

*gentle*doctor

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE WINTER 2026 | VOL. 39 NO. 2



BIG CHANGES

PAGE 9



gentledoctor

WINTER 2026 | VOL. 39 NO. 2

Gentle Doctor is published by the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine for alumni and friends of the college. The publication of the magazine is funded by the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at Iowa State.

Office of the Dean515 294-1250
 Office of Development515 294-8562
 Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center
 Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital515 294-4900
 Large Animal Hospital515 294-1500
 Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory515 294-1950

Editor Dave Gieseke
 Writer Tracy Ann Raef
 Graphic Designer Heather Brewer

We welcome your suggestions, comments, and contributions to content.

Correspondence should be directed to:

Dave Gieseke
 Editor, *Gentle Doctor*
 College of Veterinary Medicine
 Iowa State University
 Ames, IA 50011-1250
 515 294-4257
 dgieseke@iastate.edu

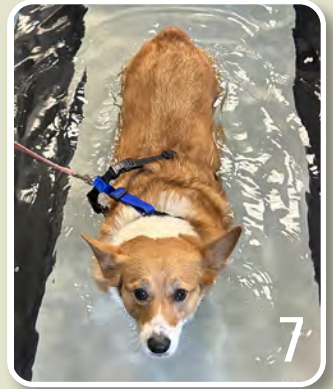


vetmed.iastate.edu
 Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, creed, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity, 2680 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, email eooffice@iastate.edu.

Contents

FEATURES

- 7 One Thing After Another
- 9 LVMC Expansion
- 15 Alumni Awards
- 21 Mission Rabies



IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 College News
- 27 Alumni News
- 23 Gentle Doctors Everywhere
- 30 Foundation News

Cover story on page 9
 Photos: Dave Gieseke and Christopher Gannon

*Dear Colleagues and Friends,
From the Dean*

It's been 50 years since the College of Veterinary Medicine moved from the Quadrangle on Central Campus to our current location.

Much has changed in the current facility since 1976, including renaming the building Frederick Douglass Patterson Hall just two years ago.

In recent years, the college has made a concerted effort to update the facility. Alumni who return after many years away from Ames are genuinely surprised by the changes.

The most recent improvements began in 2008 with the addition of the Large Animal Hospital. Four years later the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center was completed with the opening of the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital.

Numerous other changes have occurred in recent years. Renovations have transformed the Fish Tank Lobby, the Frank Ramsey Classroom and the Gentle Doctor Café, which now includes The Commons, a place for students, faculty and staff to dine, study and attend events.

We continue to modernize research laboratories to keep our faculty at the cutting edge of discovering answers to important animal and human health questions. A recent highlight was the completion of the CVM Core Lab that supports the entire college research enterprise with state-of-the-art research equipment.

Work will soon be completed on the main hallway in the academic portion of Patterson Hall. New signage, distinctive artwork and built-in storage space for students was added, stretching from the Gentle Doctor Café to the Department of Veterinary Pathology.

But we are far from finished. As detailed in this issue of the *Gentle Doctor*, we are undergoing two expansion projects in the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center.

Currently, the most visible renovation project is happening in the Large Animal Hospital where a \$14.1 million project will add critically needed space for the Equine section. Construction is already underway and when it is completed in 2027, our equine faculty and students will have facilities that will dramatically extend the hospital's services and capabilities to support equine clients and enhance our teaching and research capabilities.

In 2027 we won't have to imagine more intensive care areas to accommodate critically ill patients or dream about

additional space for equine rehabilitation and reproductive services. This will all be a reality.

Dreams will also become reality for the Oncology Service in the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital. Construction hasn't progressed as far on the new Pet Cancer Clinic, but we are also anticipating a 2027 opening for this \$7 million expansion.

When finished, the Pet Cancer Clinic will create the ability for our veterinary oncologists to provide comprehensive, patient-centered treatments for pets with cancer. Expanding the hospital's footprint in this area will give us the infrastructure to build the Oncology Service both in personnel and in treatment options.

That's critical because the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital is the home to the only Pet Cancer Clinic in Iowa and for many miles outside of our state's borders.

And if this isn't enough for you, work is nearing completion on phase two of the new Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and once that is finished, we will turn our focus to space in Patterson Hall left vacant by the move of laboratories and offices to the VDL.

These capital projects offer an extraordinary opportunity to shape the future of care, education, discovery and service. Together, we can create spaces that empower our faculty, staff and students to deliver cutting-edge care to clients and their animals for generations to come. With the support of private donations and hospital funds, we are building a lasting legacy – one that reflects our shared commitment to excellence and innovation.

If you are interested in supporting any of these projects, please contact our fundraising team at vetmeddev@iastate.edu.

I know our patients, clients, students, staff and faculty would be extremely appreciative.

And THANK YOU for supporting our missions to Develop, Discover and Deliver!



Dan Grooms, DVM, PhD

Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of Veterinary Medicine



Football Connects Universities for Academic Exchange

The presidents of Iowa State University, Kansas State University and University College Dublin signed a memorandum of cooperation and understanding to establish an academic exchange program and foster research collaboration between the three schools' colleges of veterinary medicine.

The agreement follows a two-day One Health and Ag Tech Summit held in conjunction with the Aer Lingus College Football Classic in Dublin, Ireland, in August. University leaders, industry partners and government officials met to discuss innovations in precision farming, the One Health initiative and global response to antimicrobial resistance as well as economic development opportunities between universities and industry.

"Antimicrobial resistance impacts animals, humans, the environment and plants. There are valuable perspectives that come from conversations with people around the world to understand how we combat antimicrobial resistance," said **Dr. Dan Grooms**, the Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "The practicalities of what can and cannot be done different in other countries, which is why we must think of this at a global level."



Diagnostic Lab Sets New Case Record

Annually the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory completes more than 127,000 cases.

Fiscal year 2025 was one for the record books however.

The faculty and staff at the VDL processed an all-time record of 130,104 cases and 1,732,676 tests in the recently completed fiscal year.

Last year also saw the VDL staff achieve a single-day record as well in the almost 80-year history of the testing facility. On April 9, the VDL team processed a total of 973 case accessions containing samples from 8,061 unique patient IDs. All the testing was fully completed with results going out the same day.



"This is a great example of simply exemplary teamwork and competence in executing the VDL's core mission of providing a best-in-class veterinary diagnostic service from beginning to the end," said **Dr. Rodger Main**, VDL director.

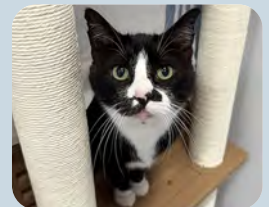
LVMC Establishes Cat Colony for Blood Donations

The cats in the new Cat Colony in the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital may not know it, but they are providing an important and vital service to their fellow felines.

"For years there has been a national shortage of canine and feline blood products," said **Dr. April Blong**, clinical associate professor and a board-certified emergency and critical care specialist. "This is more challenging with cats as they are generally more stressed with transport to the hospital."

The Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital, with full donor support has come up with a solution with their new Cat Colony Room. At any one time, up to six cats will reside in the specially built room. The cats will be adopted from local shelter/rescue groups and after full health screening to make sure it is safe for them to donate blood as well as their blood being safe to transfuse to other cats. The cats will donate blood for two years.

After they "retire," the cats will be eligible for adoption to their forever homes.





Lee Named CFSPH Director

Dr. Molly Lee, associate director and lead public health veterinarian, has been named the director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) and the executive director of the Institute for International Cooperation of Veterinary Medicine (IICAB).

Lee replaces **Dr. Jim Roth**, Distinguished Professor of Veterinary Medicine, who retired from the posts last summer. In the interim, Lee has served as the director of operations for both organizations.

“Molly Lee is a board-certified veterinary specialist with multiple years of experience in public health, preventive medicine, and infectious disease prevention and education,” said **Dr. Dan Grooms**, the Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “She is well-prepared to continue the important work for the Center for Food Security and Public Health.”



Faculty & Staff Notes

- **Dr. Eric Cassmann**, associate professor of veterinary pathology, has been elected to a three-year term as treasurer of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.
- **Dr. Renee Dewell**, retired lead public veterinarian with the Center for Food Security and Public Health, has been named the recipient of the 2025 American Association of Bovine Practitioners Award of Excellence.
- **Dr. Heather Greenlee**, Lora and Russ Talbot Endowed Professor in Veterinary Medicine and professor of biomedical sciences, has been appointed interim dean of Iowa State’s Graduate College.
- **Dr. Jamie Kopper**, assistant professor of veterinary clinical sciences, has been named the Equine Speaker of the Year by the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC).
- **Dr. Wendy Ware**, professor emerita and retired cardiologist in the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital, has been named the recipient of the 2025 Lee and Inge Pyle Service Award by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.
- **Trent Wellman**, executive director of development, has been elected vice president of the Association of Veterinary Advancement Professionals.
- **Dr. Jianqiang Zhang**, professor of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine and the Lora and Russ Talbot Endowed Professor in Veterinary Medicine, has been elected vice president of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

ROTH FAREWELL

Dr. Jim Roth, Distinguished Professor of Veterinary Medicine, retired at the end of June after almost 50 years on the College of Veterinary Medicine faculty. Roth also established and directed the Center for Food Security and Public Health and served as the executive director of the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics. Scan QR code for an article on his achievements that appeared after he received the college’s Stange Award in 2022.



UP CLOSE LOOK

The Equine Hospital in the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center held an open house in June, allowing clients to explore the facility, meet with the equine healthcare team and observe demonstrations.



Photo: Christopher Gannon

Ward Appointed Associate Dean

Dr. Jessica Ward, professor of veterinary clinical sciences and the Phyllis M. Clark Endowed Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named the college's associate dean for academic programs.

Ward has been serving in this position in an interim role since April 2025.

In this role, Ward provides administrative leadership, oversight and coordination of academic and instructional programs, academic information technology, educational outreach, distance education, and global learning opportunities.

"Jessica Ward is an outstanding clinician and educator," said **Dr. Dan Grooms**, the Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "She has an unlimited enthusiasm and compassion for not only veterinary medicine but all of the college's students."



ON THE ROAD

The Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center's Farrier Service is now offering comprehensive mobile farrier care to a 30-mile radius from Ames. Services include routine hoof trimming and shoeing as well as therapeutic shoeing for a variety of conditions such as laminitis, navicular disease, hoof cracks, and other hoof pathologies. A new trailer has been outfitted and customized with the necessary supplies and tools to operate on-site at local farms. The trailer was purchased through donations from the Greatest Need Fund in Equine Medicine and Surgery Fund. The Farrier Service is staffed by certified journeyman farriers Doug Russo and Trish Powell.



The National Animal Health Laboratory Network's (NAHLN) ability to detect and respond to animal diseases such as the HPAI outbreak in poultry and dairy relies on federal investment, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory director Dr. Rodger Main testified at a recent U.S. House ag subcommittee about the importance of NAHLN in protecting U.S. agriculture.

One Thing After Another

Poor Muffin. If it's not one thing, it's another. Muffin is just five years old, but those years have been met with one physical challenge after another. In her brief life, Muffin has suffered a ligament tear in her front left shoulder. She has torn her left hind CCL which required surgery.

Her allergies have caused skin infections and just this October, Muffin tore her right CCL and meniscus.

Fortunately for Muffin, her owners, Bryer and Zulema Day, brought her to the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital where she has been a frequent visitor.

"We've worked with orthopedic, allergy and physical therapy specialists at Iowa State and everyone has been incredibly kind and attentive," said Bryer. "They always prioritize Muffin's well-being and ensure we're fully informed about any treatment plans they recommend."

And as you can imagine with all of Muffin's medical issues, there have been a lot of treatment plans.

Muffin first came to the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital three years ago after suffering that ligament tear in her front left shoulder.

"ISU was the first team able to fully diagnose her shoulder issue and offer a long-term treatment plan," Zulema said. "That first visit completely transformed Muffin's health and within a few months, she was back to daily walks and could hike for miles without soreness, limping or other issues."

Just a year ago, Muffin tore her left hind CL, which required surgery in order for her to walk normally again. The Days didn't hesitate to return to the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital for her medical care.

It was during her initial orthopedic appointment that the Iowa State veterinary team identified a skin infection on her paws and around her mouth. She was referred to Iowa State's dermatology specialists.

"Muffin had struggled with allergies since she was young and we worked with our local vet to manage them," Bryer said. "But our first allergy appointment at ISU was in a completely different league."

The Hixson-Lied veterinary team walked through a full life plan for Muffin, explaining all available treatment options, how effective they were, and how they could be combined over time to manage her allergies for the rest of her life.

"Since that visit, we have felt much better equipped to keep her allergies under control and respond quickly if a skin infection appears again," Zulema said.

After the skin infection was treated, Muffin underwent TPLO surgery to repair her torn CCL. Dogs with this injury often tear the other hind CCL, which Muffin did in October. Two weeks later she underwent a surgical procedure that has her on the road to recovery.

That recovery has required Muffin to see a third specialty unit in the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital. She is a regular visitor to the Canine Rehabilitation Center where her exercises include sit to stands, passive range of motion, water treadmill sessions, figure eights, side to side movements, and balance work. Occasionally she will also undergo laser therapy and spends time on a magnetic therapy bed to relax her muscles.

For these treatments, Muffin and the Days make the almost two-hour trip from their Williamsburg home to Iowa State. It's a visit that Muffin looks forward to.

"Muffin truly adores visiting Iowa State," Bryer said. "She loves the staff and students, and they clearly love her back. We often joke that she is a bit of a celebrity. Students regularly share stories about her."

While it's an experience neither Muffin nor the Days wanted, the trips to Iowa State have been life changing for the Corgi.

"We are extremely thankful for Iowa State and the care Muffin has received," Zulema said. "We truly feel that the staff and students understand how important Muffin is to us, take her care seriously, and know we would do anything she needs." **gd**

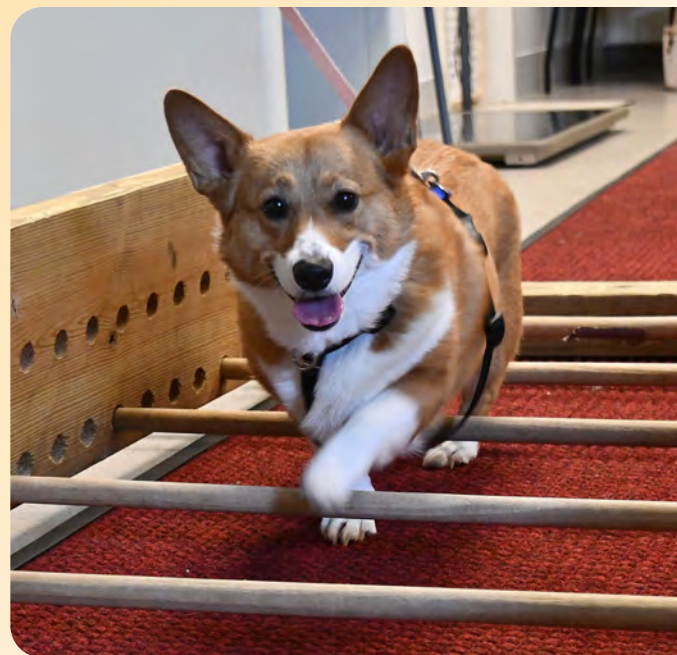


Photo: Dave Gieseke

Strengthening Her Commitment

If Emma Malloy is any indication, the new PA-VEAP program in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Animal Science is already reaping benefits.

Production Animal – Veterinary Early Acceptance Program aims to recruit and retain future food animal veterinarians in underserved areas. Malloy is the perfect fit for the program.

A junior animal science major, Malloy is from Holbrook, Iowa, where she grew up on a family farm surrounded by livestock and agriculture.

“My lifelong goal is to become a production animal veterinarian serving rural Iowa,” Malloy said. “In this role, I hope to promote animal health, support livestock producers and contribute to the success and sustainability of my rural community.”

PA-VEAP is good first step toward that goal. The recently established program allows students who have completed the program as Iowa State undergraduates, guaranteed admission into the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Malloy is part of the latest cohort and is on track to complete the program.

“I was introduced to the program by my hometown veterinarian and I knew then that it would be a perfect fit for me as it aligns perfectly with my own career aspirations,” Malloy said. “Through this program I have gained valuable mentorship while learning more about the opportunities and challenges within rural veterinary medicine.”

Program participants are paired with a faculty mentor in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Malloy’s

mentor is Dr. Phillip Jardon, clinical associate professor of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine.

Jardon and Malloy meet on a regular basis to discuss everything from academic courses to the food animal veterinary profession.

“Dr. Jardon has provided valuable guidance in both academic and professional development, offering meaningful perspectives on the realities of production animal medicine,” Malloy said. “His support has helped me build confidence and gain a clearer understanding of what it takes to succeed in the field.”

One piece of advice Jardon gave Malloy was emphasizing the importance of maintaining curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning.

“He reminded me that effective veterinarians continually seek to expand their knowledge and improve their practice,” she said. “He also shared that meaningful learning could happen anywhere.”

Malloy has also received mentorship from her hometown veterinarian, Dr. Tom Hansen (DVM ’11) of the Williamsburg (Iowa) Veterinary Medical Center. Malloy has worked with Hansen over the past two years at the clinic, focusing exclusively on large animal work.

That includes processing calves, performing hoof trimming, breeding soundness examinations and pregnancy checks.

“These experiences have provided valuable hands-on exposure to herd health management and the daily realities of large animal practice,” Malloy said.

All these experiences have solidified Malloy’s goal of becoming a large animal veterinarian.

“The program has strengthened my commitment to returning to rural Iowa after veterinary school to serve agricultural communities and support the future of animal agriculture,” she said. **gd**



Photo: Dave Gieseke



BIG CHANGES

Elevating Expertise in Equine Care

Stories: Dave Gieseke



*Equine expansion construction in November 2025
Photos: Dave Gieseke*

Big changes are coming in the very near future to the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center's Large Animal Hospital.

Equine patients and clients will experience even greater medical care thanks to increased space to provide physical rehabilitation services, an ICU and equine reproductive services.

A variety of different equine cases will provide veterinary students more experiences than they currently have.

And clinicians in the Large Animal Hospital will continue to advance their profession by performing research in the areas of medicine, surgery, theriogenology and equine rehabilitation.



Conceptual rendering of equine rehabilitation services

Big changes are happening because of a \$14.1 million addition to the Large Animal Hospital. Construction is underway on the 21,400-square-foot expansion, which is tentatively scheduled to be completed in 2027

The expansion involves the construction of several key areas that will dramatically extend the hospital's services and capabilities to support equine clients including:

- Increasing available intensive care areas to accommodate critically ill patients, including mares and foals
- Adding space for equine reproductive services
- Adding area to grow equine rehabilitation services
- Adding laboratory space for advanced reproductive technologies such as embryo transfer and in vitro fertilization

While each area is critical for the equine program's growth, Dr. David Wong, chair of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and equine medicine clinician, says both the rehabilitation and reproductive areas are essential.

"In the equine reproductive services area, our current facility has been deficit in a stallion specific area, so this expansion will allow us to collect and house stallions much safer and effectively," Wong said. "There are not many equine specific collection facilities in Iowa and this expansion will allow us to collect and process semen for shipping or long-term freezing."

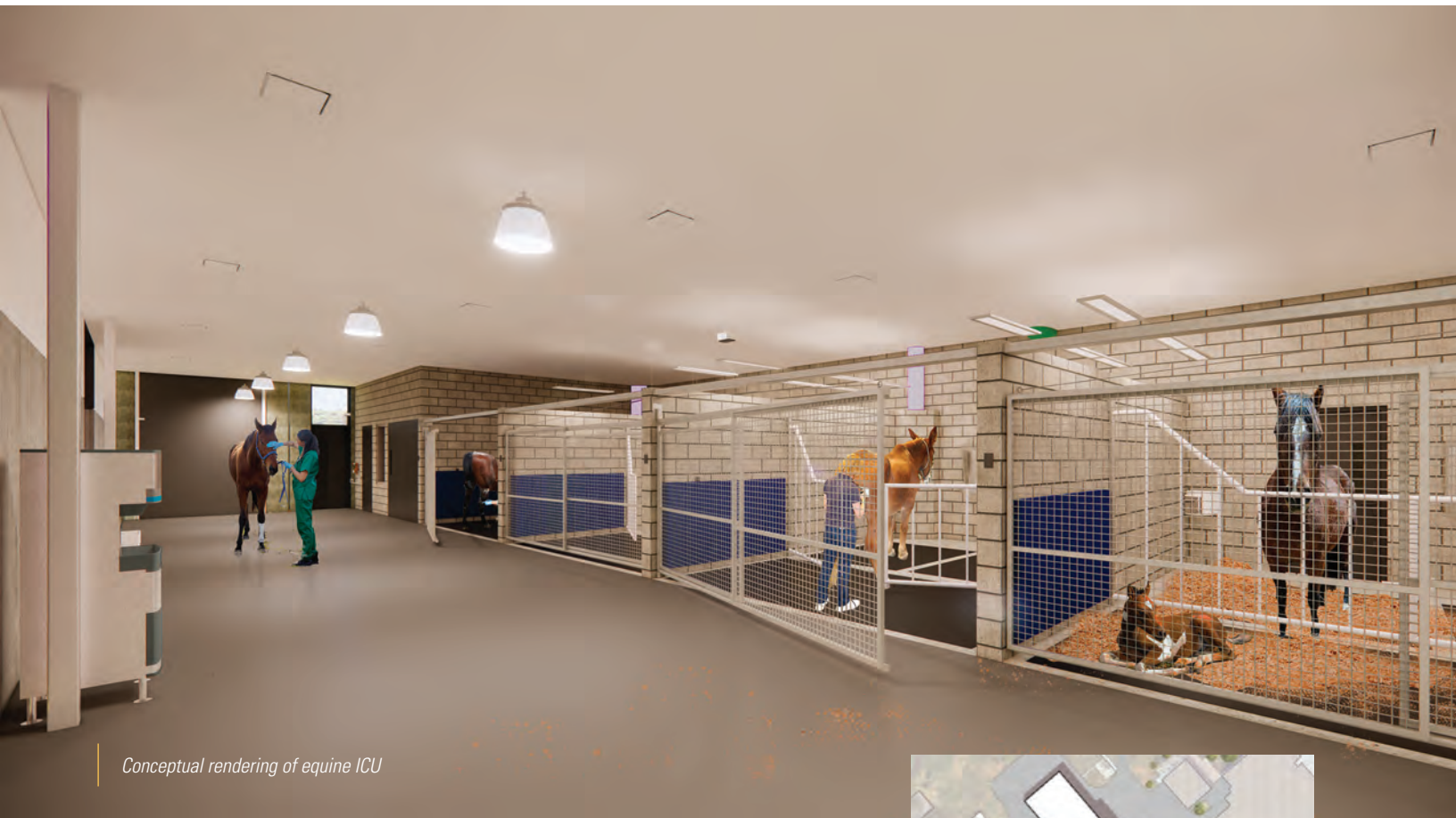
The advanced reproductive technologies laboratory will open up the opportunity for Iowa State to offer the most advanced reproduction techniques, including in vitro

fertilization and embryo transfer to both equine and food animal clients.

The new laboratory will also provide increased outreach including training programs for private practitioners.

Wong says the new space for equine rehabilitation services is just as critical. Iowa State will become a regional facility to help provide physical rehabilitation services to horses with orthopedic, musculoskeletal and soft tissue injuries.

"We all know that when we have a shoulder injury or get a knee or hip replacement, we go to physical rehab for several months to regain our range of motion and strength," Wong said. "The same is true for horses and currently there are not many options for horses to receive the same sort of conditioning after an injury or surgery.



Conceptual rendering of equine ICU

“Our goal is to provide this service to horses under the guidance of board-certified equine specialists.”

The expansion in this area will include additional stall space to allow for longer-term care required for rehab patients and increased space for advanced care equipment such as an underwater treadmill.

“I feel that we can really make an impact on the horse’s health and recovery from their injuries,” Wong said.

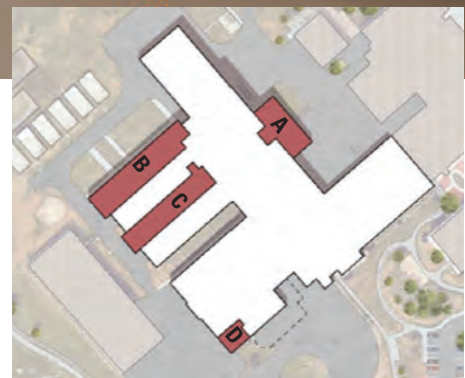
The final area of expansion in the Large Animal Hospital will be additional intensive care stalls to manage critically sick patients. These specially designed stalls will allow for more effective management of pregnant mares with high-risk pregnancies and mare and foal pairs where either (or both) require intensive care.

“I feel that we can really make an impact on the horse’s health and recovery from their injuries.”

– Dr. David Wong, chair of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Wong says the additional stalls are needed due to the demand the Large Animal Hospital receives throughout the year.

“In the past we have had to move horses and foals out of the ICU into the general wards earlier than we would like to, to free up space for more critical cases,” he said. “We have never turned patients away, but we have had to do some creative ‘musical chairs’ to find space for critical patients.” **gd**



EQUINE EXPANSION SITE PLAN

A. Additional ICU Equine Stalls

- > Enhanced Mare and Foal Safety

B. Reproductive Services

- > Theriogenology
- > Stallion Collection
- > Mare Breeding Management

C. Rehabilitation

- > Sports Medicine
- > Physical Therapy
- > Equine Treadmill

D. Advanced Reproductive Technologies Lab

- > In Vitro Fertilization
- > Embryo Transfer Lab

\$5 Million Gift Commitment Launches Equine Expansion at College of Veterinary Medicine

A \$5 million gift commitment from Scott and Angie State is launching a transformational expansion of the Large Animal Hospital at the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center, enhancing care for equine patients and advancing clinical services that matter to clients across the region.

“A growing equine industry in Iowa has led to the need for an equine facilities expansion that will elevate the college’s capabilities to provide services to clients, educate the next generation of veterinarians and conduct cutting-edge clinical research,” said Dr. Dan Grooms, the Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “We are deeply grateful for Scott and Angie’s support of our vision for the Large Animal Hospital expansion.”

Scott and Angie State reside in Scottsdale, Ariz. Scott earned both his bachelor’s (’86) and master’s (’87) degrees in nuclear engineering from Iowa State, while Angie received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and design in 1987, also from Iowa State. Angie’s father, Dr. Raymond Cooney,

graduated from Iowa State’s College of Veterinary Medicine in 1946. He owned and operated a veterinary practice in Manchester, Iowa.

Scott and his brother, Jeff, are co-owners of RDS Legacy Racing, a leading Quarter Horse racing operation headquartered at their Running Oaks Ranch in Manchester. Named in honor of their father, Randall Dean State, and his lifelong passion for racehorses, RDS Legacy Racing continues the family’s deep-rooted connection to animal care and the equine industry, a connection the Large Animal Hospital expansion is building on.

“Supporting the College of Veterinary Medicine’s vision for advancing equine care, education and research means a great deal to us,” the States said. “Iowa State had a profound impact on our lives and our family’s history with veterinary medicine. Through this project, we hope to help future generations of veterinarians and strengthen services that are so vital to the equine industry we care deeply about.”



Equine donors Scott and Angie State
Photo: Dave Gieseke

The States made their charitable gift to support the project through the Iowa State University Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization committed to securing and managing gifts that benefit Iowa State University.

“Scott and Angie’s gift commitment serves as a powerful catalyst for this project, inspiring additional support to fully realize the vision for expanded equine services,” Grooms said. “The college and the ISU Foundation are actively engaging additional partners who share their passion for advancing care and improving outcomes for horses and their owners. **gd**”



GROUNDBREAKING

Equine faculty and staff in the College of Veterinary Medicine gathered this summer for a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of the Large Animal Hospital. Construction has begun on the 21,400-square-foot expansion which includes several key areas that will dramatically extend the hospital’s services and capabilities to support equine patients and clients. Photo: Dave Gieseke

Expanded Cancer Footprint



Conceptual rendering of Pet Cancer Clinic expansion

It's as simple as this... there are simply no other cancer pet clinics in Iowa.

“As the only oncology service with board-certified oncologists in Iowa, it is important to expand our footprint to allow us to offer the best care, cutting edge clinical trials, and to teach the next generation of veterinarians and veterinary oncologists,” said Dr. Meg Musser, associate professor of veterinary clinical sciences.

The expanded footprint Musser references is in the form of a \$7 million expansion of the Pet Cancer Clinic.

The project will renovate 3,600 square feet of interior space in the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital and include an addition of another 2,000 square feet. The added space will create the ability for Iowa State veterinary oncologists to provide comprehensive, patient-centered treatment for dogs and cats with cancer.

That's important Musser says because cancer is a growing concern for pets.

“Expanding our footprint will give us the infrastructure to build the oncology service both in personnel and in treatments offered to our clients and patients,” Musser said. “Cancer therapy, including veterinary medicine, is ever growing and changing and Iowa State needs the flexibility to adapt and offer the best treatments available for our patients.”

More than 5,000 cases are currently seen by the Oncology Service with patients coming not only from Iowa, but from as far away as Montana, California, New Mexico and Canada.

The Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital offers both medical and radiation oncology services. The expanded Pet Cancer Clinic will also give veterinary oncologists a greater ability to collaborate with other veterinary specialists in the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital including colleagues in surgery, veterinary pathology, internal medicine, cardiology, and ophthalmology.

The additional space will also be utilized in specialized oncology treatments and services with dedicated consultation spaces for oncology clients and patients close to where they are being treated.

“The clinic will also allow us to expand our research endeavors and offer clients treatment options we are unable to at the present time,” Musser said.

As an example, Musser cited a new monoclonal antibody for oral melanoma and mast cell tumors. These are common tumors that Musser and her colleagues see in dogs, however its use in other tumor types are not well understood.

“Additional investigations into its use for other tumor types are time and personnel intensive,” Musser said. “Expanding our space and staff will help us utilize these new treatments more effectively in the future.”

The Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital is also looking to expand research collaborations outside of Ames.

Dr. Chad Brown, executive director of the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center, says the hospital and its



Conceptual renderings (top to bottom): client waiting area, chemotherapy treatment room, rounds room and consult room.



researchers will look to compete for additional research funding.

This will include growing the current collaborations with institutions such as the University of Iowa's Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Such collaborations could bring additional clinical trials to Iowa State.

"This will ultimately contribute to the advancement of patient care at Iowa State and across both the veterinary and human medical fields," Brown said. "The expanded Pet Cancer Clinic will also enhance training opportunities for our professional students, interns and residents."

Construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2026 with completion tentatively scheduled the following year. The project is privately funded with philanthropic gifts still being sought. Individuals interested in the project should contact the College

of Veterinary Medicine's fundraising team at vetmeddev@iastate.edu.

When it is completed it will be the conclusion of a project that has been a long time coming.

"The Pet Cancer Clinic has been eight years in the making," Musser said. "It is exciting to see this vision become a reality and allow us to serve animals, clients and our community better." **gd**



Photos: Dave Gieseke

CVM Seeks Funds for Capital Projects

The College of Veterinary Medicine is fundraising for both the Large Animal Hospital Expansion and the new phase of the Pet Cancer Clinic.

LARGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL EXPANSION

The expansion of the equine facilities offers a range of naming opportunities that will permanently associate their name or someone they wish to honor with excellence in large animal and equine care at Iowa State.

In addition to making a naming gift toward the facility, donors may wish to include an amount to create an outright or endowed fund to support staff, programs and other aspects of equine care.

PET CANCER CLINIC

Donors to the Pet Cancer Clinic can contribute in a variety of ways including naming a space within the unit including:

- A lead capital gift of \$5 million enables the college to push forward the construction timeline.
- A gift of \$3 million allows for a recognition opportunity to name the lobby/client waiting room, a central space that will offer a welcoming and comfortable area for patients and their owners.
- A gift of \$2 million provides a naming opportunity for a key space in the facility, the radiation therapy department/suite area.

Other spaces within the facility, such as consultation/exam rooms, treatment rooms, and specialty areas, are also available at a range of gifting levels.

Individuals interested in supporting either of these capital projects should contact the CVM Development Team at 515-294-0867 or vetmeddev@iastate.edu. **gd**

True & Valiant

2025 CVM Homecoming Awards

At Homecoming the College of Veterinary Medicine recognized five individuals with alumni and service awards.

Young Alumni Award

Dr. Chris Sievers
DVM (16)
Storm Lake, Iowa

Each summer, the College of Veterinary Medicine offers a series of veterinary internships in the swine, beef and poultry industries.

The internships give students a chance to spend the summer collaborating with leading veterinarians in the specific field on any number of areas. For the swine internship, students are immersed daily in modern swine production and health.

That immersion confirmed to Chris Sievers that swine medicine was the field he wanted to practice in.

“After my SVIP internship, I knew becoming a swine veterinarian was for me,” Sievers said. “I got to see an industry that was very data driven, close knit and had excellent people to work with.”

The internship reinforced a passion he had for animal agriculture dating back to his childhood growing up on a diversified family farming operation that included farrow to finish commercial pigs and feedlot cattle.

Today, Sievers is part of Swine Vet Center (SVC), a 17-doctor practice in Iowa and Minnesota. There he is a respected contributor to swine medicine who is known to be adept

at recognizing and responding rapidly to changes in the Midwest and U.S. livestock production.

It’s a job that he has held since graduating from Iowa State’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

“When Chris graduated from veterinary school, we had no doubt on our desire to hire him and make him part of the Swine Vet Center team,” said Dr. Brad Leuwerke.

While at SVC Sievers has held many roles including the director of research, a member of the internal leadership team and a partner. He does this all while maintaining a full load of client relationships and responsibilities.

In those relationships, Sievers uses web-based and digital messaging tools in his day-to-day interactions for everything from health papers, utilizing apps for mortality reporting and barn attributes such as water and feed intake.

And it’s not just the clients and producers that he stays in touch with. Sievers is active in the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV). In 2021 he received that organization’s Young Swine Veterinarian of the Year Award and he is currently the AASV Influenza Committee President-Elect. He is also a frequent conference speaker.



From left: Chris Sievers, Gayle Brown, Steven Hansen, Hans Coetzee, Chris Chase and Dean Dan Grooms. Photo: Dave Gieseke

“I have been fortunate to work very closely and collaboratively with all the veterinarians at SVC to continue bringing insight and knowledge to the industry,” he said. “We work to push each other within the clinic to be the best veterinarians in the industry for our clients.”

But in the end, it is the opportunity to work with, and in, the swine industry that keeps Sievers coming back to the office day after day.

“First and foremost the producers I work with are my favorite part of being a swine veterinarian,” he said. “Growing up in agriculture, I believe I am able to understand the importance of everyone involved from the caretakers to the owners.

“I am extremely fortunate to work alongside producers that strive to improve every day. It’s great that I get to work and learn right alongside them.” **gd**



Submitted Photo

Stange Award
Steven Hansen
DVM '85
Phoenix, Arizona

Since becoming the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) president and CEO, Dr. Steven Hansen has instituted several changes at the Phoenix-based organization.

The Mutternity Suites has been created as a quiet place for mothers to give birth with medical supervision. The Bottle Baby Kitten ICU is a 24-hour operation that helps care for newborn, orphaned kittens. The Parvo Puppy ICU annually sees a 90 percent success rate for the highly-contagious, often fatal, viral disease. These are pets who are routinely euthanized in other shelters around the country.

For pet owners, pet training classes are offered including cat behavior consultations and AHS' veterinary clinics provide affordable and accessible spay/neuter and wellness services. Pet Resource Center consists of bi-lingually trained professionals and a Resource Navigator dedicated to providing resources to pet owners. The creation of this service has helped decrease the number of pets surrendered to AHS by more than 50 percent over the past six years.

"More than half of the calls we receive are owners looking to surrender their pet," Hansen said. "We are dedicated to providing resources to pet owners to help keep pets in homes and help save lives."

Hansen oversees the massive organization that not only employees close to 300 but has more than 2,000 volunteers. It is not uncommon to find volunteers reading to injured dogs who are on medical rest as

part of the organization's Resting Rover program.

The Second Chance Animal Trauma Hospital is the largest shelter-based trauma center for homeless animals in the Southwest and provides veterinary care for animals with nowhere else to turn.

"I honestly think I have the best job on the planet," Hansen says. "I've liked all my other jobs but here we get to do everything. Here we care for animals, many of whom wouldn't survive without the care we provide."

Annually, the AHS sees approximately 11,250 animals adopted or returned to their owners. Another 11,500 owned and shelter pets are spayed or neutered. Close to 4,400 pets received in AHS Foster Hero homes. On average, animals spend less than a week on the AHS adoption floor.

"We're really good at adopting out pets," Hansen said, "but sometimes we have to look at creative ways to make sure our critters get adopted such as offering adoptable rabbits to elementary teachers for their classroom."

This program was created on the heels of an animal cruelty case in which AHS rescued more than 150 rabbits from horrific conditions. Many times, the Arizona Humane Society sees the worst. They have what Hansen, who has long been an advocate for homeless, injured and neglected animals, calls "an awful life experience."

Each year, AHS' Animal Cruelty Investigators assist law enforcement on approximately 6,000 suspected cases on animal cruelty and AHS' Emergency Animal Medical Technicians or pet paramedics, rescue around 3,000.



Submitted Photo

Hansen came to AHS after spending 16 years with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) as that organization's chief operating officer. After graduating from Iowa State he also served as the director of veterinary research for Wellmark International in Illinois while practicing in Houston and Chicago.

No matter the job, the welfare of animals has always come first for Hansen. "I'm willing to try new things," he said. "The programs we've implemented here have significantly impacted the lives of more than 100,000 additional animals. We've got some very productive enrichment programs here and we work hard to make sure the animals are as comfortable as can be."

"This job is a big challenge, but in the end all I needed to do was institute new ideas and let my great team of veterinarians, staff and volunteers do what they do best." **gd**

Stange Award Chris Chase

*DVM '80
Brookings, South Dakota*

Oil and water. Cyclone and Hawkeye fans.

Some things just don't mix.

But don't tell Dr. Chris Chase that you can't have a career that focuses on both research and teaching.

"I can tell you that I have had my skeptics at SDSU (South Dakota State University), they said you can't do both," said Chase. "The key is having good people working with you that you can delegate to, and I have had great support staff from administrative assistants to research associates and graduate students.

"It takes a team to do both well."

Chase and his team have done both well for quite a long time. The professor emeritus of veterinary and biomedical science at SDSU has received multiple awards during his career and this past fall was named a recipient of the College of Veterinary Medicine's highest alumni award – the Stange Award for Meritorious Service.

His research career has featured over 120 published scientific papers, received more than \$9 million in research funding, and mentored 50 PhD and MS students and nearly 100 undergraduate students.

One of his nominators for the Stange Award wrote... "His approach to teaching is marked by a genuine care for the success and well-being of his students. He goes above and beyond to provide guidance, resources, and

support, ensuring that each student could thrive in their academic pursuits."

Chase's success as a researcher and educator allowed him to branch out. And branch out he did. He belongs to at least a dozen professional veterinary organizations, divided into practitioner-based and research/science-based groups.

"When I came back to SDSU, it was important to me to stay engaged with clinical veterinary medicine, so what we worked on in the lab had translational relevance," Chase said. "To be relevant, I needed to be engaged with both practitioners and science-based groups."

Chase just doesn't belong to these professional organizations, he was actively involved. He has served as an officer multiple times, sat on countless committees and has been a member of the AVMA House of Delegates for 14 years.

"These are great organizations and organized veterinary medicine provides the guidance for the future," he said. "I love this profession and the many organizations associated with it."

If those weren't time consuming enough, Chase also is the co-founder/president chief scientific officer of RTI (Research, Technology, Innovation), an animal health contract research organization.

RTI started with two full-time and one part-time employee. Today, the company, with 25 employees, has expanded into a wide variety of microbiology services, along with core animal health services.

Throughout Chase's numerous roles, one common denominator stood out

– his daily interaction with people. It's what he says he has enjoyed the most about his years as a veterinarian.

That runs from his very first job in Viborg, S.D. as an associate veterinarian where the clinic's owner shaped Chase's ability to think big or the "crusty" old client who told that same boss that Chase "would probably be a good vet."

Great mentors have provided counsel to Chase throughout his career and he hopes he has been able to do the same.

"I have the opportunity to have a lot of students and faculty who have come into my life, and I hope I have lifted them to a better place in their lives." **gd**



Submitted Photo



Photo: Christopher Gannon

William P. Switzer Award

Gayle Brown

MS '89, PhD '99 &

DVM '86 (Illinois)

Ames, Iowa

Iowans are by nature a humble bunch.

Dr. Gayle Brown is the quintessential Iowan.

“I don’t know why I’m being honored,” she says. “There are plenty of people out there who are more deserving.”

Gayle Brown is definitely humble. She’s also very good at her job.

So good that over the years she has been consistently recognized for her work in and outside the classroom. Her latest award is the William P. Switzer Award which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to society and/or to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Gayle Brown has certainly accomplished both criteria. With a relentless commitment to her students, she has had a positive impact on thousands of students in the College

of Veterinary Medicine over the past two decades.

“I like being able to help veterinary students remember to love learning and to love being in veterinary school,” Brown says. “I want to help students enjoy their time in veterinary school by promoting a positive and supportive culture.”

“I want veterinary school to be not only challenging but also a positive experience for every student.”

If awards are any indication, Brown has succeeded on all counts. During her Iowa State career, she has received five Iowa State teaching awards, three advising awards and in 2018 she was named the national recipient of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges’ Distinguished Teacher Award.

Brown first entered a classroom as an instructor while a graduate student with Dr. Jim Roth, recently retired Distinguished Professor of Veterinary Medicine. She gives credit to her mentor for “teaching her how to teach.”

“Jim Roth had a significant role in any success I’ve had,” Brown said. “He hired me multiple times and taught me so much, allowing me to make mistakes and learn and grow.”

Her achievements have extended outside of the traditional classroom. As a staff veterinarian in the Center for Food Security and Public Health, Brown has been a part of Transboundary and Emerging Diseases of Animals/Initial Accreditation Training (TEDA/IAT) web-based course since its very early days. She was responsible for updating and managing the course content, interacting with instructors at each institution,

and working to continuously improve the course.

From its humble beginnings, the course is now used in some way at every veterinary school in the United States. The USDA requires all students to complete 14 components of the course as part of the Initial Accreditation Training (IAT).

“TEDA/IAT’s success is because we have an exceptional team,” said the ever-humble Brown. “The team is always learning and growing and making sure we are using the best practices for web-based education, which aligns with our mantra of ‘continual improvement.’”

Gayle Brown’s lasting impact on the College of Veterinary Medicine extends beyond the classroom. For many years she has been a constant presence with the Recreation and Stress Relief (RSR) and the Iowa State chapter of SAVMA.

“Both of these are very important to me,” Brown said. “I take very seriously my role as an advisor for RSR and SAVMA, advocating for student well-being and a positive student culture.”

Everything Brown has done at Iowa State has revolved around teaching. But being an instructor isn’t how she describes herself.

“I think of myself as a veterinarian who teaches,” Brown says. “Both teaching and veterinary medicine are important to me and part of who I am.”

“I love sharing what knowledge, skills and abilities I have with all the communities I am associated with.” **gd**

Lorraine J. Hoffman
Graduate Alumni Award

Hans Coetzee
PhD '05
Manhattan, Kansas

Dr. Hans Coetzee is internationally recognized for his work with animal welfare.

He has worked relentlessly to validate pain assessment tools for use in farm animals and to develop drug protocols to alleviate pain in livestock. This work has led to over 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers.

That research and work has led him to be recognized as the recipient of both the American Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Welfare Award and the World Veterinary Association's Global Animal Welfare Award.

Coetzee says his interest in animal welfare was influenced by three distinct experiences, including his time as a PhD student in Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine.

It was during his childhood in South Africa that he first started to wonder about the welfare of farm animals. Although he lived in town, his family owned and operated a livestock farm. Coetzee belonged to the South African equivalent of 4-H, raising a heifer at age 11.

"This not only started my interest in veterinary medicine but in the welfare of the animals we were raising," he recalled. "We had a veterinarian who would come out to the farm every couple of weeks, and he turned me onto veterinary medicine as a potential profession.

"I spent a lot of time thinking about the care and nutrition of our animals

and started to question why there was little or no focus on the overall wellbeing of animals."

That questioning continued when Coetzee worked in a mixed animal practice in Northern Ireland.

"I would dispense antibiotics to companion animals in this practice but not to food animals and again I wondered why," he said. "I always thought I would be a practitioner for my entire career, but I wanted to answer the animal welfare questions that I and many other practitioners had."

He began to answer those questions while a PhD student at Iowa State. He served as a field services veterinarian then, interacting with clients, veterinarians and students.

But it was while serving on Iowa State's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee that it all came together for him.

"That experience crystalized my research approaches to animal welfare questions although we still have struggles," he said.

That may be the only thing Coetzee struggles with. After leaving Iowa State for Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine his career path has been on an upward trajectory.

During his time at K-State, he has received more than \$21 million in research funding. In 2022 he became one of the youngest faculty members ever to achieve that university's title of University Distinguished Professor.

He became a department chair, was quickly named an associate dean for research and graduate programs, and this past year moved up further when

he was named K-State's vice president for research.

When he moved into these roles he used his time as a graduate student and faculty member at Iowa State to develop his leadership style.

"When I was a graduate student there was a bowling league that met every Monday," Coetzee said. "It was an opportunity to talk and engage with faculty on a different level and I really appreciated that.

"My approach at Kansas State working with graduate students has been derived from my Iowa State experience."

These days, Coetzee spends a majority of his time as an administrator and not as a researcher. He admits that it is difficult to maintain a research program in his new role.

Instead he is taking a different approach.

"My role now is to work with our researchers to get their programs established," he said. "I do miss aspects of my research program but the skills and experience I have as a researcher has transformed very well into my new role.

"The questions about the welfare of animals are still there but those are questions others are answering." **gd**



Submitted Photo

Unleashed Vet Books



If you are a veterinarian striving to bridge the communication gap between your profession and pet owners, your first option would be to write a series of children's books about pets and their illnesses.

At least that's the approach that Dr. Kacey Korver ('20), a small animal practitioner in central Iowa has taken.

Korver is the author of eight children's picture books on veterinary care with titles ranging from *Daisy has Diabetes* to *Phoenix has Food Allergies*. If those titles aren't to your liking, you can try out *Franklin has Fleas* or *Izzy has Intervertebral Disc Disease*.

You get the idea.

As a veterinarian and a mother of two young children, Korver recognizes the importance of empowering families with the knowledge and resources to provide the best care for their pets.

But why children's books?

"Science and medicine can be intimidating for some, but I believe that no concept is too difficult for pet owners and children to understand," Korver said. "I have witnessed first-hand the power that picture books have in teaching young children.

"My books are aimed toward making doctor-level information understandable for all. I thought a picture book would provide a fun and easy way to understand complex veterinary concepts."

After publishing *Daisy has Diabetes*, Korver was encouraged to continue the project when her three-year-old son started reciting the book and

sharing its content with her. "He actually asked me, 'Mom, did you know dogs need insulin in order to use glucose for energy?' This proved to me that no concept is too difficult for owners or their children to understand," Korver said.

Korver has three goals when it comes to her project. First, she wants to educate owners so that they can use the books to better understand the "why" behind a disease.

Secondly, she wants to inspire children. "I would love to inspire children to become veterinarians and share a taste of the fascinating science behind this incredible career," she said.

Finally, she hopes to assist her fellow veterinarians.

"I hope veterinarians can use these books as a resource when explaining

these concepts to owners," she said. "I believe they would be great to have in exam rooms or in clinic lobbies."

Her latest book, *Cecil has Cystitis*, was released in September, but Korver is far from finished with the series.

"I'm continuing to work on drafts for more than 20 other titles," she said. "Many people have reached out requesting books on certain topics, so I have a list that I'm slowly, but surely, working through."

You can follow Kacey Korver's literary efforts on her Facebook page "Unleashed Vet Books" for updates on new releases. The books can be purchased on Amazon as part of the "Pets at the Vet" series." **gd**



Photo: Dave Gieseke

Mission Rabies

By day Pam Erdman ('05) is a small animal veterinarian practicing in Ankeny, Iowa.

But she has another interest that takes her far from her Iowa home.

First in 2023 and then again in 2025, Erdman volunteered for Mission Rabies Project, which not only seeks to improve animal welfare around the world but to protect people and animals living in areas affected by rabies.

"I have always had a special interest in the public health aspect of veterinary medicine," said Erdman, who also holds a Masters of Public Health.

That interest led Erdman to Mission Rabies.

"I heard about the project through social media and listening to podcasts of previous volunteers describing their experience," Erdman said. "Rabies is such an aggressive and violent disease and the idea of this disease impacting dogs and spreading to people, especially children, in Africa was heartbreaking to me.

"Vaccinating dogs for rabies seemed like such a simple thing I could do to be part of the solution."

Mission Rabies works in many different countries and for her first volunteer gig, Erdman was assigned to Tanzania. Her journeys have included 10 workdays and two rest days in the middle of the trip.

Erdman says each day is slightly different. It could include establishing a "clinic" in a parking lot for



owners to bring their dogs in to receive the rabies vaccine. Other days Erdman and her colleagues work door to door to find dogs that need vaccination.

The experience is exhausting but gratifying.

"The days are long, hot and physically demanding," Erdman says. "Most of the dogs I've interacted with are unhealthy in appearance and can be quite fearful.

"Yet there is something that tends to draw me back in each time."

Maybe it's the fact that 70% of the dogs in the area she has been responsible for have been vaccinated. Maybe it's the longstanding friendships Erdman has developed with volunteers and the people of Tanzania. It's probably these and much more.

"The local population of Tanzania is extremely thankful for the work Mission Rabies performs," Erdman said. "They have seen the horrible effects of rabies in their community, and many fear dogs due to the risk of such a deadly disease.



Submitted Photos

"People on the streets thank us and dog owners have hugged me and offered me gifts for the work."

One such experience stands out though. Erdman was working in a small, rural community when she came across a family that had lost their 9-year-old son to rabies.

"This will forever leave an impact on me," Erdman said. "They thanked me and our team I was working with profusely for our work.

"Because of these type of experiences, I will likely go back for another campaign." **gd**

Boots on the Ground

A shelter preceptorship wasn't in the cards for Dr. Marta Andelson ('19) when she was a fourth year veterinary student at Iowa State.

But today Andelson gets to observe the preceptorship first-hand on a regular basis.

As the contact person for Wayside Waifs in suburban Kansas City, Andelson coordinates the preceptorship program for that metropolitan area's largest and most comprehensive no kill pet adoption campus.

"I really wish I had done a shelter preceptorship as a student," Andelson said. "The closest I got was a preceptorship at the Crow Creek Reservation."

That's where Andelson caught the bug for nonprofit work. She has been at Wayside Waifs for the past three years. Prior to this position, Andelson worked at a non-profit clinic that provided low cost spay/neuter surgeries, urgent care services and vaccines.

In her role at Wayside Waifs, Andelson works with students not only from Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine, but also students from other veterinary medicine schools across the United States and Canada. She shares the teaching component with another Wayside Waifs colleague which includes surgery, wellness and medical exams.

During the two-week preceptorship, Iowa State students perform spays and neuters in the mornings, followed by exams on both health and sick animals in the afternoon. If time allows, Andelson conducts rounds on medical topics with the

fourth-year students discussing how to apply a spectrum of care approach when determining treatment options.

"We are really proud to be able to provide surgical mentorship for students at the individual level, which allows us to give feedback on the surgical challenges unique to each student," Andelson said. "Showing them how different high-volume doctors complete spays also helps each student develop their own approach to the surgery."

When working with students, Andelson seeks to be a good mentor and role model by showing them a realistic approach to high volume medicine that would be applicable not only in shelter settings but in general practice as well.

"I feel the preceptorship at Wayside helps students get 'boots on the ground' experience," she said. "I want to instill confidence in every student in an environment where they feel safe discussing mistakes."

Andelson teaches alternative approaches to surgeries while

troubleshooting the most common intra-operative complications.

"Shelter medicine is a great place to see interesting medical and surgical cases," she said. "Observing how a veterinarian handles stress or navigates an unexpected challenge can be great practice for when they are the ones making the decisions."

It is those challenges why shelter medicine intrigues Andelson. While most of the day is routine veterinary work, she sees a higher percentage of "weird" cases which constantly test her diagnostic and surgical skills.

"Wayside Waifs is lucky to have a generous donor base which allows us to practice high quality medicine," Andelson said. "But what really drew me to Wayside Waifs was our student program.

"I absolutely love teaching and my job at the shelter provides a wonderful opportunity to develop my skills as an instructor while also continuing to grow professionally." **gd**



Photo: Dave Gieseke

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere



Tyler
Feldhacker

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere '13

Settling In

Central Veterinary Clinic in Sioux City has always taken pride in being a place of flourishing for its animal patients, big or small. Now the clinic has a new and expanded clinic in which to do business. "In our old building, it wasn't uncommon before for us to run out of something in our main building and the rest of it to be in a warehouse across the street," said Dr. Tyler Feldhacker. "Usually somebody would have to go there, whether it was raining or winter or anything. It's nice to have everything in one building."



Louise
Fuller

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere '92

Cat and Dog Person

As a long-time veterinarian and owner of the Krichel Animal Hospital in Keokuk, Dr. Louise Fuller is asked from time-to-time if she is a dog or cat person. The truth for Fuller is that she loves and has both. That love for dogs and cats has transcended into her practice where Fuller was named the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association's 2025 Veterinarian of the Year for "her excellence, compassion and a strong commitment to advancing veterinary care."



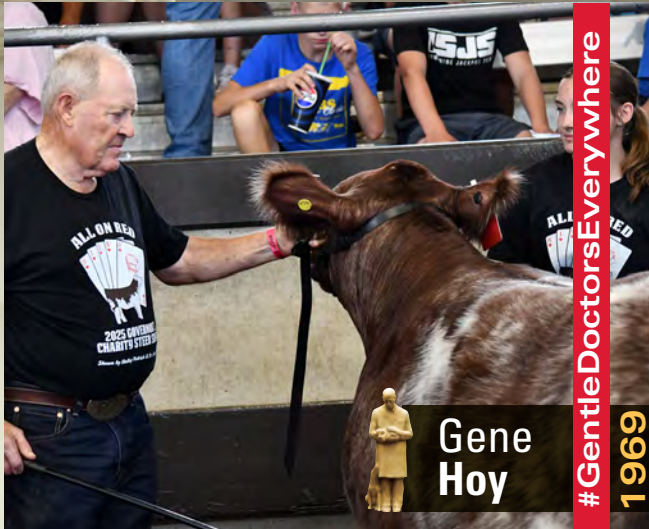
Bailey
Goff

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere '23

On the Hill

As part of the AVMA Fellowship Program, Dr. Bailey Goff, the 2025-26 George W. Bishop AVMA congressional fellow, will spend her fellowship as a science advisor in the office of U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, the junior senator from Wisconsin. The AVMA Fellowship Program is an opportunity for participants to shape public policy across a wide breadth of issues and strengthen their knowledge of the political process. "I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to support Senator Baldwin and her office during my fellowship on Capitol Hill," Goff said. "Veterinarians are uniquely poised to leverage interdisciplinary scientific and medical expertise and positively shape broad policy issues – from agriculture and the environment to public health and disease preparedness."

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere



Gene
Hoy

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere

1969

Fair Showman

After decades of serving as the veterinarian at the Iowa State Fair's Animal Learning Center, Dr. Gene Hoy took on a new role as a celebrity showman at the fair's Governor's Charity Steer Show. Hoy showed "All on Red," a steer owned by Hailey Pedrick of Ollie, Iowa, which was sponsored by the District 20 Cattleman's Association.



Jenna
Kasperbauer

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere

2014

True Calling

With over a decade of experience and a deep passion for internal medicine and working dogs, Dr. Jeanna Kasperbauer has transitioned to emergency and urgent care medicine at the Oasis Animal Hospital & Emergency Center in Greenville, S.C. "Dr. Jeanna's knowledge, empathy and love for animals align seamlessly with our values of transparency, partnership, and medical excellence," said Dr. Atticus Mabry, hospital director.



Keith
Leonard

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere

1970

Remembering the Journey

After graduating from Iowa State, Dr. Keith Leonard applied for a job that sounded promising, and when that didn't pan out, he decided to open his own practice. "My best friend Dick and I decided to look for a certain sized town, not too big, and not too small," Leonard said. "We narrowed it down to five towns and went to each of them to interview the residents – not the Chamber of Commerce or the Mayor, but the locals, people in the coffee shops, barber shops, that kind of thing." In Atlantic, Iowa, they found a populace that bragged about their town. The decision was made and a life-long career in veterinary medicine began.



Larry Mahr

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere 1966

Honor Flight

Late last year, Dr. Larry Mahr participated in the Badger Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., which recognized veterans of all services through the end of the Vietnam War era. Mahr served as a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. "My Badger Honor Flight excelled beyond my imagination," Mahr said. Besides touring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the World War II Memorial and other sites in the nation's capital, Mahr and the other Honor Flight participants were greeted by former President Barack Obama when they landed.



Kacie O'Connell ('19)
Claudia Swanger ('23)

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere

Two Blondes Vet Service

As a funny aside on their social media, Drs. Claudia Swanger and Kacie O'Connell labeled themselves as "Two Blondes Veterinary Service" after delivering a calf by C-section. The two are veterinarians with Valley Veterinary Center based in Cherokee with offices in Ida Grove, Anthon, Holstein, and Mapleton in Iowa.



Ryan Schaefer

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere 2008

Keeping Fair Animals Healthy

As the Mississippi Valley Fair veterinarian, Dr. Ryan Schaefer provides support for livestock and other animals at the fair, often on the lookout for contagious diseases. On top of his usual work as a veterinarian with Walcott Veterinary Clinic, Schaefer spends about 40 hours at the fairgrounds during fair week.

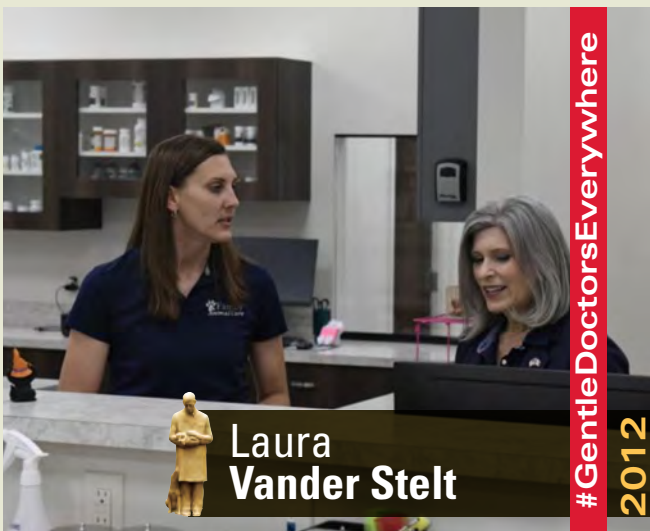


**Ashley Anderson
Schwarzenbach**

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere
2024

Talking Chickens

One of the things Dr. Ashley Schwarzenbach likes about chickens is that they are self-reliant. While chicken owners are often too, occasionally even chickens need a good doctor. That's when Dr. Ashley, as she is known at Indianola's All Creatures Small Animal Hospital steps in. Her love of chickens started in her fourth year of veterinary school when she assisted a friend who was doing research with chickens. "I think chickens are very unique and underrated as pets," she said. "They have a lot of personality, and they're very calming to just watch, because they don't really need to play with other people. They do their own thing, and they're just very self-sufficient."



**Laura
Vander Stelt**

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere
2012

New Chapter

It was the first day of a new chapter for Orange City Family Animal Care. Owner Dr. Laura Vander Stelt opened the doors to her new location that day and later was welcomed with an even greater surprise - being named Iowa U.S. Senator Joni Ernst's Small Business of the Week. "I was really kind of overwhelmed, but it was exciting," Vander Stelt said. "That was a really good end to our first day here."



**Jennifer Carne Wiegel ('14)
Kayla Wafful Oldham ('15)**

#GentleDoctorsEverywhere

Feelings for Felines

For two Iowa State graduates, there really isn't a choice when it comes down to cats or dogs. And ironically, the pair are working at the same veterinary clinic halfway across the country from Ames. "I just have a love for kitties," said Dr. Kayla Wafful Oldham. "In particular, I really love geriatric cats. They hold a special place in my heart." Oldham's co-worker at Happy Tails Emergency Veterinary Clinic in Greensboro, N.C., Dr. Jennifer Carne Wiegel, also has a deep love for cats. "Crystal was the best companion a little girl could ask for," Wiegel remembered. "She would allow me to carry her around in a little purse. She slept with me every night and licked my tears when I was sad. She was my best friend and the reason why I chose to become a veterinarian."

CVM Pair Receive AVMA Awards

Two College of Veterinary Medicine alumni were recognized this summer by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Susan Chadima ('79), a Maine-based veterinarian who has worked for decades to strengthen Afghanistan's animal health infrastructure, was named the recipient of the 2025 AVMA Global Veterinary Service Award.



Chadima first traveled to Afghanistan in 2005, drawn by a desire to contribute her skills to post-war reconstruction efforts. What began as a six-week volunteer trip evolved into a 20-year commitment to mentoring Afghan veterinarians and paraprofessionals, rebuilding infrastructure and guiding public health policy.

"It has been a great privilege to work with dedicated veterinary professionals in a country with complex challenges," Chadima said. "The connection between improved animal health and its impacts on human health and economic livelihoods is especially important in Afghanistan."



Dr. Adam Christman ('04), chief veterinary officer for dvm360 and the Fetch Veterinary Conferences, was honored as the recipient of the 2025 AVMA Steve Dale Excellence in Veterinary Media Award.

At dvm360, Christman leads the strategic development of multimedia content while serving as a prominent and trusted voice for the dvm360 platform and Fetch dvm360 Veterinary Conferences. His dynamic social media presence has amassed a combined following of over 2 million across Tik Tok,

Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and Threads, where he delivers accessible, educational and entertaining content for pet owners, veterinary professionals and students.

"I am truly humbled and honored to receive an award that celebrates the power of storytelling to elevate the veterinary profession and illuminate the vital connection between animals and people in the media," Christman said.

**NOW
HIRING**

JOB OPENINGS

The College of Veterinary Medicine has a program for potential employers to recruit CVM students called the Practice Partners Program. The program is the primary mechanism for practices, corporations and other organizations to interact with CVM students for recruitment purposes.

These job openings are also available to CVM alumni and can be found online. Information for practices that which to be a part of the program is also available online.



CLASS OF 1970

The Class of 1970 was one of many graduating classes from the College of Veterinary Medicine who returned to campus last summer and spring for class reunions. If your class is interested in holding a reunion please contact Tracy Raef at traef@iastate.edu.



AABP ALUMNI RECEPTION

College of Veterinary Medicine alumni, students and staff gathered in Omaha in early September at the AABP convention for an alumni gathering. Photo: Dave Gieseke



AVMA GATHERING

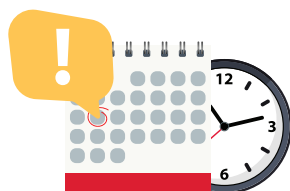
College of Veterinary Medicine alumni and friends gathered in the nation's capital for a reception during the annual American Veterinary Medical Association conference in July. Photo: Dave Gieseke

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming 2026 Alumni Reunions

AASV

Saturday, Feb. 29

Ole Red
3267 South Las Vegas Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nev.
7-10 p.m.



For more information, contact:

Dave Gieseke
dgieseke@iastate.edu

Alumni E-Newsletter

Can't wait until the next Gentle Doctor magazine hits your mailbox for news about the College of Veterinary Medicine? Then check out the college's monthly alumni e-newsletter.

CVM Alumni News features news and updates from the college including alumni events, features on CVM alumni and notices of recent deaths.

If you don't currently receive the CVM Alumni News please send your e-mail address to dgieseke@iastate.edu.



IN MEMORIAM

Notices of recent deaths are available online at vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni-giving/alumni/memorial. If you know of a recently deceased CVM alumnus, faculty or staff member please send the notice to dgieseke@iastate.edu.





ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Dr. Kevin Esch** ('01) has been appointed the executive vice president and president for research and development for Zoetis, Inc. Esch was previously Zoetis' senior vice president of global therapeutics.
- **Dr. Molly Flaherty** ('98), clinical instructor of rehabilitation medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, has been named recipient of the John Sherman Award for Excellence in Veterinary Rehabilitation from the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians (AARV).
- **Dr. Joe Flanagan** ('82), senior veterinarian at the Houston Zoo, received the Emil Dolensek Award from the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. The Dolensek Award is presented in appreciation of exceptional contributions to the conservation, care, and understanding of zoo and free-ranging wildlife reflecting Emil Dolensek's commitment to these purposes.
- **Dr. Pat Gorden** ('93), professor of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine, is the 2025 recipient of the Zoetis Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.
- **Dr. Pat Halbur** ('86), retired chair of the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine, is the 2025 recipient of the Science with Practice Award. The award is presented annually at the James D. McKean Swine Disease Conference and recognizes integration of science and the art of veterinary practice to benefit swine productivity and welfare. Halbur also received the Honorary Member Award from the North Central Poultry Association in the fall of 2025.
- **Dr. Carolyn Hammer** ('02), associate dean in North Dakota State University's College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources, has been named the recipient of the American Society of Animal Science Equine Science Award.
- **Dr. Patrick Hepner** ('19) has been selected for the position of the 2025-26 Incoming Emerging Leader Liaison for the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association. Hepner practices at the Ankeny Animal and Avian Clinic.
- **Dr. Jesse Hostetter** ('91), head of the Department of Pathology at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine, is the chair of the AVMA Council on Education through July 2026.
- New officers have been elected for the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association including **Dr. Aubrey Cordray** ('14), president, Humboldt Veterinary Clinic; **Dr. Preston Ayers** ('11), president-elect, Frey Pet Hospital; **Dr. Scott Radke** ('16), vice-president, ISU College of Veterinary Medicine; and **Dr. Ken May** ('87), immediate past president, Slater Animal Hospital.
- The Iowa Veterinary Medical Association presented its 2025 awards **Dr. Louise Fuller** ('92), veterinarian and owner of the Kirchel Animal Hospital in Keokuk, was presented the Veterinarian of the Year Award. **Dr. Amie Roberts**, veterinarian with Frey Pet Hospital in Cedar Rapids, was the recipient of the Rising Star Award. **Dr. Chuck Lemme** ('75), former chairman of the AVMA Board, was presented the IVMA President's Award.
- **Dr. Scott Radke** ('16), clinical associate professor of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine, was recently elected treasurer of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology.
- **Dr. Alex Riggs** ('18), faculty member at The Ohio State University's Veterinary Medical Center, was awarded the school's Excellent in Teaching Award by the 2025 graduating veterinary class.
- **Dr. Craig Rowles** ('82), general manager of Cage Free Production, received the Hall of Fame Award at the North Central Poultry Association Fall Festival and Annual Meeting.
- **Dr. David Steffen** ('87) is a recipient of the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Pioneer Award. The honor recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to the improvement of beef cattle and honors those who have had a major role in acceptance of performance reporting and documentation as the primary means to make genetic change in beef cattle. Steffen served as faculty head for quality assurance and accreditation at the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center.
- **Dr. Zachary Vosburg** ('07), veterinarian with Hampton Veterinary Center in Iowa and a World Food Prize Foundation Youth Program alumnus, was part of a fireside chat during the 2025 Norman Borlaug Dialogue at the World Food Prize. Vosburg discussed the multigenerational impact of the Foundation's Youth Programs in inspiring lifelong commitments to food security.



Talbot Professor

Dr Jianqiang Zhang, professor of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine, was formally inducted as the Lora and Russ Talbot Endowed Professor in Veterinary Medicine in a ceremony held in October. The endowed faculty position is one of three named professorships the Talbots have established in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Zhang is internationally renowned for

his role in building the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's virology and molecular diagnostic services unit for food animal diseases into what many consider to be the best in the world. He has an exemplary record of presentation and publication of his work through scientific abstracts and proceedings papers and national and international meetings and in high quality peer-reviewed journals.

Fundraising Team Adds Staffer

Josh Hawley has joined the College of Veterinary Medicine's Development Team as an associate director of development.



Hawley's primary assignment is working with alumni and supporters to drive the advancement of the College and the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center.

Previously, Hawley has served in roles in healthcare, sales and business operations.

DONOR SUPPORT



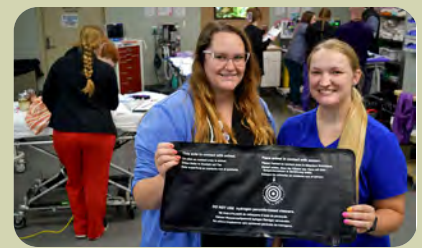
Upgraded Ventilator

Thanks to donor support, the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center has restored and upgraded the hospital's Tefonius ventilator, an advanced system that delivers safer, more precise ventilation for horses under anesthesia. This investment enhances patient care and strengthens clinical training in the equine hospital.



Enhancing Treatment

The Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center's Ophthalmology Service can identify the depth of a corneal lesion with a new high frequency ocular ultrasound. The HFUS also allows ophthalmologists to more effectively evaluate glaucoma cases and uveal masses. The ultrasound was purchased with funding from the Lora and Russ Talbot Endowed Professorship.



A Warm Feeling

Funds donated to the Hixson-Lied Small Animal Hospital's Companion Animal Fund have been used to purchase new warming blankets for the hospital's anesthesia and surgical units. The warming blankets are used on dogs and cats before, during and after surgical procedures; to keep patients warm while under sedation in the ICU; and for equine patients who are under sedation.

Iron Steer

If you didn't know it before you do now. The Iowa State University Iron Dog Fund isn't just for dogs.

The fund supports the medical and surgical treatment of animals hospitalized in the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center. It is used for some LVMC clients when the increasing cost of veterinary care and economic conditions can force them to make difficult decisions based on financial constraints.

Most of the animals who have been assisted with the Iron Dog Fund are indeed dogs. But the treatment of cats, and even some farm animals, have been partially funded as Snip the steer can attest.

Born in February 2025, Snip had a slight bend inward on his left hoof caused by one bone growing faster than the other in his leg. Since Snip is a composite show steer (a combination of Angus,

Charolais, Red Angus and Chianina), this condition would hinder his walk and gait, making it unlikely his owners could show him.

That's when Mark Matlage brought Snip to the Large Animal Hospital for a consult.

"The veterinarians at Iowa State knew of a procedure whereby they could stunt the one leg bone and stimulate the shorter bone," Matlage said.

That's where the Iron Dog Fund comes into play. The procedure was more than the Matlage family could make work in their budget. After being approved for Iron Dog funding, a portion of the final bill was covered by the program.

"The Iron Dog Fund was the only way we could have afforded to have the procedure," Matlage said.



The procedure was a success, and Snip is home where Matlage's grandson Ansen, a member of the Jackson Hilltoppers 4-H Club, is prepping the steer for showing next summer, hopefully at both the county fair and the Iowa State Fair.

"The operation was successful and now Snip and his Ansen hope to have a successful show experience next year," Matlage said.

Snip is just one example of how the ISU Iron Dog Fund can assist animal owners in need. Funding is made possible through contributions from generous donors. [gd](#)



Increased Efficiency

Thanks to funding from the Artz Chair in Orthopedic Surgery and the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center (LVMC) Excellence Fund, the LVMC has purchased new drill equipment that will enhance the surgical team's efficiency. The new equipment will significantly impact the team's ability to perform fracture repair, osteotomies and implant placement for various orthopedic conditions. This will also result in fewer complications postoperatively and will allow for a more streamlined process that will reduce surgical and anesthetic times.



vetmed.iastate.edu/vmc/clients/giving-to-the-hospital/iron-dog-fund/

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Veterinary Medicine

1800 Christensen Drive
Ames, Iowa 50011-1134

Return Service Requested



Stay up-to-date with the latest news at the college by checking our website and following us on social media.

vetmed.iastate.edu



@ISUVetMed



isucvm



ISUCVMVet



Iowa State University
College of
Veterinary Medicine



Iowa State University
College of
Veterinary Medicine