



# REFERRAL DISPATCH

SUMMER 2009

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

## A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR REFERRING VETERINARIANS

### PVSEC WELCOMES INAUGURAL INTERN CLASS

The 2009-2010 internship class at PVSEC marks a new chapter in our hospital's growth. Although this class serves as our inaugural effort, the training of interns is nothing new to the faculty at PVSEC. We hope to expand not only services to the referring veterinary population and patients but provide a learning experience for upcoming top-of-their class veterinarians. Our interns will work under the supervision of the specialists to further develop their skill set and prepare them for future professional endeavors in the field of veterinary medicine. This year we have three interns joining our staff. Dr. Starr Cameron is originally from Missouri and will be returning to the States after finishing her veterinary training at the Royal Veterinary College in London. Dr. Erin Trageser is a University of Pennsylvania graduate and a Pittsburgh native. Dr. Stacy Smith, once a surgery technician with us here at PVSEC will be rejoining our practice as an intern after graduation with her DVM from Kansas State University. Please help us welcome these three new veterinarians to both our practice and the profession.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION AT PVSEC

In keeping with PVSEC's ongoing goals of providing for the specialty needs of pets, pet owners and family veterinarians in the tri-state area, becoming a regional educational resource center has been a focus since before the June 2, 2008 opening of the 807 Camp Horne Road hospital.

Our first, non-credit event for referring veterinarians in March was an opportunity to foster communication about the PVSEC departments and their referral processes. Two for-credit events followed, including April's "Mange Madness" with PVSEC's dermatologist, Dr. Sandy Sargent, and Dr. John Payne's May 6 discussion on Immune Mediated Arthritis in dogs.

We welcome your suggestions and topics of interest for future events. Please contact Andie Furda, PVSEC Project Manager, by email [afurda@pvs-ec.com](mailto:afurda@pvs-ec.com) or phone (412)348-2564 with any questions or comments about the continuing education events at PVSEC.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 11 7:00 – 9:00 PM**  
"Ocular Manifestations of Systemic Disease" Larry Bagley, DVM DACVO (PVSEC Ophthalmology)

**June 18 7:00 – 9:00 PM**  
"Pathophysiology and Management of Canine Obesity" presented by Mike Pensenstadler, VMD (Pleasant Valley Veterinary Clinic)

**July 15 7:00 – 9:00 PM**  
"Fine-Tuning Management of Chronic Renal Failure" presented by Sherwood Johnson, DVM, DACVIM (PVSEC Internal Medicine)

**August 13 7:00 – 9:00 PM** Topic TBA  
Presented by Kenton D. Rexford, VMD (PVSEC Emergency)

**NEW SERVICE:** Starting no later than June 2009, all radiographs taken by the ER will be reviewed by a board-certified radiologist. A copy of the report will be sent to the referring veterinarian.

Our Emergency Department continues to provide emergency care, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To provide your clients with better service and to provide their pets with superior care, we now have a minimum of two Emergency Veterinarians on site at all times. During busier times, we have as many as four Emergency Veterinarians on duty. With the addition of Dr. Steven Smolen at the end of May, we have 11 full time veterinarians with a combined 85 years of experience on the ER staff.

criticalist Christine Gunther, DVM in September and dermatologist Elizabeth Toops, DVM in October. Including the additions of internist Tracey Jackson, DVM, DACVIM (Internal Medicine) in late June, since moving to Camp Horne Road last June, the hospital departments continue to develop and expand,

PVSEC ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ON JUNE 2, 2009!

Pittsburgh Veterinary  
Specialty & Emergency Center  
807 Camp Horne Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NEW CASTLE, PA  
PERMIT #121



REFERRAL  
DISPATCH

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**Editor**

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**Contributors**

PVSEC Welcomes Inaugural Intern Class— Rachel Keller, DVM, DACVO (PVSEC Ophthalmology)

Continuing Education at PVSEC—Andie Furda

Total Hip Replacement at PVSEC—Jonathan Anderson, DVM, DACVS (PVSEC Surgery)

ACAF Golf Scramble— Andie Furda, Beverly Seruset (PVSEC Surgery)

PVSEC One Year Anniversary  
Kenton D. Rexford, VMD (PVSEC Emergency),  
Andie Furda

**TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT AT PVSEC**

PVSEC Surgery is proud to offer Total Hip Arthroplasty for the treatment of coxofemoral degenerative joint disease in dogs. We are utilizing both the Cemented Fixation and Biologic Fixation (cementless) systems manufactured by BioMedtrix. The cementless implant system allows biologic fixation through boney ingrowth into the implants themselves, thus eliminating the need for cement. Cement fixation is used in specific patients whose size or bone conformation precludes safe use of the cementless implants. The implant systems are extremely versatile, allowing for hip replacement surgery in dogs of various sizes. Just as important as the size range afforded by these systems is their capacity to be used together as “hybrid” systems for certain unique cases that will benefit from one cemented component and one cementless component.

As with any orthopedic surgery performed at PVSEC, client education is very important to the clinicians involved. Clients seeking consultation regarding Hip Replacement Surgery for their pets are typically scheduled for 45-minute consultation appointments, during which medical and surgical options for treatment of their pets are outlined. The surgical procedure itself, its risks and benefits, and the postoperative recovery and physical therapy are also discussed in detail. When clients elect to pursue total hip replacement surgery for their pets, the animals are typically scheduled to be “templated” prior to surgery. This involves specific radiographic views of the femur and pelvis in order to assess bone conformation and implant sizing. The “templating session” is set up at the client’s discretion, and often can be performed the same day as the initial consultation appointment. Every attempt is made to template the dogs prior to the surgical day in order to allow longer preoperative planning and shorten the anesthesia episode involved for the surgery itself.

Typically, hip replacement patients are weight-bearing the first post-operative day and are discharged from PVSEC the second postoperative day. Postoperative recovery involves strict confinement and limited on-leash activity for one month. During month two, patients are allowed increasing amounts of on-leash activity. Once eight-week post-operative radiographs confirm implant position is secure, the patients are gradually reintroduced to normal activity during the following month.

For any questions regarding Total Hip Replacement Surgery at PVSEC, please do not hesitate to contact Drs. Tony Pardo, John Payne, or Jon Anderson.



**PRACTICE PEARL**

Check out this great resource for more information on MRSA and MRSI:

<http://www.wormsandgermsblog.com>



*The patient, a Labrador Retriever, presented to PVSEC Surgery with a history of bilateral lameness. Physical examination of the left hip, and preoperative radiographs confirmed severe hip luxation.*



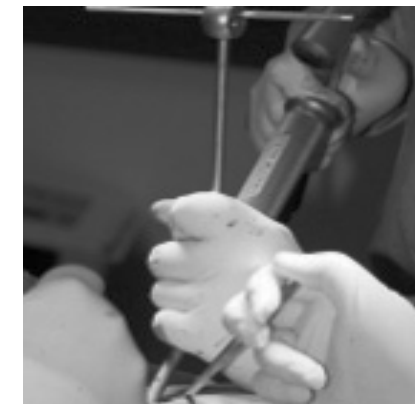
*Prior to surgery, the patient is templated to ensure that appropriately-sized acetabular cup and femoral stem are implanted.*



*During surgery, radiographs allow visual confirmation of the optimal placement of the new hip.*



*The acetabulum is prepared by broaching, or drilling-out, the cavity where the acetabular cup will be placed.*



*Once the acetabular cavity is established, the acetabular cup is placed and secured. Joint strength aided by bone cement or is developed through the ingrowth of bone tissue.*



*The femur is broached and prepared for the introduction of the femoral stem, which forms the pivoting surface of patient's new hip.*

**ANIMAL CARE & ASSISTANCE FUND GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER**

Beverly Seruset, clinical supervisor of the PVSEC Surgery group, has organized a golf scramble fundraiser to benefit the Animal Care & Assistance Fund (ACAF). ACAF is the charitable fund which provides financial assistance for life-saving medical care to patients seen at PVSEC.

Although the foursomes have already been established and the participant roster is full at this point, we would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks those individuals who have generously agreed to support this event financially and gently remind those with outstanding pledge obligations to follow-up with Beverly by phone

412-366-3400 x3120 or email [bevseruset@pvs-ec.com](mailto:bevseruset@pvs-ec.com) no later than June 30, 2009.

