

Best friends

NEWSLETTER



FEATURE STORY:

MENDING MONKEY

OVC PET TRUST-FUNDED RESEARCH GUIDES VETERINARIANS ON MOST EFFECTIVE STABILIZATION TECHNIQUES IN CANINE SPINAL SURGERY

The Neurology team at the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) would describe Monkey with one word: survivor.

Mend and Arianne Stern adopted Monkey from a friend who could no longer care for him in 2011. He's been a special part of their family for the past four years. Arianne says that the team at the OVC have consistently cared for Monkey as if he were their own, and her family feels gratitude, comfort and relief knowing that they saved his life.

The seven-year-old Yorkshire Terrier had been medically managed for atlantoaxial (AA) luxation, a type of congenital malformation causing spinal cord injury common in small dog breeds, for the past three years of his life. AA luxation occurs when there is instability between the first and second cervical vertebrae.

Upon diagnosis, Monkey was kept under strict supervision at OVC for two weeks. Monkey was carefully placed in a full body cast before being sent home to be rechecked in two

Continued page 3



MONKEY IS WITH HIS OVC CARE TEAM, DRs. FIONA JAMES AND RANDALL COCHRAN, WHO ARE PERFORMING A POSTOPERATIVE EXAM TO CHECK HIS REFLEXES.

LOVE!

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MENDING MONKEY FROM THE DESK OF OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR

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SPRING UPDATE: FROM THE DESK OF OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR



KIM ROBINSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PET TRUST WITH HER DOG JUNO.

2016 marks the 30th anniversary of OVC Pet Trust and as we take the time to reflect over the past three decades, I feel proud to be a part of an organization that has done so much to help pets and the people who love and care for them. The partnerships and friendships we have formed have led to many great advances in research and discovery to improve pet health. One of these amazing partnerships that has spanned over 15 years, is with Suzi Beber and the Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund. You can read more about Suzi on page 9.

The type of passion demonstrated by people like Suzi continues to help shape the future of companion animal medicine. The health and well-being of animals has always played an important role in my life and I cannot help feeling humbled by the dedication of each and every one of our supporters.

Together we have accomplished so much and we have many more exciting plans for the future. We recently launched a \$9-million fund-raising campaign to create new surgery and anesthesia facilities at the Ontario Veterinary College, and I am happy to report that almost 70% of funds needed, have been committed. That's more than \$6.5 million! We couldn't have done this without the incredible support of donors like YOU.

The Ontario Veterinary College is currently ranked 1st in Canada for veterinary science. With 50 per cent of our patients requiring some type of surgery or minimally invasive procedure, and 75 per cent undergoing anesthesia for a specialized procedure such as advanced imaging or endoscopy; your support to create these new facilities will help keep OVC at the forefront of veterinary healthcare, research and education.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our Best Friends newsletter which is full of articles that celebrate Pet Trust's history, achievements and where we are headed in the future. Be sure to have a look at our special infographic centerfold – which shares 30 facts for 30 years on pages 6-7.

Thank you to everyone who has made the past 30 years such an incredible journey. We're looking forward to the year ahead and updating you on what's in store for the next 30 years.

Kim Robinson
Managing Director, OVC Pet Trust



Number of years OVC Pet Trust has been raising funds to support learning, healthcare and research to improve the lives of our pets

P.S. Be sure to connect with us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ovcpet) and Twitter (@OVCPetTrust) as we celebrate our 30th anniversary throughout the rest of the year.

About Best Friends Newsletter



Best Friends of Pet Trust is published two times a year by the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) for the interest of Pet Trust donors and

friends. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the OVC Pet Trust Board of trustees.

About OVC Pet Trust

OVC Pet Trust, founded in 1986 at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), University of Guelph is Canada's first charitable fund dedicated to the health and well-being of companion animals. The Ontario

Veterinary College is a leader in veterinary health care, learning and discovery for the health of all species, including our own.

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Reproduction of material in this newsletter is welcomed. Comments, ideas or suggestions for future

articles? Please contact our communications team at ovcinfo@uoguelph.ca.

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OVC COMPANION ANIMAL HOSPITAL

MENDING MONKEY

OVC Pet Trust-funded research guides veterinarians on most effective stabilization techniques in canine spinal surgery

cover story continued from page 1



MONKEY'S SUCCESSFUL FIVE-WEEK POST OP CHECKUP AT OVC COMPANION ANIMAL HOSPITAL, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

months. With time and ongoing visits to OVC, Monkey eventually had his cast removed, and resumed his active lifestyle. Monkey had been doing well until his condition began to drastically deteriorate in September 2015, and surgical intervention became the only option to restore Monkey's health. The major concern for dog owners with a pet with this condition is that sudden death can occur unexpectedly with excessive motion of the neck, or even during an attempt at surgical repair.

Senior neurology resident and Doctor of Veterinary Science (DVSc) student Guillaume Leblond has been involved in Monkey's care since the Yorkie's first visit to OVC in 2012, and played a major role in the life-saving procedure Monkey underwent.

Surgical repair of AA luxation is one of the most challenging procedures performed by veterinary neurosurgeons, says Dr. Fiona James, Assistant Professor in Neurology and Neurosurgery in

the Department of Clinical Studies at OVC. "AA luxation is a common condition in miniature dog breeds like Monkey," James says. "Leblond's graduate research at OVC played a direct role in

Leblond's graduate research at OVC played a direct role in targeting the most effective spacing and positioning of the surgical implants we used to stabilize Monkey's vertebrae.

targeting the most effective spacing and positioning of the surgical implants we used to stabilize Monkey's vertebrae."

OVC Neurology's Dr. Luis Gaitero, who was Leblond's primary supervisor and principal investigator of the research project, worked closely with him throughout his residency. Since commonly-affected dogs are very small, implants can be difficult to position.

Drs. Leblond and James performed surgical stabilization on Monkey this past September. With approximately 80 per cent chance of success, the procedure required delicate precision, since Mon-

key's spinal cord was already damaged. Initially, Leblond placed two screws within the first two vertebrae. Three more implants were added after evaluating the placement of the first two screws with a CT scan, an important component of Leblond's research. All implants were then cemented together, forming an internal "cast". Luckily, the procedure was successful for Monkey.

Leblond's DVSc position and research project are both funded by OVC Pet Trust, and he is grateful for the support. "I owe my training and successes to the generous donors who support OVC Pet Trust – they are a major funding resource to many researchers at OVC, and in my case, the support allowed me to advance my project beyond what I initially anticipated."

As for Monkey, Mend and Arieanne plan to continue with physical rehabilitation with the hope that he will eventually fully recover. Rehabilitation following neurosurgery helps patients maintain muscle mass and mobility while learning to walk again.

"The Neurology service put our family member back together again. We want to thank everyone at OVC for caring for Monkey, including his doctors and all of the students who helped care for him. They gave us our dog back." 🐾

DR. AMEET SINGH'S LAB IS RESEARCHING THE EFFECTS OF WARMED, HUMIDIFIED CARBON DIOXIDE DURING LAPAROSCOPY IN DOGS. PICTURED: DOCTOR OF VETERINARY SCIENCE STUDENT AND SURGERY RESIDENT JACQUELINE SCOTT.

EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF WARMED AND HUMIDIFIED CARBON DIOXIDE DURING MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY

First ever veterinary research of its kind

OVC Pet Trust-funded research is underway at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) that is the first of its kind in canine populations in the world. Dr. Ameet Singh, Assistant Professor of Small Animal Surgery in the Department of Clinical Studies at the University of Guelph's OVC, is leading the research to investigate the use of warmed and humidified carbon dioxide during laparoscopy, also known as minimally invasive surgery of the abdomen. Benefits, which have already been demonstrated in human medicine, include reduced pain following surgery, decrease in the use of post-operative pain medication and reduced hypothermia in patients.

In order to visualize abdominal organs and create a working space to manipulate instruments, carbon dioxide is pumped into the abdomen to

expand it. Traditionally, the carbon dioxide used is room temperature and dry, with zero per cent relative humidity. Common laparoscopic procedures in dogs include removal of the gall bladder, adrenal gland and spleen, biopsy of various abdominal organs such as the liver, kidney and gastrointestinal tract and gastropexy. Gastropexy prevents gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV), a condition commonly affecting tall, deep chested dogs when the stomach twists inside the body resulting in a life-threatening scenario.

This is the first investigation into the use of warmed carbon dioxide in veterinary medicine that focuses on dogs.

"Many human hospitals are using warmed (up to 37 degrees Celsius) and humidified (95 per cent relative humidity) carbon dioxide during laparoscopic surgery, which has resulted in increased benefits for the patient," Singh says. "The positive results in human medicine have in-

spired our team to investigate its effects in dogs. Depending on the outcomes of our research, we could potentially use it for laparoscopic procedures in dogs."

Singh says findings could potentially be applied to any animal that undergoes laparoscopy. Avoiding major abdominal or thoracic surgical approaches translates into faster recovery time for both humans and animals. OVC Pet Trust's campaign to create new surgery and anesthesia facilities will include the only dedicated suite for minimally invasive procedures at a veterinary teaching hospital in Canada, which will allow Singh and his team to provide the best clinical care to pets while continuing their quest to advance minimally invasive surgical options.

"The new facilities will provide increased space and superior, more advanced equipment to perform surgery," says Singh. "Ultimately, it will lead to better care for our patients."

Singh's team for this project includes Doctor of Veterinary Science student and surgery resident Jacqueline Scott, Dr. Alex Valverde (board certified anesthesiologist), Dr. Shauna Blois (board certified internal medicine specialist) and Jessica Kilkenny (MSc candidate in Clinical Studies). While research is currently in its early stages, Singh is hopeful data analysis and positive results will lead to a clinical trial in the near future. 🐾

UPDATE: OVC Pet Trust's \$9M Campaign

Thanks to a very successful start in fall 2015, the OVC Pet Trust team is pleased to announce that an astounding \$6.5 million has been committed to help create new world-class surgery and anesthesia facilities at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) at the University of Guelph.

This latest \$9-million fundraising effort was launched at the third 'A Walk in the Park' gala held in October last year. The event, organized by the Walk in the Park gala committee and chaired by long-time Pet Trust supporters Emmanuelle Gattuso and Sandra Faire, raised more than \$500,000 for OVC Pet Trust. Animal lovers, generous donors, Pet Trust-funded researchers and OVC clinicians were in attendance and an additional \$3.5 million was announced during the event to support Pet Trust's latest fundraising efforts.



"This is quite an accomplishment in just a few short months. We have incredible donors who understand the value of the work being done to help animals at OVC and they got behind this project really quickly," says Kim Robinson, Managing Director of OVC Pet Trust. "It's a very exciting time. We have \$2.5 million left to raise and hope to start the project later this year."

To learn more or view the renovation plans please visit our website www.pettrust.ca. 🐾

A WALK IN THE PARK GALA WOW! A \$4 MILLION DOLLAR NIGHT!!



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LOVE!
Help the pets in need. The Animal Learning Centre.

OVC Pet Trust Celebrates 30 Years...

30
years
ANNIVERSARY

Number of years OVC Pet Trust has been raising funds to support learning, healthcare and research to improve the lives of our pets



VETERINARIAN

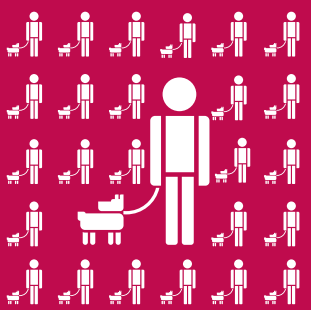
ALMOST 1/3 OF VETERINARIANS EDUCATED IN CANADA GRADUATE FROM OVC



1,000 graduate students have participated in Pet Trust funded research projects since 1986



Pet Trust has invested more than \$7.5 million into 550 research projects to improve pet health



Almost 8 million Canadians share their homes with pets



www.smilingblueskies.com

Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund has raised more than \$1.6 million to support cancer care & research through Pet Trust



Pet Trust is supported by:
Pet Lovers
Veterinary Hospitals
Friends
Students



75% OF OVC PATIENTS UNDERGO ANESTHESIA FOR A SPECIALIZED PROCEDURE SUCH AS ADVANCED IMAGING OR ENDOSCOPY



OVC is the only vet college in the Comparative Oncology Trials Consortium of the USA National Cancer Institute



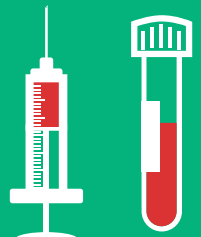
Pet Trust raised \$13.75 million to create the Mona Campbell Centre for Animal Cancer



Pet Trust has held 3 Walk in the Park galas, which have raised more than \$1 million



OVC is 153 years old, and is the oldest vet college North America



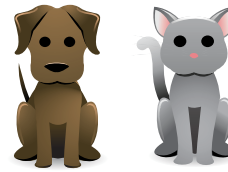
30 Facts for 30 Years!

UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

Pet Trust has funded more than 550 research projects to improve the health of our pets



1st Canadian charitable fund entirely dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of companion animals



\$35 million raised to help our companion animals

OVC is ranked #1 in Canada and in the top 10 of the 250 vet schools around the world

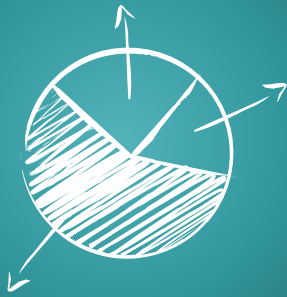


IN 2015, PETTRUST INVESTED MORE THAN \$400,000 IN 23 RESEARCH PROJECTS TO IMPROVE PET HEALTH



Pet Trust launched a \$9-million fundraising campaign to build new surgery and anesthesia facilities at the OVC in Fall 2015

Over the past 6 years OVC students have raised more than \$30,000 for Pet Trust at the OTS Annual Dog Jog



PET TRUST FUNDS: LEARNING HEALTHCARE RESEARCH



PET TRUST SUPPORTS A CLINICAL GRIEF COUNSELOR

Pet Trust honours more than 30,000 beloved pets through memorial giving every year



Every year we help more than 2,000 dogs, cats and other pets in need of advanced care



Pet Trust YouTube video gained more than 400,000 views as dogs sang for a cure in 'We Could Be Heroes'

Pet Trust supports: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS Clinical positions EDUCATION OF VETERINARIANS & SPECIALISTS Discovery of new treatments & techniques



25 THE NUMBER OF BOARD CERTIFIED EXPERTS AT OVC IN COMPANION ANIMAL MEDICINE



ONE HEALTH: OVC STUDIES DISEASES THAT AFFECT PETS & PEOPLE. IN SOME CASES, RESEARCH RESULTS CAN IMPROVE HEALTH OPTIONS FOR ALL SPECIES

Pet Trust funds the only companion animal tumour sample bank in Canada, which now includes more than 13,000 samples



Pet Trust research grants have resulted in more than 200 contributions to **scientific journals**



50% of OVC patients require some type of surgery or minimally invasive procedure to treat their condition



A case in history: There's something about Critter

John Kerr and Mary Visser Kerr didn't expect to stumble upon a litter of five newborn kittens on a spring afternoon in early May 1984.

The kittens, who belonged to a feral cat, were only a couple of weeks old when John found them while cleaning out the shed in the backyard of his Brampton home. The Kerrs vividly remember the night they officially welcomed Critter into their family.

"It was a dark and stormy night over the May long weekend. The mom cat took all of her kittens away except for one – she left Critter. We think she sensed Critter had found a home with us. We always say that Critter chose us," John reflects.

Critter quickly became part of the Kerr family. He was a friendly, lovable cat that was very perceptive and aware of his surroundings.

In 1996, when Critter was 12, Mary and John noticed something was drastically wrong with him. Critter was diagnosed with a suspected thymoma (a potentially cancerous tumour of the thymus gland located in the chest), and surgical intervention became the only option to save his life.

When having to make life and death decisions for a pet, the relationship between pet owners and veterinary caregivers is so important and is at the very heart of OVC Pet Trust.

Critter's case was presented to Dr. Shane Bateman, who at the time, was a second year emergency and critical care resident in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the OVC and the first resident to complete a formal residency in emergency and critical care in Canada. Bateman chose to do his residency at OVC to work alongside Dr. Karol Mathews, a renowned researcher, clinician and OVC faculty member responsible for developing pain management guidelines for animals that

have influenced veterinary care around the globe. Mathews was one of the first researchers at OVC to receive Pet Trust funding for her work.

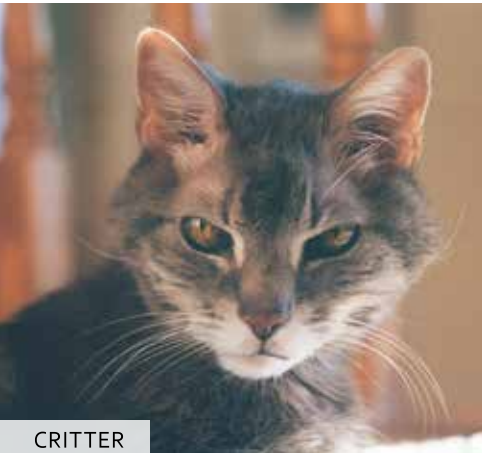
"Critter's case was unique because he had an unusual presentation of symptoms (not being able to jump)," Bateman remembers. "Thymomas in cats are very uncommon; the Kerrs were very observant and recognized there was a problem right away."

Today as Bateman flips through Critter's old medical records, he recalls receiving a photograph in the mail from the Kerrs after Critter's death in 2003. He refers to the picture of Critter as one of the best patient photographs he has ever received and he still keeps a copy in his office today.

Critter lived a longer life because of the surgery he underwent at OVC. "Critter could not have landed in a better place to receive the attention and care he got. We were so lucky to have Shane Bateman and OVC to save our Critter," John says.

As a faculty member at the University of Guelph since 2014, educating the next generation of veterinary leaders is a large part of Bateman's job. He is involved in teaching emergency and critical care to Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students in their final year of study, Doctor of Veterinary Science students, interns and residents. He also oversees and manages any patients admitted to the ICU at the OVC Health Sciences Centre.

"Cases like Critter's allow us [clinicians & researchers] to learn, grow and innovate," Bateman emphasizes, smiling. "I'll be forever grateful for being given the opportunity to treat and learn from such a special cat." 🐾



CRITTER

\$1-MILLION GIFT SUPPORTS NEW SURGERY AND ANESTHESIA FACILITIES AT OVC

A passion for animals and an appreciation for outstanding veterinary care inspired a \$1-million gift to the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College (OVC). The donation from Lindy Barrow is one of the first leadership gifts to a \$9-million fundraising campaign launched this fall through OVC Pet Trust.

For Lindy, her dogs and honouring her family's legacy are her two

biggest passions. From a young age, giving back was a big part of her life. "My late mother and stepfather were very philanthropic. My mother was a strong supporter of many organizations, both through donations and volunteering. I learned a lot from her," Lindy says.

Lindy is also very passionate about her day job. A retired accountant, she breeds and shows West

Highland White Terriers in her home and kennel near Caledon, Ontario, a hobby that has been keeping her busy for almost 20 years. She travels regularly to dog shows around the world, and is truly an animal lover at heart.

It was this passion that inspired Lindy to donate a major gift to the University of Guelph this past fall to support OVC Pet Trust's fundraising

campaign to build new surgery and anesthesia facilities at the OVC. Lindy's generous \$1-million gift will support the creation of a state-of-the-art Minimally Invasive Procedures Suite, a significant component of the \$9-million capital project.

"Using minimally invasive procedures instead of more traditional surgical options means faster recov-

Honouring Suzi Beber

Inspirational advocate for helping others and fighting canine cancer receives Honorary Doctorate at the University of Guelph



Blues was more than a loving Golden Retriever and companion animal. He was a guiding light, a beacon of hope and an inspiration for a meaningful movement to fight canine cancer. Suzi Beber welcomed the golden bundle of fluff into her heart and home after unexpected complications from routine surgery and anesthesia left her with serious injuries in the mid-1990s. A former high school teacher and vice-principal, Beber was faced with overcoming severe physical and emotional challenges associated with the aftermath from the surgery – a period of time in her life she may not have made it through without Blues, she says.

“I don’t know if the word ‘inspiring’ is the right word to describe my bond with Blues,” Beber says. “The saying ‘as one door closes, another opens’ comes to mind. Blues allowed me to step over the first threshold of the reality of my new life after my traumatic brain injury. Together, we opened many doors. He changed my life.”

Unfortunately, Beber lost her beloved Blues in 2001, after an eight-month battle with lymphoma at the young age of six. To honour his memory, and in gratitude for the care he received at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), Beber created the Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund, which sup-

ports OVC Pet Trust’s quest to find more and better ways to deal with and understand the complex and devastating disease.

What began as a heartbreaking loss and a \$1,000 donation to OVC Pet Trust in memory of Blues in 2001, has grown into an extensive community of Smiling Blue Skies supporters and grassroots initiatives across Canada that have raised more than \$1.6 million.

This year, Beber received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Guelph (UofG) during winter convocation in recognition of her passionate commitment and tremendous support of cancer research and care at the OVC.

I needed to turn my love and loss into something positive. I wanted to help others who would travel the same road as we had, Beber shared during her



convocation address at the UofG on February 18.

Beber’s support has helped OVC advance cancer research and treatment through a number of important initiatives. Her commitment and tireless contributions of thousands of volunteer hours have been instrumental in advancing the work of OVC scientists and enabling veterinarians to help companion animals with cancer.

“We feel so fortunate that Pet Trust and the OVC are the recipients of Suzi’s support,” says OVC Dean Jeffrey Wichtel. “The kind of generosity she exemplifies has enabled groundbreaking research aimed at discovering new ways to diagnose and treat canine cancer; research which may also lead to benefits in human health.”

While addressing the graduating class, Beber reminded the audience of the importance of giving back; of not taking anything for granted and to follow their dreams – all lessons she has learned over the course of her journey.

“It is so important to be happy every day, to dream a little every day and to realize if you dream it and work hard at it, you can do it.” 🐾

ery time for our pets,” says Kim Robinson, managing director of OVC Pet Trust. “Lindy’s very generous gift will enable OVC to create the only dedicated suite for minimally invasive procedures at a veterinary teaching hospital in Canada. We are so grateful for her kindness and personal contribution to this important project.”

Jeff Wichtel, Dean of the OVC,

says gifts such as Lindy’s, will allow the college to take techniques that have become the standard of care to the next level. “Our new facilities will help us raise the bar of teaching and knowledge in veterinary medicine and improve care and recovery options for our companion animals.”

Lindy’s dedication to OVC Pet Trust stems from her love and

devotion to animals. “Our pets give us so much and ask for so little in return. They are such a positive influence on our well-being – both mentally and physically. The least we can give them is the best life possible, including good health,” she says. 🐾

PHOTO RIGHT: LINDY BARROW AND PARTY BOY.



SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION



Winter Celebrations

by Suzi Beber

Whoa! It is hard to believe the winter months have zipped by and plans are already underway for tried and true Smiling Blue Skies events, and new ones too!

"Jingle Bells" hit an extra high note as 2015 was drawing to a close, when the Upper Island Retriever Club on Vancouver Island, held their Christmas party at Swamp Dog Farm. Fifty-nine retrievers came out to play and raised \$550 for The Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund. Thanks to all the club members, volunteers and friends who participated in this extra special celebration.

In 2015, "PETS + US," completed their second year providing pet health insurance to pet owners across Canada. Their goal was to provide great health care and give back too, so members have the choice of increasing their monthly premium in increments of \$0.50 to include a favourite charity, and we are so grateful that

Smiling Blue Skies was chosen by a number of members. Special thanks to Nicole Wiebe, part of our Calgary Walk Team, who was nominated in the Pet Owner category for the "PETS + US" Champion Awards and made it all the way to the finals!

"Project Give Back" spread its wings, when Cal Adam, another elementary school student in Toronto, chose to profile Smiling Blue Skies. As his teacher wrote: "Cal captivated the entire class with his passionate presentation on his chosen charity, The Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund. It was evident that Cal put forth a great deal of work and thought into his project. Cal educated us with information about a charity that was, without a doubt, very important to him. Cal did a fantastic job creating a 'FUNraiser' for The Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund. It was apparent that a great amount of effort went into planning and organizing his lesson so everyone could not only leave the class with a greater awareness of dogs with cancer, but have fun at the same time." That fun replaced "Simon Says" with clicker training! What a great idea! Thank you to Cal and Vaughn, for spreading the word about Smiling Blue Skies. You are heroes in our eyes.

Joan and Bill Richard have been avid RVers since 1992, and were happy campers long before that. Bill is a US Air Force Thunderbird alumni and career aircraft engineer, as well as a former professional motorcycle racer, while Joan's background includes both the aviation and hospitality industries. She is best known now though, as an awesome accredited groomer, having owned a successful dog grooming salon in Southern Ontario. I worked with three of Joan and Bill's Collies, "Hunter," "Mac," and "Ryder, over a decade ago, and in another special twist, it turns out that Joan used to groom Pet Trust Managing Director Kim Robinson's dog, Madison, back in Georgetown, Ontario. I only

recently learned about that. Talk about "Six Degrees of Separation!"

Joan and Bill have been long time supporters of Smiling Blue Skies. They compete in agility, obedience, rally, and conformation, and have earned multiple titles with their dogs, in both Canada and the United States. I was so thrilled when they got in touch with me to tell me about the "Sault Ste. Marie Guest Services Guide." Their Sault Ste. Marie KOA was voted Sault Tourism Business of the Year and is a KOA President's Award winner. They had the great idea to include The Smiling Blue Skies Cancer Fund in their Guest Services Guide, and because of their generosity of spirit, 10,000 families will be introduced to Smiling Blue Skies over the next two summers.

The First Annual "Woof-fit Tofino" is being held on beautiful Chesterman Beach on June 19 this year. We're adding yoga for dogs to the mix of mini-triathlon activities, and The Wickaninnish Inn's Kitchen Brigade will be creating great pick-up-and-go refreshments. The Pacific Arts Society will be helping with an extra special "Kids Zone." There will something for everyone. This is going to be a great celebration of "Father's Day", while supporting The Smiling Blue Skies Fund for Innovative Research.

Stay tuned too, to hear more about London's new Smiling Blue Skies Walk, helmed by the "It's a Rex Thing" Crew.

We are thrilled, that Smiling Blue Skies has been able to continue the funding of Vicky Sabine's position, as the Clinical Trials Coordinator within the Mona Campbell Centre for Animal Cancer. Twelve studies at OVC are currently seeking oncology patients, including the effects of Benadryl in dogs undergoing surgery with mast cell tumours, the investigation of biomarkers for metronomic cyclophosphamide treatment of canine soft tissue sarcoma, and the analysis of cytokines in dogs with osteosarcoma treated with amputation, radiation and/or chemotherapy. Four hundred new patients were enrolled in clinical trials in 2015. Without "you," this would not be possible.

Since the spring of 2001, you have helped us raise over \$1.6 million, helping us to take a big bite out of canine cancer! Long live blue skies, where hope is a kite and dreams really do come true. 🐾



SANTA BOB AND ROSIE

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

Fourteen new projects were awarded Pet Trust funding in fall 2015, totaling \$201,951.

To read full descriptions of the studies funded by Pet Trust in Fall 2015, please visit www.pettrust.ca.

Researcher	Lay Title	Scientific Title	Species / Disease Type
Shauna Blois	Investigating methods to increase safety of blood transfusion in dogs and cats	Evaluating incidence of crossmatch incompatibility and the accuracy of point-of-care cross matching methods to increase safety of blood transfusion in cats and dogs	Feline, Canine Cancer, Allergy / Immune Mediated
Fiona James	Non-invasively standardizing the diagnosis of canine epilepsy by examining electrical activity in the brain	Craniocerebral Topographical Mapping for Standardizing Canine Electroencephalographic Lesion Localization	Canine Cancer
Andria Jones-Bitton	n/a	Investigating the constructs of compassion fatigue and burnout in veterinarians and veterinary students in Ontario	Behaviour, Human / Animal Bond
Deep Khosa	n/a	Seeking veterinary health information and knowledge on the Internet: Exploring behaviours, perceptions and attitudes of students, practicing veterinarians and pet owners	Behaviour, Human / Animal Bond
Lee Niel	n/a	Effect of restraint techniques on acute stress and aversion in cats	Feline Behaviour, Human / Animal Bond
Leonardo Susta	n/a	Determination of important causes of morbidity and mortality in psittacine birds submitted to the Ontario Veterinary College Teaching Hospital: Management and treatment implications	Birds Cancer, Infectious and More
Alicia Viloria-Petit	Identification of improved tools for molecular diagnosis, prognosis and therapy of canine osteosarcoma	An investigation of the role of TGF-beta and hippo signalling crosstalk in canine osteosarcoma morbidity: toward improved diagnosis, prognosis and therapy	Cancer, Molecular Basis of Disease
Darren Wood	Correlation of small molecules in blood and tumour cells in dogs with lymphoma	Correlation between plasma and tumour cell microRNA in dogs with multicentric lymphoma	Canine Cancer, Molecular Basis of Disease
Anthony Abrams-Ogg	Evaluating a new test to monitor the effect of the blood thinner clopidogrel (Plavix) in cats	Utility of the PFA – 200 P2Y cartridge to detect clopidogrel effect in healthy cats – a pilot study	Feline Metabolic Genetic
Alexa Bersenas	Investigating a new nasal breathing support system in healthy dogs to assess ease of delivery, comfort and ability to support breathing compared to standard treatment	Comparison of high flow nasal cannula oxygen administration to traditional nasal cannula oxygen supplementation in healthy dogs – a pilot	Canine Metabolic Genetic
Alexa Bersenas	Evaluating a new nasal breathing support system in dogs presenting to the OVC Health Sciences Centre with respiratory disease whose symptoms are not alleviated by current standard therapy	Investigation of high-flow nasal cannula respiratory support system in dogs with clinical disease	Canine Metabolic Genetic
Byram Bridle	Engineering a superior vaccine to treat canine melanomas	Construction and validation of viral-vectored vaccines to induce robust tumour-specific T cell responses in dogs with oral melanomas (Renewal)	Canine Cancer
Scott Weese	Can 'good' bacteria prevent recurrent urinary tract infections in cats?	In vitro evaluation of potential biotherapeutics for prevention of recurrent urinary tract infection in cats	Feline Infectious
Michelle Oblak	Evaluation of imaging and intraoperative techniques for the identification of draining (sentinel) lymph nodes in dogs with oral tumours	Computed tomography evaluation of sentinel lymph nodes in dogs with oral neoplasia using peritumoral injection of iodinated contrast medium	Canine Molecular Basis of Disease



SIXTH ANNUAL OTS DOG JOG

Students, staff & community come together to raise more than \$12,000 to support OVC Pet Trust

More than 100 students, alumni, staff, community members and 68 of their canine companions gathered on a mild Sunday morning this March to participate in the OTS Dog Jog at the University of Guelph's (UofG) Arboretum.

Co-founded by Rebecca Sterns and Steve Patten, both OVC 2013 alumni, the Annual OTS Dog Jog is entirely organized by Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) students with the

OTS Professional Veterinary Fraternity. All funds raised are donated to OVC Pet Trust to help the pets we love live longer, healthier lives by supporting healthcare, research and learning at the Ontario Veterinary College at UofG.



REBECCA & DANIELLE STERNS WITH KASH

The event includes a two kilometer walk or five kilometer run and has raised more than \$30,000 for Pet Trust since it began back in 2011.

This year, Sterns returned to Guelph to take part in the run, an event that still remains near and dear to her heart.

"When we started the Dog Jog, we were not aware of any local athletic events that allowed people to participate with their beloved dogs," says Sterns. "As veterinary students, volunteering gave us an opportunity to get out and connect with the local community. Supporting Pet Trust is very important – many wonderful student opportunities are funded by Pet Trust, which allow us to further our veterinary education and contribute to medical development and research. I am very proud to return to Guelph and give back to Pet Trust today."

Sterns is now a veterinarian at Park Animal Hospital and continues her support of OVC Pet Trust through its *Pet Memorial Program*, a program designed to celebrate the life of patients that have passed on and honour the relationship between veterinary

teams, pets and their owners.

A special thank you goes out to the 2016 student veterinarian event organizers Amy Capraro, Katelyn Weaver, Sarah Robinson (in photo) and Jon Waito for planning and facilitating a paw-some event!



'Like' OVC Pet Trust on Facebook to view more photos of this year's Dog Jog at www.facebook.com/ovcpet. 🐾

THANK YOU!

With your help, we continue to advance animal health and medicine. If you have questions, story ideas or comments about Best Friends Newsletter or would like to learn how you can get involved with OVC Pet Trust, please contact us at ovcpet@uguelph.ca.

DONATE TO CELEBRATE

Each year more people are donating to celebrate special events such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings or holidays in lieu of giving gifts. Find out how you can donate to OVC Pet Trust to celebrate your event. Email ovcpet@uoguelph.ca to learn more.

SAVE A TREE

Sign up to receive Best Friends electronically. Email ovcpet@uoguelph.ca to get started. This and past issues are available for download at www.pettrust.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 1 14th Annual Smiling Blue Skies Walk for Canine Cancer - Calgary

MAY 14 3rd Annual Smiling Blue Skies Walk for Canine Cancer - Guelph

JUNE 19 1st Annual Smiling Blue Skies Woof-fit Mini-Triathlon - Tofino

JULY 6 Hamilton Academy of Veterinary Medicine Annual Golf Tournament - Copetown

JULY 7-10 CVMA 2016 Convention - Niagara Falls

JULY 23-24 Dog Lovers Days - Guelph

SEPTEMBER 24 5th Annual Smiling Blue Skies Walk for Canine Cancer - Toronto

LEARN MORE AT PETTRUST.CA

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

CHANGING LIVES IMPROVING LIFE