



7-1-1996

VHUP Endoscopy Service



Dr. Beth Callan received the Class of 1996 Teaching Award from Karen Frøberg-Sleph, V'96.



The Class of 1996 Resident Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Nicola Mason.



Joe Roginsky (VHUP) received the Class of 1996 Veterinary Technician Teaching Award.



Amy Saito presented the VMSG Support Staff Award to Jane Cohen (VHUP).

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The Rottweiler was anesthetized, soundly asleep, as it was wheeled into the new Endoscopy Suite on the third floor of VHUP. The dog had a chronic history of vomiting and diarrhea, and VHUP doctors wanted to perform upper gastrointestinal tract endoscopy for the purpose of obtaining a biopsy.

Not so long ago, gastrointestinal biopsy would have required abdominal surgery and a lengthy recovery. "We have recently made the transition from a fiber optic system to a (Pentax) video endoscopy system," said Dr. Robert Washabau, a gastroenterologist and associate professor of medicine. "As with the fiber optic system, the new video endoscopy system permits us to examine both the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract. The resolution of the newer system is just fantastic. Our clients and referring veterinarians especially appreciate the color image printouts. As with fiber optics, we can perform tissue biopsy, retrieve ingested foreign bodies, and perform some nutritional interventions. Many of these procedures are now less invasive to the animal and less costly to the client."

The new video endoscope came with special fittings that permit VHUP doctors to adapt the "older" fiber optic endoscopes to the new system. In addition, two new cytosopes were purchased to permit examinations of the lower urinary tract of cats and dogs. The VHUP Endoscopy Service now has the ability to perform upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy, bronchoscopy, cytoscopy, rhinoscopy, and laparoscopy.

"We are now using the endoscopy equipment to place feeding (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy or PEG) tubes in animals in need of nutritional support. Before endoscopy systems, gastrostomy tube placement would require abdominal surgery. Endoscopic placement is a relatively minor procedure," explained Dr. Washabau.

The Endoscopy Service provides routine services five days per week. However, emergency services are avail-

able 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents are trained in the use of the equipment, and a full-time technician is assigned to the suite. An Outpatient Clinic is also held each Friday for special cases sent in by referring veterinarians. The Outpatient Clinic was developed for those clients who did not wish to hospitalize their animals.

Education and clinical research are the other missions of the Endoscopy Service. "A video projection system permits us to train our residents and interns, and better educate our students to new developments in endoscopy," said Dr. Washabau. "We now have an extensive library of video recordings for the edification of our future students, interns and residents." VHUP is participating in a national study of *Helicobacter* infection in cats and dogs. "This is an emerging disease entity in the dog and cat population," said Dr. Washabau. "The endoscopy program at VHUP will play a very pivotal role in establishing the incidence, diagnosis, and therapy of this infectious disease." ■

Development Offices Changes

Susan Barrett has been appointed associate director for development for the Philadelphia campus. Ms. Barrett was director of alumni affairs and annual giving. Eugenia Warnock was appointed to this position. Ms. Warnock comes to the School of Veterinary Medicine from the Law School where she was assistant director of annual giving. ■

Polo Benefit for New Bolton Center

The Brandywine Polo Club will hold a polo match to benefit New Bolton Center on September 8, 1996 at the Brandywine Polo Club near Toughkenamon, Chester County. The match is scheduled for 3 pm. Dean Alan M. Kelly will present the trophy to the winning team. ■