



REFERRAL DISPATCH

SPRING 2010
VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR REFERRING VETERINARIANS

PVSEC CONTINUING EDUCATION IN 2010

Due to February's extreme snow storms, the doctors and management of PVSEC unfortunately had to reschedule Dr. Rebecca Newman's "Canine Osteosarcoma" talk yet again. Despite the scheduling problems, the talk was very well-attended. We thank you for your understanding and your continued interest in CE programs at PVSEC!

Our planned March/April hiatus from continuing education events has also been amended, as Dr. Mendoza has agreed to repeat her "Veterinary Dentistry for Technicians" talk in April to allow more area vet techs to attend. Technicians should contact Andie Furda by email (afurda@pvs-ec.com) or phone (412)348-2564 to register.

We are currently investigating the option of a continuing education event featuring multiple topics presented by several of our specialists, as well as CE talks given by our new specialists. More information will follow as plans are formalized.

Many thanks for donations made in response to the suggestion in our last newsletter regarding contributions to the Animal Care & Assistance Fund (ACAF). PVSEC continues to provide educational programs to the veterinary community, free of charge, however we respectfully suggest financial contributions to the Animal Care & Assistance Fund (ACAF), a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of animal welfare. Contributions made to ACAF are tax-deductible, can be allocated to any of the ACAF funds, and may be made online at www.animalcarefund.org or by check, made payable to "Animal Care & Assistance Fund". Donations made by check can either be mailed to ACAF at 4514 Plummer Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or given in person, while at PVSEC for continuing education events.



ANIMAL CARE & ASSISTANCE FUND At the request of previous CE program attendees, copies of future CE discussion notes will soon be made available on the new "Educational Opportunities" page of our website at www.pvs-ec.com. This new page will include information about PVSEC continuing education programs and information about the PVSEC Small Animal Medicine/Surgery rotating internship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 PM

"Veterinary Dentistry for Technicians"
Krista Mendoza, DVM, DAVDC—PVSEC
Dentistry (2 hours technician CE credit)

Please contact Andie Furda at afurda@pvs-ec.com or 412-348-2564 with any questions or suggestions regarding continuing education events at PVSEC.



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DISPATCH**

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Contributors

PVSEC Critical Care

Welcomes Dr. Rutter

Lynn Rutter; Christine
Rutter, DVM, Practice
Limited to Critical Care
(PVSEC-Critical Care)

Service Dog Eye Exams at

PVSEC

Rachel Keller, DVM,
DACVO (PVSEC-
Ophthalmology)

Cataract Surgery for Zoo

Lemur at PVSEC

Rachel Keller, DVM,
DACVO (PVSEC-
Ophthalmology); Ben
Rakestraw

Save the Save the Date:

Second Annual Seruset

Scramble Beverly Seruset,
Surgical Supervisor
(PVSEC— Surgery)

PVSEC CRITICAL CARE WELCOMES DR. RUTTER

PVSEC recently welcomed a second residency-trained criticalist to its staff, resulting in a major expansion of availability of the critical care services at our hospital.

Dr. Christine Rutter is originally from Biloxi, MS, where she spent her childhood exploring the Gulf Coast wetlands and culture. She attended Mississippi State University where she received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. Following 2 years of general practice in Coral Springs, FL, Dr. Rutter's interest in emergency care was piqued. She completed a 1-year internship at Louisville Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Service in 2006 and a 3-year residency in emergency and critical care at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2009. Dr. Rutter has a special interest in trauma, ventilation problems and transfusion medicine.

The hospital ICU will now be overseen by a residency-trained criticalist on most days, with Dr. Guenther and Dr. Rutter alternating turns of 6-day weeks. By staffing the Critical Care service Thursday through Tuesday, PVSEC is able to provide additional support for animals in need of intensive care during the weekends, when their primary care veterinarians may be out of the office. Referring veterinarians wishing to consult with either Dr. Guenther or Dr. Rutter will be able to do so six days a week, by calling the hospital at 412-366-3400 and faxing a referral form and any pertinent medical records to 412-366-3489.

ADDITION OF TWO NEW SERVICES AT PVSEC

With the May 2010 arrival of Dr. Eva Sikorska, PVSEC will begin to offer cardiology services to the Western Pennsylvania area. Dr. Eva Sikorska attended The Ohio State University, obtaining her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. After a 1-year internship at Angell Memorial Hospital in Boston, MA, she completed a 1-year cardiology internship at MedVet Associates in Columbus, OH. She then completed a 3-year cardiology residency at MedVet Associates. Following the completion of her residency in 2007, Dr. Sikorska achieved Diplomate status in cardiology with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Dr. Sikorska's clinical interests include the management of chronic disease with emphasis on improving quality of life, interventional catheterization procedures, and participation in clinical trials. Dr. Sikorska is able to place pacemakers and will also perform cardiology certification exams.

In addition to cardiology services, PVSEC is currently undertaking preparations to offer radiation oncology services. Before the arrival of Dr. Koichi Nagata in October, the management team will be occupied with outfitting the radiation oncology wing: installing a linear accelerator, treatment rooms and other equipment.

Dr. Koichi Nagata graduated from the University of Tokyo with a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Medicine in 2003, and completed a small animal internal medicine internship at the University of Tokyo in 2004. He then gained clinical experience by working as a small animal staff veterinarian at the University of Tokyo Veterinary Medical Center, and as a staff equine veterinarian at the Shadai Horse Clinic. Dr. Nagata completed the Tufts University ECFVG Program in 2006 before beginning Oncology internships at the Regional Veterinary Referral Center in Springfield, VA and the Friendship Hospital for Animals in Washington, DC and then completed a 1-year radiation oncology internship at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Nagata is currently completing a radiation oncology residency at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

SERVICE DOG EYE EXAMS AT PVSEC

During the month of May, 2010, Drs. Lawrence Bagley, Rachel Keller and Michael Finn will participate in the 3rd Annual National Service Dog Eye Exam Program. The event is sponsored by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) and Merial.



Screening eye exams will be performed for qualified dogs by boarded veterinary ophthalmologists at no cost to service dog owners or handlers. The PVSEC ophthalmologists will perform eye examinations on certified service dogs and those currently participating in formal service dog training programs. Service Dogs from the following groups are being invited to participate: guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs (drug, accelerant, etc), military, police, and search and rescue dogs.

The event will run from May 1 to May 30, 2010. To qualify for examination, each dog **must** first be registered and obtain a registration confirmation number at www.ACVOeyeexam.org. Program registration opens in April 2010 and closes May 16, 2010. After a confirmation number is obtained, owners may contact the PVSEC ophthalmology department directly at **412-366-3400** to schedule the appointment.

For more information regarding the National Service Dog Eye Exam program, visit www.ACVOeyeexam.org. For more information about veterinary ophthalmologists, please visit www.acvo.com.

CATARACT SURGERY FOR ZOO LEMUR AT PVSEC

On Saturday, February 20, 2010, Dr. Rachel Keller and the PVSEC Ophthalmology staff participated in cataract surgery for a very special patient. The 28-year old male lemur, housed at the Pittsburgh Zoo, had been developing visual deficits due to age-related cataracts in both eyes. The zoo staff had been monitoring the progression of the cataracts for several years and determined that surgical intervention was needed.



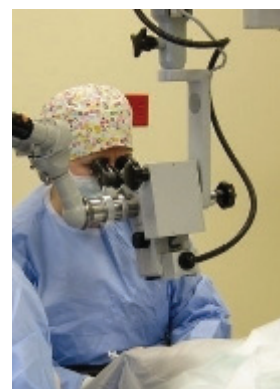
The lemur was transported to PVSEC and prepped for surgery by PVSEC ophthalmology vet techs who volunteered their time, and several vet techs with the Pittsburgh Zoo. Dr. Stephanie James, of the Pittsburgh Zoo, monitored anesthesia during the 2-hour surgery, which was performed by Dr. Rachel Keller, PVSEC Ophthalmology, and Dr. Stephen Chang, a pediatric ophthalmologist. According to Zoo officials, the lemur is doing well and will be back on exhibit soon.



PVSEC Ophthalmology Technicians prepare the lemur for surgery.



Dr. Keller focuses the operating microscope before the procedure.



The ophthalmologists simultaneously view the eyes during surgery.

Pittsburgh Veterinary
Specialty & Emergency Center
807 Camp Horne Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

SAVE THE DATE: SECOND ANNUAL “SERUSET SCRAMBLE”

The Animal Care & Assistance Fund (ACAF) Golf Classic will take place at Lake Vue North Golf Club on Sunday, August 21, 2010, with a 9:00 AM Shotgun Start. The “Seruset Scramble”, named after the event’s organizer, PVSEC-Surgery’s Beverly Seruset, will again benefit the ACAF Blood Bank for Animals. Thanks to funds raised at last year’s event, the ACAF Blood Bank will soon be ready to accept voluntary blood donations from canine and feline “Blood Donor Heroes” and provide life-saving blood products to animals seen at PVSEC.

Registration for this year’s event is still open. Early-registration, before July 17th, is available for a fee of \$75/person. (After July 17th, registration is \$85/person). The fee includes golf, cart usage, hotdog lunch, snacks, drinks and an awards presentation dinner (with raffles, auctions, prizes and the chance to win a car for a “hole in-one”). Sponsorship opportunities also exist at various levels from tournament, to individual hole, to product donations for goodie bags, prizes and auctions.

To register for a foursome or contribute as a sponsor for the event, contact Beverly Seruset at:

bevseruset@pvs-ec.com.

For more information about the Animal Care & Assistance Fund, visit www.animalcarefund.org or contact Michele Bozic, program director: mbozic@animalcarefund.org or 412-348-2588.

