



**GULF COAST
VETERINARY
SPECIALISTS**

*Advancing Compassionate
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TGCVS Client Newsletter

August 2010

In this issue.....

Transfusion medicine for our ICU Patients

Learn how transfusions are helping our critically ill cats and dogs. Did you know dogs and cats have blood types too?

Meet our New Doctors! Join us in welcoming them to our Gulf Coast Family.

Pint for a Pint! Come join us August 18th to make a blood donation (two legged donors only!) and get some yummy Blue Bell ice cream—a pint of course, as a big Thank You!

Pet of the Month — Meet Toddy! An adorable Yorkie Terrier puppy that defied the odds and recovered from severe head trauma.

It's Hurricane Season! Are you and your pet ready if a storm hits? Learn tips and information that could help you in a crisis.

Join our e-mail list! Have our monthly newsletter delivered directly to your inbox every month!



State of the Art Care for Your Pet

Transfusion Products for ICU Patients Saves Lives Every Day!

Just like human patients, here at TGCVS our dog and cat patients have the necessity for blood product transfusions on an almost daily basis. We routinely “bank” whole blood, red blood cells and plasma units so they are available for **immediate** use in our intensive care unit. Although we purchase some blood products and plasma from animal blood banks, we also have an on-site colony of pampered, donor cats and several dog donors owned by our employees, that help out from time to time. These donors are pre-screened just like human donors for any infectious disease prior to donation.

The most common reasons for a transfusion in our patients include acute bleeding, massive parasites (hookworms/fleas), gastrointestinal bleeding, clotting abnormalities and red blood cell destruction from the immune system going haywire.

Dogs and cats have blood types just like people. Dogs are either DEA 1.1 positive or DEA 1.1 negative, with DEA 1.1 negative being the universal donor. Cats are type A, type B and type AB. There is **NO** universal donor in cats. At TGCVS, if the patient is stable, a blood type and cross match is always done to minimize the change of an incompatible transfusion.



Our pampered on-site donor cats receive daily love and attention



An ICU patient receives a blood transfusion

Blood products are typically administered intravenously and so your pet will need to have an IV catheter placed in the arm, back leg or a jugular (neck) vein. The blood products are administered through a filter set to prevent any clots or debris from being inadvertently transfused. Our patients are monitored very closely during a transfusion to catch any transfusion reactions. We check their vital signs: temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate and blood pressure, every 15 minutes for the first hour, then every 30 minutes through the transfusion. We also watch for any signs of nausea, vomiting, hives or facial swelling.

In short, blood product transfusions, are life-saving products in our critically ill patients. As with any therapy, one must consider the risks, costs and benefits associated with the use of blood products and every effort must be made to minimize the occurrence of side effects and complications. If your veterinarian has recommended a blood transfusion—then the benefit of the transfusion far outweighs any potential risk. Our critical care specialists and internal medicine specialists are very familiar with the various transfusion products, their indications and side effects. We are extremely confident in using these blood products on a daily basis. The lives of many dogs and cats have been saved with these indispensable products in our ICU. If you have any questions about transfusion medicine in your pets, please don't hesitate to ask us or your primary veterinarian.

CAT TRIVIA

Did you know that a cat will spend 30% of their lifetime grooming themselves!



facebook

A Pint for a Pint! August 18th Blood Drive at GCVS

TGCVS is teaming up with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to help meet the need for human blood products across the Gulf Coast Region. Join us August 18th from 9:30a-1:15p in our Conference Room to donate a pint. In return, you will get a coupon for a pint of delicious Blue Bell Ice Cream—a pint for a pint! Sign up at our Oncology front desk or at www.giveblood.org (log into digital donor in the upper right hand corner of the page and use sponsor code Q987).

Every day the Gulf Coast Region uses over 1000 pints of blood and less than 5% of the population donates! You could save a life—please join us. For information, please call (713)-693-1144.

Check us out on Facebook! Get lots of great information for your pets, stay updated on new happenings at Gulf Coast & participate in our giveaways just for our Facebook Fans!

Meet Our New Doctors!

Dr. Christopher Cook, Dermatology and Allergy



Dr. Christopher Cook joins Gulf Coast as our newest Dermatologist. He sees patients on a referral basis with our existing dermatologists, Dr. Valerie Fadok and Dr. Karin Beale.

Dr. Cook received his veterinary degree from Cornell University. He continued at Cornell where he completed his Dermatology residency. Dr. Cook has previously worked at private practice clinics in both Pittsburgh and Virginia Beach. In addition to cooking, he enjoys spending time with his wife (also a veterinarian who is completing her residency in Clinical Pathology at Texas A&M University!) and furry family members—Mac a French Bulldog, Daisy a German Shepherd and Haddie his adorable Coonhound. Dr. Christopher Cook is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology. We are so glad that he has decided to join us here in Houston, Texas!

Dr. Brisa Hsieh Internal Medicine



Dr. Hsieh completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Davis and received her veterinary degree from Kansas State University. She completed a one year rotating internship in small animal

medicine and surgery the Veterinary Emergency and Referral Group in Brooklyn, New York.

In her off time, Dr. Hsieh enjoys riding horses, going to the beach and spending time with her husband, family and friends. Her family also includes Paz and Figgins—her dogs and Willy and Pork Bun—her kitties.



Dr. Joanna Fry Internal Medicine

Dr. Fry completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Tennessee and received her veterinary degree from Ohio State University. She completed a one year rotating internship at MedVet in Columbus, Ohio. She went

on to complete an internship focused in Emergency and Internal Medicine at Affiliated Animal Care in Chesapeake, Virginia. On her off time, Dr. Fry enjoys the company of her three pets—Bristol a Newfie mix, Knox a black lab mix and Olivia her cat. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, baking, running marathons and reading.

Dr. Remy Thomas Radiology



Dr. Thomas received her veterinary degree from St. George's University in 2008 after completing her clinical year at the University of Illinois. She practiced small animal general medicine in Brooklyn, New York, and completed an externship at the

Dept. of Diagnostic imaging and Radiology at the Animal Medical Center concurrently for one year. More recently, Dr. Thomas completed a one year rotating internship at Atlantic Coast Veterinary Specialists in New York. During her off time, Dr. Thomas enjoys running, reading, horseback riding and painting.



Dr. Mickila Collins Internal Medicine

Dr. Collins has been with Gulf Coast for the past two years, but has recently married and changed her name! She was formerly known at Gulf Coast as Dr. Tate. Dr. Collins received her DVM from Ross University in 2006. After graduation she

completed a one year rotating internship, followed by a one year internal medicine specialty internship at the Animal Specialty Group in Los Angeles, California. In her spare time she enjoys running, attempting to cook and spending time with her dogs Linus, Sydney, Rocco and Michael. **Congratulations to Dr. Collins and her husband!**

Would you like to subscribe to the TGCVS newsletter? We can send it to you through e-mail. Please fill our the information below, tear it out and give it to one of our front office staff.

See you next month!

Name _____

e-mail _____



We value your trust in us. Please know that your information is not sold or distributed and is used only by GCVS



Is Your Pet Ready for Hurricane Season?

Hurricane season is upon us again! Although this can be a stressful time for everyone, especially if a storm hits, having a furry friend to evacuate or care for can cause additional headaches if not planned for properly.

Make sure you know ahead of time if your local emergency shelter accepts pets. Many of these shelters require pre-registration and proof of current vaccination status.

If you decide to ride out the storm, you will also need to plan appropriately. Make sure to have plenty of food and water available in addition to a crate or carrier for your pet. If you are evacuating with a cat, don't forget the litter box and cat litter!



Pet Hurricane Emergency Kit

- Food and water for at least 2 weeks
- Toys and blankets
- Leash, collar and a crate or pet carrier to keep your pet safe
- A copy of medical records and proof of vaccination
- If your pet has a medical condition, make sure to have extra medication (at least 2 weeks)
- A current photo of your pet in case you are separated from your pet

August Pet of the Month

Toddy presented to our Critical Care team after jumping out of his owners arms and falling 3-4 feet (a huge distance for such a little guy!) He lost consciousness and was rushed to his primary veterinarian where he was having some seizure activity. He was placed on oxygen and rushed to Gulf Coast for more intensive care. When Toddy presented to Gulf Coast, he was in rough shape and in shock. He was admitted into our ICU and treated aggressively for head trauma. Thankfully, there was no other trauma due to his fall. The first 24-36 hours were so critical, but Toddy was a fighter. Each day, he seemed to improve a little bit more. Finally, he started acting like a puppy again—chewing at his IV lines and barking at all the other patients! Toddy spent almost a whole week in our ICU, but we are glad that at the end of that week, he was almost back to normal. Toddy went home to his loving family and although our ICU was sad to see him go (we had just fallen head over heels for this little guy!) we were glad that he had recovered! Almost a month from when he was admitted, Toddy is back to normal and his family says that he acts like nothing ever happened. Of course, if you can't tell from the pictures—he is spoiled rotten and back on track!

