Small animal hospital renamed to memorialize donor

The small animal side of the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital has been renamed in honor of Cora Nunnally Miller (left), a donor who gave more than $13 million to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Cora Miller was a very distinguished woman who sought no recognition for her generosity, taking great satisfaction in simply learning about the impact of her philanthropy,” former Dean Sheila W. Allen said. “We proudly honor her transformational gifts to the College by naming the Small Animal Hospital the Cora Nunnally Miller Small Animal Teaching Hospital.”

Miller, who passed away at her home in July 2015, loved horses, dogs and the field of veterinary medicine. Of her gifts, more than $7 million was designated for the building of the Hospital’s new facility.

Her gifts to UGA totaled more than $33 million throughout her lifetime. She granted permission for the university to acknowledge her gifts only after her death.

IN THIS ISSUE...

3 | Three new ways to serve you
6 | Antimicrobial use in food animals
7 | Current clinical trials

Spring/Summer 2017
I chose to attend the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine because...
I earned my Animal Science degree at UGA and definitely wanted to be a Double Dawg! I also did undergraduate research with the CVM oncologists and knew that I wanted to learn from them in veterinary school as well. They inspired my drive to specialize in oncology, and I hope to work with them again someday.

The one experience I will always remember will be... when I earned my undergraduate degree. I am the first person in my family to graduate from college, so it was a pretty big deal, but I had been so focused on getting into veterinary school that the enormity of this accomplishment didn’t hit me until I saw how proud my parents were on that day.

My favorite place to study is... at my house with my dog, Kitzel, by my side. If she has been paying attention, she might know as much about veterinary medicine as I do!

After earning my DVM, I plan to... pursue an internship and residency in small animal oncology and become a board-certified specialist. It would be wonderful if I could eventually work in academia, with both clinical and research responsibilities.

If I could say one thing to Hospital clients and referring veterinarians it would be... thank you for sending your pets/patients to us. You are allowing us to receive an amazing, comprehensive education, and your support is truly appreciated.
Two years and counting

This past spring marked the two-year anniversary of the opening of the Veterinary Medical Center for the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

“It has been an exciting and busy two years,” Associate Dean for Clinical Services Gary Baxter, VMD, MS, DACVS, said. “Our new facility has had a positive impact on not only our students, but also on the animals that we care for at our hospital and their owners, and on the veterinarians and staff that work there.”

The center opened on March 25, 2015, and includes the College’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital and a Veterinary Education Center. Before moving, the Hospital was handling more than 24,500 animal visits per year in one of the smallest veterinary teaching hospitals in the U.S.

“Since day one, the new facility has been a vast improvement with nearly three times the space and an impressive list of state-of-the-art medical equipment,” Dr. Baxter said. “But what I am especially proud of is what we have accomplished since moving in. Anyone can occupy a building, but I feel our faculty, staff and students have really made the most of this amazing opportunity that we were given by the State of Georgia and by our generous donors.”

Highlights for the Veterinary Medical Center from the past two years include:

• Handled more than 52,000 animal visits
• Provided clinical training to more than 300 residents, interns and students
• Launched or expanded several services including a small animal rehabilitation service, an equine podiatry service, equine CT, an intermediate care ward, a dairy milk-quality lab, a diabetes clinic, and an interventional radiology service
• Began using stereotactic radiation therapy for the treatment of tumors in cats and dogs, becoming one of only a handful of hospitals across the nation offering this advanced oncological treatment option
• Utilized the Hospital’s new Food Animal Treatment Area to better serve Georgia cattle owners and have seen a 25% increase in the number of cattle visits to the Hospital
• Hosted seven continuing education events for veterinary professionals

Welcoming a new dean

While visiting Athens during the spring, Lisa K. Nolan (left), DVM, PhD, MS, stopped by the Hospital and was surprised by some of our veterinary students, interns and residents who wanted to congratulate her on being named the College’s next dean.

Dr. Nolan has led the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University since 2011. She was named dean of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine in February with an appointment date of July 1, 2017. No stranger to the “Classic City,” she earned her DVM, master’s degree and Ph.D. in medical microbiology from UGA.
In the past year, the Hospital has launched several new services in addition to expanding/enhancing already existing services. These changes are aimed at allowing us to continue to provide the best care possible to our patients while also making sure we remain on the leading edge of services available to our referring veterinarian community.

The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital has hired an additional board-certified ophthalmologist with a special interest in equine ophthalmology to help us bolster our offerings in this area.

Sarah Czerwinski, DVM, DACVO, gained extensive experience in equine ophthalmology during her residency at the University of Florida and then spent a year in private practice. She joined the Hospital’s ophthalmology team last winter, which also consists of Katie Diehl, DVM, MS, DACVO, and Kate Myrna, DVM, MS, DACVO.

Additionally, the Hospital has purchased specialized equipment to perform cataract surgery in horses, and we have expanded our patient receiving schedule so that appointments are now available daily!

Services we offer:
- Management of Corneal Ulcers and Uveitis
- Corneal Grafting
- Cyclosporine Implants
- Glaucoma Surgery
- Cataract Surgery
- Iris Cyst Ablation
- Squamous Cell Treatment
- And More!

The UGA VTH is proud to now offer a veterinary diabetes clinic. Our goal is to provide comprehensive diagnostics, treatment and support to help practitioners and owners with the management of diabetes mellitus in cats and dogs. We welcome both straightforward and difficult-to-control cases and will work with you to design a customized treatment plan for each patient.

Services we offer:
- Continuous interstitial glucose monitoring (CIGM): This is a great way to perform glucose curves to monitor insulin therapy and can be done at home. Blood glucose values are measured every five minutes for up to five days.
- Blood glucose curve interpretations: Interpreting blood glucose curves to determine optimal insulin therapy is complicated. We will be happy to interpret your curves and make treatment recommendations.
- Evaluation and initial treatment recommendations for diabetic patients
- Follow-up care for diabetic patients
- Educational resources for owners and practitioners

For more information, please visit vet.uga.edu/hospital/services/diabetes-clinic.
Story by Morton’s owner, Chase Hyder

Morton is an adventurous and mischievous boy who loves a good chin scratch, paddle boarding and long walks on his leash! He is also a therapy cat and works with mentally handicapped adults.

Unfortunately, when he was 4, Morton developed a feline-injection site sarcoma, a type of malignant tumor believed to be linked to certain vaccines. The tumor grew and developed quickly, almost like it happened overnight. We took Morton to our veterinarian, who recommended removing the tumor immediately and referred us to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, his alma mater.

I arrived not knowing what to expect and was greeted by a warm group of oncology doctors, students and technicians who could not have treated Morton and me any better. They recommended surgery to remove the tumor followed by daily radiation therapy sessions for a month to ensure, to the best of their ability, that this cancer wouldn’t return.

The radiation therapy was the hardest part of the treatment for both Morton and me, as it involved daily anesthesia, he lost some of his hair and sometimes he would get nauseous. Yet, everyday, when I brought Morton into the lobby of the hospital on his leash, that tail would rise up and he would turn into a real social butterfly! Everyone—doctors, students and other patients—loved Morton and showed it, helping to make this difficult process much easier!

Thanks to all the teams at the UGA VTH, Morton is cancer-free, loving life and still my adventure partner!
In recent years, antimicrobial use practices in production animal agriculture have come under intense scrutiny and, with this scrutiny, have come new state and federal regulations, including the Veterinary Feed Directive.

Implications of Veterinary Feed Directive Regulations
As a result of this regulation, the use of medically important antimicrobials in feed or water to promote growth or feed efficiency is no longer allowed, regardless of the existence of a valid prescription. Certain antimicrobials can still be used in this manner to treat a valid medical condition, but a prescription or Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) order from a veterinarian is required. Moreover, the veterinarian writing the prescription must be licensed in the state where the animals are housed and have an established veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with the operation in question before a prescription can be written.

What’s the Take Away for Cattle Producers?
- Develop a relationship with a veterinarian that knows your operation and visits it regularly so that you can maintain a valid VCPR.
- Focus on antimicrobial stewardship, which includes: preventing disease through vaccines, dewormers, and nutrition; diagnosing sick animals quickly and accurately; and using veterinary and laboratory advice to help you select drugs that are most appropriate for the diseases encountered on your operation.
- If the need for feed or water antimicrobials is anticipated, let your veterinarian know so that appropriate steps may be taken to ensure product availability. In some cases, the use of antimicrobials can be avoided if other management practices that have an impact on disease occurrence exist.

What’s the Take Away for Veterinarians?
Veterinarians writing VFD orders for clients will have several responsibilities under the new regulations. These include:
- Be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state where the animals are housed
- Write VFD orders in the context of a valid VCPR, which requires regular visits to the operation
- Issue VFD orders in compliance and within context of approved drug use
- Prepare and sign VFD orders, providing all required information, and enter additional discretionary information as necessary
- Provide the feed distributor and client with a copy of the VFD order
- Retain original VFD order for two years
- Provide VFD orders to inspectors upon request

Learn more at vet.uga.edu/hospital/services/production_medicine.

Questions?
If you have any questions about the Veterinary Feed Directive Regulations, or about herd health in general, please contact a member of our Production Medicine Team by calling 706.542.3223.
The hospital is currently seeking participants for the clinical trials listed below. If you know of an animal that would be a good fit, please contact Lisa Reno, our clinical research coordinator, at 706.296.7818 or lisar@uga.edu. For more information about these trials, visit vet.uga.edu/clinical-trials.

### Current Clinical Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we are looking for</th>
<th>Study description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cats diagnosed with diabetes mellitus for less than 1 week</td>
<td>Study to determine if computed tomography (CT) imaging can predict which cats with diabetes will go into remission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cats diagnosed with thromboembolism (blood clot) due to cardiac disease</td>
<td>Study to compare the effectiveness of two different medications for preventing recurrent blood clots in cats.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cats with cancerous tumors</td>
<td>Study to determine the effectiveness of an adjunct therapy in cats with fibrosarcoma.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogs with proteinuria due to chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>Study to determine the effectiveness of a new treatment to reduce urine protein loss in dogs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogs with epileptic seizures</td>
<td>Study evaluating a handheld nerve stimulator for the treatment of refractory seizure activity associated with canine epilepsy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cats with lymphoma</td>
<td>Study to determine the safety and effectiveness of TANOVEA™ for the treatment of cats with lymphoma.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male dogs requiring surgery to correct a urinary obstruction</td>
<td>Study to evaluate a treatment to reduce post-operative hemorrhage in male dogs undergoing surgery for urinary obstructions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogs newly diagnosed with heartworms that have not received treatment</td>
<td>Study to evaluate the effectiveness of an altered dosing schedule and use of an alternative tetracycline for the treatment of heartworms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogs who have had a TPLO surgery occurring between 2 and 4 months prior to enrollment</td>
<td>Study to evaluate the effectiveness of a novel disease modifying osteoarthritis drug on the development and progression of osteoarthritis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogs that have received oral NSAIDS daily for at least 30 days</td>
<td>Evaluation of a new pill endoscopy capsule to detect gastrointestinal ulceration in dogs receiving long-term oral NSAID therapy.</td>
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### AVMA launches clinical trials database

The American Veterinary Medical Association recently launched a free database to archive nationwide clinical trials across all species and veterinary disciplines. The AVMA’s goal to increase awareness of research is twofold: veterinarians and pet owners can search the database for trials and treatments that might help an ailing animal patient that fits a certain research profile, and researchers can quickly expose their study to a national source of potential clinical trial enrollees. Access the database at: https://ebusiness.avma.org/aahsd

### Clinical trials coordinator

Lisa Reno is the Hospital’s new clinical research coordinator and can help you with any questions you may have about our clinical trial opportunities. This is a newly created position that launched on Dec. 1. In her new role, Reno helps streamline the integration of clinical trials within the day-to-day operations of the Hospital and facilitates promoting clinical trials and enrolling participants. You can contact her at 706.296.7818 or lisar@uga.edu.
coming soon
to the Veterinary Medical Center

This outdoor space provides a unique opportunity to celebrate pets, friends, family, and veterinarians. Please consider donating to this campaign in their memory or honor.

To learn more, contact:
706.542.1807
t.uga.edu/3ev