Welcome to the second edition of Animal Matters. Our ongoing commitment to improving our services to meet your needs is bringing about great change within the walls of the UVTHS. In 2009 we continued to expand and improve on all our referral services and as we head towards 2010, plans are underway to introduce a 24 hour emergency service. Proposals for a 24 hour hospital have been around since I first started working here in 1994, so for many of us this is long overdue. But it certainly doesn’t detract from the excitement of seeing the many years of deliberation finally come to fruition. January 2010 will see the UVTHS open its doors 24/7 – watch this space for more details.

Our Specialist team keeps growing and growing. Since our last edition we have welcomed two new members to our Surgery Referral Service, Drs Ben Landon and Katja Voss. Each brings a unique set of skills and experiences that further strengthens our enviable Small Animal Surgery Team.

In this month’s edition of Animal Matters we showcase Professor Robert Wrigley and our Diagnostic Imaging team. And our ‘Case of the Month’ Handsome Harry, the greyhound, provides a great example of how advanced imaging techniques can be used to unravel a mystery lameness.

As the UVTHS welcomed the last group of student interns for 2009 I was given a timely reminder of the wonderful partnership we have with the profession and our small animal practitioners in particular. What our students experience at our Partner Practices forms a vital component of their undergraduate learning and compliments what we aim to teach them at the UVTHS. As a result they graduate with a broad range of clinical experiences and knowledge, and are better prepared for clinical practice than we ever could have hoped to be. A sincere thank you to all the veterinarians who support and participate in this vital educational partnership.

Finally, I will end this month’s report with more exciting news this time from the Small Animal Medicine Referral Service. Dr Graham Swinney, Specialist in Canine Medicine, is finally returning to the UVTHS. Dr Swinney, as many of you know, is an outstanding clinician and inspirational teacher, and we are extremely fortunate to have him rejoin our Medicine Team. Welcome Back Graham!
Meet our staff

The University Teaching Hospital Sydney has a fully digital Radiology Department that offers referral veterinarians a wide range of diagnostic imaging procedures:

Dr Karon Hoffmann BVSc DipVetClinStud MVSc PhD
Dr Hoffmann is a Veterinary Radiologist with both a Masters Degree and PhD in Veterinary Diagnostic Ultrasound and has extensive experience in both equine and small animal and exotic sonology. Dr Hoffmann has over 30 publications in the veterinary literature and provides distance education for veterinary practitioners through the Centre for Teaching and Learning each year.

Dr Richard Lam BVSc (Hons I) MACVSc (Radiology)
Dr Lam is a Resident in Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging. He graduated from the University of Sydney in 2004, with Honours. He completed an internship at the Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital in Shepparton, before continuing equine practice at the Canberra Equine Hospital. He moved to the Canberra Veterinary Hospital to broaden his experience in small animal medicine and surgery. At the beginning of 2008, Dr Lam spent 3 months at Colorado State University with Dr. Wrigley, before commencing his residency at the University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Sydney in July 2008.

Ms Kathy Hughes, AAS, RT MR Senior Radiographer
Kathy trained in human radiography and CT in the USA, then specialized in clinical Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) starting in 1986. She as worked as an MRI Clinical and Product Specialist throughout the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Kathy has been involved in many aspects of MRI imaging including clinical imaging, brain and cardiac research, MR Development, and MR Product Management. Kathy joined the UVTHS and veterinary MRI in 2008.

Mrs Helen Laurendet BaApSci MedIm
Helen has been working at the UVTHS for the past 20 years undertaking the position of Radiographer. Helen co-ordinates Imaging section and is the main CR and CT Radiographer. Helen teaches and co-ordinates the intern tutorials during the students clinical rotations.

diagnostic imaging services
picture archive and communications system

• Fuji PACS for digital image review, long term storage and digital transmission of images to referral and staff veterinarians. Images of patients can be provided to referring veterinarians on CDs or via email.

General X-ray and Computed Radiography

• General X-Ray
• Image intensified Video-Fluoroscopy
• Computed Radiography
• Orthopaedic Templating

Ultrasound

• Real-time imaging available including vascular shunts
• Examinations available for congenital heart defects
• Ultrasound Guided Procedures

Computed Axial Tomography (CT)

• 16 Slice Philips Brilliance 3.0 high speed scanner with 3D work station and unique scan settings for veterinary patients
• High resolution cross sectional imaging of skull, spine, joints, thorax and abdomen

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
ESAOTE VET Grande 0.25 Tesla Open system designed specifically for small animals.

• Imaging for soft tissue structures including Brain (e.g. trauma, tumours, infection), Eyes, Pituitary gland, Spinal cord (e.g. herniated disks, tumours, cord trauma)
• Limb Examinations (e.g. muscles, cartilage, tendon, bone or soft tissue tumours)
Harry, a beautiful black greyhound was in top racing condition until suddenly his training and racing performance declined sharply. His owner noted that Harry was not training to capacity and showed an abnormal gait when he was running. His owner became even more concerned when Harry started to show some loss of muscle mass in the lower right flank.

Harry’s owner brought him in to UVTHS for examination, and hopefully to find answers. With working and racing dogs, herniated disk in the spine, bone problems in the pelvis or limbs, and muscle or tendon injuries can all cause abnormal gait and reduced ability to perform. UVTHS’ Dr. Aitor Arteaga agreed with Harry’s owner that something was amiss and ordered spine and pelvic radiographs to rule out the most common problems. When the radiographs came back normal, Dr Robert Wrigley recommended a Magnetic Resonance Imaging examination to evaluate the lumbar spine and pelvic regions. UVTHS’ open MRI, a dedicated Veterinary system, was able to look at Harry’s spine cord, pelvis and muscles of the thigh and spine. The high resolution images demonstrated that Harry’s lumbar spine and disks were normal, however Harry had developed an abnormality in the right side iliopsoas muscle adjacent to the spine. The iliopsoas muscle normally provides support to the spine, and assists in the function of the pelvis and upper hind legs. There appeared to be a local pocket of a fluid collection with oedema along the edge of the iliopsoas muscles. Additionally the inflammation and oedema extended along the psoas muscle up toward the upper portion of the lumbar spine, and down into the pelvic region and on both sides of the spinal column.

The MRI revealed that the muscle injury and fluid accumulation was likely due to either haemorrhage, infection or a cyst as the cause of Harry’s illness. An Ultrasound fine needle biopsy was performed which revealed the presence of pus due to an infection. The microscopic examination allowed us to conclude that the mass was a bacterial abscess with associated inflammation, oedema causing swelling in the muscles and soft tissues. The cause of Harry’s pain and reduced athletic performance was clear and importantly, this type of infection was treatable and the prognosis for Harry was looking up. Harry was prescribed an appropriate course of antibiotics and rest. After the treatment, Harry was much improved and a re-examination at UVTHS using ultrasound imaging confirmed that the abscess and the associated tissue oedema was completely gone. Athletic training finally brought Harry back to his normal running condition, including recovery of the strength in muscles of his right side flank.

We are happy to report that handsome Harry has won 2 out of his last 3 races!
Dear Veterinarian,

Dr Ken Cockwill and I are recruiting cats to an exciting new 6-month research study on chronic kidney disease.

We are studying the effect of a new palatable phosphate binder to control serum phosphorous and renal secondary hyperparathyroidism.

The study will involve serial monitoring of blood pressure, biochemistry & PTH in affected cats. Cats will be randomised to receive placebo or phosphate binder.

We have funding to cover all costs for the study and cats will be supplied with free renal diet.

At the completion of the study cats will be returned to your clinic for their ongoing health care and we will forward any relevant test results that will assist you with continued monitoring of your patients.

Time commitment: 3 visits every 2 weeks to begin with and then every 6 weeks for 6 months.

If you know of any cats at your practice that have mild to moderate kidney failure (creatinine 140 to 440 and phosphate > 1.45) and clients that might be willing to participate in the study and travel to the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre for the visits, we would be very grateful if you could call us directly or let your clients know about this study and give them our contact details.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you require any further information. Thank you for your ongoing support of the University Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Sincerely

Vanessa Barrs BVSc(hons) M Vet Clin Stud FACVSc(Feline Medicine) GradCertEdStud Registered Specialist in Feline Medicine Head of Small Animal Medicine

v.barrs@usyd.edu.au

Ken Cockwill BSc (Great Distinction) DVM (Distinction) DACVIM (Small Animal) Registered Specialist in Small Animal Medicine

k.cockwill@usyd.edu.au

Telephone 02 9351 3437
New staff, services and awards

The surgery clinical referral service has expanded with the recent addition of Drs Katja Voss and Ben Landon to our team.

**Dr Katja Voss** Dr.med.vet, Diplomate ECVS
As advised in the Stop Press flyer included with the last Animal Matters Dr Katja Voss has joined our team. Katja brings a wealth of experience with her to UVTHS having occupied a leading position as a Small Animal Surgery Specialist since 2004 at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, which is world-renown for trauma and orthopaedic surgery. Now that Katja has arrived, the TTA technique pioneered in Zurich for treatment of cranial cruciate ligament disease is available at UVTHS.

Katja’s research has focused on orthopaedics, although she is trained in both orthopaedic and soft tissue surgery. She is author and co-editor of a newly published textbook; Feline Orthopedic Surgery and Musculoskeletal Disease - the first book dedicated specifically to treating cats with disorders in this specific area.

Her book discusses newly developed veterinary diagnostic procedures and surgical techniques that veterinarians, residents and students alike who work in the field of feline medicine should know about.

We are very excited to have Katja with us, please feel free to call her regarding any questions you may have on (02) 9351 3437

**Dr Chris Tan**
We’d also like to congratulate Dr Chris Tan who was awarded a prize as the best presentation in the Young Investigator competition at Science Week in Queensland recently, for the presentation of the research that he did with me on new developments in cruciate surgery.

Ken Johnson
Director, Orthopaedics

**Chief of Surgery**
Professor Kenneth Johnson

Director of Orthopaedics
MVSc, PhD, FACVSc, Diplomate ACVS, ECVS

Professor Kenneth Johnson, a former academic surgeon at the University of Sydney, has recently returned.

After 20 years working as an orthopaedic specialist in the USA and UK he is now our Director of Orthopaedics.

The Small Animal Surgery team at UVTHS offers a wide range of soft-tissue, neurologic and orthopaedic services and surgeries. In addition to TPLO, animals referred for cruciate ligament rupture repair now have the treatment option of TTA.
Specialist Services Directory

**Medicine and Neurology**
- Cardio-respiratory medicine
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Urology
- Oncology
- Neurology
- Dedicated chemotherapy suites and a nuclear medicine unit for treating cats with hyperthyroidism
- Radio-iodine facility for treating cats with hyperthyroidism
- Infectious diseases

**Surgery**
- Orthopaedic procedures
  - Fracture treatment
  - Deformity correction
  - Cruciate TPLO
  - Total hip replacement
  - Spinal surgery
- Wide range of soft tissue procedures
- Treatments for cancer
- Correction of congenital problems including liver shunts
- Treatment for heart defects
- Placement of cardiac pacemakers

**Diagnostic Imaging**
- Picture Archive and Communications System (PACS)
- Computed Radiograph and fluoroscopy
- Ultrasound
- Computed Axial Tomography (CT)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) systems
- Outpatient CT/MR Imaging
- Referral Services (for neurology, orthopaedic, oncology, ophthalmology, thoracic and gastrointestinal veterinary specialists)

**Dermatology**
- All aspects of skin disease:
  - Allergies (skin testing)
  - Short and long-term control strategies
  - Allergy vaccines (immunotherapy)
  - Immune-mediated diseases (pemphigus, lupus, vasculitis etc.)
  - Ear canal, nail, & footpad diseases
  - Any acute or chronic, mild or extensive, and unusual/nonspecific skin problems

**Head of Small Animal Medicine & Feline Medicine Specialist**
Dr Vanessa Barrs

**Feline Medicine Specialist & Associate Professor in Small Animal Medicine**
A/Prof Julia Beatty –
Dr Ken Cockwill

**Small Animal Medicine Specialist**
Dr Linda Fleeman –
Dr Aitor Arteaga –
Dr Katherine Briscoe

**Veterinary Neurologist**
Dr Georgina Child

**Chair of Surgery, Director of Orthopaedic Surgery, Clinical Professor of Orthopaedics & Small Animal Surgery Specialist**
Prof Kenneth Johnson

**Honorary A/Prof of Surgery**
Dr Max Zuber

**Small Animal Surgery Specialists**
Dr Katja Voss
Dr Ben Landon

**Senior Registrar in Small Animal Surgery**
Dr Soo Kuan

**Residents in Small Animal Surgery**
Dr Chris Tan
Dr Sonya Wasik

**Opthalmology**
Dr Jeff Smith
Dr Cameron Whittaker

**Chair of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging & Radiology Consult**
Prof Robert Wrigley

**Veterinary Sonologist**
Dr Karon Hoffman – Small animal, equine and exotic sonology

**Imaging resident**
Dr Richard Lam

**MR Senior Radiographer**
Ms Kathy Hughes

**Radiographer**
Mrs Helen Laurendet

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**THE CLINIC IS OPEN:**
Monday to Friday: 8am to 7pm
Saturday: 9am to 4pm

**REFERRAL APPOINTMENTS:**
Monday to Friday: 9am to 3.30pm

**LOCATION:**
65 Parramatta Road,
Camperdown, NSW.

**CONTACT US:**
Phone: (02) 9351 3437