NEW VMLC BREAKS GROUND

Turning over the dirt at the VMLC Ceremonial Groundbreaking Nov. 9, 2012 (l. to r.): Former UGA President Michael Adams, SCVMA president Ann Rychlicki (DVM 2013), SCV President Dr. G. Scott Bryant, GVMA President Dr. Denise Funk, UGA CVM Dean Dr. Sheila Allen, former VTH Director Dr. Doug Allen, UGA DVM Alumni President Dr. Flynn Nance, VTH Director Dr. Gary Baxter, former UGA CVM Dean Dr. Keith Prasse, and former UGA CVM Dean Dr. Dave Anderson. See page 3 for story.

MRI SUITE COMPLETE

The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital is pleased to announce that patients are now being scheduled for its new MRI. The 1.5 tesla Siemens machine is located in the Large Animal Hospital, and is suitable for most equine and small animal patients. “This MRI opens up a whole new service that we’ve never had before,” commented Shannon Holmes, DVM, MSc, DACVR, of the Diagnostic Imaging service. “To have an MRI in-house to be able to do emergency MRIs, and the ability to do a horse, is a great addition to the services we offer. It opens up more properties compared with what we had before, too, including new neurological applications.”

RDVMs can schedule equine MRIs through our LA Referral Coordinators, Susan Cullen or Kristie Russum, by calling 800.861.7458.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Patient Profile: Chief...2
Picture Your Pet...4 & 5
Clinical Trials...6
Fighting Pet Obesity...7
In the bustle of the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) three ladies, who didn’t know one another the month before, sit anxiously waiting for a report from Dr. Randy Eggleston and his team following a complex surgery on Chief, a 13-year-old Appaloosa. They all have one similar purpose: to help save a horse’s life. For as tough a time as Chief has had over the past several years, he certainly has an angel — or several — smiling over his shoulder now.

Chief was brought to the UGA VTH in early October 2012. He is the equine charge of Lynley Edwards of Equine Advocates of North Georgia, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing advocacy and sanctuary for horses in need. Chief had been assigned to her care after he was taken from his previous owner due to suspected neglect and abuse.

Following the examination by Eggleston, a large animal surgeon at the VTH, it was determined that Chief had a severe case of osteoarthritis of the fetlock and pastern joints of the same limb; it appeared as though the fetlock arthritis originated from a previous fracture. Due to the severity of the disease, the only treatment option was to surgically arthrodesis (fuse) the fetlock and pastern joints.

Edwards knew after having one of her previous rescue horses here last year, that the UGA VTH would provide excellent care to Chief, however, the challenge was coming up with the money to pay the bill for Chief’s surgery, bone plates and expected six- to eight-week stay in the hospital. Without the funds for surgery, it was likely that Chief would have to be euthanized.

That’s where the power of spreading the word came into play. Edwards was at a horse show and saw the state investigator who worked on Chief’s suspected abuse case. When Edwards told her the bad news of Chief’s prognosis, the investigator contacted Miaka Palmieri, who runs For the Love of a Horse, another 501(c)(3) equine rescue organization. Palmieri said she would help Edwards with the money needed for Chief’s surgery.

“Everything happens for a reason,” explains Palmieri of her introduction to Edwards and Equine Advocates. “We don’t have the sanctuary or legal background that Equine Advocates has, but we do have the financial resources to help raise money.”

Around that same time, Kathy Ivy who volunteers with Palmieri, started sending out emails regarding Chief’s plight. One of the emails was delivered to Kimberly Burke, a sales representative from Synthes Vet, a veterinary equipment manufacturer in Pennsylvania. Synthes manufactures the plates and screws needed for Chief’s leg, and they volunteered to donate these materials for the surgery.

The surgery went as well as could be expected, and by Spring, Chief was doing great.

“His progress is right on schedule,” says Eggleston, following a re-check examination earlier this year. After months of stall rest, Chief is ready to be turned out for minimal hand walking.

“Chief is doing so well and we are so glad we did this,” Edwards comments. “This handsome guy has been tolerating the pain for a long time, and he deserves a second chance.”

More Information:
Equine Advocates of North Georgia, Inc.
www.facebook.com/EquineAdvocatesOfNorthGeorgiaInc

For the Love of a Horse
Veterinary Medical Learning Center
Construction Begins New Chapter for UGA CVM

What was recently an open field with grazing horses and a barn for off-site instruction, will soon serve a much-greater purpose — one that will have a meaningful impact on thousands of animals each year, and that will also serve the greater good for both animal and human medicine.

Construction on the new VMLC campus started early March 2013 nearly three miles east of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. When finished, it will encompass nearly 300,000 square feet over several different buildings including:

- **The Veterinary Teaching Hospital**, which will house all of the small animal service areas, clinical pathology, diagnostic imaging for small and large animals, and all large animal service areas including separate barns for equine colic patients, ICU, food animals and outpatients

- **Veterinary Academic Building** with classrooms, an auditorium, and seminar/dining space

- **Covered outdoor lameness arena** for equine exams

- **Theriogenology and Ambulatory Services building**

- **Large Animal Isolation**

The current Veterinary Teaching Hospital opened in 1979 and encompasses approximately 50,000 square feet. As UGA College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Sheila Allen illustrated during the ceremonial groundbreaking of the new VMLC, this was before technologies such as MRI, radiation therapy, embryo transfer and arthroscopy were even envisioned. Coupled with the fact that the VTH serves more than 20,000 patients and teaches more than 100 senior students each year, as well as interns and residents, space is truly at a premium.

The Community Practice Clinic (CPC), which opened in 2007, will remain in its current location on the main CVM campus, and the current VTH will be repurposed for research and instructional space after the VMLC opens.

Work on the infrastructure and foundation is projected to take several months before vertical construction begins. The VMLC is expected to be completed in early 2015.

The CVM is still raising money to fund the VMLC project, including funds to purchase equipment and furnishings. If you would like to donate to the project, contact the CVM’s Office of Veterinary External Affairs at 706-542-1807, or give2vet@uga.edu.

Project updates on the new VMLC can also be found on our website by visiting www.vet.uga.edu/vmlc/index.
PICTURE YOUR PET CONTEST

Winning Entries

The following are winning entries from this year’s Picture Your Pet contest sponsored by the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. All these photos can be viewed in enlarged prints along with their stories in the public spaces in the VTH and in the Community Practice Clinic. Watch for a Call for Entries for our next contest in 2014.

Lana Reagin

Chelsey & Angel Last

Zachary Dunn

Liberty and Legend

SoCs Smith

Tutu Charming and Mary Mae Williamson

Paddy Charapich

Fred Barber

Alli McLendon

Newman Goldman

Hurley Luper

Mamie Smith

Meko Mann

Eddie and Merlin Thompson

Parker Chambers

Cyndy Williamson

Sage Smith

Sienna Hood

Gracie Williams

Addy Gresham

Gunner Dunn

Arrow Carter

Temp Avery

Chris Bar

Addy Dunn

Lana Reagin

Chelsey & Angel Last
Clinical Trials

Strengthening the Link of Animal and Human Medicine, One Brain Tumor at a Time

The University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s Neurology and Neurosurgery service is looking for canines diagnosed with intracranial gliomas, whose owners may be willing to enroll them in a clinical trial to evaluate a new treatment for these tumors.

The study evaluates a new and safe chemotherapy treatment that is delivered, via a procedure called convection enhanced delivery (CED), directly to the cancer site immediately following surgical resection of the tumor (as much as surgically possible). The infused drug (Bioconjugated Cetuximab-Iron Oxide Nanoparticles, or BCIONPs) is delivered slowly to the site over a period of 72 hours.

Cetuximab has been used to treat brain tumors in humans, and preliminary studies in healthy dogs found BCIONPs delivered by CED to be a safe modality.

Dogs enrolled in the study must meet the following criteria:

- MRI determined brain tumor compatible with a glioma
- Systemically well, based on patient history and physical examination;
- Judged to be only mildly neurologically affected, based on mental level, normal cranial nerve function, absence of paresis, absence of ataxia, and absence of compulsive demented behavior;
- Stable in terms of underlying seizure frequency, if any

For more information about the trial, contact Simon Platt, BVM&S, DACVIM (Neurology), DECvN, MRCVS, at srplatt@uga.edu, or Marc Kent, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology and Internal Medicine), at mkent1@uga.edu. Referring veterinarians may also call the UGA VTH’s Small Animal referral coordinators at 706.542.5362. For a full list of current clinical trials at the UGA VTH, visit www.vet.uga.edu/research/clinical/current

To read details about this clinical trial, or to view a video feature about Petey, visit bit.ly/15gll7X or click the QR code to the left.
Welcome New Faculty

Kevin Clarke, DVM, DACVS
Clinical Associate Professor, Orthopedics

Education: DVM, Auburn University
Experience: Surgical Residency, Purdue University
Small Animal Surgery professor, Mississippi State (asst. prof.) and Purdue University
Multispecialty surgical practice in Memphis, TN and Cary, NC

Veterinary Interests: Teaching
Pets: Two Poodles, Bailey and Terra

Louisa Poon, DVM, Clinical Assistant Professor

Education: DVM, University of Wisconsin
Experience: Internship, Colorado State University

Veterinary Interests: Shelter medicine, behavior, emergency medicine
Pets: Five dogs, all rescued

Allison Haley, DVM, MRCVS, DACVIM
Assistant Professor, Neurology & Neurosurgery

Education: DVM, Tufts University
Experience: Residency, UGA

Veterinary Interests: Head trauma, brain tumors, inflammatory disease, teaching, clinical research
Pets: Golden Retriever named Maddigan, and polydactyl DSH named Thumbs

Scott Secrest, DVM, MS, DACVR, Assistant Professor, Diagnostic Imaging

Education: DVM, Ohio State University
MS, University of Missouri
Experience: Residency, University of Missouri

Veterinary Interests: Companion animal CT and radiography, imaging of the urinary tract, especially CT excretory urography
Pets: DLH cat named Leo

Kurt Selberg, DVM, MS, Assistant Professor Diagnostic Imaging

Education: DVM, Washington State University
Experience: Residency, Colorado State University

Veterinary Interests: Small and large animal musculoskeletal imaging, MRI, diagnosing injury and return to athletic function
Pets: Yellow dog named Buddy

Brick by Brick and Step by Step: Help Us Build a New Teaching Hospital

What better way to remember a faithful companion than by giving a gift that will help future generations of pets?

Red Brick - 4”x 8”; $250 (inscribe up to 3 lines; up to 14 characters per line)
Black Brick - 8”x 8”; $500 (inscribe up to 6 lines; up to 14 characters per line)
Replicas for your display -- $45

Black horseshoe -- $500 (inscribe up to 3 lines; up to 14 characters per line)
Copper horseshoe -- $1,000 (inscribe up to 3 lines; up to 14 characters per line)
Silver horseshoe -- $2,000 (inscribe up to 6 lines; up to 14 characters per line)

For more information, please visit www.vet.uga.edu/giving and click on “Buy a Brick” or call 706.542.1807

DID YOU KNOW...
The UGA VTH has more than 40 board-certified veterinarians on staff working in more than 20 different specialties?

Congrats! Jim Smith, DVM Class of 1998
Fun in the Sun Can Be Harmful to Pets

With the temperatures warming and the summer months ahead, it is important to take inventory of environmental conditions to prepare your pet for the heat of the summer and other times of year, as well.

In addition to summer heat, pets left in cars during the spring and fall months are also susceptible to heatstroke or overheating warns Benjamin Brainard, VMD, DACVA, DACVECC, a small animal emergency and critical care veterinarian at the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH).

“During those warm, not hot, times of year, we see many cases of heat-related illness because people don’t realize it’s as hot as it is and they leave their pets in closed cars,” explains Brainard. “It’s important for pet owners to know that closed cars can heat up inside very quickly — even on mild or cloudy days, although the heat is worse during the summer months.”

All animals, whether small pets or large farm animals, can avoid heat-related illnesses with the right environmental conditions.

“It’s pretty much the same for all animals,” states Kira Epstein, DVM, DACVS, DACVECC, a large animal emergency veterinarian at the UGA VTH. “Making sure they have shade outdoors or a well-ventilated indoor space, and clean, cool water are the most important things that owners can provide.”

Epstein continues by saying that most large animals adapt pretty well to the type of hot temperatures seen in the summer in Georgia. The exceptions are animals with thick hair coats like alpacas and llamas.

Contrary to conventional thought, small animals such as dogs and cats, do not necessarily need shorter hair to stay cool in summer months, according to Brainard. Since small animals do not sweat through their skin the way humans do, the hair on many pets acts as a protective layer for avoiding sunburn and heat-related illnesses. Keeping their coat brushed and void of mats is important to keeping air circulating throughout their hair, which has its own cooling effect.

Tips to Keeping Your Pet Cool

- If your pet is outside, make sure there is plenty of shade your pet can rest in and make sure he/she has access to cool, clean water at all times.
- If your pet is inside, ensure that it is a well-ventilated space.
- Never keep your pet in a closed car, even during mild temperatures and/or cloudy days. If in doubt, leave your pet at home.

Pets RXercise Program

The Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) and the Georgia State Parks have initiated an exercise program for owners and their pets. The program includes free parking (normally $5) for owners taking their pets on the trails. Visit GeorgiaStateParks.org/petsrxercise for details.
Contact Information

Emergencies/Main Hospital                    706.542.3221
Appointment Desk      800.542.9294
Appointment Desk (Local)                  706.542.2895
Referring Veterinarians (LA)                  800.861.7458
Referring Veterinarians (SA)                    800.861.7456
Medical Records      706.542.5000
Diagnostic Laboratory     706.542.5568

Share Your Story with Us!

We love to hear about your pet’s experiences at the VTH. Visit www.vet.uga.edu/PR/successstories.php to complete our online submission form.

Calendar of Events

August 28
GVMA Barbecue

September 25
Vet School for a Day

September 28
Dean’s Tailgate

Stay In Touch

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine

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vet.uga.edu/hospital