



March-April 2018

# Update for Veterinarians



## Mobile Ultrasound Brings Service to Your Clinic

We understand the importance to your practice of having convenient access to specialized services for your clients and your patients. That's why The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) proudly offers a mobile ultrasound service for small animal practices located in select geographic regions within a 30-mile radius of our campus facility.

Board-certified radiologist **Dr. Amy Habing** operates the mobile ultrasound service and typically sees four to five cases per day, depending on the location of each practice and the extent of the case. Patients are seen weekdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. "We have three slots open every day and we service specific areas each day of the week," she said.

Dr. Habing performs a wide array of ultrasound exams, including cases focused on abdominal, musculoskeletal and cervical (thyroid, non-cardiac thoracic) exams, as well as ultrasound guided aspirates and biopsies.

*continued on page 2*

**Veterinary Medical Center—Columbus**  
601 Vernon L. Sharp St.  
Columbus, OH 43210

*Hospital for Companion Animals:*  
**614-292-3551**

*Hospital for Farm Animals and  
Galbreath Equine Center:*  
**614-292-6661**

**Veterinary Medical Center—Dublin**  
5020 Bradenton Ave.  
Dublin, OH 43017  
**614-889-8070**

**[vet.osu.edu/vmc](http://vet.osu.edu/vmc)**

## From the Director



**Dr. Eric Green** with the radiology team, provides your practice with digital image consultations using an easy-to-submit web form.

In this issue of *Update for Veterinarians*, we focus on two specialized services the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) provides as an extension of your practice: mobile ultrasound and teleradiology.

The mobile ultrasound service, operated by **Dr. Amy Habing**, brings a much-valued resource to general practices. Our teleradiology service, led by

The services are part of our ongoing effort to improve the quality of and access to services to help you better serve your patients. We're happy to note that many veterinarians consider these outreach services as not only a convenience but also a complement to their practice.

Finally, for practitioners who may not be aware, we also offer after-hour and overnight monitoring and nursing care for your stable patients within our Dublin facility. Read more about this convenient service on page 4.

We welcome your continued feedback on our services and thank you for your partnership.

Karin Zuckerman, MHSA, MBA  
VMC Director

## Mobile Ultrasound *continued from page 1*

Introduced in August 2016, the mobile ultrasound service has seen sustained growth over the past eighteen months, relative to the number of clinics requesting the service. “We’re seeing more clinics using the service in addition to a core group of clinics that are requesting it more frequently,” said Dr. Habing.

“I would like to think that we are making advanced diagnostics more available to clients and allowing referring veterinarians to work up more cases on their own.”

“The most common services involve patients needing an abdominal ultrasound, for example, patients with renal disease, suspected GI disease, or who have blood work abnormalities that are not improving,” said Dr. Habing. She also performs extra-abdominal scans, such as cervical ultrasounds to evaluate for possible thyroid and parathyroid masses.

“Once clients hear that they can bring their companion animal to their local veterinarian for an ultrasound, they’re more comfortable with the idea,” she said. “A lot of cases already have radiographs done but the client may want more information before choosing the next step such as referral, further diagnostics, empirical treatment or surgery.”

“Dr. Habing and the mobile ultrasound service have been a great addition to the services that my hospital can offer to my clients,” said Dr. Susan Borders of Norton Road Veterinary Hospital in Galloway, Ohio. “She really goes the extra mile to accommodate us and makes it a learning experience for all. Clients appreciate the convenience of specialty level testing close to home and her expertise when working up their pet’s medical problems.”

Dr. Nicole Hird, of Northwest Animal Hospital in Columbus, notes that her team uses the mobile ultrasound service almost exclusively for cases involving abdominal masses.

### Need to Schedule a Mobile Ultrasound?

- Contact the VMC referral coordinator at **614-292-0950** to schedule an exam and for pricing details.
- Visit [vet.osu.edu/vmc/mobile](http://vet.osu.edu/vmc/mobile) to complete the Mobile Ultrasound Request form and to read “What to Expect — a Pre-Visit Checklist for Veterinarians.”

### Service highlights

- Ultrasound exams include abdominal, musculoskeletal, cervical, & non-cardiac thoracic
- Ultrasound-guided aspirates & biopsies
- Top of the line GE LogicE portable ultrasound machine
- Same-day ultrasound report

“It has worked out really well,” she said. “It’s convenient for owners, familiar to pets and we can view the images in real time.”

“A recent case involved helping a client who had a cat that was inappropriately urinating in the house,” said Dr. Habing. “On ultrasound we found a retained testicle that could be removed to potentially stop the marking behavior.”

“Cases like that are rewarding,” Dr. Habing said. “I like to feel I’m doing something good.”



## Teleradiology Adds Value to Diagnostics

Submitting digital images for interpretation to the teleradiology service at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) is quickly becoming the norm for referring veterinarians seeking an efficient way to receive timely reports and consultation with their cases.

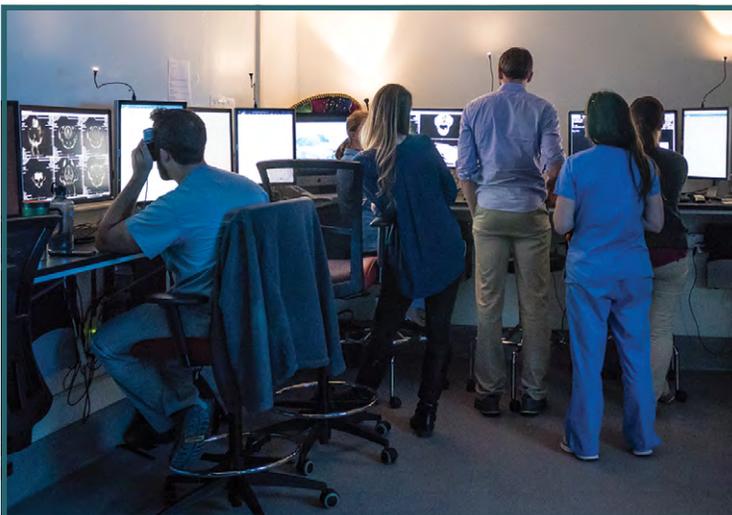
The service receives roughly 100 cases per month and continues to grow, says **Dr. Eric Green**, professor of Radiology and Radiation Oncology and section head of the Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology Service. The service team, which includes four board-certified radiologists and five radiology residents, interprets radiographic, computed tomographic and magnetic resonance imaging studies.

For referring veterinarians, the teleradiology service offers the expertise that Dr. Green and his team provide for challenging cases. “The service also often helps confirm veterinarians’ suspicions about a case based on their interpretation of the images and the history they’ve provided,” said Dr. Green.

The team also provides in-house clinicians with interpretation in cases when images accompany a patient referred to the VMC. “In those instances,” said Dr. Green, “we can offer other insights they may have not seen on those images to help the clinician here make clinical decisions.”

He notes that the teleradiology team mostly receives thoracic and abdominal images of companion animal dog and cats, in cases when the animal is coughing or vomiting. “Occasionally, we see musculoskeletal images of the pelvis or limbs of a patient that is lame.”

“We do receive a fair number of CT scans of thorax, abdomen and skull from some specialty practices that don’t have radiologists associated with them and choose to have us read their images for them.”



### Teleradiology Service at a Glance

- Same-day interpretation for consultations received by 3 p.m.
- Costs:
 

- Radiograph digital image interpretation	<b>\$55</b>
- CT or MRI interpretation ( <i>per reading</i> )	<b>\$100</b>
- American Animal Hospital Association Radiography Certification	<b>\$100</b>

When the teleradiology service first began, a faxed or printed form was required for submissions. A new online submission process was introduced in October 2015 to expedite the process. The service works like this: The referring veterinarian completes and submits an online teleradiology request for consultation form and sends the images to the VMC. The teleradiology team receives a notification as soon as the material is received and a radiology resident makes an initial assessment and writes a report. Faculty members review the report and make any corrections. The report is emailed back to the referring veterinarian, generally within 24 hours.

The service continues to accept images in analog and CD format through the regular postal service for clinics that do not have digital capability.

Dr. Robert Knapp, of Knapp Veterinary Hospital in Columbus, says the VMC teleradiology service and the radiology faculty are a valuable asset and addition to his practice. “Consultations are appropriately detailed,” he said. “They provide a comprehensive review of the images and are educational. Just as important, the reports are received in a timely fashion, and uploading images and submitting the request for a consultation is seamless and reports are easily downloaded into the patient record, saving my staff time.”

“I would, without hesitation, recommend this service.”

Visit [vet.osu.edu/vmc/teleradiology](http://vet.osu.edu/vmc/teleradiology) to access the teleradiology consultation form and FAQ sheet

### Referring Veterinarian Resources

[vet.osu.edu/vmc/referring-vets](http://vet.osu.edu/vmc/referring-vets)

[vet.osu.edu/vmc/dublin/veterinarian-resources](http://vet.osu.edu/vmc/dublin/veterinarian-resources)

## Overnight Monitoring and Nursing Care at VMC–Dublin

The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC)–Dublin, which provides 24/7 emergency care, also provides after-hours hospitalization, monitoring and nursing care for your stable patients.

The service provides overnight monitoring for your stable patients at a price your clients can afford. As the referring veterinarian, you retain primary control of your patient while our team of experienced emergency doctors and registered veterinary technicians ensure your patient is closely observed and is well cared for after hours.

To use this service, we ask you to do the following:

- Call our ER doctor on duty to discuss the case.
- Complete a referral form and send it with the patient or fax to **614-889-8069**.
- Provide any properly-labeled medications required for the night (except for narcotics or fluids with additives).
- Standard emergency fees apply (\$130 exam fee).
- Monitoring and nursing care prices are designed for cases to be transferred back to your hospital.
- For patients in need of extended care, or those requiring a specialist consultation or additional diagnostics, please call **614-889-8070** for a cost estimate.

For further details and a comprehensive checklist when referring a client to the VMC–Dublin, please visit [vet.osu.edu/vmc/dublin/veterinarian-resources](http://vet.osu.edu/vmc/dublin/veterinarian-resources).

### Outreach Specialists are Here to Help

#### VMC–Columbus Referral Coordinator: Stephanie Yochem

Monday-Friday, call **614-292-0950**; fax: **614-292-1454**

Clients call: **614-292-3551**

After hours: **614-292-3551**

Non-emergencies: [OSUVET.ReferralCoordinator@cvm.osu.edu](mailto:OSUVET.ReferralCoordinator@cvm.osu.edu)

#### VMC–Dublin Client Services Team

Emergencies: Available 24/7

Monday-Friday: **614-889-8070**; fax: **614-889-8069**

Clients call: **614-889-8070**

After hours: **614-889-8070**

Non-emergencies: [osumcatdublincs@cvm.osu.edu](mailto:osumcatdublincs@cvm.osu.edu)

#### VMC Practitioner Liaison: Douglas S. Graham, DVM

[graham.1131@osu.edu](mailto:graham.1131@osu.edu), **614-292-3683**; fax: **614-292-4258**

## Save the Date

### College of Veterinary Medicine Continuing Education

*Dinner CE:* **Updates in Chronic Kidney Disease & Monitoring Protein-Losing Nephropathy**  
Dr. Catherine Langston

*Date/Time:* March 14, 2018, 7 p.m.

*Location:* Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant,  
4230 The Strand, Columbus

*CE credits:* 1 hour

No cost to veterinarians. Dinner and non-alcoholic beverages generously provided by Jeffrey Kuisti and Dr. Simona Rikh of Hill's®.

*CE:* **Ophthalmology**  
Dr. Eric Miller

*Date/Time:* April 5, 2018, 7 p.m.

*Location:* Columbus Veterinary Academy

*CE credits:* 1 hour

Supported by CEVA

For more information, please visit  
<https://vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education>

Find us on



The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine  
The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center  
The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center at Dublin