A new minimally invasive surgical technique was used recently at the College to spay Kariba, a three-and-a-half-year-old lion from Zoo Atlanta. The procedure resulted in less trauma to the animal, hastened recovery, reduced post-operative complications, and lessened the need for pain medication.

Kariba was a candidate for laparoscopic ovariohysterectomy because of a hip deformity which gave her a slight limp.

Zoo officials were concerned this trait might be inherited by Kariba’s offspring. Lifelong use of birth control implants was not an acceptable alternative since it might increase her risk of mammary tumors.

Surgery was done by Dr. Clarence Rawlings, professor of small animal medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Ronald Kolata, research fellow at Ethicon Endo-Surgery. “They deserve primary

Continued on page 2
This alum combines vet medicine with airplanes and race horses

"I came to Lexington to learn a little bit more about horses, but I guess I didn't learn enough, because I'm still here," says Dr. Fred Arnold, Class of 1958.

After graduating sum laude, Arnold went into practice with a prominent equine practitioner, but led a double life. Nights and one weekend a month he was a part-time pilot for the Air Force.

"It was hard on my family because I was either in the cockpit of a jet fighter or I was treating a horse," he remembers.

His flying career began with flight training at the end of WWII, and he hardly missed a war after that. He flew during the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam War. In fact, flying helped pay his way through veterinary college. "I've owned four planes," Arnold says. "I love it. It's my golf game."

Race horses were a close second to his passion for flying. "I've done a bit of racetrack work," says Arnold, "at Keeneland, Churchill Downs, and the Red Mile, among others." Most of his work was on horse farms around Lexington, and most of those farms have racing stables.

Then he found the ideal way of combining his three main interests: veterinary medicine, race horses, and flying. He served -- or flew -- on a committee which inspects yearlings submitted for sale at Keeneland. Piloting his Cesna 421 all over the country, he inspected yearlings for confirmation and movement to choose the best of the best. "Buyers who came from Europe and Asia could feel confident that the yearlings they were bidding on had the potential to be good racing candidates," he says.

Arnold claims he's trying to retire, but adds quickly, "I'm still a little active with thoroughbred yearlings." About three years ago he added a very active new dimension: research.

"I got interested in the bone lesions that we find when these yearlings are radiographed. You'd be surprised at the number of lesions we find in ankles, knees, all the joints."

"Thoroughbreds are so active, they're always running, they're competitive. It's that competitive spirit that gets them hurt quite often," he points out.

Some buyers pay several million dollars for these horses, and lesions can affect the price adversely. And yet, "those of us who have worked with these horses on the racetrack know that some horses can run as well with lesions as without," he says.

Arnold looked at several thousand radiographs and statistically rated lesions in joints of specific bones. When his data was presented at a meeting, it sparked interest and funds for a study at Colorado State University.

The idea is to classify these lesions as to size, shape, and location, and then follow the horse through its racing career to statistically evaluate its performance.

Results may show that certain lesions don't affect a horse's racing ability, or that surgery will allow the horse to perform up to its potential.

"I think the information we can get from this study will help our colleagues evaluate yearlings for sale or soundness, because they will have statistics to back up their decisions. We are right in the middle of the study, and have great hopes it's going to help," Arnold says.

New surgical technique used at CVM to spay lion

Continued from Page 1

credit," says Dr. Rita McManamon, senior veterinarian of Zoo Atlanta, "for applying an advanced technique to an endangered animal."

Kariba is a hand-reared 300-pound lion who was rejected by her mother when Kariba was two days old. She was transported to the College's operating suite in a zoo van after receiving only a mild sedative, and was awake during the ride.

"She's used to being transported and is much more comfortable and familiar with people than most zoo lions. She usually just goes to sleep," says Dr. Maria Crane, Class of '94, an associate veterinarian at Zoo Atlanta, who is responsible for Kariba's care.

The laparoscopic procedure resulted in only three small incisions no more than an inch long, compared to 6- or 8-inch incisions typical of traditional methods. "That's why you can anticipate less discomfort for the animal," Crane says.

Only two drops of blood resulted from the surgery according to Rawlings, because a harmonic scalpel was used for cutting and controlling bleeding. This scalpel vibrates at the speed of sound -- vibration which causes the blood vessels to weld together and close after they are cut.

The scalpel and other specialized equipment were provided by Kolata, a former faculty member at the University of Georgia, where she learned endoscopy during her years in private practice.

Kolata also has ties to the College. The most rewarding part of the procedure, according to McManamon, is "a healthy, happy animal that has undergone minimal abdominal surgery and has a minimal scar."

"The University of Georgia, Zoo Atlanta, and Ethicon Endo-Surgery had the foresight and skill to do the presurgical care, the procedure itself, and the post-surgical care," she adds.

"The procedure required all three to be successful."
Wildlife disease researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine are spearheading efforts to find out what causes a mysterious brain disease that killed 13 bald eagles and several other birds last fall and winter in Georgia.

Since eagles are a threatened species, 13 eagles comprise a fairly significant portion of the eagle population in the area.

“It’s unusual to find one dead bald eagle,” says John Fischer, DVM. “Two would be a concern and 13 of them is a lot. It indicates there could be even more dead birds out there that have not been found.”

The primary suspect is Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy or AVM, a disease that destroys a bird’s coordination and ability to walk, swim, or fly.

AVM has been confirmed in eight bald eagles, two Canada Geese, a great-horned owl, several coots, and a killdeer recovered at Clarks Hill Reservoir last November and December. Five eagles were too decomposed to provide useful diagnostic information.

Test results are pending on other birds that were examined in the laboratories of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, a teaching, research, and field service unit at UGA, which focuses on disease and health management of wildlife populations in 15 southeastern states.

“Under the microscope an affected eagle’s brain looks like lace,” says Fischer, director of SCWDS and associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine. “It looks delicate but it’s devastating.”

While the diagnosis of AVM has been made in four states, the cause of the disease has not yet been determined, despite intensive diagnostic and research investigations at SCWDS, the National Wildlife Health Center, and other wildlife health institutions.

“Right now we think parasites or infectious agents such as bacteria and viruses are not involved,” Fischer says. “That would suggest that a most likely cause of AVM is a natural or man-made toxin. But we can’t rule anything out until we’ve determined the definitive cause of the problem.”

Anyone who finds a dead or diseased eagle is urged to contact SCWDS at 706/542.1741.

College launches global program

Broadening and strengthening the curriculum in international veterinary medicine is the goal of the College’s new multidisciplinary international program.

This international effort was launched first because the new university mission statement emphasizes the need for globalizing education.

“So I think its critical that we internationalize our profession,” says Dr. Corrie Brown, Professor of Pathology. “It’s a growth area in veterinary medicine and, if we ignore it, we could be in trouble.”

In addition, pharmaceutical companies — many of which are international corporations — are hiring European veterinarians because American veterinarians don’t have the background to function in this area.

“We want to make sure that we’re preparing our students for these international jobs,” says Brown, senior coordinator for international activities.

The new program consists of an international certificate program and a course in international veterinary medicine, taught for the first time last February. “Students can earn the certificate along with their DVM. We’re the first veterinary college to do this,” Brown says.

Requirements are: to take the course in international veterinary medicine; to spend some time doing something international; passing a proficiency test in a foreign language; and taking an additional 6 or 8 credit hours of related course work.

Students will go to different parts of the world with a digital video camera. “They’ll learn about everything from malaria in India to veterinary practice in Europe or Nairobi.”

About 60 students are involved currently in the program. “Because everything we do is tied to the internet, it’s available to other schools and veterinarians worldwide,” Moore points out. For more information, see the program’s website at www.vet.uga.edu/vpp/ia.

In the jungles of southern Mexico, veterinary students Gaby Flacke (right) and Trish London (2nd from right) worked with veterinarians and students from other countries on projects designed to protect endangered native animals.
**Animal cloning expert is conference keynote speaker**

Dr. Steven Stice, a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in the UGA Animal and Dairy Science Department, will talk about animal cloning enhancements, and genetic selection.

Stice has over 14 years of animal cloning experience. His research focuses on developing innovative animal cloning techniques and stem cell therapies.

He also is founder and chief scientific officer for ProLinia, Inc., a company developing cloning technology for production of pharmaceutical proteins and organ transplantation. Stice produced the first cloned rabbit in 1987, the first cloned transgenic calves in 1998, and holds the first U.S. patents on cloning animals and cattle embryonic stem cells. He was recently named one of the top forty entrepreneurs under forty years old in Georgia.

Dilmus M. Blackmon, Class of ’56, will be the speaker at the Reunion Banquet. He joined the Large Animal Medicine and Surgery Faculty in 1962. Blackmon was chosen Teaching Hospital Chief of Staff for Farm Services in 1979, and served as head of the Department of Large Animal Medicine from 1985 until his retirement in 1995.

Mark Richt, the Bulldogs’ head football coach, will address the Fellowship Breakfast. A former quarterback for the Miami Hurricanes, Richt was named head coach earlier this year. In his 15 years as a collegiate coach, he sent five players to the NFL and worked with two Heisman Trophy winners.

**Highlights of the conference**

**Keynote address**
Animal Cloning, Enhancements, and Genetic Selection,
Dr. Steve Stice

**Small Animal Medicine**
Avian Emergencies,
Dr. Cheryl Greencarre, ’91
Endocrine Diagnostic Services,
Dr. Ellen Behrend
Feline Hyperadrenocorticism,
Dr. Ellen Behrend
Diabetes Mellitus,
Dr. Ellen Behrend
Feline Emergencies,
Dr. Douglass MacIntire
Management of Severe Paroviral Enteritis,
Dr. Douglass MacIntire
Overview of Hip Dysplasia,
Dr. Randall Thompson, ’86

**Large Animal Medicine**
Anthelmintic Resistance in Goats,
Dr. Lisa Williamson, ’81
Sheep and Goat Medicine,
Dr. David Pugh, ’81
Bovine Foot Problems,
Dr. Ellen Belknap, ’86
Interesting Bovine Case Studies,
Dr. Ellen Belknap, ’86
Equine Laminitis,
Dr. Jim Belknap
Practical Field Surgery,
Dr. Earl Gaughan, ’81
Wounds that Expose Bone and Joints,
Dr. Earl Gaughan, ’81
Current Information on Equine Frozen Semen,
Dr. Barry Ball, ’81
Management of Twin Pregnancy in the Mare,
Dr. Barry Ball, ’81
Obstetrics and Fetotomy in the Mare,
Dr. Barry Ball, ’81

**General Interest**
Controlled Substances Regulation,
Dr. Doug Kemp
Toxicity of Plants and Herbal Products,
Dr. Mary Schell
Management of Common Household Hazards,
Dr. Mary Schell
Toxicology of Pesticides,
Dr. Mary Schell
Practice Management,
Fritz Wood

**Special Events**
CVM Open House
G-Day
Presentations by CVM faculty
Symposium on Veterinary Technology and Its Impact on Veterinary Practice in Georgia
Breakfast for members of the University Partners and President’s Club Fellowship breakfast
Top twelve reasons for attending the 2001 reunion

12. Hear a superstar animal scientist, Steve Stice, our first keynote speaker, and superstar alumnus Dilmus Blackmon, who will amaze and amuse you at the banquet.

11. Get the word on what's going on at other veterinary schools all around the country from your fellow alums.

10. Catch up with former classmates and alums from all other classes at the banquet.

9. Find out who won the Distinguished Alumnus, Young Achiever, and Distinguished Service awards. (Could it be you?)

8. Get the inside story on the Dawgs’ next season from the new coach, Mark Richt, at the Saturday morning breakfast.

7. Tour the impressive new Diagnostic Laboratory which opened recently.

6. Receive 15 CE credit hours for attending courses about poison control, emergencies, practice management, and many other hot topics you want to know more about.

5. In addition to reunion festivities, enjoy G-Day, our CVM Open House, fraternity activities, and a symposium on the economic impact of veterinary technicians on veterinary practice — all on the same weekend.

4. Visit with former professors and marvel at how — like you — they look younger than ever.

3. Stock up on t-shirts, hats, and other must-have CVM regalia.

2. Take advantage of your last chance to contribute to the class campaign so your class will win the coveted award.

1. In short, enjoy more activities than we’ve ever had in the past.

The way we were

If you can identify any of these students, please let us know. Email Dot Sparer, Aesculapian dsparer@vet.uga.edu

Doggie Dash and more on the weekend

Alums and their families can enjoy the College’s annual Open House on Friday April 6.

Activities will include exotic animal displays, working dogs, horse shoeing, sheep shearing, endoscopy, a petting zoo, a dog show, and — on Saturday — the traditional Doggie Dash walk/run for charity.

Last year almost 2,500 children and adults attended demonstrations and tours showing the variety of career choices in veterinary medicine. The Hospital, classrooms, and teaching labs will be on view to touring visitors, as will scientific exhibits and demonstrations.
What's your diagnosis?

A seven-year-old male neutered boxer presented with a two-week history of anorexia, lethargy, pale mucous membranes, and a low PCV rate—about 16 or 17%. He seemed depressed. A veterinarian had done tests and given the dog antibiotics to improve his hematocrit. He was treated for anemia and tapeworm disease, but nothing had any effect.

When he came to the CVM Hospital, Drs. Craig Greene and Sarah Silver were in charge of his care. They first observed the dog in ICU. He was anemic, but there was no evidence of any bleeding. It was evidently not immune-mediated anemia.

Abdominal ultrasound showed no evidence of masses, but abdominal radiographs revealed a large spleen. When it was aspirated, the pathologist saw a red blood cell parasite which was sigaret-ring in shape. The diagnosis: babesiosis, caused by Babesia gibsoni, a small species of Babesia rarely found in the U.S. The disease can't be cured but it can be controlled with diminazine, a drug that is approved for use only in Asia, but was available in the Hospital for research. The drug improved the dog’s hematocrit and he went home a few days later.

“I had made this case so interesting,” says Silver, “is that Babesia is so uncommon in the U.S., and that eventually five of the 22 rescue dogs in the owner’s household were diagnosed with Babesia gibsoni.

“It’s pretty amazing,” says Silver. “We don’t even see five cases a year in the Hospital, let alone five cases in the same house.”

Neither Greene nor Silver know how the disease was transmitted from one dog to another. In other countries the disease is transmitted by a tick, but that tick is not found in the U.S. Besides, the dogs were mainly indoor pets living in an area with little grass and few trees.

All five dogs fought with each other, so transmission by infected blood or tissue was suspected. But attempts to inoculate the parasite experimentally have so far been unsuccessful.

The Hospital is looking to fund research to test all 22 dogs in the household.

“The main thing we learned,” says Silver, “is if you have a case that looks like IMHA but doesn’t respond to treatment, look for a parasite in the blood sample and send a sample to the North Carolina State Diagnostic Laboratory for testing. Babesia gibsoni is something we all need to start being aware of.”

Have you had any cases of Babesia gibsoni? Tell us about it in a letter to the editor.

Subjects needed for three studies

Behavior study on the attachment of dogs to their owners

Purpose
Historically studies of the human-animal bond have focused on the human side of the equation. This is the first extensive study focused on the dog’s side of the equation.

This behavioral study is designed to explore the attachment of about 200 dogs to their owners—how dogs with different types of attachment behave towards their owners and towards strangers.

Expected outcome
Information derived from this study is expected to help veterinarians manage their cases by enhancing their understanding of the human-animal bond, as well as the relationship between their patients and their clients.

Method
Owners will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire. A videotape will be made at the College of the dog’s behavior toward strangers and his behavior when the owner is in and out of the room. Some videotaping also will be done in the owner’s home.

Eligibility
Indoor dogs 2-8 years old can participate in the study if they have been with their current owner since they were four months old. Participants should live no more than one hour’s drive from the College.

Eligibility

Clinical trial of dogs with osteoarthritis secondary to hip dysplasia

Purpose
To determine the efficacy of a non-opioid, centrally acting analgesic

Method
Each dog will have a complete orthopedic evaluation, including force plate analysis. Dogs will then enter the 14-day, twice daily oral dosing treatment phase of the study. Clients will receive treatment and evaluations of their dogs at no cost and will be compensated $500 if they complete the study.

Eligibility
Male or female dogs 1-12 years old weighing between 50 and 99 pounds can take part in the study. They should be in good health except for clinical lameness or gait abnormality related to osteoarthritis of the hip.

Contact
For details contact Dr. Steven Budsberg, 706/542.6574, Budsberg@vet.uga.edu, or Lynn Reece, 706/542.5822, lreece@vet.uga.edu.

Red blood cells invaded by Babesia gibsoni

Clinical trial of dogs with a cranial cruciate ligament rupture

Purpose
To evaluate an agent that will modify the progression of cartilage degeneration after surgical repair.

Method
After surgery, dogs will be enrolled in the study and receive 4 weekly subcutaneous injections from their veterinarian. At weeks 6, 12, 24, and 48 after surgery, dogs will return to the College for evaluations consisting of an orthopedic examination, force plate analysis, and sedated radiographs.

Eligibility
Male or female dogs of any breed 1 to 10 years old weighing 33 to 110 pounds. They should be in good health except for acute hind limb lameness associated with a rupture of the cranial cruciate ligament in the knee.

Contact
For details contact Dr. Steven Budsberg, 706/542.6574, Budsberg@vet.uga.edu or Dr. Heather Streppa, 706/542.3361, hstreppa@vet.uga.edu.
The College honors its black alumni

The first black students enrolled in the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1973. The recollections of the five black alumni pictured here point to considerable progress in race relations since that time.

While the College still does not receive enough applications from qualified black applicants, today students of all races and backgrounds are encouraged to apply and are welcomed by students, faculty, and administrators.

Dr. Andrea C. Dunnings, '93
"We were a smart class — we all managed to have pretty good grades — but we also partied quite a bit and had a great time," Andrea C. Dunnings, Class of '93, remembers. "A lot of us were really good friends and have kept in contact." She's now doing relief work in the Atlanta area. "I'm trying to get a feel for how other practices are run, because I want to open my own practice within the next year."

Dr. Esco Hall, '73
"I was one of the first Afro-Americans to go to the College," Dr. Esco Hall, Class of '73, remembers. "There wasn't any black faculty. The only other Afro-Americans were the janitors. And I never got an invitation to join a fraternity. But I survived because everybody was quite professional except for a few. It wasn't all that good at first, but it got better. Hall took a week off after graduation, bought a mixed animal practice in Baxley, and I've been here ever since," he says.

Dr. Jan Egins, '86
"I really would love to see more African Americans at the College," says Dr. Jan Egins, Class of '86. "There were only two of us in our class. There were times when there was some discomfort, but there were so many other times when no difference was made between white and black and the majority of the time was that way. I made some of my best friends in veterinary school," says Egins, a small animal practitioner in Marietta.

Dr. Lenus Hall, '95
"The College prepares you for what you're going to do later on by letting you know you're in a profession that requires a lot of ability," says Dr. Lenus Hall, Class of '95. "My experience in the College was challenging and very rewarding. I made a lot of friends that will last me a lifetime. We keep in touch quite often," says Hall who opened an animal hospital in Gray, Georgia together with a classmate about 18 months ago.

Dr. Ron Tolbert, '83
"I was the only Black in my class of 88 students," says Dr. Ron Tolbert, Class of '83. "Although the administration made me feel welcome, I had a few problems with some of my classmates. It was difficult at first, but there are many classmates I call my best friends and see as often as I can. Aside from his work in his mixed animal practice in College Park, he is a single parent devoted to his two children and spends a great deal of time in community service.

"It was challenging and rewarding. I made friends that will last a lifetime."
Alumni & faculty honors

Alumni Honors
Dr. Becky Schwiebert, (DVM ’89), Academic Coordinator of the UCLA Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine, successfully completed the certifying examination and was elected to membership in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine in July 2000.

Faculty Honors
Dr. Delmar R. Finco, professor, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, received the 2000 Osborne award from the International Renal Interest Society for an outstanding record in the field of veterinary nephrology.

Dr. R. Bruce Hollett, associate professor, Department of Large Animal Medicine, and Director of Continuing Education, received the first Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Equine Practitioners for providing exemplary service to the profession of equine veterinary medicine.

Continuing education courses
Update on Small Animal Therapeutics: April 2-May 20
38th Annual Veterinary Conference and Alumni Reunion: April 6-8
Feline Elimination Problems and Canine Aggression: A Master Course: June 3
Introduction to Veterinary Botanical Medicine: July 9-August 12
Canine Health Symposium: August 4
Athens Diagnostic Laboratory Seminar: August 19
GEPA Fall Conference: October 13
Small Animal Medicine-Cardiology: October 13-14
Small Animal Surgery: November 3-4
Behavior Problems in Parrots: November 17
Psychopharmacology for Veterinarians — Knowing Which Drug to Use and How to Use It: November 17-18
Small Animal Medicine Oncology: December 1-2

For more information, contact Dr. Bruce Hollett, Director, Continuing Education, 706/542-1451, bhollett@vet.uga.edu

In Memoriam

Dr. Roswell S. Bowersett Sr. (DVM ’55), July 15, 2000
Dr. Dennis “Chock” Sikes, UGA research professor and veterinarian biologist, November 2, 2000
Dr. Richard Hawe (DVM ’75), November 18, 2000

Dr. Robert C. Lawrence, Jr. (DVM ’51), December 2000
Dr. Paul A. McDonald (DVM ’50), September 13, 2000
Dr. Julie Clark Keller (DVM ’88), October 9, 2000
Dr. C. Clark H. Shingler (DVM ’56), January 12, 2001

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To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Drs. J. Robert Duncan and J. T. Mercer compiled a history of the College’s first 50 years. To order the book, which includes photos of all graduating classes, please mail a check for $18 payable to The University of Georgia Foundation to: Sandi Kilgo, College of Veterinary Medicine, Room 240, The University of Georgia, Athens 30602-7371. Questions? Email skilgo@vet.uga.edu or call 706/542.1451.

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Available unframed or double-matted and framed (18.5” x 22.5”) with superior craftsmanship and quality materials, the print is ready to hang. A history of the College of Veterinary Medicine is attached to each print. Prices for this limited edition of 950 prints are: $160 framed or $40 unframed, plus shipping and handling.