



Florida
Veterinarian

ADVANCING ANIMAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

UF | College of Veterinary Medicine

WINTER 2012

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Message from the Dean



Dean Glen Hoffsis

THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2012 HAS BEEN AN EXCITING START TO THE NEW YEAR AT THE COLLEGE.

Our facilities expansion has continued with further renovations to the old Small Animal Hospital building, and a new Education Center in our academic building that will transform the space of the former “reading room” into a more student friendly study and group learning space complete with upgraded computers and large HD screens to accommodate groups of students.

The hospital renovations include a new home for the Merial shelter medicine student clerkship, which had previously shared space within the surgery lab in the Veterinary Academic Building. The new location utilizes the former surgical suites in the old hospital. This provides ample high quality space for their important teaching and service work. Students report that this

rotation is where they gain proficiency and confidence in surgery because of the high volume of procedures and the quality of the instruction.

The Victoria I. Ford Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Center, was dedicated in September. We are so grateful to Vicki Ford for all of her efforts in supporting this center through her generous contributions and by being actively engaged and committed to the program’s success.

The new Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Center houses a new swimming pool and underwater treadmills. There will be hyperbaric and other services added as the area develops. The center will provide services that will be important adjuncts to current therapy and be an active area for research.

We are also transforming VS-20 into a clinical skills laboratory where students can perfect clinical skills using life-like animal simulators for techniques such as CPR, bandaging and suturing etc and can have access to canine and feline dental, ear, and eye models.

The new Education Center will provide a comfortable and relaxing physical venue to support educational activities within the college. The center will be able to accommodate a significantly larger number of students than the previous space, and will include expanded study areas, upgraded computers and large shared displays to support collaborative and group learning..

Several key appointments occurred this past year including Dr. Paul Cooke as chairman of the department of physiological sciences, Dr. Rowan Milner as chair of the department of small animal clinical sciences and Dr. Dana Zimmel as chief of staff of the UF Veterinary Hospitals. Dr. Pam Ginn was just appointed associate dean for students and instruction.

Last year also marked the retirement of longtime small animal clinical sciences chairman, Dr. Colin Burrows. We also recently were saddened by the death of Dr. Woody Asbury, a longtime college faculty member and equine reproduction specialist who served the college in many capacities, including as interim dean.

Later this year, several longtime members of the college faculty will be retiring, including Dr. Paul Gibbs, associate dean for students and instruction; Dr. Charles Courtney, associate dean for research and graduate studies; Dr. Elliott Jacobson, professor of zoological medicine and Dr. Michael Schaer, professor of small animal internal medicine.

To say the loss of these individuals will be significant to the college is an understatement. Their collective years of outstanding service, to our animal patients, to our students, to their colleagues and to the entire veterinary profession, have enriched us all while clearly helping to build the college's reputation of excellence internationally.

This year we will be accepting 12 more students into our DVM program for a total class of 112 freshmen starting classes next fall. This class will consist of 88 Florida residents and 24 non-residents and will provide an opportunity for a few more students to obtain a DVM from UF.

The UF CVM is experiencing growth even in this struggling economy. We are employing more clinical and basic science faculty to replace those who will soon retire and to employ even more as we try to enhance our clinical and research programs. Despite all the economic and other challenges, we are fortunate to work in a respected profession which still offers rewarding and fulfilling careers.

Please feel free to call me anytime as I would welcome the opportunity to chat with you in more detail about our many endeavors and how we can better serve you at the UF CVM.

Best wishes and Go Gators!



Glen Hoffsis

About the Cover



A veterinary technician holds this rescued Pomeranian prior to surgery at UF's Small Animal Hospital to repair a broken leg.

Seen our new website yet?

CHECK IT OUT!

The college moved to a new look in December with the launching of our new site at:

www.vetmed.ufl.edu

Bookmark it now!

Florida Veterinarian

Florida Veterinarian is published by the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine for alumni and friends. Suggestions and comments are welcome and should be emailed to:

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Couple lives commitment to animals, education and each other

Photo courtesy of Dennis McCullough



Drs. Vincent and Lisa Centonze are shown performing a surgical procedure on a dog at the Hillsborough County animal shelter.

DRS. VINCENT AND LISA CENTONZE HAVE BUILT A LIFE TOGETHER FOCUSED ON HELPING ANIMALS, AND ON HELPING OTHERS. But their uniqueness as a couple perhaps resides in the fact that they are equally focused on continuing to help each other grow, both personally and professionally. Their commitment defines them, as much because of their humility as by their contributions to the veterinary profession, their community of Hillsborough County and the University of Florida.

The Centonzes, who have now been married for 18 years, were both accepted to and attended veterinary school at UF at the same time, graduating in 2003. Both had previous careers: Vincent, who goes by Vince, was a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and served as an officer and retired from the military in 1997 after being stationed all over the world, including

Panama, Saudi Arabia and Japan; Lisa, a Princeton graduate, had worked in the Peace Corps in West Africa and met Vince in Virginia when he was stationed there and she was employed at a nonprofit organization that prepared and delivered meals to people with AIDS.

Today, Vince is in his sixth year as director of the veterinary technology program at Hillsborough Community College. Lisa is a veterinarian for Hillsborough County Animal Services, the second largest shelter in the state. The Centonzes are very involved in each other's work; Lisa works as an adjunct instructor at the college and will teach three classes in the spring, and Vince continually aspires to improve the lives of shelter animals through new training initiatives for his students and by frequently volunteering at the shelter.

Both say their respective work environments have been improved by their mutual commitments, which were as evident in their years as UF veterinary students as they are today.

During all four years of veterinary school, the Centonzes regularly volunteered with Operation Catnip. Lisa served as the group's first cat coordinator and as message center manager.

"Vince started wet labs to help teach students cat spay techniques so that they could spay at Operation Catnip," said Julie Levy, D.V.M., Ph.D., the Maddie's Professor of Shelter Medicine at UF and Operation Catnip's director.

Both Vince and Lisa were active in the Student Chapter of American Feline Practitioners, with Lisa serving as an officer all four years and as president for one year.

"I knew I wanted to teach ever since vet school, when I began volunteering for (the late) Dr. Kevin Anderson as a teacher's assistant in Anatomy Lab during the fall of my senior year," Vince said. "While my classmates were studying for the national board examination, I was spending four hours a day in the lab helping the freshmen."

His efforts were impressive enough that the college began allowing senior students to obtain elective credit by assisting in teaching the lab.

"It's nice to know I had an impact," Centonze said, who enjoyed the experience so much that he offered to fill in to teach the freshman endocrinology class in the fall term following his graduation from veterinary school.

"That sealed it for me," he said. "I knew I had to become involved in teaching."

After graduation, the Centonzes moved to Tampa, where both began working in private practice. Vince soon heard that HCC was starting a veterinary technology program and was seeking a program director. He applied, but wasn't interested in fulltime work at the time. Two years later, Vince received a call asking if he would consider working as an adjunct instructor for the Veterinary Ethics and Professional Development course.

"I jumped at the opportunity," Vince said. "When the then-program director decided to depart at the end of the spring term, I applied for the position and was selected."

But although the program had existed since 2005, it had a slow start. Vince was the fourth director in less than two years, and when he arrived there weren't but five students remaining, and no graduates. There were no surgical or radiology facilities and most of the equipment, which had been purchased in 2005, remained in crates, he said.

"There were no general education prerequisites to the program, was no requirement for the students to take courses in sequence and students could take courses without even having to be in the program," Vince said. "To make a long story short, within a year, we had full surgical, radiology facilities, a simulated reception desk and grooming and bathing facilities. We were accredited by the American Veterinary Medical

Association less than a year after my arrival."

The program now has a strict progression sequence and standards to remain enrolled; had two full graduating classes of more than 20 students in 2010 and 2011; and has had more than 50 applicants in each of the past two years, necessitating the implementation of limited enrollment and strict admission requirements.

"I knew I wanted to teach ever since vet school, when I began volunteering for (the late) Dr. Kevin Anderson as a teacher's assistant in Anatomy Lab during the fall of my senior year. It's nice to know I had an impact."

—Dr. Vince Centonze

"This program is the accomplishment in my life of which I am most proud...other than getting married to Lisa, of course," Vince said, adding that of four accredited programs in Florida, HCC's is now the second largest after St. Petersburg College, "from which we received invaluable guidance and support when we started our program."

Her husband said Lisa had been "absolutely indispensable" in the program's success to date.

"She was a frequent guest lecturer during my first year as director and volunteered her time for almost three academic years," Vince said. "I relied heavily on her to assist by refining syllabi and by developing lectures and exams. Lisa was as

committed to the success of the program as I was, and we both recognize the importance of properly trained veterinary technicians to practices.

“There are still many practices where veterinarians place catheters, read slides, place endotracheal tubes, etc.,” he added. “Veterinarians need to recognize that credentialed veterinary technicians who are trained to perform these functions will allow the veterinarians to spend more time in exam rooms and at the surgery table.”

Students at both the HCC program and St. Petersburg college now participate in a shadowing program at UF, through which veterinary technology students sign up to spend a day at the UF Small Animal Hospital to shadow technicians in specific services. Two HCC graduates have already been hired by UF.

In her job as shelter veterinarian at the HCAS in Tampa, Lisa performs spays, castrations and many other surgeries, she said. She diagnoses and treats sick and injured animals, controls infectious disease, examines and treats victims of animal cruelty and neglect and testifies as an expert witness on their behalf.

“This is one of the highlights of my career – speaking on behalf of victims of animal cruelty and attempting justice for them in court,” Lisa said. “I love being a shelter veterinarian because I am helping the animals that need it the most – the ones who have no one else, which are abandoned, stray, homeless and abused.”

Lisa has played an important role in strengthening the relationship between HCC and the shelter, which now sends animals over to HCC to receive radiographs or dental cleanings.

“Vince and his students do them for free,” Lisa said. “The students benefit from practicing on live animals that need the procedures done and the animals benefit by getting diagnostics and treatments that our shelter cannot provide. In addition, Vince comes in and volunteers at the shelter, doing surgeries occasionally on his day off.”

All animals for live animal laboratories are received from the shelter, Vince said.

“In return, we try to perform procedures on the animals which are beneficial to them, medically necessary or which the shelter

would have been unable to perform due to time or resource constraints,” he said. “For example, for anesthesia labs, we’ll place the animals under anesthesia and then perform spays, castrations or dental exams and cleaning so that we will not have to place an animal under anesthesia for the sake of training alone.”

Lisa also loves to teach and supervises many of the UF veterinary students, as well as some from other veterinary schools, who perform externships at the Hillsborough shelter.

“For the last three years, I have been asked by Drs. Cynda

Crawford, Paul Gibbs and Lisa Farina to speak to the freshmen vet students about careers in shelter medicine. This is one of my favorite things to do,” Lisa said. “Now that I’m on the UF College of Veterinary Medicine’s admissions committee, I get to see students that I have interviewed for admission in the audience of freshmen when I’m speaking to them, which is wonderful.”

In addition to teaching veterinary technology courses at HCC’s Dale Mabry campus, Lisa works as an instructor for Penn Foster College, teaching veterinary technology students online.

She said Levy, now the Maddie’s Professor of Shelter Medicine at UF, and Cynda Crawford, D.V.M., Ph.D., an immunologist who is now the Maddie’s Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine at UF, were huge role models for her when she was a student.

“I spent almost every Sunday as a pre-vet and veterinary student at Operation Catnip, honing my skills and helping homeless cats,” Lisa said. “I was thrilled when they started the Maddie’s Shelter Medicine program and only wish it had been



Drs. Lisa and Vincent Centonze are shown outside of the college’s Veterinary Academic Building after an Alumni Council meeting in April 2011.

Sarah Carey

“I love being a shelter veterinarian because I am helping the animals that need it the most – the ones who have no one else, which are abandoned, stray, homeless and abused.”

— Dr. Lisa Centonze

at UF when I was a student there. It is a fantastic resource for the students, not just in surgery but also in disaster response, infectious disease control, animal cruelty and veterinary forensics.”

The Centonzes became members of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's alumni council in 2010. When they're not

busy working, they also serve as regular guest hosts for two radio shows: Talkin' Pets with Jon Patch, which is nationally syndicated, and a show they created themselves, called Vet Talk, which appears weekly on Hawk Radio, a station that caters to students at HCC.

By Sarah Carey

Research Update

UF veterinarians hope new gene chip will help testing, treatment of West Nile virus in horses and humans

A NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE SHEDS LIGHT ON BRAIN RESPONSE IN HORSES WHEN THEY BECOME SICK WITH WEST NILE VIRUS and may lead to better diagnostics and treatment for both equines and humans that are gravely affected by the disease, researchers said.

In a paper that appeared Oct. 4 in PLoS One, Maureen Long, D.V.M., Ph.D., an associate professor in the college's department of infectious diseases and pathology, and her former graduate student, lead author Melissa Bourgeois, D.V.M., Ph.D., describe their use of high throughput gene sequencing technology to develop a “brain and immunity chip” designed especially to characterize all of the changes that take place in the brain at the molecular level during illness and recovery from West Nile virus. The chip is

“We hope this will help us understand why some animals and humans become sick and others succumb to the virus resulting in severe illness, lifelong neurological debilitation and even death,” Long said. “Knowing this will allow us to come up with treatments that aid in recovery from illness.”

As part of her dissertation research, Bourgeois created a gene library enriched for neurological and immunological sequences and combed through millions of bytes of data to develop a novel brain chip that even had targets that may be rare but are important in brain disease states. In the end, the equine brain chip consisted of 41,040 genes and included many targets that are important in human psychiatric diseases, like depression and schizophrenia and neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's disease.

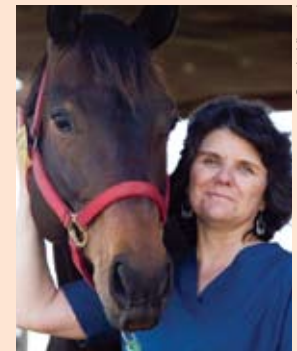
Long and Bourgeois investigated the basic hypothesis that certain families of genes change expression in a consistent manner during West Nile virus infection, as well as during the disease and recovery from encephalitis caused by it.

“Although we knew there were microarrays that had previously been developed for equines, our goal was to create a brain and inflammation-based array to look specifically at how function was affected during brain infection. This chip has applications to many neurological maladies of the horse including Eastern equine encephalitis, Equine Protozoal Myelitis, rabies, and even non-infectious diseases like Wobbler syndrome,” Long said. “This allowed us to detect changes that would not be common in normal horses.”

The chip itself is essentially a slide with probes that allow it to capture all of the different sequencing associated with equine brain disease. The UF group relied on Agilent Technologies, based in Santa Clara, Calif., which has a patent on the probes that were used.

“Analysis of the data found that many of the psychiatric, Parkinson genes and neuromuscular diseases were triggered,” Long said. “Then a computer program that can analyze hundreds of genes simultaneously was used to build models of various disease processes that may be affected in the acute disease and may result in other diseases once the infection is long gone.”

By Sarah Carey



Dr. Maureen Long

Sarah Kiewel

Stallion treated at UF becomes 'model' horse

AN AMERICAN DRUM HORSE STALLION NAMED MARIAH'S BOON WAS A MODEL PATIENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S LARGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL BETWEEN 2008 AND 2009, when he received two surgeries and numerous checkups for an abdominal abscess caused by a small wire that had penetrated his stomach.

Now, quite literally, and at only 6 years of age, he's in the process of becoming a true model horse.

Mariah's Boon — known affectionately to his owner, Laura Moon, as Boon — has been chosen as the 2012 Celebration Breyer Horse. The Breyer Animal Creations Company, a subsidiary of Reeves International, manufactures plastic, porcelain and resin model horses. As many children who love horses know, these models are carried in toy stores and tack shops and begin as artist's sculptures. Each year, the company holds BreyerFest, the largest model horse show in the country.

The event draws model horse collectors and enthusiasts to Lexington, Ky. In July 2012, BreyerFest will showcase British breeds, including the Drum Horse, a heavy riding horse that includes Clydesdale, Gypsy Horse and Shire bloodlines.

Moon learned last summer that Breyer was looking for a Drum Horse with show experience and its own Drum outfit. Boon met the criteria. After his health problems resolved, he's been

busy in the show ring, winning such accolades as Grand Champion Stallion at the Florida State Fair for two years in a row and just receiving Grand



Champion Drum, Grand Champion Performance Drum and Grand Champion High Point Drum from the Feathered Horse Classic in Georgia.

"I am so proud of him and so pleased with everyone at UF," Moon said.

Although many a horse owner might covet being selected as the Celebration Breyer Horse, for Moon the real prize is Boon's life, which she credits UF's large animal veterinarians and other staff for saving.

After learning about the American Drum breed, Moon brought Boon home from the farm where he was bred when he was just a year old and began showing him at halter and in showmanship classes. After one show, Moon noticed Boon had a fever. When the fever persisted, Moon's veterinarian



Mariah Farias

Laura Moon, Dr. Chris Sanchez and Dr. Ali Morton are shown with Boon outside the UF Large Animal Hospital on Jan. 10.

recommended a trip to the UF Large Animal Hospital.

UF veterinarians Chris Sanchez and Laura Javicas found a basketball-sized abscess in Boon's abdomen. He also had pericarditis, an infection of the sac surrounding his heart. Veterinarians suspected that Boon ate something that penetrated the wall of his stomach and into his chest — they just couldn't find the culprit.

Boon improved initially, but the abscess returned. Boon received a second surgery at UF, during which Ali Morton, DVM., created a portal from the abscess to Boon's skin. This allowed improved drainage of the abscess after surgery.

Eventually, the hole shrank to the size of a straw. Then one day Moon saw something dark in the catheter. She pulled out a piece of metal.

"I thought it must have come from the ground, but it didn't," she said. "It was in the tube itself."

A few days later, more metal came out. The culprits were found and the abscess continued to shrink in size. Within five months, the basketball-sized abscess was the size of a golf ball; after a year, it was the size of a grape and Boon looked like he had never been sick.

The syndrome, called "hardware disease," is common in cattle but quite rare in horses.

"I still carry those pieces of metal around in my truck," she said. "It was a miracle. I am so thankful the UF veterinarians never gave up."

Filly in distress triumphs over health hurdles

ALTHOUGH THE JOURNEY HAS BEEN LONG AND PAINFUL FOR A RESCUED 2-YEAR-OLD QUARTER HORSE NAMED "BABY GIRL," the gentle buckskin filly is now on the road to recovery because of surgery in October at UF's Large Animal Hospital, a committed owner, and an ongoing regimen of advanced medical therapy.

"She is very bright and remains upbeat and strong," said Theresa Batchelor, president of Beauty's Haven Farm and Equine Rescue Inc., a non-profit organization located in Morriston, Fla. "She looks good, still loves to eat, and cleans up everything when she gets her meals."

At the time of her rescue in mid-August, Baby Girl suffered from numerous signs of neglect and injury, including trauma to the right side of her face. She weighed only 295 pounds and could barely eat.

"Baby Girl endured a lot of pain and discomfort for two months before finding her way to us," Batchelor said. "When she arrived, she was starving to death, while fighting chronic infection. She likely wouldn't have lasted another week."

Beauty's Haven immediately started Baby Girl on a special diet, and within just five weeks, she had gained more than 100 pounds. But the problems with her facial trauma and draining wound continued.

An initial surgery performed at another facility in September to remove bone fragments from the right side of the horse's jaw allowed her to start chewing comfortably, eat more and gain additional weight. However, the wound on Baby Girl's face was not healing so Dr. Michael Porter, who owns an advanced mobile diagnostic practice and frequently examines horses at Beauty's Haven, referred Baby Girl to UF for a CT scan and surgery.

The scan revealed that a large bone fragment was still present between her jawbone and her skull at the level of her temporomandibular joint. The fragment was dead and a large portion of the bone of both her jaw and skull was severely infected.

Ali Morton, D.V.M., an associate professor of large animal surgery, told Batchelor that the only viable approach to tackle the animal's problems would be to surgically remove the problematic bone fragment. However, she knew the procedure would be very risky due to the proximity of the skull bone.

"Dr. Morton wouldn't even give us 50/50 odds that she would come through the surgery," Batchelor said. "It was pretty grim. I felt like someone had kicked me in the gut. Yet at the same time, I felt relieved to know what was really going on."

Morton said the horse's fracture was unusual and in a very difficult location.

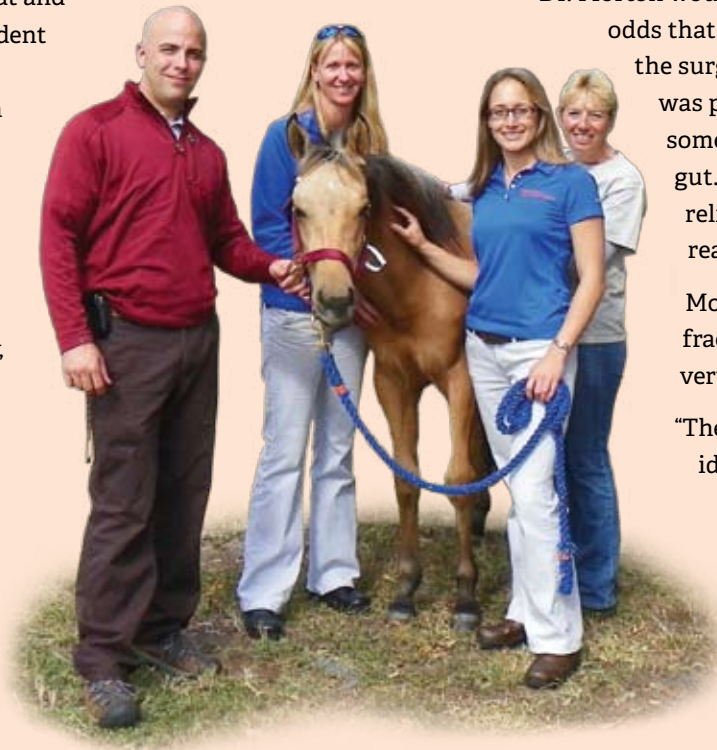
"The CT scan was critical to identification of the problem and for surgical planning," Morton said. "We are very fortunate to have this type of advanced-imaging capability."

Morton said that in addition to Baby Girl's fracture, the CT also revealed that she had severe infection of the bone of her jaw and of the thin bone of the base of her skull.

"The fragment was located just millimeters from this bone and the bone was so severely affected that it was questionable if it was even completely intact in the area covering her brain just next to the fragment that had to be removed," Morton said.

Among the many hurdles Baby Girl had to overcome were recovery from two anesthesia procedures associated with her CT scan and surgery, recuperation from her severe infection and the healing of her wound.

"With the help of Kesmarc Farm, we added hyperbaric oxygen therapy to her antibiotic therapy, and Baby Girl has responded to every step amazingly," Morton said. "She is still not completely out of the woods, but she is healing beautifully so far. She is a special little horse, tough as nails, and loved by many."



By Sarah Carey

Restaurateur uncorks special vintage to benefit UF Small Animal Hospital

Photo courtesy of Richard Gonzmart



Richard Gonzmart and Rusty

TO RICHARD GONZMART, PRESIDENT AND A FOURTH-GENERATION MEMBER OF THE FAMILY THAT RUNS TAMPA BAY'S CENTURY-OLD COLUMBIA RESTAURANT, RUSTY THE DOG IS MORE THAN A PET. HE'S PART OF THE FAMILY.

When Rusty, a 5-year-old German shepherd, was diagnosed with bone cancer, it felt like one of his children was sick, Gonzmart said. He sat in waiting rooms and watched as families waited for their loved

ones to come out of surgery. He saw the anxiety on their faces.

To his relief, veterinarians at the UF Small Animal Hospital discovered that Rusty didn't have cancer after all. He had a fungal infection that looks similar to bone cancer when an X-ray is taken.

Gonzmart understood the heartache of being a parent of an animal diagnosed with cancer. To help, the restaurateur created his own blend of wine, called 2004 Rusty Red Wine, as a fundraiser. Only 600 bottles will be produced by world-class winery O. Fournier in Argentina.

About 70 percent of the proceeds from the wine will go to the UF Small Animal Hospital's oncology unit and about 10 percent will go to several Humane Society branches in cities where Columbia's seven restaurants are located in Florida. Gonzmart said his goal is to donate \$20,000 a year to the oncology unit.

Gonzmart has pledged \$100,000 to the oncology unit, said Nick Bacon, Vet.M.B., a surgical oncologist at UF's Small Animal Hospital.

"I saw so many people in the waiting room with their family members, their four-legged family members. I know the pain," Gonzmart said. "It's just a great way to help people and give people hope."

Rusty is doing well since he started treatment for the fungal infection but will probably need lifelong therapy to manage the disease, said Alex Gallagher, D.V.M., who is treating Rusty.

"Mom and Dad report he's happy, jumping around, running up and down the stairs," Gallagher said. "He's doing a lot better than the average patient."

Gonzmart attributes Rusty's health to UF's Small Animal Hospital veterinarians' high level of skill and determination to give Rusty the best quality of life possible.

"We're blessed to have such a great animal hospital," Gonzmart said. "If we hadn't gone there, we would've had to put him down."

Rusty, a trained personal protection dog, has rolled down the window of Gonzmart's car, leaped out the window and would have tackled a nearby man with a gun had Gonzmart not called him back, he said.

"He would give his life for me," Gonzmart said.

So when Rusty got sick, it became a family matter. Gonzmart and his wife, Melanie, often bring Rusty to the gleaming-white hospital atrium with another four-legged family member in tow. Rex, also a German shepherd, sits in the waiting room with the rest of the family. At checkups, Rusty gets an X-ray, his blood is drawn and he gets a physical exam. Had he not been so lucky — had the lesions been bone cancer tumors — the process would be different.

Bacon says veterinarians can present owners with up to 10 to 12 treatment options when an animal is diagnosed with cancer. The family chooses the option that best fits their needs.

He said many people want to feel like they still have some control in the midst of cancer. The treatment options can range from radiation treatment to surgery to pain pills — but they all are aimed at improving the pet's quality of life.

"The goal is to make their lives better," Bacon said.

In addition, there's a chance the discoveries the Small Animal Hospital makes in dogs can help treat people.

"It's a fantastic model for human cancer," Bacon said.

He said Gonzmart's donation helps the Small Animal Hospital stay focused on its mission of helping patients. Donation money goes toward education, student research programs, internships, day-to-day needs such as microscopes and large research projects, including those involving bone cancer, skin cancer and bladder cancer.

"It was an astonishingly generous thing to do," Bacon said.

By Meredith Rutland

The College of Veterinary Medicine

Honor Roll of Donors for 2010-2011

The 2010-2011 University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Honor Roll of Donors is a way of recognizing generous gifts to the college. The students, faculty and staff are most appreciative of this support. This year's honor roll includes names of all donors of \$1 or more between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. Your name should appear in alphabetical order among donors who made gifts of similar amounts. Many alumni choose to make gifts to the college in the name of their veterinary practice and the practice name is listed. We have included a list of Bequest Society members from the College of Veterinary Medicine. These members have included the college in their estate planning at a value of \$10,000 or more. In spite of our efforts, omissions and errors sometimes occur and we want to know to know about them. If you have questions or corrections concerning your listing, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, College of Veterinary Medicine, PO Box 100125, Gainesville, FL 32610-0125, (352) 294-4256.

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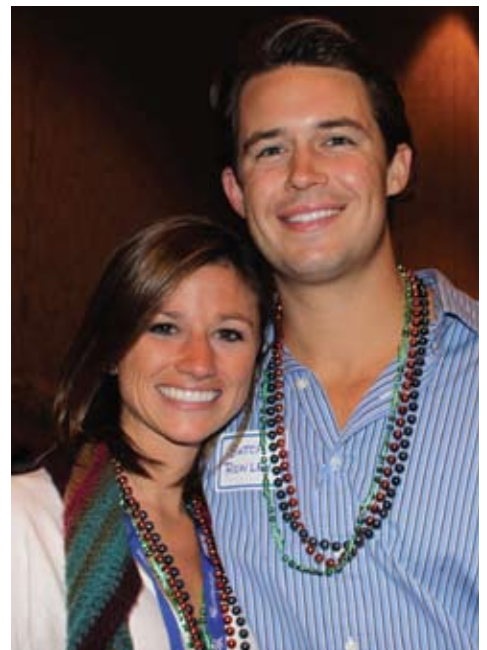
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Sheryllyn K. Solanick
Almeda C. Stemple (d)
Claudia & Michael Strong
Mark & Nancy Thornton
Helen Tolmach
Anne Troneck (d)
Mary Anna Tyson (d)
Katrina D. Vanesian
Gloria C. Vargo
Gerri Voller
Roberta H. Waller
Wendy A. Wallner (d)
Sharon F. Walton
Michael & Diane Ward
Frances P. Weaver (d)
Harriet B. Weeks (d)
Robin Weeks (d)
Grace T. Wilson (d)

(d) = Deceased



North American Veterinary Conference

Hundreds of UF CVM graduates turned out for the traditional alumni reception, held during the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando Jan. 15. Pictured here, from top left to bottom right: Jo Ann Winn and Jennifer Reidt, '13; Dean Glen Hoffsis and his wife, Lana; Dr. Carla Channel Richmond, Dr. Esther Devlin Barber, Dr. Diana Gonzalez, Dr. Jason White, Dr. Monica Shepherd, Dr. Julia Conway, Dr. Glen Wright, Dr. Cathy Osbourne Barnette, and Dr. Phil Richmond in front, all from '06; Myles Rowley, '13, and her husband, Butch; and UF Alumni Association representatives Brynn Cavanaugh, left, and Jeanna Goldberg, right, are shown with Kaleigh McVety, '14.



Dr. Nancy Denslow

Professor of Physiological Sciences
Center for Environmental and Human Toxicology

Ray Carson



Dr. Nancy Denslow is shown in UF's Aquatic Fish Facility in December of 2011.

AS THE CHILD OF A U.S. DIPLOMAT, UF COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE PROFESSOR NANCY DENSLow'S EARLY CHILDHOOD WAS SPENT JUMPING FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL — from Mexico City, where she was born, to Quito, Ecuador and Istanbul, Turkey before returning to the states with her family and settling in to her last two years of high school in Virginia. It was there that she discovered chemistry, and what would become a lifelong love of science and research.

By the time she graduated — as a chemistry major — from Mary Washington College, Denslow had an internship at the National Institutes of Health under her belt, along with two publications. She also had presented her honors research at a local American Chemical Society meeting. She then attended Yale University for a master's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, and decided to take a hiatus.

"As most women at the time, I wasn't sure I could handle being married, having children and having a job as a scientist, so I quit, got married and had my first child," said Denslow, Ph.D., a professor of physiological sciences and at UF's Center for Environmental and Human Toxicology. Her husband, David Denslow, Ph.D., eventually accepted a faculty position at UF, where he is now a professor of economics.

After moving to Gainesville, Nancy Denslow recommitted to her scientific love and enrolled in the doctoral program in the College of Medicine's department of biochemistry and molecular biology.

"I had a great time learning how to do research and studying about mitochondrial ribosomes and raising a family," said Denslow, who had a second daughter soon after completing her Ph.D. A short time later, she landed a job as technical director of the Proteomics Core of UF's Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology. She brought in mass spectrometry technology and created new methods for helping UF researchers with questions about proteins. She soon started the ICBR's Biomarkers Core Facility and established 2D electrophoresis as a service.

One of her first clients, an investigator from the Environmental Protection Agency's laboratory in Gulf Breeze, Fla., brought fish that had been exposed to poly aromatic hydrocarbons and other endocrine compounds, and presented with hepatocellular carcinomas.

"He wanted me to analyze their blood for potential biomarkers," Denslow said. "We did, and found vitellogenin, the egg yolk protein responsive to estrogen, had been induced in male fish. This suggested that some of the contaminants were estrogen-like and were inducing male fish to produce female-specific proteins. The significance of the finding changed her research path. "After some research, we decided to make monoclonal antibodies against the biomarker. We were among the first to document the problem of estrogens in the U.S. waterways with wild fish."

She said the research fascinated her because it was fundamental and basic, yet resolved a real issue and thus it was easy to see its practical application. Now Denslow is known for pioneering the introduction of molecular approaches to ecotoxicology, as well as for her collegial and enthusiastic approach to collaborative research and her endless appetite for science.

She received the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence from UF in 2007 and was named a UF Research Foundation professor in 2009. She cofounded two startup companies at the Biotechnology Development Institute, but modestly credits colleagues "who were willing to take the risk with me."

What she most enjoys at UF is working with students, postdoctoral associates and staff.

"It is especially fun to solve a new problem or get new answers to issues that are facing us all in the environment," Denslow said.

By Sarah Carey

Veterinary pathologist named to administrative post

Pamela E. Ginn, D.V.M., a veterinary pathologist, has been named associate dean for students and instruction at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine following a national search.

Ginn has served as a member of the college's faculty since 1992. She will begin her new duties immediately and will assume full responsibilities in March, following the retirement of Paul Gibbs, B.V.Sc., Ph.D. from the position.

"Dr. Ginn has received numerous awards for teaching excellence and has a long-standing interest in students," said the college's dean, Glen Hoffsis, D.V.M. "She is a great addition to the college administration and will provide strong leadership to the Office for Students and Instruction."

Ginn has most recently served as a consulting pathologist for Specialty VETPATH in Seattle, Wash., and as an adjunct professor of pathology in the college's department of infectious diseases and pathology. She was an associate professor in that department from 1998-2007.

"Technology and the ease of access of information in today's digital world present new opportunities for improving methods of information delivery and assessing student learning."

— Dr. Pamela Ginn

Ginn received her D.V.M. degree from Colorado State University in 1983 and worked in small animal practice prior to entering UF's pathology residency program, which she completed in 1992.

In 2011, Ginn was honored for her teaching by the American College of Veterinary Dermatologists, which presented her with its Excellence in Teaching Award. She was named Teacher of the Year by junior UF veterinary students in 2003 and again in 2006.

In 1998, she received the UF veterinary college's prestigious Norden Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

Ginn's goals include becoming informed about the learning styles of current generations of students and using this information to benefit the educational experience of veterinary students and the faculty that teach them. She also has a keen interest in addressing student debt load, streamlining the time frame of the educational process and expanding career options for veterinarians that would help make the One Health Initiative a reality for veterinarians.

As a mother of three children, Ginn also plans to work to help students gain skills to help them lead a professional life that enables them to set priorities for living a balanced life. She loves to teach and plans to continue to contribute to the education of the students and future veterinary pathologists. On a University and community level, she would like to participate in projects that promote inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the educational process.

"Technology and the ease of access of information in today's digital world present new opportunities for improving methods of information delivery and assessing student learning," Ginn said.



Dr. Pamela Ginn

By Sarah Carey

UF vet plays key role in care of “star” dolphin

Photo courtesy of Dr. Mike Walsh



Dr. Mike Walsh and Winter at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

ANYONE PAYING ATTENTION TO ENTERTAINMENT NEWS THESE DAYS KNOWS ABOUT THE NEW MOVIE, *DOLPHIN TALE*, which opened Sept. 23 in theatres and tells the true story about Winter, a dolphin that survived entanglement in a buoy line by subsequently being outfitted with a prosthetic tail. What's perhaps less commonly known is that the character of Winter's veterinarian, played by Harry Connick Jr., is loosely based on none other than the University of Florida's Mike Walsh, D.V.M.

Walsh, who is associate director of the College of Veterinary Medicine's Aquatic Animal Health program, also performs veterinary services at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which is where Winter has resided since being rescued by scientists from the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Fort Pierce back in 2005. Aquarium staff contacted Walsh, who was director of veterinary services at Sea World in Orlando at the time, to ask his advice about how to best obtain blood samples from the impaired dolphin.

"I first had contact with Winter when she was a baby, and because she was missing her tail, there was confusion as to how to get blood samples from her on a regular basis to keep track of what was happening with her," Walsh said. "The probability of infection was high, so we needed to monitor blood on a regular basis."

Winter had lost her tail because the blood supply to it had been cut off when she was tangled in the buoy line, Walsh said. He

recommended that samples be taken from the peduncle, the area between the dorsal fin and the tail since it could not be obtained from the tail, which is standard for obtaining blood samples from most dolphins but was impossible in Winter's case.

A year or so later, Walsh was serving as the park's veterinarian. Many companies and individuals had approached the park about creating some type of prosthetic tail, but deciding whether this was a feasible option – as an alternative to euthanasia – and what the safest approach was, took some time, Walsh said. Eventually the park wound up working with a company called Hanger

Prosthetics and Orthotics of Waterville, Maine.

"They had the best idea for achieving the goal without hurting Winter's skin or causing other problems, and we thought that working with David Yates' team at Clearwater was going to be a long term benefit for Winter," Walsh said. He added that Winter's success from a medical perspective was greatly impacted by Janine Cianciolo, D.V.M., who took care of her after her injury and nursed the dolphin, along with other members of the aquarium's team, through infection, wound healing and growth.

Five years later, Winter is doing well, Walsh said. However, he cautions that managing her tail is an ongoing, lifetime issue.

"The challenge with Winter is coming up with solutions to a problem that no one has dealt with before," Walsh said. "This is where the College of Veterinary Medicine excels."

When filming took place for the movie, Walsh spent a day at the park with Harry Connick, Jr., talking to him about various medical issues experienced by animals there, including showing the star how some stranded sea turtles were being treated.

Others from UF have also played an important role in Winter's care over the past few years, including Carolina Medina, D.V.M., chief of the college's acupuncture and rehabilitation service, and Nicole Stacy, D.V.M., a clinical pathologist

By Sarah Carey

Victoria I. Ford Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Center Dedicated

A ribbon-cutting dedication of the new Victoria I. Ford Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Center at the UF Small Animal Hospital was held Sept. 24. The new space features a swimming pool and additional treadmill equipment. The Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Service offers treatment for companion animals through the supervision of a qualified team of veterinarians led by Carolina Medina, D.V.M., and Wendy Davies, C.V.T., C.C.R.A. The service aims to offset pain and encourage healing in patients, either by supplementing traditional medical or surgical treatment or as an alternative approach for treating a variety of conditions ranging from obesity to arthritis to sports injury and other forms of disease.



Sarah Carey

From left to right, Dr. Rowan Milner, Dr. Huisheng Xie, Victoria Ford, Dr. Carolina Medina and Dean Glen Hoffsis are shown cutting the ribbon to dedicate the new Victoria I. Ford Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Center at UF's Small Animal Hospital. The dedication ceremony was held Sept. 24.



Yes!

I want to support the
UF College of Veterinary Medicine

How to Make a Gift:

If you are interested in more information about endowment funds, estate gifts or other methods of giving, please contact:

Karen Legato
Senior Director of Development and Alumni Affairs
UF College of Veterinary Medicine
P.O. Box 100125
(352) 294-4256
legatok@ufl.edu

Or visit our website at:

www.vetmed.ufl.edu

Honors, Awards, Appointments & Announcements

Pathologist honored by student group

William Castleman



Dr. Lisa Farina, center, is surrounded by UF CVM Pathology Club members (from left to right) Jaimie Miller, Kim Olson, John Rosado and Kirsten Burg.

Lisa Farina, D.V.M., a clinical assistant professor in the department of infectious diseases and pathology, was named "Mentor of the Year" by the Student Chapters of the American Veterinary Pathologists. Farina's award was announced Dec. 6 during the annual meeting of the ACVP, which was held in Nashville.

Journal article receives award



Veterinary Pathology cover.

An article that appeared in *Veterinary Pathology* in 2010 and was coauthored by several faculty members from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the 2011 C.L. Davis Foundation Journal Award.

The foundation's national advisory board's selected the paper, "Canine H3N8 Influenza Virus Infection in Dogs and Mice," as the best original article published in *Veterinary Pathology* in 2010. The award was presented Dec. 5 in Nashville, Tenn. at the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Accepting the award on behalf of the authors was Dr.

William Castleman, the paper's lead author and a professor of veterinary pathology at the UF CVM.

The paper described pathologic lesions in racing greyhound dogs as well as in pet and shelter dogs naturally infected with the H3N8 influenza virus. This virus causes a serious and highly contagious respiratory disease in dogs and lesions associated with the virus serve as diagnostic indicators of the infectious disease in diagnostic laboratory medicine.

Dr. Woody Asbury dies



Dr. Woody Asbury

Woody Asbury, D.V.M., one of the founding fathers of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and a former administrator whose contributions to college life spanned nearly 20 years, died in Versailles, Ky., on Nov. 17 after a long illness.

He was 80 years old and his career had included private equine practice and consulting as well as academia, through which he helped many veterinary students and theriogenology residents.

Asbury retired in April 1996 after serving the college as a teacher, a clinician and an administrative leader. Among his leadership roles were serving as chairman of the original department of reproduction; as chief of staff of what was then known as the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital; as chairman of the department of large animal clinical sciences, the job he held when he retired, and notably as interim dean of the college from 1988-89.

Surgeon receives Hill's Mobility Award



Dr. Dan Lewis

of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named the 2012 recipient of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Hill's Mobility Award.

This award, which will be presented in April of 2012 at the WSAVA Congress in Birmingham, England, recognizes the outstanding work of a clinical researcher in the field of canine and feline orthopedic medicine and surgery. Through improvements in the mobility and quality of life of pets, recipients are deemed to have contributed significantly to the well-being of pets' lives and to the human-animal bond worldwide.

Two UF CVM faculty honored by alma mater



Dr. Michael Schaer

University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine faculty members Michael Schaer, D.V.M., a professor of small animal medicine, and Dennis Brooks, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of ophthalmology, both recently received the Dr. Erwin Small Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and its alumni association.

The award, presented during the University of Illinois' annual fall conference for veterinarians, acknowledges distinguished

Honors, Awards, Appointments & Announcements



Dr. Dennis Brooks

Illinois graduates, including D.V.M., Ph.D., and M.S. degree recipients, who have excelled in their respective fields and who have made significant contributions to the profession and/or college.

The award was created to honor the late Dr. Erwin Small, a professor emeritus and former associate dean of alumni and public affairs at the college.

Pathology resident receives scholarship



Dr. John Harvey and Dr. Jennifer Owen

Jennifer Owen, D.V.M., Ph.D., a third-year clinical pathology resident at the University of Florida Col-

lege of Veterinary Medicine, was recently awarded the 2011 CL Davis Foundation Scholarship Award for Veterinary Pathology.

She received the award Dec. 5 at the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in Nashville, Tenn. Presenting the award to Owen was Dr. John Harvey, a clinical pathology specialist and the UF veterinary college's executive dean.

Reptile expert honored by zoo association

Elliott Jacobson, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of zoological medicine at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received the 2011 Emil Dolensek Award from the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians.



Dr. Elliott Jacobson

The AAZV named Jacobson as the recipient of the award, which consists of \$1,000 and a plaque, during the group's annual meeting, held in Kansas City Oct. 22-28.

Recipients must be a past or present member of the AAZV and the award is made in appreciation for exceptional contributions to the conservation, care and understanding of zoo and free-ranging wildlife, reflecting Emil Solensek's commitment to these purposes.

Surgery resident receives award



Dr. Laura Cuddy

Laura Cuddy, a second-year resident in small animal surgery at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, received top honors for her presentation in the resident small animal research category during the annual symposium of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, held Nov. 5 in Chicago.

Cuddy's research was a biomechanical study of a new procedure to unload the medial compartment of the elbow in dogs with medial compartment disease.

Student honored by bovine group



UF veterinary student Judd Sims is shown at right with Rick Sibbel.

Judd Sims was one of eight veterinary students from across the United States to receive \$1,500 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the American Association of

Bovine Practitioners annual conference in St. Louis Sept. 21-24. The students were recognized at the AABP Conference by AABP and award sponsor Merck Animal Health.

Sims, a junior University of Florida veterinary student, also completed his bachelor's degree in animal science at UF. He grew up in Simsville, Fla., a small farming community established by his great, great grandfather. Sims was active in 4-H and FFA and enjoyed showing and judging livestock.

Markel/AAEP scholarship awarded to UF student



Bo Rainbow

Bo Rainbow, a senior student at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, has received a \$2,500 scholarship from the Markel Insurance company and the Association of American Veterinary Practitioners Foundation.

Rainbow is one of eight individuals to be honored with the scholarship, which supports exceptional fourth-year veterinary students who have proven to be leaders at their veterinary schools, advocates for equine welfare, academic achievers and who have committed to careers in equine veterinary medicine.

UF researchers: Single dose of contraceptive vaccine controls fertility in cats for years

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA RESEARCHERS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, report that a single dose of an immunocontraceptive vaccine controls fertility over multiple years in adult female cats.

Funded by Morris Animal Foundation, a nonprofit organization that advances veterinary research to protect, treat and cure animals, the five-year study was published in August online in the scientific journal *Theriogenology*.

The scientists hope their findings will aid in the registration and use of the vaccine to help manage overabundant feral cat populations humanely.

“Millions of free-roaming feral cats exist in the United States and in other countries around the world,” said Julie Levy, D.V.M., Ph.D., the lead researcher and director of the Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at UF. “Unfortunately, their welfare is not always adequate, and they can have a negative impact on public health and the environment.

“We’re hoping this research will lead to a nonlethal method of control for feral cat populations that is less expensive, labor-intensive, and invasive than current methods, such as surgical sterilization,” Levy said.

GonaCon was developed by researchers at the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service National Wildlife Research Center. The NWRC is the federal institution devoted to resolving problems caused by the interaction of wild animals and society. The UF researchers involved in the testing do not have any licensing agreements with the USDA or any commercial interests in the vaccine.

In the study, 15 adult female cats received a single shot of the vaccine called GonaCon while five received a placebo. Following the injections, the female cats were allowed access to a breeding male cat and observed for breeding activity. All five placebo females became pregnant seven to 28 days after the male cat was introduced.

Cats injected with the vaccine, on the other hand, remained infertile from five months to more than five years. All of the cats were adopted at the end of the study.

“A total of 93 percent of the cats treated with GonaCon remained infertile for the first year,” Levy said. “In subsequent years, we saw a steady and expected decline in infertility as



antibodies to the vaccine decreased. However, numbers were still quite high, with 73 percent of the cats remaining infertile during the second year, 53 percent in year three, 40 percent in year four, and 27 percent in year five when we ended the study.”

Although permanent sterilization is ideal, the relatively short lifespan of many free-roaming feral cats suggests that a contraceptive that blocks fertility for several years may be successful in reducing the population.

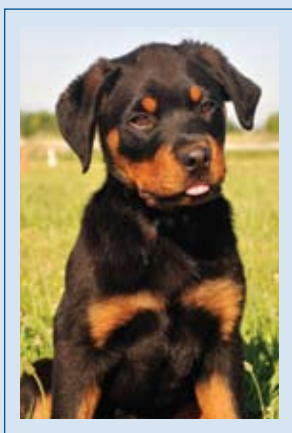
Joyce Briggs is president of the Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs, a group advocating for non-surgical birth control methods to humanely manage populations of cats and dogs. She called Levy “a key player in efforts to advance new methods of fertility control.”

“We are intrigued by this study,” Briggs said. “Although a permanent sterilant would be ideal, a long-acting contraceptive could be an effective tool for managing feral cat populations, especially where surgery is unavailable or impractical.”

GonaCon is currently registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use on female white-tailed deer; however, the vaccine has also proven successful with numerous other mammal species including feral horses, bison, elk, prairie dogs and ground squirrels.

The single-shot, multiyear vaccine stimulates the production of antibodies that bind to GnRH, a hormone in an animal’s body that signals the production of sex hormones, such as estrogen, progesterone and testosterone. By binding to GnRH, the antibodies reduce its ability to stimulate the release of these sex hormones. All sexual activity is inhibited, and animals remain in a nonreproductive state as long as a sufficient level of antibody activity is present.

By Sarah Carey



Pet Memorial Program

A gift in memory of your client's or friend's pet will say you care in a way that benefits all animals by supporting one of several programs at the college. When a client's or a friend's pet dies, simply send your donation with the owner's name and address and the name of the pet to the college. We mail a personalized sympathy card to let them know you have remembered their pet with a contribution. Requests and cards are mailed on a weekly basis.

Requests can be mailed to:

Pet Memorial Program
UF College of Veterinary Medicine
P.O. Box 100125
Gainesville, FL 32610-0125

For more information, visit our website, www.vetmed.ufl.edu, Pet Memorial Program, email petmemorial@vetmed.ufl.edu or call us at 352-294-4256.

▲ A Day at the UF Small Animal Hospital

Clockwise from top left: Dr. Gary Ellison performs surgery in the UF Small Animal Hospital / Veterinary oncology technician Amy Beaver and a hospital volunteer prepare to provide chemotherapy treatment on "Anabel" Teller. Anabel has lymphoma and is currently in remission / A yellow Labrador retriever named "Melo" is shown positioned in the UF Small Animal Hospital's new linear accelerator. Melo's owners brought him to UF from Washington, D.C. for treatment of a tumor in the dog's scapula / And this 18-year-old macaw named "Number One" is shown in surgery.

2012 Calendar

David Johnston



Veterinary technician Wendy Davies helps this 5-year-old yellow Labrador retriever, named Barclay, get some exercise Nov. 3 in the new swimming pool that is part of the Victoria I. Ford Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Center. Barclay had her left rear leg removed by UF oncology surgeons in August and now comes in regularly to receive rehabilitative therapy in the pool.

April 7

UF's annual Spring Weekend features the traditional Orange and Blue Game. The Class of 1987 will hold its 25th anniversary reunion, with a Continental breakfast at the college and a tour of the UF Veterinary Hospitals. Contact Jo Ann Winn: winnj@ufl.edu.

April 14

The traditional Open House sponsored by SCAVMA and the college will be held at the UF CVM from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours will be provided, along with educational demonstrations and much more. The public is invited. Watch our website, www.vetmed.ufl.edu, for more information. The Class of 1982 also holds its reunion this weekend.

May 5

The annual CVM alumni reception will be held at the Florida Veterinary Medical Association's annual meeting in Orlando. Contact Jo Ann Winn at winnj@ufl.edu.

May 11

The professional coating ceremony for sophomore veterinary students will be held at 2 p.m. at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

May 26

Commencement exercises for the UF CVM Class of 2012 will be held at 2 p.m. at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

June 23

Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Day will be held at the UF Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. Visit conferences.dce.ufl.edu/ for more information as it becomes available.

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