


IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center

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Equine & Food Animal Hospital
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Iowa State University Vet Pulse visit:
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From the Director of Hospital Operations

Hello, and welcome to 2020! At the turn of a new year, I like to reflect on accomplishments, and we have so much to share with you from LVMC. As a “data” person, I find numbers tell a story, and I would like to share some of our fiscal year 2019 numbers with you.

Obviously, teaching is our primary mission, so an excellent place to start. We trained 166 ISU and contract 4th-year veterinary students last year in our hospital, along with 11 interns, 26 specialty residents, and several visiting DVM scholars and preceptors from ancillary professions such as veterinary technology, radiation technology, and pharmacy. Maybe you’ve already hired one of our dynamic new graduates!

We take our mission to improve the profession seriously, and most of our specialty services participated in clinical

trials or clinical research last year. You can read about a few of those projects in this newsletter or on our website.

Our commitment to providing top quality professional services is a shared goal. Thank you for trusting us with your patients when you refer to us. Be sure to read about our new Referral Coordinator, who helps facilitate the process. She is just one of the many support personnel we have hired to keep up with the increased demand for our services (32 percent caseload increase in 10 years). We have also made updates to our infrastructure, including anesthesia telemetry available across all hospitals, the addition of radiation therapy, and we are currently covering the entire equine hospital with a top-rated rubberized non-slip flooring surface.

We are proud that our small animal Emergency and Critical Care (ECC) Service is certified by VECCS as a Level II Facility.

We are extremely excited that VetCOT has identified our facility as also meeting the requirements for certification as a Level II trauma center in their new initiative to start a trauma registry. Our ECC is the fastest growing service at LVMC, providing care ranging from basic emergency triage through high-level intensive and critical care.

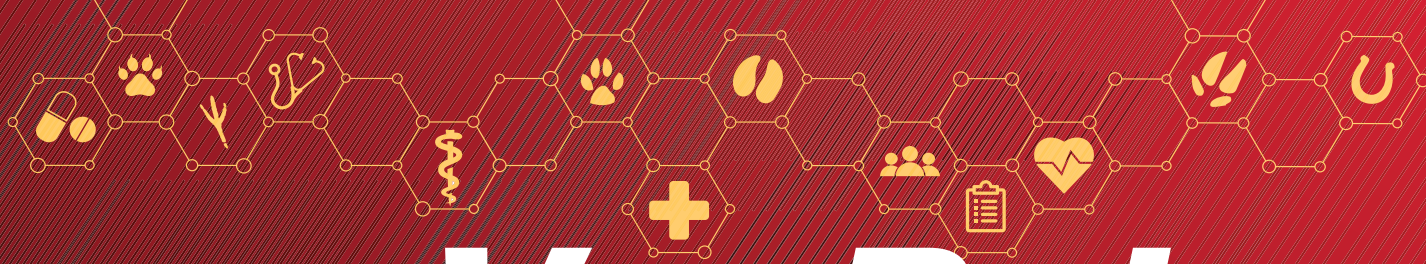
We are continually working to best meet our missions of Teaching, Research and Service. With our outstanding faculty and staff, plus our referring veterinary partners, I am sure that 2020 will bring wins in all areas. May this be a great year for us all.

Stephanie West, D.V.M.

*Director of Hospital
Operations, LVMC*

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Vet Pulse

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR REFERRING VETERINARIANS

Improving Services, Improving Care

To improve services for referring veterinarians and their patients, the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital has added two new positions, a referral coordinator and a medical sonographer.



Lori Schminke was hired this summer as the new referral coordinator. Ms. Schminke will serve as the communications link between hospital specialists and primary care veterinarians. In this role, she'll coordinate the patient referral process to maintain the continuum of care, ensuring that the patient records are complete before the visit and that discharge summaries and diagnostic reports are generated and distributed appropriately. She'll also be the point of contact for assistance with navigating the hospital's electronic medical record portal.

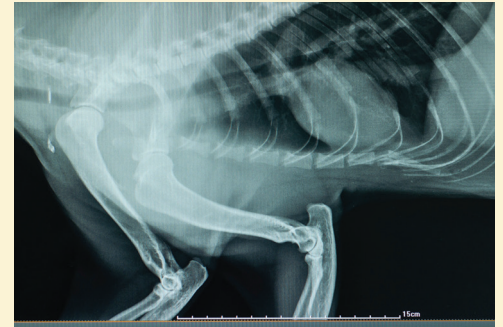
"We respect the relationships our referring veterinarians have with their clients and patients, and we are committed to prompt

follow-up after their patients are seen," said Dr. Stephanie West, Director of Hospital Operations. "With the addition of this position, we hope to enhance communications with primary care practitioners."



To increase the hospital's diagnostic imaging capabilities, a sonographer was hired. Melissa Jorgenson, a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, joined the radiology service unit this fall with previous experience in the human medical field.

"As our patient caseload grows, so does the need for diagnostic imaging," said Dr. West. "As good as we are with scheduling and moving patients through the process, emergency cases that need to take priority often cause delays in routine services. The addition of a sonographer will help streamline the process and allow us to move patients through in a timely manner."



Radiology Service Update

The Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center no longer provides mail-in radiology consultations, effective December 27, 2019. The radiology service has one full-time radiologist with the retirement of Dr. Elizabeth Riedesel; and thus, the focus of the service will remain on in-house radiology and training of students and residents.

It is predicted that there will be a national shortage of radiologists both in human and veterinary medicine in the next few years. The LVMC is already experiencing that trend and is preparing for it by partnering with VetCT, a teleradiology group, to support training the college's veterinary students and radiology residents via a virtual radiologist.

Recognizing the shortage, the American College of Veterinary Radiologists has approved a component of virtual training as part of radiology resident programs. The college is the first veterinary school to include virtual training of radiology residents in our program. "We're excited to pioneer this partnership as we work to support the profession by increasing the number of board-certified radiologists," said Dr. Stephanie West, Director of Hospital Operations.



LVMC's Cardiology Service Partners with Dog Aging Project

The Cardiology Service is excited to participate in the Dog Aging Project, an innovative initiative that brings together a community of dogs, owners, veterinarians, researchers, and volunteers to carry out the most ambitious canine science project in the world. The Dog Aging Project is centered on two fundamental goals: understanding the genetic and environmental factors that cause aging in dogs and intervening to increase healthy longevity.

The Dog Aging Project involves a team of 40+ researchers, led by Dr. Daniel Promislow and Dr. Matt Kaeberlein at the University of Washington and Dr. Kate Creevy at Texas A&M. It will follow the health and aging of tens of thousands of companion dogs for ten years.

The researchers intend to identify the biological and environmental factors that maximize healthy longevity to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of age-related diseases. What they learn about dog aging will teach us about human aging, too, helping us and our dogs live longer, healthier lives. This study will be the largest long-term study of aging in dogs ever. Dogs of all ages, from all around the United States, including purebred and mixed breed dogs, are invited to join the Dog Aging Project.

Among the dogs enrolled in the overall study, a small subset (~500 dogs that meet specific research criteria) will be selected for participation in an interventional trial of an

FDA-approved drug that may delay the aging process. The drug, called rapamycin, has been shown to increase lifespan and delay the negative effects of aging in mice. In particular, researchers hypothesize that this drug may have protective effects on the heart. That's where veterinary cardiologists, including Dr. Jessica Ward and Dr. Melissa Tropf of the LVMC Cardiology Service, come in.

Dogs in this "TRIAD" trial (Test of Rapamycin in Aging Dogs) will be followed every six months by veterinary cardiologists at one of seven veterinary teaching hospitals across the country, including Iowa State. These visits will include head-to-toe physical examinations, collection of blood samples, and in-depth cardiac assessments including echocardiography (heart ultrasound) and electrocardiography (EKG).

"From our perspective, TRIAD visits will be just like our typical cardiology appointments – the difference is that all of the test results will contribute to science," said Dr. Ward. "Dr. Tropf and I are honored that Iowa State was chosen to participate in this ambitious project to advance our understanding of canine health and disease."

For more information about the overall scientific goals of the project, or to nominate your dog to participate, please visit the project website: dogagingproject.org.



SEEKING ELIGIBLE DOGS
FOR ACTIVE CLINICAL TRIAL

Congestive Heart Failure in Dogs



Study Overview: To determine whether levels of blood cortisol or aldosterone are associated with a worse prognosis in dogs with CHF.

Veterinarians are encouraged to refer dogs with the following characteristics:

- presumptive degenerative mitral valve disease (older small-breed dogs with loud heart murmurs) and
- clinical findings consistent with active congestive heart failure (respiratory distress, radiographic pulmonary edema)

Study will cover the following diagnostic costs:

- Echocardiogram
- Blood pressure testing
- Kidney function testing

Study will not cover the following costs:

- Cost of hospitalization
- Other diagnostic tests
- Medications
- Associated follow-up costs

Participation in the study will involve two visits to the LVMC:

- initial hospitalization for CHF, and
- recheck visit one to two weeks later

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Dr. Allison Masters or Dr. Jessica Ward
(515) 294-4900, cardiology@iastate.edu**

Current Clinical Trials

Please take a look at our webpage for trials that your patients might be eligible. vetmed.iastate.edu/vmc/clinical-trials

Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures Available at ISU

The Soft Tissue Surgery Service is proud to provide a wide range of minimally invasive procedures. The surgical team applies groundbreaking techniques and utilizes advanced technology for prophylactic, diagnostic, and therapeutic surgical procedures, including prophylactic laparoscopic spays, laparoscopic removal of abdominal cryptorchid (undescended) testicles, laparoscopic-assisted gastropexies, and laparoscopic biopsies.

They also offer more advanced procedures such as laparoscopic lung lobectomies, pericardiectomies (removal of the sac around the heart), and cholecystectomies (gallbladder removal). Minimally invasive surgery, also known as laparoscopy, thoracoscopy, or “keyhole” surgery, is a cutting-edge approach that reduces post-surgery recovery time, scarring, pain and the incidence of certain surgical complications. By performing surgery laparoscopically, the procedure can be accomplished by making one to three small incisions in the abdomen. A laparoscope



(camera) magnifies the internal structures of the abdomen onto a high-definition monitor, allowing for greater surgical precision and fewer complications. The small incisions are sutured, and animals are usually sent home the same day as their procedure.

Laparoscopic-assisted gastropexy for the prevention of GDV (gastric dilatation and volvulus) is also available. In cases of large/giant breed, deep-chested dogs, gastropexy can be performed at the time of the laparoscopic spay or in conjunction with a neuter to prevent life-threatening gastric GDV. Laparoscopic procedures can be done in dogs of any size and even in cats. Surgical consultations may be scheduled with the Soft Tissue Surgery Service on Mondays and Wednesdays, with surgery typically occurring the following day.

For more information: Referring veterinarians can contact the ISU Soft Tissue Surgery Service at (515) 294-4900.

DID YOU KNOW?

Six veterinary technicians at the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center are among those who have earned Veterinary Technician Specialty (VTS) status. The certification recognizes those who have attained a higher level of advanced knowledge and skills in specific disciplines. The North American Veterinary Technician Association oversees the credentialing standards.

LVMC technicians and their specialties:

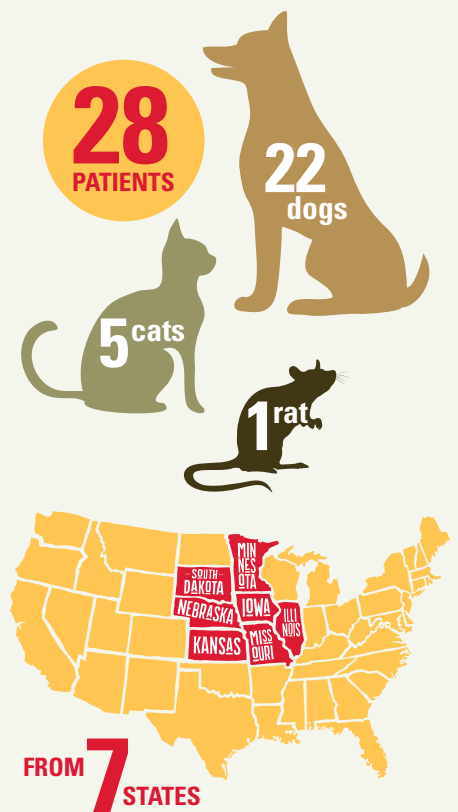
- > Carrie Schwake (Small Animal Internal Medicine)
- > Jessica Griffith (Emergency and Critical Care)
- > Lisa Foster (Emergency and Critical Care)
- > Lori Moran (Cardiology)
- > Sarah Kolb (Clinical Practice – Exotics)
- > Stacie Madson-Whittaker (Anesthesia and Analgesia)

Radiation Oncology Update

Since mid-February, the ISU Radiation Oncology Service treated **28 patients** (22 dogs, 5 cats, and 1 pet rat) from **7 states** (Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota).

Tumors treated included: nasal carcinoma, mast cell tumors, soft-tissue and injection-site sarcomas, meningioma, chondrosarcoma, thyroid tumor, pituitary macroadenoma, hemangiosarcoma, salivary carcinoma and ear squamous cell carcinoma.

Therapy sessions per patient ranged from 1 to 20 (13 palliative or conventional and 15 stereotactic radiation.)



Radiation therapy is an option for tumors that may not be surgically resectable. For more information about ISU's radiation oncology service, please contact Dr. Chad Johannes or Dr. Meg Musser at (515) 294-4900.