Sniffing out a cure

Terry Sires, an inspector for the Federal Protection Service, and his canine partner Julink (pronounced Yuli) find bombs. Working for the Department of Homeland Security, Sires and his dog have worked at presidential inaugurations, INDY races, the NATO conference in Chicago, and in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Julink is a single purpose dog—he sniffs explosives. In addition to proactive visits to national events, he patrols federal facilities, schools, buildings or vacant areas when someone makes a threat or leaves behind a suspicious package. The team also supports local law enforcement when needed.

Julink is known for his nose. He is three-quarters shepherd and one-quarter basset hound. When you first see him, you wonder if he is still a puppy. He has a large shepherd head with a smaller, stout body, making him appear as if he still has a lot of growing to do. “He has the incredible work ethic of a shepherd and the incredible sense of smell of the hound,” said Sires.

Complimenting his amazing sense of smell is his warm personality. The minute you meet Julink, he looks to you with big brown eyes that command your attention. “He is great at public relations,” said Sires. “We do a lot of demonstrations. In January we visited a grade school in Manitowoc and Julink laid across the laps of the children in the front row. We had to remind the students, ‘don’t just pet any dog, make sure you ask permission first.’”

This last school visit was before Sires discovered something was wrong with Julink. He didn’t show any clinical signs of illness, but during his routine physical exam and blood test, his veterinarian, Dr. Paul Yehle (DVM, ‘01) of the Elmbrook Veterinary Clinic, noticed elevated liver enzyme levels and performed an abdominal ultrasound. The test revealed a large mass on Julink’s left adrenal gland. The prognosis for survival was guarded. But his veterinarian referred him to the oncology section at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine’s teaching hospital. And after a... continued on page 4

Anything but routine — c-section in a 90-pound tortoise

When Fluffy, a 25-year-old, African spurred tortoise owned by the Milwaukee County Zoo, underwent a CT scan at the Wisconsin Heart Hospital in 2010 to evaluate arthritis of her knee, the results of the scan took everyone by surprise. Fluffy was harboring a secret; she had 21 mineralized eggs and hundreds of follicles on her ovaries. The zoo staff decided to wait to see if Fluffy might lay her eggs, but one year and zero eggs later, the decision was made to surgically remove them in order to eliminate... continued on page 5
New Dean Update
We all eagerly await news for the appointment of a new Dean for the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. The selection process was complex and required adequate time for the committee to present qualified candidates to the Chancellor. The finalists are: Ina Dobrinski, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Mark Markel, UW School of Veterinary Medicine, Madison, Wisconsin; Robert Washabau, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, St. Paul, Minnesota.

As of press time, it is expected that an Interim Dean will be appointed to serve after Dean Buss retires on June 30 until the new permanent Dean is in position.

For more information on the search process and the candidates, please visit www.vetmed.wisc.edu, our Facebook page (University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine), or follow us on twitter (@uwvetmed).

Student receives three-year fellowship
Kim Keil recently became the first graduate student from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) to receive a three-year research fellowship grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Her research will take an in-depth look at prostate development.

Keil had barely started her lab work with Dr. Chad Vezina, a faculty member in the SVM Department of Comparative Biosciences, when she considered the NSF fellowship. “I really only had a couple weeks in the lab before I started writing it,” said Keil. With the grant due in November, she and Vezina got to work.

“Chad pointed me in the right direction as I started collecting data and brainstorming project ideas.”

According to Vezina, the grant opportunity offered not just a chance at funding, but a positive experience for Keil, regardless of the results. “The grant writing process is a terrific learning opportunity,” said Vezina. “It teaches you to understand your research area, focus your research ideas, and relay them with great concision.”

The NSF granted Keil a stipend to cover tuition and other educational expenses for the next three years. Her work during that time will examine the role of DNA methylation in prostate growth. “This research is very important because researchers still do not fully understand the developmental cues initiating prostate development,” said Keil.

Keil explained that the long-term vision for her research is a better understanding of the growth that takes place in prostate cancer. According to Keil, “appropriate growth signals in development reoccur inappropriately in disease.” This means that understanding natural development of the prostate is crucial to combating the cancer.

What is Keil’s own long-term plan? She hopes to pursue a career as a professor at a teaching university. She thinks this aspiration appealed to the NSF and their desire to make a broader impact. Vezina agreed. “The National Science Foundation is a major supporter of undergraduate science education,” he said. “Her NSF fellowship proposal is centered on a research project, but it also integrates opportunities for her to educate the Madison community.”

Keil is enthusiastic about the next few years, and Vezina sees a bright future for her down the line. “Kim has a passion for teaching and education,” said Vezina. “The sky is the limit.”

—Ali Bartol

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 6, 2012: Alumni reception at AVMA, San Diego, CA
September 22, 2012: Tailgate 2012 (Badgers versus UTEP)
September 23, 2012: 30th Anniversary of the Dog Jog
October 2–6, 2012: World Dairy Expo
October 11–14, 2012: WVMA Annual Convention

Need continuing education? Visit the school’s website: www.vetmed.wisc.edu

PET TIPS
If fireworks or thunder send your pooch running for cover, try to make him as comfortable as possible by providing a “bomb shelter.” Give him an interior room free of windows to hide in, and add a bed to keep him comfortable. If he still looks frightened, try white noise like a radio or vacuum to block the scary sounds, and remember not to coddle him, as he might take this to mean his fears are justified.

WHAT HAPPENS AT UW VETERINARY CARE

Teaching
UW Veterinary Care personifies the concept of life-long learning. Every May, the new fourth-year veterinary medical students enter the VMTH. Within the first few weeks, their ‘newbie’ qualms dissipate and they become an essential component of hospital functions. They learn through didactic topic rounds, daily case rounds, and patient management under the supervision of our faculty and staff.

Interns are veterinarians who want to grow their clinical skills in a highly supervised environment. They dedicate time on emergency medicine, internal medicine, and surgery under strict supervision with shorter rotations on other specialty services and primary care.

There are over 40 residents who work in the VMTH in a wide range of specialities. Our residents typically have completed one or more internships before joining our team with most residencies three years in duration. Before our residents can truly call themselves specialists, they must pass extremely rigorous examinations covering their area of focus.

Patient Care
Everyone in our hospital is dedicated to the health care of animals. We have over 40 board certified specialists with more specialty services under our roof than any other facility in Wisconsin. Each member of our team strives to provide the best patient care possible.

Clinical Studies
We also offer clinical trials where we look for ways to improve veterinary medical care of your animal. Our mission is “to advance veterinary medicine with science and compassion.” We want to be an innovative force in veterinary medicine, and our many specialties demonstrate our significant contributions to this great profession and the animals we all love.

Ruthanne Chun, DVM, DACVIM Clinical Professor, Oncology Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs chunr@vetmed.wisc.edu
Saying Good-bye

It was one of those beautiful days this past March and I was hurrying home to take a hike with Duke, my trusty farm dog. Those of us who have dogs—we know something is wrong when we don’t hear four paws trot to the door, and we are not greeted by a wagging tail.

I rushed through the house and found my beautiful Doberman lying at the bottom of the stairs. He couldn’t move. I panicked. I tried to coax him to stand up. He just moved his head and looked at me to do something.

I called my veterinarian and begged for help. She told me to take Duke to the closest clinic possible. It could be a twisted stomach and time was of the essence. My neighbor rushed over and we lifted Duke into my car. I live in the country about an hour outside Madison via twisted country roads. I rushed to the Mount Horeb Animal Hospital. After a quick evaluation of Duke as he lay in the car, they suggested we keep going to UW Veterinary Care. Something was wrong with his spine.

Now here’s the catch—I work for the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. I am the editor of this newsletter. I am the one who hears the stories about animals being rushed into our hospital emergency room. I was not prepared to have a story of my own.

I waited outside the hospital with a friend who is a large animal surgeon at UW Veterinary Care. She was my eyes and ears. She understood the challenging decisions I was about to face. I was informed of my options: immediate surgery or we wait until morning for a neurological evaluation. The neurologist on clinics in the morning would be Dr. Heidi Barnes Heller. I wanted her opinion, so I opted to wait.

“I don’t have good news,” said Dr. Barnes Heller, when she came to my office. “We believe he ruptured a disc in his neck. We can do surgery and there is a chance he could walk again, but the after care will be the difficult part. It could take months for improvement. He will need regular physical therapy and he will need to have his bladder expressed frequently.”

I quickly reviewed the implications of her words. I lived alone on a farm an hour from Madison. I was gone 10 hours a day. Duke weighed 95 pounds. We had stairs in and out of the house. His chances of walking were no greater than 50 percent. As I reviewed all of my options, I knew there could be answers. I could board Duke at the hospital. I could find help.

But Duke, although a Doberman, was a farm dog at heart. I couldn’t imagine him in this condition. He had always lived in the country. I made one of the toughest decisions of my life—to let him go.

It was beautiful in Madison that day and we moved Duke onto a bed down by the creek that runs by the hospital. I called family and friends who came to visit. My daughter left college, my son left work, a family who watched Duke when I traveled pulled their kids out of school to say good-bye. My colleagues at the SVM came outside to see Duke and offer support. We stroked him constantly. At the end of the day, two veterinarians (and friends) came to his bed in the grass along the creek and we sat with him as he went to sleep. I still cry every time I think of that moment, but Duke and I were blessed to have such compassionate care at the end of his life. I know many of you have made the same tough decisions. We want to do what is best and we must forgive ourselves when sometimes it is best to say good-bye.

Editor’s note: A friend of mine believes our pets choose their departure from our lives to send us a message that it is time to move on. Since I wrote this story, I have decided to join my husband in Hawaii where he relocated for a research project.

This will be a bittersweet departure. The faculty and staff at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and UW Veterinary Care have my utmost respect and admiration. I have enjoyed every conversation with our many clients and have been lucky to meet the animals in their lives. I have cherished every story—even the sad ones.

I will continue to read On Call and follow the School of Veterinary Medicine’s progress. I look forward to hearing about the many adventures you will share with your animal friends. Mahalo and Aloha!

—Lori Strelow

New surgical chair selected

Dr. Jonathan McAnulty has been appointed as the new chair of the Department of Surgical Sciences. McAnulty received his DVM from the University of Georgia, completed an internship at Purdue University and a surgical residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his MS and PhD from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

McAnulty has been with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine since 1991. In addition to his work as a surgeon in the teaching hospital, he also maintains a research laboratory that is currently focused on engineering the molecular basis of wound surfaces for augmentation of healing. (See article in On Call Summer 2011: www.vetmed.wisc.edu/articles/0/5/1205/)

McAnulty’s research has also been instrumental in reducing injury to organs stored for transplantation, and his work has been translated into human medicine.

McAnulty replaces Dr. Dale Bjorling in this position. Bjorling is now the associate dean for research and graduate training at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

Horse Tips

With summer heating up, make sure your horse has a way to stay cool. If your pasture doesn’t already have trees for natural shade, provide a shade structure to give your horse a way to escape the sun. Your pasture should also have a water trough that’s clean of algae, bird droppings, and insect larvae. If you have horses with bullying problems, consider two water troughs so that no one is ever forced to stay thirsty.
The Urban Jungle: Field Work in Chicago Aims to Educate

New research into the spread of West Nile virus shows hot spots for disease transmission in perhaps the last place you would think: urban and suburban Chicago. It really is a jungle out there.

Tavis Anderson, a post-doctoral researcher in pathobiological sciences, explained that Chicago packs a variety of ecosystems into a small space. “You’ve got an urban landscape that’s made up of industrial buildings, residential areas, and green park spaces,” he said. All that adds up to an area brimming with people and the birds and mosquitoes that cause West Nile to spread.

Anderson explained that West Nile amplifies by cycling between mosquitoes and infected birds, then spreads when a mosquito carrier bites a healthy human, horse, or other animal susceptible to the disease. “It sounds very simple,” said Anderson. “But there are so many different birds and so many different mosquitoes.” On top of that, humans enter the picture, changing the ecosystem profoundly in places like Chicago.

“It’s not possible anymore to study an ecosystem without studying humans,” said Anderson. “The study of urban ecology is the study of what’s really going on.” Anderson’s research finds him doing field work with Dr. Tony Goldberg, a professor of pathobiological sciences. But this isn’t traditional field work; it’s right in the middle of Chicago. Goldberg and Anderson hope their research will help them understand the complex factors that have made Chicago such a hot spot for West Nile.

“We’re the ones who gather the information,” said Goldberg. “We’re trying to understand the ecological factors that allow spread so we can know what to do to stop it.”

Anderson’s goal is to gather continued on page 5

JULINK continued

series of additional blood tests and a CT scan, Dr. Xuan Pan, oncology resident, said surgery was his best chance at survival.

“After reviewing the CT scan, we knew it would be a complicated surgery due to the fact that the adrenal tumor was invading the vena cava and the other surrounding blood vessels,” said Dr. Robert Hardie, a clinical associate professor and soft tissue surgeon at UW Veterinary Care. “It was difficult to recommend surgery knowing the risks and potential complications, especially when Julink was not even showing any clinical signs at the time, but we also knew that if we did nothing, the tumor would eventually block the vena cava, or even worse, spontaneously bleed into the abdomen.”

Ultimately, the surgery was successful and Julink recovered without complication. He was discharged after several days and was cleared to return to work after two to three weeks of rest.

During Julink’s latest explosive sniffing recertification, the medical staff and testers were surprised it was just 45 days since surgery. “It is an incredible gift that my dog is still here and working,” said Sires. “Dr. Hardie saved his life. He and the staff here have been phenomenal.”

“I can’t thank everyone enough,” said Sires. “Dr. Hardie’s skill and the compassion of the students Leslie and Samantha—the students went so far above and beyond anything I expected. They sat with my wife and me during surgery, they were Julink’s caretakers, our gratitude to those two is overwhelming.”
The Urban Jungle: Field Work in Chicago Aims to Educate About West Nile Virus

Anderson and Goldberg hope the models are more accurate. "If we have real data, we have to distill the complexities of nature down to something we can model. It's a different way of seeing the world."

To gather their data, Goldberg and Anderson use methods like mosquito mark-capture to "tag" mosquito larvae with carbon and nitrogen signatures. This allows them to measure how far the mosquitoes travel in their lifetime. "That's a really important parameter in epidemiological models," said Anderson. "If we have real data, the models are more accurate."

Anderson and Goldberg hope that the information they gather can help educate the public and encourage preventative measures. Everything from bird and mosquito populations, to weather patterns, to human behavior can affect the spread of the disease. In some cases, simple steps like emptying a baby pool of stagnant water instead of letting it become a backyard mosquito breeding ground might go a long way towards slowing disease spread.

The virus itself has spread like wildfire since it came to the United States in 1999, although cases in humans are rare. "It's gone everywhere it can possibly go," said Anderson, who explains that this study doesn't aim to stop the spread of West Nile, but to educate. "It's keyed in on minimizing transmission to humans."

But Anderson thinks the model in Chicago might help explain what's happening elsewhere. "This system that we're working on is becoming a repeatable pattern," said Anderson. He hopes that, in the long-term, this study could predict the spread of other mosquito-borne illnesses like Dengue fever. With the help of accurate models and information, we may be closer to a way to stop or slow the spread of Dengue fever before it becomes endemic in the U.S., as it has in hundreds of countries worldwide.

Tracking nature with mathematical models is no easy feat, especially with a daunting task like mosquito-borne diseases. "The weakness is that there are so many variables," said Anderson. But Goldberg notes that this weakness can be turned to our advantage fighting against the disease. "There's a universe of ways we can control this," said Goldberg. Armed with the right knowledge, we might just be able to get a step ahead of tricky diseases like West Nile.

**FLUFFY continued**

potential health risks, secondary to chronic egg retention.

In a surgical procedure not previously described in a tortoise of this size and species, Dr. Christoph Mans, a zoological medicine resident at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), the International Crane Foundation, and the Milwaukee County Zoo; Dr. Dominique Keller, clinical instructor in zoological medicine at the SVM; and Mackenzie Vermey, a fourth-year veterinary student (UW 2012) on preceptorship at the Milwaukee County Zoo, embarked down an uncharted path to remove the eggs, ovaries and follicles. Each procedure would be a two-step process. First, the veterinarians would remove her ovaries and follicles, and then, they would perform a caesarean section to remove the calcified eggs. The procedure would be performed through an incision located in front of the hind limbs, instead of sawing through the lower part of Fluffy’s shell.

"Surgical removal of eggs, through a small incision in front of the hind limbs, instead of sawing through the lower part of Fluffy’s shell."

It took Fluffy’s surgeons approximately six hours from anesthesia to the recovery room to complete the process on one side. After she recovered from this first surgery, the team would repeat this procedure in another week on the opposite side. Eventually, the surgeons removed her 21 calcified eggs and follicles. Collectively they topped the scales at over 15 pounds. Even though the surgeries took longer and were more involved than expected, Fluffy made a complete recovery and was happily eating her tortoise salad the next day.

**Vail awarded Suran chair**

David M. Vail, DVM, professor in the Department of Medical Sciences at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine has been awarded the position of Barbara A. Suran Chair in Comparative Oncology. Vail, a dedicated clinician and scientist, will continue his work to develop new and innovative cancer therapies.

The endowed chair was established at the request of Barbara A. Suran to allow the school to recognize a distinguished expert in oncology. Two of her beloved champion standard poodles succumbed to cancer. Jamie died of osteosarcoma and Donna LaRose died of acute leukemia.

The estate gift by Barbara Suran provided funding to establish the Barbara A. Suran Comparative Oncology Research Institute with its associated endowed Chair and endowed laboratory.

“Barbara was passionate about the School of Veterinary Medicine and its potential for impacting both animal and human health in the field of oncology," said Mark Markel, DVM, PhD, Chair of the Department of Medical Sciences and the Associate Dean for Advancement at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. "Dr. Vail is an exceptional selection for the Suran Chair. He has committed his career to investigating naturally occurring cancers in veterinary species in order to develop therapeutic modalities that have the possibility of benefiting both our veterinary patients and humans."

**PET TIPS**

As the summer heats up, so does that pavement. Remember that when it’s a scorcher out there, the hot asphalt might be literally scorching your dog’s sensitive foot pads on your afternoon walk. Find somewhere to walk in the grass or stick to mornings and evenings to avoid that sizzling pavement.

Mackenzie Vermey (4th year Veterinary Medical Student)
After a marathon debate over a pair of studies that show how the avian H5N1 influenza virus could become transmissible in mammals, and an unprecedented recommendation by a government review panel to block publication, one of the studies was finally and fully published May 3, 2012 in the journal Nature.

The publication capped an epic public conversation that pitted infectious diseases experts against flu and public health researchers who argued that publication was not only important, but also essential to informing influenza surveillance and preparedness for a virus that could evolve to infect humans and cause a global pandemic.

“Our study shows that relatively few amino acid mutations are sufficient for a virus with an avian H5 hemagglutinin to acquire the ability to transmit in mammals,” says Yoshihiro Kawaoka, a University of Wisconsin–Madison flu researcher whose study of H5N1 virus transmissibility was at the center of the debate. “This study has significant public health benefits and contributes to our understanding of this important pathogen. By identifying mutations that facilitate transmission among mammals, those whose job it is to monitor viruses circulating in nature can look for these mutations so measures can be taken to effectively protect human health.”

However, Kawaoka cautions there may be other unknown mutations that also enable the virus to transmit in mammals. It is therefore critical, he argues, to continue research to identify additional mutations that have the same effect, and to understand how they work.

In the Nature report, Kawaoka’s group describes a laboratory-modified bird flu/human flu hybrid virus that can become transmissible in an animal model for human infection with just a handful of mutations. Because flu viruses in nature are constantly changing as they circulate and easily swap genes with other flu viruses, the possibility of circulating H5N1 viruses hitting the right combination of mutations and becoming a much bigger threat to human health is greater than many experts believed.

In addition to demonstrating transmissibility, Kawaoka’s results showed the experimental mutant virus could be controlled by available medical countermeasures. An H5N1 vaccine as well as oseltamivir, an antiviral drug better known by the trade name Tamiflu, both proved effective.

The study was conducted with scientists from the University of Tokyo, where Kawaoka is also on the faculty, Kobe University, and Chubu University.

As is the case for all studies of avian influenza transmissibility, the Wisconsin H5N1 work was conducted under strictly controlled conditions with multiple layers of safety and security precautions. Moreover, research involving agents such as highly pathogenic influenza viruses undergoes rigorous federal and institutional oversight including frequent and unannounced inspections. The laboratories such as the one where the new work was conducted are designed to strict specifications and operated to ensure safety.

The animal study of virus infectivity was supported by NIAID, a part of the National Institutes of Health. Other elements of the new study were supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, by a Grant-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology of Japan and by ERATO, the Japan Science and Technology Agency.

Go to our website for a full version of this story: http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/articles/05/1233/
Practicing animal care in Hawaii

“E komo mai” is a greeting, meaning “come in,” often used by Joe Herzog, DVM 1997, when his clients walk through the doors of the Makai Animal Clinic in Kailua, Hawaii. Herzog calls Hawaii his favorite foreign country. “We use U.S. currency and speak English—well, most of the time.” Changes in culture and language are not the only things Herzog faced as a mainlander in the islands. “When I first got here and someone brought me a sick dog, I mentioned perhaps it was something he ate in the backyard. ‘Like what?’ the client questioned. I answered, ‘I don’t know, perhaps a squirrel.’ I noticed the funny looks and then was told that there are no squirrels in Hawaii.” Since that conversation, Herzog has become well acquainted with his clients and their chickens, rabbits and other special species, along with their cats and dogs.

Although Joe Herzog grew up in Kankakee, Illinois, he was a Pacific Ocean, sandy beach, palm tree person at heart. Once he graduated from high school, he took the road west to Stanford University for his undergraduate studies. Graduating with a degree in Human Biology, he was on track for medical school until a medical student friend came to visit and talked him out of it. “He said I wouldn’t like the environment. It is really competitive and not very friendly,” said Herzog. “‘What am I going to do?’” he asked and his friend suggested veterinary medicine. Herzog loved animals and already had quite a few.

“I knew I needed some hands-on animal experience to get into vet school,” said Herzog. He volunteered at the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SF SPCA). “They were happy to have someone to help.”

This work led him to the North Peninsula Veterinary Emergency Clinic in San Mateo, California. “This is one of the original emergency clinics of Northern California,” said Herzog. “I told the staff supervisor I needed experience to get into vet school and he hired me on the spot. I assisted technicians, then became a technician, and finally became the supervisor. It was not only good experience, it became a pretty good paying job.”

The time came for Herzog to think about a veterinary medical education. He applied to several west coast universities, but because of familiarity and fondness for Wisconsin, he also sent an application to Madison. “I went to a YMCA camp in Mukwonago, Wisconsin for six summers,” explained Herzog. “We canoed, rode horses, shot a gun, and lived in a group setting. I have fond childhood memories of Wisconsin. So, when the SVM at Madison offered an open house, I decided to combine this with a visit to my parents. I really didn’t think I would go to school there.”

When Herzog walked in the door, he was greeted by Chess Adams, a former faculty member, who looked at his nametag and already knew a lot about him. “I was really surprised by that,” said Herzog, “until I realized he was on the admissions committee. But still, I was pretty impressed.” Sue Hyland, former associate dean of academic affairs, also made a difference. “She gave me the phone number of Karen Young, clinical professor of clinical pathology, and said I should talk to her. I was an older student and 10 years out of my undergraduate years. So I called and spent a lot of time talking to Dr. Young. I liked what she had to say. I had already signed my acceptance letter for Washington State, but I had not mailed it. I changed my mind and sent my letter to Wisconsin instead. It was the greatest decision.”

Herzog was impressed with the approachable faculty and small-school experience that was not available elsewhere. He and a fellow classmate had the opportunity to start the Student Chapter of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society. While in school, Herzog’s wife, Brenda Machosky, earned her PhD in Comparative Literature at UW–Madison. After graduation, they both headed back to California where Herzog started an internship at an emergency-critical care hospital and Machosky looked for a faculty position. “I kept encouraging her to look for a position in Hawaii. While we lived in Northern California, we made at least 10 trips to the islands. I had some understanding of the culture and knew I wanted to live there.”

To their surprise, a position did open for his wife and everything fell into place when the April 2007 issue of JAVMA posted two jobs in Oahu. “I wanted to continue emergency work, with small pets and exotics,” said Herzog. “I took a job at VCA Family Animal Hospital. At the time, it was the only 24/7 critical care hospital. But then a job opened up near my house; I could walk to work. So, one year later, I moved to Makai Animal Clinic. Makai means toward the ocean. The clinic is less than a mile from Kailua Beach.”

Soon after he started at Makai, “one of the practice owners gave two weeks notice and moved to Prague. He had a large rabbit clientele and all the chronic care of rabbits then fell to me. Now I see all sorts of crazy stuff.”

Herzog continues to learn and teach. He is taking Hawaiian language classes and is teaching pharmacology to veterinary technicians at the community college. “Stay curious,” is his best advice to students. “Remain a student even after you’re a veterinarian. It is a complex world and your degree is just a foundation. Stay abreast. Stay current.”
Finding cancer in wolves

Clinicians at the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo in conjunction with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine are conducting an epizootiological study of malignant nasal tumors in Mexican gray wolves. With the help of state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging tools, the veterinarians are spearheading an investigation into the occurrence of nasal tumors in the most endangered wolf species in the world—the Mexican gray wolf. The tumors, which are found in 1–2% of domestic dogs, are also prevalent in Mexican gray wolves. These particular wolves are participating in a Species Survival Plan (SPP). The information generated by the study will provide the tools to assist the SSP Mexican Wolf Management Group (MWMG) with the management of this endangered population in captive as well as in free-ranging settings. For more information go to http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/articles/0/S/1235/

Dr. Carlos Sanchez (right), associate veterinarian for the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo, and Dr. Randi Drees (left), collaborating researcher for the Mexican gray wolf study and clinical assistant professor in Diagnostic Imaging at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, are preparing a Mexican gray wolf for a CT scan at Brookfield Zoo’s Animal Hospital. Brookfield Zoo is one of the two zoos in the U.S. to own an on-site CT scanner and is the only zoo veterinary hospital in North America to combine digital radiology and CT technology at its facility.