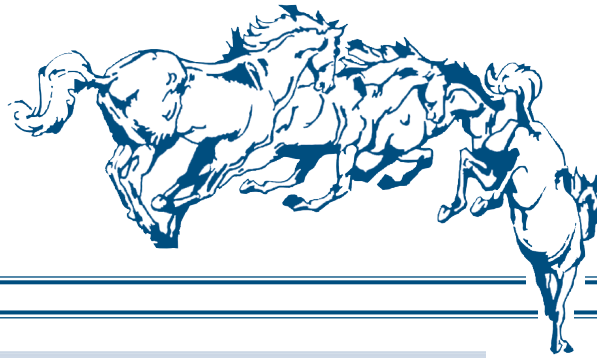


HOMESTEAD

VETERINARY HOSPITAL



SPRING
2005

Looking back and moving ahead

Homestead Veterinary Hospital has been striving for 35 years to provide the best possible care for animals. To that end, the hospital wants to stay in touch with its clients, keeping everyone up to date on Homestead's work.

There have been recent medical successes and new advances. The staff has been volunteering its time with programs outside the hospital. Clients have given back to Homestead. And there have been some changes on the homefront.

Here is a look back at 2004 and what's next for 2005.

MEDICAL UPDATE

Radial shock wave therapy is racking up success stories

Radial shock wave therapy is giving new hope to owners of animals with chronic pain in bones, ligaments and tendons.

Homestead Veterinary Hospital now offers this treatment, which has been highly successful in studies on both humans and animals.

The device emits shock wave impulses that are transmitted radially (in a sphere pattern) into the targeted area.

The shock waves make the tissue behave as if it has just been injured, which activates a healing response from the body, as if the body is being

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NEW CALLING

Search and Rescue

Homestead's purchase of sling for patients takes staff down unexpected path

In March 2004, Homestead Veterinary Hospital bought a special horse sling to help support patients suffering from laminitis.

What seemed like a simple purchase at the time has led Homestead to an unexpected new calling: emergency search and rescue.

The sling, designed by the University of California at Davis, is used primarily for supporting injured or ill horses in a stall, so they can be off one or more legs until healing has occurred. But the equipment, known as the Anderson Sling, has the ability to double as a safe way to airlift large animals.

The sling was still unopened when word got out that Homestead had the equipment. Dr. Don Walsh and assistant Lori Julius were invited to demonstrate the sling at an emergency response seminar in Washington, Mo.

"We had seven days to get it out of the box and play with it," Lori said.

At the seminar, Lori met



Dr. Don Walsh (in hooded jacket) assists Lori Julius (standing next to Dr. Walsh in white helmet) and other volunteers in maneuvering a sedated horse on a glide for a class on technical large animal rescue. The training session was held in November 2004 at Homestead Veterinary Hospital. The horse is owned by Lori.

"It's really amazing that we have these volunteers who are so willing to give their time to others if their horses are hurt or in danger." — Dr. Donald Walsh

members of the Eureka Fire Protection District's Equine Search and Rescue Team and took an interest.

In April, Homestead sent Lori to a symposium on the sling and rescue procedures at UC-Davis. She joined Eureka's equine team shortly thereafter, with Homestead providing medical support and training.

Lori and two other search and rescue members went on to become certified in techni-

cal large animal emergency rescue in Lexington, Ky., then came home and trained a specialty team for Eureka, whose large animal rescue squad is now 16 members strong.

One training class was held at Homestead in November. Dr. Walsh anesthetized one of Lori's horses so the class could work with a recumbent horse.

Members of the large animal rescue unit spent money out of

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INSIDE

■ **The hospital's family** grew by two members: Dr. Derek Craig and his wife, Aarah, welcomed a daughter into the world. And the Walshes added a wild but gentle colt. **Page 2**

■ **An old treatment** — medical maggots — brought relief to a laminitic horse with a bone infection that wouldn't heal. **Page 3**

■ **Dublin Farms** assisted the Animal Health Foundation's fight against laminitis by donating the proceeds from its show series. **Page 4**



Baby, oh, baby!



Veterinarian Derek Craig holds daughter Raegan at Homestead's holiday party in December 2004.

Craig family grows

Daughter Raegan arrives in September

Husband-and-wife veterinarians Derek and Aarah Craig welcomed Raegan Sharon Craig into the world Sept. 14, 2004.

Derek says they are enjoying every second of being new parents, especially watching their daughter change and grow, such as starting to giggle.

She's met a few horses at Homestead, but there's no long-range push by her parents to make her a veterinarian. All options are open, Derek says.

As for Raegan's equestrian future, if she has any interest, she'll probably start western, Derek says, because Aarah rides western, and another relative is involved in team roping. Derek's quick to add that she's welcome to do any riding discipline.

The Craig family has grown to five, if one counts Elmo and Max, the cats.

"Elmo is just enamored with her," Derek says. "If she's crying, he comes to get us, and then he runs back to her."

Max, on the other hand, was the youngest in the family and now is adjusting to his role as middle child. He likes her but is not as attached, Derek says.

And how do two veterinarians handle the addition of a baby, especially since Aarah already has returned to work as a small animal veterinarian?

"It's kind of hard," Derek says, but not impossible. Then again, don't be surprised if Raegan shows up on an emergency call someday.

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Walshes take in wild horse

Colt surprises everyone with gentle spirit

For summer vacation in 2004, Don and Diana Walsh thought they were going to South Dakota to study the tougher-than-normal feet of a particular wild herd of horses.

Before it was over, they owned a new colt.

Dakota Sundance was 2 months old and unhandled as he dazzled Don the first time with his effortless canter across an open area, and then again with his intelligence in hiding his head from a particularly nasty type of fly trying to get up the noses of all the horses.

The foal arrived in Missouri in November 2004, and he has done nothing but continue to impress.

"He's just the sweetest, most gentle horse I've ever owned," Don says.

The trip was last June and the Walshes were visiting the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary in Hot Springs, S.D., a refuge for wild mustangs that is open to visitors on 11,000 privately owned acres in the Black Hills.

"I was fascinated with the low incidence of laminitis in the wild horse herd, and I

was out there looking at their feet," Don says.

Dakota Sundance, a palomino, is out of a bay mare from the Bureau of Land Management program and a paint stallion.

The colt's name combines the elements of his sunshine-colored coat, the fact that there was a Sioux Indian sun dance going on while the Walshes were there and the South Dakota location.

Don said he plans to train the colt to both ride and drive. There is a veterinary angle, as well.

"I'm interested in seeing how tough his feet are, and if he's different from a regular (domestic) horse," Don says.

The neighbors might catch a glimpse of Don and

his new buddy walking the trails, since they're currently enjoying long hikes together.

But, a word of caution: Don't call the colt Sunny. His nickname is Dakota, Don says.

To learn more about the nonprofit sanctuary, got to <http://www.gwtc.net/~iram/about/>.

Don said he plans to train the colt to both ride and drive.



Dr. Don Walsh hangs out with his new colt, Dakota Sundance, after Dakota arrives in Missouri in November 2004.



Maggots: New treatment is return to the past

Treating a laminitic horse sometimes requires an unconventional approach, especially when a foot is not healing as expected.

Such was the case with Danny, a then-25-year-old Arabian gelding who had his coffin bones drop through the soles of all four feet in June 2003 after getting into grain two nights in a row.

He was sent to Homestead Veterinary Hospital for treatment. As the months passed,

Maggots are the larval stage of the adult fly.

three of the soles closed up. But that fourth foot, the left front, continued to drain and refused to heal, resulting in a potentially fatal prob-

lem — a bone infection, or osteomyelitis.

Dr. Don Walsh had read about the recent revival in both human and equine medicine of a centuries-old and somewhat creepy method to treat infections: medical maggots.

When Dr. Walsh suggested this idea to his staff in October 2003, the reaction was less than enthusiastic.

Maggots are the larval stage of the adult fly, and certain types of maggots, such as the green blow fly, will feed on dead tissue but leave the



Danny takes a breather after having his foot worked on by Lori Julius in the fall of 2003 at Homestead Veterinary Hospital.



A fresh batch of maggots is placed in Danny's hoof in the fall of 2003.



Danny's sole has healed after eight weeks of treatment with medical maggots.

For more on UC-Irvine's maggot therapy program, go to:
www.ucihs.uci.edu/com/pathology/sherman/home_pg.htm

live tissue alone.

The University of California at Irvine grows medical maggots in a bacteria-free environment for just such use.

Dr. Walsh fitted Danny with special hospital plates over his shoes that could hold the maggots in place without them getting stepped on, and

Danny was ready for his first treatment.

Each batch of maggots was useful for three to seven days, and then a new batch was placed in the infection. Danny spent eight weeks going through this treatment. He was a little sore the first two weeks,

then walking better than ever after that.

"Maggots debrided all the dead tissue in the tract," Dr. Walsh said.

And how did the staff cope?

"They loved the maggots after they saw how well they worked," he said.

As for the cleanup, the maggots eventually worked their way out of the hospital plate, fell into the bedding and were raked up, never to be seen again.

Homestead has used maggot therapy on three other hoof cases since Danny's, and all three recovered completely.

Throughout history, especially on battlefields, maggots have been known to help heal infections. Soldiers whose wounds became infested with maggots did better — and had a much lower mortality rate — than did soldiers with similar wounds not infested, according to UC-Irvine.

Maggot therapy was used in American hospitals as late as the mid-1940s, when it was replaced by antibiotics.

The percentage of horses whose coffin bones go through their soles and then wind up with bone infections is small, but those infections used to be incurable in many cases.

Today, these horses have a new hope as an old remedy is getting another look.

Search and Rescue

Continued from front page

their own pockets to acquire necessary equipment, including a glide, or oversized backboard that will hold a horse, and a mud rescue kit, which uses air pressure to loosen the suction of mud around a horse's legs if it gets stuck.

The team also has a tow truck service at its disposal.

The entire equine search and rescue group, made up of 40 horsemen, is one of only three recognized in Missouri. The group gets together twice a month, once for a meeting and the other for training.

Although not trained as firefighters, the team has gone through other formal training, such as the

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program by FEMA for natural disasters.

Lori says the members now have the resources, knowledge and equipment to respond to the worst kind of situations, such as righting an overturned trailer or extricating an injured large animal from any number of scenarios. While hoping they don't have to respond to

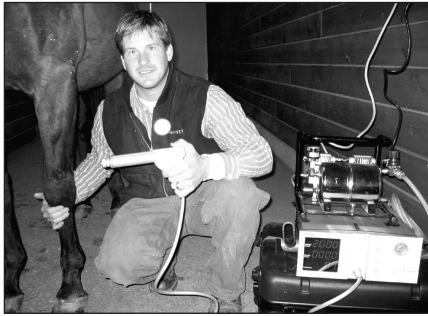
something that horrible, Lori says they are ready.

Dr. Walsh offered high praise for the volunteers involved in animal rescue, saying one can't gloss over the fact that there's a degree of danger involved.

"It's really amazing that we have these volunteers who are so willing to give their time to others if their horses are hurt or in danger," he said.



MEDICAL UPDATE



Dr. Mark Cassells demonstrates the shock wave therapy equipment at Homestead Veterinary Hospital.

Continued from front page

taken back to the time of the injury. In chronic injuries, the body has reached the point of ignoring the damaged area.

The shock waves do not physically harm the tissue, although they can produce some discomfort during application.

Horses are lightly sedated for the treatment, which takes only a short time. Dogs generally do not need to be sedated. Two additional treatments are given at 10- to 14-day intervals. Additional treatments may be scheduled depending on the animal's response.

The treatment has proven successful for a vast range of chronic injuries and pain.

In 2000, the first long-term equine study of radial shock wave therapy was presented by Dr. K. J. Boening at a meeting of veterinarians in San Antonio. The study included only patients with chronic proximal suspensory desmitis — a common leg injury — who had been lame for three months or more and had not responded to conventional treatment.

Three shock wave treatments were given to 31 horses. After the first treatment, 11 horses were free of lameness. At the first follow-up treatment, 16 of the treated horses were completely sound and 9 had a distinct reduction in pain. Overall, 22 of the 31 horses (71 percent) resumed full work six months after treatment. Similar studies have produced almost identical results.

The system is small, easy to transport and uses conventional power, making it possible for Homestead to bring the highly effective noninvasive, safe therapy right to the horse.

Several animals currently being treated by Homestead have made significant improvement. The hospital will follow up on their progress in future newsletters.

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ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

Dublin Farms helps AHF with benefit shows

Dublin Farms has given a boost to the fight against laminitis by donating the proceeds from its 2004 show series to the Animal Health Foundation.

It will do so again this year.

AHF, a nonprofit organization started by Dr. Don Walsh and several friends in 1984, raises funds for some of the leading laminitis researchers in the world.

"It will take all of us working together to make laminitis a preventable disease," Dr. Walsh said. "We greatly appreciate all the effort of Dublin Farms to donate the profits of the shows for laminitis research."

The shows previously had helped charities for children and the community, but those weren't "as close to home" as AHF, according to Boo Wright, who



Dr. Don Walsh gives out the Dublin Horse Shows for Horses high point awards for the 2004 series. Lauren Harster and Copilot (left) were champion, while Pam Giss and Mad About You (right) were reserve champion.

helped build and now runs Dublin Farms with her mother, Burnette McNamee.

The foundation is "for and about horses," Boo said, adding that this "seemed to reach out to horse folks themselves, making it meaningful to them personally."

Boo says she wanted a "horsey" charity, and she's always had a special place in her heart for

Dr. Walsh, who's been treating her horses since she was 10.

Dublin Farms, located in House Springs, Mo., has grown from a 10-stall riding school and stable in 1976 to a beautiful 45-acre full service training facility specializing in hunters and jumpers.

AHF is honored to be the recipient of the show proceeds.

This year's dates for Dublin Farms' show series are: March 19, July 30 and Oct. 22.