



VETERINARY MEDICAL REVIEW

School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Missouri-Columbia

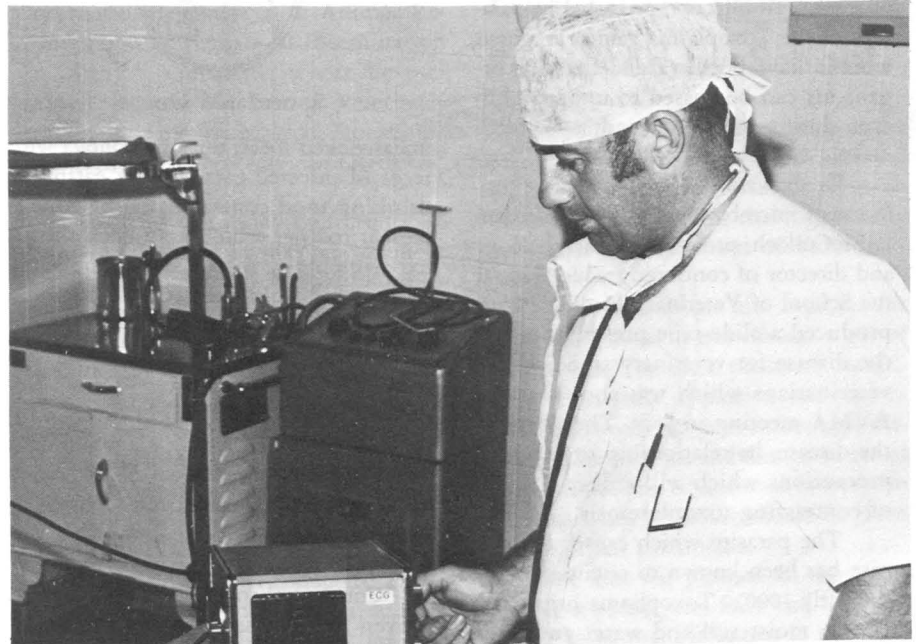
September 1, 1972 No. 54

School Announces Five New Faculty

Five appointments have been made to the faculty at the School of Veterinary Medicine in the departments of pathology, microbiology and medicine and surgery.

Dr. Craig Steven Frisk, Columbia, and Dr. Cheng Hsiung Lee, Tansui, Taiwan, have been appointed research associates in veterinary pathology; Dennis Glenn Hooper, Columbia, and Michael Vernon Lancaster, Columbia, research assistants in veterinary microbiology; and Dr. William S. McDowell, Wellsville, research associate in veterinary medicine and surgery.

Dr. Frisk received his B.S. degree in 1970 and D.V.M. degree last spring from the University of Minnesota. He had worked as a laboratory technician in the Department of Diagnostic Laboratories at the University of Minnesota



School Receives Monitor From Cat Fanciers Assn.

Dr. Charles E. Short, associate professor of medicine and surgery and head of the anesthesiology section at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Veterinary Medicine, prepares to operate a physiological monitor purchased through a \$1,000 grant from the national Cat Fanciers Association. The electrocardiogram monitor, which is utilized to check responses of veterinary patients during surgery at the School's Hospital-Clinic, will be used only on feline patients.



Frisk



Hooper



Lee



McDowell

and at an animal hospital in Minneapolis, Minn. He is a member of the AVMA, Alpha Psi fraternity, Gamma Sigma Delta and Phi Zeta.

Dr. Lee received his B.V.M. degree in 1967 from National Taiwan University and has been chief of the pathology research division at Taiwan Provincial Research Institute for Animal Health since 1968.

Hooper received his B.S. degree in microbiology in 1971 from the University of Utah at Salt Lake City and is currently enrolled in the Graduate School at UMC. He had been a teaching assistant in the microbiology departments at both schools. Hooper is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta and the American Society for Microbiologists.

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Toxoplasmosis— old disease in the spotlight

Cat owners have been alarmed by recent magazine and newspaper reports that their pets are prime carriers of toxoplasmosis, an infection produced by parasites of the *Toxoplasma* genus. Pregnant women have been warned that the organisms can be passed to unborn children during pregnancy and cause birth defects or even stillbirths.

Dr. Edward R. Ames, associate professor of microbiology, and Dr. William F. McCulloch, professor of microbiology and director of continuing education, at the School of Veterinary Medicine have produced a slide-tape presentation on the disease for veterinary students and veterinarians which was shown at the AVMA meeting in July. They explain the disease, its relationship to cats, and precautions which will reduce the risk of contracting toxoplasmosis.

The parasite which causes the disease has been known to scientists since the early 1900's. *Toxoplasma* organisms live in moist soil and water and have been found in many animals and among humans. Research emphasis into the disease is devoted to the tissue cyst and the fecal oocyst.

Tissue cysts have been discovered in many types of warm-blooded animals, but the oocyst, the egg form of toxoplasmosis, has been discovered only in the fecal material of infected cats. Scientists speculate the animals receive and spread the disease by eating other infected animals, such as rodents or birds.

"Toxo" in Humans Takes Several Forms

The only proven source of toxoplasmosis in humans is congenital infection which is passed by a mother to her unborn child after she has developed toxoplasmosis during pregnancy. Scientific evidence suggests that humans can also contract "toxo" by eating raw or



Sporulated Oocyst

undercooked meat, through contact with feces of infected cats, and by eating or drinking food contaminated by houseflies or roaches which have been shown experimentally to transfer toxoplasma organisms from infected cat feces to food.

Human toxoplasmosis is often mistaken for other ailments. Victims frequently suffer only a slight fever, mild fatigue or swollen lymph glands, similar to flu or infectious mononucleosis. However, victims have also been reported to suffer blindness or brain and other central nervous system damage.

Congenital toxoplasmosis has been proven to cause severe birth defects, including blindness and brain damage, stillbirths and miscarriages. Many congenitally infected individuals live apparently normal lives with toxoplasma parasites encased in their bodies in the tiny cysts. But the cysts can rupture and invade body cells to cause damage to the brain, spinal cord and eyes. Drs. Ames and McCulloch say that drugs have only limited usefulness in clinically infected animals, including humans, and that drugs can only help control the disease if it is discovered in time through serologic laboratory tests.



Unsporulated Oocyst

Sanitary Habits are the Best Precaution

The two veterinarians explain that a family without a cat may have the same risk of "toxo" as a family which owns a cat since many factors of environmental risk aren't related to owning a cat. Farm families who eat home-grown meat, especially rare, have a greater probability of contact with the disease. The same is true with veterinarians, who are in contact with animals who might have toxoplasmosis.

No scientific proof exists that toxoplasma fecal oocysts have infected man under natural conditions, but families with cats should clean the litter box daily and bury or burn the waste to reduce risk of "toxo" from fecal oocysts. Many cats don't use litter boxes and bury feces in garden soil or children's sandboxes. Sandboxes should be covered when not in use and gardeners should wash their hands after working to reduce risk of contact with fecal oocysts.

Cat owners should also wash their pets and keep the animals away from food preparation and serving areas. Since roaches and flies have been shown experimentally to transmit the parasite to milk and other foods from fecal oocysts, a clean home and kitchen reduce the chances of exposure.

If the family cat is a house pet, the risk of contracting toxoplasmosis is reduced by only feeding the cat well-cooked meat or commercially processed cat food. The animal could contract the parasite by being allowed to eat contaminated meat scraps, infected rodents, or birds that carry the disease.

Possible toxoplasmosis infection from meat can be avoided by cooking meat thoroughly. Adequately cooked meat and good sanitary habits are the best protection against possible infection.

Fourteen Receive Service Awards

Fourteen personnel from the staff at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Veterinary Medicine will receive service awards and certificates of recognition for service to the University.

The recipients are William Donaldson, who will receive a 35-year service award; Mildred Allen, 25-year award; John Adkins, Maggie Bittle, Helen Hood, Margaret Rogers and Shirley Strum, 10-year awards; and Gladys Clark, Maurice Dixson, Mildred Floyd, Fred Hilgedick, Delores Melloway, John Trice and Margaret Woodruff, 5-year awards.

Mrs. Minnette Williams, library assistant in the Veterinary Medical Library, received a 15-year pin at a ceremony given by the General Library.

University-wide Personnel Services announced in May the initiation of the Service Awards program for administrative service and support on all four University campuses. After five years of service and every five years thereafter, employees receive certificates of recognition and jeweled emblems. Men receive a tie tack which can also be worn as a lapel pin and women receive a jeweled emblem mounted as a brooch.

Staff Members Complete Class

Mrs. Gladys Clark, Department of Veterinary Anatomy, and Gary Ray Smith, Veterinary Research Farm, recently completed the Laboratory Animal Technician Training Course offered jointly by the University of Missouri Employee Training Department and the Hickman High School Adult Education Department. The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science certifies technicians completing the training.

Instructors for the 12-week evening course were Dr. J. B. Mulder, assistant professor of veterinary medicine and surgery, and A. C. Hansen, Space Science Research Center.

Dr. Mather Visits Europe

Dr. Edward C. Mather, assistant professor of veterinary medicine and surgery, attended two international conferences and visited five veterinary schools during a recent one-month trip to Europe.

Dr. Mather attended the Second International Pig Veterinary Conference in Hanover, Germany, and the Seventh International Congress on Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination in Munich, Germany, where he presented papers. He toured veterinary schools in Hanover; Munich; Stockholm, Sweden; Oslo, Norway; and Utrecht, Netherlands.

During the 4-day conference in Hanover attended by 400 practitioners, Dr. Mather presented a paper on reproductive physiology of the female reproductive tract and participated in a symposium on continuing education for swine practitioners. He presented a paper on "Seminal Plasma Effect on Endometrial Respiration in Procine" during the 5-day meeting in Munich, attended by 1,200 reproductive scientists.

At the Royal Veterinary College in Stockholm, Dr. Mather conducted a seminar on veterinary medical education at the University of Missouri and observed laboratory work involving the endocrine system, similar to endocrine studies at the UMC Veterinary Medical School. He visited the reproduction laboratory at the Veterinary College of Norway at Oslo and toured the School of Veterinary Medicine at Utrecht, where he attended a seminar on veterinary education.

Dr. Mather noted that European veterinary schools are concerned with specialization within undergraduate teaching programs and said that most schools appear reluctant to offer too much specialization. He also observed that the distribution of veterinarians in Europe is a problem for the veterinary schools because of administrative and training policies. One country, such as West Germany, appears to have an overabundance of veterinarians, while some of the Scandinavian countries appear to be undersupplied. Dr. Mather said that there are few continuing education pro-

grams in Europe for veterinarians.

His trip to Europe during mid-May to mid-June was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health with a grant through the Society of Reproduction.

Parturition Film Produced by School

A 16 mm film on "Parturition in the Mare" has been produced by Dr. Edward C. Mather, assistant professor of medicine and surgery and theriogenology specialist at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The 14 1/2-minute film explains the behavioral aspects and clinical signs of parturition. The three phases of parturition, preparatory, expulsion, and placental expulsion, are shown through diagrams, illustrations, and film of an actual parturition. The educational movie also explains when assistance should be given for a normal parturition.

The film was planned for those veterinary students who have had little exposure to normal parturition in the mare. It was directed and filmed by Ronald Cherkas and produced through the Educational Resources Center of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Mather received his appointment to the Veterinary Medical School in 1966. He received his D.V.M. degree in 1960 from Iowa State University, M.S. degree in 1968 and Ph.D. degree in 1970 from the University. He had been in mixed practice for six years in Fennimore, Wisc., prior to his appointment at the School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Mather is a member of several veterinary medical associations, the Society for Study of Reproduction, the American Veterinary Society for Study of Breeding Soundness, and the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians.

Inquiries on purchase or rental of the film can be made to the Veterinary Medical School's Educational Resources Center.

School Co-sponsors Educational Display

Faculty notes

The School of Veterinary Medicine cosponsored an educational display at the National Urban League Conference July 30-Aug. 2 in St. Louis, Mo.

The display on veterinary medicine was also sponsored by the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. George C. Shelton, associate dean for academic affairs at the UMC Veterinary School, represented the School at the exhibit booth July 30-31 and a faculty member of the University of Illinois was at the booth Aug. 1-2. The wall-type display with accompanying educational brochures was provided by the AVMA.

The Urban League is a community service organization for Blacks and other minorities.

New Faculty Con't

Lancaster received an A.A. degree in 1969 from Coffeyville, Kansas, Junior College and B.S. degree last spring from the University. He worked as a laboratory assistant at both schools.

Dr. McDowell received his B.S. degree in 1958 and D.V.M. degree in 1961 from Oklahoma State University at Stillwater. He has been in private practice in Wellsville since 1961. He is a member of several veterinary medical associations and breeders associations, Omega Tau Sigma and Phi Zeta.

Dr. R. E. Hoffer, associate professor of veterinary medicine and surgery, and *Dr. W. E. Wingfield*, resident in veterinary medicine and surgery, gave a presentation on "Gastric Dilatation and Torsion" to the Sight Hound Club of Missouri June 7 in St. Louis.

Dr. J. B. Mulder, assistant professor of veterinary medicine and surgery and director of lab animal resources, presented a paper on "Shigellosis in Non-human Primates" at the Fourth International Congress of Primatology held Aug. 14-18 in Portland Ore.

Dr. A. A. Case, professor of veterinary medicine and surgery, presented a paper on "Heavy Metal Poisoning in Animals" while attending the Colorado Environmental Health and Geochemistry Conference Aug. 7-11 at Ft. Collins, Colo. He also attended the national meeting of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology Aug. 17-19 in Aspen and participated in panel discussions and workshops on toxicology continuing education.

Dr. C. E. Short, associate professor of veterinary medicine and surgery, presented short courses in small animal anesthesiology Aug. 16-18 in Phoenix, Ariz.

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