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CVM eNews - March 2019

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Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine



eNews

March 2019



Message from the Dean

Thursday, March 21st marked a momentous occasion in the college's history – the 125th anniversary of New York State Governor Roswell P. Flower signing legislation that chartered the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine. From establishing the first veterinary ambulatory clinic in 1908 to facilitating the first puppies born by in vitro fertilization in 2016, the college has strived to advance the health and wellbeing of animals and people through education, research and public service. Throughout our 125 years, our strength as a college is in the people who make up our community and the dedication and skill each of you bring. I thank you for the many ways you have contributed to our success and in making this an interesting and rewarding place to work.

Some of the great work happening at the college will be showcased during the [53rd Open House on Saturday, April 6](#). The open house features fun activities for all ages, including a petting zoo, K-9 police and dog agility demonstrations, as well as a variety of interactive talks. I encourage you to bring your family and enjoy the day of activities.

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start to celebrate the time-honored tradition of donning their white lab coats, signifying their transition into clinical training. I want to thank all the faculty, residents, interns, veterinary technicians and staff who work so hard to provide a valuable educational experience while at the same time providing excellent clinical service to clients and their animals.

Sincerely,

Lorin D. Warnick, D.V.M., Ph.D. '94
Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine

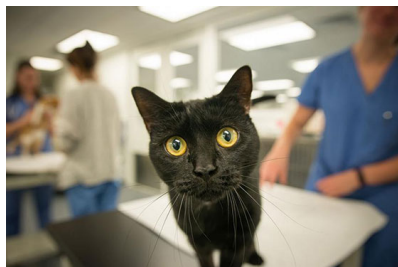
Latest News



[Cornell veterinary class of 2020 celebrates white coat ceremony](#)



[Barbara Mix, D.V.M. '82, receives NYS Hometown Alumni Award](#)



[College's first Spay Day sees high participation from the community](#)

March Trivia

Look out for the answer to this month's trivia question in April's eNews!

In what year was the Society of Phi Zeta founded at Cornell?

1925

Select

1945

Select

1965

Select

February's trivia question: What does the Coggins Test diagnose?

Answer: Equine infectious anemia. 89% of you got it right! The Coggins Test was developed by Leroy Coggins, Ph.D. '62, and colleagues in the early 1970s. It remains a

Community Notes

Share your views and ideas on how we can strengthen our culture of diversity

Many Voices, One College

A monthly diversity and inclusion dialogue series

This month's topic: **Invisible at Work: A Conversation**

Dr. Maria Timberlake, Associate Professor SUNY Cortland

Casual references to disability are ubiquitous, i.e. *"that's so lame!"*, *"I'm OCD when it comes to my stuff!"* Are they problematic or simply innocent metaphors? In this session we'll discuss the implications of language and introduce invisible disabilities.



Friday, March 29 Noon to 1:00

Green room (S2-223) adjacent to the Café

Food will be provided



Join us for this semester's **Diversity Dialogue with Dr. Vijay Pendakur** on April 10 from noon-1 p.m. in LH 4.

[RSVP your spot here!](#)



The new **CVM Paw Walk** is now ready for use. For those looking for an **exercise** option in the winter months, follow this mile route through the college as demonstrated by canine helper Zoey!



[Staff Council Spotlight on the Cornell Veterinary Biobank](#)

March 21 was **Founding Day!**

[Read Dean Warnick's message on our quasiquicentennial anniversary.](#)



Your Cornell: Faculty & Staff News has replaced Pawprint and Career/Life Digest. All faculty and staff will receive a new, weekly e-newsletter from central Cornell providing a brief snapshot of timely campus news and information. Some weeks, the newsletter will include messages and updates from university leadership about priorities and initiatives.

[Hellos, goodbyes and HR update](#)

CVM in the News



[Mongabay: A plea to Botswana: Please rethink a "Not Enough Fences" approach \(commentary\)](#)

Steven Osofsky, D.V.M. '89, says it's time for the government of Botswana to make land-use decisions that will be socially, ecologically and economically sustainable for generations to come.



[Upstate Medical University: Treatment for canine cancer serves as model for humans](#)

Dr. Kristy Richards explains how treating cancer in dogs aims for a twofold benefit: Help the sick animal and possibly find new ways to treat cancer in people.

[More News](#)

[More Events](#)

Have Ideas to Share?

Let us know what you want to see in the Community Notes portion of eNews. Contribute events and articles which might be of interest to your colleagues and the CVM community at large.

Send in your submission by 4/12/19 to cornellvet@cornell.edu. Make sure to put eNews in the subject line so that your item can be considered for the next issue.



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Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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Cornell veterinary class of 2020 celebrates white coat ceremony

🐾 Monday, March 18, 2019 - 2:45pm



Third-year veterinary students swear the Veterinarian's Oath at the 2019 White Coat ceremony. Photo by Rachel Philipson.

Third-year veterinary students along with friends, family and mentors gathered on Saturday to celebrate the time honored tradition of donning their white lab coats, signifying their transition into clinical training. The 2019 Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine's White Coat Ceremony took place at Bailey Hall, officiated by the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine, Lorin D. Warnick, D.V.M., Ph.D. '94, and Assistant Dean for Students and Instruction, Katherine Edmondson, M.S. '85, Ph.D. '89. Mark Olcott, D.V.M. '95, president of the alumni association executive board, administered the Veterinarian's Oath, and Lisa Freeman '81, M.S. '86, D.V.M. '86, president of Northern Illinois University (NIU), served as the event's keynote speaker.

Dean Warnick opened the event by welcoming the attendees, and then took some time to recount some of his stand-out memories of his own experience on working as an ambulatory clinician. He recalled humorous moments such as the time when a student ate a cold can of Campbell's tomato soup for lunch — or when he visited an Amish farm and was helped by a four- and six-year old to get a recalcitrant cow into a stall. "Value the knowledge and observations of clients have of their own animals, even if only six years old," Warnick advised.

After his remarks, Assistant Dean Edmondson joined Warnick on the stage to guide third-year students through their coating ceremony. Students stepped on to the stage, and a mentor of their choosing helped to slide the white lab coat over the shoulders of each elated participant, signifying the moment that these budding veterinarians would officially begin their clinical training.

Alumni Association Executive Board President Olcott next led the students through the Veterinarian's Oath, which the third-years repeated after him with their right hands raised.

Next, Dr. Leni Kaplan '91, lecturer in the Community Practice Service, presented the John F. Cummings Memorial award to this year's winner, third-year student Laura St. Clair. Established in 1996 in memory of John Cummings '58, D.V.M. '62, Ph.D. '66, the James Law Professor of Anatomy who taught at Cornell for 29 years. The scholarship provides financial assistance to a student who has demonstrated clear and outstanding academic achievement in the study of veterinary medicine or comparative medicine.

To close the ceremony, alumna and NIU president Lisa Freeman spoke.

“Today, when you put on the symbolic white coat, you will look and feel different to others — and to yourselves. You, members of the Class of 2020, will vary in how you feel about this transition — whether you are completely comfortable with the choices you have made — whether you feel fully prepared for your clinical rotations. It's perfectly OK,” said Freeman.

“In fact, I hope this won't be the last time the profession challenges you to feel this way. One of the greatest things about veterinary medicine is the breadth of career options and the associated opportunities for continued growth and reinvention. My own career pathway certainly speaks to this.”

Freeman spoke about how, as NIU president, she uses the same skills that she learned as a fourth-year veterinary student. “I observe, listen and then use that experience to synthesize a plan,” she said. “I act with incomplete information, understanding that adjusting downstream can yield better outcomes than doing nothing. I pursue pathways that are the best options in the context of limited resources. I clean up messes that I didn't make, and I work with a team of caring individuals who share my values.”

By Lauren Cahoon Roberts



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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Barbara Mix, D.V.M. '82, receives NYS Hometown Alumni Award

🐾 Thursday, February 21, 2019 - 2:41pm



Barbara Mix, D.V.M. '82, stops by a stable near Horseheads, New York, to check on an injured show horse. Photo by Jason Koski/Cornell Brand Communications.

Working as a veterinarian for several decades, Barbara Mix, D.V.M. '82, has treated species large and small, familiar and exotic, from alpacas to zebras.

In recognition of the cumulative and consistent impact of her veterinary and volunteer work in and around her hometown of Horseheads, New York, Mix was named the latest recipient of the Cornell New York State Hometown Alumni Award.

Mix currently works part time as a veterinarian at the Chemung County Veterinary Clinic and runs her own large-animal practice. She also volunteers with the Kramer Foundation, fostering and rehabilitating dogs for placement with law enforcement and the military.

The Cornell University New York State Hometown Alumni Award recognizes Cornell graduates who return to their home counties or regions to start or enhance a business or nonprofit, and who regularly volunteer and are making an impact in those communities.



Elizabeth Ingersoll, of the Vindonoh Horse Shelter, greets Barbara Mix, D.V.M. '82, at the ceremony. Photo by Simon Wheeler for Cornell Brand Communications.

Joel Malina, vice president for university relations, presented the award Feb. 20 at the Greater Southern Tier BOCES in Horseheads, recognizing Mix's leadership in the private and public sectors in Chemung County and her lifetime dedication to animal health and well-being, noting that Mix is "precisely the kind of person we seek to honor with our hometown alumni award, and Cornell is extremely proud to recognize her."

Malina noted that Mix's early enthusiasm for cattle and horses motivated her to pursue her education at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, spending as much time as she could in the large-animal clinic despite the fact that, at the time, few women were pursuing careers in large-animal care.

Mix began her career as a veterinarian in Canandaigua, New York, where she also worked as a 4-H leader, became a mom to daughter Mary Jo and mentored students in a BOCES animal science program. In 2002 she moved back to her home county, where she has continued her practice, does relief small-animal work, runs her own 40-acre farm and devotes free time to volunteering.

In addition to her work with the Kramer Foundation, Mix volunteers at the Greater Southern Tier BOCES, where she serves on the animal science advisory board. She provides students with internship opportunities, provides veterinary care for the resident animals, and has developed the animal science program curriculum and wrote the syllabus for the program on careers in veterinary medicine and animal care.

For many years Mix also was on call for the New York State Police, responding to accident scenes that involved overturned trucks and carriers, and animals that were often loose or injured.

At the ceremony, Guy Cutler, medical director at the Chemung Valley Veterinary Clinic, called Mix "one of the most compassionate and most dedicated people that I know," noting her special interest in rehabilitating animals recovering from injuries and surgery, therefore working closely both with the animals and their human owners and companions.

"Barb's gifts, her passion for healing, and her calling to serve animals and the families that love them is what makes a difference in the community, and in my family in particular."

Laura Button, a friend, described the years of care Mix gave to a gentle, dependable retired racehorse named Jack, who was a close companion of Button's son, Alan, who has special needs.

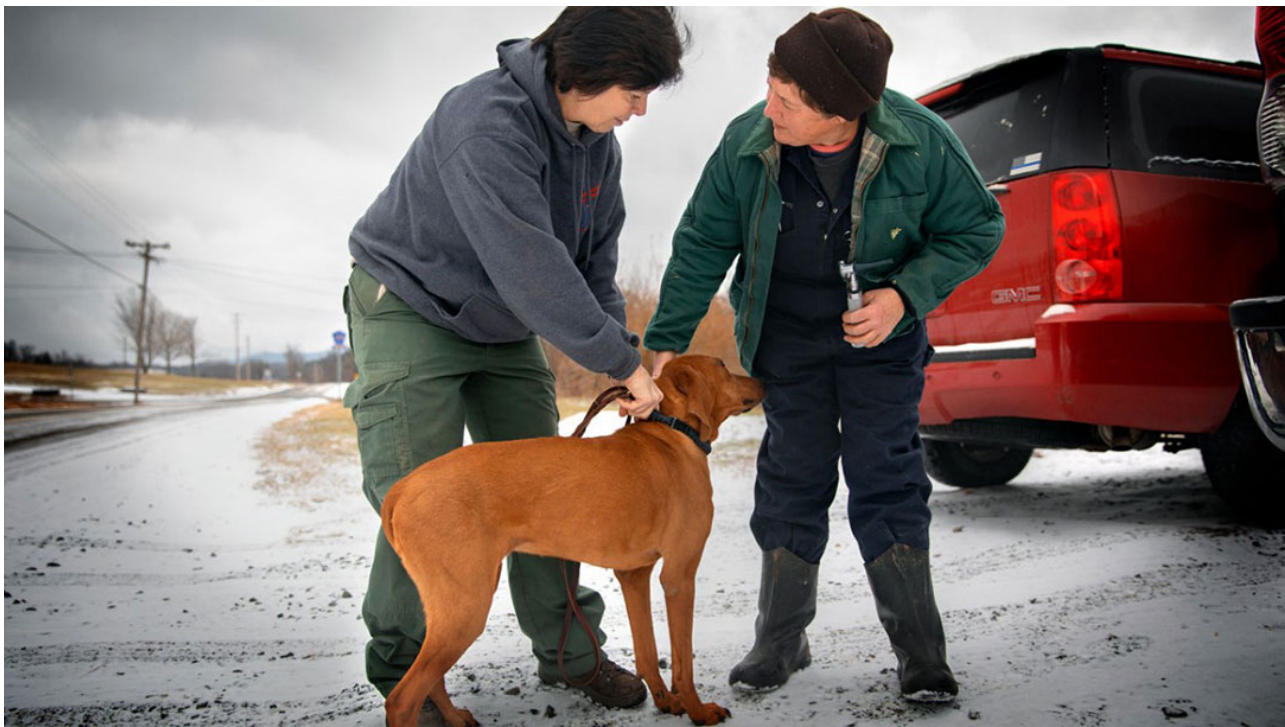
- Laura Button

Jack had torn the tendons in his front legs, and Mix and Button cared for him through rehabilitation and setbacks, including when Jack dislocated the bones in one leg. "At this point, she was treating all of us," Button said.

Mix understood that Jack was not a pet or a hobby or an investment – Jack "was a soulmate," Button said. Ultimately, Mix gave Jack five additional years with Alan and his family.

"Barb's gifts, her passion for healing, and her calling to serve animals and the families that love them is what makes a difference in the community, and in my family in particular," Laura Button said, thanking Mix, "my hometown vet."

Representatives from the offices of U.S. Rep. Tom Reed (R-23rd Dist.) and State Sen. Tom O'Mara (R-58th Dist.) also congratulated Mix and read proclamations from the elected officials.



Barbara Mix, D.V.M. '82, checks the ear of a search dog that is used for local search operations through the Kramer Foundation. Photo by Jason Koski/Cornell Brand Communications.

Accepting the award in front of friends, colleagues and family members, a humble Mix said, "Cornell University was a wonderful steppingstone for me and let me come back and be a team member on my hometown teams."

Mix said the award recognizes her many small roles in the community, from helping maintain the health of local dairy cattle, horses and companion animals like dogs and cats to educating high school students and helping people get their New York state veterinary technician licenses.

She noted that the work she does is hard, and the results are not always positive.

"But when we have things go right – when that little calf is born and winks and blinks and takes his first breath, when the dog that was thrown away gets to be a military or a search-and-rescue dog – I get the best part of all: I get to be the hometown cheerleader," Mix said. "And how good is that? It can't get any better than that."

As part of the award, Cornell is donating \$500 in Mix's name to the Kramer Foundation and \$500 to the Vindonoh Horse Shelter, which aids abandoned horses.



Barbara Mix, D.V.M. '82, receives the Cornell New York State Hometown Alumni Award from Joel Malina, vice president for university relations. Photo by Simon Wheeler for Cornell Brand Communications.

By Joe Wilensky

This story originally appeared in Ezra Magazine.



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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Cornell's first spay day sees high participation from community

🐾 Tuesday, February 26, 2019 - 1:37pm



"Spay Day was a huge success and is one of the many ways Cornell is a great resource for our community," said Evice Bolton, who organized the event with fellow third-year student Emily Gerardi. This photo by Rachel Philipson. All other photos by Pat Connelly.

The focus was feline during the College of Veterinary Medicine's first participation in World Spay Day. Volunteer veterinary students and supervising professionals performed 42 cat spay procedures and 36 neuters during the Feb. 23 event. The total of 78 surgeries exceeded their original goal of 50 cats served.

"Spay Day was a huge success and is one of the many ways Cornell is a great resource for our community," said Evice Bolton, who organized the event with fellow third-year student Emily Gerardi.

Spay and neuter services reduce animal overpopulation, particularly stray animals and in underserved communities. Clinics like this weekend's are in high demand across the state. "Within 12 hours of advertising the event through the Southside Healthy Pet Clinic, over 100 people inquired about getting their cats fixed," said Gerardi.

The Cornell students worked to provide spay and neuter services to the Ithaca community, as well as rabies vaccines and preventatives at no cost to owners during the event. They also treated a number of feral cats, which rescues and other members of the public trapped and released.

Created as Spay Day USA by the Doris Day Animal League in 1995, World Spay Day is now a campaign of the Humane Society of the United States. The society offers grants to those interested in participating as part of its mission to provide spay/neuter services for communities as well as learning opportunities for veterinary students. Bolton and Gerardi applied for and won the grant that made this year's event at Cornell possible.



“Without support from the Humane Society, we wouldn’t have been able to make this event a reality and help so many cats and their families,” said Bolton. “Our hope is to make this a regular event in the future to help with cat overpopulation in our area.”

In addition to serving the community, the event also offered veterinary students a chance to gain more practice with surgical and anesthetic skills while under the supervision of Cornell doctors and technicians. Ten students performed the surgeries, 18 provided physical exams and anesthesia, and four recovered the cats following their procedures – each training in techniques specific to the high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter model regularly practiced by Cornell outreach teams.

“This is experience that veterinary students may not otherwise be exposed to,” said Dr. Paul Maza, Cornell veterinary faculty, director of FARVets and one of the supervising veterinarians. “An event like this encourages practical learning and bolsters student confidence.”

Other supervising professionals who donated their time included Drs. Stephanie Hon; Leni Kaplan '91; Jami Landry, D.V.M. '17; Erika Militana, D.V.M. '16; Sue Yanoff '77, D.V.M. '80; and licensed veterinary technicians Manny McGovern and Tesla Rich.

Bolton said that despite being the college's first time organizing an event for World Spay Day, everything came together smoothly. “The best part of this clinic was seeing everyone work together to make it happen,” she said. “We were only able to accomplish so much because of the amazing team we had. Everyone worked together well and had such great attitudes.”



By Melanie Greaver Cordova



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Staff Council Spotlight on the Cornell Veterinary Biobank

The CVM Staff Council is pleased to highlight the Biobank in the March 2019 edition of CVM eNews. The Biobank team, working at the CVM and Baker Institute, collects, processes, stores, and distributes a collection of samples (DNA, blood derivatives, and tissue), as well as relevant medical data for use by researchers at Cornell and beyond.



Biobank team from left to right: Lisa Mitchell, Susan Garrison, Marta Castelhana, Lara Mouttham, Sierra Jordan, Lin Lin. Not pictured: Isabel Hernandez, Jessica Hayward, Rory Todhunter, Denise Archer.

Recently, the Biobank staff sat down with the CVM Staff Council to tell us about the work they do.

Staff Council: Please tell us about the history and mission of the CVM Biobank.

Biobank: The Biobank was started in 2006 by Dr. Rory Todhunter. The purpose of the Biobank is to obtain and manage a collection of samples acquired from patients that present to our hospitals (CUHA or CUVS), harnessing the research potential of the wide variety of cases that come to Cornell. These samples are available as a resource to the clinical research community. The Biobank serves as a bridge between clinicians and researchers, providing a way for valuable samples to be collected, catalogued and made available. Our goal is to accelerate biomedical research and advance animal and human health.

Staff Council: What are the day-to-day responsibilities of the Biobank team?

Biobank: Part of our team focuses on sample acquisition. We work with our hospitals' clinical team to collect peripheral blood as well as tumors after surgical excision or during necropsy with Cornell pathologists. We collect samples that do not interfere with animal health or diagnostic results. We save biological materials that might otherwise be discarded and process/prepare them in ways that make them useful to researchers. Information about each animal, especially the diagnosis, is stored in a custom database built by Veterinary Medical Information Technologies. Another part of the team processes the samples for storage. This may include extracting DNA or RNA from samples or preserving tissues. These processes all require quality control and careful preparation.

In addition to sample collection, inventorying and processing, there is a large human component to our jobs. We work hard to establish connections with the clinical team at CUHA and CUVS and we collaborate with them as they reach out to owners to get consent for sample collection, and assist us with the biobanking processes. We are also constantly reaching out to researchers, to let them know how we can offer them support and strengthen their research.

Staff Council: What are the best aspects of working with the Biobank?

Biobank: We truly work as a team, both within our group and with the greater CVM community. To be successful, we rely on the willingness of owners to provide samples that may not benefit their animals directly, but that may ultimately help to promote animal or human health.

Another positive aspect of working with the Biobank has been the chance to be instrumental in its organizational development. We are currently in the process of working with Denise Archer, AHDC Quality Assurance Manager, to prepare our biobank to be in compliance with the International Organization for Standards (ISO) document 20387 – General Requirement for Biobanking. ISO is an organization that creates documents that provide requirements, specifications and guidelines for processes. We will be the first biobank (of any type) to be accredited to this ISO standard, and the documents and processes we create can be used as a model for biobanks worldwide.

Staff Council: What would you like the CVM community to know about the Biobank?

Biobank: We would like to stress that we are here to be of service to the research community and are invested in using all of the samples we so carefully collect. Our purpose is to provide properly curated samples to researchers who can use them to make new discoveries that may lead to new treatments or other medical advances. Please contact us if you are interested in taking advantage of our collection. For more information you can visit our website: <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments/centers/cornell-veterinary-biobank> or contact us at vetbiobank@cornell.edu.

Staff Council: Thank you, Biobank team for providing us with information for the CVM Staff Council's March Spotlight! We enjoyed meeting you and learning more about the Biobank.

Do you have ideas or suggestions for an upcoming *Spotlight*? If so, please email us at cvmstaffcouncil@cornell.edu.



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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Our 125th Anniversary: A note from Dean Warnick

🐾 Wednesday, March 20, 2019 - 3:46pm



On this day 125 years ago, the New York State Legislature passed an act establishing a State Veterinary College at Cornell University. Signed into law by Governor Roswell P. Flower, the act appropriated \$50,000 “for the purpose of constructing and equipping suitable buildings for such college upon the grounds of said university, at Ithaca, New York.” This not only formally established our College of Veterinary Medicine, it was also the first state college at Cornell University.

This moment was the culmination of tireless efforts on the part of our founding dean, Dr. James Law, whose more than twenty years of letters, visits, speeches, editorials and other lobbying efforts finally paid off in the spring of 1894.

Indeed, we have Law to thank for making veterinary medicine the respected and rigorous field of study that it is today. The Cornell Board of Trustees summed it up well when they wrote this note upon Law’s retirement in 1908:

“Until he began to teach at Cornell, no American College had ever regarded veterinary medicine as deserving a place in the college curriculum. [The veterinary college now has] entrance requirements as high as those of many

medical schools, and graduating men everywhere recognized as trained scientists. In less than forty years a new profession has been created in the United States and the praise and honor for doing this are in no small measure Dr. Law's"

Law created a legacy that is as vibrant as ever. Our vision remains the same — to lead, enable and inspire others to attain a healthier world for animals and people. We've had many notable moments throughout this century and a quarter — from graduating the first woman veterinarian, to establishing the first ambulatory clinic in the country, to facilitating the first puppies born by in vitro fertilization, we've worked hard to earn our place as one of the top veterinary colleges in the world. This drive to better our world continues as we take the lead in new frontiers such as cancer research; planetary and public health; and business and entrepreneurship.

Ultimately, throughout our 125 years, our strength as a college is in the people who make up our community and the dedication and skill each of you bring. I thank you for the many ways you have contributed to our success and in making the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine an institution that inspires pride and improves the world.


As we reflect on the richness of our foundations, let us look forward with excitement towards the future.

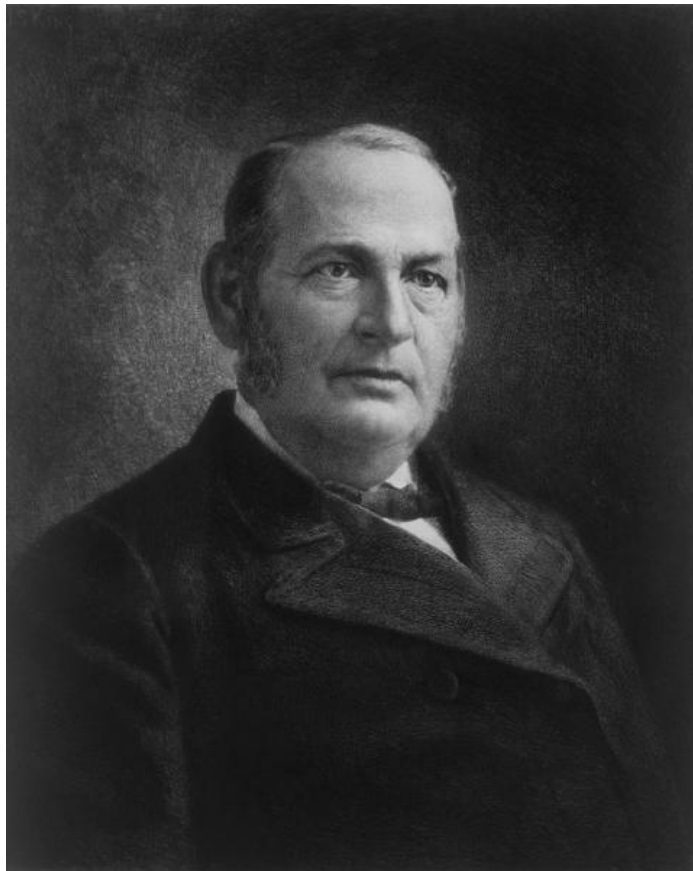
Sincerely,

Dean Lorin Warnick, D.V.M., Ph.D. '94



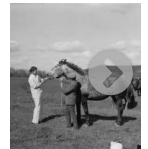
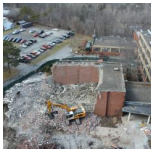
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 - 5:03pm

 Image



Governor Roswell P. Flower signed the act establishing the State Veterinary College at Cornell University in 1894.

The first six faculty





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March 2019: Hellos, goodbyes and HR update

Help us welcome new employees who joined the CVM community in February and bid a fond farewell to those who have retired.

New Hires

- **Faraz Ahmed**, Data Analyst II, Department of Biomedical Sciences
- **Corinne Brown**, Animal Technician/Handler, Department of Clinical Sciences
- **Victoria Loretta Engert**, CRES Technician Assistant, Cornell University Hospital for Animals
- **Kevin Hollenbeck**, Animal Attendant S04, Veterinary Curriculum

Retirements

There were no retirements during this time period

Human Resources Update

Supervising @ Cornell

The university is launching a new campus-wide **online** supervisory training program. Supervising@Cornell is designed to be flexible – allowing supervisors and those who wish to be supervisors to get the information they want, when they need it.

Here's how it works:

- There are nine core modules: a fundamentals of supervisory skills module, a module dedicated to Cornell-specific content, and seven modules aligned to the Leadership Skills for Success. In addition, there is a prerequisite to the modules.
- Participants must complete **SUPERHR500 "Welcome to Supervising at Cornell,"** which will allow you access to all other courses in whatever order you choose.
- The university prioritizes leadership and recognizes the importance of the supervisor-employee relationship in job satisfaction and engagement. Therefore, Supervising@Cornell is offered free of charge to all staff, faculty, academic and non-academic employees!

Additional information may be found on the website: <https://hr.cornell.edu/career-management/supervisingcornell>. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Fonseca at jdf62@cornell.edu.

Career Management Toolkit: Tools and resources to help grow your career

At Cornell, we want your career to be more than a way to survive – we want your career to be where you thrive. We've created a helpful toolkit to assist in planning and managing your career development. Check each step for ideas and resources that can help you take charge of your career and maximize your potential.

Overview

1. **Learn About Yourself:** Clarify and understand your interests, skills and values
2. **Explore Careers:** Seek career or job opportunities that interest you
3. **Plan Your Next Steps:** Set goals and develop knowledge and skills to enhance performance or advance your career

4. **Take Action:** Make the most of opportunities to promote your achievements and abilities
5. **Evaluate Your Progress:** Assess and reflect on your experiences

University Hearing and Review Boards Application - 2019

The University Hearing and Review Boards are the pool of students, staff and faculty who serve on the panels that hear and review cases brought by the Office of the Judicial Administrator as part of the campus disciplinary process. These cases involve violations of the [Campus Code of Conduct](#) by members of the Cornell community.

For any questions related to the process or inquiries about serving on the UHRB, please contact the Chair of the Codes and Judicial Committee of the University Assembly at oa-cjc-chair@cornell.edu.

For questions regarding this application, please contact the Office of the Assemblies assembly@cornell.edu

Parenting Workshops

Preparing for Baby Series, Spring 2019

Being pregnant and becoming parents often feels like navigating 100 different options and even more opinions! There are so many changes your body goes through and lots of new information to learn in a short period of time. This class helps cut through the extra (and unnecessary) noise. The Preparing for Baby series will help you sort through much of the information available for new parents and guide you in making the best decisions for your family. All Cornellians (faculty, staff, postdocs and students) and their partners/support persons are welcome to attend, free of charge.

For information, please contact worklife@cornell.edu. The Fall 2019 workshops are being held on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., 395 Pine Tree Road, Conference Room #140 (in the East Hill Office Building located behind East Hill Plaza). Visitor parking or a convenient stop on TCAT bus route #82 is available.

Register here for one or more of the programs. Please note: this series is popular and seating is limited.

Current Nonacademic Open Positions

The list below is dynamic and updated regularly. For additional information, please visit the Cornell Careers Page at <https://hr.cornell.edu/jobs>. Contact Toral Patel at 607-253-3718 or tdp38@cornell.edu.

- Licensed Veterinary Technician-CUHA, ENFAH Emergency & Patient Care
- Dairy Field Technician, Animal Health Diagnostic Center
- Assistant to the Assistant Dean for Alumni Affairs & Development, CVM Administration
- Laboratory Operations Assistant II, Animal Health Diagnostic Center
- Licensed Veterinary Technician- CUHA, Companion Animal Nursing Care
- Administrative Manager, Department of Microbiology & Immunology
- Shelter Medicine Program Coordinator, Population Medicine & Diagnostic Sciences
- Veterinary Practice Manager – CUHA Primary Care
- Client Services Rep- CUHA, Client Services
- Facilities Project Coordinator, CVM Facilities Administration
- Communications Specialist II, Baker Institute
- Sr. Administrative Assistant, CVM Administration, Academic Affairs
- Laboratory Technician, Dept. of Clinical Sciences
- Multimedia Producer, CVM Veterinary Education
- Department Financial Specialist, Dept. of Clinical Sciences
- Program/Extension Aide II, Animal Health Diagnostic Center

Academic Open Positions

For a listing of open academic positions, please visit: <https://apps.hr.cornell.edu/recruiting/facultycareer.cfm>.

For information on the topics above, please contact the CVM Office of Human Resources at 607-253-4111.

A plea to Botswana: Please rethink a “Not Enough Fences” approach (commentary)

Commentary by Steve Osofsky on 14 March 2019



- *The Government of Botswana is considering significant changes to the country's approach to wildlife management.*
- *The proposed policy reflects a worrying lack of recognition of the habitat and migration route requirements that the future of southern Africa's wildlife fundamentally depends upon.*
- *Now is not the time to cut-off migratory corridors or build new fences. Instead, it is time to make land-use decisions that will be socially, ecologically and economically sustainable for generations to come.*
- *This post is a commentary. The views expressed are those of the author, not necessarily Mongabay.*

Recent headlines

(<https://news.mongabay.com/2019/03/elephant-in-the-room-botswana-deals-with-pachyderm-population-pressure/>) around the world

(<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/22/botswana-may-lift-elephant-hunting-ban-turn-culled-animals-pet/>) indicate that the government of Botswana is considering significant changes to the country's approach to wildlife management. I give the government great credit for the transparency it has shown, something which encourages constructive dialogue within Botswana — as well as beyond, given Botswana's global importance to the future of free-ranging wildlife.

Having served as the Government of Botswana's first Wildlife Veterinary Officer in the early 1990s, I have a first-hand understanding of the realities of human-wildlife conflict and its impacts on Botswana's rural communities. I thus acknowledge the very real tensions at play, but I nonetheless believe that the new draft plans pose a significant threat to the long-term survival of

wildlife in southern Africa, and to the ongoing economic growth that Botswana's wilderness has been supporting.

The proposed policy reflects a deeply worrying lack of recognition of the habitat and migration route requirements that the future of southern Africa's wildlife fundamentally depends upon.



A typical veterinary cordon fence in southern Africa. Boteti Fence, Makgadikgadi National Park, Botswana. Photo Credit: M. Atkinson, AHEAD.

A potential re-opening of trophy hunting

(<https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaGovernment/photos/a.336021353147196/2087432371339410/?type=3&theater>) after a five-year moratorium as well as culling of elephants

(<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47330414>) are certainly complex and emotion-laden issues, but getting less attention is a new push via the Hunting Ban Subcommittee of Cabinet that threatens the very future of Botswana's wildlife: a call for more fencing, as well as the cutting-off of wildlife migration routes "not beneficial to the country's conservation efforts."

(<http://www.mmegi.bw/index.php?aid=79705&dir=2019/february/21>)

The over-riding problem is that wildlife migration routes in Botswana and the region have suffered literally and figuratively

(https://www.researchgate.net/publication/239587314_The_Effects_of_Veterinary_Fences_on_Wildlife_Populations) for decades. Any further ill-conceived fences or blocking of such key wildlife pathways, which populations need in freshwater at different times of year and to breed, will surely be the last straw for one of the most important assets on planet earth. In short, after so many years of encroachment upon wilderness by other sectors, there are essentially no more options involving Botswana that are "not beneficial to the country's conservation efforts."



*Savanna elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in Chobe National Park, Botswana. The success or failure of the KAZA Transfrontier Conservation Area (involving collaboration among Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) has significant implications for the world's largest remaining population of elephants. Maintaining migratory corridors is absolutely critical for allowing elephants to disperse regionally rather than be bottled-up by fences and forced into conflict with people. Photo Credit: M. Atkinson, AHEAD.*

Just as an airline pilot would not turn off the fuel to a jet's only working engine after losing the other three, Botswana cannot afford to lose any more migration corridors

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=at0mpyZQxfq&feature=youtu.be>).

Veterinary cordon fences are used to separate domestic livestock and large wild mammals for animal disease control purposes. Since the building of the first veterinary cordon fences in what was British Bechuanaland in the 1950s,

the management of foot and mouth disease (FMD) — of great importance in terms of its impact on international beef trade — has been dominated by fences. The fences serve to control animal movements (i.e. to separate wildlife, like buffalo, that harbor FMD, from cattle) and so meet the requirements of a subsidized beef export industry. While successfully helping Botswana beef to access European target markets in the past, fences have contributed to the collapse of populations of wild ungulates by interfering with their seasonal movements and blocking access to water in dry years.



*Highly valued by tourists and trophy hunters alike, wild buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) also act as maintenance hosts for foot and mouth disease (FMD) viruses. Disease control measures (i.e., veterinary cordon fences) and land-use practices (human settlement and livestock grazing) are among the most important determinants of buffalo distribution and numbers in the region. Photo Credit: M. Atkinson, AHEAD.*

Between 1978 and 2003, populations of wildebeest and red hartebeest in Botswana's Kalahari region declined by an order of magnitude (http://wcs-ahead.org/gltfca_grants/pdfs/ferguson_final_2010.pdf). Wildebeest declined from 315,000 to 16,000, and hartebeest from 293,000 to 45,000, as a result of fragmentation of their range by fences (http://wcs-ahead.org/gltfca_grants/pdfs/ferguson_final_2010.pdf). And as the antelopes decline, so do lions and other carnivores.

The idea that the Government now wishes to close "all wildlife migratory routes that are not beneficial to the country's conservation efforts" (<https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaGovernment/photos/a.336021353147196/2087432371339410/?type=3&theater>) ignores the reality that migration routes across Botswana and the wider region are simply the lifeblood of free-ranging wildlife, including elephants, and the basis of a visionary transboundary 'peace parks' (<http://kavangozambezi.org/en/>) movement first led by Nelson Mandela and his peers, with a focus on regional poverty alleviation.

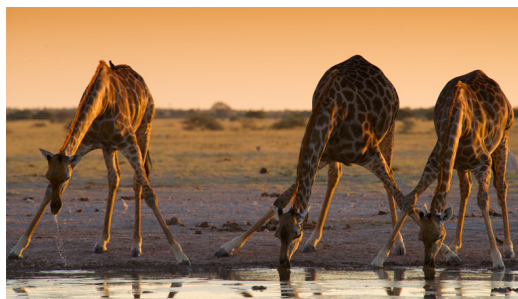
Virtually all plains game in Botswana has been on the decline since the 1950s (when fencing began in earnest). The last thing Botswana's vibrant tourism sector (<http://www.botswanatourism.co.bw/>) (growing at a remarkable 5-6 percent per year) needs is to cut off more migrations and kill the proverbial wild geese laying the nation's golden eggs.



An elephant challenging an electrified fence, Matetsi, Zimbabwe. Photo Credit: M. Atkinson, AHEAD.

For decades, I have been genuinely honored to work with my friends and colleagues in Botswana's governmental and nongovernmental sectors. Together, we have recently come up with innovative ways (<http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/452396/>) to help poor communities optimize the benefits they receive from the region's fragile rangelands — from *both* wildlife *and* livestock (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/tbed.12175>), by helping to find new approaches (<https://research.cornell.edu/news-features/cattle-conservation-collaboration>) to managing animal diseases like FMD that do not require reliance on fences that block key wildlife migrations. In fact, His Excellency President Masisi referred to this important collaboration in his most recent State of the Nation address (<http://wcs-ahead.org/>).

Botswana is clearly at a crossroads. A collective investment in earnest stewardship of natural resources must be made by all stakeholders dependent on southern Africa's precious land-base — farmers, ecotourism operators, as well as those interested in the trophy hunting industry. There is now, for the first time in several generations, an opportunity to find ways to optimize land-use choices in the interest of system resilience and diversified livelihood opportunities. Now is not the time to cut-off migratory corridors or build new fences. Instead, it is time to make land-use decisions that will be socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable for generations to come.



*The giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) is a protected species throughout most of its range — there may be fewer than 100,000 giraffe left in all of Africa. Photo Credit: M. Atkinson, AHEAD.*

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What's Up at Upstate

*A view from inside Syracuse's Upstate
University Health System*

Treatment for canine cancer serves as model for humans

Posted on [February 20, 2019](#) by [Jim Howe](#)



Veterinary oncologists Kelly Hume, left, and Vincent Baldanza examine Sophie, a dog with lymphoma, at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. Lymphoma in dogs is remarkably similar to lymphoma in humans, and researchers hope that studies of the canine cancer can help humans with the disease. Hume is a Cornell faculty member, and Baldanza, a resident veterinarian at the time, is now a veterinary oncologist in California (photo courtesy of Cornell University Hospital for Animals)

BY JIM HOWE

Treating cancer in dogs aims for a twofold benefit, says a Cornell University scientist: Help the sick animal and possibly find new ways to treat cancer in people.

And no, she doesn't have a secret lab where she implants cancers into dogs, a question she is often asked.

"There is no colony of dogs with lymphoma. These are people's pets that come into the vet school, and we are studying them in a very similar way to the way we study humans," says [Kristy Richards, PhD, MD](#), an associate professor in the department of biomedical sciences in the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca and in the hematology/medical oncology division of Weill Cornell Medicine in [New York City](#).

"The 'comparative oncology' strategy is still a bit of a foreign concept to most doctors, but veterinarians learn it from Day One," she said in a talk at the Upstate Cancer Center, noting the idea of comparing animal and human diseases has been around since the 19th century.

Dogs can get lymphoma (*see related story, below*), and it is remarkably similar to the human variety, even under the microscope. Chemotherapy is the current standard of treatment for dogs, and Richards and her colleagues are hoping through drug trials to find alternatives to the harshness of chemo and, in the process, find better treatments for humans.

Of special interest is immunotherapy, or using the body's [immune system](#) to fight cancer. Testing combinations of immunotherapy drugs in humans takes years because the drugs must be tested one at a time and must be proven in people who are not cured with chemotherapy before they can be tried with newly diagnosed patients.



Upstate Cancer Center Interim Director [Jeffrey Bogart, MD](#), and Cornell University researcher [Kristy Richards, PhD, MD](#). Richards spoke at the cancer center about lymphoma in dogs and its implications for lymphoma in humans. (photo by Jim Howe)

With their lifespans of just 10 to 15 years, however, dogs can yield quicker results than humans, and there are fewer restrictions on combining drugs in trials. Richards hopes her work can help speed up the tremendous cost in time and money that it takes to bring a new drug from the idea stage to the market, which can easily reach 14 years and \$2 billion, according to the National Institutes of Health.

“We set out to use the canine model in two ways,” said Richards:

- “One is to figure out what was molecularly similar and different between the human and canine lymphoma.
- “The other was to use the canine model in clinical trials to speed up that drug testing process in ways that are faster than human versions.”

She focuses on a subtype of non-Hodgkin lymphoma that is most common in both dogs and people: DLBCL, or diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

In dogs, this lymphoma has only a 10 percent cure rate after the standard treatment of four-drug chemotherapy and a monoclonal antibody drug. The human cure rate tends to be much higher — around 60 to 70 percent, depending on when the disease is detected and other factors.

Among the drugs to be investigated in these canine trials will be an immunotherapy that was used in 2015 to halt the melanoma, a skin cancer, that had spread to former President Jimmy Carter’s brain. While the body can find and remove some cancer cells before they take hold, tumors can sometimes hide from this. The treatment used on Carter, called a PD1 inhibitor, blocks cancer’s ability to hide, but it is only about 20 percent effective. Richards will investigate whether combinations of PD1 inhibitors and other targeted therapies may increase the effectiveness of cancer treatment in dogs.

Richards is also studying lymphoma using lab mice, but implanting cancer cells into an inbred mouse in a sterile laboratory lacks the real-world value of a pet dog whose owner brings it in for treatment. “We have a spontaneous tumor in its natural environment, not implanted or lab style.” The dogs are also readily available for the frequent biopsies the trials need.

Cornell is part of a consortium of several research universities taking part in developing canine drug trials. They hope to study a range of possible treatments, from immunotherapy drugs to natural products such as cranberry [extract](#) (to which some lymphoma cells are sensitive), as well as combinations of treatments.

Research trials on pet dogs, as well as cats, around the world include cancers of the brain, breast, lung and prostate, as well as for arthritis and seizures, according to the journal Science. Researchers hope that drugs proven to work on household pets, rather than lab mice, will provide pharmaceutical companies with a better idea of where to put their resources for developing human cancer drugs.

And while Richards says she hopes to alleviate the dogs' suffering, her overarching goal will remain the same: "I am a human oncologist, so my main goal is to study human disease. If the dogs can help, it's a win-win situation for both species."

About canine lymphoma

- Lymphoma is a group of cancers that stem from lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell that helps the [immune system](#) fight infection. It affects the lymph, or lymphatic, system, which is part of the immune system, the body's means of fighting infections and certain diseases.
- Lymphoma is one of the most common cancers in dogs. It is similar to non-Hodgkin lymphoma in people, with similar chemotherapy treatments for both dogs and people.
- In humans, non-Hodgkin lymphoma is the seventh most common cancer, representing about 4 percent of all cancers in the United States. Lymphoma is estimated to make up between 6 percent and 25 percent of all canine cancers.
- Dogs get cancer at about the same overall rate as humans, and close to half of dogs older than 10 will develop cancer.
- Canine lymphoma can affect any body organ but tends to be found in organs that play a role in the immune system, like the lymph nodes, spleen and bone marrow.
- Chemotherapy, which can be expensive, can slow the cancer's progress in dogs but is unlikely to cure it. Remissions are possible, which means periods of time with no signs of the disease before it returns.
- Chemo rarely causes dogs to lose their hair, and it does not tend to make dogs as sick as it does people. The animals can suffer side effects, though, such as mild vomiting and diarrhea, decreased appetite and activity and increased drinking and urination.



If your dog has lymphoma, it may be eligible for a clinical drug trial at Cornell University's Hospital for Animals. See below for details.

— Dogs get chemo in much lower doses than humans, to avoid too much suppression of the immune system and vulnerability to infection; you can't tell a dog to avoid germs by washing its paws.

Sources: American Veterinary Medical Association, Cornell University, American Kennel Club

If your dog has lymphoma

Owners of a dog with lymphoma can speak to their veterinarian, who should have information on the drug trials being offered by [Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine](#) in Ithaca, or call 607-253-3060. Several trials are planned to start within the next several months.

The cost of having a dog treated for lymphoma in a clinical trial at Cornell is usually just for the standard treatment, and Cornell pays for the additional biopsies and blood tests needed for the study.

If the dog is enrolled in a clinical trial, the pet will be seen by the oncology service at Cornell University Hospital for Animals. It will be seen by a board-certified veterinary oncologist, who will tell the owner about the trials available. The trials are often done with pills, which the owners can give the dog at home, so the owners just need to bring their dog back for rechecks every so often.



This article appears in the [winter 2019 issue of Cancer Care](#) magazine.

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What's Up at Upstate

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