

For CVMA

## **Seeing Things Your Way, with Imaging Services**

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Service that benefits the patient and the veterinary practitioner is a hallmark of the imaging department at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana. Recent developments include a novel approach to imaging cats when respiratory problems make anesthesia risky and a new outpatient imaging service that quickly puts results in veterinarians' hands.

First, an update on the new outpatient service: Outpatient imaging is increasingly available in human medicine. Since April our hospital has been offering outpatient CT, MRI, and ultrasound examinations.

Here's how it works:

- Your clinic provides the pre-examination blood work and patient history.
- You counsel your client in advance about what to expect, including the risks of the procedure. (We provide client instruction sheets to assist you.)
- Your client pays us only for the imaging service, and the animal does not become a patient of our hospital.
- The final report is sent to you within 24 hours, and your client sees you for results and further treatment.

You can schedule your patient for outpatient imaging at (217) 333-1800. Susan Hartman, senior imaging technologist, can answer questions or put you in touch with a radiologist at (217) 244-2031.

Now about the ingenious device developed by Dr. Bob O'Brien to safely image cats with respiratory issues that make anesthesia problematic:

Dr. O'Brien calls the invention a "Better Mousetrap," but it looks more like a low-tech display case. Essentially, it's a clear Plexiglas tube that's just about the size of a large cat. Cats for whom anesthesia would be risky, such as those in respiratory distress, are placed inside and imaged with little or no sedation or additional restraint. Notches and holes in the tube allow for catheter access and oxygen therapy to flow through the tube.

The prototype Mousetrap has been used successfully with many feline as well as small canine patients. We are pursuing a patent on the idea, which could greatly improve the ability to diagnose difficult emergency cases and other tricky situations when it comes to cats.

For more about what's available from our imaging department, please visit [vetmed.illinois.edu/4dvms/](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/4dvms/) and select "Diagnostic Imaging" from the "Specialties" link at the left.