Fall 2010 Applicants’ Update
The application process came to a close October 25, 2010 for the Class of 2015. The Admissions Committee is reviewing the applications and decisions should be out early January, 2011. More information for current applicants can be found on page 3 of this Newsletter.

Thank you to all who applied this year and we wish you every success in the application review!

Vet College Video
Please take a few minutes to enjoy a video about Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine
http://www.vet.cornell.edu/about/CUVet2010.cfm

IMPORTANT GRE® update!
The GRE® will be changing this summer. Those applying this upcoming year (2011) for the Class of 2016 should take the GRE® before August 1, 2011. GRE’s® taken August 1, 2011 and after will not have their scores available to colleges until November. Since our deadline is in October, this will be too late. Please make sure to register for an exam before July 31, 2011.

Please visit the Educational Testing Service for more information about the new Graduate Record Exam and test dates prior to the end of July 2011 at www.ets.org.
Criticalist pioneers veterinary use of simulator technology
Most veterinarians would agree that trial and error has its place in clinical training. But not in the emergency room. When it comes to administering urgent care to stabilize an emergency case, there simply is no room for mistakes. One false move and a life can be lost. How can students be taught to handle real-time emergencies without endangering a critical patient’s well being?

That was the need that Dr. Dan Fletcher, Assistant Professor of Emergency and Critical Care, set out to fill in designing a sophisticated “rescue dog” mannequin and software program—the first of its kind in veterinary medicine.

“I present lectures on shock and resuscitation to DVM students in the fall of their third year,” said Fletcher. “When those students are confronted with a real-life crisis setting in clinics, I don’t want them to freeze up like deer in the headlights.”

The simulator provides a safe environment to make mistakes, and, even more importantly, to learn from experience, he added.

The system is based on a reverse-engineered human model that Fletcher adapted for canine use in collaboration with renowned Cornell robotics expert Dr. Hod Lipson, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Multiple embedded speakers and actuators within the canine mannequin emit heart and lung sounds, and create pulses that can be palpated. A balloon within the chest cavity simulates chest excursions to mimic spontaneous breathing. All of these features are driven by software that is programmable and adjustable in real time. Simulated system monitors report on vital indicators such as ECG, pulse oximetry, and blood pressure. The mannequin can also be intubated for positive pressure ventilation, with a realistic airway that accommodates an endotracheal tube or ambu bag. Clinicians can also deliver chest compressions.

The use of simulator technology is already well established in human medical education. In fact, the Society for Simulation in Health Care, or SSIH, was founded in 2004, and now boasts a membership of over 2,000.

Fletcher worked with his colleagues in the Emergency & Critical Care section of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals to develop teaching scenarios for the simulator. After each scenario is played out with the mannequin, the student group reviews a videotape of what transpired. A trained facilitator then leads a discussion,
and students draw conclusions about what they could have done differently. According to Fletcher, these debriefing sessions are where the real learning occurs.

Fletcher hopes to develop continuing education programs based on the software. He is currently working with LVT team leaders Andrea Battaglia and Deb Watrous to create training simulations for veterinary technicians.

According to Fletcher, recent research in psychology demonstrates that experiential learning is more effective than lectures for adult learners. “It’s important to understand that this is a bona fide teaching modality,” said Fletcher. “In fact, this is how adults learn best.”

Article by D. Gurvich

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Updated Transcripts:
Fall transcripts are not required. The next time we require transcripts will be June 15th for admitted students.

Information Sessions:
Applicants who are made an offer of admission or an alternate seat offer will be invited to an Information Session. These Sessions run Friday-Saturday. Students will choose from one of the following weekends and return an RSVP that will be included with their offer letter:

- January 28 & 29, 2011
- February 4 & 5, 2011
- February 18 & 19, 2011
- February 25 & 26, 2011

Questions:
Please feel free to contact the Admissions Office with any questions or concerns at vet_admissions@cornell.edu

College of Veterinary Medicine’s Annual Open House
The Annual Open House this year will be Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 10:00-4:00. Details about the Open House will be available on our web site after the first of the year.

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