The VCIC Quarterly

What is the VCIC?

The 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 as well as federal funding such as the National Institutes of Health.

Six 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. Meryl Littman (internal medicine) is investigating a new medication to reduce blood pressure in cats with chronic kidney disease.

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

Dr. Angela Mexas (internal medicine) is studying the use of a novel treatment for cats with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) to reduce viral load.

Dr. Amy Durham (pathology) is evaluating lymph node tissue from dogs newly diagnosed with lymphoma. Her goal is to classify each dog’s lymphoma by the system used in human lymphoma set forth by the World Health Organization.

Dr. Dorothy Brown (surgery) is studying the potential health benefits of herbal supplements used in Traditional Chinese Medicine to support the immune system and maintain overall health and general fitness. Coriolus versicolor, known as Yunzhi, is a special type of health supplement mushroom and the VCIC is studying the pathways by which it is metabolized and the potential
Current Trials

Ongoing Studies Enrolling Eligible Patients

FOR CATS:

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)
Investigational medication for cats diagnosed with SCC

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)
Investigational medication for cats who are FIV positive

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

Feline Lymphoma
Efficacy study of an approved chemotherapy drug compared to the standard of care therapy

FOR DOGS:

Arthritis Assessment
For dogs diagnosed with arthritis to validate functionality questionnaires

Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM)
Investigational preventative treatment for Doberman Pinschers with asymptomatic DCM

Grade III Heart Murmurs
Investigational preventative treatment for dogs diagnosed with grade III or greater heart murmur

Relapsed Lymphoma
Investigational medication for dogs receiving chemotherapy for relapsed lymphoma

Lymphoma Classification
World Health Organization classification study for dogs with newly diagnosed lymphoma

Dogs with Histiocytic Sarcoma
Comparison of cytology versus flow cytometry in diagnosing histiocytic sarcoma

Dogs with Oral Malignant Melanoma
Lymph node removal and staging

Radiation Therapy and Oral Mucocitis
For dogs with cancer of the head or neck for which curative radiation therapy is an option

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