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Study on Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunts

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On May 10, 2001 the Philadelphia Museum of Art began its 125th birthday celebration at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park, the museum's original home and the only exhibition building remaining from the 1876 Centennial Exposition. The School was asked to provide carriage transportation for the governor's wife, Michelle Ridge, and Philadelphia Mayor John Street, to the stage in front of Memorial Hall. The carriage was preceded by outriders from the First City Troop and a Fyfe and Drum Corps. It made a pretty picture and horses and carriage were a big hit with the crowd. Shown here are whip **Bruce Rappoport** and groom **Tricia Higginbotham** driving Mrs. Ridge and Mayor Street.

Study on Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunts

Dr. Chick Weisse, a surgical resident, and his colleagues are conducting a study of the use of interventional radiology in the treatment of intrahepatic portosystemic shunts (PSSs) which traditionally are treated surgically. Surgical treatment is a challenge due to difficulty in locating the shunt at surgery, their large size, increased risk of hemorrhage, and increased likelihood of requiring multiple procedures. Prognosis for "clinical improvement" in animals receiving these treatments is only 70-75 percent. The increased morbidity and mortality associated with surgical treatment of intrahepatic shunts has inspired a search for alternative treatment options.

Recently, a number of reports have described the use of interventional radiology techniques for the management of dogs with intrahepatic PSSs. Thrombogenic coils were used for staged embolization of intrahepatic shunts.

Interventional radiology techniques offer

the advantage of shunt attenuation with simultaneous angiography and pressure measurements, shorter anesthesia times, minimal invasiveness, and avoidance of the morbidity associated with complicated, technically demanding surgical procedures. We have already performed a number of these procedures with the assistance of a human interventional radiologist and have not experienced any serious complications to date.

We would like to offer this procedure as an alternative option for any cases of intrahepatic PSSs and encourage veterinarians who have such cases in their practice to contact us for more information on the procedure. Inquiries from veterinarians should be directed to Dr. Chick Weisse at VHUP, 3850 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Owners of dogs with the disease should have their veterinarian contact Dr. Weisse; unfortunately, he is not able to talk to owners to discuss their case.