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Rosenthal Imaging and Treatment Center Now Open

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ROSENTHAL IMAGING AND TREATMENT CENTER



Photos by John Donges

Dean Joan Hendricks (left) joined Jerry Rosenthal, his wife Cionna and their daughters Jocelyn and Cionna as they cut the ribbon that officially opened the RITC. Leadership gifts from the Bernice Barbour Foundation, John and Margrit McCrane, the Samuel P. Mandell Foundation, Gerald Shreiber, the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Carson International and friends of MacKinzie Lynch — and support from Penn's School of Medicine — helped fund the Center.

Rosenthal Imaging and Treatment Center Now Open

The Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital has officially opened Pennsylvania's only oncology and imaging facility devoted entirely to veterinary medicine—one of only a handful in the world.

The Rosenthal Imaging and Treatment Center (RITC) is a new high-tech, 9,200 sq. ft. facility housing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment for diagnostics and a linear accelerator for radiation treatment.

Our first official patient for the new MRI was Beny, a 10-year-old German shepherd from the K-9 Unit of the West Whiteland Township Police Department, in Pennsylvania.



Left, Beny about to start the imaging process. Below, Officer Herkner with Beny during recovery.

His handler/partner, Officer Matt Herkner, had noticed that one of Beny's legs was knuckling under; MRIs of his cervical spine area, and his lower thorax suggested that a cyst was compressing the left side of the spinal cord; there was also evidence of degenerative disks and arthritis of the cervical spine.

Beny's scan was taken by a GE 1.5 Tesla MRI scanner. This system allows superb imaging of internal structures and provides soft tissue detail not available with conventional X-rays or CT scans. Operated by a certified MRI radiology technologist, images are interpreted by board-certified radiologists and other specialists.

In addition to the MRI, the RITC offers radiation therapy. Sir Mix-A-Lot, a 32-year-old male yellow anaconda from the Brandywine Zoo in Wilmington, DE, has a life-threatening carcinoma. While much of the tumor was removed surgically, radiation therapy is a necessary next step in an effort to save his life—and so, he became the RITC's first radiation therapy patient. Unlike most mammals, reptiles suffer few side effects from radiation therapy due to their physiology; Sir Mix-A-Lot recently completed his treatment with the Siemens 6 MV linear accelerator and his tumor has decreased dramatically in size. The equipment produces high-energy photons and a range of electron beams that affect both the normal cells and cancer cells that are within the beam's path; however, the radiation treatment is designed to produce the maximum effect on the tumor and minimize the effect on normal tissue.

The RITC is equipped to handle a caseload of up to 15 to 20 patients a day. For more information, please visit www.vet.upenn.edu/RITC/. 🐾



Sir Mix-A-Lot, a yellow anaconda from the Brandywine Zoo, is prepared for radiation treatment.