

The Referring VETERINARIAN

VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL ❖ COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ❖ CORNELL

VMTH NEWS

NEW FACULTY

Dr. Kenneth Simpson has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. His clinical responsibilities will be in the Small Animal Internal Medicine Service where his specific expertise is in gastrointestinal diseases. He has had broad experience in endoscopic examination of the GI tract in small animals. Dr. Simpson is expected to begin his duties in late November or early December and will be featured in the "Staff Profiles" of *The Referring Veterinarian* in the spring.

PHONE SYSTEM WOES

As a result of a recent resignation in the Small Animal Clinic Phone Room, we are again short staffed in this important area. An existing Small Animal Clinic Front Office staff member has already been transferred to the Phone Room but it will be a month or two before we are back to normal. We ask for your patience during this time.

CONSULTATION SURVEY

In response to a request from the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell, we are in the process of conducting a mail survey of referring veterinarians who have called for a consultation with one of the services in the Small Animal Clinic. As part of the survey you may be asked to provide your address at the time of your call. You will subsequently be sent a return mail postcard asking a few questions regarding your experiences during the consultation call. We would very much appreciate your help in completing and returning this card should you receive one.



Pharmacy staff left to right: Tari Eaton, Dave Schaffner, Michelle Stefanski-Seymour, Bob Hawkes, Becky Green, Jerry Decker, Ed Kirker. Inset: Head pharmacist Jerry Decker and staff consult on a wide range of pharmaceutical questions.

PHARMACY PLAYS KEY ROLE AT VMTH

Two registered pharmacists, Jerry Decker and Ed Kirker, and a small but devoted pharmacy staff are frequently unseen players on the team that provides essential care for nearly every large and small animal that is referred to the VMTH.

"My love for animals makes this the best job I've ever had," says Decker, who keeps a dozen cats, three horses, some sheep, and has raised both pigs and cattle commercially at his farm in Newfield. "At the VMTH, the patient is our number one concern. And, because we are a teaching hospital, the students are a very close second."

Connected to a network of phone lines, pagers, and computers via Internet, the Pharmacy is on-call for emergencies 24

hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to responsibilities within the College, they provide outside consultation services to a large number of referring veterinarians throughout North America.

"We are all trained to ask ourselves, What options does this animal have?" says Decker, who has been on the VMTH staff since 1988. "If something is available to the referring veterinarian at a local pharmacy, or the pharmaceutical problem can be solved in some other way . . . then, good. But if not, we will do everything in our power to make sure that animal is taken care of, whether it involves sending something out Federal Express, coming in on Sunday to mix up something special—whatever it takes within legal constraints to improve the health of the patient."

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Above: A recent view of the Veterinary Medical Center taken from the southeast looking northwest. The small animal clinic is in the foreground. At right are the large animal clinic and barns, which are appended to the east end of the new VMC.



CANINE INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE STUDY

We need cases and we are willing to pay for them !!!

The Small Animal Internal Medicine faculty of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital has received a grant to study the dietary management of canine Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). We would like to attract a number of cases of this relatively common disease for possible entrance into the study (we need 40 cases in total). The types of cases we want are the ones that have recently developed the condition, NOT those that are chronic and may have developed secondary lymph-angiectasia.

Cases will be excluded if they have renal disease, liver disease, pancreatitis, intestinal neoplasia, severe hypoalbuminemia (<1.2 g/dl), hyper-cholesterolemia (fasting >350 mg/dl), emaciation (lost $>20\%$ of body weight), or are Basenji hounds. Prior to consideration for entry into the trial, dogs need to be empirically treated with metronidazole (50 mg/kg, PO, daily for 5 days) and fenbendazole (50 mg/kg, PO, daily for 3 days) to remove Giardia and whipworms. This can be done here or at your practice.

When first admitted to Cornell, a thorough clinical work-up will be performed and dogs will enter the study based on clinical signs and histology of endoscopically-retrieved sections of the intestinal tract. After entrance to the study, each dog will be randomly allocated to 1 of 3 treatment groups consisting of different diets. Each group will receive appropriate medications (e.g. prednisone, tylen).

NOTE: If dogs do not respond in their treatment groups, they will enter a treatment group with a different diet. Dogs will not be allowed to suffer a particular protocol if it is not working. If no diet works, they will exit the study with some cost reimbursement.

Dogs would be in the study for approximately 12 weeks after which they would be re-assessed clinically and with a second endoscopic examination and biopsy. About 65% of the total cost of the study will be reimbursed to the client!! The client will pay for the entire costs up front and be reimbursed at the end of the study. It is also important to note that if the

biopsy shows that the dog does not have IBD and is not eligible to enter the study, the client is responsible for the charges up to that point. ALL the diet eaten by the pet over the 12 week study period is provided FREE. Also, if the diet is producing a clinical improvement in the dog's condition, diet will continue to be provided free of charge for a further 3 months after the study ends and then be available for purchase! This represents a lot of dog food! We will be in constant phone contact with the client and there will be periodic re-visits to Cornell. Cornell will also handle any complications that might arise during the study period.

If you should have a prospective case, or wish to talk this trial over, please do not hesitate to contact the trial leader, Dr. Steve Barr, or the other members on the team, including Dr. Sharon Center, Dr. John Randolph and Dr. Kenneth Simpson (after his arrival), through the Small Animal Clinic phone number (607-253-3060).

This trial is extremely important to the future of how you treat IBD. It is the first comprehensive clinical study that examines whether high-fibre diets do improve IBD. We hope you can provide us with those nasty cases of diarrhea that just won't go away!

VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE - CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Faculty (F), Residents (R) & Interns (I)

SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC:

(607) 253-3003 [veterinarians]

(607) 253-3060 [clients]

Avian/Exotics/Wildlife:

(F) Edward Gentz, George Kollias

Cardiology:

(F) Sydney Moise

(R) Bruce Kornreich

Community Practice:

(F) William Hornbuckle, Andrea Looney

Dentistry:

(F) John Saidla

Dermatology:

(F) William Miller, Danny Scott

(R) Mary Bagladi

Fertility & Infertility

(F) Vicki Meyers-Wallen

(R) Christine Schweizer

Medicine:

(F) Stephen Barr, Sharon Center,
John Randolph, Kenneth Simpson

(R) Martina Altschul, JoAnn DeMarco,
Ruth Darrigrand-Haag

Ophthalmology:

(F) Thomas Kern, Ronald Riis

(R) James Gaarder

Surgery:

(F) Jay Harvey, Kathleen Linn,
Richard Suess, Rory Todhunter,
Eric Trotter

(R) Robert Hardie, Paul McNamara,
Kathleen Sevalla

Interns:

(I) Wendy Baltzer, Stephen Barghusen,
James Farese, Natalie Isaza,
Benedict Mohit, Andrea Struble

AMBULATORY CLINIC:

(607) 253-3140

(F) Charles Guard, Gerald Mechor,
Mary Smith, Maurice White

(R) Sandra Fatone, Laverne Seib

(I) Terri Tyson

LARGE ANIMAL CLINIC:

(607) 253-3100

Medicine:

(F) Dorothy Ainsworth, Thomas Divers,
William Rebhun

(R) Michael Ball, Cynthia Jackson,
Simon Peek

Ophthalmology:

(F) William Rebhun

Surgery:

(F) Normand Ducharme, Ryland Edwards,
Susan Fubini, Richard Hackett,
Alan Nixon

(R) Lisa Fortier, David Murphy, Jan Palmer

(I) Christina Cable, Jennifer Jackson

ANESTHESIOLOGY:

(607) 253-3003 [veterinarians]

(607) 253-3060 [clients]

(F) Robin Gleed, John Ludders,
Paula Moon, Anne Tute

(R) Victoria Lukasik, Toi Pedrick

BEHAVIOR: (607) 253-3450

(F) Katherine Houpt

(R) Soraya Juarbe-Diaz

NUTRITION: (607) 253-3060

(F) Arleigh Reynolds, Francis Kallfelz

RADIOLOGY: (607) 253-3241

(F) Nathan Dykes, Victor Rendano, Amy Yeager

THERIOGENOLOGY: (607) 253-3081

(F) Barry Ball, Peter Daels, Robert Gilbert,
Robert Hillman

(R) Christine Schweizer

PHARMACY

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Decker and Kirker are responsible for the staffing, dispensing operations and stocking of the four pharmacies that operate within the VMTH: the Small Animal Pharmacy, the Large Animal Pharmacy, the Community Practice Pharmacy, and the Central Supply area. These are the dispensaries and supply rooms for all drugs, dressings, treatments, needles, syringes, and controlled substances used by every department at the College.

In addition to three or four paid students, others in the service include Tari Eaton (Small Animal Pharmacy Technician); Becky Green (Large Animal Pharmacy Technician); Bob Hawkes (Pharmacy Buyer); David Schaffner (Stockkeeper); and Michelle Stefanski-Seymour (Ambulatory Pharmacy Technician).

The Pharmacy also runs a mail-order prescription service that averages 40 or 50 orders a week. Some of the prescriptions are for animals that have recently been sent home from one of the VMTH clinics and some for animals that have never been seen in Ithaca. "Most often the prescriptions are requested by the animal owner, occasionally they are requested by veterinarians in private practice," says Decker. "We don't send out any drugs without a prescription or authorized refill."

The pharmacists are accountable for every milligram of every controlled substance they handle. The department is very closely regulated by the New York State Bureau of Controlled Substances, the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Because the regulations have become increasingly strict, Decker frequently finds his department in the position of helping veterinarians in private practice with compliance issues. Veterinarians don't want to be out of compliance, notes Decker, but inadvertently may be.

Another primary function of the Pharmacy is to serve as an information resource to veterinarians and students. Commonly asked questions concern

dosages, dosage forms and stabilities. However, as veterinarians can make increasingly refined diagnoses, the resulting drug therapy frequently becomes complex. The involvement of a pharmacist at this point can benefit the total patient outcome.

According to Decker, a major player that is missing in veterinary health is the insurance industry. "If there was a significant insurance influence, there would be more interest in and greater resources available for animal diseases." As it is, some of veterinary medicine relies on often relatively expensive drugs that have been approved for human use only.

"Each year, more and more of our dollars go to human drugs rather than for veterinary drugs," says Decker. "Although we still buy more units of veterinary drugs, the human drugs tend to be more expensive." Decker points out that a key issue in veterinary medicine has been extra-label use. The recent passage of federal legislation authorizing some extra-label drug use should clarify the issue.

"We expect the FDA to continue a more lenient perspective with companion animals and conversely a restrictive approach to food animals." The pharmacy will still be available for consultation on this matter

Both Kirker and Decker have investigator status with the FDA and some pharmaceutical manufacturers, meaning they can prepare and dispense certain drugs for treatments which are still in the investigative stage and not yet approved for animal use. One example is 4-MP—a highly effective antidote for antifreeze poisoning that provides very dramatic results if given in time.

"4-MP is not yet a commercial product," says Decker. "We see several antifreeze poisonings a year. If the animal is brought in early enough, what would be certain agonizing death turns into a happy tail-wagging experience 36 hours later."

As there is no formal degree program in veterinary pharmacy, Decker says he and Kirker are "on the job reprogrammed" human pharmacists. Both men received their degrees from the Albany College of Pharmacy, Union University, in Albany, New York.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The summer has flown by all too quickly and we are back in a new academic year. The new curriculum is now in its second year so both 1st and 2nd year students are now receiving their training under the new system. Student feedback is good. Several students who had just finished the first year were employed in the hospital this summer and the faculty were very pleased with their expertise after only one year in the curriculum. A little more than a year from now these students will begin clinical rotations. Their expertise at that time will be a good indication of their previous training.

The construction program is progressing rapidly. On my last visit, caging was being placed in the small animal wards and the large animal wards are almost complete. The basic building appears to be almost finished (see photo p.2) but much internal work remains to be done. The occupation date is still not determined. The VMTH could move as early as April or as late as October, 1995. Since summer is our busiest time, we do not want to be involved in moving during the months of June through September. We will keep you informed as we get closer to the actual occupation date.

The summer was a good one for the VMTH. We had a healthy caseload and our senior students, as well as the faculty, were kept very busy attending to the patients in our hospitals. We are anxious to keep a caseload high enough to optimize student teaching throughout the year and we continue to encourage your referrals. Please keep in mind that in referring cases to us you are not only assisting your patients and clients but also making a major contribution to our profession by ensuring adequate clinical training for the next generation of veterinarians.

Enclosed with this issue of The Referring Veterinarian is a listing of current faculty and housestaff in the various services of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. We hope this information will be of value to you.

As usual, should you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call me at 607-253-3030 (office) or 607-257-2522 (home). We are here to serve you.

Fran Kallfelz

STAFF PROFILES

Dr. Thomas Divers is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

A 1975 graduate of the University of Georgia, Dr. Divers completed an internship at the University of California at Davis, a residency at the University of Georgia, was a faculty member in both ambulatory and internal medicine at the University of Georgia, was an associate professor of large animal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania for nine years, and served as Chief of the Section of Medicine for the last four. He has served as visiting clinical professor at three universities and has worked as a visiting clinician in equine practice.

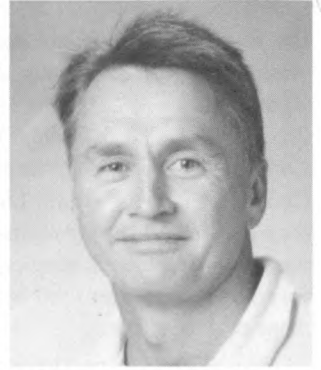
Dr. Divers is equally interested in both equine and bovine internal medicine and enjoys consulting with practitioners on internal medicine cases. He moved to Cornell in 1990 and is currently serving as Chief of the Section of Medicine.



Dr. Rory Todhunter has been appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Department of Clinical Sciences and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

A 1976 graduate from the University of Sydney, Australia, Dr. Todhunter worked in private mixed practice for four years before completing an equine surgical residency at Michigan State University. He was Assistant Professor of Surgery at Cornell from 1983 to 1986 during which time he gained specialty board certification by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. He completed his PhD in studies on joint disease in 1992.

Dr. Todhunter works on the small animal orthopedic and neurological surgical services with Dr. Eric Trotter and Dr. Kathy Linn. His clinical research interests include the application of arthroscopy to small animal joint disease and his collaborative research interests with Dr. George Lust at the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health include the pathogenesis and treatment of canine hip dysplasia and the development of genetic markers for this disease.



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