



The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center

Update for Veterinarians



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

VMC 2024 Highlights

For 2024, we celebrate several enhanced services and facilities for patients, and provide recent faculty updates.

Services

Our **Small Animal Emergency service returned to 24/7 service** on September 3rd.

The new linear accelerator within our Radiation Oncology service delivers more precise radiation doses to kill cancer cells in large and small animal patients, while minimizing the effect on normal tissue. Side effects and treatment time are also reduced.

We welcomed **Mary Elgin, DVM, CCRP, CVA**, who transitioned to a full-time position as staff veterinarian in the Canine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation service, on November 1st. The service uses a range of rehabilitation therapies to assist recovery in patients and to improve or maintain strength, stamina and body condition.

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From the Director



Seasons greetings! I hope your holiday is filled with good wishes.

In this issue of *Update for Veterinarians*, we are proud to share 2024 achievements that demonstrate

our commitment to providing the best service for your patients.

As we look forward to 2025, we are excited to announce the installation of a PET/CT scanner that will be available

this spring. The VMC is one of the few veterinary academic institutions nationwide that will offer this type of diagnostic imaging tool for patients with cancer.

We wish you good health in the New Year and thank you for your continued partnership.

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



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

vmc.vet.osu.edu



VMC 2024 Highlights - continued from page 1

Facilities

In January, we opened our 12,000-square-foot **Ralph Rogan Equine Performance Evaluation Arena**, which provides enhanced care and support of equine athletes. This all-weather, year-round and multi-surface space provides our clinical specialists opportunities to conduct comprehensive evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of the performance horse.



Our **Cardiology service moved into a larger renovated space** in late April. This area includes a second echo space for Cardiology.



Inside our companion animal hospital, our **pharmacy's new, expanded space** offers a convenient, client facing service window. Clients pick up prescription refills directly from the pharmacy rather than waiting in the front desk queue. It reduces waiting room time and allows for consults with the pharmacists.

Renovations were completed within our **Marysville-Large Animal Service facility**, including an expanded treatment area that emphasizes safe animal handling, patient accommodations, a chute for receiving patients, and client trailer accessibility. Other features include an 800-square foot conference room.



Faculty

Two of our most senior, dedicated VMC faculty retired this year: **Dr. Lynette Cole**, professor and section head of Dermatology and Otolaryngology, a highly regarded clinical-scientist and educator, and **Dr. Mary McLoughlin**, associate professor of Small Animal Surgery, known for her engaging teaching style. Dr. Cole retired after 30 years at the college and Dr. McLoughlin retired after 34 years at the college. Dr. McLoughlin will be returning in a part-time capacity.



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.

Foster Anderson (Heath, OH)	Sandra Gebhart (Medina, OH)	Jennifer Morrow (Lancaster, OH)
Michele Awad-Morris (Orville, OH)	Michael Farwick (Lebanon, OH)	Jennifer Mutchler (Gahanna, OH)
Mark Ayers (Huntington, WVA)	Damian Giancola (Westerville, OH)	Indy Peckham (Chagrin Falls, OH)
Stephanie Bailey (Wooster, OH)	JK Guarasci (Centerville, OH)	Greg Price (Mount Vernon, OH)
Bret Berthold (Ravenna, OH)	Jason Kesson (Delphos, OH)	Luis Rivas (Hillsboro, OH)
Ed Biggie (Millersport, OH)	Chris Kofron (Worthington, OH)	Rona Shapiro (Groveport, OH)
Bradley Bruns (Versailles, OH)	Michele McClure (Columbus, OH)	Susan Sieben (Toledo, OH)
Rich Coleman (Lebanon, OH)	Lauren McPherson (Pickerington, OH)	Jennifer Smith (Wilmington, OH)
Lisa Craven (Columbus, OH)	Michelle Messner (Wadsworth, OH)	Lauren Wade (Concord, OH)
Lori Davis (Lancaster, OH)	Bryan Middlebrooks (Columbus, OH)	Laura Wodzinski (Galena, OH)

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the 106 emeritus board members who have helped us over the years.

Team Performs First Successful Procedure in Rare Breed

In March this year, the Veterinary Medical Center's (VMC) Theriogenology team made history.

They performed the first successful frozen transcervical insemination (TCI) of a Kromfohrlander in the US, resulting in seven healthy puppies.

Originally from Germany, the Kromfohrlander was recently accepted under the Foundation Stock Service purebred category with the American Kennel Club in the United States. "There are only 150 of these dogs in the United States," says **Lexi Grillos, DVM**, a theriogenology resident, who assisted with the procedure.

The procedure on the patient, Jazz, highlights the kind of specialty reproductive medical procedures that the VMC team can offer clients whose goal is to help advance official breeds in this country and to keep them genetically healthy.

Owner Cyndi Lear, a preservation breeder of Kromfohrlander dogs and president of the AKC-recognized breed Kromfohrlander Club of America, brought Jazz to the VMC for appointments over the course of about one week. "We did progesterone timing as well as LH testing with Jazz to determine her ideal fertile window," Dr. Grillos says. Once the team established Jazz's fertile window, they performed a transcervical insemination (TCI), which delivers the sperm via a catheter through a scope directly into the uterus. "This helps increase pregnancy rates," she says.

The procedure is painless, takes about 30 minutes and doesn't require any general anesthesia.

The sire's frozen semen was shipped to the VMC from Sweden. "Obtaining semen from outside the United States helps to diversify the genetics of the breed," Dr. Grillos says.



Jazz with her puppies

Four weeks later, it was determined that Jazz was pregnant and she ultimately gave birth to seven healthy puppies.

"It was a great outcome," Dr. Grillos says.

The team is led by **Marco Countinho da Silva, DVM, PhD, DACT**, clinical professor and section head of the Theriogenology service, who performed Jazz's TCI; other team members include **Dr. Erin Runcan MS, DACT**, associate professor, Erin Blevins RVT, head veterinary technician of the service, and veterinary residents Dr. Grillos and **Dr. Josh Trumble**. **Gail McRae, DVM**, a residency graduate of Ohio State's Theriogenology Program, was also involved in Jazz's case.

Owner Lear was thrilled with the care Jazz received. "I went to Ohio State because I wanted to go to the best. The reproductive medicine team is expert — they are so knowledgeable and professional."

Dr. Grillos and the team want referring veterinarians to know they can provide any range of services. "We're happy to assist with reproductive cases from the beginning, but we also frequently work with and collaborate with referring veterinarians," she says.

In addition to progesterone testing for ovulation timing, the results of which can be provided the same day, the team provides everything from routine breeding management, to elective C-sections and ultrasounds. They also see a wide array of reproductive emergencies and complicated cases.

"We love what we do here and we like to promote responsible breeding," Dr. Grillos says.

Service Notice

The Dermatology and Otology service is currently unavailable. We hope to reopen in the coming months.

Find us on 

[The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine](#)
[The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center](#)
[The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center at Dublin](#)

Faculty Spotlight - Erin Runcan, DVM, DACT



Influenced by her grandfather, who was an endocrinologist, Dr. Erin Runcan dreamed of becoming a pediatrician as a child growing up in Hilliard, just outside of Columbus.

However, with dogs and horses as companions, and volunteering at a

veterinary hospital, she ultimately decided the veterinary profession was for her.

Today Dr. Runcan is associate clinical professor of Theriogenology at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), providing reproductive care for animals large and small.

Dr. Runcan, who received her DVM from Ohio State in 2009, completed her residency in Theriogenology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in 2012 and worked a few years at a hospital in Lancaster, Ohio. She joined the VMC as faculty in 2015.

She is certified in Respiratory Function Grading (RFG), offered by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, in order to more reliably assess dog breeds like French Bulldogs, Pugs and Bulldogs.

Because of past breeding practices focused on creating the “cute” flat,

square noses, many purebred dogs have respiratory issues, particularly the popular French Bulldog. “These dogs need to be able to be assessed in order to breathe better and produce healthier, more athletic puppies,” she says.

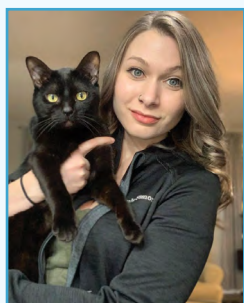
Dr. Runcan is one of the few U.S. veterinarians who have trained using the RFG standards, originally developed in the United Kingdom, which is known for its high quality standards focused on improving canine health.

“I was interested in the certification because I knew it would be great to offer to our patients.

“I would like referring veterinarians to please feel free to call us. We are happy to work through a case together over the phone or virtually,” she says.

“We’re always here to help them take that next step.”

Welcome



Paula Simons, DVM, DACVECC
Assistant Professor – Clinical
Small Animal Emergency and
Critical Care

Dr. Simons joined the VMC in September after serving one year in specialty private practice at Tufts VETS in Walpole, Massachusetts.

She received her DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2019, and completed her Emergency and Critical Care residency at Cornell University Veterinary Specialists, a 24/7 Emergency and Critical Care facility. Her clinical interests include trauma, sepsis, critical care nutrition and analgesic management.



Tara Amburgy, DVM
Staff Veterinarian
VMC–Dublin Urgent Care

Dr. Amburgy joined the VMC in October. She received her DVM at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014.

She completed a rotating Small Animal Medicine and Surgery internship at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and then spent nearly a decade at VCA Palm Beach Veterinary Specialists in Florida as an emergency and critical care doctor before returning to Ohio this past year. Her clinical interests include toxicities, sepsis and all things both urgent and critical care.

College of Veterinary Medicine Continuing Education

Upcoming 2025 CE Events

Jan 3 8th Annual Equine & Farm Animal Conference

For details, please visit

vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education

Departures

Dr. Sandra Diaz, Dermatology and Otology service, and **Dr. Danika Sorensen**, VMC–Dublin Urgent Care service.