

News Briefs

Increasing Our 'Wide Open Spaces'

We've been making changes on the inside of our facility and now we're making changes outside as well. The purchase of a property next door has allowed us to add parking and green space. The green space will make wait times more enjoyable, as there will now be an area to for clients to exercise their pets. We continue to seek ways to make our facility more user friendly for referring veterinarians and your clients.

Lecture Schedule

Don't forget to check in on our ongoing lecture series. Veterinarians and technicians are welcome to attend the presentations, in which other professionals address a wide range of pertinent topics. Go to www.metropolitanvet.com to view the latest schedule

New CT Capabilities

Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital is pleased to announce it now has the modality of a CT scan. Details about this valuable addition to our facility will be featured in an upcoming issue of Metropolitan Minutes.

If you need to schedule a CT scan, please contact one of our referral practices.

Emergency Care: Here to Serve

Metropolitan Veterinary Referral Group functions as an extensive professional network at Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital. This is augmented by the emergency doctor staff and support and technical staff, all of whom are here 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



"Emergency care exists to provide a service to area veterinarians by offering their patients 24-hour access to triage and treatment," says Dr. Matthew Ehresman.

"Our professional staff is able to assess and treat minor emergencies and more advanced cases.

The primary goal is to stabilize patients then return them to their veterinarians' care. In certain circumstances, it may be necessary to involve a specialist."

The emergency doctor staff consists of veterinarians with comprehensive advanced training, allowing them to serve as an extension of the specialty practices in the Metropolitan Veterinary Referral Group. Staff doctors work with specialists on a daily basis, gaining the knowledge, expertise, experience and ability to handle emergent situations with patients.

The emergency clinician is the first line of care for emergency referral or emergency walk-in patients. The emergency clinician will triage, evaluate and, when necessary, present the case to an appropriate specialist. "We're here to ease the burden in the middle of a very busy day, decreasing the wait time for a referred client, or in the middle of the night, ensuring patients have 24-hour access to our specialty team," says Dr. Ehresman.

To make sure primary veterinarians feel comfortable with the management of their patients' care, two things should be noted. First, it is the strict policy of the Metropolitan Veterinary Referral Group that any **referred** client will be cared for by an appropriate specialist. Second, clients who use Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital Emergency Service **without a referral** during non-business hours will be cared for by the emergency service. If it is felt that a specialist's involvement is necessary, it will be offered to the client.

At the beginning of the next regular business day, clients will be required to transfer their pets' care to their own veterinarian or to a specialist. "A staff doctor will call the primary veterinarian to discuss the case and the transfer before any transfer occurs. Our goal is to facilitate good communication, so the patient gets the best overall care throughout the process," says Dr. Ehresman.

Future Notes

Hear Metropolitan Veterinary Referral Group members Presenting at Conferences

Sept. 15-17, 2005, Dr. Sivula – Healing Oasis Wellness Center, Sturtevant, Wisconsin – "Advanced Neurology"

Sept. 19-21, 2005, Dr. Sivula – American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, Ogden, Utah – "Craniosacral Therapy for Animals", "Pathology and Treatment of Temporomandibular Joint Disorders", and "Sympathetic effects of Spinal Manipulation"

Oct. 5, 2005, Dr. Riggs – Oregon Zoo, Portland, Oregon – "Compounded Medications in Exotic Medical Practice"

Nov. 11, 2005, Dr. Riggs – International Wild Waterfowl Association Conference, Seville, Spain – "Conservation of the White Wing Wood Duck"

Nov. 18, 2005, Dr. Riggs – PCCA Veterinary Symposium, New Orleans, Louisiana – "Medicating Avian Exotic Patients"



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Practice Points

Members of Akron Veterinary Internal Medicine/Oncology Practice (AVIMP)

are participating in several collaborative studies. They are working with the infectious disease laboratory at North Carolina

State University (NCSU) to study the potential role of Bartonella infection in the causation of lymphoma in Golden Retrievers. If you know of any potential cases, please contact Drs. Gamblin or Carothers, as patients should be off antibiotics for at least two weeks.

NCSU/AVIMP also is looking for dogs with chronic rhinitis to evaluate for Bartonella infection. Additionally, they are interested in dogs with mammary carcinomas to be enrolled in a multicenter prospective evaluation of surgery and doxorubicin chemotherapy, sponsored by the Veterinary Comparative Oncology Group. Please contact Dr. Gamblin at 330.670.2351 if you have cases or questions.

Dancing Dogs Animal Wellness offers an integrated approach to managing not only orthopedic and

neurologic cases, but internal medical cases as well. Internal medical cases may benefit from chiropractic, acupuncture, and herbs in addition to traditional veterinary care. Acupuncture has been used with success in patients with asthma and allergies.

Immune system support is available to augment traditional cancer therapy. Please call Dr. Sivula at 330.666.2976 if you have questions about how these therapies can help your patients.

Ohio Veterinary Cardiology, Ltd., is on the cutting edge of heart health. Drs. Hitchcock and Boddy recently attended the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Conference in Baltimore, Md. They were briefed on many promising developments in veterinary cardiology.



A cardiologist who treats human patients gave an insightful presentation on arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia, which is believed to be the human counterpart to the similarly named disease in boxer dogs.

Kate Meurs presented her investigation and identification of the genetic mutation leading to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in the Maine coon cat, a missense mutation of cardiac myosin binding protein C. This holds the promise of a future blood test to identify carriers of this disease.

New drug therapies including pimobendan and sildenafil were discussed. Several studies have demonstrated the benefits of pimobendan in the treatment of congestive heart failure due to both dilated cardiomyopathy and chronic valvular disease. Now, a preliminary study by Andrea Vollmer, et al. suggests possible benefit from early institution of pimobendan in asymptomatic dilated cardiomyopathy. However, another study by Valerie Chetboul, et al. showed potential adverse effects of pimobendan early in the course of valvular disease.

With the renovation of Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital slated to include a new fluoroscopy unit, Drs. Hitchcock and Boddy are excited to expand their services

to offer transvenous pacemaker implantation. Fluoroscopy allows live visualization of the heart, enabling the positioning of a pacemaker lead via the jugular vein into the right side of the heart, where it is affixed on the endocardial surface of the right ventricular apex. The pacemaker generator is then implanted under superficial musculature on the side of the neck. This procedure results in minimal morbidity for the animal and rapid recovery times. Patients with symptomatic bradyarrhythmias, such as sick sinus syndrome, have excellent long term prognoses after pacemaker implantation. Contact OVC at 330.666.2976.

North Coast Bird & Exotic Specialties is a full service avian and exotic referral practice. Dr. Gary Riggs has more than twenty years of private practice referral experience in avian exotic practice and has been board certified in avian practice since the specialty's inception in 1993. He has been the chief veterinarian at the Akron Zoological Park for 20 years and serves as veterinary advisor for Marshfield Labs, The University of Akron, and the International Wild Waterfowl



Association. Dr. Riggs lectures regularly on avian and exotic pet issues and serves on advisory positions in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. North Coast offers 24 hour avian and exotic care and a full range of medical and surgical services for exotic pets including ultrasound, laser surgery and complete laparoscopic surgical services. In addition, we offer husbandry and behavioral and nutritional advice for avian exotic pet owners. We welcome phone consultations.

We currently are researching the benefits of GnRH agonist implants for control of

hormonal and behavioral conditions in psittacine birds and ferrets. We are investigating the implants' effect on ferret adrenocortical disease and in birds for treatment of reproductive disorders. Please feel free to contact us if you have any clients/patients that you would like evaluated for inclusion in our study. Call North Coast Bird and Exotic Specialties at 1.877.NC.XOTIC (1.877.629.6842) or 33.666.2976

Veterinary Surgery Services of Northeast Ohio, since its formation, has been highly focused on pain management for patients. As this field of veterinary medicine grows and improves, it's our duty to examine and modify the techniques we use. To remain on the cutting edge in this area, Drs.



Padgett, Daye and Bowman have joined the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management. The mission of this organization is to promote the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge related to the biology and clinical treatment of pain in animals. If you have any questions or challenging cases, we would enjoy talking with you about this ever-changing subject! You can reach VSS at 330.670.2358.

Veterinary Ophthalmology Services of Northeast Ohio is a leader in cataract surgery. Dr. Margaret Foss is highly experienced in the field and recommends that

patients be referred for an evaluation as soon as cataracts are found. Dr. Foss prefers to monitor cataracts at an early incipient or immature stage because they provide the best opportunity for successful surgery. Contact VOS at 330.670.2360.

Specialist Spotlight:

New Options for Testing and Treatment

Metropolitan Veterinary Referral Group has added versatility in the treatment of heart ailments with the addition of our new fluoroscopy unit. We are now able to address more problems and do it less invasively than was possible using other techniques.



Dr. Lori Hitchcock says the new unit is cutting edge in veterinary medicine. "This machine is probably only about five years behind the technology being used on human patients. That's not a big gap," she says.

The unit will have many surgical benefits, according to Dr. Mark Daye. "It can be particularly helpful in fracture reduction confirmation. It is a great aid in the placement of screws, wires and other implants during surgical procedures. Oftentimes, it allows for a completely closed procedure."

Implants can be applied by fluoroscopic guidance into deep bone structures then stabilized with external skeletal fixation. This eliminates the need for incision, minimizes discomfort and speeds recovery.

Dr. Hitchcock says the cardiology service will use the new capabilities primarily for transvenous implantation of pacemakers. "A procedure that previously required opening the chest and abdomen can be done by simply making a small incision in the patient's neck."

Fluoroscopy also is a valuable diagnostic tool. "We are able to better diagnose conditions such as spinal instabilities, disk ruptures, tracheal collapse, intestinal and urinary tract obstructions and provide confirmation of certain lung conditions," says Dr. Daye.

The unit can also be used to treat caval syndrome in canine patients by removing heartworms via the jugular vein. Feline patients presenting with heartworms in the right atrium or ventricle will also benefit from transvenous extraction.

Other applications for the equipment are being considered for the future. The machine can be used for diagnostic angiography, pulmonic balloon valvuloplasty and coil embolization of PDAs.

Contact Us

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