

Equine News

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OC is a growing pain for some young horses

There are several types of orthopedic diseases that can occur in foals and young horses. Among the most recognized are juvenile osteoarthritis, which causes joints to degenerate; angular limb deformities, which make a foal look knock-kneed or bow-legged; and a condition called osteochondrosis (OC).

OC is the most common equine juvenile orthopedic disease, and is characterized by abnormal cartilage and bone formation in a horse's joint as it grows. Horses with this problem can experience stiffness, lameness, and joint effusion, which can make the joints look puffy, including the fetlock, hock, and stifle. These horses may be at more risk for developing osteoarthritis as they age if the osteochondrosis lesions are not treated.

Horses' legs normally grow when the soft cartilage at the end of their long bones, known as growth plates, hardens into bone and gradually increases the length of the leg. For horses with OC, the cartilage at the top of certain growth plates does not

undergo the normal hardening process and may break down. Extra fluid can form in the affected joints due to the inflammation caused by the abnormal cartilage. Osteochondrosis can also present as cracks in the cartilage and cysts in the underlying subchondral bone. Sometimes, when abnormal ossification or hardening of the cartilage occurs, bone and cartilage fragments may break off from the

main bone and float free in the joint fluid, referred to as "joint mice." More often, these fragments remained loosely attached to the main bone and can resemble "pebbles" at the articular surface of the bone. When fragments or cartilage flaps develop within the joint, the lesion is then called osteochondrosis dissecans or OCD.

"Lameness and 'puffy' joints (joint effusion) are the two most common presenting complaints with horses that have OC," said Dr. Sarah Sampson, a board-certified equine surgeon who specializes in orthopedic disease and orthopedic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Dr. Sampson, a former member of the WSU equine faculty, recently accepted a faculty position at Mississippi State University.

While any horse can get OC, it is most frequently seen in horses that grow rapidly and have a mature height of over 15 hands. Thoroughbreds, Arabians, Quarter horses, and Warmbloods are some of the most commonly affected breeds. While genetics may play a role in horses that get OC, foals born to mares



A radiograph showing an OC lesion in a horse's hock (tibiotalar joint).

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OC is a growing pain *continued*

that were over-fed during pregnancy, and foals that are over-fed after birth, may also have a higher risk of developing the condition.

OC is not apparent in all horses that have it. Symptoms are most frequently seen in competition horses about the time or soon after they begin training; however, some horses do not show signs at all or do not show signs until later in life.

"Sometimes OC is not found in a horse until a veterinarian performs a pre-purchase exam," Dr. Sampson said. "Radiographs (x-rays) can definitively diagnose OC if a bone fragment can be seen in the joint or if a defect in the subcondral bone is apparent. A horse with this joint problem may or may not be lame or have joint effusion. Whether a horse is lame can depend on the location of the cartilage abnormality and the level of work the horse is doing. Furthermore, if a horse has symptoms of joint effusion and lameness, but no obvious bone defects are found on radiographs, there can still be cartilage defects that the radiographs do not pick up, as cartilage is not visible on radiographs.

"If cartilage abnormalities are suspected, horses with these clinical signs may undergo arthroscopy to identify the lesion(s) within the joint," she said. "Arthroscopy involves the placement of small incisions into the affected joint to enable the insertion of a small video camera that projects onto a TV monitor. Cartilage lesions can then be identified and treated during the surgical procedure."

The procedure is minimally invasive and gives surgeons a view of hard-to-see places like joints without having to resort

to other more invasive forms of exploratory surgery, known as arthrotomy, which takes a horse longer to recover from. Tiny surgical instruments can be passed through the incisions to correct problems within the joint.

"An important part of treating OC is to accurately diagnose the problem so owners can pick the most appropriate treatment option for their horse," Dr. Sampson said. "In general, a four to six month rehabilitation plan is required after surgery, depending on what kind of lesion is present. For horses with many types of OC lesions, arthroscopic surgery is the treatment of choice to debride lesions and/or remove fragments in the joint. There are certain types of lesions that may require a more specific treatment and each horse must be evaluated individually. The lesion type, limb(s) affected, age of the horse, use of the horse, and history must also be taken into account.

"At this point in time, there are no proven ways to prevent OC. If a horse has no clinical signs of pain or inflammation, it is possible that the lesions will remain non-clinical for the remainder of the horse's life, but there is no way to know if that will actually happen," she said. "We do know that over time, if inflammation is present in an affected joint, the horse will be at higher risk for osteoarthritis in the future. If OC lesions are treated appropriately, before the joint is osteoarthritic, these horses have a very good (~80%) prognosis for return to performance in many cases. The prognosis, however, is dependent on many factors so this can vary between horses. Horses that have lesions that are successfully treated can have a long and successful performance career."



A radiograph of a bone cyst, one type of OC lesion found in a horse's stifle (femorotibial joint).

Specialist Training in WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine's Equine Hospital

When equine clients arrive at WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, they often are surprised by the number of people involved with the care of their animal. The equine hospital has multiple services that incorporate a faculty member, a house officer, a service technician, and multiple veterinary students. A primary goal of WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine is to train tomorrow's veterinarians. This also includes advanced training of veterinarians working toward specializing in a particular area of veterinary medicine.

Veterinarians undergoing specialized training are referred to as house officers, a term used to describe an intern or resident. Interns are veterinarians who have recently graduated and are gaining more experience in a particular area of veterinary medicine. The internship is a one-year position that provides mentorship while the veterinarian further refines and develops his or her skills. Internship positions are common in both private practice settings and academic institutions, like WSU, and are relatively competitive.

"Following completion of their training program, many interns will enter general practice with more experience to guide their professional lives," said Dr. Julie Cary, a WSU board-certified equine surgeon who heads up the equine emergency service at WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital. "Others will

consider continued specialization in a particular area of veterinary medicine."

Residents are veterinarians who have completed at least one year of an internship and have been chosen from a highly competitive pool of applicants to pursue specialized training.

"We currently have four residents in the equine section," Dr. Cary said. "Two are specializing in equine surgery and two in internal medicine."

There are other specialization areas that equine veterinarians can choose as well. These include theriogenology, or the study of animal reproduction; ophthalmology, or the study of eye diseases; neurology, which deals with brain or spinal cord problems; cardiology; and anesthesia. Residents involved with these specialty areas divide their time between small animals, such as dogs and cats, and large animals, such as horses and cows. They are also involved with less common exotic species including pet birds, small rodents, and reptiles.

Residency positions are generally three-year long training programs that provide the veterinarian with mentorship and a rigorous training program in a specialty area.

"A specialist college regulates the requirements of each residency," Dr. Cary said. "For instance, surgery residents are

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Specialist Training *continued*

required to be involved with a certain number of each type of surgeries that are done on horses. This number is the same for residents in any program across the United States. Each residency requires that the resident demonstrate technical understanding of the specialty, contribute to the scientific understanding in the form of research, and be involved with education."

Specialist certification, also known as diplomate status, is attained when all the program requirements are met and the resident passes a challenging set of examinations. Those that specialized in surgery would then be known as a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Those that specialized in medicine would be referred to as a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

"Only individuals who have successfully completed all the steps in becoming a diplomate can be known as a specialist," Dr. Cary said. "A veterinarian should only be called a surgeon after becoming a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons."

Unlike medical doctors, the majority of veterinarians do not go on to pursue specialist training. Both internships and residency programs are extremely competitive and voluntary in veterinary medicine.

"People who complete residency programs do so because they have a strong desire to be a specialist within the field of veterinary medicine," she said. "Every faculty member in the large animal hospital has completed a residency and is board-certified in his or her area of specialty. This specialization allows us to provide advice and guidance to general practitioners, as well as to treat the more complicated cases that are common at a university veterinary teaching hospital. Specialists are expected to be on the cutting edge

of his or her discipline, both knowing what the best practice is and doing research to advance what we know about disease processes and treatments, including developing surgical procedures. Additionally, specialists are charged with educating veterinary students, interns, residents, and practicing veterinarians.

"In the past three years, between 20 and 25 students graduating from WSU have pursued and been accepted into internship programs," Dr. Cary said. "This is an increase over the past decade. Reasons for this likely relate to an increased interest in 'knowing more' about a more narrow part of veterinary medicine rather than trying to know some about all parts of the field. The number of WSU graduates who go on to pursue residency training varies and is harder to keep track of, but probably averages between three and six students going into a specialty area from each year's class.

"When clients come to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, they benefit from the open dialogue that happens as we educate the future generalists and specialists in veterinary medicine," she said. "Every case that is seen here has the benefit of multiple veterinarians thinking about its set of problems."

Residents and interns play a critical role in the daily care of patients and clients at WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital. They may be the person horse owners speak with when they are calling to get more information, or discuss their horse's problem prior to being brought to the hospital. With the faculty surgeon, internist, or theriogenologist always providing oversight, the residents and interns learn the skills critical to success as the veterinarians who will provide future innovations practice veterinary medicine at the highest possible level. Meet our intern and residents for 2010-2011 on the following pages.

Count Me In

It is our privilege and desire at WSU to provide the best veterinary care to the many formidable equine athletes and companions who are treated at our hospital. Through the generosity of many individuals who support quality health care and the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine's mission of teaching, research, and service, we are able to continue our work and plan for the future with confidence.

The largest part of what we do is made possible by the encouragement, collaboration, and financial contributions of our generous public. Through each thoughtful gift, WSU is making a difference in the lives of our students, the equine industries of Washington, and the region. These gifts enable us

to greatly enhance the scope of our equine veterinary services and allow us to continue to provide world-class health care for horses throughout the Pacific Northwest.

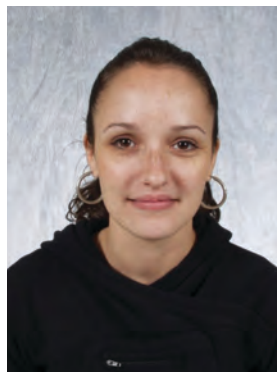
We would be honored if you would choose to become a partner in the important work that goes on here. If you are interested in supporting the advancement of Washington State University's renowned equine medicine and surgery section, please contact **Dr. Richard DeBowes**, associate dean of veterinary development, at 509-595-8015 or debowes@vetmed.wsu.edu, or **Lynne Haley**, director of veterinary development, at 509-335-5021 or lhaley@vetmed.wsu.edu.

2010 Equine Interns and Residents

The WSU equine section is staffed with many competent veterinarians who occupy a number of critical positions on our health care team. An important component of our team is our residents and interns.

WSU equine interns gain advanced training in equine medicine and surgery for one year under the mentoring guidance of WSU's senior clinicians. Clinical internships in equine medicine and surgery are offered at select universities and private practices throughout the United States and Canada, and as such, are highly competitive. WSU equine interns are chosen for their outstanding skills, abilities, and knowledge. They are involved in many cases that come through our doors and are crucial to the hospital's operation.

WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital residents are veterinarians who have completed their veterinary degree and at least one year of an internship or equivalent practice experience. As residents, they pursue advanced clinical training in a veterinary specialty area such as internal medicine or surgery. Completion of a residency qualifies them to pursue specialty board certification with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) or the American College of Veterinary Surgery (ACVS). Residents typically work at the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital for at least three years and are involved in many cases that contribute to the development of their high-level skills. Many of the residents also engage in graduate research programs to enhance their competence as clinical scientists and future academicians.



Dr. Camila Rios Salomão de Souza

Dr. Souza joined our team in August 2010 as an intern involving both equine medicine and surgery. She attended the University of São Paulo in São Paulo, Brazil, where she earned her DVM in 2008. She is especially interested in equine sports medicine and surgery, lameness, orthopedic surgery, and colic surgery. Before coming to WSU, Dr. Souza completed an internship at The Equine Center

in San Luis Obispo, California, with an emphasis on surgery. Her future goals are to acquire an equine surgical residency and practice surgery in a private clinic or university.



Dr. Susan Barnett

Dr. Barnett joined the WSU equine team this July for the first of her three years as an equine medicine resident. She is especially interested in equine medicine and neonatology. She earned her DVM from Kansas State University in May 2009. After graduating, she completed an internship at New England Equine Medical and Surgical Center in Dover, New Hampshire, where she rotated through the medicine and

surgery services. At KSU, she also gained experience as an equine ICU technician and research assistant. In addition to her work with horses, Dr. Barnett enjoys playing polo. Following her residency, she plans to become board-certified in equine internal medicine, and due to her interest in teaching, plans to practice in a teaching hospital or a private practice with rotating interns and externs.



Dr. J. Dylan Lutter

Dr. Lutter began his four-year residency in equine surgery and advanced imaging at WSU in July. He is especially interested in lameness evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment, and upper airway endoscopy and surgery. He earned his DVM from Kansas State University in May 2009, after which he completed an internship involving medicine and surgery at Bend Equine Medical Center in Bend, Oregon. Dr. Lutter's

interest in equine veterinary medicine began at a young age as he helped take care of animals on his family's ranch. As an undergraduate at South Dakota State University, he was involved with the breeding program, herd health, foaling, and pasture management as student manager of the college's Horse Unit. During veterinary college, he gained experience as an equine ICU student technician and laboratory assistant. He also enjoys competing in cutting horse competitions, team roping, and starting horses under saddle. In the future, he plans to become board-certified in equine surgery and enter into private practice.

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WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital Switchboard

Main Hospital Switchboard and Emergencies 509-335-0711
 Equine Appointments 509-335-0711
 Agricultural Animal Appointments (Non-Therigenology) 509-335-5377
 Therigenology (Equine and Ag Animal)... 509-335-0741
 Small Animal Appointments..... 509-335-0711

Dean's Office 509-335-9515
 VTH Fax Number 509-335-3330
 Billing 509-335-0711
 Pharmacy 509-335-0736
 Pet Partnership Program 509-335-7347
 Pet Loss Hotline 509-335-5704

Interns and Residents *continued*



Dr. Siddra Hines

Dr. Hines is in the third year of her equine medicine residency. She is an alumnus of WSU, attending from 2000 to 2007, and earned her DVM from the College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2007. After graduating, she completed an internship in equine medicine, surgery, and ambulatory practice at the University of Missouri-Columbia before returning to Pullman in July 2008 to join the WSU Equine

Team as a resident. Prior to her internship, Dr. Hines spent several years working in the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital as an equine emergency technician and in other veterinary departments at WSU as a research assistant. Her future goals are to become board certified in equine internal medicine, attain a doctorate in immunology, and work in the field of academia as an equine medicine clinician or researcher.



Dr. Chad Marsh

Dr. Marsh is a third-year equine surgical resident. He joined our team in 2007 as an equine surgery intern, after earning his DVM from Texas A&M University. He has a special interest in equine sports medicine and orthopedic and soft tissue surgery. Before coming to WSU, Dr. Marsh worked as a veterinary technician in equine surgery, lameness, sports medicine, drug testing, and radiographic evaluation

for several years, and has also been involved with competitive team roping. He is working toward becoming a board-certified equine surgeon.



Dr. Lisa Pearson

Dr. Pearson is a second-year theriogenology (reproduction) resident who works with the WSU equine team. She is a WSU alumnus, graduating in May 2008 with her DVM from the College of Veterinary Medicine. She returned to WSU to begin her large animal theriogenology residency in July 2009 after completing a year-long internship at the Equine Medical Center of Ocala in Ocala, Florida.

There she was involved in equine surgery, internal medicine, anesthesia, theriogenology, and emergency medicine. She is especially interested in mare reproduction. Her goals are to become board certified in theriogenology and to enter into a Ph.D. program.

Special positions

In addition to our interns and residents, we are pleased to announce the arrival of two new large animal veterinarians on our team through the Fulbright Program and a fellowship through the Robert McEachern Distinguished Professorship in Equine Medicine at WSU. Like equine interns and residents, these positions are designed to provide advanced training in equine medicine, surgery, or theriogenology (animal reproduction).



Dr. Yessenia Picha

Dr. Picha came to WSU in August to work with Dr. Tibary as a Fulbright Scholar for two years to gain advanced training in comparative theriogenology. The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange for scholars, educators, graduate students, and professionals. Candidates recommended for Fulbright programs are people with outstanding achievements in their fields. Dr.

Picha is especially interested in animal reproduction with an emphasis on the four species of South American camelids (alpaca, llama, vicuna, and guanaco). She earned her DVM from Catholic University of Santa Maria in Arequipa, Peru, in 2004. She helped develop the Agriculture and Farming Center there between 2003 and 2005. After graduating, Dr. Picha worked from 2006 to 2009 as a laboratory veterinarian dealing with the genetic improvement of alpacas in farming communities in Peru. Her project explored embryo transfer in alpacas and llamas. Prior to arriving in August, Dr. Picha conducted research on alpaca embryo vitrification (quick freezing) at WSU from October 2008 to June 2009. Her future goals are to enter into a Ph.D. program, and ultimately teach and conduct research to develop techniques and methods of animal reproduction to help preserve South American camelids in Peru.



Dr. Jennifer King

Dr. King began a one-year clinical fellowship in equine orthopedics sports medicine and research at WSU in June. This is a new position funded by the Robert McEachern Distinguished Professorship in Equine Medicine. The focus of this fellowship is to provide training in equine sports medicine and clinical research. Dr. King is a WSU alumnus, attending from 2002 to 2009, and earned her DVM from the College of

Veterinary Medicine in May 2009. After graduating, she completed a rotating internship in equine medicine, surgery, and ambulatory practice at Oakridge Equine Hospital in Edmond, Oklahoma, before returning to Pullman in June. Dr. King grew up on a working ranch near Coulee City, Washington, where her family raises commercial beef cattle and AQHA horses. Her future goals include becoming a board-certified equine surgeon in a private practice.

The WSU College of Veterinary Medicine Equine Team

The WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital could not operate without the cooperation and dedication of its veterinarians, technicians, and other support personnel. The WSU equine team strives to provide every client with the best possible medical care for his or her horse. Below is a chance to get to know some of these people before you visit the hospital with your horse.

Equine Faculty

The **Equine Medicine team** provides an array of services for the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of horse diseases, including heart and lung disorders, colic, diarrhea, neurological diseases, neonatal intensive care, and infectious diseases. Our senior faculty member, **Dr. Melissa Hines**, is board-certified in large animal internal medicine by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM). She has served horse owners at WSU for more than 20 years. **Dr. Kathy Seino** is also a board-certified member of the medicine team. She is an assistant professor who specializes in neurological infectious diseases like West Nile virus and equine herpes virus, and has conducted extensive vaccine and immunological research into West Nile virus.

The **Equine Surgery team** is renowned for their expertise in lameness evaluation and laparoscopic surgery. They provide a comprehensive array of surgical procedures for many conditions including fracture repair, arthroscopic surgery, colic, urinary bladder disorders, upper respiratory abnormalities, and ovariectomies to name just a few. Team members also perform high-speed treadmill testing. **Drs. Claude Ragle, Kelly Farnsworth, Bob Schneider, and Julie Cary** are board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Dr. Cary is head of our emergency services at WSU. **Dr. Rebecca Pierce** also recently joined the team as an assistant professor of equine surgery and emergency care. She is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In addition, **Dr. Stavros Yiannikouris** joined our faculty this summer as a clinical instructor of equine surgery after serving three years as a WSU equine surgery resident. We bid farewell to **Dr. Sarah Sampson** this past November as she accepted a faculty position at Mississippi State University.

The **Equine Theriogenology** or reproduction service is lead by **Dr. Ahmed Tibary**, our board-certified and internationally renowned large animal theriogenologist. Dr. Tibary provides a diverse range of services for horse owners including breeding soundness evaluations of stallions and mares, pregnancy and fetal well-being evaluations, semen collection and freezing, embryo transfers, and artificial insemination with fresh-cooled or frozen semen.



Dr. Kathy Seino, DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate ACVIM. Assistant Professor of Equine Medicine. Specializes in neurological infectious diseases and West Nile virus. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 2008. 509-335-0711, kseino@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Robert Schneider, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVS. Professor and Chief of Large Animal Surgery. Specializes in equine orthopedic surgery. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 1992. 509-335-0791, rks@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Claude Ragle, DVM, Diplomate ACVS, Diplomate ABVP (equine practice). Associate Professor of Equine Surgery. Specializes in minimally invasive surgery, laparoscopy, respiratory surgery, and gastrointestinal surgery. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 1992. 509-335-0822, ragle@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Melissa Hines, DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate ACVIM. Associate Professor and Chief of the Equine Medicine Service. Specializes in immunology, infectious diseases, neonatology, and exercise physiology. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 1989. 509-335-0765, mth@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Kelly Farnsworth, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVS. Clinical Assistant Professor of Large Animal Surgery. Specializes in minimally invasive surgery, laparoscopy, and lower limb lameness. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 2002. 509-335-0724, farns005@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Julie Cary, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVS. Clinical Assistant Professor of Equine Surgery and Emergency Care. Specializes in equine emergency medicine and surgery. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 2005. 509-335-3079, jcary@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Stavros Yiannikouris, DVM, M.S. Clinical Instructor of Equine Surgery. Interested in soft tissue and orthopedic surgery. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 2010. 509-335-0711, syiannikouris@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Rebecca Pierce, BVetMed, MRCVS. Clinical Assistant Professor of Equine Surgery and Emergency Care. Specializes in equine emergency medicine and surgery. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 2010. 509-335-0711, rpierce@vetmed.wsu.edu

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Dr. Ahmed Tibary, DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists. Professor of Theriogenology. Specializes in large animal reproduction. Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 1998. 509-335-1963, tibary@vetmed.wsu.edu

WSU Equine Veterinary Technicians

Our credentialed veterinary technicians are the “nursing” staff of WSU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital. They play a vital role in patient diagnostics and care, as well as in the education of veterinary students. Their dedication and caring is evident with every patient they assist.

Lethea Hunter-Russell is a licensed veterinary technician (LVT) that works with the equine orthopedic surgery service. **Shirley Sandoval** is an LVT of 25 years



Equine veterinary technician **Shirley Sandoval.**

who provides primary support for large animal and equine theriogenology. She is currently one of only seven credentialed technicians recognized by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) as a veterinary technician specialist (VTS) in large animal internal medicine.

Teri Olson is a LVT with advanced training in

equine dentistry. She also helps the equine surgery service, and is an invaluable aid in evaluation and treatment of a variety of dental disorders in horses. In addition, **Rachel Jensen** is an LVT who helps with equine surgeries and emergency and critical care cases.



(Front row left to right) Animal care assistant Brynna Coffman and equine veterinary technicians Lethea Hunter-Russell and Teri Olson. (Back row left to right) Equine veterinary technician Rachel Jensen, patient services coordinator Lynette Kinzer, and large animal care staff Patrick Otis and Dane Anderson.

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WSU Equine Support Staff

A big change occurred in our staff this past summer. **Molly Loanza**, one of our most familiar faces and an LVT who worked primarily with the equine medicine service, retired after devoting 32 years of service to animals and WSU. We miss her greatly and wish her all the best. Through the years, she has been a great influence on all the equine faculty, staff, and students.

Many other individuals provide critical assistance in the day-to-day operations of the equine hospital. It is difficult to include everyone involved with the care and treatment of equine patients, but you may meet a few of these people.

Lynette Kinzer is our patient services coordinator at the large animal appointment desk, and the person you are most likely to talk to on the phone. Lynette helps clients make appointments, answers questions, arranges transportation to the hospital, and is a liaison between our doctors and clients. **Mike Carpenter, Rick Fredrickson, Dane Anderson,** and **Patrick Otis** are our full-time large animal care staff. They clean and maintain the stalls for patient care during hospitalization, maintain our paddocks, and work with the animals. Rick Fredrickson is also the shuttle van driver for equine patients traveling between Pullman and western Washington.



Equine support staff (left to right) Mike Carpenter, Rick Fredrickson, and Dane Anderson.

Meet Dr. Rebecca Pierce, BVetMed, MRCVS



WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital is open around the clock to help animals in need of emergency care. Horse owners seeking this service at WSU will likely meet Dr. Rebecca Pierce, our newest equine surgeon. She and Dr. Julie Cary cover the equine medicine and surgery emergency service, which involves evaluating, assessing, and performing medical treatments and emergency surgery on equine patients, while working

closely with clients and referring veterinarians.

As a clinical assistant professor, she also instructs fourth-year students on the large animal emergency rotation, and assists and mentors interns and residents in emergency care and treatment.

Dr. Pierce was on the faculty at the University of Tennessee's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences before joining the WSU Equine Team in July. She is especially interested in gastrointestinal surgery and wound management.

"I have been interested in veterinary medicine as long as I can remember," Dr. Pierce said. "I began my focus on equine medicine during my undergraduate degree."

She earned a bachelor of science degree in animal science at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in 1998. She earned her degree in veterinary medicine from the University of London's Royal Veterinary College in London, England, in 2003. She is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. After graduating, she performed a large animal surgical internship and part of her residency training at the Chino Valley Equine Hospital in Chino, California. She completed her residency training at the University of Tennessee in 2008.

Colic, fractures, high-risk pregnancies and foals, and acute injuries and diseases are some emergency situations horse owners may need to seek help for. Owners are always welcome to call WSU's veterinary teaching hospital at 509-335-0711 with any questions they may have, including where to go for help or what to do about their horse. In addition to Dr. Pierce, a team of internists, surgeons, and anesthesiologists are on call to provide state-of-the-art surgery and emergency intensive care for even the most critical patients.

Want to know more about our equine clinical services, research, and accomplishments, or receive our quarterly newsletter online?

Visit the equine website at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-vth/equine

or the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital website at

www.vetmed.wsu.edu.

To subscribe to the online newsletter, go to

www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-vth/EquineNews.

