



VETERINARY SPECIALTY & EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

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SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

SPRING IS ON THE WAY!

Spring is so close to being here! After some very wet and chilly days so far this year, here at VRCC, we are ready for the warmer temperatures, longer days, that brilliant Colorado sunshine, and the overall greenness that comes with Spring!

Our 2022 Spring newsletter has a lot of great information for you.

Meet our Dermatology Intern doctor in the Staff Highlight section just to the right on this page.

Check out our news and events section at the bottom of page 2 that has some exciting news coming up later this year including our Spring CE announcement!

Our Dentistry partner, Apex Dog & Cat Dentistry, is featured in our Specialty Highlight section that starts at the bottom of this page.

In lieu of a case study in this edition, we have a letter to share with you that includes a few practice pearls from Dr. Tanja Nuhsbaum with VRCC Ophthalmology.

Cheers and Happy Spring!

Your VRCC Team

SPECIALTY HIGHLIGHT: APEX DOG & CAT DENTISTRY

Apex Dog and Cat Dentistry located at VRCC is an advanced dentistry and oral surgery service that provides compassionate oral care for the veterinary patient. The mission at Apex Dog and Cat Dentistry is to provide the highest level of dental and oral surgical care in the Denver area and throughout Colorado. Two doctors, Donald Beebe, DVM, DAVDC and Lauren Richman, DVM, Resident in Dentistry and Oral Surgery, are currently available, with anticipated expansion in the near future. With a skilled support



Holly, Sally, & Dr. Beebe in the dental suite

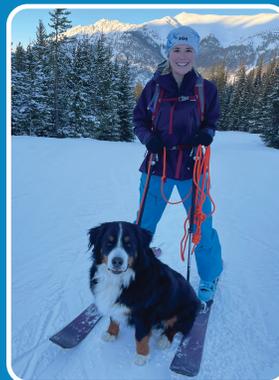
STAFF HIGHLIGHT: DERMATOLOGY

McKenna Snidow, DVM
VRCC Dermatology Intern

Dr. Snidow is our current Dermatology Intern. She will be heading to CSU in July for a Dermatology Residency. Dr. Snidow is originally from Richmond, VA. She attended Elon University where she received a bachelor's



degree in 2013. She earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 2020. She then moved to Colorado to complete a one-year internship in small animal medicine and surgery at VCA Alameda East from 2020-2021. During her rotating internship, she quickly realized dermatology was her passion. *"I believe dermatology is the most rewarding specialty because we get to visually see our patients get better. In dermatology, each case has a unique approach to helping patients feel better and I love working with owners to find their pets' unique treatment plan."*



Aside from veterinary medicine, Dr. Snidow loves all the outdoors activities Colorado has to offer – especially skiing, horseback riding, and hiking. She rode competitively all the way up through college and still tries to ride or ski as often as she can.

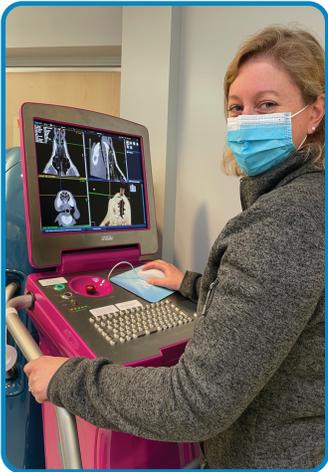
To reach the VRCC Dermatology / Allergy team directly, please call 303-874-2054, or email derm@vrcc.com

staff of certified veterinary technicians, VTS technicians, and client care coordinators, Apex is proud to provide the highest quality care for our clients and patients.

Apex works as an extension of the family veterinary practice, offering expertise in advanced procedures like jaw fracture repair, removal of oral tumors, oronasal fistula repair, management of feline & canine stomatitis, root canal treatment, grafting treatment for severe periodontal disease, and surgical extractions of challenging teeth. Apex carefully manages high-risk anesthesia cases, e.g. cardiology and neurology patients, in collaboration with a board-certified anesthesiologist.



Brittany showing off the cone beam CT machine



Dr. Richman showing CT images

Patients benefit from trained caregivers who work cohesively in a low-stress cooperative environment. Apex technicians (Brittany, Holly, Chelsea, Donna, Nicole, Sally, Stacie, Ann) are highly skilled, receive continual advanced education, and are equipped with the latest dental technology like digital charting hardware, magnified eyewear, and LED lighting. Apex boasts continually updated best-in-class equipment, including piezotome for ultrasonic bone surgery, platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) membranes for periodontal surgery, the latest in root canal technology, and novel surgical instrumentation. In addition to dental x-ray technology, Apex now utilizes a new cone beam computed tomography unit (CT imaging) for approximately 70% of patients. This allows for 3D interpretation and better detection of pathology.

The Apex team is happy to provide consultations via phone or email to veterinarians with specific dentistry or referral questions. Apex Dog and Cat Dentistry is open from 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday with rotating Fridays. New patient appointments are available all open days.

Apex can be reached by phone at 303-810-6029 or by email at dentistvet@me.com. More information can be found at the Apex Dog & Cat Dentistry website at www.dentistvet.com.

VRCC NEWS & EVENTS

 After a 2 year (covid-forced) hiatus, we are bringing back our Spring DVM CE! The event will take place the evening of April 20th at the Downtown Aquarium. The invite to register will come via email, so please make sure that both rpost@vrcc.com and vrcc@vrcc.com are added to your safe senders list!

 VRCC Surgery welcomes board certified anesthesiologist, Dr. Isla Arcaro to the team! Dr. Arcaro joined us at the beginning of February and we are thrilled to have her available for your clients and patients.

 VRCC Surgery will also be welcoming Dr. Taylor Graville to the crew this Fall! She is coming to us from Memphis Veterinary Specialists & Emergency.

 Construction update: As we announced late last year, we are getting a 2nd building! We are so excited to share that the foundation will be laid in the month of April, and our new radiation unit will be at the new building site in late Spring! We will continue to share updates on our [Facebook](#) page.

 Do you have new doctors at your clinic? Or are you getting mail for doctors who are no longer practicing at your hospital? If so, our apologies! Please let us know of any changes by emailing rpost@vrcc.com, or calling Ruby Post, our Referral Liaison, at 303-874-2053 to get your hospital's info up-to-date!



LETTER FROM THE DOCTOR: OPHTHALMOLOGY

"To any of you who know me, I extend a heartfelt hello as I return into the ophthalmology practice at VRCC. After 20 years of working with this amazing team, I took some time off in 2020 to support my family and repeat third grade through on-line learning with my son. What I thought was an altruistic decision turned out to be a gift to me.

The time off brought me pause to evaluate my behaviors after 51 years of living. I found myself wondering if my actions were in alignment the most important things in my life - family, friends, health, community and time. The short answer was no. By my own choices, I had piled these treasures under a manic clinical style, feeling inadequate at work if I was not helping everyone.

While my career was going great, the rest of my life was not. I was not sleeping well. I was divorced. I was not keeping in touch with life-long friends. I did not feel part of a community outside of work.

I discovered I had a problem and the first part of solving a problem is being able to define it.

My problem was that my life was an unbalanced mess. More specifically, I lived to work, rather than worked to live. My pace at work was frenetic. In trying to help as many patients as possible, I was wearing my teammates and myself down. I began to define the things I could control to bring about positive change in my life.

My first task was to build a team that enjoys coming to work each day and supports each other's work style and family responsibilities. A team that would be empowered to check me if I listed back to my old, frenetic habits. I wanted to reward great tech skills and experience with a sustainable schedule and compensation that supports their life's goals. The next task was to find a practice that would support the team. I offer a heartfelt thank you to the hospital administrator at VRCC, Nicole Wingard, for giving us just that place. Next, we needed to define the short-term and long-term goals for VRCC's ophthalmology service. I am sharing these so you know how we can help you and your patients, today, and in the years to come.

1. Short-term goals: Continue to provide care and service for our existing patients. Be available to do emergency surgical cases on days we are in the clinic. Build our service to become the preferred veterinary cataract provider in Colorado because we will simply be the best. Best surgical outcome. Best service for value. Most dedicated team. Responsive. Available. Excellent patient care. Excellent communication skills. We will be the team where you will want your own pet to have vision-restoring cataract surgery.

2. Long-term goals: Grow back into a multi-doctor practice where our differences are celebrated and we each enjoy coming to work each day. A practice that can support the community's needs for veterinary ophthalmology care for all patients, Monday through Saturday. (Keep your eyes out for some amazing additions and returns to our team in the next 12 months.)

The final task will be to make it all happen.

With our short-term goal in mind, here are five ready-to-implement practice pearls for your diabetic patients. Remember, cataracts form in 50% of dogs within the first 4 months of diagnosis with diabetes and in 90% of dogs within the first 16 months of diagnosis.

Diabetic cataract pearls:

1. Discuss cataracts with your clients soon after diagnosis of diabetes, so that they are prepared. A prepared client can plan for managing costs and expectations of having, or not having, cataract removal surgery.

2. Examine your patient's eyes at each visit. Watch out for increased redness of the conjunctival tissues, increased cloudiness in the cornea, increased discharge, squinting or tearing. Examining your patient's eyes at each visit will also let you catch if cataracts are forming (early diabetic cataracts in dogs look like clear bubbles at the periphery of the cataract), or if there are concerns for issues such as KCS or cataract-induced uveitis. Also, teach your clients watch for any of these signs at home.

3. Monitor Schirmer tear test readings in diabetic patients. Diabetic patients have an increased risk for developing tear film abnormalities such as qualitative KCS.

4. Start a topical NSAID, such diclofenac, ketorolac or flurbiprofen, when cataracts are noted. This will decrease the patient's risk for cataract-induced uveitis and discomfort. Due to the rapid onset of progression for cataracts and cataract-induced uveitis in Schnauzers, Miniature Pinschers, Labradors and Samoyeds, start a topical NSAID from the day these breeds are diagnosed with diabetes. Do not wait to start a topical NSAID until you see cataracts form in these breeds.

5. Refer early. Do not wait for perfect diabetic control. We will take the time to educate your clients about cataract formation, complications related to having cataracts, vision-restoring cataract removal surgery and what to expect if they do, or do not, elect cataract removal surgery for their pet. Referring early may also save your client money. If we can perform a quality fundic exam, your patient may not need to have all of the presurgical screening tests performed.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at VRCC. The ophthalmology team wants to be an extension of your practice and serve the ocular needs of your patients and clients. We want to decrease your professional burden to "be everything to everyone" and hope to offer you time to check your life's balance too."

VRCC Ophthalmology can be reached at 303-874-2070, or by emailing eyes@vrcc.com.

**Dr. Tanja Nuhsbaum
DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVO
VRCC Ophthalmology**

