

Spring 2011

# The VCIC Quarterly

NEWSLETTER OF THE MATTHEW J. RYAN CLINICAL TRIALS SERVICE

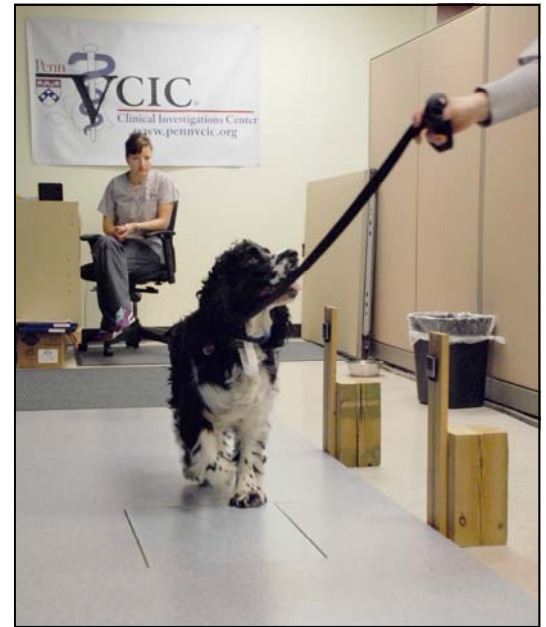
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### What is the VCIC?

**T**he Veterinary Clinical Investigations Center (VCIC) is located within the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The center's primary focus is the establishment of clinical trials directed at investigating novel treatments or diagnostic tools in a variety of spontaneous disease processes in client-owned pets.

The VCIC collaborates with institutions including the School of Medicine at Penn, the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and the Investigational Drug Service at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The trials run by the VCIC are funded by a diverse array of sponsors including pharmaceutical and pet food companies, biotechnology firms, external foundations and the National Institutes of Health.



Spike walks over the force plate during gait analysis for the arthritis assessment clinical trial.

### Five New Studies Currently Recruiting Patients

**Dr. Lillian Duda** (radiation oncology) and **Dr. Dorothy Cimino Brown** (surgery) are gathering data about the development and progression of oral mucositis (OM), an unavoidable side effect of radiation treatment. Dogs develop OM in much the same way as people do. The similarities between OM in people and dogs suggests that studying oral mucositis in dogs may be used in developing prevention and treatment models for humans.

**Dr. Dorothy Cimino Brown** (surgery) is developing questionnaires for the American College of Veterinary Surgeons for use in evaluating dogs with orthopedic pain from arthritis.

**Dr. Nicola Mason** (internal medicine, immunology) and **Dr. Erika Krick** (oncology) are studying the effects of a novel adjunct therapy in addition to conventional chemotherapy in dogs lymphoma.

**Dr. Mason and Dr. Krick** are also studying a recombinant *Listeria monocytogenes* vaccine expressing Her-2/neu to stimulate anti-tumor immunity in dogs with appendicular osteosarcoma.

**Dr. Deborah Silverstein** (emergency and critical care) is evaluating the effects of fluid therapy on microcirculation during routine spay surgery.

## Current Trials Ongoing Studies Enrolling Eligible Patients

FOR CATS:

### **Chronic Kidney Disease**

Investigational medication to treat high blood pressure in cats with stable kidney disease

### **Cats Receiving Dental Cleaning through our Dentistry Service**

Study evaluating the association of oral health and kidney disease

FOR DOGS:

### **Arthritis Assessment**

For dogs diagnosed with arthritis to validate functionality questionnaires

### **Lymphoma Classification**

World Health Organization classification study for dogs with newly diagnosed lymphoma

### **Radiation Therapy and Oral Mucocitis**

For dogs with cancer of the head or neck for which curative radiation therapy is an option

### **Fluid Therapy During Routine Spay Surgery**

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effects of intravenous fluids given during general anesthesia on microcirculation in healthy female dogs undergoing a standard ovariohysterectomy spay procedure.

### **Recombinant *L. monocytogenes* Vaccine for Dogs with Bone Cancer**

Study determining whether a recombinant *L. monocytogenes* vaccine can make the dog's own immune system attack the tumor and prolong survival when given following carboplatin chemotherapy.

### **Adjunct Therapy to Standard Chemotherapy for Dogs with Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma**

Study investigating an oral medication to increase sensitivity of tumor cells to standard doxorubicin chemotherapy to improve short- and long-term outcomes for dogs with DLBC lymphoma.



## Future Trials On The Horizon

We have not started recruiting patients for these studies yet, but we will start enrolling soon. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more.

**Urinary Incontinence** — evaluating the efficacy of a therapeutic for spayed female dogs with urinary incontinence

**Arthritis** — intra-articular injection of capsaicin analogue to eliminate c-fiber pain in dogs

**Relapsed Lymphoma** — using a novel therapeutic in addition to chemotherapy in dogs with relapsed lymphoma