

SVECCS—An Active Student Group

by Amy Parkman, V'02

The University of Pennsylvania chapter of the Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (SVECCS) has been very busy this past year. In an effort to gain more experience, over 60 SVECCS members have participated in the ES Shadowing Program in the Emergency Service at VHUP where SVECCS members “shadow” a fourth year student during this rotation. SVECCS also sponsored a lunchtime lecture series on various emergency and critical care topics.

This winter the “SVECCS Neurology Workshop” was established. This enabled students to review specially selected case studies with neurology resident, Dr. Bill Bush. The sessions served as a review of previously learned neuro exam techniques and integration of concepts into actual hospital cases.

In brainstorming sessions last spring, it became apparent that members felt they needed hands-on experience with more invasive techniques. They wanted ways to gain experience with venipuncture, catheter placement and intubation, CPR, and placement of central line catheters. With assistance from the New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), one of the nation’s oldest and most respected animal advocacy organizations, SVECCS customized a canine vascular access model produced by Rescue Critters, Animal Mannikins.

“Critical Care Jerry”, as he is affectionately known, enables students to practice both jugular and cephalic venipuncture, central line and peripheral catheter placement, intubation, CPR, mouth-to-snout resuscitation, thoracocentesis, and bandaging techniques. Jerry approximates a 60 pound dog with a realistic mouth and airway (i.e.: trachea, epiglottis, esophagus), disposable working lungs, an artificial pulse, and a spiffy fur-like coat. This model also allows aspiration of air and fluid from the thoracic cavity via syringe (thoracocentesis). Recently, Jerry was the guest of honor at a nursing training session

involving jugular catheterization and placement of central lines. SVECCS also volunteered “his services” to the local Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) training in the spring.

SVECCS could not find a comparable feline vascular access model, so members helped design a feline prototype through Rescue Critters. In conjunction with the section of dentistry at VHUP, a mold of the feline mouth was created. A collection of anatomical pictures and diagrams was assembled to facilitate



Students work with Critical Care Jerry.

development of the mannequin’s mouth, trachea, epiglottis, and esophagus. A student committee of both Feline Club members and SVECCS members consulted on the exact specifications for the model with Rescue Critters. “Critical Care Fluffy” has a realistic airway, disposable working lungs, artificial pulse, and various venipuncture sites. Like the canine model, Fluffy can be intubated, and has CPR and mouth-to-snout resuscitation capabilities. “Critical Care Fluffy” made her debut at the annual Feline Club wetlab and at the SVECCS venipuncture wetlab, both held in March.

With the assistance of Dr. Cindy Otto, SVECCS is also involved in organizing a disaster medicine plan for the Philadelphia region. We hope to participate in a disaster training exercise scheduled for our local Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT). The animal mannequins will provide the opportunity to practice actual critical care procedures in field training exercises. 🐾

SCAVMA Auction

December 1, 2000 at 5 PM
Marookian Auditorium,
VHUP

We invite alumni to attend and join the fun!

The auction raises money for SCAVMA purchases that benefit the students at the School. Last year’s auction raised more than \$20,000 for various projects and the Faculty/SCAVMA Emergency Loan Fund. We hope we can top this in 2000 and are looking for donated auction items. Donations will be listed in the SCAVMA auction brochure.

Jessica Melman, V'03
Kate Johnson, V'03
Carrie Goldkamp, V'03
SCAVMA Auction Chairpersons

The 2001 Seminar Vacations continuing education trip will be February 15 to 20 to Montego Bay, Jamaica. The ophthalmology seminar will be presented by Dr. Kirk Gelatt, V'65.

Seminar Vacations donates a portion of its spring veterinary continuing education seminar to student scholarship funds at the School of Veterinary Medicine. For further information, please contact Dr. Dan Bleicher, 215-886-1222 or Dr. Robert Stewart, 610-865-2611.