

## VMTH News and Updates Spring 2009:

**Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care:** The VMTH is open to receive emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Although any information in advance of us seeing a patient on emergency is welcomed, it is not necessary. Patients admitted on emergency are triaged upon arrival and provided with lifesaving emergency care as necessary. Routine diagnostics such as lab work and plain-film radiographs can be performed at any time, and stabilization, intensive care hospitalization and 24-hour monitoring are provided as indicated. More complex diagnostic and surgical procedures can be performed on an emergency basis if the patient is not stable. Referring veterinarians will receive a fax the morning following the emergency visit outlining the details of the emergency visit and outcome of the case.

**Oncology:** We would like to announce the arrival of Dr. Sandra Axiak as our third clinician on the Oncology Service. Dr. Axiak is a board-certified oncologist who joined the faculty March 16. She comes from a busy referral practice in Dallas, TX and is a great addition to the oncology team. Please review information provided about ongoing clinical trials that is on the opposite side of this page. If you have questions concerning clinical trials, please feel free to contact Ms. Debbie Tate, Clinical Trials Coordinator. Ms. Lisa Boland, Oncology Service Technician, is happy to help with patient needs.

**Dentistry:** Dr. Richard Meadows continues to offer a full range of dental services including root canals, orthodontics, periodontics and jaw fracture repair. The VMTH's dental equipment includes rotary endotics and both digital and computed intra-oral radiography.

**Nutrition Service:** We are offering nutrition consultations. Referring veterinarians can call and get advice on commercial or home diets, or support with critical care cases, and other nutrition needs. Please feel free to contact Drs. Craig Datz or Bob Backus.

**Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery:** The Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery Service welcomes Dr. Carlos Souza as a faculty surgeon. Dr. Souza, who is board-certified in veterinary oncology and pending certification in small animal surgery, joined MU in July 2008. Dr. Souza did his oncology residency at the University of Illinois and his small animal surgery residency at the University of Tennessee.

The Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery Service is expanding capabilities for minimally invasive surgery via laparoscopy and thoracoscopy. We are still in an early growth phase, but multiple capabilities are currently available. Please contact our Soft Tissue Surgery veterinary technician, Ms. Shelly Durham, if you have questions about our current minimally invasive soft tissue capabilities.

**Physical Rehabilitation:** The Physical Rehabilitation Service in the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital is ready to serve you. Our physical rehabilitation staff consists of two registered veterinary technicians, Ms. Stephanie Gilliam and Ms. Jodi Beteem who have completed certification as Canine Rehabilitation Practitioners in the University of Tennessee training program. The faculty co-directors are Drs. Joan Coates (Neurology/Neurosurgery) and Jimi Cook (Orthopaedic Surgery). The Physical Rehabilitation Service offers comprehensive therapy including neuromuscular stimulation, therapeutic ultrasound, aquatic treadmill, thermal agents and therapeutic exercises. Physical rehabilitation has greatly enhanced the postoperative care we provide by expediting the recovery process and enhancing return to function for our patients. We welcome referrals and will be happy to assist you with advice on physical rehabilitation and using our services.

**Ophthalmology:** We are pleased to provide updates on new instrumentation which will permit us to provide cutting-edge care for small animal referral patients. For surgical cataract removal, the MU Ophthalmology Service is the only veterinary ophthalmology service in the state which has the "Infinity", a cutting-edge phacoemulsification unit. This device allows more rapid and accurate removal of cataracts than could be performed with older technology. The "Endolaser" is new, cutting-edge, technology for treatment of glaucoma. This unit enables performance of laser cyclophotocoagulation, which appears to be a much better way to ablate the cells that produce aqueous humor. This treatment modality is appropriate for use in patients with either primary or secondary glaucoma. For consultation or referral of small animal patients with cataracts, glaucoma, or any ophthalmologic condition, please contact Drs. Elizabeth Giuliano, Jackie Pearce, or Cecil Moore, or service technician Ms. Christa Reed, for assistance.

**Equine Medicine:** We continue to investigate the role of obesity on all aspects of equine health. We are especially interested in the role of obesity on the risk of chronic diseases such as laminitis and Cushing's. Newer investigations are being lined up to study the impact of obesity on glucose and insulin regulation in horses as well as its impact on inflammatory responsiveness in general. We are interested in seeing cases associated with morbid obesity for endocrinological characterizations. We are also interested in receiving horses and ponies as donations for purposes of further clinical and post mortem investigation, coupled with enhanced opportunities for teaching for our veterinary students. Suitable horses include but are not limited to older horses affected with chronic laminitis or Cushing's disease that might be identified for euthanasia. Please contact our receptionist, Becky Elias, for further information [telephone: 573-882-3513]. Alternatively, Dr. Philip Johnson would also be happy to answer any of your questions and help to successfully facilitate your requests and plans with our program.