CLINICAL TRIALS

For additional information and to download handouts for current clinical trials, visit:  https://tiny.utk.edu/UTCVMClinicalTrials

Nutrition

Dietary treatment of mild to moderate feline chronic enteropathy. Three visits to UTCVM required. Cats that are indoor only, 1-8 years old, must have vomiting or small bowel diarrhea (> 3 weeks) could be eligible. They will be eating dry food only, if more than one cat in the house, all cats have to eat the test diet. All cats in the household must be dewormed with Panacur prior to study start. Food will be provided for all cats in the house. Initial visit testing (value: approximately $930) will be covered Four and 12 week exams are covered as well (value: approximately $435). If low vitamin B12 is diagnosed, owner is responsible for cost of supplementation. Owner is responsible for cost of Panacur prior to study.  Contact: Nutrition Technician Tammy Moyers tmoyers@utk.edu or 865 755-8159 to schedule an appointment. Study PI: Dr. Maryanne Murphy

Efficacy of diet, antibiotics or probiotics for the treatment of canine acute gastroenteritis. Dogs of any breed, gender or weight eligible. Must be older than 1 year and current on vaccinations. Presenting with symptoms of acute diarrhea, but otherwise healthy. No history of pancreatitis, IBD, endocrinopathy or suspicion of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis. Patients need to have a fecal score of 2.5 or lower on the Royal Canin 5-point scoring system. Study will last 5 days. At initial visit a fecal sample will be tested for parasites at no charge. Patients will be randomized into one of four groups. Owners will be required to complete a questionnaire and to collect fecal scores daily during the 5 day period.  Contact: Nutrition Technician Tammy Moyers tmoyers@utk.edu or 865 755-8159 to schedule an appointment. Study PI: Dr. Dan Su

Internal Medicine

Evaluation of the effect of Omeprazole on clinical signs in cats with chronic kidney disease. Eligible cats will have a stable creatinine >2.9mg/dL and USG <1.035 (IRIS stage III or IV) and be able to travel to the UTCVM for required weekly to biweekly exams and work blood. Cats that meet eligibility requirements will receive Omeprazole or placebo once per day for 2 weeks. After a 14 day rest period the cat will be given the drug not given during the first 2 weeks. Study pays for the physical exam, CBC, serum biochemistry, urinalysis, urbane culture, blood pressure and total T4 at study entry. Also pays for the physical exam and serum biochemistry every 2 weeks for 8 weeks. Participants will need to return to the UTCVM every 2 weeks for 8 weeks. Cats with concurrent GI or hepatopancreatic disease or diabetes melitus will be excluded. If acid suppressants are being used, it will need to be discontinued for a minimum of 7 days prior to study inclusion. Other drugs are allowed if they have been started for more than 2 weeks and are given consistently. Contact: Internal Medicine Service – 865-974-8387

Gastrointestinal bleeding in dogs with pituitary-dependent Cushing’s disease Sustained glucocorticoid administration can cause occult gastrointestinal bleeding in dogs and people. The purpose of this study is to determine whether dogs with pituitary-dependent Cushing’s disease have occult gastrointestinal bleeding. Bleeding will be assessed using capsule endoscopy - a non-invasive gastrointestinal imaging technique. Dogs must be 10 pounds or more, +/- positive test for Cushing’s, no prior or current treatment for Cushing’s. Inclusion in study will be determined at first study visit. Dog will have a minimum of 2 visits to the VTH. There is no charge to the owner for visit or diagnostics. Involvement in the study will last up to 2 weeks. Contact: Dr. Phillip Ryanryan10@utk.edu | 865-974-8387, Dr. Jacqueline Whittemore jwhittem@utk.edu | 865-974-8387. Gina Galyon, LVMT (clinical trial coordinator) ggalyon@utk.edu | 865-755-8151

Snake bite treatment study on dogs - effects of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) on wound healing. To be eligible, the snake bite needs to be confirmed or highly suspected and patient must be presented within 24 hours of snake bite. If eligible, the dog will be chosen randomly to receive HBOT or not (control group). All dogs will receive standard of care for snakebite. The study will pay for 2 HBOT/control treatments (value of $150). If additional treatments are recommended, the cost is $65 per treatment. Contact: 865-974-8387, Dr. Shelly Olin – solin@utk.edu, Dr. Adesola Oduayo – aodunayo@utk.edu, Dr. Julie Schildt – jschildt@utk.edu, Dr. Marti Drum – mdrum@utk.edu
Dermatology
Vitamin A Treatment of Dogs with Pituitary Dependent Cushing’s Disease Cushing’s disease is one of the most common endocrinopathies in dogs. Currently there is only one approved treatment for dogs, trilostane, which decreases the amount of cortisol made by the adrenal glands but does nothing to address the pituitary tumor. Retinoic acid (isotretinoin) has been shown to help with clinical signs of Cushing’s disease and may even decrease the pituitary tumor. This drug, however, is expensive and tightly regulated because of its risk of birth defects in women. Vitamin A (retinol) is an over the counter nutraceutical that has been used with success in veterinary medicine for some skin diseases in which isotretinoin was initially recommended. Dogs must be at least 15.5 pounds, diagnosed with pituitary dependent Cushing’s disease, spayed or castrated, and willing to return for 6-8 visits. Involvement in the study will last up to 5 months. Benefits include: There will be no charge to you for the hospital visits, blood tests (ACTH), ultrasound, or Vitamin A. There will be no monetary compensation to you for participation in the study. Please contact Dr. Linda Frank to discuss any possible study candidate prior to sending the case to UTCVM. Since we want to work with the primary veterinarian, please do not have the clients initiate contact. Dr. Linda Frank (865) 974-8387 LFrank@utk.edu

Oncology/Internal Medicine
Palliative Radiation in the Treatment of Idiopathic Lymphoplasmacytic Rhinitis (LPR) in Dogs. Idiopathic lymphoplasmacytic rhinitis (LPR) is a common cause of chronic nasal discharge in dogs and can be challenging to treat. Many pet owners become frustrated with medical therapy and inconsistent responses to treatment. Recently, radiation therapy has been proposed as a potential treatment for LPR given that lymphocytes are extremely sensitive to radiation. Dogs must have a previous diagnosis of LPR and have had continued clinical signs. All dogs must undergo some diagnostic testing prior to starting the study to ensure that they are eligible. Study Benefits: a) Palliative Radiation Therapy: Each dog will receive a 5-day course of radiation, including anesthesia, and associated hospitalization, free of charge. Estimated savings: $3000. b) Recheck CT Scan: 3-4 months following radiation therapy, each dog will receive a diagnostic CT scan under anesthesia, free of charge. Estimated savings: $ 1000-1200 * All dogs must have a CT scan to determine their eligibility prior to receiving these financial incentives * No additional monetary compensation or travel stipend provided Contact: Dr. Jennifer Stokes jstokes4@utk.edu, Dr. Isabella Pfeiffer ipfeiffe@utk.edu

Contact information is provided for referring veterinarians only.

Gina D. Galyon, BS, LATg, LVMT, Clinical Trials Coordinator 865-974-8387 | FAX: 865-974-5213 | ggalyon@utk.edu