

# Newsletter



internal medicine • surgery • emergency & critical care • dermatology • radiology, ultrasound & CT scan



## Welcome!

We are happy to introduce the first issue of the Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists' Newsletter. We will share some of our interesting cases, provide you with updates on what is happening at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital and bring you information about the services we offer. Any suggestions regarding topics for future newsletters are welcome. Please email any ideas to Nadja Torling, Practice Manager of Client Relations, at [ntorling@wrah.com](mailto:ntorling@wrah.com). We hope you will enjoy it!

## What's New at WRVS

**Dr. Lori Wise** who has always had a strong interest in management of diabetic dogs and cats, has become an international spokesperson for Abbott Animal Health. Together they are the leaders in educating veterinarians and clients about the benefits and ease of home glucose monitoring of diabetic patients. Lori has traveled throughout the US and recently spoke at the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando and across Canada for three more programs. Needless to say, Lori brings tremendous expertise to our practice in the area of diabetes management and she is always available to consult with you and your clients.

**Dr. Steve Petersen** was recently invited to participate in the inaugural IAMS Pet Wellness Council. This is a diverse group of board-certified specialists, and general practice veterinarians, from across the country and Great Britain, that meet several times yearly to discuss, evaluate, and help develop improved dietary products for our companion animals. Steve has also been invited by the Novartis company to be on their "Pain Management Advocate" team. In this regard, he speaks regionally, and nationally, helping veterinarians across the country develop and employ multimodal management techniques for

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treating osteoarthritis and chronic pain in dogs and cats. The WRVS surgical team remains progressive and innovative, via minimally invasive techniques and advanced procedures, in their efforts to provide improved care, and improved outcomes, for surgical patients.

**Dr. Carrie Miller**, our respiratory specialist, has developed expertise in the placement of tracheal and pharyngeal stents for treatment of tracheal collapse and pharyngeal webs. In the last two years Carrie has performed this new and innovative technique over a dozen times. In cases of tracheal collapse, stents are an excellent alternative to the surgically placed syringe case prosthetics. They also allow for treatment of intrathoracic tracheal collapse, an area where the prosthetic ring surgery is not applicable. In April, Carrie will be spending one week at the University of Pennsylvania studying interventional radiology where she will further expand her knowledge of stent placement.

### Branch Offices

We have recently agreed to renew our leases for use of the Boulder Emergency Pet Clinic and Northside Emergency Pet Clinic. This will allow us to continue to serve the Boulder and North Denver communities. We have had a great relationship with the ER doctors of these two facilities and are excited that they will continue to provide excellent care under the new ownership of Dr. Cindy Grimm. Starting the week of April 20th, we will have coverage Monday through Friday in Boulder by our board-certified internal medicine specialists. We will also be extending our surgical coverage. Our Westminster location will be open Monday through Wednesday and will only offer internal medicine appointments.



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Tel 303-424-3325  
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[www.wheatridgeanimal.com](http://www.wheatridgeanimal.com)

Appointment Hours:  
Mon - Fri: 9 am to 5 pm  
Sat & Sun: 9 am to 5 pm  
*24-hour Emergency Hospital*

## Meet Our Specialists



### Leonard D. Jonas DVM, MS, DACVIM

Dr. Jonas graduated from veterinary school at Iowa State University. Following an internship at the Animal Medical Center in New York City, he came to Colorado for a combined small animal internal medicine residency and master's degree program at Colorado State University. During his internal medicine residency he also completed the residency requirements in veterinary dermatology. He became board-certified in Small Animal Internal Medicine in 1986.

In 1984 Dr. Jonas founded Denver Veterinary Specialists. The practice has grown through the years to now include 14 board-certified specialists in six different disciplines. The Denver Veterinary Specialists name was changed in 2005 to Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists.

The majority of Dr. Jonas' practice is devoted to small animal dermatology focusing on the management of allergic and immune mediated diseases. He does still enjoy internal medicine and the specific areas of endocrinology and systemic immune mediated disease. He has had research published in The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Veterinary Dermatology and The Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association,

Dr. Jonas has two children and lives in Denver. He enjoys hiking, camping, skiing and traveling.



### Elisa M. Mazzaferro MS, DVM, PhD, DACVECC

Dr. Mazzaferro, Director of Emergency Services, brings more than 11 years of emergency and critical care experience to our emergency team. Dr. Mazzaferro attended Michigan State University, where she received her DVM in May 1997. She then completed a 1-year specialty emergency and critical care internship at the Veterinary Institute of Trauma, Emergency, and Critical Care, then a 4-year dual residency and PhD program in Emergency and Critical Care at Colorado State University. Since that time, she has called Wheat Ridge her home base.

Dr. Mazzaferro also is an accomplished author, has published more than 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts and two textbooks on emergency and critical care. Two more textbooks are currently in progress. Additionally, she volunteers her services as the Assistant Case Reports Editor for the Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care, is the Proceedings Coordinator for the annual IVECCS meeting, is on the Board of Regents for the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care, and acts as the Chairperson of the Scientific Program Committee for the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society. Most recently, Dr. Mazzaferro was appointed to direct the scientific laboratories at the AVMA National Convention.

In her "spare time" Dr. Mazzaferro is a certified Jazzercise instructor, and teaches in Conifer and Littleton. She is passionate about cooking, growing orchids, and raising her growing family of pugs and other 4-legged creatures, Sydney, Mango, Vincent Charles, Felix, Scarlett, Mikey, and Penelope.



## Please Save The Date

### Continuing Education Series

### Presentations by Our Specialists

2 CE Hours

Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

Arvada Center for the Performing Arts

5:30 - 8:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME!

Veterinarians and CVTs welcome! Seating is limited. Please RSVP by Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Call the RSVP hotline, 303-996-1383, and leave a message or email [ntorling@wrah.com](mailto:ntorling@wrah.com).

## Case of The Quarter: Diabetic Remission In A Cat — Dr. Lori Wise

Max, a 10 yr MC DLH cat presented 9-26-08 for lethargy and anorexia following a diagnosis of diabetes mellitus several weeks earlier. He had received a methylprednisolone acetate injection one month earlier for feline asthma. He was hospitalized and started on glargine (Lantus®) insulin, but because of continued inappetance and ketonuria, treatment with IV fluids and regular insulin CRI was initiated. His appetite and attitude improved within 48 hours of treatment. The owner was instructed in home glucose monitoring and continued glargine insulin administration twice daily upon discharge from the hospital. Purina canned DM diet was given exclusively. Max's initial insulin dose was 1 U every 12 hours. The owner checked Max's blood glucose by obtaining a sample from his marginal ear vein, using a spring loaded lancing device and the AlphaTRAK® meter, both manufactured by Abbott. His insulin dose was raised to 1.5 U BID but varied from 0.5 to 1.5 U BID depending on his blood glucose values.

By late November, his insulin dose was 0.5 U given only when his blood glucose was greater than 100 mg/dl. By early December, he was in diabetic remission, which is defined as normoglycemia after being off of insulin for at least two weeks. The owner continues to monitor Max's blood glucose every week. He has gained one pound and feels great.

This case illustrates several important factors in helping your feline patient achieve diabetic remission:

1. Patient needs to be recently diagnosed with diabetes (previous 4-6 months).
2. Previous steroid therapy increases the chance that cat will achieve remission, but steroids need to be discontinued permanently.
3. Low carbohydrate food is necessary - canned food with 8-10% carbohydrates on an as fed basis is recommended. This diet needs to be continued for the life of the cat after insulin is discontinued, to avoid diabetic relapse.

4. Glargine insulin in the current insulin of choice in newly diagnosed diabetic cats. Starting dose is 0.25-0.5 U/kg BID, calculated on ideal body weight, and the dose is increased weekly by 0.5-1 U per dose until blood glucose starts to normalize (100-150 mg/dl). Once blood glucose is normal, the dose is gradually decreased so that eventually the cat will be on 0.5 U every day or two. This low dose needs to be continued for awhile before stopping insulin completely, or cat will relapse.
5. To avoid stress hyperglycemia, owner needs to home monitor the patient. I currently recommend the AlphaTRAK® meter which is available to owners through their veterinarian.
6. Presence of ketoacidosis at initial diagnosis does not diminish the chance of achieving diabetic remission.
7. With these tools, close to 100% of diabetic cats will achieve remission in 4-6 months.
8. Close communication between owners and veterinarians is needed. I recommend a phone or email conversation weekly, and a recheck appointment monthly.



## Announcements

### We Now Offer Outpatient CT Scans!

We recently added outpatient CT scans to our list of services. Appointments are available on a drop-off basis at our Wheat Ridge location, Monday through Friday. Patients are dropped off in the morning and discharged in the afternoon. You will receive a report from our board-certified radiologists within 24 hours during the week and by Monday for Friday appointments.

### Boulder Outpatient Ultrasound Appointments: Now on Wednesdays.

We are moving outpatient ultrasound appointments at our Boulder location to Wednesdays. Effective immediately, Dr. Wendy Fife will be available every Wednesday morning, 9 AM - 11:45 AM. Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists' Internal Medicine Specialists will continue to provide ultrasounds as usual, Monday through Friday.

### Internal Medicine Appointments Seven Days a Week.

At our Wheat Ridge location, our board-certified Internal Medicine Specialists are available for new consultations every day of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays! To schedule appointments, please call us at 303-424-3325.

### Continuing Education 2009

Our continuing education offerings this year will continue to include the Boulder and Westminster luncheons.

#### Boulder Luncheons

Dolan's Restaurant  
12:00PM to 2:00PM  
Thursday, June 4 2009  
Thursday, August 6 2009  
Thursday, November 5 2009

#### Westminster Luncheons

Cinzetti's Italian Market Restaurant  
12:00PM to 2:00PM  
Wednesday, July 1 2009  
Wednesday, September 2 2009  
Wednesday, December 2 2009

1.5 CE credit hours are pending for these presentations.

Seating is limited to 20 so please RSVP to Nadja Torling via fax, 303-420-8360, or call our RSVP hotline, 303-996-1383, to leave a message.



## Emergency & Critical Care Update

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital is the only privately-owned, specialty referral practice in Colorado that has a board-certified criticalist, board-certified emergency and critical care technicians, and resident-in-training. These individuals have advanced training in all facets of emergency and critical care, and are on-site or on-call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to meet your clients' and patients' emergency and critical needs. In addition to our specialty staff, the emergency team consists of certified veterinary technicians and veterinarians who are prepared to triage, diagnose and treat all emergent patients under the supervision of a senior staff emergency veterinarian. Our team is required to complete a minimum of hours of in-house and outside continuing education to stay at the top of our game.

Some veterinarians cringe when an animal arrives after being hit by a car, ingests a toxin, or has a sudden grand mal seizure and the clients bring them to you at 4:45 on a Friday afternoon. Never fear! Our Emergency Service is prepared to accommodate your patients' needs at any time of day, every day of the year. Whether an animal has ethylene glycol or recreational drug intoxication, pericardial effusion, chronic renal failure, GDV, seizures, urethral obstruction, or a minor abrasion, our emergency team thrives on the excitement of juggling, diagnosing, and treating the unknown. We have a state-of-the-art in-house blood chemistry and coagulation analyzers, digital radiography, ultrasound, CT scanner, mechanical ventilator, endo-

scopy, peritoneal dialysis, and emergency surgical suites available. From the moment an animal crosses our doorstep, the patient receives one-on-one individualized care through emergent stabilization, diagnostic testing, and treatment. At the same time, our emergency, radiology, and surgery services work together to provide round-the-clock expertise to diagnose and treat all surgical emergencies, from seemingly minor lacerations or Caesarian sections to more serious life-threatening problems such as GDV, hemoabdomen, pyometra, and multi-trauma.

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital is equipped with two intensive care wards where patients are monitored throughout the day and night. Intensive monitoring of blood pressure, ECG, pulse oximetry, central venous pressure, and capnometry are used to help guide therapy in our most critically ill patients. The availability of liquid oxygen and total parenteral nutrition helps us keep up with our critical patients' supplemental oxygen and nutritional needs.

Whatever the problem, whatever the hour, the Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital Emergency Team is here for your patients, their families and for you. Please don't hesitate to contact us with diagnostic or treatment questions, or to refer your most specialized, critical patients. Once you entrust your patients to our care, our staff will contact you by phone and fax to keep you advised about results of diagnostic tests, treatments, client decisions, prognosis, and follow-up.