A Wildlife Win-Win
Partnership delivers care to Wisconsin species and teaching to clinical trainees

Building Better Dairies
Together with dairy producers, SVM program aims to update cow housing
With the successful completion of the $3 million BerbeeWalsh Match, we want to thank Karen Walsh, Jim Berbee, and the many heroes who doubled their impact on the UW School of Veterinary Medicine’s Animals Need Heroes Too building expansion campaign.

Together, you made a difference for animal and human health by supporting the most important project the school will undertake in the next 30 years.

See what’s next and how you can help too: ANIMALSNEEDHEROEDESTOO.COM

“As UW-Madison alumni, Jim and I like to support university projects that will help shape the future of education, research, and animal and human patient care. The school’s efforts in global health, innovative surgery and treatment, and cutting-edge research are really the whole package. We are delighted that so many others share our enthusiasm for this crucial project.”

- Karen Walsh
A Wildlife Win-Win
A new UW School of Veterinary Medicine partnership has yielded elevated veterinary medical care for the native mammals and birds of prey, from wolves to a badger and bald eagle, at a Wisconsin educational center and presented novel learning opportunities for SVM students and clinical trainees.
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Building Better Dairies
The Dairyland Initiative helps dairy producers build better cow housing using sound scientific principles that are sensible, humane, and profitable all at once.
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Two Decades of Dedication
For nearly 20 years, Sharon and TJ Palmer have sent a handwritten check to the SVM every month, a way of giving back to a cause they hold dear.
Page 14
Message from the Dean

Thanks to Each and Every One of You

This issue of *On Call* celebrates the many friends and supporters of the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). Without your support and generosity, the school would not be in the leadership position it is today, whether on the UW–Madison campus, nationally, or internationally, in advancing veterinary medical education and the improvement of both animal and human health.

This year, we have many successes to celebrate, one of them being our achievements in UW–Madison’s All Ways Forward comprehensive campaign. After we twice exceeded the campaign goals set for the SVM, our goal has now been elevated to $100 million, with the school having raised greater than $85 million as of the publication of this magazine. These gifts provide much-needed funds to recruit and retain prominent faculty and staff, support groundbreaking research, and maintain our campus as a place of remarkable opportunities.

Our philanthropic success is due to the leadership of the many friends of the school, such as Karen Walsh and Jim Berbee, who committed a $3 million matching gift to the SVM building expansion — a match which was met in October. I’d also like to highlight the generosity of Morrie Waud in support of our students, our large animal hospital, and the school more broadly. We have now exceeded the halfway mark of his $5 million matching gift to the SVM expansion.

To date, the school has raised more than $20 million toward the $40 million private giving goal for our building expansion campaign. We also celebrate the enumeration of the Lot 62 parking ramp, which the legislature included and the governor approved in the current budget. Ramp construction is scheduled to begin in 2019, a necessary step toward facilitating the SVM expansion.

Our goal is for the state to enumerate the addition to the Veterinary Medicine Building in the 2019–21 budget and to begin construction in 2020. Upon completion, estimated for 2022, this expansion will provide crucial upgrades to the UW Veterinary Care patient and client experience and to our facilities for teaching, learning, and research.

Of course, providing an exceptional, affordable education remains an ever-present priority amidst these campaigns. Over the past five years, we have nearly doubled the school’s scholarship support provided to our veterinary medical students, which has resulted in a decrease in our students’ indebtedness at graduation from $128,200 in 2012 to $112,600 in 2016. This is in contrast to the national average indebtedness for veterinary medical students, which has increased from $151,670 to $181,740 in the same five-year period. We also celebrated the opening of the Renk Learning Center this past summer, with its many components that support our students’ education and mental health.

Every day when I come to work, I am thankful not only for all of those who work and learn at the School of Veterinary Medicine, but also for all who are friends of the school and support it in any way that they can, whether it’s through philanthropy, advocacy, or spreading the word about all that the school does for the state of Wisconsin, its citizens, and the nation. Thank you!

Mark D. Markel, Dean
Ask a UW Veterinarian

Feline Foibles: Eliminating Outside the Litterbox

This expert response to a frequently asked question among clients comes from Sandi Sawchuk, primary care veterinarian at UW Veterinary Care and SVM clinical instructor.

Question: What suggestions can you share regarding potential causes and solutions for a cat who is eliminating outside of the litterbox?

Answer: Even under the best litterbox management, one in four cats will stop using the litterbox at some point in their life. Finding out why involves a step-by-step process. The sooner an inappropriate elimination problem can be addressed, the greater the success rate.

Ruling out medical reasons such as sterile cystitis, urinary tract infections, hyperthyroidism, diabetes, and impacted anal glands is always the first step. A thorough physical exam, urinalysis, and stool evaluation may lead to other diagnostic tests depending on the results.

Intact males, females in heat, and cats that are socially stressed may pass urine on vertical surfaces, such as walls and windows, to mark their territory. Spaying and neutering is the first step. Using soothing feline pheromones; increasing space vertically, such as by adding cat trees; and blocking the view of peeping tom cats by keeping windows closed and covered may decrease stress and marking behavior.

Litterbox management is an important next step. There should be at least one more litterbox than number of household cats. For example, a home with three cats should have four litter-boxes in various locations, preferably not near feeding stations or noisy appliances. It is important that cats have easy access to boxes, especially senior cats who may find it difficult to go up and down stairs.

Cats prefer large litterboxes at least 1.5 to two times the length of the cat from nose to rump. Think “outside the box” when hunting for an appropriate container, such as under-the-bed storage bins and cement mixing trays.

Covered boxes, although preferred by many owners, can be small, harbor odors, and make cats feel trapped.

Studies have shown that most cats prefer soft, sandy, scoopable litter over coarser litter. Manually scoop boxes at least once a day to provide clean facilities for elimination. Purchasing an automated litterbox may seem appealing, but to a cat the small litter-holding capacity and the noise made when scooping can be a trigger to eliminate on carpet. Simpler is better when it comes to litterboxes.

Socializing with the SVM

Friends of the school sharing their thoughts (and pets) on social media...

“University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, thank you for being this girl’s hero.”
–Stacy Rose
Via SVM Facebook (@uwvetmed)

“Big shout-out to UW Veterinary Care for saving my little boy’s life! As I type this he is calmly snuggled up in my lap in his post-bath towel. I’m so happy I get to see his charming, bright eyes again.”
–Emily Hoggatt
Via UWVC Facebook (@uwveterinarycare)

Questions

Have a question for our veterinary medical experts? Please send it to the On Call editor at oncall@vetmed.wisc.edu. We cannot guarantee responses to all submissions. For any urgent pet health issue, please contact your veterinarian directly.
Natural Experiment, Dogged Investigation, Yield Clue to Devastating Neurological Disease

After a 29-year quest, Ian Duncan, a professor of neurology in the Department of Medical Sciences, has pinpointed the cause of a serious neurological disease in a colony of rats.

In the new study, published online in the journal Annals of Neurology, Duncan has shown that the rat abnormality closely resembles a rare human mutation that results in severe neurologic dysfunction. The human disease can affect many parts of the brain and has been called H-ABC.

Indeed, both conditions arise from mutations in the same gene. Crucially, both abnormalities affect the production and maintenance of myelin — the white, fatty insulation that nerves need to carry electrical signals. The deterioration of myelin in the brain causes the common neurologic disorder multiple sclerosis. Myelin defects are also at the root of the leukodystrophies — genetic disorders, which include H-ABC, with a wide range of causes and symptoms.

Duncan’s examination of nervous system tissue from both conditions revealed a telltale overgrowth of tiny tubes known as microtubules in oligodendrocytes, the cells that make myelin and deposit it on nerve fibers.

The study offers a window on a rare disease — and also on the broader issue of myelin formation. “For a human disease, we have provided a model that did not exist before,” Duncan says.

The new rat model could become a testing ground for medicines that inhibit microtubule formation, Duncan says. It could also support insights into the larger group of leukodystrophies.

And, Duncan says, an improved understanding of how oligodendrocytes form and maintain myelin, and how those essential processes go awry, “could open a new window of understanding on the more widespread myelin diseases.”

Lab Encourages CWD Testing During Wisconsin Deer Season

Several state agencies, including the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) on the UW–Madison campus, are working to make the 2017 deer harvest a safe one for hunters and their families.

Last year, some 6,600 Wisconsin hunters submitted tissue samples from harvested deer to WVDL for free testing for chronic wasting disease (CWD). The infectious neurological disease has been found in both wild and captive deer in at least 24 Wisconsin counties, mostly in the southern half of the state.

This year, there may be a new urgency to test deer taken in the hunt as preliminary results from a Canadian study released in April reported that cynomolgus macaques given infected meat in their diet over a three-year period contracted CWD.

The study, conducted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, has only been published in abstract form and has yet to complete the peer review process. The findings, however, are a signal that more research on the risk of CWD to human health is necessary and that hunters should strongly consider testing their deer, especially if the animals were taken in any of the Wisconsin counties affected by CWD, says Keith Poulsen DVM’04, PhD’12, diagnostic and case outreach coordinator for WVDL and clinical assistant professor at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

To date, there is no evidence showing that CWD can be or has been transmitted from animals to humans. Poulsen explains. “It would be a mistake to ignore it.”
Study Reveals Interplay of an African Bat, a Parasite, and a Virus

If there is anything scientists are certain of when it comes to bats and their supposed role in causing human disease, it is that they still have a lot to learn.

Aside from well-established things like rabies virus, SARS coronavirus, and Marburg virus, bats appear to carry a plethora of other germs with unclear, if any, effects on human health.

And even some commonly believed bat paradigms may be incorrect. For example, some speculate that bats play a role in the transmission of Ebola simply because Ebola and Marburg are related pathogens. But scientific evidence to support such speculation is scant, at best.

A lack of evidence that bats are key reservoirs of human disease has not prevented their vilification or efforts to exterminate bat colonies where threats are presumed to lurk.

“The fact is that they provide important ecosystem services — insect control, pollination, and seed dispersal, to name a few — and we want them around,” says Tony Goldberg, a professor of pathobiological sciences at the UW SVM. “But bats are also increasingly acknowledged as hosts of medically significant viruses. I have mixed feelings about that.”

To better understand the dynamics of bats and potential threats to human health, Goldberg and his colleagues explored the relationship of an African forest bat, a novel virus, and a parasite. Their work, published in July in *Nature Scientific Reports*, identifies all three players as potentially new species, at least at the molecular level as determined by their genetic sequences.

Many viral pathogens often have more than one or two hosts or intermediate hosts needed to complete their life cycles. The role of bat parasites in maintaining chains of viral infection is little studied, and the new Wisconsin research serves up some intriguing insights into how viruses co-opt parasites to help do the dirty work of disease transmission.

The parasite in the current study is an eyeless, wingless fly, technically an ectoparasite. It depends on the bat to be both its eyes and wings. And it plays host to a virus, as the current study shows. For the virus, the fly plays the role of chauffeur. “From a virus’s perspective, an ectoparasite is like Uber. It’s a great way to get around — from animal to animal — at minimal expense and effort,” Goldberg explains.

The bat in the study belongs to the megabat suborder. It is a fruit bat and was trapped, tested, and released by Goldberg’s colleague and study co-author Robert Kityo of Uganda’s Makerere University in Kampala.

The bat fly, according to the new study, was infected with a newly discovered rhabdovirus dubbed Kanyawara virus, a distant relative of the rabies virus. But, Goldberg says, “we don’t know if this virus is transmitted beyond the ectoparasite. We couldn’t find it in the bat. Maybe it is an insect virus.”

The subtext of the research, according to Goldberg, is the ecology of disease. Scientists are beginning to understand that serious pathogens like Ebola and SARS don’t come out of nowhere. They are already lurking in the environment, and the leap from an animal to a human can be just a matter of time and an organism’s ability to shift from one host to another.

Terry Devitt

New Faculty Focus

“The research we perform could lay the groundwork for new ways to prevent or treat HIV infections,” says Matt Reynolds, assistant professor of immunology in the SVM Department of Pathobiological Sciences. Read more about his research into new methods to design HIV vaccines, cure HIV infection, and, potentially, develop immunotherapy for cancer: go.wisc.edu/reynolds
The cows at Koepke Farms, a few miles north of Oconomowoc in southeastern Wisconsin, are a mellow bunch. They’ve obviously been treated well by John Koepke, a fifth-generation dairy farmer, and his employees. And yet Nigel Cook, a professor of food animal production medicine at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, sees these Holsteins as “Olympic athletes,” with the speed-demon metabolism needed for phenomenal milk production.

Koepke’s 350 Holsteins earned him and his relative-partners David, Jim, Kim, and Alan the “Dairy Farm of the Year” award at World Dairy Expo in 2011.

Nonetheless, Koepke realizes that his buildings are old and crowded. Before he adds another hundred cows or more, he is consulting with Cook, an expert in scientific treatment of dairy cows, which, Cook says, is sensible, humane, and profitable all at once.

Cook, who became fascinated with cows and farms while growing up in England, insists that barns must be tailored to cows, and that ignoring basic principles and data can lead to costly mistakes. Just the day before this visit, a troubleshooting mission to a costly new dairy had proven his point. “We would rather talk about the pros and cons of the options in advance, rather than come in when it’s too late and suggest expensive, stopgap solutions to avoidable problems.”

The fundamentals of cow welfare rest in their evolutionary status as herd animals. Cows are comfortable doing the same thing at once, so feed bunks should be large enough to allow a group to chow down in unison. Changes in the group should be minimized, especially during the vulnerable weeks before cows

**Building Better**

**SVM program aims to update housing so dairy cows can be happy**
A Helping Hand

Dairy producers and their consultants and University Extension personnel interested in accessing the online resources available through the Dairyland Initiative website can register for a free, two-year subscription, made possible by the generous financial support from sponsors Dean Foods Foundation, Saputo Inc., Zinpro Corporation, and Zoetis.

Online training modules cover welfare-friendly dairy cattle housing, lameness prevention, and, coming soon, calf management. Other web-based tools include facility virtual tours, budget calculators, and an online forum.

The Dairyland Initiative also hosts a rotating series of interactive workshops throughout the year, covering topics such as ventilation design, facility planning, and the remodeling and building of new dairy cattle barns.

For more information about the modules and workshops, visit thedairylandinitiative.vetmed.wisc.edu.

By David Tenenbaum

Photo above: The Dairyland Initiative provides dairy producers the information they need – through consultations and assessments, workshops, and web-based resources – to build better housing, yielding healthier cows, improved animal welfare, and more efficient and productive dairies.

Photo below: Clinical Professor Emeritus Kenneth Nordlund, right, helped develop the scientific principles behind Dairyland Initiative-recommended changes.

give birth, to avoid the stress needed to establish a new pecking order.

So is the goal a happy cow? Yes, Cook says. Happy cows have what they need, and avoid situations that are practically guaranteed to stress them out.

As Cook and Koepke confer at the farm, Koepke quickly profiles his operation: where the cows live at different stages of life, how manure is managed, where his fields are located, what he hopes for the new barn, and where it can be placed.

Since 2010, Cook has directed the School of Veterinary Medicine’s Dairyland Initiative, which focuses on providing dairy producers the information they need to build better housing using sound scientific principles that Cook and his vet school colleague Kenneth Nordlund developed. “Buildings are one of the four rate-limiting factors for successful dairying, alongside genetics, nutrition and management,” Cook says. A barn should allow the cows a comfortable, clean, and spacious place to rest. And it must prevent overheating in summer.

Soon, Koepke and Cook home in on the relative merits of a north-south versus east-west orientation for...
the new barn. North-south fits the location better, while east-west would extend the thrice-daily round trips to the milking parlor. But the west side of a north-south barn gets hot in the afternoon sun.

The emphasis on ventilation reflects a warming climate and the steady improvement of production. Koepke’s cows are already averaging almost 100 pounds of milk per day – well above the statewide average of 75 pounds. High-producing cows, however, generate more heat. “A lot of barns built even 20 years ago are being challenged by these Olympic-athlete cows,” says Cook. “If you put it in human terms, they are a professional cyclist doing the Tour de France every day.”

“For many years, everybody talked about the clean, dry, comfortable cow,” Cook says. Only in the past decade or so have changes in bedding, barn design, and management made that worthy goal attainable. A clean, dry, and comfortable cow finds plenty of time to rest, chew her cud, and make Wisconsin’s number one agricultural product.

Since 2011, the initiative has performed 46 facility design consultations, 29 more limited facility risk assessments, and 276 ventilation design assessments. It has also trained more than 1,000 attendees in 31 workshops in North America, Europe and Japan, and created a network of certified consultants. The website tracks over 3,500 registered users worldwide. Cook estimates that 65 percent of new cow barns nationwide are built with these principles.

The advice brings results, says Matthew Berge, owner of the 950-cow Badger Pride Dairy in Valders, near Manitowoc in eastern Wisconsin. In 2009, the farm consulted on a “dry cow” barn to hold about 200 heifers and cows before they give birth. “The work Nigel has done on cow behavior helped frame our thinking,” Berge says. “We decided, ‘Let’s try to design a facility that will address some behavior issues that can cause problems.’ Every time you change the membership in the pen, the cows have to establish a new hierarchy. We went into the design looking to avoid that type of interaction so they don’t have that stress on top of the stress of birthing.”

The approach, says Berge, comes down to letting cows be cows. “Rather than build something and make the cows conform to it, why not build a facility to match the cows? We are very happy with how it has turned out.”

Plans at the Koepke farm are at an early stage, but Koepke says Cook’s advice so far has been helpful. “Like a lot of UW-Madison folks, he offers a lot of good input, insight. UW agricultural extension services “have always been impartial.”

Cook asks how this expansion will set the stage for the next expansion. Koepke demurs, saying he’s leaning toward an incremental approach. “If I can make a decent living, I am content with that. I don’t need growth for its own sake.”

Nonetheless, Koepke is also thinking long-term. His three sons, he mentions, have already expressed interest in becoming the sixth generation of Koepke dairy farmers in the area.

Internet Famous

In July, the Associated Press produced a video story spotlighting the Dairyland Initiative and Mystic Valley Dairy, whose owner and operator Mitch Breunig has been working with Nigel Cook and others from the SVM to ease cow stress and improve comfort at his 400-cow farm in southcentral Wisconsin.

“If you take away their stress, they actually produce more milk,” says Breunig, who has seen increased milk production, fewer cow injuries, and longer lifespans at his farm since implementing Dairyland Initiative-recommended changes, such as expanding stall size, incorporating a deep, soft bedding of sand to encourage rest, and improving ventilation and cooling.

The Huffington Post published a variation of the story to Facebook that has so far received more than 1.4 million views and been shared nearly 2,000 times. To watch: go.wisc.edu/APdairyland

Nigel Cook, left, director of the Dairyland Initiative, consults with Oconomowoc dairy farmer John Koepke about the design of a new building for cows that are close to giving birth. Estimates suggest that 65 percent of new cow barns nationwide are built with Dairyland Initiative principles.
A Wildlife Win-Win

From a badger to bald eagle, new partnership yields advanced veterinary care for the animals of a Wisconsin educational center – and broader learning opportunities for SVM clinical trainees.

As the temperature hovers around 20 degrees on a winter morning outside Poynette, Wisconsin, Christoph Mans and Grayson Doss work alongside staff of the MacKenzie Center to transport a coyote for a medical exam. Walking briskly over the snow-covered ground, they carry the sedated coyote, resting in a dog crate, to a makeshift workspace in a small outbuilding.

After placing the animal on a large table that today will serve as an examination area, they conduct a physical exam, take a close look at the coyote’s teeth, trim his nails, collect blood samples, and administer vaccines.

Examinations of a red fox and red-tailed hawk are also on the day’s agenda for Mans and Doss, clinical faculty of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Department of Surgical Sciences and clinicians in the UW Veterinary Care (UWVC) Special Species Service. They are at the facility for a monthly visit, part of a recently established partnership between the SVM and the MacKenzie Center, an educational center about 30 minutes north of Madison that is owned and operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Since October 2016, the SVM and UWVC have been providing veterinary medical care for the wildlife in the center’s animal exhibits — a range of native mammals and birds of prey, including gray wolves, lynx, a badger, bald eagle, turkey vulture, barred owl, and great horned owl, that inhabit Wisconsin’s ecological community.

“The way I look at it, we’re arguably the best possible tool to teach kids to respect and have awe for the animals that are in their backyard,” says Kyle Coker, wildlife technician team lead at the MacKenzie Center.

Mans appreciates that the facility helps visitors build an awareness of species, such as the badger and wolf, that they may not otherwise witness in real life.

“It’s about teaching people of Wisconsin what’s actually out there,” he says. “If you don’t even know what’s in your direct surroundings, why would you care about protecting it?”

All of the animals exhibited for educational purposes were previously injured, orphaned, or raised in captivity, so cannot be released. Explaining to visitors why it’s important to keep wildlife wild, why these
animals are at the MacKenzie Center, and why wild animals don’t make good pets provides another learning opportunity, notes Coker.

“Any time we have the opportunity to lead tours and work directly with the public, I think the best thing that comes from it is being able to quell myths or answer questions,” he adds.

‘A Great Opportunity for Everybody’

In 2016, 50,000 visitors explored the center’s wildlife area, museum, environmental education offerings, and more. Nearly 14,000 of those patrons were K-12 students from all over the state.

The shared educational mission of the MacKenzie Center and the SVM makes their collaboration a natural fit. The partnership helps the MacKenzie Center to provide, within a limited budget, an advanced level of veterinary care for the animals, focused on long-term preventive health management. And it allows the SVM to broaden learning opportunities for clinical trainees and students through exposure to novel species and procedures.

“It’s mutually beneficial,” says Coker. “For us, we’re able to receive an exemplary level of veterinary care. And from talking to Dr. Mans, I know it’s especially advantageous for his zoological medicine residents to get more variety in what they’re able to care for.”

In the past, veterinary medical care at the MacKenzie Center had been limited to brief visual exams of animals, annual vaccines, and emergency response as needed. Through this partnership, Mans has now instituted preventive health care plans for each of the center’s animals. This includes creating a medical records system to track the animals, reviewing their diets and vaccination and anti-parasitic protocols, and, for the first time ever, conducting thorough health checks while the animals are under anesthesia.

“In the past, we would have just restrained the animals and done a quick physical exam. Now we’re safely anesthetizing them and conducting a thorough medical exam on each animal, at least once per year,” says Coker. “It’s a night and day difference — we’re able to get ahead of things versus just reacting, and potentially treat things before they become an issue. Working with Dr. Mans and the Special Species team has been very beneficial to the center.”

Outdoor Education

Mans and UWVC zoological medicine residents (veterinarians who are training to become specialists) visit the MacKenzie Center about once a month to evaluate animals, barring constraints due to weather and the outdoor setting. For example, examinations were avoided during sweltering summer days because restraining animals could put them at risk of overheating.

In between visits, Mans also conducts frequent phone and email consultations, offering advice on everything from nutritional needs to ways to reduce and repel biting flies.

“We’ve picked Dr. Mans’ brain every opportunity we can and received advice regarding just about every facet of care here over the last year,” says Coker.

Each visit to the center begins with a blank slate, Mans explains, requiring a multitude of supplies to be packed and loaded into a minivan. “We work in an empty room there, so we need to bring everything — every syringe and needle, the right vaccines and blood tubes, dental probes for dental exams,” he says. “And then we have a box of anesthesia drugs, another box that has fluids and scales, and we bring medical records to see what happened last time.”

“It’s almost like doing field work. We have a building and electricity, but that’s about it,” he adds. “It’s a challenge; I enjoy that. And I think it helps my residents to learn that it’s not always shiny rooms that you walk into and everything is ready for you.”

Aside from the center’s wolves and lynx (additional planning is underway for these species due to the increased difficulty in handling them), every other animal and bird has now received a thorough physical exam, blood testing, and preventive health care.
Specialized Service

In several instances, these exams have revealed broader health issues requiring follow-up — opportunities for additional UW Veterinary Care teams, ranging from dentistry to soft tissue surgery, to lend their expertise. For example, when it was discovered that several teeth would need to be extracted from a coyote and river otter, Christopher Snyder, clinical associate professor of dentistry and oral surgery, and Molly Allen, an anesthesiology resident, joined Mans on one of his visits to the center to conduct these procedures.

“That’s the exciting thing about this — we’re trying to make a lasting impact for all the animals by guiding the center to better nutrition, care, and enclosures, but we’re also then making an impact on individual animals,” says Mans.

The school also responds to more urgent needs, either at the MacKenzie Center in coordination with a local ambulatory veterinarian who has a longstanding relationship with the facility, or at UW Veterinary Care for cases requiring more complex equipment or services.

One of the center’s foxes, ailed by lameness due to a ruptured cruciate ligament in his knee, received TPLO (tibial plateau leveling osteotomy) surgery performed by Susan Schaefer MS’88, DVM’92, clinical associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, to help stabilize the knee. “He’s doing great – bouncing around the yard with the other fox,” says Coker.

The center’s second fox also visited the veterinary medical teaching hospital in September after sustaining an injury to his lower jaw, and is recovering well after the wound was repaired by Ellen Scherer, a resident in dentistry and oral surgery.

Teachable Moments

Zoological medicine resident Lily Parkinson says every experience with MacKenzie Center animals has been memorable, but she especially enjoyed being part of the river otter’s care.

“I got to work with her at the center, where we discovered that ‘he’ was a she and we also discovered that she had extensive dental disease. We were then able to get our dentistry service to help her,” says Parkinson. “Next, when she wasn’t feeling well, we discovered a splenic tumor and were able to remove it. Even though the cancer didn’t have the best prognosis, we undoubtedly helped her live longer and feel better in her last days by removing her spleen.”

The chance to work in partnership with the MacKenzie Center has helped to diversify Parkinson’s residency experience, she says. “We also work at a large zoo and a wildlife rehabilitation center in our residency, but MacKenzie is specifically for teaching the public. This gives us a different set of unique circumstances to consider and a different type of patient population.”

Pursuing these types of partnerships has been made possible through the school’s recent hiring of new Special Species faculty and residents, says Mans, and he is grateful for the support that has allowed for this growth.

His long-term goal is to integrate student training into visits to the MacKenzie Center and other sites, and to establish an ambulatory service that would visit zoological and wildlife facilities in Wisconsin to offer the specialized veterinary services only available through the SVM and its three board-certified specialists in zoological medicine.

“There are places out there right now that don’t get the veterinary and preventive health care they need. That’s why we are growing — in order to make our services more available,” says Mans. “In the future, with more support, we hopefully will have the opportunity to cover more places and bring students. It’s about making our expertise and services available to the people of Wisconsin, improving the lives of the wild animals in captivity, and giving trainees opportunities to learn.”

Members of the public are invited to visit the MacKenzie Center’s wildlife exhibit, events, and more. For information and hours: dnr.wi.gov/education/mackenzie
Sharon Palmer attributes many things to the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM): the care of her beloved pets, the opportunity to be part of the teaching of tomorrow’s veterinarians, and, on one fateful Halloween evening in downtown Madison, meeting the man who would become her husband.

You see, it was the SVM that drew Sharon to attend UW–Madison. As a high school student graduating in 1984, she learned of UW’s new School of Veterinary Medicine, founded in 1983, and hoped to be among the school’s first few classes of alumni.

“I wanted to be a veterinarian. I can’t ever remember a time when animals weren’t important to me,” says Sharon, who enjoyed the company of everything from rabbits and horses to chickens and geese to pigs and sheep at her family home.

Though veterinary medical school didn’t pan out (“because math and science are by no means my forte,” she quips), Sharon earned a bachelor’s degree in human ecology. And other stars aligned at UW. In October of her sophomore year, as she departed her dorm for State Street’s storied Halloween festivities, Sharon, dressed as a genie, crossed paths with TJ Palmer, costumed as a doctor.

Five years later, Sharon (maiden name Nienhaus) and TJ would be married. Recently, they celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary. For more than half of that span, the SVM has been close to their heart.

Two Decades of Dedication
Giving monthly for nearly 20 years, UWVC clients support breakthroughs in cancer treatment
A Family Affair

In the early years of Sharon and TJ’s marriage, they welcomed into their home three rescue dogs — Bo, Onyx, and Pike — and a cat, Chester. All then patients of UW Veterinary Care’s Primary Care Service, the crew would often visit together.

“I’d schedule the appointment for three dogs and a cat and we’d come in with our whole clan,” says Sharon. “Chester was more doglike than catlike some days, so he was just like one of the pack.”

The Palmers grew fond of Sandi Sawchuk, clinical instructor and primary care veterinarian at UW Veterinary Care, who they still see today. “Dr. Sawchuk would come in and usually we’d have two students, and we would be there for a good long time,” Sharon recalls.

As the years went on, the Palmers were inspired to give back, and in 1998 they made their first gift by way of a $5 donation. They have been consistent givers ever since, supporting the school and UW Veterinary Care for nearly 20 years. Each month, Sharon sits down at her desk to pen a handwritten check to the SVM.

“The vet school has always meant something to me. Giving to the SVM was just a good fit and then over time it became a habit,” Sharon says.

“I have it in my planner to send a donation every month because it’s easier to spread it out. It’s small amounts, but you know if everybody gave a penny, you’d have a ton of money. And it’s increased over the years as we’ve been able to increase what we have.”

Invested in Animal and Human Medicine

While the monthly gifts have become routine for the Palmers, the impact of their donations is anything but. Over the years, they have supported cutting-edge cancer research and treatment, including the hospital’s procurement of a TomoTherapy unit to precisely deliver radiation therapy to cat and dog tumors. (UW Veterinary Care is the first of only two veterinary medical hospitals in the world to offer TomoTherapy as a treatment option for pets, and the hospital’s successful clinical trials led to widespread use of TomoTherapy in human medicine.)

Most recently, the Palmers doubled their monthly contribution to include the Animals Need Heroes Too building expansion campaign. And they have included the SVM in their estate plans, as well.

“Cancer in and of itself affects so many people and animals across the globe, and I think the more money that can go into understanding, treating, and researching it is only better for everybody,” says Sharon. “I don’t necessarily know if we can cure it, but I think we can manage it and maybe fight it through other methodologies by understanding it sooner.”

Ruthanne Chun DVM’91, the SVM’s associate dean for clinical affairs and hospital director, says donors like Sharon and TJ are a source of inspiration. “Their constant and faithful support of the hospital and more recent specific gifts toward TomoTherapy and the Animal Cancer Treatment and Research fund exemplify that they are joining us ‘for the long haul,’” says Chun. “This is the mindset we take not only in caring for our patients, but also what we have to keep in mind as we investigate new and better ways to diagnose and treat cancer.”

After relocating for a time to Missouri and Oklahoma, the Palmers have now returned to Wisconsin and are back as clients of UW Veterinary Care, this time with a new group of dogs, each representing one of the locations where the couple lived while TJ, previously a registered nurse, pursued training to become a physician.

Atlas, a 12-year-old rat terrier, was adopted in Kirksville, Missouri, while TJ was in medical school; Titan, an 80-pound Great Dane lab mix, hails from Tulsa, where TJ completed his medical residency; and Athena, a youthful “mix of a mix,” one day showed up in the Palmers’ yard in Joplin, the location of TJ’s first job as an internal medicine physician.

“For us to be able to use the vet school for our primary care and to give the students the experience they need is very, very important to us,” says Sharon.

Photo page 14: For nearly 20 years, TJ and Sharon Palmer, pictured from left to right with their dogs and UW Veterinary Care patients Titan, Atlas, and Athena, have supported the School of Veterinary Medicine in its efforts to investigate new and better ways to diagnose and treat cancer and more.

How to Give

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine and UW Veterinary Care owe much of their success to the friends of the school who have made gifts to support advancements in animal and human health. With your help, we can continue to lead the future of veterinary medicine.

For more information regarding giving opportunities, please visit vetmed.wisc.edu/giving or contact Pat Bowdish at 608-294-7661 or pat.bowdish@supportuw.org or Heidi Kramer at 608-327-9136 or heidi.kramer@supportuw.org.
Comparatively Speaking

New Insights into Transmission and Effects of Zika Infections

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine’s investigations on the front lines of fighting Zika virus and other infectious diseases continue to yield important discoveries, including these three recent findings from Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate program trainees and alumni.

Zika Unlikely to be Passed by Kissing, Casual Contact

Saliva is no way to pass a Zika virus infection.

According to researchers at UW–Madison who conducted studies with monkeys, casual contact like kissing or sharing a fork or spoon is not enough for the virus to move between hosts. Their findings were published in August in the journal Nature Communications.

Scientists believe mosquito bites are the source of most Zika virus infections in people. After infection, the virus is present in blood and saliva for up to two weeks, but it remains in bodily fluids like breast milk for weeks and semen for months. The virus can also be spread by sexual intercourse, but much about Zika remains unknown — including, until recently, whether the saliva of an infected person posed a danger.

“Our study helps to put into context some of the transmission risk,” says Tom Friedrich, a virology professor at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). SVM research scientist Matthew Aliota PhD’10 also contributed to the findings.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health in 2016 amid uncertainty about other potential ways Zika could spread between people.

In the study, rhesus macaque monkeys at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center were infected with the strain of Zika virus that has been circulating in North and South America in recent years, and saliva was collected from the infected monkeys.

The researchers swabbed the tonsils of five uninfected monkeys with the saliva, and swabbed the tonsils of three monkeys with a concentrated high dose of Zika virus in solution.

None of the saliva-swabbed monkeys developed an infection — nor did a pair of monkeys who had infected saliva swabbed in their nostrils or eyelids. However, all three monkeys who had high-dose virus applied directly to their tonsils in the absence of saliva got infected.

Chris Barnard

Virus Could Be Factor in More Pregnancies

Zika virus infection passes efficiently from a pregnant monkey to its fetus, spreading inflammatory damage throughout the tissues that support the fetus and its developing nervous system — suggesting the virus poses a wider threat in human pregnancies than generally appreciated, UW–Madison scientists have found.

The researchers, along with collaborators at Duke University and the University of California, Davis, published their study in May in the journal PLOS Pathogens.

Their work, which was funded by the National Institutes of Health, followed the pregnancies from infection in the first or third trimester, regularly assessing maternal infection and fetal development and examining the extent of infection in the fetus when the pregnancies reached term.

The UW researchers infected four pregnant rhesus macaque monkeys at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center with a Zika virus dose similar to what would be transferred by a mosquito bite, and found evidence that the virus was present in each monkey’s fetus.

“That is a very high level — 100 percent exposure — of the virus to the fetus along with inflammation and tissue injury in an animal model that mirrors the infection in human pregnancies quite closely,” says Ted Golos, a reproductive physiologist and professor of comparative biosciences at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

“It’s sobering. If microcephaly is the tip of the iceberg for babies infected in pregnancy, the rest of the iceberg may be bigger than we’ve imagined.”

Three of the fetuses involved had small heads, but not quite so small relative to normal that they would meet the human standard for diagnosing microcephaly — the most striking and widely discussed result of Zika infection.

A female Aedes albopictus mosquito, which can spread the Zika virus, obtains a blood meal from a human host. This summer, a new vector disease center co–led by SVM Associate Professor Lyric Bartholomay PhD’04 identified the mosquito for the first time in Wisconsin.

JAMIE WONG 

JAMIE WONG
since Brazilian doctors raised alarm in 2015 of many babies with arrested brain development.

The new study did not find abnormal brain development, but the researchers did discover unusual inflammation in the fetal eyes.

The similarities between the monkey pregnancies and reported complications in Zika-affected human pregnancies further establish Zika infection in monkeys as a way to study the progression of the infection and associated health problems in people.

“There are so many things about Zika infection we can’t study as well in pregnant humans — or fast enough to make a difference for a lot of people who may be infected,” says Dawn Dudley, a UW–Madison pathology research scientist and one of the lead authors of the research.

An animal model opens the door to studying how Zika infection interacts with other infections, how the effects of early pregnancy infection might be different from later infection, and, according to Dudley, whether quick treatment with some antiviral therapies could manage the damage of what has come to be known as congenital Zika syndrome.

“The precise pathway that the virus takes from mom’s bloodstream to the fetal bloodstream, across that interface, cannot be studied except in an animal model,” says Golos. “The results we’re seeing in monkey pregnancies make us think that, as they grow, more human babies might develop Zika-related disease pathology than is currently appreciated.”

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Zika-Transmitting Mosquito Found in Wisconsin

This summer the new Upper Midwest Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases, housed at UW–Madison and co-led by UW School of Veterinary Medicine medical entomologist Lyric Bartholomay PhD’04, identified the Asian tiger mosquito, which can spread the Zika virus, for the first time in Wisconsin.

The center identified three individuals of the mosquito, Aedes albopictus, in July from a trap set in Dane County. A $10 million grant by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to a group of Midwestern universities earlier this year established the center and increased surveillance efforts.

The identification of Aedes albopictus does not pose an immediate threat to human health, as multiple factors reduce the likelihood of local transmission of Zika in Wisconsin, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Aedes albopictus had previously been identified sporadically in Minnesota and Northern Illinois. Southern Illinois hosts one of the northernmost established populations. It is currently thought that cold Wisconsin winters help prevent this species from establishing itself in the state. The individuals identified this summer might have arrived from interstate travel, possibly hitchhiking on motor vehicles.

“With the number of specimens we’ve found, it’s important to be alerted, but not cause for alarm,” says Bartholomay. “So far in the Midwest, Aedes albopictus has not been associated with transmission of Zika virus.”

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From the CBMS Director

A Successful 2017

It is my pleasure to report that 2017 has been a remarkable year on many fronts for the Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBMS) graduate program.

One MS student and eight PhD students successfully finished their CBMS graduate studies in the 2016-17 academic year and are now pursuing scientific careers in their chosen avenues, including academia, government, and industry. We wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

As in previous years, CBMS attracted a very strong applicant pool in 2017 and we have 21 excellent students in this year’s incoming class. Notably, about half of the new recruits are foreign students, which is a testament to the program’s international reputation. The number of students in the program has grown considerably; CBMS now has a total of 62 students, of which 49 are pursuing doctoral degrees, 13 are pursuing master’s degrees, and 39 percent are international students.

Also, CBMS has again received competitive Biological Sciences Fellowship Funds from the UW–Madison Graduate School, which will sustain our efforts to recruit graduate students of the highest quality.

Notably, two CBMS graduate students were recently successful in garnering nationally competitive fellowships. Maria Arendt was the recipient of the Poultry Research Fellowship from Merck Animal Health and Jennifer Reinhart received the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowship.

In summary, we had a successful 2017 and we expect to build on our achievements to further enhance graduate student training and experience in the program.

Chris Barnard

Director, Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBMS) Graduate Program
A Course of Her Own Making

Jane Renee (JR) Lund’s MS’07, DVM’07 latest adventure, a residency in diagnostic imaging, is many years in the making. In the ten years since graduating with her DVM/MS, Lund has charted her career course like an agile sailor, picking points on the horizon and fluidly adjusting to the conditions.

As a teacher and student of life, Lund has advice for current DVM students: “Keep your eyes open and just say ‘yes’ when opportunities present themselves. There are a million things you can do — important things that need to be done. Yet know that once you recognize this, you’ll never have time enough to do all that you are capable of.”

Lund’s first big yes was joining the Army Reserves in 2010. It was quite a departure from her previous work as an associate equine veterinarian in Maine.

As a young woman, she grew up riding performance horses and training in dressage. She always knew she wanted to work with horses and was doing just that when she tacked right instead of left and volunteered, as an equine ambulatory veterinarian, for a six-month deployment with the Kentucky National Guard in Afghanistan. As a subject matter expert and animal husbandry specialist for the Agribusiness Development Team, she conducted train-the-trainer sessions in health, disease, and nutrition with Afghan paraveterinarians, teaching them the basics of veterinary and wound care for goats, sheep, and cattle.

Lund witnessed firsthand how these programs improved herd health, thereby increasing livelihoods and creating greater economic stability within villages across the Kandahar Province. She fondly remembers one elderly gentleman who brought his donkey to her saying, “He is my Cadillac limousine, make him well.”

One week after returning from Afghanistan, Lund said yes again and volunteered to plan the veterinary mission in Cambodia and Indonesia for the Navy Pacific Partnership — an annual deployment of forces from the Pacific Fleet of the U.S. Navy, in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations and regional governments, to provide humanitarian, medical, and engineering assistance. Over the next
eight months, while teaching full-time for a veterinary technology program, she planned this mission from home and at meetings in Hawaii and San Diego. Lund’s duties in the Pacific led her to remote areas, setting up foot and mouth vaccination and prevention programs, spay and neuter clinics, and coordinating with local officials and organizations to create sustainable regional programs.

It was no coincidence that her decision to do a residency in diagnostic imaging at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine was influenced by a military experience. After serving with the Kentucky National Guard in Afghanistan, she opted to stay on with the Active Army Unit. A pivotal meeting with Major Patrick Grimm, the only board-certified veterinary radiologist in Afghanistan and one of the soldiers responsible for keeping the K9s performing at their peak, caused Lund to say yes again. “The military takes great care of their dogs. They keep soldiers safe, are good for morale, and can go where soldiers can’t,” she says.

“The veterinarian unit was housed adjacent to the military hospital at the Kandahar Air Force Base and we used their CT machine for our dogs,” Lund continues. This experience showed her how veterinary radiologists function within the military and also inspired her to work as a small animal emergency veterinarian, which she did prior to starting her residency at UW.

Another field experience, during her time in Cambodia, nudged Lund further toward diagnostic imaging, when she was asked by the locals to provide ultrasound training. “They were eager to learn and gain experience with newly available technologies,” she notes. “Medical equipment is frequently donated to areas in need, but there are limited training opportunities.”

Lund’s original impetus to join the Army Reserves stemmed from her desire to be of service and, by all counts, these overseas missions accomplished just that. Back in Madison at UW Veterinary Care, Lund is putting to use her years of experience with horses, working dogs, emergency medicine, and teaching. She also continues her military service with the Army Reserve 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion in Green Bay.

“The world is such a giving place, from my employers who supported me during deployment to the people in the field, to the university and school. I’ve noticed that if I just keep adjusting my course, adding skills as I go along, I end up in a place better than I could have imagined — with even more to give back,” she says.

Denise Garlow

In Memoriam

Philip R. Woods DVM’87 died suddenly on June 5, 2017. After living and working in a variety of places, including Australia, he moved to North Carolina in 2003 and established a large animal veterinary practice in Vass. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, their children, and by a sister and their father.

A Message to DVM Alumni

Scholarship Success

What about scholarships and the cost of education? This is a question I receive from alumni who are wondering how scholarships fit in our priorities during our building expansion campaign. I am pleased to share that in the last five years, our scholarship support for DVM students has nearly doubled (increasing 96 percent). In 2016-17, 94 percent of scholarship applicants received aid. Our scholarship endowment has grown from $8.9 million to $16.8 million in five years. And through their estate plans, generous donors have committed more than $10 million in future gifts to SVM scholarships. Scholarships will always be a fundraising priority.

According to the most recent Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) cost comparison tool, our total educational costs are fifth lowest for resident students and second lowest for non-resident students of the 24 U.S.-based schools. This, combined with scholarship support, is one reason why our affordability, as reported by a 2017 joint report from the American Veterinary Medical Association and AAVMC, is second lowest among U.S. schools. Our debt-to-income ratio for new graduates is 1.4-to-one, well below the national average of two-to-one. We will continue to work to bring this ratio lower by not only continuing to increase our scholarship support, but also through ongoing financial literacy and salary negotiation training.

In addition to our scholarship success, in the last five years we’ve also added the Renk Learning Center, the selectives weeks, and online learning modules. We’ve increased counseling and mental health and well-being resources. We’ve been able to make these investments in our students while at the same time seeing our average debt at graduation decline to $112,605 while the national debt load has risen to $181,740.

Being a top five school doesn’t have to mean top five in cost to our students. With the support from alumni and other friends, we are able to provide an exceptional education without an exceptional price tag.

Kristi V. Thorson
Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration
Donor Honor Roll

We’re Grateful for Donations Made Between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017

In this issue of On Call, we would like to thank our individual and corporate donors by listing those who made gifts or pledges of $100 or more between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017. Cumulative donors, alumni of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and the Veterinary Sciences and Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate programs, and veterinary medical clinics that participated in the Companion Animal Fund are listed separately.

We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed. Your gifts make an impact on the lives of animals and humans. Whether you have chosen to direct your gift towards studies to improve animal health, scholarships for students, facility upgrades, or an unrestricted fund that helps us meet emerging needs, your gifts go a long way. Your generosity makes the difference and allows us to maintain the school’s reputation for excellence.

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Virginia P. Kunch DVM'97
Kunning Institute of Zoology
L & S Sales & Service Inc.
Michele M. La Fond MS'85, DVM'99
Laboratoire M2 Inc.
Lake Country Veterinary Care
Jean H. LaMack
Layton Animal Hospital
Shayna N. Leib
A. Brian Little
Little Animal Hospital
Clara Locher
Madison Cat Clinic Inc.
Susan K. Magee
Suzanne R. Magruder DVM'96
Mary A. Mahoney
Roger W. and Rocille McConnell
William E. McGuirk
Mark R. and Jane Melby
Susan M. Melby
Mirabella Technologies LLC
Mark Bett Morris Family Foundation
Mark L. Morris MS'62, PHD'63
John S. and Kristina L. Murphy
Ann Nakamura
Clara Feshour Nelson Foundation
Pat A. Nelson
Neumeyer Animal Hospital
Norden Labs Incorporated
Northeastern Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
Northside Veterinary Clinic
Odssey Veterinary Care
Susan R. O'Konski
Marilynn A. Olsen
Ophthalmalmology Co
Organ Recovery Systems
Ottawa Hospital
Pahle Small Animal Clinic
Mary S. Pfister
Pharmacia Corporation
Pharmase Inc.
Richard G. Placey and Carol E. Swanston
The PMD Foundation
Prairie Animal Hospital-Beloit
Susan W. Prasse
Professional Dairy Producers Foundation
Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin
Marcia A. Pulich
Fred E. and Marilyn G. Putz
Ralston Purina Company
Jan and Judith O. Rapacz
Kathy M. Reilly DVM'90
Rhone Merieux Inc.
Thomas J. and Jane A. Richter
James W. and Donna J. Rieser
RocHe Vitamins Inc-New Jersey
Rock Valley Veterinary Medical Association
Thomas H. Roddis
Volga A. Rojas
Rural Security Life Insurance
Sanofi Pasteur S A
Marcus Schaefer and Lakshmi Subramanian
Irene Schapiro
Randy Schueller
Ronald D. and Carolyn D. Schultz
Harlan and Anna A. Seaver
Timothy J. and Nancy S. Sheehan
Simmons Education Fund
David H. Simon
Thomas L. and Anne M. Skalmoski
Michele Levor Sloan
Jay L. and Patricia H. Smith
Nancy I. Smith
Society for Research on Umanji Taste
Southwest Wisconsin Veterinary Association
Gary A. Spiller
Standard Diagnostics Inc.
Standard Process Inc.
Stanley F. Staples
Steven A. Stwertka and Alexis Norelle
Linda J. Sullivan DVM'87
Nick G. Talton and Julie J. Flessas
Catherine A. Tanc
Dean E. and Shirley B. Taylor
Thomas L. and Ann Taylor
Donna E. Telegman
Steven J. Thompson
John E. Toepfer
Town and Country Veterinary Clinic
Kirk M. and Lynn L. Tucker
David R. and Gail F. Turner
Twin Disc Inc.
TwoCros Zoo East Midland Zoological Society
James I. and Mary P. Uhlein
James P. and Christine M. Uhlein
Umami Manufacturing Association of Japan
Unither Virology LLC
UW Wildlife Exotic and Zoo Animal Medicine Club
Stephen M. and Paula L. Varner
Jacqueline A. Vaver
Vion Pharmaceuticals Inc.
W D Hoard & Sons Company
Walking Horse Charity Jubilee
Waunakee Veterinary Service SC
Wauwatosa Veterinary Clinic
Deborah L. Wells and Thomas G. DeBeck
West Central
West Salem Veterinary Clinic Inc.
Western Veterinary Conference
Whippet Health Foundation
Whitewater Veterinary Hospital SC
J. Steve and Gail Winter
Wisconsin Alumni Association Inc.
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Holstein Association
Wisconsin Horse & Pony Humane Society Inc.
Wittenberg Companion Animal Veterinary Clinic
Elmer A. and Marian A. Woelfter
Woodland Veterinary Clinic Ltd
William Wrigley
James A. and Jacqueline L. Wrycha
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals
John R. and Kelli J. Zellmer

* We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any error or omission and encourage you to contact the Office for Advancement at 608-263-6914 with any corrections.
Students at Work

SVM Student Aids Post-Harvey Mosquito Control in Houston

As the floodwaters receded in Houston following Hurricane Harvey, millions of mosquitoes emerged to blanket southeastern Texas, hampering recovery efforts and raising public health concerns about mosquito-borne diseases.

To assist ongoing mosquito-control efforts, two UW–Madison students, Melissa Farquhar DVMs’20 and Erin McGlynn, flew to Texas to help trap and identify mosquitoes. Part of the new Upper Midwestern Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases housed at UW–Madison, the students monitored for disease-spreading species of mosquitoes and determined the effectiveness of control efforts.

Farquhar, a veterinary medicine student, and McGlynn, a medical and master’s in public health student, were made temporary employees of Clarke, the mosquito control company contracted by Texas. Illinois-based Clarke, a partner in the vector-borne disease center, hired the students to assist their employees, who were overwhelmed by unprecedented numbers of mosquitoes. Joined by a third center trainee from Iowa, Brendan Dunphy, Farquhar and McGlynn gained hands-on experience in disaster response while contributing to public health efforts.

The public-private partnership took shape quickly. Just days after Clarke entomologist Rajeev Vaidyanathan reached out to center co-directors Susan Paskewitz and Lyric Bartholomay PhD’04, an associate professor of pathobiological sciences at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, Farquhar, McGlynn, and Dunphy were hired and on their way to Texas. The students were in Houston from September 13-21.

Operating out of a mobile lab, the trainees were given a crash course in Texas mosquitoes and spent long days identifying mosquitoes brought in by Clarke’s trapping crew.

The floodwater mosquitoes that Texas was dealing with lay eggs in the soil that hatch and develop into adults quickly after floods. The widespread flooding produced by Hurricane Harvey led to far more mosquitoes emerging than normal. While a mosquito trap might typically collect 10 to 20 mosquitoes in a night, workers were finding several thousand per trap in areas around Houston.

While these floodwater species of mosquitoes do not typically spread diseases such as West Nile virus and Zika virus, standing water left behind by receding floodwaters could harbor disease-spreading species. Texas had one case of Zika virus transmitted locally by mosquitoes earlier this year; most cases of Zika infection in the United States are in people who have traveled outside the country.

All of the mosquitoes that are collected must be identified and reported to regional health authorities, in part to determine the abundance of disease-spreading species. Farquhar, McGlynn, and Dunphy, already trained in mosquito identification, helped keep pace with the increased demand.

“It’s a really unique experience to see how companies like Clarke deal with disaster relief,” says Farquhar, who also spent the summer investigating vector-borne diseases in animals at the UW–Madison Arboretum.

Eric Hamilton

Photo left: Melissa Farquhar DVMs’20 (left) and Erin McGlynn stand outside the Clarke mobile entomology lab, where they worked to identify mosquito species to assist mosquito-control efforts following Hurricane Harvey.

Photo right: Farquhar identifies mosquitoes using a microscope near Houston, Texas.
Awards & Honors

Strong Showing at Annual Veterinary Dental Forum

Faculty and staff from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Dentistry and Oral Surgery program earned several honors at the 31st Annual Veterinary Dental Forum, held in September in Nashville, Tennessee.

Professor Emeritus William Gengler, the founding section head of Dentistry and Oral Surgery, was awarded the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) Presidential Medal of Stewardship, honoring his legacy, pioneering spirit, and exceptional sense of duty. As past president of AVDC, Gengler was instrumental in integrating dental education into DVM curriculum through his involvement with the Student American Veterinary Medical Association. Since his retirement, he has continued to show leadership and dedication – fostering involvement with future DVMs and AVDC Diplomates.

Christopher Snyder, clinical associate professor of dentistry and oral surgery, received the AVDC Peter Emily Service Award. Presented to an outstanding Diplomate of the College, the award recognizes leaders who further the field with their academic and research efforts, scientific presentations, publications, and community involvement.

Snyder and Cindy Bell, co-founder of the Center for Comparative Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at the SVM, and two others from outside the school, were also awarded a $10,000 Academy of Veterinary Dentistry Grant to support their research assessing pulp vitality in intrinsically stained teeth in dogs.

Stephanie Goldschmidt, who recently completed a dentistry and oral surgery residency at the SVM and is now an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, received the Robert B. Wiggs Outstanding Candidate Award, presented annually to an extraordinary veterinarian on the successful completion of an approved training program in veterinary dentistry; the Mark and Debra Smith Award, which honors the author of the most outstanding and influential manuscript published in the Journal of Veterinary Dentistry in the past year, for her manuscript co-authored with SVM Clinical Associate Professor Jason Soukup; and the Pat Frost Memorial Scholarship, awarded to outstanding candidates who have taken the AVDC certification exam.

Denise Garlow

SVM Alumna, Faculty Recognized at National Scholars Symposium

Two individuals with UW SVM connections were honored in the Young Investigator Award competition at the 2017 National Veterinary Scholars Symposium in Bethesda, Maryland. Meghan Vermillion DVM’13, who is currently pursuing a doctorate at Johns Hopkins University, received first place. And Xuan Pan, SVM assistant professor of medical sciences, received second place.

The awards, sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association and American Veterinary Medical Foundation, recognize graduate veterinarians pursuing advanced research training through doctoral or post-doctoral programs.

The annual meeting highlights the ways that veterinary scientists advance basic and applied biomedical and environmental research. Seventeen veterinary medicine students who participated in the SVM’s Summer Scholars Program also presented research posters at the symposium.
In the moments after handing Janet McGowan a parking pass to place in her car, UW Veterinary Care (UWVC) reception staff member Julie Cotton sensed that something was seriously wrong with McGowan’s cat, Molly, who waited in a carrier atop the hospital’s reception desk.

The cat was struggling to breathe so Cotton acted quickly, hurrying her to the hospital’s Critical Care unit. Cotton’s instincts were correct, and may have saved Molly’s life. “She was open-mouth breathing, which in cats we treat as an immediate emergency,” says small animal internal medicine resident Casandra Jacobs (pictured above left), who helped to treat two-year-old Molly.

When McGowan returned from the parking lot, Jacobs and Marcella Granfone, a resident in Emergency and Critical Care, had already begun delivering oxygen to Molly and were working to diagnose her situation. Just a few minutes later, it was discovered that a large polyp above the soft palette was restricting the cat’s upper airway and causing ulcerations in her mouth. A team was readied to remove the obstruction and anesthesia staff were standing by. 

Jacobs briefed McGowan on Molly’s condition and a brief surgical procedure was set in motion. “It just went really fast, like precision clockwork. I was really impressed,” recalls McGowan.

“It was phenomenal teamwork, from the front desk recognizing it to quick triage in the hospital,” adds Jacobs. “Everyone dropped what they were doing and came to help this cat. We were really worried about her.”

A pink, oval-shaped polyp was plucked from Molly’s nasopharynx region (in the upper part of the throat, behind the nasal passages). Benign or noncancerous masses of tissue, polyps are common in cats that experience upper airway inflammation, which Molly had a history of, but they typically grow to one to two centimeters. Molly’s polyp was more than three centimeters in length.

“We’d never seen one this big,” says Jacobs. “I was shocked.”

The size is even more significant considering Molly’s small stature. The runt of her litter (McGowan rescued Molly and three siblings from a corn granary as kittens), Molly weighs less than two kilograms, or about three and a half pounds.

Following the procedure, it took a while for Molly to adjust to unobstructed breathing. Whereas in normal breathing an accumulation of carbon dioxide in the blood signals the lungs to exhale and inhale, because Molly had been deprived of oxygen for so long due to the obstruction, a low oxygen level had come to drive her breathing. “She had to relearn how to breathe,” explains Jacobs.

Molly was also ravenous after the surgery, chowing down on several bowls of food. In the weeks prior, McGowan says, Molly would choke when she tried to eat, one of the symptoms that originally spurred her referral appointment at UW Veterinary Care. Molly’s primary care clinician at Ashton Animal Clinic in Ashton, Illinois, referred her to UWVC for an endoscopic examination.

“She was so sick she couldn’t eat,” says McGowan. “I had been preparing for the worst.”

Molly stayed one night in the hospital after her surgery, then she and McGowan were back on the road, with both now breathing easier.

“I felt really good about coming up here,” says McGowan. “You don’t know how impressed I am.”

Meghan Lepisto
PARDON OUR PROGRESS

At UW Veterinary Care, we never stop learning and growing. Our facility was built to serve 12,000 patient visits annually, and today we see more than 26,000. We’ve also grown from 10 specialties when we opened to accommodating more than 20 in the same space.

To provide the best possible care for our patients, we have begun improvements throughout our small and large animal hospitals now as we work toward a more significant building expansion in 2020.

We appreciate your patience as we enhance our facility to better meet the needs of our patients today, tomorrow, and in the next 30 years.

Learn more about our future plans at:
ANIMALSNEEDHEROESTOO.COM
The holiday season is here, and the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) has the perfect gift for the animal lovers on your list – one that truly helps those special creatures and companions in your lives.

For a suggested $10 donation per card, the SVM will send a holiday card to the recipient of your choice. The beautiful, full-color card will include a greeting stating that a donation was made to the school in the recipient’s name and that proceeds will support projects that advance animal health and well-being.

Each year, the SVM is delighted to present original artwork for its holiday card fundraiser. This year, the school is offering two selections, “Joy Ride” (left) and “Snow Day” (right), featuring the work of Wisconsin artist Robin Raab. Both cards make thoughtful holiday gifts for veterinarians, friends, family, or even people’s pets.

Order forms for holiday cards can be downloaded at vetmed.wisc.edu/holidaycard, or you may contact Laura Olson at 608-890-0203 to place an order by phone.

Meet the Artist

Robin Raab is a self-taught artist who resides in Delavan, Wisconsin, surrounded by numerous four-legged family members. For more than 25 years, she has specialized in traditional wildlife painting and pet portraiture with a particular interest in dogs and horses.