

# Vet Pulse

Spring 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR REFERRING VETERINARIANS

## Infectious Disease Committee Progress

Last summer, a part-time LVMC Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Specialist position was created to support biosecurity initiatives in the hospital. Additional support was also provided through investment in a biosecurity site visit and assessment from experts in the field, to prioritize the hospital's commitment to biosecurity and disease prevention efforts.

The results of the site assessment identified specific, prioritized action items in four primary areas: 1) program oversight, structure, and resources; 2) communication, education, and awareness; 3) built environment, inventory, and cleaning & disinfection practices; and 4) policy development, update, and compliance. Encouragingly, the hospital was commended for how invested hospital faculty and staff are in the success of the IPC program.

Since receiving the report, IPC Specialist, Dr. Molly Lee, and the Infectious Disease Control Committee, in collaboration with faculty and staff from across service areas, have made operational improvements, formed subcommittees to write and revise new and improved standard operating procedures around specific risk areas, and completed multiple educational initiatives to support an ongoing culture of risk assessment, management, and communication.

"We've already seen benefits from the operational improvements that go beyond simple disease control - such as improved inter-service relationships — and are confident that the IPC initiatives will continue to advance patient care," said Lee.

## Expanded Monitoring System for Hospitalized Food Animals

Hospitalized patients require frequent hands-on checks which can disturb the patients and contribute to their stress. In continuing its commitment to patient care and management, the food animal hospital expanded its monitoring system.

"With the addition of 10 new cameras, we are now able to monitor food animal patients more effectively from multiple locations, including the food animal rounds room," said Dr. Chad Brown, Executive Director of Hospital Operations. "While the cameras don't replace in-person observation, they do allow staff to keep a closer watch without multiple hands-on interruptions to the patients," he added.

The expanded monitoring system also benefits the educational experience for fourth-year students, with live monitoring and supporting interactive and practical learning experiences.

With the installation of the 10 new cameras, the large animal hospital has a total of 40 cameras to observe equine and food animal patients that can be accessed from multiple locations throughout the hospital.



*Staff and students can observe patients from monitors located throughout the large animal hospital, both equines and food animal/camelids.*

"Overall, the system upgrade is a meaningful step forward in clinical care and teaching," Brown added.

## New Faculty

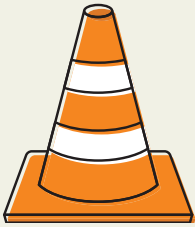


**Dr. Lauren Hughes, DACVIM (LA)**  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Equine Internal Medicine and Field Services



**Dr. Aki Otomo, DACVS (SA)**  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Soft Tissue Surgery/Surgical Oncology

## RENOVATION UPDATE



### Pet Cancer Clinic

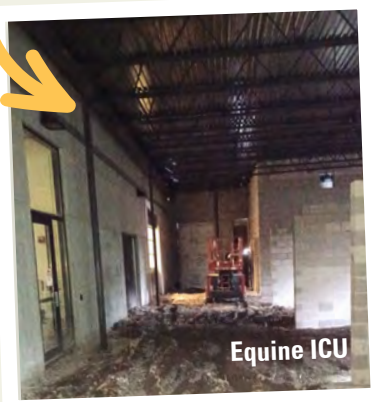
*Construction fence was installed and construction has begun.*



Pet Cancer Clinic Exterior

### Large Animal Hospital

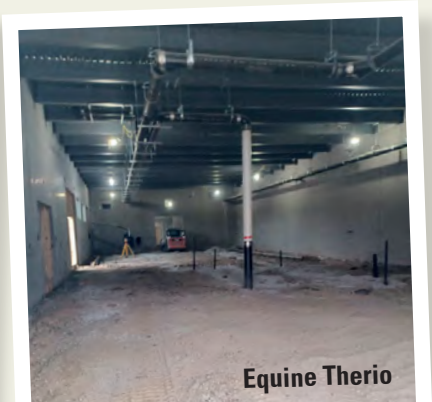
*The full exterior shell of the large animal equine expansion is now up. Interior work has begun, including pouring of concrete.*



Equine ICU



Equine Rehab



Equine Thermo

## LVMC Launches Electronic Treatment Sheets to Enhance Patient Care

The LVMC has introduced electronic medical treatment sheets to enhance patient care and strengthen clinical teaching. The new tablet-based system replaces traditional paper charts, allowing healthcare teams to document and manage treatments in real time.

Integrated with the electronic medical record system, the digital sheets streamline workflows and improve efficiency. Staff can now record vital signs, food intake, medication administration, and treatment updates directly at the point of care—supporting clearer communication and improved patient safety.

The system was first implemented in the Large Animal Hospital and, following a

successful rollout, expanded to Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care.

“The digital forms minimize errors related to illegible handwriting and missing signature approvals,” said Carrie Schwake, RVT, associate director of the LVMC. “They’re also more secure than paper, offering audit trails and role-based controls to protect access and data.”

In addition to improving safety and security, the electronic forms reduce approval bottlenecks and allow clinicians to update treatment plans immediately.

“Digital forms have increased our efficiency and allow for easier collaboration among the healthcare teams,” Schwake added.



*Dr. Kamila Correa, emergency and critical care resident, enters vitals using the new tablet-based electronic medical treatment sheets system.*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Spring has a way of sneaking up on you — one day you're navigating icy roads and the next you're managing foaling emergencies and a waiting room that doesn't quit. If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. This time of year asks a lot of you, and we don't take it for granted that in the middle of all of it, you continue to trust us with your referrals.

I had the chance to moderate at the IVMA Winter Conference recently, and it was one of those experiences that reminds you why this profession is worth the long days. Getting to spend time with so many of you — hearing your questions, having real conversations, and feeling the pride that Iowa State alumni have in this institution — was energizing in the best possible way. Thank you for showing up, engaging, and continuing to invest in this community. Those conversations mean a great deal to us.

There's a lot happening here at LVMC that I think you'll be glad to hear about. The equine expansion continues to take shape — exterior shell is up; interior work is underway. Construction has officially begun on the Pet Cancer Clinic, which represents a significant investment in advanced oncological care for the patients you send our way.

On the clinical and operational side, we've expanded camera coverage in the large animal hospital to support better monitoring and awareness around the clock — a meaningful upgrade for overnight and high-volume periods. Electronic treatment sheets are now live across both hospitals, improving documentation, communication, and continuity of care on every case that comes through our doors. Dr. Molly Lee continues to lead critical work through our Infectious Disease Control Committee, strengthening the biosecurity protocols that protect every patient from the moment they arrive. And we've been welcoming new faculty — talented clinicians who bring fresh expertise and strengthen what we're able to offer every time you send us a case.

What drives all of this is straightforward: you and your clients deserve a referral partner that is growing, investing, and continuously improving. That's exactly what we're committed to being. Our job is to take exceptional care of your patients, communicate clearly, and make the referral experience as seamless as possible — and we take that responsibility seriously.

Thank you for the referrals, the conversations, and the trust you place in our team. We are grateful for it every single day.

**Chad Brown, DVM**  
Executive Director,  
Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center



## CLINICAL TRIAL Study on Dogs with Chronic Inflammatory Enteropathy

Enrollment is open for dogs with Chronic Inflammatory Enteropathy (CIE) for a clinical research study at Iowa State University. CIE is a term used to describe a group of chronic gastrointestinal (GI) disorders in dogs characterized by clinical signs such as vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal discomfort, weight loss, and/or alterations in appetite.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a monoclonal antibody therapy in dogs diagnosed with CIE, compared with a placebo-controlled group.

### \$250 Referring Veterinarian Incentive

Referring veterinarians will receive a \$250 incentive when their patient consents to study screening/participation. The clinical trial sponsor will contact the referral veterinarian/clinic site directly.

### Eligibility & Study Details

- Dogs of any age, sex, breed, or weight
- Dogs must have had chronic, intermittent vomiting, diarrhea, inappetence/anorexia, and/or weight loss for at least 3 weeks prior to the screening visit.
- All diagnostic testing for CIE will be done during screening as needed (e.g., blood work, radiographs, ultrasound, endoscopy, GI biopsies)
- Dogs must not have any other serious concurrent illness.



### Owner Participation

- Owners must be willing to commit to the study visit schedule over a 130-day duration.
- Owners will be required to assess their dog for and record clinical signs of CIE and any unfavorable events their dog experiences during the study.
- All study-related costs will be covered by the sponsor.

**For more information contact: Dr. Al Jergens,** [ajergens@iastate.edu](mailto:ajergens@iastate.edu), 515-294-4900; **or**  
**Dr. Maria Merodio,** [mmaria@iastate.edu](mailto:mmaria@iastate.edu).

## Vet Pulse

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to Tracy Raef, [traef@iastate.edu](mailto:traef@iastate.edu).

# Meet the LVMC Equine Team

## Equine Medicine

### Senior Clinicians

**Dr. Jamie Kopper,**  
DVM, PhD, DACVIM,  
DACVECC

[jkopper@iastate.edu](mailto:jkopper@iastate.edu)

Dr. Jamie Kopper is board certified in large animal internal medicine and emergency and critical care. She has a special interest in critically ill patients, horses with gastrointestinal disease and neurological disease. Her research is focused on improving intestinal barrier function, probiotics and clinically relevant solutions to critical care of equine patients. In addition to providing clinical service she also functions as the large animal chief medical officer for the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her husband and young daughter and running.



**Dr. David Wong,**  
DVM, MS, DACVIM,  
DACVECC

[dwong@iastate.edu](mailto:dwong@iastate.edu)

Dr. David Wong is board certified in large animal internal medicine and emergency and critical care. He has a special interest in neonatology and is the editor of the new "Equine Neonatal Medicine" textbook and well published in the field of equine neonatology. In addition to providing clinical service, he is also the department chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department. Outside of work he enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, outdoor activities and good food.



**Dr. Macarena Sanz,**  
DVM, MS, PhD, DACVIM  
[msanz@iastate.edu](mailto:msanz@iastate.edu)

Dr. Macarena Sanz is a board-certified large animal internal medicine specialist who brings a wealth of international experience to the team, having practiced throughout the United States and South Africa and with strong connections to practitioners in South America. In addition to her clinical and



teaching activities, she is actively engaged in research on infectious respiratory disease, exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH), and equine asthma. Outside of work, she enjoys outdoor activities with her family.

**Dr. Lauren Hughes,**  
DVM, DACVIM

[lehughes@iastate.edu](mailto:lehughes@iastate.edu)

Dr. Lauren Hughes is board certified in large animal internal medicine. She has a special interest in neonatology and endocrine disease. Her research is centered on investigating the genetic epigenetic and pharmacogenetic factors associated with pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction in horses and improving genomic tools to help advance equine genetic discovery. In addition to providing clinical service she also provides on-farm internal medicine evaluations and diagnostics through the equine field service unit. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with family and friends, and gardening.



## Equine Surgery

### Senior Clinicians

**Dr. Kevin Kersh,**  
DVM, DACVS-LA

[kkersh@iastate.edu](mailto:kkersh@iastate.edu)

Dr. Kevin Kersh is board certified in large animal surgery and brings a wealth of experience to the surgical team. Outside of work he enjoys spending time with his children and sports.



**Dr. Christine Lopp-Schurter,**  
DVM, DACVS-LA  
[cls@iastate.edu](mailto:cls@iastate.edu)

Dr. Christine Lopp-Schurter is board certified in large animal surgery and primarily focuses on providing emergency after-hours care to horses and on weekends. She is also involved in surgical instruction within the DVM curriculum. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with family.



**Dr. Jarrod Troy,**  
DVM, DACVS-LA

[jrtroy@iastate.edu](mailto:jrtroy@iastate.edu)

Dr. Jarrod Troy graduated from Iowa State in 2014 followed by an internship at Rood & Riddle Lexington, KY. After his internship he completed a three-year equine/large animal surgical residency at Michigan State University. As a board-certified large animal surgeon Dr. Troy performs orthopedic, airway, abdominal, urogenital, and minimally invasive surgical procedures. His clinical interests include spinal surgery both for intervertebral cervical fusion (basket surgery) and foraminotomy. He also has a strong interest in equine pain management and physical rehabilitation. He is researching new methods to improve the wellbeing of horses.



**Dr. Jackie Willette,**  
DVM, DACVS-LA

[jackiew@iastate.edu](mailto:jackiew@iastate.edu)

Dr. Jackie Willette is board certified in large animal surgery and currently pursuing additional training and board certification in large animal emergency and critical care. Her research interests include adhesion prevention, improving gastrointestinal surgical techniques and reducing post operative complications. Outside of work she enjoys hiking with her husband and three dogs.



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## Equine Theriogenology

**Dr. Theresa Beachler, DVM, PhD, DACT**  
[beachler@iastate.edu](mailto:beachler@iastate.edu)

Dr. Theresa Beachler is board certified in theriogenology (reproduction) and works primarily with horses, dogs, and cats. She has a special interest in stallion reproduction, assisted reproductive techniques, and care of the pregnant mare and research is focused on these clinical areas. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her husband, two young sons, and horseback riding.



**Dr. Barbara Loureiro, DVM, PhD**  
[loureiro@iastate.edu](mailto:loureiro@iastate.edu)

Dr. Barbara Loureiro's clinical and research interests focus on theriogenology, reproductive physiology and assisted reproductive techniques.



**Dr. Olivia Stricklin, DVM, MS, DACT**  
[Stricklo@iastate.edu](mailto:Stricklo@iastate.edu)

Dr. Olivia Stricklin is board certified in theriogenology. Clinically, she has interests in nutrition throughout pregnancy and advancing her proficiency in assisted reproductive technologies, including embryo transfer and IVF. Outside of work, she enjoys CrossFit, running, and exploring Iowa with her two dogs.



## Farriers

**Doug Russo, CJF, AWCF**

Doug Russo is a Certified Journeyman Farrier through the American Farrier's Association, the highest level of certification available through the organization. He also holds an Associate designation from the Worshipful Company of Farriers in England. Doug's exceptional career has also been celebrated with his induction into the International Horseshoer's Hall of Fame, a distinction awarded to farriers who have made a significant and lasting impact on the profession worldwide.



**Trish Powell, CJF**

Trish Powell is a Certified Journeyman Farrier through the American Farrier's Association. Both Doug and Trish provide routine and corrective shoeing both in the hospital as well as an ambulatory service to local horse owners.



*We look forward to working with you and our mutual clients. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at 515-294-1500 if we can be of assistance.*



## REMINDER: LVMC Referring Veterinarian Portal

The LVMC Referring DVM Portal is a secure online platform designed to streamline referrals, consultations, and follow-up communication between referring veterinarians and the LVMC team.

The portal routes information directly to the appropriate service, reduces duplication of records, improves clarity around referral intent, and avoids delays caused by email attachments, expired links, or fragmented communication.

While phone communication may still be used in emergent circumstances, the Referring DVM Portal is the required method for submitting referrals, consulting with specialists, and sending follow-up information.

If you don't have access yet to the portal, visit [rdvm.cvm.iastate.edu](http://rdvm.cvm.iastate.edu) and click "Referring Veterinarian" under the "Need Help?" Section. Complete the pre-registration form. Once submitted, clinic login credentials will be emailed to you.

**[Referring DVM Portal Frequently Asked Questions and General Information Flyer](#)**

### DIRECT SUPPORT

Small Animal: 515-294-4900

Large Animal: 515-294-1500

Email: [vmcrelations@iastate.edu](mailto:vmcrelations@iastate.edu)

