

Message from Dean Whiteley

Seasons greetings from the College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana, where visions of NAVLE scores and winter break are in the heads of seniors and other students.

The rest of us are also having visions—or at least envisioning—new ways to provide service and share knowledge in the coming year.

Dr. Kurt Grimm, an anesthesiologist in our teaching hospital who is boarded in anesthesiology and clinical pharmacology, recently completed his Ph.D. in clinical pharmacology. His studies focused on analgesic drug interactions in dogs.

Dr. Grimm and Dr. William Tranquilli are leading a quiet revolution in pain management for all animal patients. The Veterinary Interdisciplinary Pain Service unites clinicians from virtually every service area. Each specialist in the group brings a distinct viewpoint on the effects of pain in the patient.

According to Dr. Grimm, “We’re trying to create a more comprehensive strategy for pain management, which is multi-disciplinary and seamless throughout the patient’s stay at the hospital. The goal is to constantly anticipate and assess pain in our patients.”

The benefits for patients are proven: when pain is appropriately managed, response to treatment improves. The American Animal Hospital Association has included pain management in its new accreditation guidelines.

Veterinary practitioners in Chicago and throughout the state can also benefit from the new service. Drs. Grimm and Tranquilli are available to help answer questions or provide consultations about pain-related issues in companion animal patients. You can reach them by calling 217/333-5311.

You can reach me by email at dean@cvm.uiuc.edu.

Wishing you happy holidays and bright prospects for the new year.--Herb