



Vet Pulse

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR REFERRING VETERINARIANS

From the Hospital Director

The Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine is rapidly approaching one of the most exciting times of the year. On Saturday, May 7, the day before Mother's Day, 142 students will make their families proud and will become Doctors of Veterinary Medicine. For many of these young veterinarians, this will be the culmination of a lifelong dream. For all of them, it will be the end of one journey and the beginning of another.

Those of us who have been in the profession a while know that their work has just begun. Lifelong learning is a hallmark of every professional. This learning will include the science and the true art of our profession. The challenge as new graduates is to develop client communications skills, interpersonal relationships, and strive to find work-life balance. The focus will change from "book learning" to "people learning."

The College of Veterinary Medicine is charged by the AVMA Council on Education with assuring that all of our graduates have demonstrated that they are competent in 132 procedures. We who have had the privilege of guiding these new Doctors of Veterinary Medicine take our responsibility very seriously and hope we have successfully trained these young professionals to contribute to the profession and society.

To all of our graduating students: Congratulations. To the supporters of these new doctors and to the supporters of our college: Thank you.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Best regards,



Dr. Tom Johnson

Director of Hospital Operations, LVMC

New Clinical Services – Internal Medicine (Urology)

BY **Tracy Ann Raef**

The Small Animal Internal Medicine Service is pleased to offer cystoscopy procedures for dogs and female cats with urinary disorders.

Cystoscopy can be used for diagnostics or treatment of several urinary conditions including recurrent infections, bladder stones and cancers, as well as ectopic ureters.

"Using cystoscopy, we are able to do minimally invasive procedures with a shorter recovery time and less pain for pets," said Dr. Jean-Sebastien Palerme, board-certified small animal internist at the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center.

Cystoscopy is performed under anesthesia with either rigid (for females) or flexible (for males) types of scopes.

Dr. Palerme says the service currently has cystoscopes for male and female dogs weighing 20 to 40 pounds. Soon they will be getting scopes in sizes for female cats and dogs weighing less than 20 pounds, and large dogs over 40 pounds.



CONTACT

>> Referring veterinarians who have any questions about the new service or whether individual patients may be eligible for the procedure may contact the medicine service at (515) 294-4900 or Dr. Palerme directly at (515) 294-8790.



Dr. April Blong

Criticalist Joins LVMC Staff

BY Tracy Ann Raef

Dr. April Blong joined the clinical sciences faculty as an assistant professor April 25.

Previously, Dr. Blong was a part-time emergency doctor at Cornell University Veterinary Specialists in Stamford, Conn. She was also a clinical research fellow and resident in the small animal clinical nutrition program at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine (expected completion 2017).

Dr. Blong completed a residency in small animal emergency and critical care at Cornell, an internship in emergency and critical care at the University of Georgia, and a rotating small animal internship at North Carolina State University.

She is a member of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, AVMA, and an ad hoc reviewer for the *American Journal of Veterinary Research* and for the *Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care*.

In January 2015, she was the recipient of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals Client Service Award.

Dr. Blong earned a bachelor's degree with honors and distinction in animal and dairy science (minor: microbiology) in 2005 and DVM magna cum laude in 2009 from Iowa State University.

She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

Creating a Cat-Friendly Practice

BY Tracy Ann Raef

At the 2016 IVMA winter meeting, Dr. Joyce Carnevale, Dipl. ABVP (Canine/Feline), shared some tips to create a more cat-friendly practice based on the AAFP's Cat-Friendly Practice Program.

One of the reasons most cats may not receive regular veterinary care is due to the stress (to the cat and owner) of getting the cat from the sofa into the carrier. "The AAFP has a handout that your practice staff can email the client when they make the appointment that offers pointers for getting their cat to the veterinarian," Dr. Carnevale



said. "Also, your staff might offer consults to help clients learn how to train cats to walk into a carrier."

Most practices aren't "cat-only hospitals," but there are ways that practitioners can create a less stressful environment for feline patients. If possible, says Dr. Carnevale, practitioners can provide appointment times that are for cats only. Or, offer times when the clinic isn't as busy or noisy.

In most practices, a cat-only exam room isn't possible so Dr. Carnevale suggests arranging those appointments when the client can go directly into an exam room. "If they do need to stay in the waiting room, it's best to have the cat in a covered carrier and placed on a table, rather than the floor," she said.

"Anything that lowers the stress of getting the cat into the carrier and lowers the stress of the veterinary visit once the cat is at the clinic will ultimately result in improved healthcare longterm."

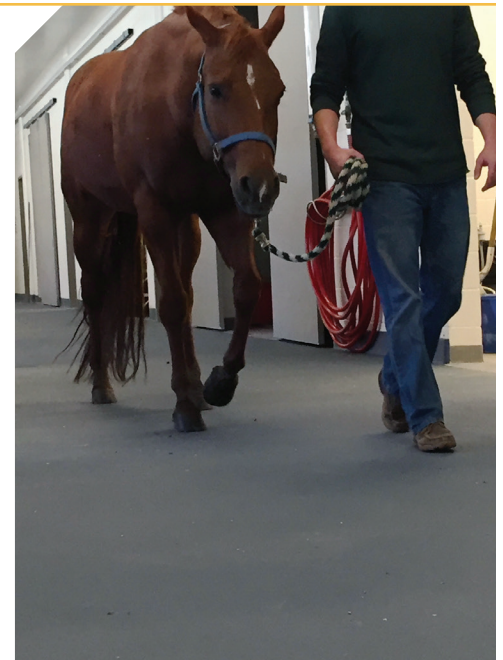
RESOURCES

>> For additional suggestions and ideas, the AAFP has a wealth of tips and brochures for practitioners.

New Equine Flooring

BY Tracy Ann Raef

The large animal hospital has seen a lot of horses walk through the receiving ward since the facility became operational in early 2009. Not surprising, the floor was beginning to see the wear and tear. Last month, contractors put a coating of heavily textured polyurea on the floors. "It's similar to truck-bed liners," said Derek Kraayenbrink, large animal hospital veterinary technician supervisor. "It's a long-lasting, textured coat that provides traction and helps prevent slippage. The new seamless coating is easy to clean and disinfect." He added, when a high-traffic area wears out, it can be easily re-sprayed, rather than re-coating the entire floor.



Respect the Line

BY Tracy Ann Raef

Biosecurity and infection control have always been a critical operational component at the LVMC's Large Animal Hospital. "Infections are a constant threat," said Derek Kraayenbrink, large animal hospital veterinary technician supervisor, "and clearly we want to protect our patients, staff and students. With the peak seasons for calving and foaling on the horizon, we took a hard look at our processes in January – what worked, what didn't – and implemented protocols that could be easily and consistently followed."

The process began with lots of meetings, discussions and consultations. Everyone in

the hospital had to think about biosecurity and infection control. "Getting each team member to openly discuss challenges and ways to manage disease risk was key to the success of the changes," said Dr. Danelle Bickett-Weddle, chair of the Infectious Disease Control Committee. "Effective biosecurity relies on people."

In some areas of the hospital, there is a two-step biosecurity protocol. For example, clinicians and staff must change into rubber boots and step in a boot bath before entering the equine ICU. Then prior to entering a stall, there's another level of precautions.

Two stalls in the ICU have clear plastic over the front of the stall and there's an anteroom for further infection control before entering those stalls.

The food animal section also has new biosecurity protocols. "There were several points of entry and exit before, and now there is only one," Kraayenbrink said. "That entry/exit point is located so that supplies are accessible without going through the hospital."

Surveillance and monitoring strategies have been formalized and strengthened. "We're in a continuous surveillance mode that ranges from culturing individual stalls, to taking environmental samples from common animal and people traffic areas," Kraayenbrink said.

"Implementing a new biosecurity protocol was tricky, at first," said Kraayenbrink, "because it involved a lot of people and a lot of change. Education was key. We had face-to-face meetings, handouts, signage, and our red lines on the floor where we asked everyone to 'respect the line, and don't cross it without taking the proper precautions.' It took a lot of work but I believe everyone is excited about doing their part to further protect our patients and people."

Upcoming Studies in Feline Medicine

BY Dave Gieseke

This summer, Dr. Laura Van Vertloo, board-certified small animal internist at the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center, will be conducting two feline medicine studies.



Chronic Kidney Disease

To help better understand the pathophysiology of chronic kidney disease, Dr. Van Vertloo will examine the role of dyslipidemias in feline CKD. "In humans with CKD, dyslipidemias are common and may play a role in the development and progression of renal disease," she said. "In recent studies of canines with the disease, dyslipidemia has also been identified. In our study, we'll be looking at lipoprotein profiles in cats to determine whether a similar abnormality exists."

Although there are many theories, there are no clear reasons why CKD occurs so commonly in cats. "In all likelihood cats develop CKD due to a variety of underlying factors," Dr. Van Vertloo said. "If we find that dyslipidemias are a factor, that knowledge may lead the way for improved management of the disease, or possibly even prevention."

>> Referring veterinarians who have feline patients with CKD that may be eligible for the study can contact Dr. Van Vertloo at (515) 294-4900.

Low-Stress Handling & Blood Pressure Measurement

In a study that will begin soon, Dr. Van Vertloo will evaluate the effect of low-stress handling on the ease and precision of blood pressure measurement in the cat. "Although low-stress handling guidelines encompass all feline experiences from travel to the veterinary hospital to the exam room environment, we'll be looking specifically at the effect of different waiting room experiences," Dr. Van Vertloo said. "We'll be measuring blood pressure, as well as assessing the ease of obtaining the reading."

The goal of this study is to find low-stress waiting room experiences that can be implemented in the clinical setting. "The less stress the cat experiences during an office visit, the more reliable and predictive the blood pressure measurement will be."



Photo: Center for Food Security & Public Health

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center

1809 S Riverside Drive | Ames, IA 50011-3619

CONNECT WITH US

Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital

515 294-4900

Equine & Food Animal Hospital

515 294-1500

To subscribe to an electronic version
of *Iowa State University Vet Pulse* visit:

vetmed.iastate.edu/VetPulse

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center

Vet Pulse

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1 New Clinical Services –
Internal Medicine (Urology)
- 2 Criticalist Joins LVMC Staff
- 2 Creating a Cat-Friendly Practice
- 2 New Equine Flooring
- 3 Respect the Line
- 3 Upcoming Studies in Feline Medicine
- 4 New Clinical Rotations for VM4s

New Clinical Rotations for VM4s

BY Tracy Ann Raef

Two new, elective clinical rotations are available to fourth-year students this academic year.

The **Poultry Medicine** rotation is held in conjunction with the University of Minnesota. It's an introductory course with emphasis on poultry production and health. Students spend two weeks learning about commercial broilers, layers, turkeys, and backyard/game birds. Iowa is the nation's leader in layer production, while Minnesota is the nation's leader in turkey production. Spending a week each in Iowa and Minnesota, students will have a unique opportunity to learn and understand the major types of poultry production. The instructor-in-charge is Yuko Sato, DVM, Dipl. ACVP.



The **Veterinary Dentistry** rotation provides students with basic principles of dental care, including hand and ultrasonic scaling and polishing of teeth, positioning and interpretation of dental radiographs; administration of regional anesthesia; and patient care and handling. Students also learn and practice surgical extractions on cadavers. The instructor-in-charge is Brenda Mulherin, DVM, Dipl. AVDC.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Heather Brewer, Tracy Ann Raef, Dave Gieseke

For article inquiries or submissions email:
VetPulse@iastate.edu