

Participate in the Future of Your Profession Through the Teaching Hospital

By Dean Herbert Whiteley

It's where your prospective new hires learn their stuff. It's where you send the cases that have you baffled. But the Veterinary Teaching Hospital has another, equally vital role.

Dr. David Williams, the new head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine, put it well when he said: "Veterinary schools produce new information for our profession. If we are not performing that role, who will do it?"

There are many exciting clinical trials going on at the teaching hospital. Please keep in them in mind as you see cases. Your awareness and referrals contribute directly to our ability to move the standard of animal care—and the veterinary profession—forward through research.

- Dr. Dominique Griffon is looking for Labs with all the right paces. An orthopedic surgeon, she wants to find a way to prevent the most common orthopedic problem affecting dogs: cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) deficiency. Normal adult Labrador retrievers are sought for a multi-dimensional study designed to determine the usefulness of radiographs, bone density measurements, and computer tomography (CT) evaluations of the hind limb conformation to identify differences between dogs with CCL deficiency and normal dogs. Normal subjects receive a free dental cleaning for enrolling in the study. To find out more, call Carrie Bubb at 217/265-5533.
- The oncology section is recruiting for clinical trials on canine appendicular osteosarcoma, canine bladder transitional cell carcinoma, and feline oral squamous cell carcinoma. All are partly or fully funded trials. For more information, call Nancy George at 217/244-7789.

- Animal rehabilitation has two ongoing clinical trials that evaluate the effects of pain-control medication on weight bearing, muscle mass, and joint pain following rehabilitation. One seeks dogs with elbow dysplasia and the other seeks dogs that need cranial cruciate ligament surgery. Call Kim Knap for details: 217/265-5314.

Details about current trials are on the Web at www.cvm.uiuc.edu/vth/clinical.html.

As you may know, we hope to introduce the new director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital very soon. This leader will focus on providing outstanding patient care and service to clients and referring veterinarians and on fostering a clinical environment that supports both teaching and research activities. Dr. Ann Johnson has been ably serving as interim hospital director since the position was created last summer.

Dr. Williams will focus on the scholarly and educational aspects of the department.

Both leaders look forward to getting to know referring veterinarians, and I encourage you to seek them out. Our hospital benefits from your partnership in its missions of teaching, engaging in research, and providing clinical service and outreach to our publics. You may reach me at dean@cvm.uiuc.edu.