



Update

for Veterinarians



December 2023

VMC Highlights

Improved access

We are excited to announce the near completion of a new, customer-facing pharmacy window, as part of our pharmacy renovation. “The new window enables clients to pick up prescription refills directly from the pharmacy rather than wait in the front desk queue,” says Karin Zuckerman, assistant dean of clinical programs and Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) director.

The pharmacy window reduces waiting room time and allows clients to directly speak with the pharmacists.

A newly renovated and expanded small animal Internal Medicine space opened in mid-July. The space includes an enhanced treatment area, a clinical team observation room and learning conference rooms for residents and students. Clinical spaces are separated by windowed walls to aid learning and workflow. “Faculty, house officers and students are thrilled about the new space,” Zuckerman says. “They can now get cases in more quickly and ensure that patients receive the care they need.”

Administrative operations

The VMC was successful in our efforts to improve financial compensation for our RVTs, radiologic technologists, veterinary assistants and customer service associates, in recognition of their collective service and teaching contributions. “Having a quality team to serve our patients and teach our students is an essential part of our mission and it’s important that we retain people in these critical roles,” Zuckerman says. “We’re proud to remain a rewarding workplace for veterinary staff to find career fulfillment.”

Veterinary Medical Center–Columbus

601 Vernon L. Tharp St.
Columbus, OH 43210

*Hummel & Trueman
Hospital for Companion Animals:*
614-292-3551

*Hospital for Farm Animals and
Galbreath Equine Center:*
614-292-6661

Frank Stanton Veterinary Spectrum of Care Clinic

655 Vernon L. Tharp St.
Columbus, OH 43210
614-292-1573

Veterinary Medical Center–Dublin

5020 Bradenton Ave.
Dublin, OH 43017
614-889-8070

Ohio State Large Animal Services– Marysville

16410 County Home Road
Marysville, OH 43040
937-642-2936

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vet.osu.edu/vmc

From the Director



We hope your holiday season is off to a warm, wonderful start!

In this issue of *Update for Veterinarians*, we celebrate our achievements during 2023 and share our goals for the New Year across our operations and hospital facilities.

We thank you for your continued support of our teaching and research missions and we thank you for your partnership.

Karin Zuckerman, MHA, MBA
Assistant Dean for Clinical Programs
Director, Veterinary Medical Center



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

VMC Highlights - continued

Enhanced services

In August, the small animal Orthopedic Surgery service at VMC–Dublin reopened with Dr. Ryan Butler joining as its head. “We’re happy to say that the Dublin service allows us to reach an even larger population of orthopedic patients,” Zuckerman says. The orthopedic service complements Dublin’s Ophthalmology and after-hours Urgent Care services.

In late 2023, the Integrated Oncology service received a new linear accelerator to replace an earlier model. This state-of-the-art technology delivers a uniform dose of high-energy X-rays to the target area, enhancing our clinical cancer team’s treatment capabilities. The Radiation Oncology service will reopen in January 2024 after the new linear accelerator has been calibrated and passed all inspections.

Leading-edge, collaborative care

VMC clinical teams continue to collaborate with external clinical specialists to address unique cases, while expanding our capabilities and learning. In March of this year, the VMC Galbreath Equine Center surgical team removed a large mass from the lower jaw of an 8-year-old draft cross gelding.

The procedure — a first of its kind at Ohio State — highlighted a successful collaboration among VMC equine surgeons, our local equine dental specialist partner, and equine dental surgeons from Kentucky. The team assessed the mass by creating a 3D print of the mandible from a CT scan, which showed the largest and most extensive mass the team had ever seen, and included three lower jaw teeth. The successful procedure involved an intricate removal of the mass and four teeth.

See page 3 for a recent cardiology case collaboration.

New, multi-disciplinary equine evaluation arena

In December this year, the 11,000-square-foot Ralph Rogan Equine Performance Evaluation Arena will open, with a number of diagnostic features to support equine athletes. The new, all-weather and multi-surface arena provides opportunities to conduct evaluations of horses from multiple disciplines and specialties.



Thanks to our Practitioner Board!

We appreciate the members of our Practitioner Board whose contributions help us ensure the best service to referring veterinarians, clients and patients, and help enhance the learning experience for our students.

Delane Armetrout	Saint Albans, WV	Lisa Craven	Columbus, OH	Bryan Middlebrooks	Columbus, OH
Michele Awad-Morris	Orrville, OH	Michael Farwick	Columbus, OH	Jennifer Morrow	Lancaster, OH
Stephanie Bailey	Wooster, OH	Sandra Gebhart	Medina, OH	Kate Pouch	Pataskala, OH
Brett Berthold	Ravenna, OH	JK Guarasci	Centerville, OH	Greg Price	Mount Vernon, OH
Ed Biggie	Millersport, OH	Kyle Hapner	Dayton, OH	Luis Rivas	Hillsboro, OH
Jamie Bobulsky	Columbus, OH	Randy Hutchinson	North Ridgeville, OH	Rona Shapiro	Groveport, OH
Susan Borders	Westerville, OH	Zachary King	Troy, OH	Jennifer Smith	Wilmington, OH
Bradley Bruns	Versailles, OH	Michele McClure	Columbus, OH	Laura Wodzinski	Blacklick, OH
Craig Clouse	West Carrollton, OH	Lauren McPherson	Pickerington, OH	Kelley Young	Troy, OH
Rich Coleman	Lebanon, OH	Michelle Messner	Wadsworth, OH		

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the emeritus board members who have helped us over the years.

Cardiology collaboration case

Rare hybrid balloon dilation procedure provides hope for rescue dog

In February 2023, when five-year-old Barley initially saw his primary veterinarian, the mixed-breed dog presented with a mild cough.

“At first, we weren’t too concerned,” says Chance Robinette, who with his wife, had adopted Barley as a rescue puppy in Savannah, Georgia. “But by March, he wasn’t eating much and he was starting to struggle with his breathing.” A follow up visit to his veterinarian showed an enlarged heart and build-up of fluid in the lungs. “He gave us the prognosis that Barley was close to death,” he says.

The Robinettes, who live in Galion, Ohio, decided to ask for a referral to the VMC, where tests on Barley showed the classic signs of heart failure — coughing, fatigue and shortness of breath.

“We diagnosed Barley with severe mitral valve stenosis,” says **Dr. Karsten Schober**, professor and section head of the Cardiology and Interventional Medicine service. When the mitral valve is severely stenotic, he says, the flow of blood from the heart’s left atrium to the left ventricle is restrained, reducing and in some cases, blocking blood flow into the heart’s main pumping chamber, leading to a severely enlarged left atrium, often atrial fibrillation, and fluid accumulation in the chest.

The team discussed performing a balloon dilation to open the valve. While the use of dilation balloons is not unusual, its use in the mitral valve is a high-risk procedure in dogs, due to the narrowed angle available in which to position the series of balloons needed to gradually widen the valve, Dr. Schober says.

“The procedure has been performed here only two times before and twice



Owners Cheyenne (left) and Chance Robinette with Barley

at Texas A&M, the only procedures we know of worldwide,” he says. In those cases, two of the four dogs died following the procedures.

Dr. Schober knew the intervention would require a collaboration with specialists within and outside the VMC.

Dr. Schober consulted with the VMC Surgery team, led by **Dr. Laura Selmic**, professor, Surgical Oncology service, and the Teckie and Don Shackelford Chair in Canine Medicine. Dr. Selmic, who was the primary surgeon on a similar collaborative case two years ago at Ohio State, says she knew the team could collaborate successfully again for this procedure. Dr. Schober also consulted with Arash Salavitabar, MD, a congenital interventional cardiologist and director of The Heart Center XR Program at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and who had performed many catheter-based cardiac procedures in children.

The procedure seemed promising for the dog, but it did not mean that

Barley would not experience mitral valve complications in the future, he says. The Robinettes agreed to go ahead with the procedure.

Prior to the hybrid intervention, a multidisciplinary team assembled for a training session in the VMC with a cadaver. “During that session, Dr. Schober and I had determined the angle that we would position Barley on the table,” says Dr. Selmic.

“We also discussed the exact position on the heart we needed to make the access point, so that the wire and catheters could pass through the mitral valve,” she says.

Alongside Nationwide Children’s Dr. Salavitabar, the VMC cardiology team included Dr. Schober and **Dr. Jaylyn Rhinehart**, associate professor of Cardiology, and cardiology residents **Dr. Emily Herrold** and **Dr. Alba Stavri**, and two cardiology technicians. The VMC surgical team included Dr. Selmic and **Dr. Allyson Sterman**, assistant professor, Soft Tissue Surgery service. Anesthesiology team members included **Dr. Gianluca Bini**, assistant professor, Anesthesia and Perioperative Pain Management service, and two technicians.

The five-hour procedure took place on July 12. “It all went very well, with no major complications and no bleeding,” Dr. Schober says.

Barley returned home a day after the intervention. While he still has atrial fibrillation, which may not go away, it can be managed with medication, Dr. Schober says.

Back home in Galion, Barley’s family is pleased to have him home and happy. “We are so thankful for the team at Ohio State,” Chance says. “They saved Barley’s life.”

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[The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center](#)

Faculty Spotlight: Rhonda Burge, DVM



Dr. Rhonda Burge

A native of Wisconsin, Dr. Rhonda Burge recalls a childhood filled with cats and dogs, including the times she went with her dad to get the family car repaired. “I was that kid in the corner playing with the mechanic’s dog,” she says.

Today, Dr. Burge is assistant professor of Medical Oncology in the VMC’s Integrated Oncology service, and

she’s the one helping clients navigate what can initially be an unsteady journey.

When she was an undergraduate at the University of Colorado, she worked as a veterinary assistant in a small animal clinic in Boulder. “I had thought I’d go into general practice — that was the world I knew and liked,” she says.

Dr. Burge received her DVM from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 2016 and then completed a small animal medicine internship at the

VCA Alameda East Hospital in Denver. She gravitated toward oncology two months into her internship. “I loved the patients, the client communication and the teaching aspects.”

She went on to complete her residency in medical oncology at the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. In 2020, she joined the VMC Integrated Oncology service. The team’s work, she says, is built into the name.

“We work very closely with the team as a unit to provide the best treatment for each individual patient. A patient may see medical oncology first and we will provide guidance on all the options. They may be cured with surgery alone, while others will benefit from all three modalities — surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy.”

One of the most fulfilling aspects, Dr. Burge says, is easing owners’ fears and being able to provide them with options and talk about quality of life. She also enjoys working with students, especially helping them understand how to communicate with clients.

She encourages referring veterinarians to contact the oncology team with any patient questions. “We’re here and happy to work with you.”

Welcome New Faculty

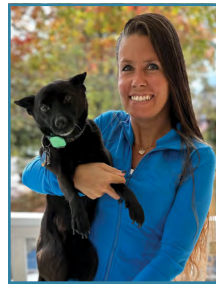


Molly Bechtold, DVM
Assistant Professor – Clinical
Small Animal Internal Medicine

Dr. Bechtold joined the VMC in Fall 2023. She graduated from UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 2003 and then served three years in Equine and Small Animal (SA) general practice. Dr. Bechtold then completed a SA rotating internship at Dogs and Cats Veterinary Referral in Bowie, Maryland, in 2007.

Following her internship, Dr. Bechtold worked in private referral medicine as a hospitalist. Afterward, she completed her SA internal medicine residency at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine in 2019, where post-residency she served as a clinical instructor in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

Dr. Bechtold is particularly interested in endocrine and immune-mediated diseases.



Emily Stambaugh, DVM
Associate Professor-Practice
The Frank Stanton Veterinary
Spectrum of Care Clinic

Dr. Stambaugh joins The Frank Stanton Veterinary Spectrum of Care Clinic after serving as area chief of staff — and earlier, chief of staff — of the Banfield Pet Hospital in both Cleveland and Columbus. Prior to that, she was associate veterinarian of the Banfield Pet Hospital in Hilliard.

She received her DVM at the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine in 2011. Her clinical interests are soft tissue surgery, internal medicine, dentistry, preventative medicine, client education, management, training, mentoring, and managing DEA guidelines.

Upcoming CE Events

College of Veterinary Medicine Continuing Education

For details, please visit:

vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education

2023

December 7 Equine/Farm Animal - Northeast Ohio

2024

January 6 7th Annual Equine + Farm Animal Conference, VMC

Feb. 22-24 OVMA Midwest Veterinary Conference, Columbus, Ohio