

Clinical Trials at Ryan Veterinary Hospital

Clinical trials investigate new methods of disease prevention, diagnosis, and/or treatment. Drugs, vaccines, immunotherapy, surgery, nutrition and complementary or alternative medicines—such as acupuncture—are some of the approaches used to prevent and treat diseases in animals, just as in people. In the Clinical Studies Department at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital, two trials are currently underway. One study evaluates how to treat different kinds of cancer in dogs and cats and the other is evaluating pain treatment in dogs with arthritis and bone cancer. If you believe your pet might benefit from participating in a clinical trial or you would like additional information, contact the School's Clinical Trials staff at (215) 573-0302. You may leave a message that includes your contact information, and one of our staff will return your call. You may also send an email to vcic@vet.upenn.edu with your questions.

Penn Researchers Study the Use of Ultrasound for Cancer Treatment

For the first time, ultrasound is being used in animal models—to treat cancer by disrupting tumor blood vessels. The School of Veterinary Medicine's **Dr. Andrew Wood, DVSc, PhD**, professor of radiology, and researchers at Penn Medicine completed a study in mice in which they used ultrasound both to see a tumor's blood perfusion and then to treat it with a continuous low-level ultrasound. After three minutes of this treatment, researchers observed that the tumors had little or no blood supply. The results of this study were published in the October 2005 issue of *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology*. The study was funded in part by the National Institutes of Health.

Feline Mucopolysaccharidosis

With the support from the National MPS Society and National Institutes of Health, **Dr. Eva Tcherneva**, postdoctoral research specialist, and **Dr. Jessica Caverly, V'96**, postdoctoral fellow in medical genetics recently characterized the molecular defect and pathology for feline mucopolysaccharidosis, a devastating and very unusual hereditary lysosomal storage disorder. Other similar disorders were surveyed in some breeds of dogs by the School's Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory, including mucopolysaccharidosis in skipperkes, miniature pinschers and miniature schnauzers.



Photo by Sabina Pierce

Dr. Dottie Brown screens a dog with arthritis for participation in a pain management clinical trial at Ryan Veterinary Hospital.

New Blood

The Transfusion Laboratory at Penn and the Penn Animal Blood Bank have identified a new blood type in Dalmatians and domestic shorthair cats that may be of considerable importance when transfusing animals.

Expanded Reproduction Service

While the Section of Medical Genetics at the Ryan Hospital has provided breeding assistance, pregnancy evaluation and diagnostic and therapeutic workup of sex developmental disorders and infertility problems of dogs and cats for decades, it now offers an expanded reproduction service with additional modern technologies. This includes canine semen cryopreservation and long-term storage as well as endoscopic transcervical and surgical artificial insemination. To schedule an appointment, contact penngen@vet.upenn.edu or call 215-898-8894. 🐾