

# AnimalLIFE

Summer 2012



## Veterinary Health Center

AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

TO DISCOVER. TO TEACH. TO HEAL.

## FEATURING

New Name...New Beginning

Service Dog Receives Life Saving Care

Miniature Horse Provides Comfort

# EDITOR'S NOTE

*The two words "animal" and "life" share the "L", because just like our pets, they are a seamless part of our lives.*

## *Family.*

It is a common thread throughout the Veterinary Health Center (VHC) and it has been evident from my first day.

There are many positive changes being made here, but one thing that will never change is how this family comes together. I have seen, with absolute clarity, what it means to the people and patients of the VHC, and to me. In one of my very first meetings as *AnimaLIFE* editor with Dr. Finland, VHC director, he spoke of the importance of this family and how I was now a part of it. Many say it, but few live it.

My goal is to share with you the stories of this family: patients, doctors, students, and you. If you are reading this, you have already impacted this family in a positive way. This is your family, too.

In this issue, you will see families come together, in the most literal sense, help each other survive, and achieve success. Many can say their coworkers, patients, clients, etc. are family, but at the VHC, we also live and breathe it.

Best Wishes,

*Kristin Clement*



Kristin Clement, editor,  
and Jordy

# AnimaLIFE

VETERINARY HEALTH CENTER AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer 2012

*AnimaLIFE* is published semi-annually by the Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State University.

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## Veterinary Health Center

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# DIRECTOR'S LETTER



We are delighted to bring *AnimaLIFE* back after a year of exciting developments. The world of medicine, especially veterinary medicine, is ever-changing and the Veterinary Health Center (VHC) is committed to providing progressive patient care and exceptional clinical training. Thank you for your patience. We are excited to be back on track with the semi-annual publication of *AnimaLIFE*.

The VHC constantly strives for excellence, which includes regular updates and renovations to our facilities. In this issue, you will see our plans for the Veterinary Health Center client plaza, an equine performance testing facility and renovations on the small animal surgery suite. We are also excited to announce the completion of renovation projects in the small animal wards and equine isolation.

Faculty such as Dr. Laura Armbrust and Drs. Butch and Kate KuKanich continue to create opportunities for our patients and students through ambitious research in these improved facilities. The VHC faculty represent the top tier of their profession advancing veterinary medicine and providing unmatched care for your animals. Their passion and dedication to educating the next generation of veterinarians sets the VHC apart in the world of animal medical centers.

Every aspect of the VHC - from construction to research to patient care - is enhanced by clients and friends of the VHC. In this issue, you will find a number of upcoming opportunities to make a difference in the lives of animals while memorializing or honoring your own loved ones. Grateful clients play a tremendous role in the success of the VHC.

I personally invite you to visit the VHC to see how we are growing and improving. Come be a part of this monumental time! After all, it is through your support and love of animals that we are able to continue providing excellent care and superb clinical training for future veterinarians.

Warmly,

Roger B. Fingland, DVM, MBA, DACVS  
Executive Associate Dean  
Director, Veterinary Health Center

Photo by Dave Adams



**Our job is to teach, and our responsibility is to our students. But we do so much more for the community by providing for the health and wellness of animals.**

# EXCELLENCE in motion

## How our veterinary hospital is evolving to meet the demands of the 21st century

**Very few things in life stand still. And survive. Perhaps nowhere is that more true than in the case of a veterinary hospital faced with challenges that could undermine its very mission — training exceptional veterinarians of the future.**

**T**hat's why we set out on a path to make sure we were well poised for the coming decades. It began with a study of where we are now, how we are perceived and utilized by the surrounding community and what changes were needed to ensure a robust presence and continued ability to provide exceptional service going forward.

Working with a professional branding and marketing company, we began by holding a workshop where we defined the issues and challenges we face, seen against the backdrop of our strengths and weaknesses. We then looked at who we wanted to be, phrased as an internal aspiration—what type of hospital we should strive to become as we do our work every day—and as an external promise—how we communicate the full range of benefits we offer to the community at large.

Through market research with staff, students, referring veterinarians, and the

surrounding community, we discovered that our reputation was not always aligned with our core strengths, offerings, and benefits to the community and that there was a lack of clarity about exactly what services we did provide.

So we reviewed our existing goals and are moving forward with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to:

- Provide outstanding clinical learning opportunities across a broad spectrum of species
- Graduate the finest veterinarians in the country
- Conduct cutting-edge clinical research that enhances the quality of the medical care we can offer
- Deliver the highest level of healthcare and service to our community
- Demonstrate why an academic veterinary medical center is the best place for animals to get care, much like in human medicine

When we then looked at how we could best evolve our reputation to better align with what we really do and the benefits we offer, we felt that the place to start was with a name change. There is perhaps no better way to refresh our identity and how we are perceived. A new name carries promises of bigger and better things to come. A new name heralds who we aspire to be. And it sends a clear message...watch us, we're on the move.

After considering many new name possibilities, we arrived at what we think is the best choice—Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State University—a name that focuses attention on the positive attributes and benefits of our hospital. "Health" is a desired outcome as well as what is taught to students. "Center" has a broad meaning and encompasses research and education as well as care. The tagline—"To discover. To teach. To heal."—captures all that we do: researching medical breakthroughs, training veterinarians of the future, bringing expertise in animal healthcare to the community.

### A NEW NAME...A NEW BEGINNING

Now comes the critical stage—meeting our goals, becoming who we aspire to be. And for this, communication is key. We have already started an extensive communications rollout to a variety of people, through a variety of means, to reinforce our new identity, so that our name becomes synonymous with "exceptional academic veterinary medical center." We are on the move, and great things are about to happen. We hope you will help us spread the word. ■■■

## Veterinary Health Center

AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

TO DISCOVER. TO TEACH. TO HEAL.

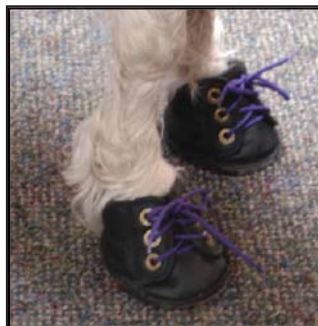


# Mini Horse Makes A BIG Difference

Unique pet and friend battles for her life so she can continue sharing her gift with others.

There was a buzz in the sitting area as the members of Midland Care Adult Day Health of Lawrence, Kansas anxiously awaited their afternoon visit. This was not a visitor the group was used to, but a very special and unique team of two.

Cindy is a 27 ½ inch tall, 185 pound, very well behaved 5-year-old. She prances down the hall with boots on her feet and matching bows in her hair to the awaiting crowd. Guardian, Rae Warren of Ottawa, Kansas, carries a favorably colored purple lead with “CINDY” written across the nose piece of her halter. Cindy is not your typical visitor; she is not even your typical pet therapy visitor. Cindy is an American Miniature Horse, brought from Texas specifically to bring smiles to



residents and visitors of nursing homes and adult day care centers. She accomplishes her job with exceptional grace.

Warren has always loved horses and keeps several full-sized horses at her farm, but she's always had a soft spot for the elderly. “I really wanted a way to bring those two passions together.” Warren searched for several years, when she finally found Cindy, a 4-year-old miniature horse in Texas. On New Year's Day, 2011, Warren's husband drove her to Texas to meet Cindy. Cindy moved to Kansas with the Warren's the next day.

Not long after Cindy arrived in her new home, Warren noticed Cindy showing signs of a sinus infection. “I thought it was just from the long trip from Texas,” Warren said. Cindy's condition continued to deteriorate. She had difficulty breathing on their daily walks. After a trip to the local veterinarian, Cindy was referred to the Veterinary Health Center (VHC). She was diagnosed with sinusitis and Dr. Elizabeth Davis, equine section head at the VHC consulted with the surgery service who determined surgery would be necessary

for Cindy to clear the nasal cavities. This procedure was successfully performed by Dr. Jose Bras, equine emergency clinician and Dr. Liz Devine, chief resident in large animal surgery. Although this is a relatively straightforward procedure, Cindy's small size increased the complexity and risk of the surgery.

After surgery, Cindy ran a bout of fever and testing determined she had mild pneumonia and a blood infection. Cindy battled anemia and was given treatments to fight the bacteria. Two weeks later, her fever subsided and the white blood cell count was finally within normal limits.

Warren came down to visit a couple of times during Cindy's 15 day stay. "She wouldn't have made it without the surgery," Warren says. "Cindy received the greatest care at the VHC." The care continued at home as Warren administered antibiotic therapy, monitored her body temperature and limited her activity for several weeks.

The surgery and treatment set Cindy's therapy career back a few months, but her visit to Midland Care of Lawrence

was her 29th visit to area organizations with Warren. "Every time is so special," Warren replied when asked if there was a certain place or memory that stood out.

As Cindy made her way into the circle of a waiting group, she greeted the first person she came to and patiently waited to be stroked and fussed over. Warren introduced her and answered questions about Cindy and caring for a miniature horse. Some like to remember their experiences

growing up with horses. Cindy stood for each person to pet and talk to as needed before moving on to the next.

"I've never heard some of them talk so much," commented Brenda Wahl, client care coordinator at Midland Care. One quiet gentleman even recalled his days of caring for horses and showed the group how they used to work on hooves. Cindy patiently lifted her leg for him while he untied her boot laces, took off her boot and finally put it back on. "Can I lead her around?" he softly asked Warren. She agreed and he took the purple lead in his hands. He gently paraded her around the room and everyone watched his memories of younger years come back.

*"She wouldn't have made it without the surgery. Cindy received the greatest care at the VHC."  
-Rae Warren*



Pictured top left and moving clockwise: Joann Deihl and Rae Warren; Anna Jones; Ruth Harvey; and Dorothy Chick and Rae Warren.

NOTE: Special thanks to our hosts, Midland Care!

Cindy finishes her first round of hellos, and then starts over again, giving each person the opportunity for a little extra attention. "I don't put a time limit on how long we stay," says Warren. With the variety of facilities Warren and Cindy visit, every trip is unique. Warren takes off work early Thursday afternoons to travel the area, sometimes traveling a significant distance for Cindy's visits.

How does a miniature horse travel? In style and luxury, of course! Warren drives a minivan with the back seats left out to accommodate Cindy's travels. "We have a ramp for her to get in and out," Warren said. "She really likes the windows rolled down. On our way in today, she let out a really loud whinny," Warren smiled about Cindy's announcement of their arrival.

At this point, Cindy riding in a minivan should not be surprising. Cindy seems so human; it is easy to forget that her non-human nature is what makes her so extraordinary. Only an animal can touch lives in a way that brings patience, kindness and willingness to each person she visits. Her positive attributes are intensified by the exceptional connection Cindy shares with Warren, reminding us once again of the powerful human-animal bond. Cindy's capacity to touch lives and create smiles far outreaches her physical presence. ♡



Roy Taylor visits with Cindy at Midland Care.

# On The Road to Good Pet Health



**W**ildcat Express provides assistance to pet owners around the area by transporting pets to the Veterinary Health Center (VHC) for treatment and care. Local veterinarians can arrange for small animal patients to be picked up from Omaha, Nebraska or Wichita, Kansas to visit the renowned specialists at the VHC.

Your pets will arrive in comfort and style as the 24-foot motor coach is environmentally controlled with built-in cages and first aid supplies for non-emergent patients. After the visit, your pet can return home on the Wildcat Express for no charge if other patients are scheduled for pick up on that day. ♡

For details on scheduling a visit, please talk to your local veterinarian, or call the VHC at 785.532.5690.



# DISCOVERING HOPE

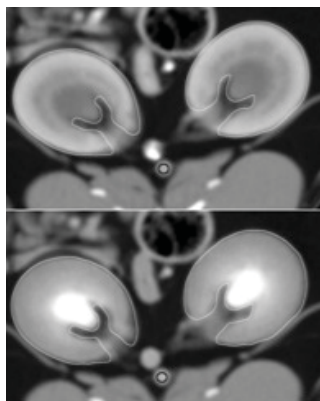
*The Image of Health*

Dr. Laura Armbrust



Seven years ago, Dr. Laura Armbrust was featured in *AnimalIFE* introducing a digital imaging system that allowed radiographs to be shared throughout the hospital on monitors in a matter of seconds. Today, she continues to provide exceptional teaching, clinical service and clinically relevant research at the Veterinary Health Center (VHC).

Dr. Armbrust, associate professor of radiology, and her team have recently tested an imaging technique that may provide better understanding of renal disease in cats. Renal (kidney) disease occurs commonly in felines affecting nearly 1 in 10 cats, with chances doubling in elderly cats. The disease is typically diagnosed through blood work or imaging techniques such as ultrasound and nuclear medicine, but each of these methods has limitations. Blood tests cannot determine which kidney is failing. Ultrasound provides anatomic detail, but no functional information. Nuclear medicine determines the function of each kidney, but not the cause of failure. A test that can provide anatomic detail, as well as functional information for each kidney, would be valuable for many patients.



CT of kidneys with contrast agent for renal failure determination.

Dr. Armbrust's research utilizes computed tomography (CT), which allows determination of each individual kidney's function, as well as providing the necessary anatomic detail. "With the CT test we can determine if the disease is present in one or both kidneys and get a much better idea whether adequate kidney function will remain after surgical removal," says Dr. Armbrust.

Although her research evaluated at the test in healthy cats, the goal is to utilize the technique in diseased patients. "We first have to validate this method and publish protocols so others will be able to utilize the technique," said Dr. Armbrust as she described the progression of the research. Her findings were recently published in the *Journal of Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound*.

From feline renal failure to canine cancer, Dr. Armbrust's CT research is advancing diagnostic capability in veterinary medicine. She has recently concluded research on pulmonary nodule imaging in dogs with cancer and found CT imaging produces superior results compared to radiographs, especially in large dogs. These discoveries will lead to more specific and successful treatment plans.

Dr. Armbrust engages in collaborative research efforts with other colleges at Kansas State University. She has been involved in research with the departments of biology, nutrition, anatomy and physiology and others. "One project involved imaging pneumonia in mice for the biology department. Because of our advanced imaging capabilities, we were able to image mice at different stages of pneumonia, reduce the number of mice used in the research, follow the same individuals over time, and provide a great learning opportunity for students."

Dr. Armbrust feels fortunate to have the opportunity to work with radiology residents, who spend three years gaining experience in this specialty after obtaining their DVM and working in private practice or internships. "I enjoy helping the residents with research projects and hopefully stimulating some interest in future research and academics." The radiology department has three residents who are required to complete a research project during their residency.

Dr. Armbrust resides in Manhattan with her husband Trent, son Bryan, daughter Emily, two dogs, and two ducks. 🦆

# Step BY Step

**May, 2011**  
Hind legs become unsteady, uncoordinated

**June 14, 2011**  
Myelogram of condition



Michelle Meyer

**Continued physical therapy**  
(water therapy pictured left)

**May 25, 2011**  
Visit orthopedic team at the VHC

**June 16, 2011**  
Perform surgery to relieve pressure on spinal cord

*Koa: (Hawaiian) Brave, bold, fearless. A service dog, aided by his owner, earned his name when he was faced with never walking again.*

Koa is a local celebrity around the Veterinary Health Center (VHC). He captured the eye and heart of everyone he met throughout his stay. Of course, Koa was at the VHC for seven months. With that kind of time, you are bound to make an impression.

Koa came to Kansas to live as a service dog with Danielle Leftridge, a gift from her mother and husband, George. Her mother flew the 8-week-old Great Dane to Fort Riley, Kansas from Florida for her daughter.

Koa was showing excellent potential as a service dog when, only a few months after his first birthday, his family noticed something unusual. "I would take him for a walk and notice his back legs give out, occasionally," said George of his awkwardly leggy puppy. "We thought at first he was just growing into his long Great Dane legs," added Danielle.

As time passed, Danielle, who has previous equine and small animal experience, recognized the all-too-familiar signs of wobbler's disease. Wobbler's disease, also known as cervical vertebral instability, is common in large breed dogs and horses. Koa was taken to their local vet who confirmed Danielle's fear of wobbler's disease.

Next step: the expert care of the VHC. Koa came to visit Dr. Jim Roush and the orthopedic surgery team in May 2011. Dr. Roush explained that surgery can be successful because Koa had been diagnosed early in the course of the disease. He recommended a myelogram and the Leftridge's agreed. The myelogram confirmed the diagnosis of cervical vertebral instability and two days later, Dr. Roush performed Koa's corrective surgery.

"Koa's condition was caused by the formation of bone growing too closely to the spinal cord. This caused pressure on both sides of the cord," explained Dr. Roush. Koa's surgery started with a 6-inch-deep incision along his back to reach his spinal column. Once there, the team drilled away bone around the spinal cord to relieve the pressure.

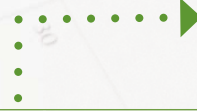
After surgery, Dr. Roush believed they would know within a few weeks whether he would make a recovery. "Most



Michelle Meyer

**October 31-November 1, 2011**  
**Koa spends Halloween, as a bumblebee, and 2nd Birthday in the VHC**

**December 25, 2011**  
**Koa stands up on his own and stays home!**



**September 9, 2011**  
**Koa goes home for the first time since May**

dogs are up and moving within a week if the surgery was successful,” said Dr. Roush. Koa was not “most dogs”, but he was surrounded by a dedicated team of family and caregivers.

So began Koa’s marathon hospital stay.

Koa’s first few weeks after surgery were rough. He ate through a syringe and had limited movement for days, which meant he needed help to change positions every few hours. Flipping him to his other side required the strength of 3-4 senior students. The future looked bleak for Koa. “It took two weeks of sitting with him, bracing him, before he could even hold himself upright while lying down,” said Michelle Meyer, senior veterinary student on Koa’s case.

A myriad of therapies began, including aquatic therapy, leg splints, a custom built sling and an abundance of love and attention from everyone he met.



Michelle Meyer

Koa’s custom built sling helped him walk on his own. He was well known throughout the hospital as he made daily trips in his sling.

Danielle visited Koa nearly every day in the hospital. In late summer, Danielle’s father passed away and the family needed to leave town for a couple of weeks. Danielle left Koa knowing the students, who had spent months with him by that time, would take her place in loving him, even laying with him at night.

**November 23, 2011**  
**Koa takes first steps**



Zach Marteney

“I had the privilege of being on the case when Koa took his first steps...Pretty exciting day,”  
-Zach Marteney, Senior Student

Weeks passed and Koa’s condition steadily improved. Danielle and George decided to take him home for a weekend in October. In that short time, the family saw how he struggled in his daily living. “I wasn’t sure if we should continue the therapy. My concern was for Koa and his quality of life,” Danielle admitted, as she recalled that eye-opening weekend.

Koa spent Halloween and his second birthday in the hospital, but the VHC healthcare team made sure he was treated royally and showered him with attention. Koa even participated in Halloween as a bumblebee and students made him a special crown for his birthday.

Finally, five months post-surgery, Koa took his first steps, unaided by sling or students. Danielle explained how they walked him across slick hospital floors using carpets. “It seemed to be quite a process. Students would line the hallways with carpets making a path from his kennel to the outside door. As he crossed one carpet, students would pick it up and run it to the front, laying it down ahead of him.”

The family took him home on weekends for a few weeks, seeing little improvement. Thanksgiving was upon them and Koa was able to be with his family for four days over the long holiday weekend. “It was like something clicked

after that weekend,” Danielle said. “The students said he came back and was motivated. He just figured it out.” At that point, Danielle knew she had to make a decision soon, for Koa’s sake and began “praying for a Christmas miracle.”

After another month in the hospital of continued therapy, Koa went home to spend the week of Christmas with his family. “We knew we needed to make a decision by Christmas. We were going on seven months in the hospital and, while we saw improvement, the amount of progress wasn’t promising that he’d ever return to the energetic, playful dog he used to be,” Danielle said.

That Christmas Eve, the family went to bed and Koa was left on his pillow in the living room. He decided that was enough. “Koa crawled into our bedroom that night, dragged himself up onto his bed, gave a big sigh and went to sleep. Then, Christmas morning, when we got out of bed to get Koa up and outside, our Christmas miracle happened. Koa stood up on his own for the first time,” said Danielle. After seven months, Koa was finally able to stand up on his own.

The following week, the Leftridge’s decided to keep Koa home and see how he would do. Students called; curious as to when their famed friend was coming back, saying they were keeping his kennel open, just in case he needed it.

It was bittersweet for the students who had grown so close to Koa to see him move back home. “Almost every senior student worked with Koa at some point,” said Meyer. “It was great to see a patient recover and for us to succeed as a class. It was really a group effort. Every three weeks Koa would benefit from a new rotation of students. Each rotation brought a new set of ideas that really contributed to his success.”

Koa still comes back to the VHC for visits and the Leftridge’s send video of his progress. Koa can now run, albeit awkwardly, but he continues to improve through home therapy. Koa plays with the family’s two miniature dachshunds again and goes on daily walks. “You can’t keep the ‘little’ guy down,” said Danielle. “He is constantly up, down, walking around and romping with his brothers.”

“Both my wife and I would like to truly thank the entire staff of Ward 3, the doctors, technicians, and all the students who worked with Koa. We will be forever grateful for what you all did to allow Koa to finally come home!” George said, adding that he is amazed at the determination and willpower Koa showed through this entire ordeal.

“The dedication of Danielle and George allowed Koa the time and care he needed to reach this point,” explained Dr. Roush. It was a true team effort; from faculty expertise to student care and owner patience, that allowed Koa to return to his family as a happy, playful companion.

“Koa” means bold, brave and fearless and he certainly lived up to his name. ♡

***“We will be forever grateful for what you all did to allow Koa to finally come home!”***

***-George Leftridge***

## Learning Moments

Senior students share the valuable lessons they learned from working with Koa.

*“I think the most encouraging aspect regarding Koa’s case was how patient and understanding his owners were. Throughout the entire process of hospitalization and rehabilitation, they never gave up hope that he would one day walk again. It speaks well for their family, and it is quite encouraging as a future vet to see owners that have that kind of dedication.”*

*-Lindy Schirado*

*“Working with Koa definitely made teamwork an essential. We ALL worked together to make sure that he got proper care by rotating him, doing range of motion activities, and hauling him up into various contraptions to help him start walking again. I think Koa was a patient that created a bond between our class because so many of the senior students spent time working with him throughout his stay at the hospital.”*

*-Michelle LeCluyse*



## *Dedication Opportunities*

Stone Benches

Water Feature

Donor Wall Bricks

Flowering Trees

Engraved Pavers

Metal Benches

Topiary Trees & Pots

# *Plaza Development*

## *at Mosier Hall*

**O**ur vision for the small animal entrance of Mosier Hall is to become an inviting and serene space while serving the needs of those who visit the Veterinary Health Center (VHC).

“Pet owners often travel great distances for their pets to receive care at the VHC and many stay while specialists perform advanced diagnostic testing. We want to provide a special place for them,” Dr. Roger Fingland, VHC director, said.

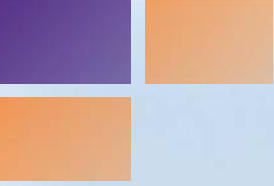
On a pleasant day, people will be able to enjoy waiting outside and a quiet place to sit or reflect can be of comfort.

Conceptualized by Dr. Fingland, and brought to paper by university architect, Mark Taussig and BBN Architects’ Mark Bingham, the plaza will feature a winding pathway with shade trees, a peaceful waterfall and comfortable seating.

The plaza is intended to provide dedication opportunities for beloved

pets. A variety of options are available for friends of the VHC to celebrate the lives of loved ones including a water feature, trees, benches and engraved bricks and pavers.

Construction will begin this summer and dedication opportunities are available. If you are interested in honoring your pet or making a contribution, please contact the VHC Development Office at 785.532.4378. 🐾



Six month old

Maverick

suffered from a severe joint disease. New state-of-the-art equipment and expert care at the VHC allowed this pup to live every dog's dream.

Photo by Karen Loving

# Bone-a Fide Therapy

Puppies dream of wide open spaces and room to run. Maverick was no different. A playful golden retriever brought to a western Kansas farm by Marty and Karen Loving to live in a dog's paradise: two other dogs to play with, cattle to torment and endless opportunities to find trouble.

Maverick was doing all of the above and more, so the Loving's were not surprised when they found him limping. "At first it was a limp, sometimes he would carry it," explained Karen. Days went by without improvement. Karen took Maverick to a local veterinarian, but the examination and x-rays did not reveal the cause of his injury.

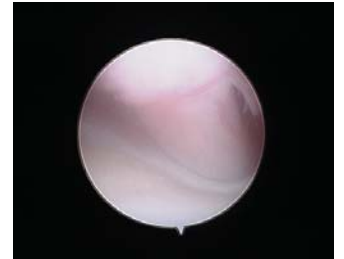
Karen and Marty supplemented his diet with glucosamine and attempted to keep him quiet, hoping whatever caused his pain would eventually heal. "We waited a long time for another puppy after our last golden retriever passed on and were so excited to have Maverick." The Loving's worried that Maverick's pain was too severe and did not know where to turn next. A month passed as they watched Maverick's condition continue to worsen, now consistently affecting the way he walked, Karen brought Maverick to the Veterinary Health Center (VHC).

Radiographs of his shoulder confirmed osteochondrosis, a joint disorder in young animals that interrupts proper bone growth, causing damage to the cartilage. In Maverick's case, a flap of cartilage in the joint was the cause of his pain.

Dr. Jim Roush, professor of small animal surgery, deemed Maverick

a candidate for arthroscopic surgery due to his large size and athletic nature. Maverick would be one of the first and youngest animals to receive the treatment at the VHC.

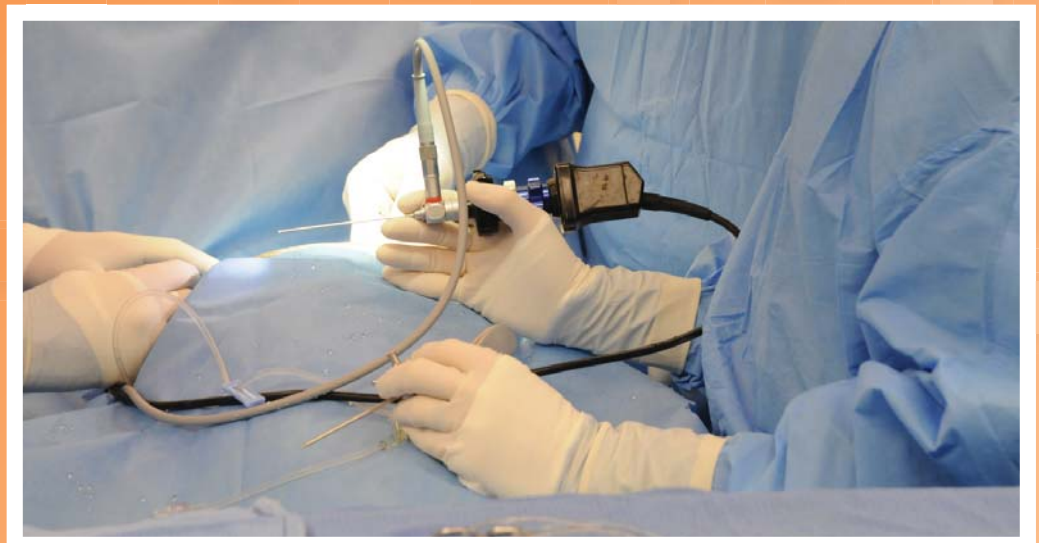
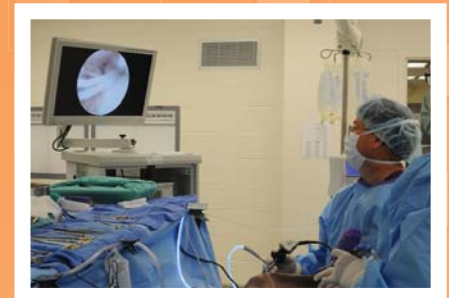
Arthroscopy is a minimally invasive form of surgery. Two small incisions, less than one centimeter each, are made and surgeons navigate and repair damage with small instruments and the use of a monitor rather than creating a large incision and opening the joint. Arthroscopy also allows a faster healing process and return to activity. Through the arthroscopic surgery, Dr. Roush and his team removed the cartilage flap and deepened the defect in the



A view of the biceps tendon and shoulder joint on the arthroscopy monitor.

## Inside the Surgery Suite

Dr. Roush navigates special instruments through small incisions using the monitor for guidance.



Photos by Dave Adams

bone which promoted new bone growth.

After eight weeks of rest and recovery at home, Maverick was ready to run again. "We are so thankful to the VHC and Dr. Roush's team. We weren't sure Maverick would ever be able to run and play without pain," Karen said. "They were quick to discover the problem and, after surgery, he quickly returned to his happy, healthy self."

"Arthroscopy is on the cutting edge of orthopedic surgery and provides significant advantages to patients and owners. It is important that we are able to continue to offer the most outstanding care and technology possible," Dr. Roush states. "Updates like these are expensive, but necessary and we will continue to invest in new technologies to promote better patient care and student education."

At the VHC, we are committed to providing the most advanced treatment options possible. Our dedicated faculty and the generous support of our patrons allow us to provide superior care to patients like Maverick. 🍷

*"We are so thankful to the VHC and Dr. Roush's team. We weren't sure Maverick would ever be able to run and play without pain. They were quick to discover the problem and, after surgery, he quickly returned to his happy, healthy self."*



Maverick and Karen Loving

*-Marty and Karen Loving*

## How Can *YOU* Make A Difference?

***What's your passion?*** Horses? Oncology? Research? Future veterinarians? Find your passion and leave a legacy to support the College of Veterinary Medicine. It's easier than you think!

A planned gift is one of many options to ensure the excellence of our veterinary medicine programs far into the future.

One of the easiest ways to make a planned gift is to make a bequest in your will. It is a straightforward process with simple language that is easy to understand. A bequest for the College of Veterinary Medicine is a great way to support the veterinarians of tomorrow and it comes with a host of benefits for you, too.

A bequest can keep your liquid assets free for use during your lifetime, lower your estate taxes, and help you create a lasting legacy that will show your compassion for animal life.

For a confidential conversation about planning your bequest for the College of Veterinary Medicine, please contact Chris Gruber in the development office at 785-532-4465 or [chrisg@found.ksu.edu](mailto:chrisg@found.ksu.edu).



Photo by Dave Adams



# VHC WISHLISTS

Dear Friend,

The Veterinary Health Center (VHC) is committed to remaining at the cutting-edge of the veterinary profession by offering advanced treatment options, conducting clinically relevant research and providing exceptional clinical training. To do so, we need your help! *The VHC WishLists* highlights two hospital units, including opportunities for our friends to be involved in their success. Please let us know if you can join in our journey of discovery, teaching and healing.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Roger Finland  
Director, Veterinary Health Center

“If you wish to experience peace, provide peace for another.”  
-Tenzin Gyatso

## Equine

### Miles Fund - Equine Section

A fund dedicated to helping animals receive the treatment and care required to maintain their quality of life.

**Any Amount**

## Small Animal Surgery

### McNamara Endowment

This endowment provides annual funding to enhance the training of surgery residents. It pays the tuition and supply costs for the graduate degree program that is combined with the residency at KSU. **Any Amount**

### Surgery Technician/Nurse Enhancement Fund

Technicians/Nurses will benefit from an endowment that provides funds to pay for continuing technician education and other items not supported by state funding.

**Any Amount**

### Eklin Digital Radiography

An Eklin would provide the equine unit with advanced technology to digitally image horses.

**\$130,000**

### Performance Testing Facility

A state-of-the-art building dedicated to the needs of examining and treating lameness in horses would improve the success rate of treatments while providing additional safety and benefits to both the animals and healthcare team.

**\$750,000**

### Portable LED Headlamp

The Solaris™ Portable LED Headlamp is an extremely lightweight, high-illumination device that is beneficial for aiding surgeon visibility for many soft tissue procedures. **\$800**

### Stryker MicroPower Surgical Instruments

These surgical drills/wire drivers, used in nearly every orthopedic procedure, are a necessity to replace two aging prior model drills that require frequent repair.

**\$32,400**

### Endowed Lameness Expert

The addition of a dedicated lameness expert would significantly increase the case load capabilities at the VHC. Lameness is a common and treatable condition that afflicts many horses.

**\$1 million**

### Small Animal Surgery Remodeling

The original 1979 SAS suite requires remodeling to accommodate our significantly increased case load and to create a state-of-the-art surgical theater. **\$3 million**

For more information, please contact the development office at 785.532.4378.

# FACULTY FOCUS

## Family Ties

## Dr. Kate KuKanich

It was the family atmosphere and values that brought Dr. Kate KuKanich to the Veterinary Health Center (VHC) and it was family that she found. Literally.

Dr. KuKanich, assistant professor of small animal internal medicine, knew very early on that she wanted to be a veterinarian. “I used to carry a stuffed dog instead of a teddy bear,” Dr. KuKanich recalled of her early childhood interest in treating animals. It was not always internal medicine that had her attention, though. Zoo medicine was her focus and she spent several years working with zoos across the country. As she worked her way through fourth year rotations at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, she decided small animal internal medicine would be her specialty of choice.

“I knew I wanted to be in academia. Those of us who come to teach have a desire to help advance the career of others.” Dr. KuKanich said.

Dr. KuKanich also spends a significant amount of time researching bacteria that can be spread between humans and animals in hopes of minimizing illness for people and pets. Her research was featured in the Winter 2010 issue of *AnimalLIFE* and continues to be her focus going forward.

Dr. KuKanich came to the VHC as Dr. Stenske. She was not here long when she met her future husband, Dr. Butch KuKanich, associate professor of anatomy and physiology. The two were married in 2010.

Dr. Butch KuKanich studied wildlife biology and received his DVM at Virginia Tech. He then worked in private practice for four years before attending North Carolina State University to study pharmacology. Dr. Butch came to the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine because of the collegial atmosphere and professional values. But when asked the best thing about being at K-State, Dr. Butch responds, “Of course it was meeting Kate! Everything else is a distant second.”

Dr. Butch’s scholarly focus is pain management. “More and more dogs are having chronic pain due to conditions such as osteoarthritis and cancer and it is important to keep them comfortable and maintain a good quality of life for them,” Dr. Butch said.



Drs. Butch and Kate KuKanich, and Jack

Dr. Butch is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology (ACVCP) and Dr. Kate is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM). This unique combination positions them well to apply for grants. They recently received a grant to study the effect of certain pain medications in dogs. “Unfortunately, there are not very many choices for drug therapies to treat pain in dogs as outpatients. Tramadol is frequently used but its efficacy is very low...The goal of the research is to enhance the analgesic effects of tramadol in dogs by enhancing oral absorption,” Dr. Butch explained. The pair has previously collaborated on research and look forward to more such opportunities in the future.

March brought the doctors their first child as they welcomed Jack Otto as the newest member of the VHC family. Jack joins Ollie the cat, Rocky the Old English Sheepdog and 12 ducks. 🦆

***“Those of us who come to teach have a desire to help advance the career of others.”***

***-Dr. Kate KuKanich***

# REFERRING VETERINARIAN

*It's A Cat's World*

Dr. Kelly Jones



Dr. Jones and Jack  
Cat Hospital of Wichita

“Never give up” and “Whatever it takes” are common themes for Dr. Kelly Jones and the staff at the Cat Hospital of Wichita, where each animal is treated with this determined mind set.

Dr. Jones began her veterinary career at Kansas State University. “I always knew I wanted to be a veterinarian,” Dr. Jones said. She worked an office job for a few years after high school, but then decided to tackle veterinary school. Dr. Jones worked at the VHC throughout her college career. “I did a little bit of everything,” she smiled as she recalled working in medical records and at the front desk among her many jobs. By the time she reached the 4th year of veterinary school, she was familiar with the hospital, staff and procedures; way ahead of the learning curve.

Dr. Jones graduated in 1994 and practiced for four years before buying her own clinic. “Cats had always been special to me,” said Dr. Jones, while noting that she does have two dogs at home, as well. “Many veterinarians would rather work on dogs or large animals. Cats aren’t easy to treat,” she explained. The Cat Hospital of Wichita came up for sale at just the right time, and Dr. Jones knew it would be a great opportunity.

When Dr. Jones took over the practice in 1998, it was a 900 square foot office with one exam room, a cramped surgery room and a staff of two. Today, it is a beautifully modern and inviting hospital featuring three exam rooms, a comfortable surgical room, isolation room, and space for boarding a herd of cats, plus an expanding staff. If you visit this upscale hospital, you will probably be greeted by one of their five doormen disguised as “clinic cats.” Each one has a different story, but they all share the same comfortable home at the Cat Hospital.

Dr. Jones’ vision for the practice included hiring a dedicated business manager, expanding into a bigger clinic and building a loyal client base that required a second full-time veterinarian. She accomplished the first two, in fine fashion. Of the third, “I think we’re there,” Dr. Jones quipped in the middle of a hectic schedule of surgeries.

The distinctive nature of the clinic makes finding the right people to add to their staff difficult. “Not many people think they want to work with just cats, but then we get externs from the College of Veterinary Medicine and they realize it’s not so bad,” she said. The hospital hopes to add another full-time veterinarian within the year.

Dr. Jones knows the value of being a referring veterinarian. While she sends complex cases to the VHC, she also receives referrals from a number of practices in the area. “Since we only deal with cats, we offer a specialized level of care. We do a lot of procedures other clinics in the area are unable to do,” Dr. Jones explains.

Every cat is special and treated as an individual at the Cat Hospital. “As long as the cat is breathing and the owner is willing, we will not give up,” Dr. Jones says of her policy. Similarly, it’s not uncommon to walk through the clinic and hear someone say “W-I-T!” meaning, “Whatever it takes!” 🐾



*Whatever  
it takes!*

# Veterinary Health Center

AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Mosier Hall  
1800 Denison Ave.  
Manhattan, KS 66506

Nonprofit Organization  
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## Tail Ends | Remodel Updates



**R**enovation of the small animal wards has been completed. The small animal wards have new cabinetry, paint and additional computers serving faculty and students in small animal medicine, oncology, ophthalmology, dermatology and the Pet Health Center.

Renovation of the equine isolation area is also complete. The five isolation stalls received a fresh coat of paint and new cabinetry. The updated isolation stalls provide a safe, comfortable place to hospitalize horse with infectious and potentially contagious diseases. 🍷