

# vetNEWS

Winter 2012

Veterinarian Founded, Veterinary Focused



“It is important to us that science-based solutions reach the veterinary community.”

WAYNE A. JENSEN, DVM, PhD, MBA  
Chief Scientific Officer

Dear Fellow Veterinarians,

Morris Animal Foundation is the global leader in supporting science that advances veterinary medicine for dogs, cats, horses and wildlife. We also strive to be a leader in communicating the most recent and pertinent ideas to improve animal health. It is important to us that science-based solutions reach the veterinary community because it is only through you that we are able to have a positive impact on the health of animals. Dr. Mark Morris Sr., our founder and the first president of the American Animal Hospital Association, was a strong advocate for sharing research discoveries with the veterinary community.

To continue his tradition of communicating the next and best ideas, we invite you to attend Morris Animal Foundation's 2013 "Research That Impacts Your Practice" symposia series. These symposia will be held at the North American Veterinary Conference, the Western Veterinary Conference and the American Animal Hospital Association Conference. A list of speakers, topics, dates and locations can be found in this issue of *vetNEWS*. Also, please stop at our exhibitor booth and visit with our veterinary outreach team. We always welcome your input on additional ways that we can help you help your patients.

In this issue, we update you on the Canine Lifetime Health Project and feature one of the veterinarians participating in the study. If you haven't already signed up for this groundbreaking study, we invite you to do so at [www.CanineLifetimeHealth.org](http://www.CanineLifetimeHealth.org). This research has the potential to greatly improve the health of dogs and help scientists gain deeper insight into canine diseases.

Finally, check out recent Foundation-funded research that advances pet health, including a new pain assessment tool for cats with chronic joint pain and a new drug therapy to better control postoperative bleeding in Greyhounds.

The Foundation continues to partner with the brightest minds in the veterinary world to ensure that we invest in the most relevant science to improve animal health. And we know that the veterinary community is where that research is put to use. Thank you for helping us advance veterinary medicine that improves the lives of countless animals.

See you at the conferences,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne A. Jensen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne A. Jensen, DVM, PhD, MBA  
Chief Scientific Officer



Morris Animal  
FOUNDATION

## OUR MISSION

Morris Animal Foundation improves the health and well-being of companion animals and wildlife by funding humane health studies and disseminating information about these studies.



# Research That Impacts Your Practice

By ALLEN BYRNE



## EXECUTIVE TEAM

DAVID HAWORTH, DVM, PhD, President/CEO

WAYNE JENSEN, DVM, PhD, MBA, Chief Scientific Officer

DAN REED, Executive Development Officer

JOHN TAYLOR, Chief Operating Officer

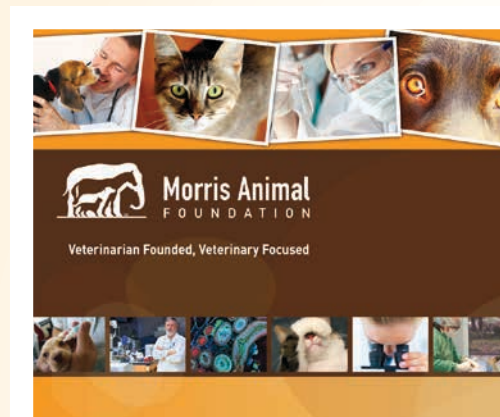
## VETERINARY OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

WINONA L. BURGESS, DVM, CPA, MBA  
Director of Scientific Communications & Veterinary Outreach

THOMAS STEVENS, Senior Specialist, Veterinary Outreach

ALLEN BYRNE, Specialist, Scientific Communications & Veterinary Outreach

JEAN VORE, Specialist, Scientific Communications



For the third straight year, Morris Animal Foundation will be hosting a series of “Research That Impacts Your Practice” symposia at various veterinary conferences. Our goal is to highlight scientific breakthroughs and leading advancements in animal health research that have been funded through Morris Animal Foundation. This year’s symposia will draw on a wide range of lecturers from numerous universities to discuss topics relevant to practicing veterinarians.

## COME AND MEET US!

In addition to the symposia, we will also be hosting an exhibitor booth at each conference. We are very excited to be attending and encourage you to stop by the booth to visit with us and sign up to win a Kindle Fire HD.

## North American Veterinary Conference



MARRIOTT HOTEL, ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1:45–4:50 P.M.

### ▶ Feline Pain Management

B. DUNCAN X. LASCELLES, BSc, BVSC, PhD, MRCVS, CertVA, DSAS(IST)

Dr. Lascelles, a member of the Morris Animal Foundation Small Animal Scientific Advisory Board (SSAB), will speak on his ongoing work in the area of pain management in cats. Dr. Lascelles is an assistant professor of small animal surgery, has active clinical and research interests in acute and chronic pain and organizes the Integrated Pain Management Service at North Carolina State University. Learn more about his work on page 4.

### ▶ Combined/Concurrent Clinical Residency and Doctor of Philosophy Training Program for Veterinarians

MICHAEL D. LORENZ, DVM, DACVIM

Dr. Lorenz is the former dean of veterinary medicine at Oklahoma State University. He returned to full-time faculty duties in 2011. Dr. Lorenz’s clinical teaching focus is on the disciplines of neurology and dermatology. His research interests include internal medicine, neurology, endocrinology and dermatology. His lecture will focus on the training programs he initiated with Morris Animal Foundation funding.

### ▶ Canine Cancer Stem Cell Enrichment

ARIC FRANTZ, PhD

Dr. Frantz is a combined-degree (DVM/PhD) candidate who is studying cancer and stem cell biology with Jaime Modiano, VMD, PhD, and Timothy O’Brien, DVM, PhD, at the University of Minnesota. He spent four summers as a Howard Hughes scholar and then worked as a technician at the University of Chicago. Dr. Frantz was an award-winning Morris Animal Foundation veterinary student scholar.

vetNEWS

WINTER 2012

vetNEWS is published four times per year by Morris Animal Foundation.

10200 East Girard Avenue  
Suite B430  
Denver, Colorado 80231

TOLL-FREE 800.243.2345  
P 303.790.2345

www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org  
vetinfo@MorrisAnimalFoundation.org

Masthead photo courtesy of Thomas Stevens



## Western Veterinary Conference



## American Animal Hospital Association Conference



**MANDALAY BAY CONVENTION CENTER,  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 8–11:50 A.M.**

### ▶ **Alternative and Complementary Medicine for Dogs and Cats**

**DARRYL MILLIS, DVM**

Dr. Millis is a professor of orthopedic surgery and the director of surgical service for the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the University of Tennessee. His research interests focus on bone healing, osteoarthritis and postoperative physical therapy for orthopedic patients.

### ▶ **Current State of Feline and Canine Research**

**LAUREN TREPANIER, DVM, PhD**

Dr. Trepanier is a professor of small animal internal medicine and the director of the clinician scientist training programs at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is a former board chair of Morris Animal Foundation's SSAB. Dr. Trepanier's research interests include drug metabolism, pharmacogenetics and idiosyncratic drug toxicity.

### ▶ **Novel Therapies for Feline Inflammatory Bowel Disorder**

**CRAIG WEBB, DVM, PhD**

Dr. Webb is an associate professor of internal medicine at Colorado State University. His research laboratory explores oxidative stress in disease, including neutrophil function during sepsis, oxidative supplementation in feline chronic disease and feline diabetes mellitus. His lab also evaluates the role of nutrition and probiotic therapy in inflammatory bowel disease.

**PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER,  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 8–11:50 A.M.**

### ▶ **Genomic Characterization of Feline Cancers**

**RACHAEL THOMAS, PhD, MSB, CBiol**

Dr. Thomas is a research assistant professor at North Carolina State University. Her interests lie in genomic characterization of naturally occurring companion animal cancers into clinically relevant subtypes and comparison with their human counterparts. Dr. Thomas will lecture on her work defining genomic profiles of feline injection-site sarcomas as a means to advance knowledge of their underlying pathogenesis.

### ▶ **Persistence vs. Stubbornness: How We Can Learn From Failure to Achieve Therapeutic Success in Cancer**

**JAIME MODIANO, VMD, PhD**

Dr. Modiano is the director of the Animal Cancer Care and Research Program and the Perlman Professor of Oncology and Comparative Medicine at the University of Minnesota. He is also a partner at Veterinary Research Associates LLP, which develops and implements veterinary diagnostics, and a founder/scientist at ApopLogic Pharmaceuticals Inc., a biotechnology company that develops cancer therapeutics.

### ▶ **Creating a Healthier Tomorrow for Animals Through the Power of Learning: Education = Inspiration**

**MARIANNE MALLONEE, CVPM**

Ms. Mallonee has nearly 25 years of experience in the veterinary field and is the hospital administrator and an owner of Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital, a large general practice, emergency and specialty/referral hospital in Colorado. She is also an owning member and active participant in MOON, an innovative veterinary collaborative. She has lectured nationally and serves on the Firstline Editorial Advisory Board. 🗨️

“High-quality clinical research should underpin the practice of veterinary medicine. A symposium like this helps emphasize this fact and helps keep the standards in veterinary medicine high.”

**DR. DUNCAN LASCELLES,  
North Carolina  
State University**

“The Western Veterinary Conference has a large attendance of primary care veterinarians, and I look forward to encouraging them to think and ask about possible risk factors for lymphoma in the patients they diagnose.”

**DR. LAUREN TREPANIER,  
University of Wisconsin**



# Scientist takes novel approach to chronic joint pain in cats

By JEAN VORE



For more information on pain assessment tools for cats, check out these publications by the North Carolina State University research team:

Zamprogno H, Hansen BD, Bondell HD, Thomson Sumrell A, Simpson W, Robertson I, Brown J, Pease A, Roe SC, Hardie E, Wheeler SJ, Lascelles BDx.

Item generation and design testing of a questionnaire to assess degenerative joint disease-associated pain in cats. *Am J Vet Res.* 2010;71:1417-1424.

Benito J, Gruen ME, Thomson A, Simpson W, Lascelles BDx. Owner-assessed indices of quality of life in cats and the relationship to the presence of degenerative joint disease. *J Feline Med Surg.* 2012 Oct 1. Epub ahead of print.

More than 20 million cats in the United States have degenerative joint disease, which is often associated with pain. Yet assessing pain in cats remains problematic for veterinarians and owners because of the lack of validated pain assessment tools. As a result, many cats with joint disease do not receive regular pain relief.

To provide veterinarians with better methods for assessing pain in their feline patients, Dr. Duncan Lascelles and his team at North Carolina State University worked to identify activities and behaviors that reflect owners' perceptions of chronic joint pain in their cats.

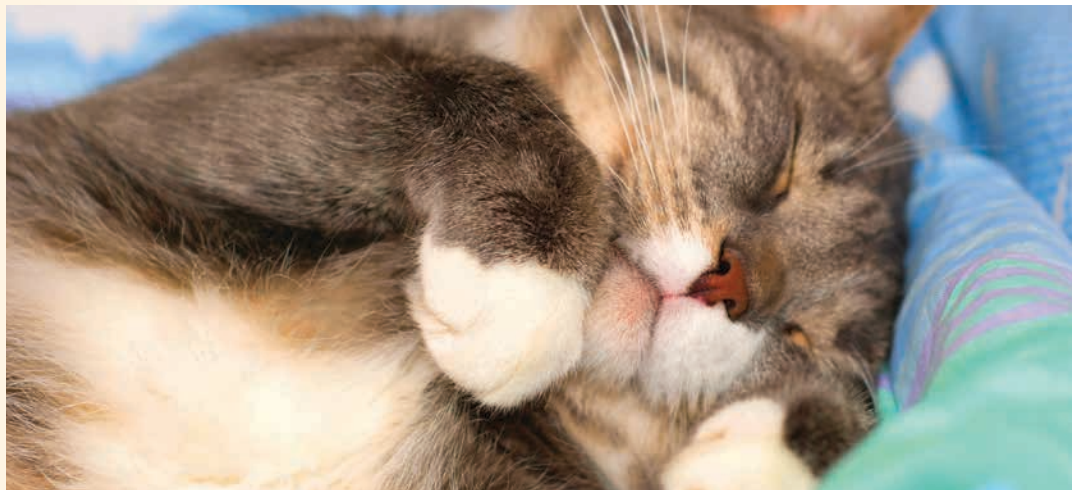
In a series of studies, partly funded by Morris Animal Foundation, the team determined parameters that pet owners use to evaluate their cats' quality of life. Factors measured include such expected items as mobility and ability to perform activities and some less expected items, including changes in temperament, engagement with owners and ability to interact with owners and other pets.

As a result of this work, the research team was able to develop criteria for an owner assessment questionnaire that more accurately evaluates pain in cats with degenerative joint disease. In the course of the research, they also discovered which clinical signs predict mobility impairment in cats, thereby improving the veterinary community's ability to diagnose pain and mobility impairment related to degenerative joint disease.

"Through this work, we have made huge strides forward in our understanding of how owners assess chronic pain in their pet cats, and we know more about what works and does not work in terms of assessment tools," Dr. Lascelles says.

This research provides, for the first time, a means to assess chronic musculoskeletal discomfort in cats. It also provides veterinarians with new tools to use in their clinics to assess efficacy of treatments and therapies for chronic joint pain in cats. 🐾

Dr. Duncan Lascelles will be a featured Morris Animal Foundation symposium speaker at the January 2013 North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, Florida. See the description on page 2.



# Georgia on our minds

By ALLEN BYRNE

Photo courtesy of the University of Georgia



Morris Animal Foundation and the University of Georgia have a storied history. What began with a single canine reproduction study in 1960 has since led to 91 Foundation-funded studies at the University of Georgia. These studies have led to breakthroughs in feline urinary diseases, avian infectious disease, renal failure in dogs and endotoxemia in horses.

“Many researchers at the University of Georgia have benefited from Morris Animal Foundation funding over the years,” says Dr. Steeve Giguere, professor of large animal internal medicine at the University of Georgia. “My colleagues at the university see Morris Animal Foundation as a leading player in promoting the health and well-being of companion animals.”



Photo courtesy of the University of Georgia

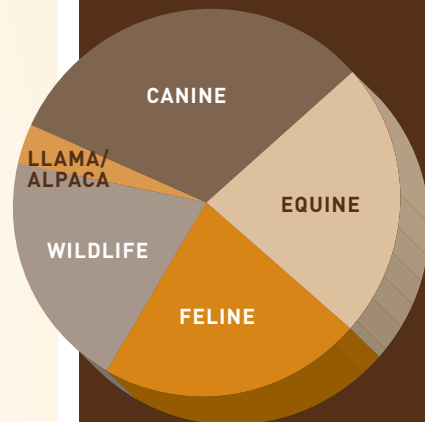
▲ University of Georgia English bulldog “UGA”

Dr. Giguere has received funding for seven studies, primarily in the area of foal pneumonia, and he is a former chair of the Morris Animal Foundation Large Animal Scientific Advisory Board. Currently, Morris Animal Foundation is investing in 14 studies at the University of Georgia, and the faculty continue to be involved with our organization.

Dr. Cindi Ward, professor of internal medicine at the University of Georgia, served as the recent chair of Morris Animal Foundation’s Small Animal Scientific Advisory Board. Currently, she is working on a Foundation-funded project in which she is examining whether food ingredients play a role in the development of feline hyperthyroidism.

The University of Georgia is also dedicated to training the next generation of veterinarians and researchers. It has had 10 veterinary student scholars and six fellows who have received funding since 2005. The university will also serve as one of six colleges of veterinary medicine to have a veterinary student representative to Morris Animal Foundation. This new ambassador program offers veterinary students a stipend over a three-semester commitment in which the student will host Morris Animal Foundation-related events, educational sessions and fundraisers.

“Morris Animal Foundation’s contribution toward research is absolutely essential to the progression of knowledge and resulting advancement in diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting companion animals and wildlife,” Dr. Giguere says. 🗨️



## HISTORICAL BREAKDOWN OF UGA STUDIES

Canine	29
Equine	21
Feline	20
Wildlife	18
Llama/alpaca	3

**91 total studies**

### SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We want to hear from you. Are there medical topics you wish to hear more about, ideas you have for how we can better share information, or health issues you wish we would address? Share your thoughts at [vetinfo@MorrisAnimalFoundation.org](mailto:vetinfo@MorrisAnimalFoundation.org) or join us on Facebook.



# Researchers reduce postoperative bleeding in greyhounds

By JEAN VORE



*The clot formation drug EACA offers veterinarians a new tool to inhibit bleeding after spay/neuter surgeries.*

*For more information on this study, check out the Ohio State University research team's publication:*

**Marín LM, Iazbik MC, Zaldivar-Lopez S, Guillaumin J, McLoughlin MA, Couto CG.** Epsilon aminocaproic acid for the prevention of delayed postoperative bleeding in retired racing greyhounds undergoing gonadectomy. *Vet Surg.* 2012 Jun 19. doi: 10.1111/j.1532-950X.2012.00965.x. Epub ahead of print.

Research indicates that more than one-quarter of Greyhounds that undergo routine spay/neuter surgery experience abnormal delayed postoperative bleeding, even though they had normal preoperative blood tests and didn't bleed excessively during surgery.

The drug epsilon aminocaproic acid (EACA) strengthens clot formation and has been used in people to decrease the need for blood transfusions during surgeries. It has also been shown to be safe in dogs when given orally—and now scientists have shown that it's effective in reducing postoperative bleeding in dogs, too.

Funded by Morris Animal Foundation, Dr. Guillermo Couto and his research team from the Ohio State University recently completed a blinded clinical trial to test

the effectiveness of EACA given orally to Greyhounds before routine spay/neuter surgery. They evaluated 100 Greyhounds that were randomized to receive EACA or a placebo. None of the dogs studied experienced excessive intraoperative or immediate postoperative bleeding; however, 30 percent of the dogs in the placebo group had delayed postoperative bleeding 36 to 48 hours after surgery, compared with only 10 percent in the EACA group.

This study showed that the use of EACA significantly decreased the odds of bleeding in Greyhounds by 79 percent. Veterinarians can now implement a prophylactic EACA treatment (costing about \$60) that will markedly decrease the problems and costs associated with postsurgical bleeding complications in this breed. 🗨️

## New equine studies address pressing health issues

Each year, Morris Animal Foundation invests nearly \$1 million to help support equine health research. Recently, the Large Animal Scientific Advisory Board deemed 20 new equine studies as worthy of funding, of which the Foundation will be able to fund at least 16. In addition, the Foundation will provide support for 18 continuing studies. These new research projects address important health issues, including

- Laminitis
- *Rhodococcus equi* in foals
- Equine herpesvirus
- Melanoma
- Equine proliferative enteropathy
- Pigeon fever
- Ocular cancer



# Veterinarian gets involved in a golden opportunity

By THOMAS STEVENS



When Morris Animal Foundation first started talking about launching a lifetime study focused on one of America's most popular breeds, the Golden Retriever, veterinarians took notice and listened. When those ideas became reality, veterinarians jumped on board to help.

And so the first chapter in the Canine Lifetime Health Project has begun with the first study under this umbrella: the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. This study, which will span 10 to 14 years and involve 3,000 Golden Retrievers, will likely become one of the most influential veterinary studies ever.

With the help of veterinarians like Dr. Holly Knor, of VCA Alameda East Animal Hospital in Denver, Colorado, we anticipate big success in meeting enrollment targets and gathering medical information that will help improve the health of all dogs.

Dr. Knor is a strong advocate of preventive care and sees great benefits that will result from a long-term, observational study like this. "The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is a fantastic study that is a huge undertaking. It is the first step in a very exciting time in the history of the breed," she says.

She believes the interaction between clients and veterinarians will be the key to the study's success. One of her clients, Gail Ingrish, enrolled her two Golden Retrievers in the study and enlisted Dr. Knor as their study veterinarian.

Embarking on any type of major study requires an understanding of and a passion for the goal. Dr. Knor sees it like this: "Practical studies like the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study are a great help to provide information to help us better serve our patients and clients."

She adds, "A great bonus would be to help veterinarians educate pet owners in ways we can partner together for the health and longevity of their beloved pets."

Dr. Knor's participation exemplifies the importance of not only furthering the impact of scientific research but also of the power of the bonds between a veterinarian and a client. Participation can show that not only do you care about the everyday health of your clients' beloved pets but you're also willing to go that extra step to provide future hope for cures and treatments.

To learn more about the study and how to get involved, visit [www.CanineLifetimeHealth.org](http://www.CanineLifetimeHealth.org).



**HOLLY KNOR, DVM**

VCA Alameda East Animal Hospital  
Denver, Colorado



*Dr. Holly Knor (at left) will help Gail Ingrish and her dogs Nettie and Wrigley participate in the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. The dogs are swimming here with their friends Casey and Hogan, also in the study.*



10200 East Girard Avenue  
Suite B430  
Denver, Colorado 80231

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## Research That Impacts Your Practice

### Feline Pain Management

B. Duncan X. Lascelles, BSc, BVSC, PhD, MRCVS, CertVA, DSAS(ST)  
North Carolina State University

### Combined/Concurrent Clinical Residency and Doctor of Philosophy Training Program for Veterinarians

Michael D. Lorenz, BS, DVM  
Oklahoma State University

### Canine Cancer Stem Cell Enrichment

Aric Frantz, PhD  
University of Minnesota



NAVC Symposium  
Tuesday, January 22  
1:45 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.  
Marriott Hotel