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Letter from the Director

The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center

The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center, 601 Vernon L. Tharp Street, Columbus, OH 43210

Hospital for Companion Animals: 614-292-3551
Hospital for Farm Animals and Gallaher Equine Center: 614-292-0681

March-April 2011

Dear Veterinarians,

Dr. Rustin Moore, chair of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, and acting director of the VMC, “This allows us to provide better patient care and customer service, and an improved learning environment for students.”

The suite also will be utilized for a variety of small animal procedures, including small punch biopsies for masses, castrations, and ear flushing under sedation.

Eblin said the increased incidence of oral disease in companion animals keeps the practice busy, with several cases a week, a number that is sure to go up with the expanded and enhanced area.

“We can accommodate a lot more with more space,” she said. “We can do dentals every day if we want to. It should reduce the wait time dramatically for our clients.”

Dental work increases in importance as pets live longer

Since 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats will show signs of oral disease by age three, it is no wonder that the dentistry practice of The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) continues to grow each year. And recent renovations mean that it has a facility to grow right along with the needs of clients.

Increased space is one of the most significant new features of the hospital’s new dental suite, as the new area is three-times as large as the old one, and includes three designated tables for exams and procedures.

But even more noteworthy are the new digital radiograph viewers on every table that enable students to see all procedures, improving their education and future technique.

“These renovations will be most beneficial for the teaching aspect of our program,” said veterinary technician Dawn Eblin, service coordinator for community practice and dentistry. “This is such a better experience for the student. There is a lot more space for them to be able to observe procedures and evaluate X-rays — good-quality X-rays. It will be so much easier to teach in here.”

Healthcare equipment provider Midmark Corp., of Versailles, Ohio, has donated all new equipment for the suite, including scalers and high-speed extraction instruments.

“We are deeply appreciative of Midmark’s support of our programs,” said Dr. Rustin Moore, chair of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, and acting director of the VMC. “This allows us to provide better patient care and customer service, and an improved learning environment for students.”

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veterinary medical center
Updating the blood bank

Blood donors are a crucial element in the both human and veterinary medicine, and The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) has recently unveiled a state-of-the-art space to enhance the comfort of canine donors.

Blood Bank director Dr. Guillermo Couto said the need for improvements to the blood donation area began in 1997 when the hospital went from using in-house animals for donations to incorporating family pets. Pet owners now bring their animals in for donation about six times each year, and in exchange receive complimentary food, flea and tick care, physical exams, and lab work.

The renovated area has doubled the space for donors, provided a run for larger dogs, and added a level of privacy not previously available.

“When we started we were in a space the size of a closet, and then three years ago we moved to an area the size of a walk-in closet,” Dr. Couto said. “You used to step into the room and in two steps you hit the table, and the door had a window so people were constantly knocking in the midst of collecting blood and sometimes resulted in the dog getting agitated.”

“Now we have room to accommodate all our donors, and a curtain that can provide a private environment. It is much more calming.”

The VMC uses the blood donations to make blood products or components, including red blood cells, plasma, and clotting factors, making them available to veterinarians around the country.

Dr. Couto and technician Cristina Iazbik coordinate donations from the VMC using the new blood bank.

“My motto for patients who need cancer care is, ‘Come on down,’” said Dr. Sue Johnson, head of the service. “Our motto for patients who need cancer care is, ‘Come on down,’” said Dr. Sue Johnson, head of the service. “Our motto for patients who need cancer care is, ‘Come on down,’” said Dr. Sue Johnson, head of the service. “Our motto for patients who need cancer care is, ‘Come on down,’” said Dr. S. Johnson, head of the service. “And on the education front, a student learning center within the area provides future veterinarians with tools they need to further their knowledge.

“[There are] multiple computer terminals that can be used for writing hospital release instructions, and also an area for students to research information on their patients and optimize efficiency in student learning between cases,” Dr. Johnson said. “The students will be practicing skills of information literacy that will be essential to their lifelong learning as future veterinarians.”

Small animal internal medicine space facilitates patient care

“When it comes to treating patients on the Small Animal Internal Medicine Service, nothing is more important than a unified approach addressing all areas of a patient’s needs, and recent renovations to The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center will facilitate just that.

The renovations have provided for the creation of a Small Animal Internal Medicine Suite, complete with exam and treatment spaces, and a single work environment for all members of the patient care team, said Dr. Sue Johnson, head of the service.

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The addition of the four adjacent exam rooms will significantly shorten wait times for clients, and help veterinarians even better communicate with their patients’ families, she explained.

“These rooms also provide additional space for private conversations with clients about their pets,” Dr. Johnson said, adding that such conversations formerly took place in the often-crowded lobby. “And shorter wait times for clients make happier clients, and happier clients result in greater satisfaction among all members of the patient care team.”

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Recently completed renovations to the VMC’s cancer care area mean that patients are now being treated in a dedicated and private chemotherapy area, with expanded facilities for exams, treatments, and instruction.

“Before we didn’t have a ’real’ working area,” he said. “We were seeing patients on the floor in the ward. We were doing biopsies on the floor because we had no physical space. Now we have a beautiful area where we can do five or six physical exams on patients, a chemotherapy prep area, and a chemo delivery suite.”

From an educational perspective, students who once stood in the hall seeking a glimpse of treatments now have a clear path to imaging and interaction, including a video microscope and digital radiography.

“The old space was an old radiology room with open communication with the radiology suite,” Scansen said. “We needed a very sterile environment and the chance of cross contamination with, say, a horse getting an X-ray 20 feet away was very real.

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The VMC’s Oncology and Hematology Service has a very large caseload and the practice continues to grow annually. The renovations will only enhance that expansion, explained Dr. Couto.

“Our motto for patients who need cancer care is, ’Come on down,’” said Dr. Couto, who is in his 29th year at the VMC. “We want to be here when the patients need us.”

The Ohio State University’s Veterinary Medical Center has long been committed to providing some of the best oncology care in veterinary medicine—even if doctors and technicians had to sometimes utilize the floor to do it.

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Letter from the Director

The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center continually strives to be the best, and it now has the facilities to excel in that quest.

Last month we closed in on completion of the renovation and expansion of our clinical space, which will propel us forward in advancing patient care, client services, veterinary student education, and advanced instruction of interns and residents, while facilitating advances in veterinary medicine through clinical trials and discovery.

The space includes four new exam rooms; a small animal internal medicine diagnostic and treatment suite, with a student-learning center; an oncology diagnostic, treatment and teaching suite, with adjacent chemotherapy pharmacy; blood bank collection, processing and storage facility; dentistry and dental minor procedures suite; and an interventional medicine/radiology suite.

This added over 4,600 square feet to our patient care and client service areas, and will allow us to better serve our patients through enhanced services, and to welcome even more people and pets in need.

Inside this newsletter, clinicians from all of these areas share what the changes will mean to our patients, clients, referring veterinarians, and students, and through your own experiences and referrals you will recognize the improvements these changes have made to our care. We invite you to stop by to visit us and get a first-hand view of these new clinical spaces.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Midwest Veterinary Conference last month, and to share our combined commitment to veterinary medicine. We look forward to continuing and strengthening that relationship throughout 2011 and beyond.

We would be able to accomplish none of our goals without you, our colleagues and supporters, who help guide our mission every day, with every referral and with your candid feedback. We appreciate your partnership, your patronage, and your belief in our vision to be the leader in veterinary medicine.

Respectfully and appreciatively,

Rustin M. Moore, DVM, PhD, DACVS Acting Director, Veterinary Medical Center

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vet.osu.edu/vmc

The addition of four new small animal exam rooms will enhance our ability to see more patients, reduce wait time for clients, and improve teaching.