



The BRIDGE

FALL 2015

3484 Shelby Ray Court
Charleston, SC 29414
Located in West Ashley



DEAR PET PARENT,

It is with great enthusiasm that I send you Charleston Veterinary Referral Center's (CVRC) Fall Newsletter! As we enter our fifth year as part of the Lowcountry's veterinary community, we are truly thankful for your support. We recognize the important role your pets play in your family and strive to provide an exceptional client experience and medical care in times of need.

Our facility is a multi-specialty hospital and a 24/7/365 emergency care center – all under the same roof – very similar to a human hospital. Our emergency clinicians and specialty doctors work seamlessly with one another to bring the highest quality veterinary care to your pet. Veterinary specialists are veterinarians who have done extensive training in a specific discipline and gone through rigorous testing after graduating from veterinary school. There are 22 recognized veterinary specialty organizations. The staff at CVRC has specialists in the fields of surgery, neurology, internal medicine, cardiology, oncology, critical care, dentistry, and sports medicine and rehabilitation. Our team of veterinary specialists works collaboratively with your family veterinarian to ensure the best possible treatment and outcomes for your beloved family pets.

With this edition of *The Bridge*, we hope to give you additional insight into who we are and share a heartwarming success story.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for a personal tour of our hospital.

Best,

David B. Sachs, DVM
Medical Director/Co-Owner



Dr. Sachs and Jerry

Dr. Alan Green,
Co-Owner, and Murray

CVRC WEBSITE > WWW.CHARLESTONVRC.COM

Charleston Veterinary Referral Center's website is designed for pet owners. Our hope is that a visit to our website can offer answers to common questions and give an impression of what to expect during a visit to CVRC, both in written words and photographs. From doctor and department information and event calendars, to a large collection of FAQs, we strive to offer relevant content to curious and concerned pet owners alike. Additionally, we have included a number of different communication tools; pet owners can ask questions, as well as request medication refills and appointments directly through the website.

Contact CVRC

843.614.VETS (8387)
info@charlestonvrc.com
www.charlestonvrc.com
www.facebook.com/charlestonvrc

LOCATED IN WEST ASHLEY



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT



Charleston Veterinary Referral Center's **Cardiology Department** is helmed by Dr. Sophy Jesty, DACVIM (Cardiology), who joins us from

her former role of assistant professor at University of Tennessee. Dr. Jesty has vast experience in interpretation of electrocardiograms and radiographs, as well as extensive training in cardiac ultrasonography. Armed with a state-of-the-art facility and equipment, and highly-trained support staff, Dr. Jesty is able to execute advanced procedures such as pacemaker implantation, heartworm retrieval, PDA closure, and balloon valvuloplasty.

Should your pet develop any type of cardiovascular disease, Dr. Jesty is able to partner with your primary care veterinarian to deliver the best in diagnosis, treatment, and even prevention to ensure your pet lives the longest and happiest life possible.



STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Kristin Welch, DACVECC is the only board-certified Critical Care Specialist in South Carolina and has been

working at CVRC since its inception in 2011. She appreciates the discipline of Critical Care, as it allows her to use her diagnostic skills and knowledge to assist pets who are most in need.

"Critical Care is for the patient who is hospitalized due to multiple disease processes or is more likely to suffer a crisis during hospitalization," says Welch. Her areas of interest include trauma, cardiopulmonary, and infectious diseases in dogs and cats.

Dr. Welch played an integral role in CVRC obtaining Level 1-certification from the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society. The skill set Dr. Welch brings to CVRC enables us to offer treatment options that exceed the standard of care in veterinary medicine and often parallel those available in human hospitals.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PET PARENT

When Jan Hughes' three-year-old Standard Poodle, Ravi, was bitten by a snake in April, she rushed him to her veterinarian, Dr. Marikay Campbell of Port Royal Veterinary Hospital. Following initial stabilization, Dr. Campbell advised that Ravi stay with her for further observation. Roughly six hours later, Jan received a call she had not expected.

As Jan recalls, Ravi had developed considerable swelling and Dr. Campbell recommended emergency care immediately, at Charleston Veterinary Referral Center (CVRC).

Sixty miles away from CVRC, Jan and her husband, Richard J. McCants, acted quickly. When they arrived at the facility, they found the staff to be calm and reassuring, even after seeing Ravi's deteriorating condition. "It was our first time at a specialty hospital. We were understandably anxious," said Jan. "But everyone at CVRC was so welcoming and informative. The demeanor of the staff and the quality of the facility helped put us at ease."

Arnaldo Torres, DVM, one of eight emergency clinicians at CVRC, determined that the bite on Ravi's face was caused by a Cottonmouth snake. He explained the treatment options in great detail, particularly those involving anti-venom.

"Dr. Torres was professional, yet personable," said Jan. "He was easy to talk to and took his time explaining the situation to us. We felt very comfortable leaving Ravi in his care."

Although administration of anti-venom blunted the progression of Ravi's injury, the necrotic [dead tissue] area on his lip required close monitoring. Ravi developed an additional complication, aspiration pneumonia, which is commonly associated with animals who suffer nausea and vomiting as a result of critical illness. With early recognition and appropriate treatment, it is possible for animals to recover fully from this complication.

Dr. Campbell, who has used the CVRC facility for her own pets, appreciated the daily updates on Ravi's condition. "Several CVRC specialists kept in close contact with me, Jan and Richard, calling us each day about Ravi's progress, which was reassuring given the complexity of Ravi's condition," noted Dr. Campbell. Adds Jan, "The CVRC team also kept me apprised of costs so we could budget accordingly."

During Ravi's stay, many clinicians worked together to ensure that all aspects of his care were continuously monitored. Ravi was discharged with detailed instructions to ensure that his recovery would continue to go smoothly. Jan adds, "The staff even gave me a jug of antiseptic solution to help soothe where Ravi had been bitten."

Six months after the snakebite, Ravi's recovery continues to impress Jan and Richard. "After the necrotic areas from the bite fell off, he has only minor scarring between his lips and nose," says Jan.



"He looks like nothing ever happened to him. I am so relieved at how well Ravi has healed after all that he went through," said Dr. Campbell.

"If I have another pet emergency, there is no other place I would go," said Jan. "I often think that even if Ravi had not survived, I still would have felt that we brought him to the right place. The doctors and technicians did everything they could to keep him alive, always in an extremely professional and caring way.



Ravi after treatment

All these months later, CVRC's staff still calls to check on Ravi. I've been joking that if a snake ever bites me—don't call the ambulance—just take me to CVRC."

Top: Ravi's severe swelling after his bite. Above: The Cottonmouth snake that bit Ravi.

THE DOCTORS AND PATIENTS OF CVRC



Dr. Kristin Welch, DACVECC (middle) performs a diagnostic abdominal ultrasound on her patient. This painless, non-invasive procedure enables our highly-trained clinicians to visualize internal organs and facilitates diagnosis of a wide variety of diseases in cats and dogs.



Dr. Jennifer Au, DACVS, DACVSMR, CCRT (left) performing a minimally invasive surgical procedure. These types of procedures frequently result in less tissue damage, faster healing, and a quicker return to function when compared to conventional surgical approach.

Right: Young "Buddy" experienced a full recovery after a life-threatening parasite infestation. In the course of his treatment, Buddy received two blood transfusions, made possible by the on-site CVRC blood bank.



Below: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an advanced imaging modality that is used to evaluate multiple body systems. Dr. Katherine Crook, DACVIM (Neurology) uses this diagnostic modality frequently to visualize changes to the brain and spine.



Right: "Camden" performing her prescribed rehabilitation exercises in the CVRC Animal Rehabilitation and Fitness (ARF) Center. Animals recovering from orthopedic surgery frequent the ARF center in the weeks to months following surgery. Interestingly, rehabilitation has been shown to aid in recovery and return to function after a variety of injuries or illnesses in dogs and cats.

CVRC DIFFERENCE

A referral to South Carolina's only Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society Level 1-certified facility frequently involves the participation and collaboration of your primary care veterinarian—and not just one—but an entire team of highly talented doctors.

Our doctors are on-site and ready to provide emergency or specialty care to your pet 24/7/365. Board-certified surgeons perform all surgeries (including after-hour emergencies), diagnostic imaging is reviewed by board-certified radiologists, and our incredible and dedicated technical staff provides unsurpassed patient care.

CVRC employs the most sophisticated imaging, monitoring, laboratory, and therapeutic instrumentation available. Most importantly, our compassionate team of veterinary clinicians and support staff work together 24/7/365 to provide the excellent patient care and successful medical outcomes that you have come to expect from CVRC.

We take great pride in delivering exceptional medical care and an unsurpassed client experience. We recognize that your pet is an important part of your family. Please rest assured that while they are in our care, they become a part of ours as well.



IN THIS ISSUE:

FEATURES

Dear Pet Parent

CVRC Website

A Day in the Life of a Pet Parent

The Doctors and Patients of CVRC

DEPARTMENTS

Department Highlight

CVRC Difference

Staff Highlight

CVRC EVENT

CVRC EVENT: Wed., 11/4, 6:30pm

CVRC is proud to announce our complimentary, breed-specific pet owner information session: "Boxer Cardiomyopathy," featuring Dr. Sophy Jesty, DACVIM (Cardiology). Pet parents of Boxers or those interested in this disease are welcome to attend. Hospital tours to follow information session. *RSVPs will be accepted until 5:00 pm on the date of the event at rsvp@charlestonvrc.com.*

WWW.CHARLESTONVRC.COM

3484 SHELBY RAY COURT | CHARLESTON, SC 29414 | 843-614-VETS (8387) | www.charlestonvrc.com



charlestonvrc.com
843-614-VETS (8387)
Located in West Ashley
Charleston, SC 29414
3484 Shelby Ray Court

CVRC

