

The Referring VETERINARIAN

VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL ♦ COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ♦ CORNELL

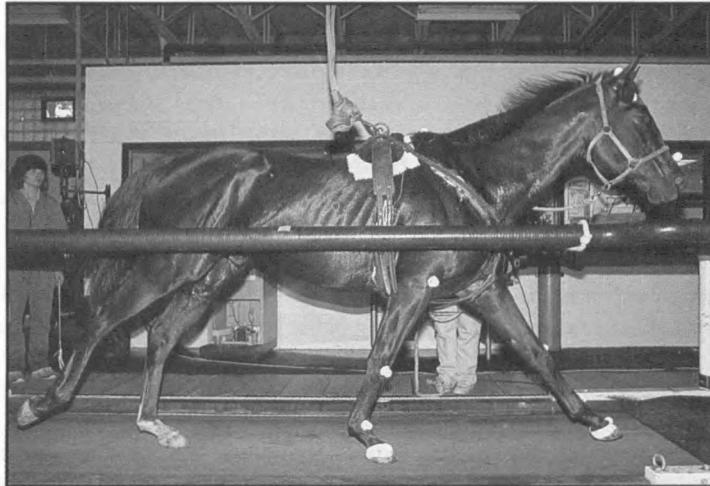
Fall 1991

From the Director:

This summer was a busy one at the VMTH as we experienced an increasing case load while at the same time planned for several upcoming changes in the Hospital including a major curriculum revision and, of course, the building program. After a relatively quiet winter, the number of referral cases has shown a very healthy upswing. The increase has been rather uniformly distributed between the large and small animal clinics. We are all very grateful for this improvement, but we are not complacent. As always, we encourage your referrals and pledge to do everything we can to provide the best possible care for referral patients and communication with you and your referral client.

As many of you know, a major curriculum revision is in the advanced planning stages and will have a significant impact on VMTH functions. Some changes have already occurred. As of July, our Community Practice Service (CPS) in the Small Animal Clinic was strengthened by the appointment of Dr. William Hornbuckle as its service chief. The CPS mainly serves clients from the local community but also provides assistance with emergency referrals. The CPS will be a training ground for students in the new curriculum. However, this change should also improve our services to referring veterinarians.

Unrelated to the curriculum change, the faculty voted in May to institute a twelve month fourth year curriculum beginning with the class of 1993. Students entering the third year this fall will begin clinical rotations in May of 1992 and continue in them until they graduate in May of 1993. Each



A patient undergoing evaluation in the EPTC

student will have a calendar quarter as vacation, but the time will vary depending on the rotation selected. This change will have a significant impact on the availability of upcoming senior students to accept summer jobs in practice. However, some students will be seeking such opportunities throughout the year. Hopefully practitioners will be willing to accept senior students to work in their practices at varying times throughout the year.

After some "white knuckle time" in the spring during New York State budget negotiations, the building program is now firmly "on track". Construction of the primary teaching center has begun. This has had only a very minor effect on accessibility of clients to the hospital, i.e. clients must now enter and exit the small animal hospital through the previous exit door since the former entrance is now blocked. Significant changes in access patterns will occur once construction of the new hospital begins. Details of these changes will be provided in the next issue of *The Referring Veterinarian*.

Give me a call at (607) 253-3030 if you have any questions or concerns.

Fran Kallfelz

EQUINE PERFORMANCE TESTING CLINIC

Veterinarians are often required to evaluate a horse for its potential level of performance or diagnose the reason for its failure to perform as expected. It is paradoxical that the examination is often accomplished with the horse standing or trotting on a lunge line rather than at the

actual performance level. This obviously weak means of performance testing had led to the development of laboratory tests to evaluate various physiological systems. For example, pulmonary function testing was introduced yielding measurements of the pulmonary resistance and compliance, work of breathing and maximum change in pleural pressure, allowing identification of some of the horses with chronic pulmonary disease. However, these tests are again performed with the horse at rest and, therefore, the significance of normality or abnormality is difficult to assess, and only major organic or functional abnormalities can be determined. New technology does exist such as telemetry which allows measurement of some limited cardiovascular parameters while the horse is exercising. With the introduction of high-speed treadmills horses can be running safely near sophisticated equipment regardless of season or weather.

The Equine Performance Testing Clinic was started at Cornell in August of 1987. A high speed treadmill (Sato) was delivered to Cornell thanks to a grant from

(continued on page 2)

Clinic *(Continued from page 1)*

the Alumni of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, and funding from the New York Division of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA). At first the high-speed treadmill was placed above ground and videoendoscopy of the exercising horse alone was done. Through additional funding from the Mrs. Clever Porter Foundation, the State of New York, the Finger Lakes Division of the HBPA, and Zweig Funds for Equine Research, construction of the Equine Performance Testing Clinic (EPTC) was started. In October of 1989 the EPTC had its official opening. Horses can now be evaluated at a similar level of activity as they are expected to perform. At this time there are only two such sports medicine clinics in the Eastern United States.

The EPTC is divided into three divisions: the respiratory testing unit, the gait analysis unit and the performance

and fitness evaluation unit. Last year 73 horses were evaluated at the EPTC. Twenty-nine horses were seen by the respiratory testing unit solely for evaluation of upper airway noise during exercise, twenty-six horses were assessed for evaluation of poor performance, and eighteen horses were seen for evaluation of high speed lameness.

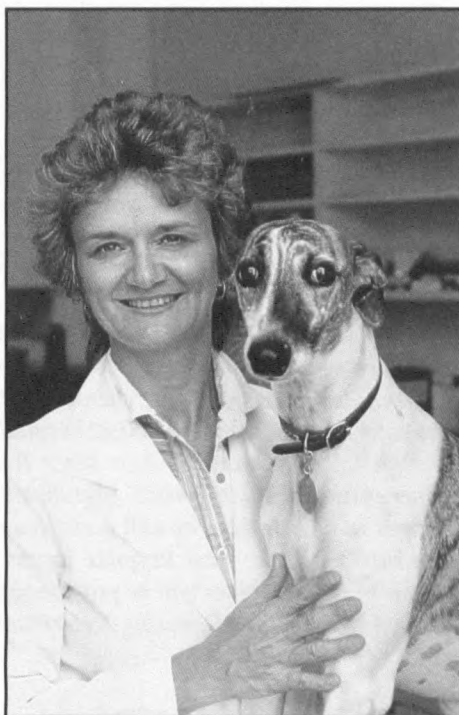
It is in the area of upper respiratory disease that we first started evaluating patients. With the use of videoendoscopy and simultaneous measurements of airway pressures we can correlate abnormalities (anatomical or pathophysiological) with airway mechanics or, in other words, form vs function. Other evaluations include the performance testing of the lower airway tract and the evaluation of poor performance through measurements of many physiological variables such as blood lactate, blood gases, acid-base status, pre- and post-exercise CPK measurements, end-tidal blood gas analysis, heart rate and lower airway mechanic

determination. Evaluation of the musculoskeletal system through the use of four high speed video cameras and a state-of-the-art motion analysis system allows an assessment of lameness far beyond that of the naked eye. Thus, evaluation of a horse with poor performance has been greatly enhanced by the advent of evaluation of the equine athlete while exercising.

The cost of an examination on the treadmill is \$170 plus: (a) upper airway (videoendoscopy and pressure profile determination) \$60, (b) lower respiratory evaluation (including BAL, radiographs, endoscopy, pressure profile, flow, respiratory mechanics) \$175, (c) poor performance evaluation (including lactate, CPK, pre and post test) \$60 plus the cost of 2 chemical profiles, (d) lameness exam \$50. Additional charges include a medical record fee (\$10) and an admission fee (\$25). In certain cases additional testing may also be performed.

A NEW ADDITION TO THERIOGENOLOGY AT CORNELL: SMALL ANIMAL FERTILITY & INFERTILITY UNIT

The VMTH has begun a new theriogenology service for small animals. This service is different from others in that it specializes in addressing problems that can affect fertility in cats and dogs. These include diseases of the reproductive tract in adults and neonates as well as assessment of defects which may be inherited in animals up to one year of age. Appointments are seen on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and are scheduled through the Small Animal Clinic appointment desk [Referring Veterinarians should call (607-253-3003 and Clients should call 607-253-3060].



Dr. Vicki Meyers-Wallen, Chief of the Small Animal Fertility and Infertility Unit with one of her (soon to be) satisfied patients.

Three clinicians currently participate in the Small Animal Fertility and Infertility Unit. Dr. Vicki Meyers-Wallen, Chief of the Service, received her VMD and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and is a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists. She has a clinical interest in inherited disorders of cats and dogs, particularly those of the reproductive tract. Dr. Joanna Ellington, Clinical Instructor, received her DVM from the University of Tennessee, her PhD from Cornell University, and is also a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists. She is interested in infertility problems of the male and female and in developing technology-assisted reproductive procedures such as embryo transfer and in vitro fertilization for companion animals. Dr. Clynn Wilker, Resident in Theriogenology, received his DVM from the University of Oregon.

(continued on page 3)

Unit (continued from page 2)

The Unit offers breeding management services, breeding soundness examinations, investigation of diseases of the reproductive tract which may affect fertility in males and females, complete semen evaluation, artificial insemination with fresh semen, surgical insemination with frozen semen, pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasonography, man-

agement of dystocia, and treatment of reproductive diseases in male dogs that are used at stud. The Unit has equipment for specialized procedures requiring laparoscopy, such as intrauterine culture and biopsy. In addition, the Unit offers confidential genetic counseling to owners and breeders of dogs and cats.

The fees levied by the Small Animal

Fertility and Infertility Unit will vary depending on the nature of the problem. Charges for a single office visit may be as low as \$50-100. Some cases may require hospitalization of one or more animals for extended periods of time and involve extensive monitoring during the stay. Charges for such cases, of course, would be considerably greater depending upon length of stay, monitoring procedures, etc.

VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL

INTERNS AND RESIDENTS

Referring veterinarians are frequently in contact with house officers of the VMTH. Our interns and residents are as dedicated as the faculty to providing the best possible interaction with referring veterinarians and exemplary care for the patients you refer to us. For your information and convenience the following is a list of current house officers serving in the VMTH effective July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992.

SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC

Interns:

Ruthanne Chun (University of Wisconsin)
Elizabeth Court (University of Sydney)
Gabrielle Dampney (University of Sydney)
Frank Geoly (Virginia Polytech Institute)
Tony Glover (North Carolina State Univ.)

Residents:

Howard Lawrence
Bertrand Lussier
Brigid Nicholson
Thomas Schermerhorn
Richard Suess, Jr.
Wendy Yaphe

*year of residency

3* Surgery
1* Surgery
1* Medicine
1* Medicine
2* Surgery
2* Medicine

LARGE ANIMAL CLINIC

Interns: (Surgery Only)

James Lillich (Colorado State University)
Krista Seltzer (University of Florida)

Residents:

Ryland Edwards
Dean Hendrickson
Daniel Kenney
Mark Newton-Clarke
Andrew Sams

*year of residency

1* Surgery
3* Surgery
2* Medicine
1* Medicine
2* Surgery

AMBULATORY CLINIC

Interns:

Christopher Cebra (University of Pennsylvania)
Margaret Lackey (University of Pennsylvania)

Residents:

Jeffrey Musser
Simon Peek

*year of residency

1*
1*

SPECIALTY SERVICES (Residents Only) -*year of residency

Anesthesiology

Peter Ekstrom 1*
Thomas Geimer 1*

Ophthalmology

Michelle Taylor 1*

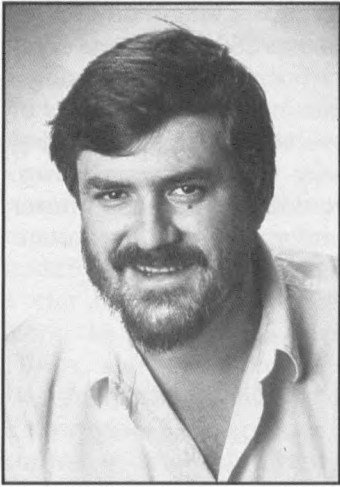
Dermatology

Suzanne Cayatte 1*

Theriogenology

Clynn Wilker 2*

FACULTY PROFILES • • • • •



Dr. Stephen C. (Steve) Barr joined the faculty at Cornell in 1989 as an Assistant Professor. He obtained his BVSc degree from Massey University (New Zealand) in 1977, his MS degree from Melbourne University (Australia) in 1984, and his PhD degree from Louisiana State University in 1989. His doctoral studies included an in depth study of *Trypanosoma cruzi* infection (Chaga's Disease) in the dog. Steve is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. His clinical interests are in small animal internal medicine with emphasis on immunological and infectious, especially protozoan, diseases of dogs and cats.



Dr. John E. Saidla has recently been appointed as a small animal clinician for dentistry in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in addition to his other duties as Director of Continuing Education and lecturer in dentistry. A 1961 graduate of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Saidla practiced for 25 years before coming to Cornell. His interest in dentistry began in 1962 and developed into a significant portion of his practice. His clinical interests include all areas of dentistry, with special interest in malocclusions and the genetic influence on dental problems in pure bred dogs and cats. Dentistry has become such an integral part of small animal practice that clinical experience in this specialty is a necessary part of the curriculum.

CLINICAL RESEARCH REQUEST

Canine Cutaneous Mast Cell Tumor Study

We are seeking dogs with cutaneous mast cell tumors to include in a clinical prospective study taking place in the VMTH. The purpose is to evaluate pre-excision and post-excision plasma histamine concentrations to determine the effectiveness of plasma histamine as a predictor of complete surgical excision, recurrence, or metastasis of mast cell tumors. Cases will be solicited for at least one year.

To facilitate inclusion of patients we would very much appreciate referrals of dogs with diagnosed or suspected cutaneous mast cell tumors. Plasma histamine concentrations will be determined prior to and after excision of the tumor free of charge. Owners will be responsible for other charges, e.g. surgery and anesthesia fees.

Thank you for your consideration. If there are any questions please contact Dr. Richard P. Suess, Jr. or Dr. James A. Flanders, VMTH, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853 (607-253-3060).

The Referring
VETERINARIAN

College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University
Ithaca NY, 14853

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Ithaca, N.Y.
Permit No. 780