



Also inside this issue of *lifelines*:



CVM hosts Conference.
See page 2



Heritage Evening.
See page 2



Class of 2012 Graduates
See page 3

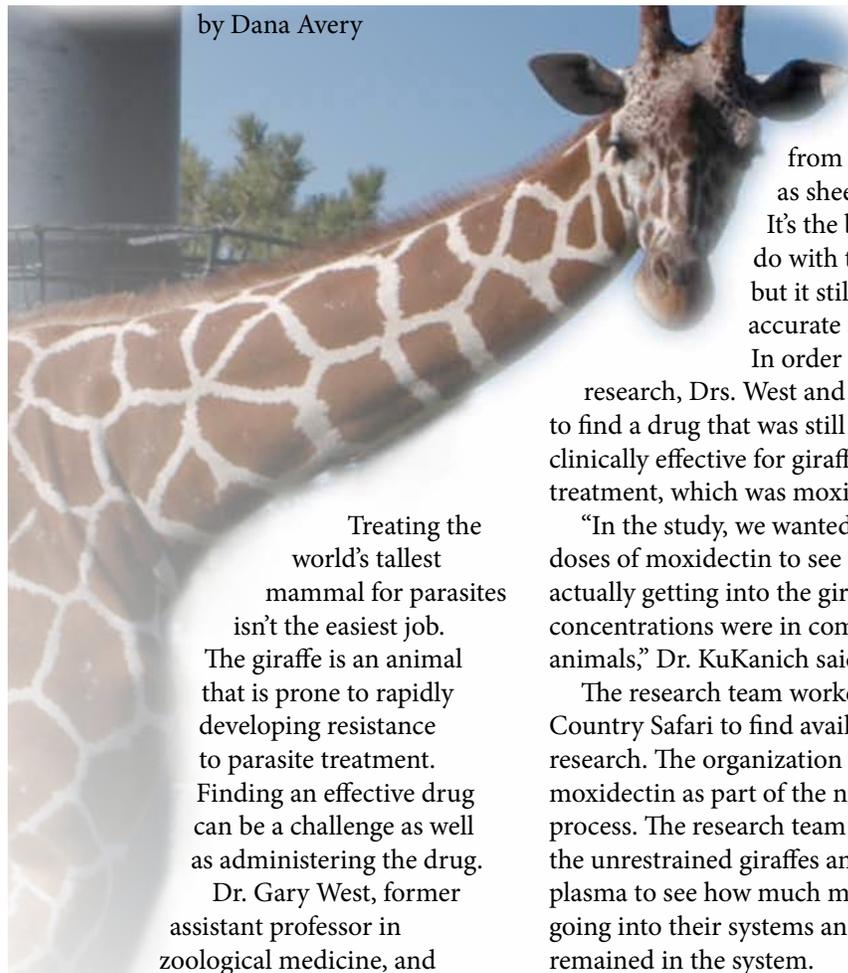


Kristin Clement goes Under the Microscope.
See page 4

Reaching New Heights

Research investigates methods to treat giraffe parasites

by Dana Avery



“Often times, the drugs and doses are extrapolated from other species such as sheep, goats and cattle. It’s the best that we can do with the information, but it still might not be as accurate as we would like.”

In order to conduct the research, Drs. West and KuKanich wanted to find a drug that was still considered clinically effective for giraffe parasite treatment, which was moxidectin.

“In the study, we wanted to look at the doses of moxidectin to see if the drugs were actually getting into the giraffe and what the concentrations were in comparison to other animals,” Dr. KuKanich said.

The research team worked with the Lion Country Safari to find available giraffes for research. The organization had giraffes using moxidectin as part of the normal de-worming process. The research team drew blood from the unrestrained giraffes and analyzed the plasma to see how much moxidectin was going into their systems and how long it remained in the system.

“There are two different methods we studied for giraffe parasite treatment,” Dr. KuKanich said. “The first method involves pouring the drug on the back of the giraffe, and it is absorbed through the skin. The second method is conducted orally. It is easier to use the pour-on method, but it’s usually not as good as oral in terms of the amount of drug absorption. We wanted to look at both methods.”

Treating the world’s tallest mammal for parasites isn’t the easiest job.

The giraffe is an animal that is prone to rapidly developing resistance to parasite treatment. Finding an effective drug can be a challenge as well as administering the drug.

Dr. Gary West, former assistant professor in zoological medicine, and Dr. Butch KuKanich, associate professor, collaborated with the Morris Animal Foundation and the Lion Country Safari in

Loxahatchee, Fla., to find an effective way to treat giraffes for parasites.

“The problem with giraffes is that we have very little information on them, in terms of what drugs we should use and what doses of the drugs we should use,” Dr. KuKanich said.

CVM hosts 74th Annual Conference for Veterinarians

The CVM hosted the 74th Annual Conference for Veterinarians on June 3-6. The conference offered many continuing education opportunities for veterinarians in the three educational tracks: equine, large animal and small animal. The event also featured a Kansas Veterinary Medical Association trade show and reception.



The 18th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament was held on June 4 at Colbert Hills Golf Course. Participating teams helped raise funds for veterinary student scholarships.



"A Peek Inside Your Patient: Radiographic Interpretations of the Small Animal Patient" was one of the wet labs offered to veterinarians. The lab allowed participants to view different radiographic case studies.

Heritage Evening recognizes award recipients

Heritage Evening was held June 3 during the 74th Annual June Conference. Three individuals were recognized by the college with awards for their work and dedication to the veterinary profession. *For more in-depth coverage, check out the video report at: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1206.htm.*



Dr. Michael Cavanaugh, DVM 1983, is recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dr. Cavanaugh currently works with the American Animal Hospital Association as the executive director and CEO.



Dr. Deryl Troyer, DVM 1972, is recognized with E.R. Frank Award. The award recognizes faculty members who display the same professional essence of Dr. Frank, who was a longtime faculty member.



Dr. Cliff Mitchell, DVM 2002, shares the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award with his wife, Crystal. This is the first time this award has been presented, which recognizes recent graduates.

The Write Stuff: Students sweep essay contest

by Dana Avery

Knowledge about the role veterinary medicine has played in American history has helped three students from Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine earn the top three places in an international essay contest sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical History Society.

The winners of the Smithcors Essay Contest are: Amy Sents, second-year veterinary student, McPherson, first place for her essay, "The Covert Arsenal of Biological Agents throughout History"; Tracey Mullins, second-year veterinary student, Manhattan, second place for "The Humble Beginning of the Corporate Companion Animal Hospital"; and Katie Beach, fourth-year veterinary student, Manhattan, third place for "The Dogs of War: History of the U.S. Military Dog."

All three of students earned cash prizes for their winning essays, which were selected by a panel of judges.

"I require our students who enroll in AP 780, History of Veterinary Medicine, and also in AP 747, Veterinary Physiology II, to write a paper and encourage them to submit their papers for the Smithcors Veterinary History Essay Contest," said Dr. Howard Erickson, professor emeritus of physiology and history of veterinary medicine. "I think



Third-place winner and fourth-year student Katie Beach; first-place winner and second-year student Amy Sents; and second-place winner and second-year student Tracey Mullins.

communication, both oral and written, is very important in veterinary medicine. These students have very busy schedules, but have found the time to prepare outstanding papers on diverse topics related to the history of veterinary medicine."

Graduation: Students become doctors

The College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed a new generation of doctors on May 11. The Class of 2012 awarded 106 individuals their doctorate degree in veterinary medicine. Congratulations to the Class of 2012!



Dr. Nels Lindberg, DVM 2001, speaks during commencement. Dr. Lindberg works with Animal Medical Center and Progressive Beef Consulting Services in Great Bend, Kan.



The veterinary graduates listen to the national anthem during the ceremony. Graduation was held in McCain Auditorium.



Kristin Clement

Director of Communications and
Marketing, Development Office

Hometown: Pawnee Rock, Kan.

Family Information: My husband of three years, Matt.

Pets: The most wonderful dog ever! My chocolate Lab, Jordy.

What is something that you would like to accomplish this summer? I'm training for my first Ironman 70.3 in Boulder, Colo., in August. Right now, training consumes all of my free time, so I'm anxious to have the first one under my belt.

How have animals been important in your life? I grew up on a farm raising and showing shorthorn cattle, so I've had animals in my life from day one. Dad taught us to feed the cattle before we fed ourselves in the morning, and watching his passion for every animal in his herd inspired a work ethic and respect for animals at a young age. Animals were always a part of the family and now, going home to a happy, wiggly 83-pound puppy, is the best part of my day. If one is good, more is better. I think my first few weeks here, I tried to bring home every animal I found that needed a home, but my husband thinks one dog is enough — for now.

CVM NEWS TICKER

Dr. David Anderson was appointed as Department Head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the University of Tennessee.

Hannah Leventhal, second-year student, was selected as the United States Zone and North America 1st place winner for the Alltech Young Scientist Award.

Jingjiao Ma, Ph.D. graduate student, was awarded a travel award to attend the American Society for Virology annual meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in July 2012.

Getahun Agga, Ph.D. graduate student, was selected as a Phi Kappa Phi member. He was inducted on April 18.



Several alumni and family members received a tour of the CVM on June 2. Alumni returned to the CVM for a day filled of class reunions and other activities. Dean Ralph Richardson presented the college's Master Plan for the visitors.

Congratulations Dr. Harkin!



Dr. Kenneth Harkin is the recipient of the 2012 Dr. William and Deanna Pritchard Veterinary Service and Outreach Award. This was the inaugural Pritchard award and will be presented annually.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 22-28 - Central Veterinary Conference - Kansas City, Mo.

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