

SERVICES

General Surgery

Oncology
Reconstruction
Laparoscopy/thoracoscopy
Portosystemic shunts
Ureteral/urethral surgery
PDA/PRAA

Orthopedic

TPLO
TPO
DARthroplasty
Total hip replacement
Arthroscopy

Neurologic

Hemilaminectomy for IVDD
Spinal tumors
Vertebral stabilization
LS fusion/decompression

Other Services

Digital Radiology
Computed Tomography
Emergency Surgical Services
24 Hour Care Facilities
Mobile Surgery Availability

LOCATIONS

800.834.7874

Concord

1410 Monument Blvd.
Suite 100
Concord, CA 94520
Tel 925.827.1777
Fax 925.827.2364

San Mateo

251 N. Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94401
Tel 650.696.8196
Fax 650.696.8191

Campbell

907 Dell Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008
Tel 408.364.1777
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Dublin 2008

During the morning kick-off of our Symposium, we announced to many attendees' delight the opening of a **4th VSA and VMS location in Dublin!** Consistent with our Mission, and in response to great support from so many colleagues around the Bay Area (something that humbles us and also continues to motivate us to do our work with higher and higher standards of science, compassion, and integrity), this new facility will be similar to our existing hospitals. We had planned to have a facility in the Tri-Valley area for more than 8 years, and after waiting for a collaborative opportunity while serving that region all the while with 24-hour emergency coverage through our Concord facility, we have decided that it is time for us to whole-heartedly provide our services to this very outstanding veterinary community. We will open as soon as the countless number of steps for a project of this magnitude can be accomplished. As we continue planning with architects and contractors, along with dozens of others, we look forward to including you in our plans, our consideration of service design, timelines, educational programs, and enhancement of our relationship. You are very important to us -it was that way 15 years ago when Dwight and Jeff, after already working with many of you for 5 to 10 years, contemplated what would make VSA different from all the rest. It is also the story we tell every time we invite a specialist to join our group, and it is the repeated theme of our leadership discussions. Nothing is more important to us than our dedication to the triad of you, your clients, and especially your patients. We built our practice on knowing that any one of that triad cannot exist for us without the prioritization of the other two - we won't forget.

Eighth Annual Symposium Wrap-up!

We thank all of you that were able to attend our April 22nd Symposium at the Santa Clara Convention Center. With the combination of doctors, nurses, vendors, guest speakers, and the staff of VSA and VMS, our total attendance was right at 400! We have already poured over your evaluations and are starting to make plans for the Ninth Annual Symposium (see "Save the Date").

We started the day by gathering all attendees in the theatre for the Keynote address presented by Jennifer Brandt, MSW, LISW, Ph.D. Dr. Brandt is the current Program Director for Honoring the Bond at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. As director for the Honoring the Bond program, she is leading the effort to provide veterinary teams with the communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills needed to promote quality veterinary care and veterinary career success. Through a combination of humor, interactive questions, and straight-forward speech, she fired up the crowd about communication with clients and what the human-animal bond can mean to different individuals that we all encounter on a daily basis.

This year was the first year that we had a dedicated oncology tract. Modalities of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy were discussed for a variety of cancers, and the presenters all enjoyed the lectures as well as the active discussions that usually followed. Because of our aging animal populations in veterinary medicine, cancer therapy is fast becoming an integral portion of general and specialty practice. In our Campbell practice, we are merging the disciplines of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy on a daily basis for our patients and hope to continue to provide not only that service, but also education for the general practitioner on current and future offerings in this fast-changing and growing discipline.

We separated out the majority of the surgery and medicine topics this year and had so much interest in the topics of medicine that we moved from a breakout session room back into the theater just so that everyone could

Address
Correction
Requested

VETERINARY SURGICAL ASSOCIATES
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*Dedicated to the art of surgery for the
benefit of you, your client and
your patients.*

Dwight Gaudet, DVM, MA

Jeff Todoroff, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Sharon Ullman, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS

Lissa Richardson, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Charles Walls, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Julie Smith, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Leigh Glerum, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Andrew Staatz, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Martin Aitken, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Sharon Gottfried, VMD, Diplomate ACVS

Nick Brebner, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Timothy W.H. Sellmeyer, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Angela Spann, DVM, Surgical Resident

Sean Wells, DVM, Surgical Resident



enjoy a seat. Go VMS docs! As we review the evaluations for suggestions for topics next year, we again hope to be able to present both the surgery and medicine aspects of a variety of disease states so that you all can see the symbiosis that occurs in each of our practices as VSA and VMS work side by side to provide complete care to your patients.

This year in the nursing track, we brought back the bandage lab for the afternoon. The attendees had a lot of individual contact from the VSA surgeons and nursing staff so that everyone was able to learn the subtle nuances of placing a good quality bandage. The lab participants were easy to spot on breaks, because they were the ones sporting brightly colored vetwrap on their arms and legs, as well as that light dusting of cotton that all of us know too well!

Once again, we had capacity attendance for our management track. Dr. Dwight Gaudet started the day with innovative and fresh thoughts around the concepts of negotiation. These concepts were then solidified and put into practice as Dr. Brandt took the attendees through discussions and interactive role play around difficult conversations with clients. Dr. Brandt commented that the Bay Area veterinarians and their staff were impressive in both their desire to learn more about this fundamental part of veterinary practice and in their active participation. We will continue to bring you innovative topics in management at next year's Symposium, because we appreciate that the management health of your practice is a prerequisite to consistently providing quality clinical care.

All of the vendors were pleased with the amount of contact that they had with the attendees in the location just adjacent to the meeting rooms. We will continue to try and solicit more vendor participation for next year! We wish to thank all of the vendors for their participation. Special thanks go to Iams Pet Imaging Center, Pfizer Animal Health, Novartis Animal Health, Monterey Bay Memorial Park, and Care Credit for sponsoring the various tracks and thus helping to defray some of the associated costs.

We also would like to extend our thanks to IDEXX for their continued support of the symposium as our lunch sponsor. We were able to find a venue that could accommodate all 400 attendees with a sit-down lunch, and we hope that everyone enjoyed the social time as well as the brief presentations from IDEXX on their emerging PCR therapy and the slide show recognizing Earth Day.

For those of you who have not yet been able to attend one of our Symposiums, or just missed out this year, we'll share some of the highlights in this quarter's newsletter with a photo collage! Everyone at both VSA and VMS wish to extend all of you (including staff) an invitation to attend next year's Ninth Annual Small Animal Symposium!

SAVE THE DATE : March 16, 2008

San Ramon Marriott
9th Annual Small Animal Veterinary
Symposium

Evaluation Highlights

In pouring over all of the evaluations, we came across a few questions that came up that we would like to answer for all of you. We really appreciate the feedback!

"Could we have some meat in the food?"

We always find it interesting that the majority of our comments center on food and meals! This question has come up every year, so we would like to address the answer to everyone. We consciously choose to offer only a vegetarian option for our sit-down lunches. In this forum, where we are celebrating a meal together as a community, we want to honor the animals that we take care of on a daily basis by electing not to serve meat. We still do offer non-vegetarian items at the reception, honoring everyone's right to choose.

"Can we have it closer to _____ (fill in the blank with the area you live in)?"

Obviously, we would all like to drive less and we do attempt to find a venue that has at least easy--but admittedly lengthy for some attendees-- access from all points of the Bay Area. We were celebrating the opening of our Campbell office this year and, therefore, chose the Santa Clara Convention Center. We were very pleased with their event hosting and hope to move back to that location in a couple years. For next year, we will host the event at the San Ramon Marriott with access from both the 580 and 680 freeways. Hopefully, no matter where you are located, you can join us for a great day of CE and some wonderful interactions with the veterinary community of the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

Quotes We Loved!

"I drove 100 miles from my home in north bay to come. I planned on missing the keynote speaker due to travel constraints....(but) I made it in time and I am so glad... it was fantastic. VSA/VMS always hit it out of the park with their keynote speakers."

- Pam Wittenberg, Four Seasons, Lafayette

"(Keynote speech) allowed me to reassess my approach to client patient interaction - with food for thought"

- Julia Vandeven, Livermore Pet Hospital

"I was pleased with my first experience, can't wait until the next one."

- Sandra Simmons, Cambria Pet Hospital

"As always, a great seminar."

-Chuck Galvin, Vet Hospital of Ignacio

(We think Dr. Galvin has made it to every one of our eight symposia!)

Symposium Proceedings

Couldn't make it to the Symposium but want to check out all the great talks? While supplies last, you can request a copy of the proceedings for \$10 (that includes shipping or personal delivery from one of the VSA surgeons if they are scheduled mobile at your practice!). Please call Jill Sweeten if you are interested at 925-827-1777.

