Fall 1982

Resources

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The following is an update on resources available in the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP).

Cases are seen on an appointment basis only. Most clinical sections see cases between 9:00 A.M. and Noon.

The appointment desk may be called between 9:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. (215-898-4680). The emergency room is open 24 hours/day, seven days/week (215-898-4685).

Clinic Days:
- Behavior: Scheduled by department only—215-898-4525
- Cardiology: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
- Dermatology and Clinical Immunology: Tuesday thru Friday
- Exotics: Tuesday and Wednesday evening
- Medicine: Monday thru Friday
- Neurology: Wednesday (other days by special arrangement with referring veterinarian)
- Oncology: Monday
- Ophthalmology: Monday and Thursday
- Orthopedics: Wednesday and Friday (This section accepts appointments only after the referring veterinarian has called to explain the case).
- Medical Genetics/Pediatrics and Reproduction: Monday and Tuesday
- Soft Tissue Surgery: Monday thru Thursday

The Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania offers veterinary care for unowned animals such as pigeons, hawks, owls, squirrels, rabbits, and groundhogs found abandoned and injured.

Call 215-898-4680 during regular hours (Monday thru Friday 9:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.) At other times, call 215-898-4685. For additional information, call Dr. Josephine Deubler—215-898-8662 or Mr. Barry Stupine—215-898-4161

Dean Jang-nag Lee visits the School of Veterinary Medicine

On July 15, 1982 the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Seoul National University (Seoul, Republic of Korea) visited our School. Pictured here are Dean Jang-nag Lee (center), Dr. Yon K. Oh, former president of the Korean Veterinary Society (left), and Dr. Hung Min Chi, a Philadelphia practitioner (right).

Unusual Amphibians

Some of the Philadelphia Zoo's more interesting, yet little-known animals are the Poison Dart Frogs. In general, amphibians are not greatly emphasized in most zoos. Their environmental requirements, stringent, yet varied, make their display more difficult. The Philadelphia Zoo, however, is able to provide amphibians with their proper environmental conditions. The Reptile House is equipped with air conditioning so that the Lake Titicaca Frog is comfortable at a temperature range between 60°F and 72°F. Yet the Poison Dart Frogs, housed in the same building, are kept in a temperature range between 72°F and 80°F.

There are three genera of Poison Dart Frogs: Colostethus, which are not toxic; Dendrobates, which are mildly toxic; and Phyllobates, which are the most toxic. Ranging in size from one inch to two and a half inches, the frogs are found throughout South America, Central America, and in parts of North America. An alkaloid is present in the skin secretions of the frogs. The name "Poison Dart" derives from a dying use of these toxic secretions by the Indians of South America for their weapons. In fact, the frogs are more commonly known as Poison Arrow Frogs. However, since the Indians used the toxin only on their darts, this name is incorrect. Currently, there is a movement, led by Charles W. Meyers of the American Museum of Natural History, to establish the frogs' name as the Poison Dart Frogs.

Like most poisonous species, the frogs are brightly colored. Red, yellow, blue, gold, and black distinguish the Poison Dart Frogs from their common green relatives. Their coloration serves two purposes: it camouflages them in their lush environment, yet it also advertises their toxicity when necessary.

Another distinction of the Poison Dart Frogs is their breeding pattern. The female's only part in the process is depositing clumps of eggs under dry leaves. The male, after fertilizing the eggs, also guards them. The eggs usually hatch in twelve days. The male then carries the tadpoles, sometimes almost a hundred of them, on his back to a body of water. These areas include ditches, roadside puddles, or bromeliads, plants that collect water in their centers. Tadpoles are deposited in individual sites because they will eat anything, even brothers and sisters. Within sixty to eighty days the tadpoles mature into frogs and within a year they too are ready to breed.

The Philadelphia Zoo presently possesses two types of Poison Dart Frogs: Dendrobates auratus and Dendrobates tinctorius. They are commonly referred to as Green and blacks and Tie-dyes. The Green and blacks arrived in 1979 from Hawaii and gave birth for the first time last year. Amphibian births in zoos are difficult and therefore rare; so, the birth was quite a happy event for the Zoo. The Green and blacks are now on exhibit in the Reptile House. The Tie-dyes arrived at the Zoo from Florida in 1982 and are currently under the observation of John Groves, the Reptile Curator. Groves expects the Tie-dyes to reproduce in early 1993.

New Poison Dart Frogs are expected at the Zoo shortly. These frogs are the Phyllobates terribilis, more commonly known as the Golden Poison Dart Frogs. Presently these frogs are found in the U.S. only at the American Museum of Natural History. However, this year they will be loaned to the Philadelphia Zoo and the Bronx Zoo. The Golden Frogs are almost 200 times more toxic than the other Poison Dart Frogs. Their poison has no known antidote. The Zoo hopes to breed them and eventually place them on exhibit with their other amphibians.
The following is a current list of chiefs of the Clinical Sections at VHUP and New Bolton Center:

**Department of Clinical Studies—Philadelphia**
Director, Small Animal Hospital: Barry J. Stupin, M.B.A.
Section of Cardiology: David H. Knight, D.V.M., chief
Section of Clinical Pathology: Peter J. Felsburg, V.M.D., Ph.D., chief
Section of Dermatology: Donald F. Patterson, D.V.M., Ph.D., chief
Section of Neurology: Darryl N. Berry, D.V.M., chief
Section of Ophthalmology: Gustavo D. Aguirre, V.M.D., chief
Section of Small Animal Radiology: Elizabeth Stone, D.V.M., M.Sc., chief

**Department of Clinical Studies—New Bolton Center**
Chairman: Charles F. Reid, D.V.M., M.S.
Director, Large Animal Hospital: Richard A. McFeely, V.M.D., M.Med.Sc.
Section of Clinical Reproduction: Robert M. Kenney, D.V.M., Ph.D., chief
Section of Field Service: Richard C. Bartholomew, V.M.D., chief
Section of Large Animal Medicine: Lawrence R. Soma, V.M.D., chief
Section of Small Animal Medicine: Kenneth Bovee, D.V.M., M.R.C.V.S., chief
Section of Small Animal Surgery: Elizabeth Stone, D.V.M., M.Sc., chief

Poison Information Hotline
An Animal Poison Control Information Center has been established at the University of Illinois. It provides antidotal and other information on a 24-hour basis. It is staffed by veterinary toxicologists and can be reached by calling 217-333-3611.

New Telephone Exchange
The telephone exchange of the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia has been changed from 243 to 898. All the extension numbers remain the same.

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**Events**

**October**

16 PVMIA 100th Annual Meeting, Dean's Reception, White Haven, PA

28 Lay Seminar—Poisons and Their Problems, New Bolton Center

**November**

6 SCAVMA Square Dance, New Bolton Center

13 Pennsylvania Hunt Cup Carriage Drive, New Bolton Center

17 AAHA Region I Alumni Reception, New York, NY

**December**

1 AABP National Meeting, Alumni Reception, Nashville, TN

3 SCAVMA Auxiliary Christmas Auction, Alumni Reception, Philadelphia, PA

5 AAEP National Meeting, Alumni Reception, Atlanta, GA

11 Christmas Dinner Dance, New Bolton Center

17 Christmas Buffet, New Bolton Center

**January**


29 Canine Symposium for Owners and Breeders, School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, 9 am-5 pm

**February**

19 Radiology: Survey and Interpretation Workshop*, School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, 9 am-5 pm

21 Western States Conference, Alumni Reception, Las Vegas, NV

**March**

10 Bovine Viral Diseases*, New Bolton Center, 9 am-5 pm

13 AAHA National Meeting, Alumni Reception, San Antonio, TX

26 Necropsy Techniques and Interpretation of Gross Lesions*, School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, 9 am-5 pm

AAHA Region I Alumni Reception, New York, NY

*these are Continuing Education Courses offered for credit

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**Resources**

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