

Newsletter



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



Hello!

Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists is excited to announce the addition of a new specialty service, a new surgeon, and new CE opportunities this spring. We will be bringing our monthly CE luncheons closer to home and holding them at Abrusci's Italian Restaurant starting on March 24th. See below for additional luncheon dates. We are also pleased to announce that starting June 1st, Larie Allen, DVM, DACVS will be joining us as Director of Surgical Services. And, WRVS now offers Oncology Services! Gabriella Sfiligoi, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology) starts seeing appointments on April 5th. Please see Dr. Allen and Dr. Sfiligoi's biographies on page 3 for more information on our newest veterinarians.

New Estimates

We have posted estimates for our medical and dermatological procedures on our website, www.wheatridgeanimal.com. Click on "For Veterinarians" on the gray bar on the left side of the home page, and then on "Estimates" to download a pdf. You can also download the Patient Referral form here.

Outpatient CT Scans

Outpatient CT Scan 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.

Update Your Contact Information!

We continuously strive to keep our records up to date so that we can provide you with referral letters, continuing education offer-

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If you prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please send your email address to ntorling@wrah.com.

ings, and updates about what is going on at Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists. If your contact information has changed, please let us know. We are happy to email, fax or mail the information to you. Just let us know what your preference is.

2010 Continuing Education

We will be offering luncheons in Wheat Ridge every other month starting in March. In addition, look for an announcement later this spring for our WRVS Continuing Education Seminar.

Wheat Ridge Luncheons

Abrusci's Italian Restaurant
3244 Youngfield St.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

12:00PM to 2:00PM

Lectures by our specialists (1.5 CE hours) and buffet lunch. Please RSVP to 303-996-1383 or ntorling@wrah.com. Limited to 20 attendees.

- Wednesday, March 24
- Thursday, May 27
- Thursday, July 22
- Thursday, September 16
- Thursday, November 18



3695 Kipling Street • Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Tel 303-424-3325
Fax 303-420-8360
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



Lori A. Wise, DVM, MS, DACVIM **Board-Certified in Internal Medicine**

Dr. Wise received her DVM with honors from the University of Florida in 1985. She completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Colorado State University, followed by a residency in small animal medicine and a master's degree program in 1989.

She achieved board certification in 1990, and then practiced at West Los Angeles Veterinary Medical Group. In 1991, she joined Dr. Lenny Jonas at Denver Veterinary Specialists, which was renamed to Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists. In 1994, she became a partner with Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital.

She enjoys all areas of internal medicine, with special interests in diabetes mellitus, renal disease and immune mediated diseases.

Dr. Wise lives in Arvada with her two children, Isaac and Abby. Three dogs, two cats, a chinchilla, frog, and turtle round out her household. She is a Girl Scout leader, Sunday school teacher, and enjoys working out and scrapbooking.



John E. Stein, DVM, MS, DACVIM **Board-Certified in Internal Medicine** **Certified in Veterinary Medical Acupuncture (CSU)**

Dr. Stein graduated from Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 1999. He moved to Colorado to complete an internship and residency in Small Animal Internal Medicine as well as a master's degree at the Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Stein became board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 2004, and joined Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists in 2005. His special interests include infectious and immune-mediated diseases and liver disease. He is also certified in veterinary medical acupuncture.

Dr. Stein is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society. He lives in Boulder with his wife, Jessica, their cats, Jackson and Shere Khan, and their dogs, Bridger and Cinder. In their free time, they both enjoy telemark skiing, snowboarding, rock climbing and camping with their dogs.



Max enjoying the outdoors after recovering from heat stroke.

To the Doctors and Staff of Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital,

From the minute you sprung into action, we knew Max would be in good hands. This event has been one of the toughest experiences of our lives and we cannot find words to express our gratitude for what you have done.

Thank you for your commitment to high quality care and honest service. Thank you for understanding Max is more than just a pet, for helping us feel at ease, and caring for our dog as if he were your own. You have done more than save our dog's life, you have saved an important member of our family.

Thank you,
Andy, Melissa and Max

Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists Welcomes Dr. Larie Allen and Dr. Gabriella Sfiligoi

Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists is proud to announce that Dr. Larie Allen will be joining our staff as Director of Surgical Services on June 1, 2010. Larie has been a board-certified staff surgeon at Veterinary Surgical Specialists of New Mexico in Albuquerque for the past 10 year and therefore brings exceptional experience and leadership to WRVS.

Larie received her DVM degree from the University of Florida. She completed an internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital and then a surgical residency at the Animal Medical Center in New York City. Following her residency she completed a surgical oncology fellowship at Colorado State University. She was awarded Diplomate status by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1999.

Her primary interests are in soft tissue and oncologic surgery. However, after ten years of private specialty practice Larie is also experienced in all orthopedic procedures including TPLO's, TTA's, Tightrope procedures, fracture repair and laminectomies.

Larie is very excited to be back in Colorado. In her free time she enjoys hiking in our mountains.

We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Gabriella Sfiligoi has joined our staff as a medical oncologist. She will begin seeing oncology appointments on April 5, 2010.

Gabby received her DVM degree from Cornell University. She completed an internship at the University of Pennsylvania and a residency in Medical Oncology at the University of California at Davis. Following her residency she joined the Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center and developed the medical oncology practice there over the past 3 years.

Gabby passed her board-certification and was recognized as a diplomate by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in the specialty of oncology in 2005.

Gabby recently moved to Colorado and loves being here. She is excited to get to know and become a part of the metro area veterinary community. Her interests outside of veterinary oncology include hiking, camping, reading, travel, and her husband and their 9 month old son.



Discoid Lupus Erythematosus — Leonard D. Jonas, DVM, MS, DACVIM

There is a long list of diseases that affect the bridge of the nose and planum nasale of dogs. We don't have space here to cover all these conditions so I will primarily focus on Discoid Lupus Erythematosus (DLE) which is relatively common here in Colorado. So common in fact that most of us can recognize it just as soon as our patients enter the exam room.

Clinical symptoms can vary from patient to patient and range from mild pigmentary change and loss of the cobblestone appearance of the planum nasale to scaling and alopecia of the bridge of the nose, deep ulcerations, disfigurement and erosions into arteries of the planum nasale.

We are often faced with the question as to whether a skin biopsy is necessary. I am of the belief that if we are going to diagnose a potentially life-long disease process, histopath confirmation is essential. That said, patients often present with just mild depigmentation of the planum. It is hard to justify anesthesia in those cases. The deciding factor for me revolves around the seriousness of the clinical problem. The more serious the symptoms the more likely I will push for a biopsy. One other consideration to make is that mucocutaneous pyoderma is often clinically indistinguishable from DLE. In 2004 Wiemelt, Goldschmidt et. al. published an article in Veterinary Dermatology showing that DLE and MCP we virtually indistinguishable on histopath examination as well. So you now have two diseases that are both clinically and histologically identical. This is a situation where a 3-6 week trial course of appropriate antibiotic therapy is rational to help differentiate the two

diseases. Antibiotics to consider are cephalexin (25 mg/kg BID), Clavamox (22 mg/kg BID), cefpodoxime (10 mg/kg SID) or topical Mupirocin 2% ointment (Bactroban). The MCP should clear nicely in response to the antibiotic regimen where the DLE will continue unchanged.

There are many therapeutic options for DLE and we often start with oral immunomodulatory medications. Drugs that are very safe but slow to act include the combination of doxycycline (5 mg/kg BID) and niacinamide (250 mg for dogs <25 kg and 500 mg for dogs > 25 kg) and vitamin E. Insure the clients do not use niacin as it is ineffective. Be patient as the D/N combination may take 6-8 weeks before improvement is noted. For more serious lesions or those that do not respond to D/N, the use of oral corticosteroids are necessary. They work fast



A mild case of DLE.

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and are very effective. We are all aware of the adverse effects of steroids so once we induce remission it is important to taper as reasonably fast as possible. Azathioprine (1 mg/kg SID) is used only occasionally where D/N is ineffective, topical measures fail or the patient is intolerant of steroids.



Severe DLE.

Topical Tacrolimus (0.3% or 1.0%) ointment has been shown to be very effective for control of DLE and is my first choice with milder cases. Tacrolimus is a highly potent immunosuppressive drug

that when applied topically has no systemic or local adverse effects. Occasionally I will recommend topical steroids but the local adverse effects make them less desirable.

Do not underestimate the impact of sun light/UV rays have on the initiation, propagation or exacerbation of DLE. Try to have owners keep their dogs out of the sun from 10 AM until 4 PM. Also ask them to apply SPF 15 or greater sunscreen to the nose area every time the pet goes outside. That is a tricky process, as most dogs will almost instantly lick off the sunscreen. I tell owners to keep the dogs tongue away from the nose for at least 30 seconds with dog food, treats or chew toys of any kind to serve as a distraction.

In summary, DLE is a relative common disease process here in Colorado. In most cases a biopsy is important to specifically confirm a potentially life-long disease process. Prognosis is generally good for these patients as the symptoms can be controlled with many therapeutic options. They range from topical tacrolimus, to non-aggressive doxycycline and niacinamide to more aggressive immunosuppressants prednisone or azathioprine.