FAVIP students follow food animal calling

Introducing the CVM’s first batch of students from the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program (FAVIP), an effort to recruit more food animal veterinarians in collaboration with the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.
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The bigger the animal, the better: First-year students tackle food animal challenge

A Plague on North American bats

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Dear Alumni and Friends of the College,

The Georgia General Assembly is now in session, and we are hopeful that in this new year Georgia’s lawmakers will help us launch a new era for our College. A generous grant from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, which we gratefully received late fall, put us just shy of the $15 million in private donations we were mandated to raise toward the building of our new Veterinary Medical Learning Center. Our fundraising efforts have since narrowed this gap. We are hopeful that the legislature will appropriate our construction funding by the close of this session. I look forward to telling you more about this in the next Aesculapian. Meanwhile, be sure to read our VMLC campaign update in this issue.

Also indicative of a new era is the photograph of the five students on our cover. Jennifer Dalton, Katie Rosenbalm, Deanna Veal, Zeb Duvall and Shannon Larsen, as pictured left to right, are the first to matriculate into our CVM from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) as part of the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program, or FAVIP. This 5-year-old partnership between the CVM and CAES is aimed at recruiting and educating tomorrow’s food animal veterinarians. This is a special story about special students, each of whom has already formed a unique bond with our profession.

Other stories you don’t want to miss:
— Dr. Kevin Chapman (DVM ’88), current president of the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, talked to us about his own sentimental bond with veterinary medicine, as well as about his goals for the GVMA, and how the GVMA and the CVM can more effectively work together.
— Dr. Sabrina McGraw (DVM ’09/PhD ’11), the first graduate of our DVM/PhD dual-degree program, shared her views about our program, what drew her to it, and what she wants to do in her future.
— Soon-to-be Dr. Jasmyn Virgo (DVM ’12) shared her experiences in South Africa, where she worked as part of a research team to evaluate the physiological stresses of newly captured white rhinoceros. Virgo said her externship at Kruger National Park solidified her desire to work with large animals – and to make research an active component of her professional life.
— Are you familiar with White-Nose Syndrome, or Geomyces destructans? It is a fungal disease that surfaced in the U.S. a few years ago and has now devastated bat populations in 19 states. Dr. Kevin Keel, along with other wildlife researchers from our Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, has been involved in tracking and researching this disease since the beginning. Dr. Keel calls this “the most devastating infectious wildlife disease we’ve ever seen.” Regardless of your affinity for bats, I think all will agree: This is a fascinating story.

I hope you will enjoy reading these stories, and the other news items in this issue of the Aesculapian. Meanwhile, for those of you who are alumni, don’t forget to join us in late March for our upcoming 49th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend! I look forward to seeing you there.

As always, we could not do all that we do without the generous support of our alumni and friends of the College. On behalf of all of us at the CVM: Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sheila W. Allen

Dean
UGA research animal resources program receives AAALAC accreditation

The University of Georgia research animal resources program has received full accreditation by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC), the organization that grants accreditation to institutions that use animals in research.

Dr. Chris King, UGA assistant vice president for research and director of the animal care and use program, said that university officials were notified in early March in a letter from AAALAC that commended UGA for “…providing and maintaining a high quality program of laboratory animal care and use.”

Accreditation by AAALAC, a voluntary program, is the gold standard for quality of animal care and use in research. Accredited institutions must meet or exceed rigorous standards to ensure the high-quality care and welfare of research animals. More than 800 companies, universities, hospitals, government agencies and other research institutions in 34 countries have earned accreditation from the private, nonprofit organization. UGA’s program was first accredited by AAALAC in 2002.

“Ensuring the humane and appropriate use of animals in meeting our research and instructional missions is vital to high quality science and securing the trust of all of our stakeholders,” said King.

College hosts first Communications Summit for students

The College of Veterinary Medicine held its first communications summit on April 4, 2011. Sponsored by the Brenda Horton Trust Fund, the summit focused on the importance of communication skills for veterinary students and practicing veterinarians. The CVM organized the summit in conjunction with the Bayer Animal Health Communication Project, an Institute for Healthcare Communication (IHC) initiative to provide better communication training to veterinary students and professionals around the world. Pictured above from left to right are Alec Davern (DVM ’13); Carly Turner (DVM ’13); Jake Tripp (DVM ’13); Brenda Horton; and Shaylin Duncan (DVM ’13).

Two CVM faculty members, Drs. Gaylen Edwards and Chris King, have been chosen to serve on the Council of Accreditation for AAALAC.

An elite group of some of the best animal care and use professionals and researchers from around the globe, the council is charged with reviewing institutional programs for all animals used in research, teaching or testing – from traditional laboratory animals, farm animals and wildlife to aquatic animals and invertebrate species.

As council members, Edwards and King will lead AAALAC site visits to universities, government facilities, pharmaceutical companies and hospitals.

Edwards is a professor and head of the CVM’s department of physiology and pharmacology. King is the UGA assistant vice president for research, directs UGA’s animal care and use program, and teaches laboratory animal medicine.
Examine the “Veterinary Spectrum”

Have you ever wanted to go on a reptile hunt at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, or learn more about the reconstruction of a tiger skeleton? Keep checking our homepage (www.vet.uga.edu), as sometime soon we’ll upload these stories and 17 others – all about the CVM – to our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/UGAvetmed).

Together, the 19 segments comprise five 30-minute television shows, called “Veterinary Spectrum,” that will air on WUGA-TV, the Georgia Public Broadcasting station based on campus, in early 2012. “Veterinary Spectrum” is sponsored by Nestlé Purina and hosted by Dr. K. Paige Carmichael (PhD ’93), the CVM’s associate dean for academic affairs and a professor of veterinary pathology.

Each segment provides an in-depth look at a research project, veterinary medical service, or public outreach program based at the CVM. Some of the topics include: wellness segments on dental health for both companion animals and farm animals; a look inside the Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s new regenerative medicine service; an Athens-area “herp hunt;” an examination of White-Nose Syndrome and how it is devastating bat populations in North America; and a look at a CVM-based, though campus-wide, initiative that may change how math and science are taught to future generations.

CVM welcomes high school students for Vet School for a Day

The CVM held its seventh annual Vet School for a Day program on Sept. 28, 2011, bringing high school students from throughout Georgia to the University’s campus to learn more about careers in veterinary medicine.

The event included a tour of the Teaching Hospital, a panel discussion by faculty veterinarians in a variety of specialties, and the opportunity for the students to meet veterinary student leaders. Students also learned about the requirements for admission to the College and what they need to study to be prepared for veterinary school.

Vet School for a Day is sponsored by the David Forehand Foundation, created in memory of alumnus Dr. David Forehand (DVM ’76). Look for next year’s Vet School for a Day on Sept. 26, 2012.

CVM medical illustrator wins award for 3D modeling

Brad Gilleland, a medical illustrator and animator in Educational Resources, won the prestigious Award of Excellence for Marketing and Promotion from the Association of Medical Illustrators for his 3D animated model, “Glass Dog.” The animation was created in association with Drs. Cheri Roberts and Jim Moore of the CVM. Gilleland has provided medical illustrations and animations for CVM faculty since 2003.
The College of Veterinary Medicine launched its first VetCAMP on July 9 for sixteen 11th and 12th grade students representing Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama and Delaware. The program aims to help high school students explore veterinary medicine as a potential career path.

VetCAMP, or Veterinary Career Aptitude and Mentoring Program, offers participants opportunities for observation and participation in the various services offered by the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, and the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories. Camp attendees also receive behind-the-scenes tours of the Atlanta Zoo and Georgia Aquarium.

The students also learn about pre-veterinary requirements for admission to the CVM, research and study abroad opportunities, the DVM curriculum and underserved career paths in veterinary medicine.

“We started VetCAMP as a way to expose young people to all of the career opportunities available to them in veterinary medicine,” said Dr. K. Paige Carmichael, the College’s associate dean for academic affairs. “Through VetCAMP, we hope to broaden the students’ perception of veterinary medicine while increasing their interest in the sciences.”

For More Information
Go to: www.vet.uga.edu/GO/camp
The College of Veterinary Medicine hosted Boy Scouts from Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina on March 5, 2011 to teach them about veterinary school and the veterinary profession.

The Scouts’ visit was part of the Boy Scouts of America Cherokee District Advance-A-Rama, an event hosted twice a year by the Warnell School of Forestry. The daylong event gives 11- to 17-year-old Boy Scouts the chance to attend classes taught by UGA faculty; the classes are designed to help them earn one of several merit badges in various areas.

The CVM has participated in the event for five years. Scouts visiting the College get hands-on experience through tours of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, demonstrations and group sessions, all of which help them acquire the Veterinary Merit Badge.

“The class taught at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine is one of the highlights of our event,” said John Doyle, event manager for the Advance-A-Rama. “If we present the kids with these opportunities, who knows what we can spark in them.”

Michelle Barton, a professor of large animal internal medicine and Fuller Callaway Professor of Large Animal Internal Medicine at the CVM, leads the event every year and recruits veterinary students, staff and faculty to help with educational breakout sessions. Scouts get a taste of the veterinary profession by seeing dissections, examining samples under a microscope, practicing canine first aid and CPR, and learning how state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment works, among other things.

“The best part about working with the Boy Scouts is seeing their enthusiasm for the future and the expressions on their faces after seeing something unique or seeing something for the first time,” said Barton.

According to Barton, most of the Scouts who sign up for the Veterinary Merit Badge are already interested in becoming veterinarians or want to explore the idea further. To help them understand the process of applying to veterinary school, Barton and the volunteers lead tutorial sessions on what it takes to get into veterinary school, what life is like as a veterinary student, what jobs are available for veterinarians or veterinary technicians, and how Scouts can prepare for veterinary school, even while in high school.

“It will be an absolute thrill when one of those Scouts graduates from college, is accepted into our program, and becomes a veterinarian,” said Barton.
The annual White Coat Ceremony, held Sunday, Aug. 14, 2011, welcomed the incoming freshmen to the College of Veterinary Medicine with a formal ceremony and a reading of the Veterinarian’s Oath, followed by a reception for the students and their families. The embroidered white lab coats are donated to the students by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association and the state veterinary associations from South Carolina, West Virginia and Delaware. The GVMA also co-sponsors the event with the College. This year’s class includes the first students to be accepted into the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program, or FAVIP.

Don’t miss the College of Veterinary Medicine’s next

OPEN HOUSE

Friday, April 6th, 2012

For more information or for directions to the College, please visit us at: www.vet.uga.edu/ERC/openhouse
In college time, four years can stretch on forever. It’s long enough to switch majors multiple times, drop several classes, fail a course, drink gallons of caffeine, study abroad, add an extra year and work a few jobs.

Five first-year veterinary students have done very few of those things. They didn’t switch majors. They didn’t fail courses. They didn’t drop classes — they made it through in four years. They are the students who wear cowboy boots to class, toss hay during the summer, get sunburnt helping out on their family farms and, instead of worrying about whether they were going to get into veterinary school after graduation, spent their time waiting for the first day of classes at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

Deana Veal, Jennifer Dalton, Katie Rosenbalm, Shannon Larsen and Zeb Duvall kicked off the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program (FAVIP) in 2007, and now they’re reaping the rewards of their work—one lecture and necropsy lab at a time.

The first class of the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program was several years in the making before five students signed on and made it a reality. "It took a couple of years because it is a true collaboration," said Paige Carmichael, the CVM’s associate dean for academic affairs. "UGA and the College of Veterinary Medicine have never set aside five seats for any other program except this one."

FAVIP is a unique partnership between the CVM and the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES). Students who are chosen for the program major in animal science, avian biology, dairy science or poultry science as undergraduates. Then they must complete at least 300 hours of veterinary internships and score well on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). In veterinary school, they commit to one of three tracks: food animal, mixed animal or population health.

"The plan we put together was structured as such to make sure the students were exceptional," said Carmichael.

"We did a very nice job of selecting them, and they did a nice job of getting through the program," said Dean Pringle, an associate professor in CAES who oversees the undergraduate side of the FAVIP program.

When it comes to veterinary school, every advantage helps. There are only 28 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States. On top of that, about 560 students apply annually to the 102 spots available in the UGA CVM program.

Having a guaranteed spot—after meeting all of the requirements—can make the difference between a summer spent nervous about the first day of class or searching for a different future.

"At CAES, they gain the experiences to ground them in food animal medicine," said Carmichael. "They gain a true understanding and are assured of a clear path to acceptance. The students have done everything we ever asked of them and more."
From left to right: Zeb Duvall, Katie Rosenbalm, Shannon Larsen, Jennifer Dalton and Deana Veal.
The need

Jennifer Dalton grew up in rural Banks County, where she showed livestock through Future Farmers of America and 4-H. To the southeast, the county is bordered by Interstate 85 and challenged by traffic constantly flowing in and out of Atlanta. But even a county close to a metro area can still be vet-less.

“I grew up around large animals and sheep and hogs,” she said. “What I want to do is go back and set up a vet office in Banks County. Right now, you have to go to Royston in Franklin County.”

Banks County isn’t the only one that’s hurting. “Certain counties in Georgia have no veterinarian to provide large animal services,” said Dr. Sheila Allen, dean of the CVM.

These include Marian, Stewart, Webster, Chattahoochee, Emanuel, Candler, Jenkins, Burke, Treutlen, Upson, Crawford, Peach, Meriwether, Pike, Coffee, Jeff Davis, Bacon, Berrien, Irwin, Atkinson, Clinch, Wilcox, Crisp, Telfair, Wheeler, Early, Baker and Miller counties, according to the USDA.

The top needs are for veterinarians who practice beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine and small ruminant medicine. Other shortages include needs for veterinarians in food safety, public health and epidemiology.

“Being a veterinarian is not only about keeping the animal healthy, but providing a safe food supply,” said Dr. Allen. “Having enough veterinarians is critical for public health. We have a shortage of boots on the ground — people in diagnostic labs, at slaughterhouses making sure people are following humane and sanitary practices, and then in food inspection.”

In 2006, the year before FAVIP started, not a single UGA veterinary student went exclusively into large animal medicine. This fall there are 17, up from eight in 2010, none in 2009 and one in 2008. Part of the reason is finances. With loans topping $110,000, students look for the highest-paying jobs. These are usually found in small animal practices—and in people medicine.

“Right now, there are about 80,000 practicing vets,” said Carmichael. “It’s a small and close-knit group. That itself enhances the experience. In comparison, there are about 800,000 medical doctors.”

As more veterinarians retire, the need becomes greater in both small and large animal practice. But the real deficit is in high-need areas. To attract students to these areas, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed House Bill 60 in June 2011. For every year recent graduates work in an area of documented need, the State Veterinary Education Board will purchase $20,000 of their debt—up to $80,000. While the Bill itself has passed,
appropriation of funding is anticipated in the future.

The USDA also runs a veterinary medicine loan repayment program, which pays $25,000 per year and comes with a three-year commitment for veterinarians who serve in shortage areas.

“Some rural counties don’t have a veterinarian at all,” said Carmichael. “It’s not always as feasible for students to pursue that career path. We wanted to help meet the need.”

From seniors to first-years

CAES’s Dean Pringle spent four years teaching and mentoring his students. He saw them grow from freshmen to “leaders in our department and our college,” he said. “The next class is the same way. These kids are a lot more than food animal students. They’re leaders, and I think they’re going to offer a lot and have a very positive effect on those students who didn’t have that food animal experience.”

“About 80 percent of veterinarians view our profession as more than just a job,” said Carmichael. She’s wanted to be a veterinarian since she was 8 years old. “It’s a calling, and we wanted to tap into the calling we knew was there. You want to tap into that love before other interests get in the way.”

Right now, Larsen, Veal, Duvall, Rosenbalm and Dalton are squinting to see straight after hours of studying, necropsy labs and lectures, but thanks to the undergraduate requirements for FAVIP, they have a practical advantage over many of their classmates.

“Undergrad went by really fast, but at the same time, it got me excited about vet school,” said Larsen. “It made me even more sure.”

Squirrels to cattle

Deana Veal can’t remember a time when she didn’t want to be a veterinarian. She grew up showing hogs in 4-H and cows through FFA. And on her family’s Wrightsville farm in southeast Georgia, she was “always involved with birthing calves,” she said. “Now I own a small herd. They’re my cows, and I make the breeding decisions.”

Veal’s love for animals started on the farm—and continued in a veterinarian’s office in Sandersville, where Dr. Sam Evans gave her a chance to continue her informal education.

“The day I turned 16, I started volunteering,” she said. “I helped with dogs and cats. One day I may be going on a call with horses. The next day I would be filing in the office.”

Evans also gave her a push toward formal education.

“He introduced me to FAVIP,” said Veal. “I was a junior in high school. He got me in touch with the right people. At the beginning of my freshman year, my thoughts were ‘eight years, here we go.’”

When she graduates, Veal wants to end up “somewhere like Wrightsville,” she said. “I want to be a veterinarian to all sorts, from squirrels to whole herds of cattle, where every day is different.”

Editor’s note: Some content in this feature appeared in the Fall 2011 issue of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences’ magazine Southscapes.

For More Information

Go to: www.vet.uga.edu/GO/favip
A hibernating bat with the tell-tale signs of White-Nose Syndrome.
White-Nose Syndrome is spreading through states and devastating colonies of bats from Canada to North Carolina.

Dr. Kevin Keel (BS ’90; MS ’93; DVM ’97) opens the refrigerator, lifts out several culture samples, and sets them on the stainless-steel table. “Oh boy,” he sighs, glancing at the Petri dishes. The fuzzy, white growth on the medium confirms what he and others in the lab already feared. The samples—taken from Kentucky bats—are positive for Geomyces destructans, a fungus that is killing bats in Canada and in the U.S. from New York to North Carolina. As of December 2011, the fungus has been found in 19 states and four Canadian provinces—and there’s no end in sight.

Keel, a veterinarian and wildlife pathologist at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS, commonly pronounced “squid-us”) in Athens, along with colleagues Justin Brown (PhD ’07) and Lisa Last (DVM ’10), tested more than a hundred dead bats this past winter, verifying the fungus’ spread to new states—including four in the Southeast since January 2011.

“This latest confirmation is sobering because Kentucky has a tremendous number of caves and bats—and more bat hibernacula [hibernation sites]—than anybody even knows about,” said Keel.
First observed in the United States just five years ago, the fungus associated with White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) appears as white fuzz on the faces and wings of hibernating bats and rouses them prematurely from their winter torpor. Confused, sick—and possibly irritated by the fungus—they take wing, using up scant energy reserves when they should be holed up until warmer temperatures and ample food sources emerge in the spring. Their emaciated corpses, first found by recreational cavers and more recently by state wildlife biologists who are monitoring caves, often end up here at SCWDS, a federal-state cooperative housed in the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

While it’s difficult to confirm the fungus’ source in the United States, Keel says the best theory at present is that it was brought from Europe by cavers or tourists who visited Howe Caverns near Albany, NY. It was there in 2006 that a caver first saw and photographed some white-nosed bats, and discovered several others dead on the cave floor.

“Unlike most fungal pathogens, this one is cold-loving; it grows at temperatures between 40 and 50 degrees,” said Keel. “Unfortunately, its introduction into a cave means that it had the perfect environment to thrive and infect bats. Bats actually cool down to ambient temperatures during hibernation, and the fact that they have minimal body heat could be important to the fungus’s ability to infect them. It’s so sensitive to heat that it might not be able to grow on a warmer animal.”

The syndrome has so far been confirmed in nine bat species, including two (the Indiana and the gray bat) that are already endangered. The mortality rate in some colonies has been greater than 90 percent—Keel calls WNS “the most devastating infectious wildlife disease we’ve ever seen.” And because many bats produce only one “pup” a year, scientists now fear that several once-common species may suffer a major population collapse that could wipe them out entirely in some regions.

That’s a serious concern given the critical role that bats play as insect predators, consuming half their weight or more in mosquitoes and other bugs each night, many of which would otherwise eat or damage crops. A new analysis, published in the April 1, 2011, issue of Science, estimated the value of bats’ pest-control services in the United States alone at more than $3.7 billion a year. The report also warned that the United States will see “noticeable economic losses in the next four to five years as a result of WNS and other emerging threats to bat populations.”

In addition to eating millions of insects, bats also disperse seeds and pollinate some important agricultural crops, including bananas, vanilla beans, peaches, and avocados. Their waste, called guano, provides vital nutrients in cave habitats. And composted guano is a powerful organic fertilizer.

Because little is understood about how WNS actually infects bats, officials in some states have closed caves to recreational cavers, who are almost certainly helping to spread the fungus. But its spread to new states suggests that the bats themselves transmit it—and not just among their own colonies but to other bat species and hibernacula. Still, there are anomalies. “Bats often hibernate in huge colonies ear-to-ear with other species,” said Keel. And yet, some species—such as the federally listed Virginia and Ozark big-eared bats, which have been exposed—haven’t shown symptoms.
Bats have lived on Earth for 50 million years.

Bats are the only flying mammals. Females bear one to four “pups” per year, which they nurse for about six months.

There are close to 1,000 bat species in the world; more than 60 percent are threatened, endangered or close to extinction.

Bats are fastidious; they spend hours a day grooming.

The average lifespan of bats is about 20 years, though some species live only four or five years; others live up to 40 years.

Bats account for more than 20 percent of all mammals on Earth.

Bats are social animals and live in colonies, usually in caves or abandoned mines.

Bats sleep, or “roost,” upside-down during the day and are active at night, when they hunt.

About 70 percent of bats eat insects; others eat fruit, nectar, and seeds. A few species are carnivorous and feed on frogs, fish, birds and lizards.

Bats rarely bite humans, though vampire bats feed on the blood of cattle, horses, deer and other wild mammals.

Only half of 1 percent of bats carry rabies, about the same rate as other mammals.

An anticoagulant derived from vampire-bat saliva is used to treat human heart-disease patients and stroke victims.

Bats pollinate a number of important agricultural crops, including bananas, breadfruit, mangoes, cashews, dates, figs and gourds, which only open their flowers at night.

Bats are found everywhere in the world except the Arctic and Antarctic.
The map shows the spread of WNS in the U.S. and Canada since it was first detected in New York in 2006. The 2011 confirmations, which include sites in North Carolina, Indiana, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Kentucky, are shown in purple. Known bat hibernation areas are shown in blue-gray.

Experts collaborate in the fight

Officials in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources are monitoring caves but admit to feeling pretty helpless in light of the fungus’ swift march south. The state’s largest hibernacula — located in Rabun County — not far from caves with confirmed cases in North Carolina — houses some 5,000 tri-colored bats. “We seriously considered closing caves here,” said DNR wildlife biologist Katrina Morris, “but cavers voiced a lot of opposition. And because we need their help with monitoring and reporting, we ultimately decided against it. Truthfully, we don’t have resources to enforce cave closures anyway, so we’re relying on education, public meetings — and articles like yours — to get the word out.”

In many states, including Georgia, wildlife officials have posted information on their websites about White-Nose Syndrome, including how to decontaminate clothing, ropes, and other gear after caving by soaking them in disinfectants before washing. The protocols were developed by Hazel Barton, a scientist at the University of Kentucky. With funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Barton and Keel are working together to identify compounds that could kill the fungus in the environment. But caves are delicate ecosystems, and Keel says that fungicides, even organic ones, could cause other problems.

Funding for bat research is scarce, but scientists up and down the East Coast are patching together small grants from multiple sources or pursuing studies on their own. Several are working with infected bats to determine what conditions might mitigate the disease. Others are rehabilitating bats in labs to learn whether, once infected, they can recover, and if so, whether they are susceptible to future infection. Still others are using electron microscopy to study the lesions associated with the disease.

“I’ve learned that bat biologists are a dedicated, unpretentious group,” said Keel. “They’re sharing information and working together to fight this thing. And even though we haven’t had much good news for them, they’ve been a pleasure to work with.”

Scientists are especially baffled about the disease’s destructiveness in North America — bats in Europe harbor the identical Geomyces destructans fungus, but apparently without deadly effects. Researchers assume that because White-Nose fungus is native to Europe, bats there have some immunity while those here have none, but it’s only a guess. “The truth is, we don’t yet know what it’s doing, and unfortunately we don’t have the luxury of time,” said Keel.

(Helen Fosgate is editor of ugaResearch, where this story was initially published.)
SCWDS (pronounced “squid-us”) was founded in 1957 by the Southern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to determine the cause of widespread die-offs of white-tailed deer. Headquartered in UGA’s College of Veterinary Medicine, it became the first diagnostic and research service established specifically to investigate wildlife diseases.

Since then, SCWDS — now a state-federal cooperative — has widened its range. SCWDS scientists, for example, performed necropsies on blackbirds that suddenly fell from the skies on Jan. 1, 2011; it turns out that the roosting birds died when they were spooked into buildings and power lines by gun-wielding New Year’s Eve revelers.

SCWDS scientists are at the center of investigations into avian influenza in waterfowl and shorebirds, methods to assess and reduce the health risks of relocating wildlife; transmission pathways of tick-borne diseases and West Nile virus in wild birds, hemorrhagic disease in white-tailed deer — and many other mysteries involving wildlife and livestock. A continuing project has been to conduct baseline disease surveys of wild mammals and birds across the Southeast.

Even today, SCWDS is one of only three such labs in the country. Its formal mission is to detect causes of sickness and death in wildlife; define the impacts of diseases and parasites on wildlife populations; evaluate the interrelationships between wildlife and domestic animals, and finally, to determine the risks that wildlife pose in transmission of human diseases.

SCWDS scientists also train wildlife biologists and veterinary personnel, sponsor workshops, and update administrators and lawmakers about major disease issues.

SCWDS officially serves 19 states. It is funded by the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and member states. Membership gives states access to SCWDS diagnostic and investigative personnel and facilities, as well as to a broad network of its collaborators across the country.
Zach Chillag (DVM ’13) was commissioned into the U.S. Armed Forces as a Second Lieutenant under the F. Edward Hébert Armed Forces Health Professionals Scholarship Program (HPSP). After graduation, he will do a one-year internship with the Army Veterinary Corps before serving three years active duty and completing an 11-month tour abroad.

Dr. Dave Marancik, a doctoral student in the department of pathology, was selected for the UGA Future Faculty Program, which is offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning. Each year, CTL chooses 15 graduate students from the University to participate in the program, which aims to enhance students’ effectiveness as teachers and aid in transitioning from graduate student to faculty member. Marancik was also one of five graduate students to receive The Graduate School’s 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Shawn Zimmerman, a third-year resident in clinical pathology, was presented with the Morrow B. Thompson Award. Sponsored by Dr. Dolores Kunze, the Thompson Award is presented to a senior student or resident who excels in veterinary clinical pathology.

Dr. Elizabeth Driskell, a resident and doctoral student in anatomic pathology, received the 2010 Harold W. Casey Scholarship Award presented by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Caroline Salter (DVM ’12) received an ACVP Student Poster Award in Experimental Disease: “Colitis-Associated Lesion Severity and Intestinal Microbiota Changes in TNF-a-Deficient Mice.”

Emily Ruth Waggoner (DVM ’13) was named one of nine recipients of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) Amstutz scholarship. The $7,500 scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated outstanding attributes that AABP believes are important for a successful career as a veterinarian in animal agriculture.

Elizabeth Antley (DVM ’13) received the Outstanding Sophomore Student Award at the Phi Zeta Induction Ceremony for having the highest cumulative grade point average in the second-year class. Antley will serve as vice-president on the Phi Zeta Committee for one year.

Dr. Bala Manickam, a resident in the department of pathology, received a competitive Student Travel Award by the Society of Toxicologic Pathologists to travel to the society’s annual meeting.

Jennifer Munhofen, a CVM graduate student, took home a gold medal for the U.S. Women’s Inline Hockey team at the World Inline Championships held in Italy on July 9, 2011. Munhofen, who plays defender on the team, is a master’s student in biomedical and veterinary sciences, with a research focus on reproductive imaging in sturgeon.

Munhofen at the World Inline Championships in Roccaraso, Italy, on July 9, 2011.
2011 Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The annual Phi Zeta ceremony was held at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2011, at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Several faculty and students were honored with awards, and 22 students and one resident were inducted into the Society.

New Student Inductees

Andrew Crouch, Ashley Embly, Sylvia Ferguson, Katherine Fisher, Christine Haisfield, Carolyn Hodo, Salina Locke, Koren Moore, Alison Reed, Charlotte Tate, Caroline Webb, Lindsey Wilkins, Jaime Wilson (all DVM ’11); Amanda Bergren, Amanda Brown, Theresa Fike, Jeremy Hansford, Elizabeth Jobe, Olivia Lamberth, Jessica Mobley, Danielle Pollio, Catherine Ray and Caroline Salter (all DVM ’12).

Student Leadership, Service and Outreach Award Recipients

Student Oral Presentation

Victoria A. Meliopoulos (PhD, Infectious Diseases)

Tiffany Turner (PhD, Infectious Diseases)

Julie M. Fox (PhD, Infectious Diseases)

Post-Doctoral Oral Presentation

Claudia Baumann (Physiology and Pharmacology)

Lisa McEwen (Infectious Diseases)

Tuhina Gupta (Infectious Diseases)

Student Poster Presentations

Dalis Collins (DVM ’13)

Priya Luthra (PhD, Infectious Diseases)

Eldin Talundzic (PhD, Infectious Diseases)

Post-Doctoral Poster Presentation

Vibhay Tripathi (Infectious Diseases)

T.L. Sturgill (Large Animal Medicine)

Sandra Fuentes (Infectious Diseases)

House Officer Poster Presentation

Dr. Wesley Lee (Resident, Large Animal Surgery)

Dr. D.M. Babski (Resident, Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care)

Dr. Beth Westeren-Roemig (DVM ’09; Intern, Large Animal Surgery)

House Officer Oral Presentation

Dr. Richard Stone (Resident, Small Animal Internal Medicine)

Dr. Sherisse Sakals (Resident, Small Animal Surgery)

Dr. J.D. Thomason (Resident, Cardiology)

Best Overall Presentation

Dr. Richard Stone (Resident, Small Animal Internal Medicine)

Front row: Jessica Brown Beck (DVM ’13), Abbie Speas (DVM ’11), Jennifer Trzcinski (DVM ’13); also pictured is Dr. K. Paige Carmichael, associate dean for academic affairs. Back row: Wade Edwards (DVM ’14), Alec Davern (DVM ’13), Alan Power (DVM ’14), Shaylin Duncan (DVM ’13). Not pictured: Sara Cato (DVM ’11).
CVM hosts annual shelter medicine seminar

The College of Veterinary Medicine hosted the third annual UGA Shelter Medicine Seminar on Jan. 30, 2011. The all-day event focused on the best management and medicine practices for local and regional animal shelters. About 100 people attended, representing animal rescue groups, animal control facilities and humane societies in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

The event was hosted by the College’s Student Chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and the Animal Welfare Club, with Nestlé-Purina and the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) as sponsors.

This year’s keynote speaker was Rachel Michaud, a Certified Animal Welfare Administrator and current program coordinator for Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida. Michaud is a leader in the field of shelter medicine, with years of experience improving nonprofit shelter operations, administration and programs.

The Shelter Medicine Program provides UGA veterinary students opportunities to learn about issues of companion animal overpopulation and sheltering these animals. This program is funded solely through foundation grants and private donations.

If you are interested in supporting the Shelter Medicine Program, please contact the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine Development Office at 706.542.1807, give2vet@uga.edu or at 501 D.W. Brooks Drive, Athens, GA 30602.

Meet our student ambassadors!

In 2010, the CVM selected its first Student Ambassadors. Selected annually, CVM student ambassadors serve as representatives of the College’s student body and assist with recruitment outreach and College-related activities to enhance the public image of the College, its students and its programs. To prepare for their role as representatives of the CVM, ambassadors must attend training sessions on public speaking, the College’s strategic plan and etiquette. CVM ambassadors are chosen for their strong leadership qualities, interpersonal skills, and sense of school spirit and pride. CVM Student Ambassadors are available to speak on topics related to student recruitment, veterinary medicine and veterinary-related issues.

Front row (L to R): Shaylin Duncan (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Stephanie Pullin (DVM ’13), Mixed Animal; Jessica Brown (DVM ’13), Public/Corporate; Jennifer Trzczinski (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Natalie Duncan (DVM ’13), Small Animal; 2nd Row: Elizabeth Dale (DVM ’13), Food Animal; Gabrielle Clodomir (DVM ’13), Public/Corporate; Michaele Purdee (DVM ’12), Public/Corporate; Jamie Barnabei (DVM ’13), Population Health; Jennifer Bonovich (DVM ’12), Mixed Animal; 3rd Row: Cheryl Stiel (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Claudia Reyner (DVM ’13), Equine; Casev Stopp (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Carly Turner (DVM ’13), Equine; Back Row: Dr. Paige Carmichael, associate dean for academic affairs; Robert Gooden (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Alec Davern (DVM ’13), Equine; Jake Tripp (DVM ’13), Small Animal.

Note: A student may change his/her area of interest.

Front row (L to R): John Gagnepain (DVM ’14), Mixed Animal; Jessica Brown (DVM ’13), Public/Corporate; Ann Rychlicki (DVM ’14), Small Animal; Jeanna Shafer (DVM ’14), Small Animal; Stephanie Pullin (DVM ’13), Mixed Animal; 2nd row: Stephanie Pullin (DVM ’13), Mixed Animal; Gabrielle Clodomir (DVM ’13), Public/Corporate; Natalie Duncan (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Jennifer Trzczinski (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Matt Sullivan (DVM ’14), Mixed Animal; 3rd row: Cheryl Stiel (DVM ’13), Mixed Animal; Jamie Barnabei (DVM ’13), Public/Corporate; Alec Davern (DVM ’13), Equine; Kirstin Huffner (DVM ’14), Food Animal; 4th row: Wade Edwards (DVM ’14), Mixed Animal; Robert Gooden (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Alan Power (DVM ’14), Mixed Animal; Jake Tripp (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Robert Holley (DVM ’14), Small Animal; Not pictured: Kasey Stopp (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Carly Turner (DVM ’13), Equine; Claudia Reyner (DVM ’13), Equine; Elizabeth Dale (DVM ’13), Food Animal; Shaylin Duncan (DVM ’13), Small Animal; Luke Rogers (DVM ’14), Mixed Animal; Wade Won (DVM ’14), Mixed Animal; Lydia Young (DVM ’14), Population Health.
How did you learn about our DVM/PhD program?

While working on my master’s in physiology at UGA, I mentioned my interest in conducting a PhD and DVM concurrently to Dr. Duncan Ferguson, who used to be in the physiology department. Dr. Ferguson told me they were developing the dual-degrees program — it seemed perfect, and has been.

Did you enter the DVM/PhD program immediately upon completion of your undergraduate degree?

No, I worked briefly for a racing crime lab (thoroughbred and greyhound drug testing) in Florida before beginning my master’s in physiology at UGA.

What is your research focus?

I am investigating the potential role of host genetics in susceptibility and resistance to hemorrhagic disease (HD) in white-tailed deer in Georgia. This project is characterizing Georgia deer to determine population structure, comparing contemporary deer with deer sampled in Wisconsin (which was a source for reintroductions from a susceptible area), and examining overall genetic diversity at nuclear neutral markers, mitochondrial markers and major histocompatibility genes.

What was the biggest challenge you faced while at UGA?

My biggest challenges were writing articles and preparing grant proposals while trying to complete the DVM curriculum, and learning to be independent in research. My project has been challenging but very rewarding and interesting, especially incorporating the wide variety of analytical and statistical software.

What are some aspects of the DVM/PhD program that will benefit you the most during your residency at UC Davis?

Prioritizing my time, knowing when to ask for help, and self-discipline — all of which are still a work in progress! I have been lucky to complete coursework here as a PhD student that will be invaluable to me as a pathology resident, and I have been able to continue being active in rounds and seminars and even case work through my PhD that I would not have been able to be a part of, were I not here at the CVM.

What do you plan to do after you complete your residency at UC Davis?

I am very interested in working as a researcher in infectious diseases with the U.S. Army before beginning a career in government or academia. I would work alongside researchers providing pathology service and research assistance or as a primary researcher.

In the long-term, I want to work at the nexus of public, wildlife and domestic animal health, preferably with the government or a non-governmental agency. My greatest interest is in affecting change in the management of disease internationally, potentially through work in epizootic/epidemic response, management of animal trafficking, and effective surveillance.
I obtained the rectal temperature of a white rhino, felt the heartbeat of an elephant and drew blood from the jugular vein of a lion, all while participating in a summer externship program between the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and Kruger National Park in South Africa.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in the Kruger National Park Veterinary Student Externship Program for two consecutive years: 2009 and 2010. This externship has provided me with experiences that I could not otherwise find at UGA, in Georgia or anywhere in the United States. I have always wanted to work with wildlife, but I never had the chance to work in that area of veterinary medicine — until now.

During my first year of veterinary school, I had the opportunity to participate in the preliminary research for a project working with the African white rhinoceros evaluating the stress it endured during capture. This research focused on obtaining the normal intestinal transit time in healthy, non-stressed horses with the goal of applying these findings to rhinoceros conservation.

After finishing my preliminary research at UGA, I was given the opportunity to extend it to research on the African white rhinoceros being done at Kruger National Park. Using the techniques used in horses studied during preliminary research, a baseline was achieved to determine the intestinal transit time of healthy, captive, non-stressed white rhinoceros. We fed non-toxic glitter to two white rhinoceros, which serves as a visual marker to determine the intestinal transit time. We hoped to compare them to newly-captured white rhinoceros that were being relocated.

This past summer I received an invitation to return to continue the research by evaluating the physiological stresses of newly-captured white rhinoceros. This included increasing the numbers of participating rhinoceros that received the non-toxic glitter to determine intestinal transit time, as well as creating a mobile lab to enable analysis of the subject’s neutrophil activity at the time of capture. The results will be analyzed by a physiologist in Pretoria so that we can better understand how the body responds to stress.

To have the opportunity to participate in this research last year was an amazing experience, but to have the ability to return was truly rewarding. The Kruger National Park Externship Program offers diverse hands-on and in-the-field experiences in wildlife medicine that no institution can offer. Students are able to apply the academic and clinical skills learned in school in a laboratory setting as well as in situations that test their ability to adapt to different environments. I feel that this skill is essential in the training of future veterinarians, especially those who are planning on going into wildlife medicine or conservation, where adaptation is a major component.

Because of this externship, I have made strong and lasting connections in the field of wildlife medicine. My mentors have supported and motivated me, and through their support I have become an individual who is dedicated and determined to make a difference in our field.

I am thankful to be a participant of the program; without it, I would not have experienced the unique aspects of wildlife medicine. This externship has allowed me to immerse myself in a variety of environments — cultural, social and professional — that have helped me to become a well-rounded individual and will benefit me in my future as I work to become successful in veterinary medicine. I am sure that my time at Kruger National Park, along with my desire to work in large animal and wildlife medicine, will strengthen and solidify my professional ambitions of being involved in research as a veterinarian.
Rhinoceros worldwide are losing the race for survival, and despite increased efforts to prevent poaching, instances of slaughtered rhinoceros in South Africa are actually on the rise. In Kruger National Park, saving the remaining animals will mean relocating them to different areas within and without the park. The increased need for transportation of these rhinoceros calls for improved transport conditions and reduced stress.

To work toward safer and more efficient ways of transporting these rhinoceros, Kruger National Park and Veterinary Wildlife Services are offering veterinary students the chance to study stress responses of rhinoceros on site in South Africa.

Researchers hope to better understand the effects and extent of stress in these rhinoceros, and will use the results to work toward more efficient stress management of the animals during relocation.

Students are responsible for assisting with sample collection and analysis, neutrophil activity analysis, and rhinoceros capture. At the end of the externship, students summarize their research through a written report and an oral presentation.

College of Veterinary Medicine International Program

To promote the understanding of public and animal health from a global standpoint, the College of Veterinary Medicine offers an International Program with an interdisciplinary Certificate in International Veterinary Medicine (CIVM). Through this program, veterinary students can learn about international veterinary issues and opportunities, complete related coursework and externships, and master a foreign language.

For More Information

About the CVM’s International Program, contact Lakecia Pettway at lpettway@uga.edu or call 706.542.8411.
Dr. Jeff Hogan, an assistant professor in anatomy and radiology and infectious diseases, is co-author on a publication in the journal *Nature*: “Programming the magnitude and persistence of antibody responses with initial immunity.”

Dr. Paul T. Purinton, a retired faculty member, received a 2011 Alumni Recognition Award from Kansas State University at the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, Fla., in January 2011. Dr. Purinton joined the University in 1975, where he taught in the department of anatomy and radiology until 2004.

Dr. Jessica A. Lawrence received a grant from Morris Animal Foundation to go toward feline health and welfare research. Dr. Lawrence’s research focuses on potential therapies for feline vaccine-associated cancers.

Dr. Rabindranath De La Fuente has been selected by the Georgia Cancer Coalition to be one of 12 recipients of the 2011 Cancer Research Awards. Dr. De La Fuente will receive $50,000 seed funding to study non-genetic factors that cause cells to age and become cancerous. The funding for the Georgia Cancer Research Fund is raised through voluntary contributions from Georgians on state income tax forms over a two-year period.

Dr. Doris Miller was the recipient of the 2010 E.P. Pope Award from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

Dr. Annie Prestwood, a retired faculty member and UGA alumna, was inducted into the Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor. Dr. Prestwood taught parasitology at the CVM from 1966 until 1997.

Dr. Zhen Fang Fu will collaborate with Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson Medical College and several other institutions to test a curative vaccine for rabies virus that could be administered late in the disease process. Dr. Fu’s work is funded by a $1.4 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease.

Drs. Sree Rajeev and Susan Sanchez were awarded a $60K grant by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to study salmonella in pets in Georgia.

Dr. Susan Sanchez has been selected as an Administrative Fellow for the 2011-2012 academic year. She follows Dr. Eric Mueller, who participated during the 2010-2011 term. The Administrative Fellows Program, offered by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, provides faculty interested in administration with the opportunity to learn about such institutional service while preparing them for future leadership positions.

Dr. Nicholas H. Booth, a retired faculty member, was honored by Colorado State University with a campus road named on his behalf. Dr. Booth taught at the University in the department of physiology and pharmacology from 1973 until 1985.

Dr. Wan-I Oliver Li, associate professor in the department of physiology and pharmacology, was named a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor in recognition of his excellence in teaching.

Drs. Ira Roth, Marc Kent, Corrie Brown, and Cynthia Ward were each recognized by CVM students as faculty members who made the greatest contribution to their education during the past academic year.

Dr. Corrie Brown was the inaugural recipient of the Open Arms Award, offered by the Office of International Education, for her time and generosity in helping international students in the CVM.

Dr. Ralph A. Tripp received the 2011 Georgia BioBusiness Academic Entrepreneur of the Year Award. The award recognizes a faculty member who has started a company within the past four years based on research originated at UGA. Dr. Tripp founded Argent Diagnostics, a company that develops diagnostic products and services based on Surface-enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS). Dr. Tripp’s research
A project, entitled “Improving Vaccine Technology to Eradicate Polio,” was also selected to receive a Grand Challenges Exploration Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Tripp is a professor in infectious diseases and a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar.

Dr. Randy Eggleston received the Pfizer Distinguished Teaching Award in honor of his character, leadership and teaching ability as judged by the responsiveness of his students. Dr. Eggleston is a clinical associate professor of large animal surgery.

Dr. John R. Fischer was selected to serve as a member on a 20-member committee to advise the Department of Agriculture on animal disease prevention, control and surveillance. Dr. Fischer is director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and teaches in the population health and pathology departments.

Dr. Karen Cornell received the Student American Veterinary Medical Association’s Community Outreach Excellence Award at the 2011 AVMA convention. Dr. Cornell was honored for her work on Vets for Pets and People, a program dedicated to educating veterinarians on the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. Dr. Cornell was also named a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor. The professorship recognizes excellence in instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Jean Sander, a former faculty member at the CVM, was appointed Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Sander taught in the department of avian medicine from 1989 until 2003.

Dr. Amelia Woolums, a professor of large animal medicine, was selected by the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning as one of its 2011-2012 Senior Teaching Fellows.

Dr. Spencer A. Johnston was awarded the James and Marjorie Waggoner Professorship in Small Animal Medicine and was named department head for small animal medicine and surgery.

Dr. Frederick D. Quinn, head of the department of infectious diseases, has been appointed the first Athletic Association Professor in Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Scott Brown, a professor in small animal medicine and surgery, was appointed as the Edward H. Gunst Professor of Small Animal Medicine.

Dr. Andrew H. Parks, head of the department of large animal medicine, was appointed the first Olive K. Britt & Paul E. Hoffman Professorship of Large Animal Studies.

Dr. Mark Estes, a professor in the department of infectious diseases, was named the Fred C. Davison Chair in Biomedical Sciences at the CVM. His laboratory focuses on immunoregulatory mechanisms used against infectious agents.

Recent Retirements

Dr. John Glisson retired as head of the Department of Population Health.

Dr. Barbara Selcer retired from the Department of Anatomy and Radiology.

Dr. Jamie Williams retired from the Department of Anatomy and Radiology.

Dr. Stephan Thayer retired from the Department of Population Health.

Dr. Royal McGraw retired from the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology.
Dr. Murray Hines III, professor of pathology and head of the Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory (TVDIL), was presented with the Charles Dobbins Award for Excellence in Service. He was recognized for strengthening the laboratory’s historically solid relationship with producer groups and veterinarians by maintaining a “customer focused” culture, and for his involvement in a number of outreach activities.

Dr. Sreekumari Rajeev, an assistant professor in infectious diseases based at TVDIL, was the recipient of the Outstanding Laboratory Service Award. Dr. Rajeev heads the bacteriology and mycology sections of TVDIL, and her laboratory is the only laboratory in the state of Georgia approved by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory for performing culture of Mycobacterium avium subsp. paratuberculosis, the cause of Johne’s disease in ruminants.

Drs. Shannon Holmes and David Jiménez were co-recipients of the Outstanding Hospital Service Award. They were recognized for implementing new technologies in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s radiology service, such as voice-recognition software that directly transcribes clinical records to the hospital’s electronically-based medical records.

Dr. Michelle Barton, the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Large Animal Internal Medicine, received the David Tyler Award for Advances in Teaching. Dr. Barton was recognized for her role in implementing the automated response systems in the CVM’s classrooms and for being a leader in implementing new technologies for instructional use.

Dr. Robert M. Gogal Jr., an associate professor in anatomy and radiology, received the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence for the quantity and quality of the research manuscripts he has produced in the last three years, as well as the service he provides to the scientific community.

Dr. Andrew Park was the recipient of the John M. Bowen Award for Excellence in Research. Dr. Park’s work aims to describe observed patterns in animal diseases, including the emergence of macro-parasite drug resistance in ruminants, the evolutionary escape of equine influenza from vaccine treatments and the complex spatiotemporal patterns of epizootic hemorrhagic disease in white-tailed deer. He is an assistant professor in the Odum School of Ecology with a joint appointment in the department of infectious diseases at the CVM.

Dr. Chad Schmiedt was awarded the Clinical Research Award in recognition of the progress he has made toward understanding the mechanisms of post-transplantation hypertension. Dr. Schmiedt is an assistant professor of soft tissue surgery in the department of small animal medicine and surgery.
New Faculty

- Dr. Melinda Camus, lecturer, Pathology
- Dr. Joerg Mayer, associate professor, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery
- Dr. Sonja Zabel, assistant professor, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery
- Dr. Kelsey Hart, assistant professor, Large Animal Medicine
- Dr. Jennifer Humberd-Smith, assistant research scientist, Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Jianjun Wen, senior research scientist, Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Jane Quandt, associate professor, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery
- Dr. Susan Turnquist, associate professor, Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory
- Dr. Ajay Sharma, assistant professor, Anatomy and Radiology
- Dr. Thomas Edwards, adjunct instructor, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery
- Dr. Abhijeet Bakre, assistant research scientist, Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Shanta Dhar, adjunct assistant professor, Physiology and Pharmacology
- Dr. Tuhina Gupta, assistant research scientist, Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Pramod Giri, associate research scientist, Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Krishna Hamal, assistant research scientist, Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Balazs Rada, assistant professor, Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Weilin Wu, assistant research scientist, Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Jyotsana Gupta, assistant research scientist, Infectious Diseases

Vet College team runs race to benefit Vets for Pets and People

Dr. Cynthia Ward, a professor of internal medicine, led a team of CVM veterinary students, residents, interns and alumni in the Publix Half Marathon in Atlanta on March 20, 2011. The team raised $2,500, which was used to support Vets for Pets and People, a program that seeks to educate veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and the public about the link between domestic violence and animal abuse.

For More Information

Visit www.vet.uga.edu/vetsforpetsandpeople/

Get your own AnAtomic Dog!

If you’ve visited our student lobby recently, you’ve probably noticed our “AnAtomic Dog” — a colorful, more-than-life-sized bulldog that was presented to the College as a gift from the Class of 2009. Now you can have your very own, scaled-down version.

Omega Tau Sigma is selling miniature versions of the AnAtomic Dog to raise money for the fraternity. A portion of the proceeds also benefits the Veterinary Medicine Hospital Building Fund.

Like the original, the miniature was designed by Athens artist John Ahee. Each AnAtomic Dog statuette costs $30, plus shipping and handling. Prior to mailing your order, please contact Dr. Doris Miller for shipping and handling costs: miller@uga.edu or 706.542.5915.

Checks should be made payable to Omega Tau Sigma. Please include a note containing your name, shipping address, phone number, and email address. Mail your payment and contact/shipping information to:

OTS Alumni Treasurer
205 Burnett St.
Athens, GA 30605

Left to right: Dr. Jen Mayer (former intern), Dr. Brian Cichocki (intern), Dr. Jordan Scherck (resident), Dr. Andrew Bugbee (resident), Dr. Richard Stone (resident), Dr. Andrea Wang (resident), Julie Denton-Schmidt (wife of veterinary surgeon Dr. Chad Schmidt), Dr. Laura Steadman (DVM ’01), Dr. Linda Steadman Leavell (DVM ’00), Dr. Lisa Steadman Kelly (DVM ’08), Dr. Katie Tolbert (DVM ’11); Front: Dr. Krista Cioffi (intern), Dr. Cynthia Ward.
Greetings from your Alumni Association!

All veterinarians who have attended or taught at the College are members of the CVM’s Alumni Association, and are highly encouraged to become active in it. The Association’s objectives are to promote fellowship among alumni, faculty and students; unite alumni and faculty interested in improving and developing the College; build a permanent endowment fund for the benefit of the CVM; fund student scholarships; fund alumni receptions at state, regional and national meetings; provide leadership for the alumni reunions; select and bestow annual alumni awards; and inform the alumni about the College and its activities through printed and electronic publications.

The Association is making a special effort to reach out to our newest members, the College’s recent graduates. Immediate Past-President Tim Montgomery (DVM ’83) created our New Graduate Advisory Committee in 2009 and appointed Kris Kleine (DVM ’06) as its chair. Kris and his committee have been working hard to engage recent graduates in College activities and to introduce them to the Alumni Association. One of their main goals is to help ease the transition from veterinary student to recent graduate.

To assist with this, the “UGA CVM New Graduate Forum” Facebook page was formed (find this and other links below). New graduates are encouraged to utilize this page to answer questions, keep current on veterinary-related activities or seek advice. All topics are open for discussion, from case management questions, licensing or insurance issues, to social networking with other veterinarians. All Association members are encouraged to visit this page and to offer any appropriate advice or to answer posed questions. The committee is also partnering with the GVMA’s Young Professional Committee in support of engaging recent graduates; they sponsored a networking “Happy Hour” at the GVMA summer meeting.

In addition to Distinguished Alumnus Awards, the Association also selects a Young Achiever Award recipient each year. This award is designated for a UGA graduate that has been out of school for between 9 and 11 years. To see the criteria for this and other alumni awards, please visit www.vet.uga.edu/go/awards.php. Be thinking of deserving graduates for these awards and nominate qualified candidates when you receive the mailing asking you to do so.

Your Alumni Association is here to serve you and the College. Please help us in this endeavor and become involved. Let us know your interest in becoming more active by contacting Marti Brick at brickm@uga.edu.

Warmest regards and Go Dawgs!

Michael J. Topper, DVM ’80
President

Follow the CVM and Alumni Association’s current activities!

- www.vet.uga.edu
- www.facebook.com/UGACVM
- twitter.com/ugavetmed
- UGA CVM New Graduate Forum - www.vet.uga.edu/GO/newgrads
Steve Bowen (DVM ’71) was recently awarded the Silver Buffalo Award, the highest award given by the Boy Scouts of America for distinguished service to youth on a national basis.

Mitch Byrd (DVM ’95), owner of Equine Veterinary Services in Southern Pines, N.C., has acquired Aiken Equine Professional Associations in Aiken, S.C. The practice, previously owned by Dr. John Haddon, will now be known as Aiken Equine Associates.

Catherine McClelland (DVM ’83) retired from Hill’s Pet Nutrition after 16 years of employment.

Ruth Dunning (DVM ’11) was named the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association’s Veterinary Student Advocate of the Year for 2011. HSVMA created the award to honor students who have promoted humane and respectful treatment of all animals.

Sharon Nath (DVM ’03) joined the staff of Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital in Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Nath previously practiced at Buckhead Animal Clinic.

Arthur L. Dorminy (DVM ’50) was named the 2011 Distinguished Older Georgian by the Georgia Council on Aging. A resolution was passed by the Georgia General Assembly recognizing Dr. Dorminy for this honor.

Justin Oguni (DVM ’11) has joined Briarcliff Animal Clinic, a companion animal practice located in Atlanta.

India Lane (DVM ’88) became the assistant vice-president for academic affairs and student success for the University of Tennessee system in March 2011. Dr. Lane, a professor of medicine in the department of small animal clinical sciences, has worked at the University of Tennessee since 1997.

George McCommon (DVM ’90) took part in a year-long humanitarian mission in Afghanistan with the National Guard’s Georgia Agricultural Development Team, where he assisted Afghans in handling agricultural issues such as livestock, food storage and construction. Dr. McCommon is an associate professor of veterinary science at Fort Valley State University and is the only Fédération Equestre Internationale veterinarian in the University System of Georgia.

Obituaries


We want to know what you’re up to!

Your classmates want to know what’s happening in your life. Drop us a line. And please include your updated contact information, including your phone number and email, to help us keep our alumni database up to date.

Email Vet Med Alumni Affairs at:
vetalums@uga.edu or brickm@uga.edu

Fax: 706.583.0242
On March 26, 2011 the College of Veterinary Medicine recognized five individuals as Distinguished Alumni and one as a Young Achiever in a ceremony at the 48th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend.

The College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association recognizes Distinguished Alumni each spring. Nominees must have graduated from the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine and made contributions in one or more of the following areas:

- Animal and human health-related public service
- Professional service
- Involvement in veterinary educational research and/or service
- Contributions to the local community, state or nation
- Involvement in veterinary associations at the local, state or national level
- Contributions to the College’s Alumni Association
- Nominees for the Young Achiever Award must meet the above criteria, and have graduated 9, 10 or 11 years prior to the year the award is presented.

Edward L. Roberson (DVM ’61) is a retired faculty member of UGA’s College of Veterinary Medicine and former graduate coordinator for the department of parasitology (which later merged with the department of infectious diseases). Dr. Roberson is known for his decades-long involvement in Alpha Psi both locally and nationally. As a retired faculty member, Dr. Roberson helps to maintain cohesiveness within the College’s retiree community by coordinating gatherings for his fellow retired faculty and staff.

Jack J. Broadhurst (DVM ’70) is considered one of North Carolina’s leading veterinarians and owns the Cat Health Clinic in Pinehurst, N.C. A pioneer and entrepreneur within the field of veterinary medicine, Dr. Broadhurst won a patent on a novel approach using neuraminidase inhibitors to treat a variety of infectious diseases and has founded several successful veterinary businesses.

Walter C. Robinson III (DVM ’73) is the owner of East North Veterinary Clinic in Greenville, S.C. Dr. Robinson serves on the Veterinary Technology Advisory Board for Tri-County Technical College and Newberry College and is an active member of the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians, having served as its president and in numerous other positions. Dr. Robinson served six years on the South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, including a year as chair, and was an AVMA delegate for his state.

Edwin T. Still (DVM ’59) is an internationally-recognized expert in atomic energy and radiation biology, and a former member of the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps. Dr. Still has studied the effects of radiation exposure on human health and was responsible for animal care at the nation’s major research facilities. Dr. Still served as vice president and director of corporate environment and health management at Kerr-McGee until his retirement in 1994. He resides in Edmond, Okla.

Dolores J. Kunze (DVM ’76) is a mixed animal practitioner and a former faculty member of both Michigan State University’s and North Carolina State University’s colleges of veterinary medicine. Dr. Kunze founded and sponsors the Dr. Morrow B. Thompson Award in Clinical Pathology and owns Boiling Springs Animal Clinic in Boiling Springs, S.C.

Brett Levitzke (DVM ’00) was selected as this year’s Young Achiever. Dr. Levitzke is a veterinarian from Brooklyn, N.Y., who founded and directs the borough’s first and only emergency and specialty veterinary hospital, Veterinary Emergency and Referral Group (VERG). Dr. Levitzke is also known for aiding law enforcement’s efforts to prosecute cases of animal cruelty by providing forensics support and expert testimony.
Brown and Barineau receive 2011 Fraternity Awards

Robert C. Brown (DVM ’71), of Great Falls, Va., received the 2011 A.M. Mills Award from the Lambda Chapter of Alpha Psi; Ivan Barineau (DVM ’76), of Havana, Fla., is the 2011 recipient of the Fred C. Davison Award for Distinguished Service, from the Eta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma.

Considered the initial force behind veterinary management in Virginia, Dr. Brown has stayed on the forefront of management education and technology in veterinary services and become a resource for others interested in veterinary business practices. He was a charter member of the Veterinary Management Group One within Veterinary Study Groups, the top veterinary business organization in the United States, and regularly promotes and serves Northern Virginia Community College’s veterinary technology program.

Dr. Barineau was chosen in acknowledgement of his service to others, the veterinary profession and the University of Georgia. In addition to helping with pony clubs, numerous rescue groups and the New Life Mission Church, he and his wife Mary spent six years performing extensive mission work in Haiti. Dr. Barineau owns Cumberland Animal Hospital, where he practices small animal medicine.

A Damn Good Read!

Read a history of Uga, the University of Georgia mascots.

A sports classic, this version is updated to include new material on Uga VI, Uga VII, Uga VIII, and Russ.

The book is available from your bookseller of choice. UGA alums are eligible for a 30% discount if they order from the University of Georgia Press at 800.266.5842 or online at www.ugapress.org

A portion of the proceeds from sales of this book benefits the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.
Dr. Kevin Chapman

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
**What made you want to be a veterinarian and why did you go into mixed animal medicine?**

My mom was an emergency room nurse, which stimulated my interest in medicine. And I had a dog that was hit by a car when I was 12, which began my interest in veterinary medicine and surgery. I always intended to be a small animal practitioner but developed an interest in large animals while on senior rotation.

**Why is combining large animal and small animal care important?**

I think combining the interests is daunting. But being in both allows me more ability to think differently than someone who only practices either large or small animal. I think it allows me to adapt to difficult situations, making me a better veterinarian.

**What are you doing to recruit new people into the field of mixed animal medicine?**

I regularly go to elementary schools in my area and talk about veterinary medicine. I also have a Facebook page where I talk about health care. At one time I also had a radio show called “Four Legged Fun” that included health care information and stories about being a veterinarian.

**Why did you get involved in the GVMA and why is it important for the veterinary community to band together?**

The GVMA is the only organization in Georgia that looks after the veterinarian, making sure he/she is able to practice medicine and make a decent living doing so. But GVMA does a lot more than that. It is currently assisting the state of Georgia in setting up a veterinary reserve corps for disaster response. Through the GVMA, I frequently speak to my peers, allowing me to learn from other practitioners when I have an “unsolvable” problem case. It also allows individuals to mentor young men and women who have just graduated, providing support as they learn about medicine in the real world.

**Is there a shortage of veterinarians in Georgia?**

It depends on where you are looking. Some areas have too many veterinarians and others don’t have enough. Generally, this is a result of simple supply and demand. If there aren’t enough people with animals or enough people interested in using a veterinarian, that area will suffer a lack of veterinary care for those who need help. Conversely, if a veterinarian sees an opportunity with affluent or animal welfare-oriented clientele, there may be more veterinarians than there should be. GVMA has lobbied the legislature to provide loan forgiveness for veterinarians who practice in areas that lack veterinary services to make it financially feasible for the veterinarian.

**What do you hope to achieve in your position as president of GVMA?**

Veterinarians have traditionally been in the public’s good graces as one of the most trusted professions, second only to nurses. I am afraid that if we do not try to keep fees reasonable and be more public with stands on animal issues, then we will lose that trust. GVMA has hired a PR firm to help us be more vocal on issues, and we need the CVM to step up and speak publicly on issues with us.

**As president of GVMA, how do you plan to strengthen ties between the CVM and GVMA?**

The GVMA has lobbied the legislature for the construction of a new veterinary hospital. We have tried to use the CVM as a source of speakers and we have offered veterinarians at the CVM a reduced membership fee. I hope in the future we can work together to develop an economic impact study of veterinary medicine in Georgia. This would allow people to see more clearly what veterinary medicine means to Georgia.

**Do you have any advice for soon-to-be graduates?**

You have all the knowledge to be a veterinarian, but to be successful you need to develop people-handling skills and fiscal responsibility. Respect your fellow veterinarians, show up early for work, let your clients know you love animals, and you will enjoy this profession.
Fundraising update: Gov. Deal recommends funding VMLC construction

We are pleased to report that we have made substantial progress toward building the new Veterinary Medical Learning Center. Three key events, all within recent months, have brought us closer to this reality.

The biggest news is that Georgia Governor Nathan Deal has listed our VMLC among the projects he would like the Georgia General Assembly to fund for FY13. Governor Deal’s proposed budget will be considered by the Georgia General Assembly throughout the spring legislative session.

“We are optimistic that the House and Senate will endorse our project, with final approval in April 2012,” said Sheila W. Allen, dean of the College. “If all continues as hoped, construction of our new Hospital would break ground in fall 2012.”

If you would like to express your support for this project, please contact your local legislators. You may find the name and contact information for your legislators on the Georgia General Assembly’s website at: www.legis.ga.gov

Prior to the Governor’s announcement in January, we had several generous benefactors come forward in the fall. One, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, donated $5 million toward our project, which pushed us over the $10 million mark.

Within weeks, a devoted Hospital client, and supporter of the University of Georgia, offered to match all gifts until we reach our $15 million goal in private funds raised.

The CVM continues to raise private funds toward this project. Since December 1, we have raised $543,000. With the matching funds pledged, this brings our total VMLC fundraising to $14.6 million (as of our publication date).

If you wish to make a multi-year pledge or consider a naming opportunity, please contact us at give2vet@uga.edu, or call our Development office at 706.542.1807. For more information about the need for the VMLC, the plans for the facility, our capital campaign, and the honor roll of donors, or to give a gift through our secured website, visit: www.vet.uga.edu/vmlc

Thanks so much to all of you for your steadfast dedication, patience, and perseverance as we’ve worked to create awareness about the need for this project and to raise the funds to realize this goal. For decades to come, the VMLC will have a positive impact on the students, faculty, staff at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, as well as the patients we treat and the veterinary profession in Georgia and our surrounding region.
Invest in the Future

Help us ensure that our students have access to the greatest educational opportunities available in veterinary medicine: **Endow a professorship!**

- One professor with a 20-year career at our CVM may impact more than 2000 students over the course of his or her career.
- Each of these graduates will treat tens of thousands of animals throughout his or her career. Many will also become teachers. Virtually all will become mentors.
- Endowing funds for faculty helps us to retain the talented faculty we have now, and enables our search for those who will teach tomorrow’s veterinarians.

For more information, contact give2vet@uga.edu or call 706.542.1807.

You may support these funds by giving to an established fund, or by creating a new one. A gift of $250,000 will create a fully endowed professorship. You may create a professorship with an outright gift, or as a gift to the College through your estate.

Funding opportunities for existing professorships*

- The Athletic Association Professorship in Infectious Diseases – supports a professor’s teaching, research and professional activities toward the study of infectious diseases.
- The Fred C. Davison Distinguished Chair of Veterinary Medicine – honors the late Dr. Davison, a 1952 CVM graduate, the second dean of our College, and president of UGA from 1967-1986.
- The Georgia Research Alliance Caswell Chair of Avian Medicine – honors former faculty member Caswell S. Eidson.
- The Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Animal Health Vaccine Development – recognizes a professor of outstanding national reputation working on vaccine development.
- The Edward Gunst Professorship in Small Animal Medicine – supports a professor’s teaching, research, service and professional activities.
- The Barry G. Harmon Professorship in Veterinary Pathology – supports a professor’s teaching, research and professional activities.
- The Marguerite Thomas Hodgson Chair of Equine Studies – supports and promotes equine health with supplementary assistance to support the chair’s teaching, research, service and professional activities.
- The James and Marjorie Waggoner Professor of Small Animal Studies – supports a professor’s teaching, research, service and professional activities.
- The Olive K. Britt–Paul Hoffman Professor of Large Animal Medicine – honors the life-long professional friendship between a student and her CVM mentor; supports the professor’s teaching, research, service and professional activities.
- The Harbor Lights Chair in Small Animal Studies – supports the professor’s teaching, research, service and professional activities.
- The University of Georgia Foundation Professorship in Veterinary Medicine – supports the professor’s teaching, research, service and professional activities.

*Funds listed have been fully endowed and approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Pictured: Dr. Steeve Giguère, professor of Large Animal Internal Medicine and the Marguerite Thomas Hodgson Chair of Equine Studies.
For more than 15 years, Drs. Louise Kellam Burpee (DVM ’87) and Randy Basinger have donated annually to the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. The couple met during the mid-1980s when Burpee was enrolled at the CVM and Basinger was pursuing master’s degree course work in the College’s department of physiology and pharmacology while simultaneously doing a residency in small animal surgery.

After finishing their education at UGA, the couple moved to South Carolina, launched their careers and began raising a family. Burpee is a co-owner of Dutch Fork Animal Hospital. Basinger is a board-certified small animal surgeon and founder of a 13-doctor referral practice in Columbia. Their son, Will, who is finishing his undergraduate degree at Clemson University, is enrolled in the CVM’s incoming Class of 2016. Their daughter, Carly, will start college in the fall.

We asked the couple, both members of the Annual President’s Club, why they give to our CVM.

Dr. Burpee: Our practice began making memorial donations to the College about 15 years ago to honor our special patients. We believed that the funds would be used for practical research to help general practitioners improve our quality of care. Our clients sincerely appreciate the letter they receive from UGA CVM and we hear their thanks for months and years to follow. I think several of our clients have also become supporters of the College. We also have donated to the building fund in recent years because we know of the great need for expansion. We understand the current Teaching Hospital’s limitations and hope to support UGA CVM for future generations of well-educated students. As alumni, we know that we owe our careers’ foundation to UGA and we give back what we can in thanks.

Randy and I together have also pledged our support for the new Veterinary Medical Learning Center. Our son, Will, may get to experience the new facility during his years in veterinary school.

Personally, I am grateful for a successful career and am proud that our Class of 1987 continues to be a strong supporter. It really is important to give in order to continue the excellence of education. My parents were strong supporters of their schools and other worthy causes — it is how we were raised. When you believe in something and have the ability to support it, it simply feels good to share.

Dr. Basinger: For me, donating is about both “giving back” as well as “giving forward.” It is “giving back” because of the great clinical education I obtained from the talented doctors at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and the important physiology foundations of both health and disease imparted from the physiology graduate school faculty. Without their commitment to my education, I would not be where I am today, and so donating now is a way of saying, “Thank you!”

Donating is also “giving forward” because I want those same opportunities to be available to the next generations of UGA-trained veterinarians. Without donations to help build, equip, and staff a new Hospital, the educational experience might not be of the same excellent caliber I feel I received from UGA. Giving forward is a way of saying, “Keep up the good work!” and, “Here are some funds to help make that possible.”

I feel that it is very important to recognize that there were people and programs that helped us as we grew as individuals and professionals. It should be incumbent upon us to be grateful for that, and to help facilitate the same help for others through donations of money and time to causes we feel are worthwhile.

For me, the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine is certainly a worthy cause.
You see it in his eyes long before you see it on the scale. And you’re delighted by the achievement. Because you’re not just helping your patients lose pounds. You’re also helping them gain better health and more time with their families.

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Upcoming Events:

March 23-24  49th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend
April 6    Annual CVM Open House
April 12   3rd Annual Alpharetta UGA Walk4Paws
April 13   Phi Zeta Ceremony
May 5      CVM Graduation (ticket required)
June 2     UGA Alumni Reception (GVMA annual meeting, Sanderson, Fla.)
July 8-14  VetCAMP
August 4-7  AVMA Convention (San Diego, Calif.)
August 12  White Coat Ceremony
September 26 Vet School for a Day

Continuing Education Schedule:

March 3-4  Basic Small Animal Soft Tissue Rigid Endoscopy
March 23-24 49th Annual Veterinary Conference & Alumni Weekend
April 21-22 Basic Ultrastructure and Ultrastructural Pathology
June 21-22 Small Animal Arthroscopy
June 23-24 Advanced Laparoscopic and Thoracoscopic Surgery
July 7-22 ACVIM Neuroscience Conference
July 20-21 Small Animal Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
July 22    Practical Veterinary Dentistry
July 22-23 Basic Small Animal Soft Tissue Rigid Endoscopy

Dates or Continuing Education course topics are subject to change.

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