



FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

VRCC WELCOMES THE FALL SEASON!

After a very wet and hot summer in Colorado, here at VRCC, we are ready for the crisp, fall weather!

This issue of the VRCC newsletter highlights our Dermatology, Emergency, and Internal Medicine teams, and provides up-to-date information on upcoming events and news about the hospital.

Learn more about our Dermatology department's newest addition, Dr. Jeremy Bachtel, who has been with VRCC since mid-July.

The VRCC Emergency team discusses Yogi and Coco. Two patients who were hit by cars, which resulted in them both coming to VRCC for traumatic diaphragmatic hernias.

Our Internal Medicine team is excited to announce that our new Board Certified Internist, Dr. Fenimore will be joining the team in early October!

Warm wishes this fall season.

Your VRCC Team

CONTINUING EDUCATION: DUELING PIANOS



VRCC is hosting our regional continuing education event on Tuesday, October 20th at Howl at the Moon in downtown Denver from 6-11pm. Join us for an evening of learning, and amazing entertainment provided by the dueling pianos. Current topics in Cardiology (Dr. Carrie Ginieczki), Dermatology (Dr. Christina Gentry), Neurology (Dr. Stephen Lane) and Radiation Oncology (Dr. Nancy Gustafson) will be discussed. Registration and dinner is at 6 p.m., lectures begin at 7 p.m. 3.0 CE Credits. Registration is now open (space is limited to 150 people). RSVP to Ruby Post at 303.874.2053 or rpost@vrcc.com.

SPECIALTY HIGHLIGHT: INTERNAL MEDICINE

The Internal Medicine department at VRCC was started by Dr. Steve Wheeler in June 1991, shortly after he left a teaching position at Colorado State University's Teaching Hospital. In 2007, The Internal Medicine department founded DERTS, the Daytime Emergency Referral & Triage Service to help meet the needs of urgent daytime cases requiring care without an appointment.

VRCC Internal Medicine's team goal is to work in partnership with referring veterinarians to provide excellent service and patient care to the clients and patients entrusted to our care. By providing compassionate and professional consultation, advanced diagnostic procedures, 24 hour critical care & emergency services, our Internal Medicine team provides the most well rounded and experienced care available in the Denver Metro area.

Our board certified Internal Medicine Specialists and Critical Care Specialist have advanced expertise in diseases of the gastrointestinal, urogenital, respiratory, endocrine and hematologic systems, as well as extensive experience in providing care for patients requiring emergency and intensive critical care. Their expertise includes, but is not limited to: abdominal ultrasound, bronchoscopy, endoscopy, rhinoscopy and advanced critical care of hospitalized patients.

Internal Medicine currently has five doctors on staff, with combined experience of over 50 years, to assist you and your clients. Drs. Steve Wheeler, Don Westfall, Jenna Ashton and Jessica Timian

Specialty Highlight . . . Continues on page 2

STAFF HIGHLIGHT: DERMATOLOGY

Jeremy Bachtel, DVM, Practice Limited to Dermatology

The VRCC Dermatology Department is very excited to introduce our newest dermatology doctor, Dr. Jeremy Bachtel.



Dr. Bachtel recently finished his residency in dermatology at CSU. Dr. Bachtel has been practicing veterinary medicine since receiving his DVM from CSU in 2005; he started pursuing specialty training in dermatology in 2011 with a dermatology internship, followed by his 3-year residency.

Dr. Bachtel has a wonderful bedside manner and has already made a positive impression on our clients. Dr. Bachtel has a special interest in all things ears, and is quickly becoming the "ear guy" of VRCC. He also enjoys the many ways one can manage a patient with allergies.

Before becoming a veterinarian, Dr. Bachtel worked in Arizona with the Game and Fish Department. He worked with a variety of animals ranging from coyotes to alligators, to birds of prey, and more. He also gave live wildlife presentations to schools and at outdoor venues.

When Dr. Bachtel isn't working to improve his patients' lives, he enjoys movies, gaming, craft beer and living with his 2 cats who both happen to be named Steve.

Dr. Bachtel loves his work and truly enjoys working with his clients and making a difference in his patients' lives. Dr. Bachtel also enjoys providing consultations to area veterinarians.



are all board certified Internal Medicine Specialists. These specialists are available for consultation five days a week. Debbie Van Pelt, DVM, MS, DACVECC is available Monday through Thursday to assist with your daytime emergency and critical care cases.

Dr. Audra Fenimore will be joining our team of Board Certified Internists on October 1st. She is a graduate from Colorado State University who completed her small animal medicine and surgery rotating internship at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital in Red Bank, New Jersey from 2009-2010. She went on to complete one year as a Nestle Purina Internal Medicine/Shelter Post-doctoral Fellow at Colorado State. Audra then successfully completed a small animal internal medicine residency at Colorado State University in 2014 earning her board certification. After practicing Internal Medicine at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, she has returned to Colorado to join the VRCC Internal Medicine team.

Our Certified Veterinary Technicians are very skilled and excel in patient care and client communication. They are a highly qualified team of veterinary professionals that have all passed their certification boards. Tricia, our lead technician, is also a Veterinary Technician Specialist in Small Animal Internal Medicine. Our Internal Medicine CVTs along our Client Care Coordinators, and Patient Care Technicians make an excellent team, providing compassionate, well-rounded and efficient patient care and client communication.

If you have questions about the services that we provide or would like to talk with one of our specialists about a case, you can reach us by calling our direct line at 303-874-2055. We look forward to assisting you in providing advanced and critical care medicine to your clients and patients.

BATTLE OF THE VET HOSPITAL STARS



VRCC's 4th annual Battle of the Vet Hospital Stars took place on Sunday, September 13th. It was, once again, a huge success! Thank you to all of the veterinary hospitals who competed in this year's event! This event would not have been possible if it weren't for all of our sponsoring companies, so a big "thank you" goes out to them too.

A grand total of \$14,210 was raised this year for PetAid Colorado's Disaster Services program through team entry fees, and a hospital fundraising challenge. That brings the 4-year running total to a whopping \$48,368!!!


This annual, day-long event is filled with challenging field day games, team-work, crazy costumes, and camaraderie, all for a great cause!


We would also like to send a big congratulations to all of the winning hospitals! Our Grand Prize winner of the 2015 Battle of the Vet Hospital Stars was Banfield of Arvada! They not only get bragging rights and the coveted traveling trophy for the next year, but they also received a prize pack full of products and donations from our company sponsors worth \$5,000. Coal Creek Veterinary Hospital placed 2nd, and VCA Alameda East Animal Hospital took home third prize. VCA Park Hill Animal Hospital's "Spice Girls" won the costume contest, and Banfield of Arvada also won the hospital fundraising challenge, raising almost \$800!


For more information, visit the Battle of the Vet Hospital Stars Facebook Page, or visit www.vrcc.com/calendar-of-events/battle-of-the-vet-hospital-stars




VRCC NEWS


 We are very excited to announce that Dr. Debbie Van Pelt has recently been named the Medical Director here at VRCC!

 A fond farewell goes out to Dr. Teresa Dye. She has been with the Internal Medicine team since 2007. She will be moving away from the area to be closer to family. It's been a great 8 years Teresa, and we will miss you dearly!

 We are excited to welcome new doctors to the VRCC Emergency team! Dr. Emily Hoard will be starting in early October; and Dr. Kate Levasseur will be starting in early November.

 October 11 - 17 is National Veterinary Technician Appreciation Week! How are you and your practice planning on celebrating your awesome technicians?

 Oncology now has weekend hours available. Contact Oncology directly at 303-874-2054 for more information.

 Dr. Arnold was recruited by VRCC Oncology for her expertise in the treatment of bladder and prostate tumors. Her expertise includes non-invasive placement of urethral and ureteral stents. Call Oncology directly at 303-874-2054 for more information.

CASE STUDY: EMERGENCY

Traumatic Diaphragmatic Hernia in Dogs

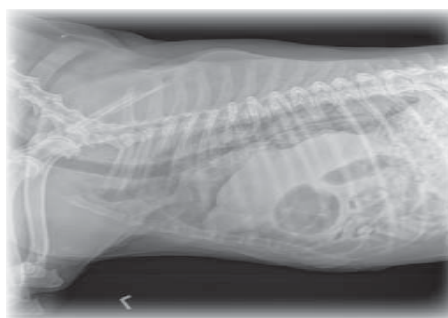
By: *Luke Rump, DVM*

This past month I have seen two traumatic diaphragmatic hernia cases.

The first is Yogi, a 12 year old, spayed female, Labrador Retriever.

She presented to VRCC after being run over by a car. Her owner believes a wheel ran over her. After the accident, she ran back into the owner's garage.

She was immediately brought to VRCC and examined: Temperature- 102.4 F Heart Rate- 180/min Respiratory Rate- 40-50/min Pain assessment- 3/4. She was alert and responsive with slightly harsh lung sounds bilaterally. She was tachypneic with increased inspiratory effort. Pale, muddy, mucus membranes with regular heart rhythm, but tachycardiac. She had a tucked up abdomen with no fluid wave palpated. A large partial thickness laceration of the right inguinal area was noted. She was ambulatory. She was started on oxygen, IV fluids and pain medications. An AFAST was done that showed no free fluid in her abdomen; her liver was displaced cranially and we were not able to visualize her urinary bladder. After our initial exam and treatment, while talking with the owner, her respiratory rate and effort changed to short shallow breathes with increased abdominal effort. Radiographs of her chest were taken (pictured below).



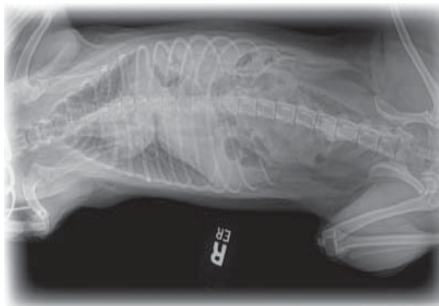
Left Lateral Chest Radiograph- Yogi

The second patient is Coco, a 2 year old, intact male, Chihuahua.

Coco ran out into the street and was run over by a passing car. He was not able to stand after the accident, so his owners scooped him up and brought him into VRCC. A physical exam was performed with the following results: Temperature- 97.2 F Heart Rate- 164/min Respiratory Rate- 46/min with increased

inspiratory effort Pain assessment- 3/4, specifically his rear limbs. A Doppler blood pressure was unsuccessful. Flow-by oxygen was started, and an IV catheter was placed. He was bolused with Norm-R, and given pain medication.

X-rays were performed on Coco as well (pictured below).



Whole Body Radiograph- Coco

Both of these cases had a traumatic diaphragmatic hernia (TDH), along with other traumatic injuries, after being run over by a car. TDH happens because of a sudden increase in intra-abdominal pressure. Increased intra-abdominal pressure, with an open glottis, causes a pressure gradient across the diaphragm that causes the diaphragm to tear. The liver is the most common organ to be herniated. Other organs affected by TDH include stomach, spleen and small intestine. Clinical signs commonly associated with a TDH include cardiovascular, respiratory and gastrointestinal abnormalities.

Diagnosis is achieved with radiographs, +/- ultrasound +/- contrast studies. CT can also be done if available. Radiographs can show loss of diaphragmatic line, loss of cardiac silhouette, dorsal or lateral displacement of lung fields, presence of gas or a barium-filled stomach or intestines in the thoracic cavity, pleural effusion and/or failure to observe the stomach or liver in the abdomen. Ultrasound can reveal pleural effusion and abdominal organs in the thoracic space.

Timing of surgery is a common question for the ER doctor. Surgery is best performed after a period of patient stabilization of 24-72 hours (if possible), depending on what organs are herniated and clinical response to supportive care. If not responding to appropriate supportive care, then emergency surgery is

indicated. Emergency surgery is indicated in acutely injured animals with severe dyspnea, cyanosis and respiratory distress who demonstrate massive herniation, and in patients that present with an air filled stomach in the thoracic cavity.

Pre-op concerns:

- *Oxygen supplementation-to help treat the ventilation/perfusion mismatch.
- *Analgesia-to treat pain due to traumatic injury- Opioids are the first choice. Use NSAIDs cautiously due to common perfusion problems with traumatic injury/shock conditions.
- *Fluid therapy- adequate but not excessive fluid resuscitation.
- *Antibiotics-broad-spectrum with choice based on suspected or known injury (consider metronidazole if liver injury suspected).

Preanesthetic concerns:

- *Pre-oxygenation
- *Rapid intubation
- *Ventilation

Intra-op concerns:

- *Intermittent positive-pressure ventilation
- *Avoid high inspiratory pressure to prevent re-expansion pulmonary edema
- *Type of diaphragmatic injury
- *Repair of hernia with re-establishment of negative intra-thoracic pressure
- *DO NOT over inflate lungs prior to final closure! That can lead to pulmonary re-expansion injury causing acute alveolar flooding and death. Allow lungs to re-inflate slowly
- *Chest tube placement

Post-op concerns:

- *Oxygenation
- *Frequent thoracostomy tube aspiration
- *Pulmonary injury/ pneumothorax/ re-expansion injury
- *Pain Control
- *Recheck radiographs

Yogi did well with emergency surgery. Coco was lost to follow-up (owners elected to take him home AMA).



Dr. Luke Rump, DVM
VRCC Emergency