CY VISITS
the Veterinary
Teaching Hospital

Cy, the Iowa State University mascot, visited the Iowa State campus, Ames, and central Iowa, as part of a photo shoot for a proposed marketing campaign. At the VTH, Cy visited with students, learned about the profession, and received a free medical exam.
CELEBRATIONS
The 125th anniversary celebration for our college was a tremendous success. I want to thank Dr. Pat Halbur and his committee for an outstanding event that allowed our students, faculty, alumni and friends to reflect on past accomplishments, view our present state and look to the future.

FACILITY REMODELING, RENOVATION AND EXPANSION
The expansion phase of our veterinary teaching hospital project was unveiled during the celebration. This $51 million Phase 1 will include a new equine hospital, food animal area, imaging suite prepared for an MRI and linear accelerator, 50 new faculty offices and a stand-alone large animal and equine isolation facility. We will acquire the imaging equipment through gifts and grants. Phase 1 is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2008.

Phase 2 of the project will include the remodeling and renovation of the vacated equine and food animal area of our present space into companion animal specialty spaces. This $10 million project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2009. We greatly appreciate the financial support for the building project and encourage your consideration for much-needed further financial assistance.

Preliminary plans and justification for a new veterinary diagnostic laboratory, animal research facilities, classroom facility and student study areas have been developed for our college so we are prepared to acquire anticipated federal funding for veterinary college infrastructure through the proposed Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act.

Our histology laboratory has been completely remodeled, and lecture room 2226 is undergoing remodeling this summer. Both will be available for fall 2005. The $350,000 remodeling project to increase the capacity of our anatomy laboratory will be completed for spring 2006. Renovation plans and schedules are being finalized for the remaining three college lecture rooms, to be completed during the next 24-36 months. Student surveys indicated concern about the conditions of the laboratories and lecture rooms. These projects will provide updated learning facilities, complete with state-of-the-art technology.

FACULTY RECOGNITION
Faculty members who received national recognitions include Dr. Holly Bender, veterinary pathology, 2004 National Carl J. Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award; Dr. Charles Thoen, veterinary microbiology and preventive medicine, Honorary Diplomate, American Veterinary Epidemiology Society; Dr. Anumantha
Kanthasamy, biomedical sciences, member of the Neurotoxicology and Alcohol Study Section, National Institutes of Health. National Hog Farmer magazine recently recognized the top 50 individuals who have made the largest contributions to the national swine industry. ISU-CVM graduates and former faculty members recognized include Drs. Hank Harris, Richard Ross, Roy Schultz and William Switzer. The ISU-CVM faculty, staff and graduates have saved our state’s livestock industry millions each year through their research, diagnoses, treatment and professional outreach.

STUDENT INFORMATION
More than 40 students are participating in our summer scholars program. These students are provided a stipend and resources to conduct research under the supervision of a college faculty member.

Statistics collected for the class of 2005 indicate an average starting salary of $53,539, an increase of $2,322 over 2004. Those going into food animal practice received the highest salaries. Twenty-five percent of this class will participate in an internship program.

The remodeled histology room 2025 was on display at the 125th Anniversary Celebration Week. LSI Corporation of America donated the granite countertops and casework for the room. In May 2005, Dean Thomson presented Gary Taylor, president of LSI, with a Gentle Doctor statue during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the histology room.
“My ... ain't this some blow-out!”
said Dr. W. Eugene Lloyd ('49) as he prepared to toast his alma mater during the college's 125th anniversary gala on Saturday, April 30, 2005.

The gala was the culmination of a week-long celebration of the college's 125 years of veterinary education.
EVENT SPONSORS

The College of Veterinary Medicine wishes to give special thanks to the sponsors of its 125th anniversary celebration. Without our sponsors, the event would not have been the success it was. THANK YOU!

Platinum Level - $10,000 or more
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.
Lloyd, Inc.
Pfizer Animal Health, Inc.

Gold Level - $5,000 to $9,999
ELANCO Animal Health, Inc.
Fort Dodge Animal Health
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Novartis Animal Health US
Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at ISU

Cardinal Level - $2,500 to $4,999
AMVC Veterinary Services, Audubon, Iowa
Bayer Corporation
Dr. George and Jan Beran
Drs. Pat and Therese Halbur
IDEXX Laboratories
Intervet
Merial
Spielman’s Event Services
Dr. John U. and Kay Thomson
Tri-Vet Associates, Farley, Iowa
Veterinary Medical Center, Williamsburg, Iowa

Dean’s List - $1,000 to $2,499
Alpharma
Carroll Veterinary Clinic, Carroll, Iowa
Central Veterinary Medical Clinic, Sioux Center, Iowa
Dr. George C. Christensen
Hill’s Pet Nutrition
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Dr. Oscar and Sybil Fletcher
ISU Foundation
Newport Laboratories/VMC/ProPig
Dr. Max and Monica Porter
Dr. Richard and Karen Ross
Dr. John G. and Doris Salsbury
Schering-Plough Animal Health
Trans Ova Genetics and ProPork LLC, Sioux Center, Iowa
Dr. Teddi Wolff

Honor Roll - $500 to $999
Drs. Donald and Dee Draper
Fisher Scientific
Iowa Poultry Association and Iowa Egg Council
Mr. John and Shirley Knipfel
Dr. William P. and Irene Switzer
VWR International

CVM Pride - $50 to $499
ARKO Laboratories
Ms. Jo Avery
Drs. Lorraine and Peter Hoffman
Iowa Turkey Federation
Dr. John and Sally Greve
Dr. John and Jan Kluge
Dr. Bruce and Ellen J anke
Dr. Lisa Nolan
Dr. J ames and Marcia Noxon
Mr. Steve and Patricia Pendry
Drs. Don and Dorothy Reynolds
Dr. Vaughn Seaton
Dr. Leonard and Collette Seda
Dr. Ole and Vivian Stalheim
Dr. Ken and Ruth Wilcke

PET CARE SEMINAR
To kick off celebration week, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s Community Practice Group hosted an evening Pet Care Seminar. Pet owners from surrounding towns listened to Drs. Kim Langholz (’00) and Lin Kauffman (’03) discuss animal health care. Using canine volunteer, In Search of Gold, Dr. Kauffman demonstrated basic pet maintenance, including cleaning ears and brushing teeth.
that our college has made through our research, teaching and service.”

Dr. Langholz’s dog, Oddball, assisted her in teaching basic behavior and training tips to pet owners. Oddball, deaf since birth, responded to hand signals, proving that even the dog that really can’t hear its owner can be trained.

**VDL DAY**
Mid-week, departments of the college participated in a best-decorated department contest and celebrated Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Day. Spectacular displays and learning modules showcased the activities of the departments. With several hallways and displays, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory won the best-dressed department contest.

**Special Recognition**
Dr. John U. Thomson, veterinary college dean, presented Dr. John Herrick (’46) with the Pegasus Statue in recognition of his outstanding contribution to society through veterinary medicine and association with Iowa State’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Herrick was honored for his lifetime contributions.

**COLLEGE LUNCHEON**
Despite chilly temperatures, close to 700 staff, faculty and students attended a catered BBQ lunch outdoors under the dome of a white tent on Friday, April 29. Dr. Morgan McArthur (’83), humorist and motivational speaker, warmed up the crowd with his fond memories of the college, life as a veterinarian, and advice to the veterinary students.
The college held an open house for alumni and friends on Saturday, April 30. Close to 400 people passed by the 19 stations set up throughout the college.

**STATIONS OF EXCELLENCE**

**The Center for Food Security and Public Health**
Dr. Jim Roth
Dr. Danelle Bickett-Weddle

**Biomedical Sciences—New Opportunities**
Dr. Eric Rowe
Dr. Heather Greenlee
Dr. Nani Ghoshal
Dr. William Reece

**Modern Studies of Drug Action and Resistance in Round Worms**
Dr. Alan Robertson
Dr. Richard Martin

**Veterinary Microbiology: Yesterday and Today**
Dr. Lisa Nolan
Dr. Eileen Thacker
Dr. Ricardo Rosenbusch

**R. Allen Packer Heritage Room Display and Tour**
Dr. George Beran

**Pencil to Pathfinder: Evolution of Veterinary Education at the CVM**
PART I  Dr. Holly Bender
PART II Dr. Jared Danielson
Dr. Rick Mills
Dr. Pam Vermeer

**Biopsy and Necropsy Cases—Putting the Puzzle Together**
Dr. Amanda Fales-Williams

**VDL Analytical Services: The CSI of Veterinary Medicine**
Dr. Walter Hyde

**VDPAM Steps into the Future of Evidence-Based Medicine**
Dr. Lorraine Hoffman
Dr. Kyoung-J In Yoon
Dr. Michael Apley
Dr. Dianna Jordan
Ms. Joann Kinyon

**Biomedical Sciences: Neurotoxicology and PrP Action**
Dr. Anumantha Kanthasamy

**Canine Rehabilitation**
Ms. Joanna Hildreth

**Orthopedic Research**
Dr. Duane Robinson

**Ophthalmology**
Dr. Daniel Betts

**Companion Animal Surgery**
Dr. Mary Ann Nieves
Dr. Brent Reimer

**Emergency and Critical Services**
Dr. Beth Stroeter

**Veterinary Dermatology and Otology: the State of the Art**
Dr. James O. Noxon
Dr. Elizabeth R. May

**Companion Animal Internal Medicine**
Dr. Robert King

**Equine Medicine and Surgery**
Dr. Brett Sponseller

**Diagnostic Radiology**
Dr. Matt Winter
“We value tradition and we will continue to make Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine a leader among the universities.”

ANNIVERSARY GALA

“This is indeed a very special night as we celebrate our College of Veterinary Medicine,” said Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy.

A special night it was with over 600 alumni and friends traveling from Iowa and 11 other states across the United States, and one foreign country to attend the reception and dinner at Iowa State’s Steve and Debbie Bergstrom Indoor Training Facility.

“It’s overwhelming to think of the countless contributions that our college has made through our research, teaching and service,” Dean John U. Thomson said.

Dr. George Beran summarized the college’s achievements over the past 125 years. His slide show “CVM Moments in History” told the college’s story from inception to 2005.

“Is this not a magic profession,” said Dr. Morgan McArthur (’83). “However we apply this great education we’ve gotten from ISU, we are privileged.”

Dr. Morgan McArthur, humorist and motivational speaker, worked his own magic on the crowd as he told stories from his days as a practitioner and reminisced about his days at Iowa State.

“So, if you would please, join me in a toast to Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine,” Dr. W. Eugene Lloyd said as he raised his glass.

Dr. Joe Seng (’71) provided musical entertainment at the conclusion of the gala.

THANK YOU

A big thanks to the planning committee whose behind-the-scenes efforts made this event memorable and worthwhile.

Ms. Michelle Andersen, VM-4
Mr. Kenny Barrett, VM-4
Ms. Kathy Berrett
Dr. George Beran
Ms. Marta Burkgren
Dr. John Greve
Dr. Patrick Halbur
Dr. Lorraine Hoffman
Dr. Walter Hyde
Ms. Kathryn Johnson
Dr. Tom Johnson
Dr. Karen Kline
Ms. Karol Krumm
Mrs. Pat Pendry
Mrs. Monica Porter
Ms. Tracy Ann Raef
Mrs. Lisa Sebring
Mrs. Kay Thomson
When Karla Sibert of the Iowa Equine Rescue Network called for assistance, veterinarians and students at Iowa State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine didn’t hesitate to help.

In March 2005, several animals were seized from a farm near Palo, Iowa, after a complaint was filed about alleged mistreatment. Subsequently, volunteers from the Iowa Equine Rescue Network removed and relocated the animals.

Once the animals were relocated, Dr. Joan Howard, field service veterinarian, and four veterinary students drove to sites in the Cedar Rapids area where the horses were housed.

“We examined the horses, administered anthelmintics, and vaccinated them against...
West Nile Virus, tetanus, Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis and rabies,” Dr. Howard said. “Some of the horses had not been handled much, so we had to work carefully and quietly around them. There were a few instances where we felt it would be too dangerous for us and the animal to handle them at that time.”

“The trip offered our students a great learning experience,” Dr. Howard said.

“We were in a situation where foster caregivers were concerned and emotional about the health of the animals. Students answered questions about general health care and the specific problems of individual animals. It was important for the students to be clear in their communications regarding what were more serious problems and what were less likely to be dangerous concerns.”

Besides practicing communications skills with the foster caregivers, students gained experience speaking to the media who were present at each site. “We wanted to be helpful to the media, but we did not want to assume expertise concerning the alleged mistreatment of the animals,” Dr. Howard said. “We commented on the preventive health care we gave to the horses and their current health status.”

“As teaching clinicians, we set an example when we give volunteer time to our communities,” Dr. Howard stated. “Although we make our living caring and treating for individual animals, we are concerned with the overall welfare of the animals we care for and the communities in which we live.”

Assisting Dr. Howard were fourth-year veterinary students who were on the equine field service rotation. Those students, who graduated in May, were Eireann Collins, Chris Kelly, Jaime Miller and Erin Strait.

“All of the animals examined by the Iowa State veterinary team are doing much better and have put on a substantial amount of weight,” Karla Sibert commented at a later date. In an update to Dr. Howard, Sibert also reported that civil charges against the landowners for the horses were neglect and they were ordered to pay some money to the county for care. Criminal charges will be tried in September 2005, she added.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

“We appreciate the support of Fort Dodge Animal Health in its donation of vaccines and anthelmintics for the horse rescue efforts,” said Dr. Scott McClure, professor of equine medicine and surgery. “The company’s technical veterinarians and expertise are a great resource to us.”

**FAST FACTS**

The Equine Field Service at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital offers 24-hour emergency care to clients within a 25-mile radius. The field service was established in 1999 to meet the needs of the growing central Iowa horse industry. Drs. Linda Thompson and Joan Howard see routine and emergency cases, while Dr. Beatrice Sponseller is on emergency call on a part-time basis. The service has two trucks equipped with veterinary mobile units, X-ray machines, ultrasound, and power dental equipment.”
Kurt Avery (VM-4) and Michael Severin (VM-4) are two of 10 recipients of the 2005 John and Mary Pappajohn Scholarships. The student winners each received $1,000. Over 75 applicants competed for the ten scholarship awards.

The 2005 Phi Zeta Research Award in the Basic Sciences category was presented to Sang Ho Cha, a veterinarian and PhD candidate at Iowa State University. Phi Zeta is the international honor society of veterinary medicine. Its annual awards recognize outstanding scholarship and research pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals. The award consists of a plaque and a $750 check.

Amanda Chamberlin (VM-2) was one of six veterinary students in the United States to receive a three-year scholarship from the Army. The scholarship covers tuition and a monthly stipend.

The American Association of Swine Veterinarians Foundation awarded scholarships to 15 veterinary students during the AASV annual meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Four students from Iowa State University were recipients of the awards: Michael Pugh (VM-4), $2,500; Brad Leuwerke (VM-4), Abby Patterson (VM-3), and Erin Strait (VM-4), $1,500; and Peter Thomas (VM-3), $500. Judges selected the winners on the basis of communications skills in the writing of the abstract and the presentation of the case report during the association’s annual meeting.

On May 7, 2005, 93 new doctors of veterinary medicine graduated from Iowa State University, bringing the total number of college alumni to over 6,000. Dr. John Melcher (’50) was the commencement speaker. John Melcher, a former Montana senator, was the first veterinarian to serve in the U.S. Senate, where he was well known for his advocacy of agricultural concerns, preservation of animal resources and animal rights. Former Senator Melcher is currently a consultant with the AVMA Governmental Relations Division, lobbying Congress on issues affecting veterinarians.

Dr. James Kenyon, IVMA president, administered the Veterinarian’s Oath to the graduates. The reciting of the Oath is a time-honored practice to remind the newly conferred doctors of their obligations.
We all like to read about the major gifts contributed to the College of Veterinary Medicine, yet little is heard about the hundreds of gifts from alumni who donate to the annual fund. The annual fund is the base or foundation for contributions to the college. Regular, reoccurring gifts and pledges to the annual fund may lead you to decide to make a major gift for scholarships, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, the veterinary medicine endowment fund or other college fund when resources are available and the time is right for you.

The annual fund is composed mainly of the telephone calls you receive once or twice a year from students requesting financial support for the college. Annual giving also includes a year-end tax letter and on-line contributions.

For the past three years, the annual fund appeal from the college has featured the Veterinary Teaching Hospital project. As an annual fund donor, you have rallied to support this priority project with current gifts as well as with multiyear pledges. Of course, you may choose to designate your gifts to other funds at the College of Veterinary Medicine or for other accounts of the university.

Gifts and pledges to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital project committed through the annual fund over this period totaled nearly $150,000. Our annual fund donors have been generous in their commitments to other college funds as well.

In FY '04, veterinary medicine donors joined those of the other colleges with an increase in the percentage of alumni giving to their respective colleges. The percentage of alumni contributing to their colleges ranges from 29 percent to veterinary medicine's 62 percent.

The number of veterinary medicine alumni donors increased 29 percent over FY '03 to 1,036 donors in FY '04. The veterinary medicine college alumni have the highest pledge fulfillment rate of all programs, 92 percent.

Soon students will begin calling you for this year's annual fund campaign. We ask that you consider continuing or even increasing your annual gift to the college. Perhaps after years of annual giving, you are ready to move to a major gift. A major gift commitment may include a naming opportunity in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital project or other priority of the college. Pledges for major gifts may be made for payment over four years.

Monica G. Porter may be reached by e-mail, mgporter@iastate.edu or by telephone at (515) 294-8562.
The Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine wishes to express its sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni:

1930s
Robert M. Buck (‘30)
Arlington, S.D., died May 9, 2005.
Emil L. Koch (‘37)
Walnut Creek, Calif., died Apr. 11, 2005.

1940s
Frank L. Gentile (‘42)
Joseph W. Sexton (‘42)
Sumner, Iowa, died May 22, 2005.
Joseph S. Quigley (‘43)
Duluth, Minn., died May 15, 2005.
Robert C. Wahl (‘43)
Herbert M. Fisch (‘45)
John W. Siemens (‘49)

1960s
Harold W. Lupton (‘66)
Tannersville, Penn., died June 4, 2005.
Gerald L. Walker (‘66)
Walter J. Sturtz (‘69)
Maquoketa, Iowa, died April 15, 2005.

1980s
Robert L. Freese (‘87)
Indianola, Iowa.

1990s
Craig F. Moran (‘94)
West Des Moines, Iowa, died Feb. 11, 2005.

Dr. Thomas Carpenter (‘80) was elected vice president of the American Animal Hospital Association at its annual conference held in March in Baltimore, Maryland. He has served on the association’s board of directors since 2003.

Dr. Carpenter is the managing partner at the Newport Harbor Animal Hospital in Costa Mesa, Calif., where he has practiced since 1985. Also, he is an adjunct professor at the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Steve Dullard (‘86) was named president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners for 2005. Dr. Dullard is a full-time private practitioner and owner of Ancare Veterinary Clinic, PC, located in Mendota and Spring Valley, III.

Dr. Dullard is a diplomate, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (canine and feline practice). He currently serves on the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association Board of Directors and serves as the association’s liaison to the National Commission of Veterinary Economic Issues. Dr. Dullard lectures nationally on laser surgery and otovideoscopy and has been a contributing author to Feline Medicine Secrets.
Pearson Receives International Award

At the opening ceremony of the 73rd General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Dr. Jim Pearson ('55) was presented with the OIE Gold Award. He received the award for his lifelong work in the field of veterinary medicine, for his contributions in the international arena, and for his much appreciated collaboration with OIE activities.

Dr. Pearson is a former researcher in virology. He supervised the Avian, Equine and Ovine Viruses Section of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. Later, he assumed the position of director of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

He has held several leadership positions at the OIE, and continues to represent the organization at national and international meetings.

Olsen Elected Vice President of AASV

Dr. Daryl Olsen is the newly elected vice president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. He took office March 2005 during the AASV’s 36th annual meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Since 1982, Dr. Olsen has been a swine practitioner at the Audubon-Manning Veterinary Clinic in Audubon, Iowa, providing traditional and innovative services to swine clients in southwest Iowa. The clinic has six veterinarians and a staff of 38 full-time veterinarians.

“I am excited about the opportunity to serve as an officer of the AASV,” Dr. Olsen said. “The organization has been extremely instrumental in providing leadership and education to swine veterinarians in North America. As the industry we serve continues to evolve, the AASV must also continue to provide pivotal leadership, education, and opportunities for swine veterinarians. To be elected and given the duty of helping lead the organization is truly an honor.”

Dr. Olsen was born and raised on a livestock and grain farm in southeastern South Dakota. He graduated in 1978 from South Dakota State University. He earned his veterinary degree from Iowa State University in 1982.
Annual Awards Night

In April 2005, the achievements of students and faculty were recognized at the annual awards night sponsored by the Iowa State University Student Chapter of the AVMA. The college's awards program dates back to 1935.

During the awards ceremony, the SCAMVA Teaching Award was presented to Drs. S. Brent Reimer (Clinical Sciences) and Tim Day (Basic Sciences). Ms. Lisa Brinkley received the SCAMVA Outstanding Service Award for her contributions supporting student learning. The Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award was presented to Esturo Uemura, PhD. In recognition for his outstanding academic advising, Dr. Mark Ackermann received the William O. Reece Award.

For the 2005-2006 academic year, over $377,000 in scholarships and awards will be made to 273 students. Many scholarships and awards are endowed, providing a permanent base of support and a lasting legacy to the donor.

The college's Student Awards Committee selects scholarship and award recipients. Members of the committee during the 2004-2005 academic year are Drs. Joe Haynes (chair), Karl Bolser, Tim Day, Al Kersting, Jim Noxon, Sue O'Brien, Ricardo Rosenbusch, and Steve Sorden.

Promotions and Awards

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt has appointed Dr. James Roth to the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity. Roth is one of 24 appointees to the board, which held its first meeting in early July 2005. The board will advise federal departments and agencies on ways to promote biosecurity in life science research. Roth is director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health and Clarence Hartley Covault Distinguished Professor in Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State.

Dr. Alex Ramirez, veterinary specialist in the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine, received the Dean's Achievement Award at the University of Iowa in May 2005. The annual award is presented by each college at the University of Iowa to a graduating minority student. Ramirez received his MPH in May from the University of Iowa. He is a 1993 graduate of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He is currently pursuing a PhD in veterinary microbiology at Iowa State.

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, approved the following college faculty promotions with tenure for the 2005-2006 academic year: Jeffrey Beetham, PhD, to associate professor in veterinary pathology... Dr. Douglas Jones to associate professor in veterinary pathology.

The American Veterinary Epidemiology Society selected Dr. Charles O. Thoen, professor of veterinary microbiology and preventive medicine at Iowa State University, as an Honorary Diplomate of the society. The honorary diploma is awarded annually to a few select individuals who have made significant contributions to animal and human health through their expertise in veterinary epidemiology, preventive medicine, or public health.
Veterinarians know firsthand the signs of ethylene glycol poisoning in pets. While ingestion of this toxic substance can be life-threatening, a related compound, polyethylene glycol, shows promise as a lifesaver for dogs with acute spinal cord injuries.

Dr. Karen Kline, board-certified neurologist at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, veterinary clinical sciences, has embarked on a study in collaboration with the Center for Paralysis Research at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine that will further characterize the benefits of polyethylene glycol in a large number of dogs with spinal cord injuries. Preliminary research conducted by Purdue University involved the use of intravenous surfactants to treat dogs with acute paraplegia. Two polymers studied were polyethylene glycol (PEG) and poloxamer 188.

Polymers have been shown to seal defects in axonal cell membranes. In theory, sealing axonal cell membranes can help prevent secondary tissue death that often occurs after the initial injury.

The study, which is a double-blinded randomized study, is a follow-up to a study conducted through Purdue University CVM and Texas A&M University CVM. It involves the use of intravenously administered PEG. PEG is theorized to help unite and fuse transected cell processes and to seal anatomical breaches in cell membranes produced by mechanical insult to the spinal cord tissue.

“Years ago, dogs with spinal cord injuries had minimal options.” Dr. Kline said. With advances in veterinary neurology, we’re able to offer more in depth diagnostics and treatment options.” says Dr. Kline. “We can fit dogs with special carts or administer new therapeutic drugs that may influence locomotor function as well as alleviating pain. The hope is that we can improve the quality of life of our patients and their guardians.”

Neurologists continue to explore ways to improve and prolong the lives of dogs with spinal injuries. “The hope is that this study and others will lead to expanded therapeutic use of PEG in treating spinal cord injury in dogs and, possibly, people,” Dr. Kline said. 

ISU is accepting dogs for the double-blinded prospective study

Eligibility:
- Dogs between the ages of 1 and 10 years
- Weigh less than 50 pounds
- Free of concurrent life-threatening illnesses
- Presented within 48 hours of the onset of posterior paralysis
- Have a neurologically complete spinal cord injury secondary to intervertebral disk herniation (neurologically complete injury meaning paraplegia and absence of deep pain perception (loss of conscious pain perception).

Costs
- Expenses incurred for the medical work-up, diagnostics and surgery will be paid by the study.

For more information regarding the study and whether your patient qualifies, contact Dr. Karen Kline at (515) 294-4900 or pegstudy@iastate.edu
Your favorite CVM merchandise is now available for sale. Get yours today!

Contact Pat Pendry for prices and to order merchandise: ppendry@iastate.edu or (515) 294-0771

Please note the maroon/gold CVM blanket is also available for purchase!