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Teaching Hospital’s Radiology Section Undergoes Renovations

ERIN ROE*

The radiology department at the ISU Veterinary Teaching Hospital recently underwent a small renovation and facelift. The radiology department was updated by the addition of a new fluoroscopy machine, new offices, and a few beautification changes. The renovations began at the end of the summer in 1999 and were completed in January 2000.

According to Dr. Elizabeth Riedesel, the impetus for the updates were two-fold: “first to replace aged equipment and secondly to redirect traffic flow for better radiation safety.” The old fluoroscopy machine was about twenty-five years old and necessary parts could no longer be found to continually repair the machine. With the addition of a new machine, the radiology department had a chance to redesign the floor plan.

Before renovations, the main room contained an x-ray machine; staff had to walk by the x-ray machine every time they wanted to get into the back office or the dark room. This caused a logistical problem because staff could not move freely from room to room when patients were being x-rayed or examined without fear of radiation exposure. All movement from room to room was limited to times when patients were not being examined. The darkroom and offices needed to be more accessible. The new floor plan now allows for better and safer movement of personnel through the department.

The staff of the radiology department enjoy their new surroundings and improved equipment. The new fluoroscopy machine is digital and is much faster and easier to use in some respects. It has features such as last image hold and on-line review in which up to 16 images can be displayed at the same time. It also has increased capacity for image manipulation and enhancement. Every image can also be stored on a disk or hard copy.

The renovations also gave the radiology department the opportunity to make a few beautification changes such as adding a large new greeting area and new office equipment. These changes give the department a very pleasing visual effect, but as Dr. Riedesel mentioned, the beautification changes were in no way an impetus for the renovations. The main reasons for the construction were to facilitate new machinery and to improve traffic flow and radiation safety. Overall, the recent renovations should benefit all patients, staff, faculty, and students that have contact with radiology.

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