

# The Referring VETERINARIAN

VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL ❖ COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ❖ CORNELL

## VMTH NEWS

### ANNIVERSARY & CONFERENCE MARCH 20-22

The traditional January Annual Conference for Veterinarians has been moved to March 20-22 to coincide with the Centennial Anniversary Celebration when Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine will be 100 years old. The Centennial component of the program will include a special three-day luncheon series and a plenary session on "The Practice of Veterinary Medicine in the 21st Century." Evenings are reserved for social events, with the Gala Anniversary Ball on March 21 as the highlight. The Continuing Education Program will also include two-and-a-half days of workshops by nationally-known experts with a Cornell connection. For more information, contact Elizabeth Fontana at 607-253-3747.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction on the new facilities at the College of Veterinary Medicine is progressing on or even somewhat ahead of schedule. The Veterinary Education Center (VEC), which connects Schurman Hall, the Research Tower, the Small Animal Clinic and the Diagnostic Laboratory, opened at the end of August. This building contains two large lecture halls, a large teaching laboratory, and a significant expansion to the library as well as other teaching and meeting rooms. The large lobby of this building provides a very comfortable area for receptions, displays and so forth. It also provides much easier access to the VMTH from the rest of the College complex.

The Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), the first floor of which is almost entirely devoted to completely new large and small animal clinics, is about 50% complete.

All existing clinics are still in use but new access routes require animal owners to circumnavigate the new construction which is taking place in front of the old facilities. Follow signs, or request a map by calling 607-253-3030.



Dr. Sydney Moise and her staff evaluate puppies with suspected cardiac abnormalities.

## CARDIOLOGY SERVICES EXPAND

A German shepherd puppy with ventricular tachycardia that puts the young dog at risk for sudden death, pacemaker implantation in a Golden Retriever suffering from a complete heart block, balloon valvuloplasty to treat pulmonic stenosis in a beagle, and Holter monitoring of a Thoroughbred suffering from atrial fibrillation are all part of a day's work in the Cardiology Service at Cornell University's VMTH.

The cardiology team is a close group of four that includes Dr. N. Sydney Moise, an internationally recognized leader in the field of veterinary cardiology who has been on staff since 1979; new resident Dr. Bruce Kornreich; the cardiology/ultrasound technician, Shari Renaud-Farrell; and assistant, Billy Flahive.

"In the past year we have been able to expand the cardiology services offered to

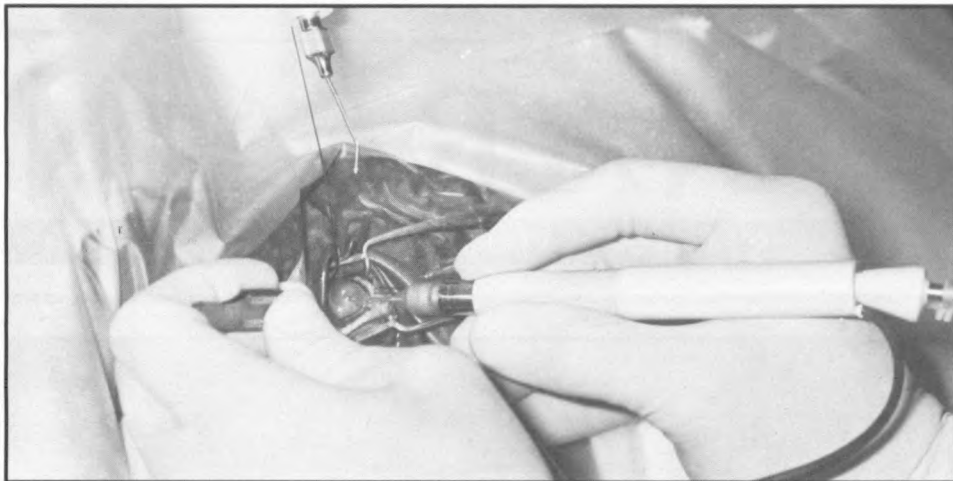
referring veterinarians and clients," says Dr. Moise. New services include: (1) more receiving hours, (2) increased consultation, (3) new procedures, and (4) short courses.

Dr. Moise credits the new two-year residency program in cardiology and an extremely capable, trustworthy and responsible support staff for being the integral elements in the overall expansion of services. "We also have some of the very best students who work very hard on the cardiology crew," she adds.

The new residency in cardiology is somewhat unique in the College. The program is geared toward someone who wants a career in academic medicine. After completing two years of clinical work here, the resident is expected to enter a PhD program in a basic science area which will

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Phacoemulsification being performed on a dog's eye with the new OcuSystem II.

## OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICE ACQUIRES OCUSYSTEM II

**T**he VMTH has recently acquired a new OcuSystem II unit for phacoemulsification which allows VMTH ophthalmologists to perform state-of-the-art cataract surgery. The new unit replaces a 20-year-old system that is now out-dated.

"Beginning in the early 1970's, Cornell University was the first veterinary college to employ phacoemulsification for canine cataract surgery," says Dr. Tom Kern, who is a faculty member of the Ophthalmology Service in the Small Animal Clinic with Dr. Ronald Riis. "Before that time, cataract surgery was performed through a large incision of the dorsal half of the cornea. This created considerable inflammation inside the eye which was not tolerated very well."

A broader range of canine and feline patients benefit from the addition of the OcuSystem II unit. The new unit's improved features make cataract surgery possible through a 3-mm. incision--a relatively atraumatic procedure. In addition, more versatile power settings allow the procedure to be performed on many very aged animals which were not suitable candidates for phacoemulsification with the previous system.

The OcuSystem II removes the lens ultrasonically in a three-fold process by use of a double-sheathed tube: the OcuSystem II tip sonicates the cataractous lens, aspirates the fragmented lens

material, and continuously infuses and maintains the anterior chamber.

With small-incision cataract surgery performed by phacoemulsification, post-operative uveitis is much reduced compared with conventional large incision cataract surgery. The functional result is better and occurs faster. In addition, this new technology facilitates the use of plastic intraocular lenses which are being developed for animals.

"Breeds with inherited cataracts include Poodles, Cocker Spaniels, Schnauzers, Lhasa Apsos and many others. Also, all diabetic dogs that are maintained long term develop cataracts," explains Dr. Kern. "If only one eye is affected, we do not usually recommend surgery. But most dogs that develop a unilateral cataract eventually develop a cataract in their fellow eye. Most dogs referred to us for cataract evaluation are mostly or completely blind. The surgery is performed to make pets more

functional. And usually we operate on both eyes at one time. We estimate that 85 to 90% of the dogs undergoing cataract surgery have their vision improved."

Cataract surgery is usually scheduled when the owner has time for several weeks of required follow-up care. "It isn't difficult--eye drops, ointment and pills," says Dr. Kern, "but it should be done 3 to 4 times a day."

Cataract surgery is the most common surgery performed by the VMTH Ophthalmology Service. Two or three are performed each week.

Without implantation of intraocular lenses, the procedure costs \$750 to \$900 for both eyes, including first evaluation and anesthesia. If two lenses are implanted, additional charges are \$300 to \$400. Follow-up visitations at the VMTH are required, and are assessed at a nominal charge. Possible complications after surgery include glaucoma, uveitis, and retinal detachment, most of which can be averted with careful follow-up care, notes Dr. Kern.

## CARDIOLOGY

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probably take an additional four or five years. Ultimately, the resident will be capable in clinical medicine as well as a competent clinical investigator.

"We are training this person to contribute knowledge to the field of cardiology, not just to practice what has already been learned," says Dr. Moise. "We see the graduate of this program as a bridge between the clinical world and the basic science world, someone who will be able to contribute to the advancement of science and its practice."

The veterinarian who joined Dr. Moise in July is Dr. Bruce Kornreich. He finds the residency very exciting because it combines extensive clinical experience with a strong foundation in basic science. "The interplay of these disciplines can hopefully lead to significant contributions in scientific knowledge that will not only benefit animals but humans as well," he says.

## Receiving Hours

The Cardiology Service now receives

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The new OcuSystem II unit in place and ready for surgery.

# VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY, RESIDENTS & INTERNS

January 1994

### AMBULATORY CLINIC

(607) 253-3140

Faculty:

Charles Guard, David Matsas, Gerald Mechor, Maurice White

Interns:

Julie Cole, Sandra Fatone, Laverne Seib

### LARGE ANIMAL CLINIC

(607) 253-3100

Medicine Faculty:

Dorothy Ainsworth, Thomas Divers, William Rebhun

Medicine Residents:

Melissa Finley, Cynthia Jackson, Simon Peek

Surgery Faculty:

Normand Ducharme, Susan Fubini, Richard Hackett, Alan Nixon

Surgery Residents:

Ryland Edwards, Lisa Fortier, David Murphy

Surgery Interns:

Ingrid Langsetmo, Thomas Schiel

### SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC

(607) 253-3003 (referring veterinarian #) and (607) 253-3060 (client #)

Interns:

David Lee, Paul McNamara, Eric Riddell, Christopher Rodi, Martha Weber

Cardiology Faculty:

Sydney Moise

Cardiology Resident:

Bruce Kornreich

CPS Faculty:

William Hornbuckle, Andrea Looney

Dentistry Faculty:

John Saidla

Dermatology Faculty:

William Miller, Danny Scott

Dermatology Resident:

Mary Bagladi

Exotic/Wildlife Faculty:

George Kollias, Yvonne Oppenheim

Medicine Faculty:

Stephen Barr, Sharon Center, Jay Gould, John Randolph

Medicine Residents:

Ruth Darrigrand-Haag, Shannon Flood, Jane Toomey

Ophthalmology Faculty:

Thomas Kern, Ronald Riis

Ophthalmology Resident:

Michelle Taylor

Surgery Faculty:

Jay Harvey, Kathleen Linn, Richard Suess, Rory Todhunter, Eric Trotter

Surgery Residents:

Robert Hardie, Bertrand Lussier, Kathleen Sevala

### ANESTHESIOLOGY

(607) 253-3003 (referring veterinarian #) and (607) 253-3060 (client #)

Faculty:

Robin Gleed, John Ludders, Paula Moon

Resident:

Toi Pedrick

### RADIOLOGY

(607) 253-3241

Faculty:

Nathan Dykes, Victor Rendano, Amy Yeager

### THERIOGENOLOGY

(607) 253-3081

Faculty:

Barry Ball, Peter Daels, Robert Gilbert, Robert Hillman, Vicki Meyers-Wallen

Resident:

Christine Schweizer

### CLINICAL NUTRITION

(607) 253-3060

Faculty:

Arleigh Reynolds, Francis Kallfelz







patients on Thursday and Friday mornings, a schedule that allows patients to be seen sooner. Referring veterinarians can call 607-253-3003 and/or owners can call 607-253-3060 for appointments. Since owners can make appointments directly with the receptionist, referring veterinarians do not need to call first. This decreases the time that referring veterinarians spend on the telephone. When the patient is discharged, the referring veterinarian receives copies of the patient's discharge papers and cardiology consultation form.

### Increased Consultation

In addition to telephone consultations, the Cardiology Service offers assistance with electrocardiography, echocardiography, and radiography of cardiac cases. Electrocardiograms can be mailed, or, for faster evaluation, recordings can be FAXed to Dr. Moise and Dr. Kornreich at 607-253-3056. Other materials can be mailed to the Cardiology Service, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. When FAXing or mailing materials, include area codes with all telephone numbers so pivotal recommendations that the Cardiology Service might have regarding the case--especially regarding therapy--can be made over the phone.

There is no charge for telephone consultations. Materials sent in for evaluation are assessed a nominal fee (ECGs \$20; echocardiograms \$30; radiographs \$25; for any two evaluations on a patient [i.e., ECG and radiographs], the cost is \$40; for any three, the cost is \$60). For each case, a card is mailed with the indicated charge. Funds generated from these services are used for cardiology services (e.g., resident training).

### Referrals Very Important

Like other clinical services at the VMTH, the Cardiology Service encourages referrals for several reasons. The VMTH is able to offer services and state-of-the-art technology that may not be available from local veterinarians, and the College needs the caseload for teaching and training.

Referrals are also invaluable to VMTH staff and students. "The more cases that come in, the more we are able to generate and spread information and knowledge. The evaluation of clusters of

types of cases is very important," says Dr. Moise.

### NEW PROCEDURES:

#### On-Site Holter Recording

In addition to color flow Doppler, continuous wave Doppler, endomyocardial biopsy, angiography, and other special procedures, the Cardiology Service offers on-site Holter recording and analysis.

The Holter recording--also known as a 24-hour ambulatory electrocardiogram--provides valuable information regarding the type and severity of cardiac arrhythmias. This type of monitoring allows the correlation between clinical signs and the arrhythmia.

"The more we learn about arrhythmias in our patients, it becomes more and more evident that the routine ECG is usually inadequate in the evaluation of arrhythmias," explains Dr. Moise. "Being able to understand the extent of a cardiac arrhythmia from the typical ECG is like knowing the plot and character development of a full-length movie from only a snapshot. It is just not possible." The 24-hour Holter provides a much clearer picture of the extent of an arrhythmia and the response or lack of response to treatment.

#### Balloon Valvuloplasty

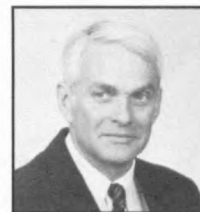
Balloon valvuloplasty for the treatment of pulmonic stenosis is now established as an effective and preferred therapy for this congenital heart defect. Dr. Moise reports that results are generally good to excellent depending on the type of pulmonic stenosis present.

Dilation of the stenotic pulmonic valve with this technique involves general anesthesia, special catheters, and fluoroscopy. Most dogs are hospitalized for only three to four days as the procedure is done percutaneously. The Cardiology Service welcomes referrals for this treatment of pulmonic stenosis.

#### Short Courses

In September, 1993, the Cardiology Service began offering short courses in cardiology. In June, 1994, another short course will be offered to veterinarians. Short courses in cardiology for veterinary technicians will be offered for the first time in August, 1994. Seminar schedules are available from the Continuing Education Office.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



It has been a busy year here at the VMTH. Many programs and activities as well as a busy clinic caseload keep all of us moving ahead at a rapid pace. Our new curriculum was initiated with the first-year class this year and many clinical faculty are involved as tutors, resource people, etc. The students seem very pleased with the new curriculum and we are all confident that it will be very successful.

The centennial year is well under way. About 400 people attended the kick-off banquet on September 4, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. Those present were the first to see our Centennial Video, "In the James Law Tradition," which chronicles the first century of the College. We hope that many of you will attend the Centennial Celebration at the College, March 20-22.

In addition to all of this activity, the VMTH is as busy as ever. We have been able to maintain our caseload despite the inconveniences caused by the construction. New and expanded services are being introduced even as we plan our move to the new facilities. Among them is a new equine imaging center which has been constructed in the Large Animal Clinic which has greatly improved our capabilities to perform nuclear medical bone scans on horses.

Although we are anxiously awaiting the move to our new facilities, we are still committed to providing you with the best possible service at all times. We are anxious to serve you and your clients and are very grateful for your referrals. Included in this issue for your information is a list of the current faculty and house staff with their telephone numbers.

Our best wishes for a successful 1994 and we hope to see you at the Centennial Annual Conference in March. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to give me a call at 607-253-3030 (office) or 607-257-2522 (home).

Fran Kallfelz

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## STAFF PROFILES

**Dr. Paula Moon** has been appointed Assistant Professor of anesthesiology in the Department of Clinical Sciences and the VMTH.

A 1987 graduate of the Ohio State Veterinary School, Dr. Moon spent one year in a mixed animal practice in New Hampshire, a three-year residency in Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of California at Davis, and one year on an NIH Research Fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Anesthesiology and Critical Care.

Both Dr. Moon's clinical and research interests are in support of the critically-ill patient and providing anesthesia for the high-risk patient (i.e. for cardiovascular surgery, emergency surgeries, etc.). She also has an interest in exotic animal species, especially reptiles.

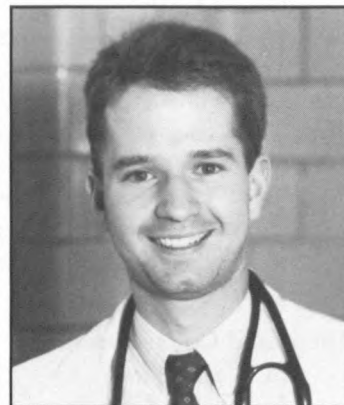


**Dr. Richard Suess, Jr.**, has been appointed Instructor of Small Animal Surgery in the Department of Clinical Sciences and the VMTH.

A 1989 graduate of the DVM program at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Suess completed an internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery and a Residency in Small Animal Surgery at Cornell University.

Dr. Suess's clinical interests include both soft tissue surgery and orthopedics.

He has recently completed a project comparing several surgical approaches to the elbow of the dog, and is currently interested in the surgical management of cutaneous mast cell tumors.



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