








"Caring for special family members for over 20 years"

ANIMAL CARE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY
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-  Taking care of special family members for over 20 years
-  A community resource for information & education
-  We have specialists and emergency care veterinarians
-  Working hand-in-hand with family veterinarians
-  Fully staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

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updates 2001

Spring 2001 / www.accsonoma.com

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Meet Dr. Laura Slater...

Dedicated to Providing Veterinary Care Around the World

You probably know Laura as an emergency veterinary clinician at Animal Care Center. You might know she joined ACC in 1996 and she has a special interest in emergency surgery. And, you may know she is a 1990 graduate of Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine. But, when she is not tending to the local veterinary emergencies at ACC, she is traveling around the world as an ambassador of veterinary medicine.



In May, Laura will join a group of veterinarians from throughout the United States who will travel to Siguatepeque, Honduras. For one week they will work in a remote area of the country vaccinating and treating an assortment of animals - cats, dogs, chickens, horses, cows, pigs, and the occasional Toucan and Coatimundi. The people of Siguatepeque look forward to this annual visit, herding their livestock in from miles around for an opportunity to receive almost free veterinary care, essential to their livelihood.

A little closer to home, Laura assists with an organization known as RAM, Remote Access Medicine. RAM provides free medical and veterinary care to areas within the United States and Central America. Last August, Laura traveled to a Northern California Native American reservation where she was part of a group of dedicated doctors who supervised and taught veterinary students as they performed free spays and neuters on reservation pets. Programs like RAM are vital to low income communities with little or no veterinary services available to them.

continued inside: See Dr. Slater

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Here was an oddity for us: We recently received an email query from a gentleman doing research for the acquisition of a CT scanner for animals in South Africa. Wow!...Check it out online in our guestbook area and visit the newest additions to our web site: Virtual tour, Employment Opportunities, and of course . . . the ACC Newsletter online :-)

This Year's ACC Golf Tournament Sign-ups are Starting!

Get ready for the Fourth Annual Animal Care Center Open Golf Tournament. Last year a great time was had by all and with the support of IDEXX Laboratories and our other sponsors and players, ACC raised over \$5,000 for the Rohnert Park Animal Shelter and Cat's Inc., a local private rescue organization specializing in saving and finding homes for seriously ill and injured cats.

This year we hope to raise even more money. IDEXX and Victor Medical have already signed up to be sponsors for our Fourth Annual Tournament on Sunday, August 12th at Mountain Shadows Golf Course in Rohnert Park. Check-in is at 10:30 AM and a shotgun start at noon. The format is a scramble so people of all skill levels can compete for prizes in the closest-to-the-hole and longest drive

competitions. So come out and have fun for a good cause. Fill out the enclosed form to register to play. Or, if you don't play but want to help, become a sponsor, donate a prize or be a volunteer for the day!

For more information call Dr. Greg Olson at 707.584.4343 or email him: accsedvm@sonic.net

Tech Tips: Thermal Support . . . Baby, It's Cold Outside!

By Juli Dell'Era, RVT

Temperature alterations in our patients occur due to physiological dynamics and insults, anesthetic diagnostics and surgery. Aside from the traditional warm water-circulating blanket, the following are supplemental techniques we've devised to accommodate the thermal demands of our very special patients.

Thermal Bags - We fill empty fluid bags with water and a color additive such as methylene blue or food coloring and then seal them with a male adapter plug. The color additive flags the bag as unsterile and prevents it from being inadvertently used for fluid therapy. We warm them in a microwave on high for one minute per bag. They stay warm for approximately one hour.

Snuggle Safes - Snuggle Safes are thermal discs made by Thermal Concepts. They can be purchased at your local pet store for approximately \$23.00. They are heated in

the microwave and stay warm for up to five hours. Be warned! If you sit on one you may never get up again! They are especially inviting on cold days!

NOTE: To prevent thermal injury these devices should never be applied directly to the patient's body. Always wrap these devices in a towel first.)

Bair Hugger® — Total Temperature Management System. By far, the Bair Hugger® is superior in the thermal support field! It was developed by an anesthesiologist to prevent and/or treat the common but significant problems that are induced by hypothermia. The warming unit draws ambient air through a filter and warms the air to a spec-



Barney recovering from kidney biopsy in a Bair Hugger® Blanket

ified temperature, then delivers the warmed air through a hose to the Bair Hugger® Blanket which is placed over the patient. The warm air that it generates can be drying to the mucous membranes, so it is important to lubricate the eyes of anesthetized or obtunded patients. The Bair Hugger® is highly effective when used properly. But, it is imperative to frequently monitor the patient's body temperature to avoid overheating.



The Bair Hugger® is distributed by Augustine Medical at no charge. The financial obligation lies in purchasing the blankets and fluid administration sets. Depending on how they are used, the blankets may be re-used. Blankets come in various sizes and designs and therefore the price range varies. For more information contact Augustine Medical at 1-800-733-7775 or stop by the Animal Care Center for a demonstration!

Jumper the Miracle Kitty

By Dr. Nancy Kay

Meet Jumper and Diana - what an incredible twosome they are! Jumper is a nine-month old male kitty and Diana is his owner. Jumper was presented to us on an



Meet Jumper & Diana

emergency basis after he was inadvertently caught and crushed by a garage door for approximately five hours. As a result of the traumatic incident, Jumper was non-ambulatory in his rear limbs and was in great pain. The crush from the garage door created a tourniquet like effect around his abdomen impeding blood flow to his hind end. Within a few hours of his arrival at the Animal Care Center, Jumper had developed acute renal failure.

Following an intense forty-eight hours of aggressive therapy with intravenous fluids, mannitol, lasix, dopamine, and pain relief medications, we were rewarded with a return of Jumper's normal kidney function. As Jumper started feeling better, he began grooming himself, eating, and interacting with all of his adoring caretakers here at ACC.

After resolving the life-threatening injuries, we turned our full attention to the problems in Jumper's hind limbs. Although he had normal pain sensation, both of his rear limbs were paralyzed and swollen to approximately three times their normal size. Radiographs revealed no fractures, so we were confident that Jumper's hind leg problems were a result of ischemia. Our hope was that prolonged physical therapy combined with pain relief medication (and a dedicated owner) would help Jumper

reestablish normal hind limb function. After 5 days of hospitalization, though he still wasn't able to use his rear limbs, Jumper's owners opted to manage his care at home.

Since his accident, Jumper has been making steady and remarkable progress thanks to his lion-hearted spirit and his owners' enormous devotion and dedication. He has been receiving daily physical therapy along with oodles of the best TLC around. The swelling in Jumper's injured limbs has almost completely resolved and while one rear limb has almost returned to normal use, the other still remains partially paralyzed. At this time there still remains the possibility for further interventions with Jumper's limb. All-in-all though, Jumper is one very lucky kitty and his owners are mighty special pet people. His recovery has warmed all of our hearts . . .

Kathy Yerger, CVPM - Speaking Out

Kathy Yerger, our very own Hospital Administrator extraordinaire, was a featured speaker at the 68th American Animal Health Association's Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas this year. For the first time AAHA focused on issues that face the "Specialty and Large Practice" concerns. Kathy presented talks on topics, "20 Things I Wish I Would Have Known 20 Years Ago", and "Sassy Marketing" If you did not make it to Texas, you still have an opportunity to hear Kathy speak at a number of upcoming conferences. She will be a guest speaker at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Conference in Denver, Colorado beginning May 25, and at a Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado sponsored conference in Telluride, Colorado on July 13th and at the American College of Veterinary Surgeons conference in Chicago, Illinois on October 11. Please contact Kathy at **707.584.4343** for more information.

Sassy

This is Sassy, Dr. Pedroia's new companion! She arrived at Animal Care Center after having a seizure. A PDA was discovered and when the owners were unable to pursue treatment, they offered her up for adoption. Dr. Pedroia agreed to provide her a home. Surgery was scheduled. Dr. Clare Gregory came over from UCD to assist Dr. Lisa Alexander with the heart surgery. It was a success and Sassy is busy bringing joy to all that meet her.



Dr. Slater (continued)

Back at Animal Care Center, Laura works to improve upon the already excellent emergency and critical care services. She recently attended the Society of Critical Care Medicine conference in San Francisco. There she participated in sessions on ventilation, lung injury, shock management, and the latest advances in human and veterinary critical care. The conference reinforced Laura's impression of ACC, she said "It is nice to be a part of a 24-hour emergency care facility that has the capability to provide the essential after care treatment along with the support staff necessary to do a good job."

To add to Laura's plate, she is also the Vice President of the Redwood Empire Veterinary Medical Association and the newsletter editor. To find out more about RAM and the missionary trips to Honduras, please contact Dr. Laura Slater at **707.584.4343**.



Pedroia's Corner



"Doggone rolling blackouts!"

pet tip reminder

April showers bring spring flowers and . . . SNAILS. Don't forget that SNAIL BAIT is like candy to pets, except DEADLY! Be on the lookout in your patients for signs of snail bait poisoning. Symptoms may include frothing at the mouth, convulsions and vomiting.

comments questions concerns

Please contact Medical Director Vince Pedroia at ACC at **707.584.4343**

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