Dermatology Services Beginning in April

We are itching to announce that VSES will begin offering dermatology services in April. VSES will be hosting Dr. Ed Jazic from Dermatology for Animals.

Dr. Jazic and his team will be visiting VSES twice a month. His first two dates at VSES will be April 4 and April 18. You can call 585-286-1050 to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Jazic earned his DVM from The University of Illinois. He completed a dermatology residency with Dermatology for Animals in 2005 and received board certification in veterinary dermatology in 2006. If you would like more information about Dr. Jazic and Dermatology for Animals, please visit: www.dermatologyforanimals.com.

New Software Installed at VSES and What it Means for You

Last month, a new software system was installed at VSES. This system allows us to move into electronic record keeping.

While the installation has gone smoothly, we are still adjusting. Please have patience while we adjust to a new way of doing things. Our staff will continue to get information to you in a timely manner.

We have done our best to maintain all of our contact information for the referring vets, but we recognize that the transfer may have caused some errors. We will continue to fax documentation to our referring veterinarians. If you feel you are not receiving information from us or if there are any errors in your name or hospital information, please call us immediately. If you prefer to have information emailed to your hospital from our system, please contact Lindsay Lavell at 585-424-1277 or llavellmva@gmail.com.

Moving forward, all of our referral letters, medical histories, etc., will have a different layout. If you are missing something from our communications, or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call.

Emergency Patient Communications

As we move toward fully electronic medical records, we are reassessing some of our current practices at VSES. We are trying to limit the amount of paper used in and sent from our facility. For this reason, Emergency Services is altering the standard communications to you regarding your patients. You will continue to receive the hospitalization notices, but you will no longer receive a complete copy of the medical record. Upon discharge, you will immediately receive the discharge instructions. This will include the patient information, why they were seen at our facility, the diagnostics and procedures that were performed, diagnosis, discharge medications and follow-up instructions.

We hope that this will meet your needs as their primary care provider. If you would like further information or details regarding a specific patient, please contact us and we will gladly send you that information. We at VSES value you and your patients; please continue to let us know how we can better service both your needs!

CPR Training CE

We recognize that CPR is a necessary, but often stressful aspect of veterinary medicine. The rapid pace and high-stakes atmosphere of a resuscitation attempt can make successful CPR difficult even for those who perform it regularly.

Using the most current recommendations from the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care and the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, Licensed Veterinary Technicial Sarah Pavilina, ECC, has developed CPR training that consists of both lecture and hands-on experience. This training is NYS approved for 1.5 hours of continuing education credits and covers the following:

- Recognizing an arrest
- Teamwork during CPR
- Basic and advanced life support
- Chest compressions, intubation and ventilation
- Medication and fluids given during CPR
- Defibrillation and CPR monitoring equipment
- Hands-on experience with our canine CPR mannequin, Duncan, in common scenarios that you may encounter during procedures at your practice. Duncan and our other canine mannequin, Dixie, were generously donated to VSES by Duncan’s Fund.

A trained technician and Duncan will travel to your location to train your staff. Utilizing your facility and your equipment will better prepare your team for an emergency situation. Please contact Lindsay Lavell at VSES at 585-424-1277 or llavellmva@gmail.com if you are interested in setting up a training session.

Radiology Department E-Mail

The Radiology department at VSES now has their own email address: vsesradiology@yahoo.com. Please use this email address when sending any information or questions to the department. You can continue to use an individual's personal email for personal/confidential correspondence. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to give us a call.

Cardiology Service Updates

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that Dr. Anna Gelzer, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), has taken a leave of absence from Veterinary Specialists. Therefore, we are no longer able to offer cardiology services. For patients with cardiac disease we recommend referral to Cornell. We are looking to resume this service in the future and will update you when that happens.

www.vetspecialistsofrochester.com
Success Story: Henna
By Max Bush, VMD

Henna is a one-year-old boxer who arrived at the emergency service at VSES with a large wound on her flank.

She suffered an injury after getting caught on a stick. Although the wound was repaired initially at her primary veterinarian, the skin was not healthy enough to heal and Henna developed a large necrotic wound.

The wound was too large to close primarily and it was determined that a skin flap would be the only way to cover such a large skin defect.

After several days of wound management and bandages performed by the emergency service in preparation for surgery, Henna was transferred to the surgery service and a skin flap procedure was performed.

The procedure, a “Caudal Superficial Epigastric Axial Pattern Flap,” involved transposing skin from the abdomen up onto her left flank. The surgery went well and there was 100 percent flap survival, however even with this surgery there was still a portion of the wound that had to be left open to heal via second intention. This required Henna to be in bandage for an additional two months post operatively as the wound contracted and closed.

Henna was a wonderful patient during the entire ordeal and after 11 weeks was seen back for a final recheck.

Henna is doing great at home and her wound has completely healed. It was a pleasure caring for her and we are thrilled at the outcome.
Did You Know?

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels have an inherited asymptomatic macrothrombo-cytopenia affecting 30-50 percent of the US population. It is caused by a gene mutation that encodes for beta 1-tubulin, which is necessary for platelet production from megakaryocytes. This disorder is characterized by a decreased platelet count of 50K-100K/ml, with platelets often being larger than normal. Dogs affected with this autosomal trait do not demonstrate bleeding tendencies. However, low reported platelet counts can lead to misdiagnosis or unnecessary treatment of other suspected thrombocytopenias including immune mediated disease, tick borne disease or bone marrow disorders. If requested there is a DNA test available to screen for the presence of this mutation. A similar mutation has been documented in Chihuahuas, Poodles, Labrador retrievers, Maltese and several other breeds. Contact the lab for more details.

Microbiology Updates

Convenia (Cefovecin)
The Veterinary Laboratory of Rochester does not currently perform sensitivity testing for Convenia (cefovecin) on a routine basis. Convenia is FDA approved for use in canine pyoderma, and both canine and feline abscesses and wounds. Cefovecin is not recommended in dogs or cats with a history of allergic reactions to penicillins or cephalosporins. Similar to other cephalosporins, side effects for both dogs and cats include vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite/anorexia and lethargy. As with all antibiotics, use of cefovecin is most ideal with appropriate sensitivity analysis. The Veterinary Laboratory of Rochester does have capabilities of testing cefovecin for you, at no additional charge, if requested at the time of submission. However, clinicians should recognize that cefovecin does not yet have CLSI (Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute) approved guidelines for testing.

Direct antiglobulin test (DAT) – Coombs’ test:

Immune mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) can be either a primary (auto-immune) process or a secondary process triggered by another underlying disease.

Common findings in primary IMHA (based on a study of 100 dogs from Urs Giger, ASVCP 2013 conference)
- Up to 1/3 of cases are cocker spaniels
- 2/3 of dogs have a regenerative response (polychromasia/reticulocytosis)
- Mean PCV=17%
- Diagnostic criteria for IMHA
  - Positive, persistent saline agglutination test (using 1 drop saline and 1 drop of blood)
  - 75% of dogs have spherocytes-usually >30% on blood smear Positive Coombs’ test

The Coombs’ test detects erythrocyte bound immunoglobulin or complement and a positive test is supportive of a diagnosis of IMHA (especially in light of anemia). The presence of persistent agglutination already confirms the presence of erythrocyte bound immunoglobulin and negates the utility of a Coomb’s test. Transfusions or short term steroid treatments should not interfere with the test results, and the test can be run up to 7 days post onset of symptoms. The degree of a positive result (1:2, 1:4, 1:8, etc.) can be helpful in monitoring disease progress. Many dogs can remain positive to some degree for prolonged periods of time. An EDTA tube (at least half-filled) is required for the Coomb’s test. The test is run daily and the cost is $45.00.


Complete Blood Count (CBC) CE for LVTs

“Performing a CBC and Manual Differential”
Presented by Jodyna Hecker, MLT
Date: April 10, 2014
Time: 12:30 – 2 p.m.
Location: Medaille College
1880 S. Winton Rd., Rochester NY 14618

RSVP: Pam Holt (585) 271-2733 ext 11 or 2012mva@gmail.com
Hope for Emergency Clients
Many pet owners have trouble affording the lifesaving treatments and surgeries at VSES. That's where Rochester Hope for Pets can play such an important role. Founded in 2008, the foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for companion animals in Monroe and surrounding counties. When funding is available for approved applicants, Rochester Hope for Pets makes awards to assist with the costs of care. These awards make a huge difference in the lives of both pets and owners. Read Bandit’s Tale of Hope to see how an award from Rochester Hope for Pets helped one local family.

Bandit’s Tale of Hope
Bandit became part of Elizabeth’s family for a reason – to help her son cope with his learning differences and the sudden death of his father. They had recently lost their 14-year-old dog, so she decided a puppy might bring her son out of his shell and be less fearful in social situations.

Elizabeth came across the photo of a little black dachshund puppy that was given one last chance by the breeder. He didn’t show much emotion and crouched even further into his cage when the door opened, but Elizabeth sensed that he would save her family from their sadness and they could save his life.

“I have never regretted getting Bandit, because he stole my heart when I did not think I had one left. He’s been a blessing,” says Elizabeth. Bandit has been by their side during job loss and multiple health scares.

When Bandit was going outside in April of 2012, he fell and immediately started to limp. His veterinarian in Syracuse diagnosed a sprained leg, and he was put on crate rest. Soon after, Elizabeth was carrying him outside when he saw a chipmunk and jumped out of her arms. He landed on his sprained leg, which folded under and caused him to drag his entire hind quarters.

His veterinarian determined he had herniated three discs, and she called to arrange for Cornell University to operate. Elizabeth went straight to Ithaca where Bandit was given a 50-50 chance of recovery. Despite the prognosis, she emptied her savings account to pay for the surgery.

He fully recovered after 12 weeks of physical therapy, rotating and strength exercises, and using a sling to help him get around. Eight months later Bandit fell on some ice and reinjured his repaired discs, which left him unable to walk. Elizabeth’s veterinarian told her that the MRI machine at Cornell was not available, so her only hope was to go to Rochester for an MRI.

After they did the imaging at VSES, the prognosis was not good and Elizabeth had to decide whether to euthanize him or operate. She chose to fight for his life. Elizabeth received a Rochester Hope for Pets award to help with the surgical expenses.

Bandit came through the surgery and has recovered 95 percent. He has some small motor “kinks” when he walks, a rabbit hop when he runs and his tail “wags” in a low circle. Elizabeth is most grateful for the award from Rochester Hope for Pets and the hope it provided her and her family during their time of need.