicities, and charcoal hemoperfusion, which is a treatment for certain toxicities.

Puppy Kindergarten

The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) offers six-week, one-hour puppy socialization classes for puppies age 7-14 weeks and their owners. Sessions start at 6:30 p.m. at the VMC.

Tuesday night start dates are June 14, August 9, September 27, and November 15.

Thursday night start dates are May 19, July 7, August 25, and October 13.

Contact Laura Donaldson for registration materials at donaldson.39@osu.edu. Additional information can be found at vet.osu.edu/vmc/puppy-kindergarten.

Clinical Trials

We always have a need for participants in veterinary clinical trials. If you have a patient that might be eligible, please contact the Ohio State Veterinary Clinical Trials Office at cvm-clinicaltrials@osu.edu or 614-292-4559.

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

For small animal emergencies, call 614-292-3551. See vet.osu.edu/vmc/companion for more information.
In early December 2015, Dr. Andrew Niehaus, associate professor and service head of Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery and Dr. Joseph Lozier, a surgical resident, responded to an emergency referral for Raquel, a six-year-old Holstein dairy cow that presented with cold ears, going off feed and a depressed attitude.

Lozier said the team “had an idea of what was going on” by the time Raquel arrived at the VMC Hospital for Farm Animals. Raquel and owner, Lavon Yoder, had made a four-hour drive from Salisbury, PA. “She was in shock and her heart rate was really high,” said Lozier.

The referring veterinarian suggested Raquel was hemorrhaging into her abdomen, based on a physical exam and knowledge of the cow’s history. In reviewing her previous clinical record, Niehaus and Lozier connected the bleeding to a recent follicle aspiration.

The referring veterinarian helped the VMC team determine on which side to begin the surgical procedure. “That helped make the procedure much easier,” Lozier said. Niehaus and Lozier performed a laparoscopic-assisted removal of the ovary using LigaSure™, an electrothermal bipolar vessel-sealing device. “It stopped the bleeding and probably saved her life,” Lozier said.

“We collected three liters of blood from her abdomen and performed an auto-transfusion in the hopes of stabilizing her,” said Niehaus. Giving the patient’s blood back to her was important to maintain the blood volume, since she was standing during the procedure.

Raquel was recovering well by the time she left the VMC and is undergoing traditional embryo transfer flushing. Mr. Yoder is pleased with the care she received. “We’re sure we would’ve lost her if it wasn’t for the Ohio State veterinary team,” he said.

While the Hospital for Farm Animals provides general primary care to large animals, it is fully capable of dealing with complex and unusual surgical cases because of its veterinary specialists and support services, including ultrasound and blood-donor cattle.

“Our goal is to work together with referring veterinarians,” said Lozier.

“By demonstrating its high level of patient care, emergency capabilities and ability to respond to the most severe traumatic injuries, the Ohio State VMC has been designated by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC) as an official Veterinary Trauma Center, holding that distinction as the only one in Ohio and surrounding states,” Cooper said.
Equine Emergency

Timing, Teamwork Critical in Complex Dystocia

Most mares foal without complication, but on rare occasions a simple dystocia can lead to a compromised delivery, requiring a team of reproductive, surgical and emergency specialists.

In February, a seven-year-old quarter horse named Lucille arrived with an abnormal presentation at the Galbreath Equine Center Emergency and Critical Care Service. The mare had all the signs of having a dead foal—her foal was half exposed, with cloudy eyes and its tongue out.

Three different specialty clinicians were ready upon the mare’s arrival—Dr. Eric Schroeder, who is board certified in emergency and critical care, and internal medicine; Dr. Marco Coutinho da Silva, theriogenology and reproductive medicine; and Dr. Alison Gardner, equine surgeon, and emergency and critical care fellow.

“In cases like this we have every specialist we think we may need,” said Dr. Schroeder. “And as in all problem foaling, time is truly of the essence. Clinicians have 20 minutes in which to deliver the foal, whether it is alive or dead,” he said. “My goal for a successful outcome is what the owner wants. Almost always it is survival of the mare, as it was in this case.”

In Lucille’s situation, the necessary time frame in which to deliver the foal could not be met. She and her owners were driving almost two hours from outside the Dayton area, where their local veterinarian had tried to correct the foal position. Noticing the complication, the veterinarian referred to the Ohio State Galbreath Equine Center within 15 minutes of foal manipulation.

With Lucille under anesthesia, the team spent more than an hour manipulating the foal for extraction at the owners’ request. “Dystocia occurs in 4 to 10 percent of cases, and of those there is a 70 percent chance that with anesthesia, the foal can be removed without surgery,” Dr. Gardner said. However, the foal had a rare congenital issue—its forelimbs were contracted at the knees at a 90-degree angle—requiring a cesarean section and removal of three of the foal’s limbs, a last resort for this unusual case.

While Dr. Schroeder removed the foal, Dr. Gardner and her team closed the uterus and performed a cursory exam to assess the condition of the uterus, abdominal viscera and the colon. Lucille was standing within four hours of the procedure.

Drs. Schroeder and Gardner credit how closely their team works with referring veterinarians to achieve the best possible patient outcome. Their over-the-phone clinical assessment, while the owners were driving to Columbus, helped the VMC team prepare for Lucille’s emergency treatment.

For equine emergencies, call 614-292-6661.
See vet.osu.edu/vmc/equine for more information.

Welcome Dr. Riccó

Carolina Hugueney Riccó Pereira, DVM, MS, DACVAA
Assistant Professor-Tenure Track
Anesthesia

Dr. Carolina Hugueney Riccó Pereira, a 2001 graduate of the Sao Paulo State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, joins the Anesthesia and Perioperative Pain Management Service after having served as Associate Professor of Veterinary Anesthesia and Pain Management at Louisiana State University. Dr. Riccó completed her residency and graduate degree in veterinary anesthesiology in 2007 at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.

Her research interests include hemodynamic monitoring and pharmacodynamics of anesthetic drugs.

CE Program
Equine Medicine

Saturday, May 21, 2016
1 - 5 p.m. at The Galbreath Equine Center

Free CE credit. Free parking.

Topics include:
• New reproductive techniques
• Discussion of top practice-changing articles
• Equine metabolic syndrome and testing updates

Facility tours and Preakness Party to follow CE presentations.

For more information and to register online, visit vet.osu.edu/equine-ce or vet.osu.edu/vmc/equine.