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## Treadmill Exams Provide Interesting Insights

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## Problem Prevention Classes

### **Puppy Problem Prevention**

Beginning in September of 1993, the Behavior Clinic at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP) will be offering a 4-week course in preventing behavior problems in puppies. These classes were started in response to the demand by pet owners and veterinarians for early puppy training. They were designed after a preliminary study done at VHUP determined that working with pups at an early age could decrease behavioral complaints.

The classes will be held on four consecutive Saturdays with each session lasting 1 1/2 hours. They will be no larger than six puppies in order to give individualized attention. The class is tailored to young puppies. At the start of the sessions pups need to be *at least seven weeks of age and no older than six months of age.*

Each meeting will feature puppy play periods where puppy communication and normal behavior will be discussed. The small class size will allow

problems and questions to be addressed in a timely manner when it can make the biggest difference. The last session will focus on anticipating and preventing common behavioral problems that develop at later ages.

### **Problem Prevention and Socialization**

In response to repeated requests from veterinarians, animal shelters, and pet owners, the Behavioral Clinic at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP) is offering a 4-part socialization and problem prevention class for dogs over six months of age.

These sessions will be held on four consecutive Saturdays with the exception of Thanksgiving week, each lasting 1 1/2 hours. Small classes of no more than six dogs will allow for individual attention to each owner's specific problems.

Common concerns such as house-breaking, nutrition, disease prevention, leash manners, appropriate play behavior, selecting the right obedience class

for you, and leash/collar choice will be discussed. The last session will focus on understanding and handling early signs of behavioral problems, particularly aggression.

### **Reservations Are Necessary!**

#### **Reserve Early**

#### **September Series**

11 Sept., 18 Sept., 25 Sept., 2 Oct.,  
October Series

16 Oct., 23 Oct., 30 Oct., 6 Nov.,  
November Series

20 Nov., 4 Dec., 11 Dec., 18 Dec.

The cost for all four 1 1/2 hour sessions is \$100. Ask for a discount voucher when adopting a dog from humane societies or the SPCA. The cost with the voucher is \$50 for all four 1 1/2 hour sessions.

For information and/or reservations, please call:

Dr. Karen Overall  
Behavior Clinic/VHUP  
215-898-3347

## Treadmill Exams Provide Interesting Insights

New Bolton Center's Jeffords Treadmill Facility has provided some interesting insights into the causes of poor performance of the equine athlete. "To date, we have examined 105 horses and have found some unusual reasons for the drop in performance," explained Dr. Benson Martin, director of the facility. "We diagnosed an aortic thrombosis in one horse brought to us for poor performance, and several horses with ventricular premature contractions or atrial fibrillation. These results were unexpected."

The high speed treadmill permits examination of a horse while running at top speed. New Bolton Center specialists have an array of sophisticated diagnostic tools available to examine the animal while performing. Heart monitors and

radiotelemetric electrocardiograms giving precise readings while the horse is exercising at speed can detect cardiac arrhythmias. A videoendoscope allows for visual examination of the upper airway while the horse is exercising at speed. This greatly assists in identifying dynamic upper airway abnormalities.

"We can also do blood gas analysis and muscle enzyme analysis during or just right after the animal has been exercised," said Dr. Martin. "This results in more accurate values and may help us in determining why the animal's performance has decreased." Dr. Martin explained that these diagnostic procedures have shown a higher incidence of subclinical "tying up."

The treadmill is also used for fitness testing, high speed lameness examinations and a treadmill exercise program for horses being brought back into training.

"The Jeffords Treadmill Facility has opened many diagnostic avenues," said

Dr. Martin. "We can now observe and test the animal under high speed conditions and suited to their performance careers (racing, three-day, show, etc.), and this provides a more accurate picture of the horse's physical condition. We are very excited by the enhanced diagnostic capabilities as they allow us to more completely evaluate the patient's cardiovascular, respiratory, and musculoskeletal systems at speed."

