

ISVMA: May 2009 deadline

Five Ways Imaging Wows

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There has been so much that's new in the imaging department at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana lately that you may have trouble keeping track, so here's a quick overview.

1. **Dr. Jodi Matheson** joined Dr. Bob O'Brien, a board certified veterinary radiologist, on our imaging section this spring. Dr. Matheson earned a DVM from the University of Missouri and completed an imaging residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her interests include imaging zoo and exotic species, contrast ultrasound imaging, and functional MRI of olfaction in dogs.
2. **Outpatient imaging** is now available to assist you in diagnosis of your patients. You'll get the results of ultrasound, MRI, or CT examinations within 24 hours of the study. Our outpatient imaging protocols give priority to patient safety while ensuring that you remain in charge of your patient. You provide us with the pre-examination blood work and patient history and counsel your client about the imaging procedure. After you get the results of the study, the client returns to 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.
3. **A new high-speed spiral CT**—a GE Lightspeed 16-slice Helical CT scanner, to be exact—arrived in March. It gives the imaging staff the ability to acquire targeted 0.6 millimeter slices in large data sets to be used for 3-D reconstructions. Faster scan times and use of immobilization devices will also allow scans to be performed often with no sedation or anesthesia, which in turn will lower both the cost and the strain on the patient.
4. **A “Better Mousetrap”** refers, in this case, to a novel device developed by our hospital staff to safely image cats that are poor risks for anesthesia, such as those in respiratory distress. Built from a clear Plexiglas tube with notches and holes to permit catheter access and oxygen therapy, the Mousetrap is just a bit bigger than a large cat. Cats placed inside can be imaged with no sedation or additional restraint. The device has proven very successful in facilitating fast and safe diagnoses of difficult emergency cases and other tricky situations.
5. **Online access and expert consultation** are not new but are still a valuable resource for clinicians. We continue to offer fee-for-service consulting on radiographs, which can be mailed to us as films or digitally on CD as well as submitted by email to: radconsults@vetmed.illinois.edu.

And you can access our digital images system to review your patients' diagnostic images by contacting the Medical Records at 217-333-5363.

Details and links to request forms are online at vetmed.illinois.edu/4dvms/.