



UC DAVIS EXPANDS CARDIOLOGY SERVICES IN SAN DIEGO

■ Rob Warren, UC Davis VMTH Communications & Marketing Officer

With a growing number of patients in need of expert cardiology services in the San Diego community, the UC Veterinary Medical Center – San Diego (UCVMC-SD) has opened a second location in San Marcos. Led by board-certified cardiologists Tim Hodge and Joao Orvalho, UC Davis' cardiology services in Southern California offer a wide array of medical and interventional cardiology procedures. The team is always available for consultations with the referral veterinary community throughout California, and encourage general practitioners to contact them with questions surrounding their patients' cardiac health.

Medical cardiology procedures offered by UCVMC-SD include: cardiovascular consultations, echocardiography (2-D, color Doppler, spectral Doppler, tissue Doppler, transesophageal and live 3-D), electrocardiography (digital 12 lead electrocardiograms, Holter monitors, and event monitors), digital radiography and fluoroscopy, and blood pressure measurement (indirect and direct methods).

Interventional cardiology procedures include: angiography (selective and non-selective), pacemaker implantation (single and dual-chamber pacing), patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) occlusion (PDA coil embolization, vascular plugs and amplatz canine ductal occluders), and balloon valvuloplasty (pulmonic, tricuspid and mitral valve stenosis, as well as ballooning of other congenital cardiac defects).

Elsa and John are two dogs who recently benefitted from the cardiologists care:

Elsa, a 2-year-old Labrador retriever, was diagnosed with patent ductus arteriosus (PDA). This congenital defect is a communication between the aorta and pulmonary artery that is supposed to close approximately 24 hours after birth. Many dogs with this defect will go into congestive heart failure by the time they are 1 year of age. Elsa was diagnosed with congestive heart failure based on the presence of fluid in the pericardial sac. A minimally invasive procedure to occlude the PDA was performed by Drs. Hodge and Orvalho. The occlusion device, called the Amplatz Canine Ductal Occluder or ACDO, is a device specially made to fit in the ductus of dogs, was inserted through the femoral artery and



Drs. Tim Hodge and Joao Orvalho of UC Davis perform a cardiology procedure on a dog, while an anesthetist monitors the patient's vital signs.

was successfully deployed across the PDA. Elsa was discharged from the hospital the next day with no congestive heart failure medications, and continues to do fine.

John, a 7-year-old Doberman pinscher presented for evaluation of a non-productive cough of 48-hour duration. His energy level and appetite had also been progressively decreasing. Thoracic radiographs showed evidence of congestive heart failure. An echocardiogram showed findings consistent with dilated cardiomyopathy, the cause of the congestive heart failure. An electrocardiogram showed atrial fibrillation with a ventricular response rate of 270 bpm. John was hospitalized for 36 hours and treated with oxygen therapy, parenteral furosemide, and oral pimobendan and diltiazem. He responded well – recheck thoracic radiographs showed resolution of the pulmonary edema and recheck electrocardiogram showed the rare occurrence of conversion of atrial fibrillation to a sinus rhythm. John was discharged with medications for congestive failure heart. **P**

UCVMC-SD's main facility is at 10435 Sorrento Valley Road in San Diego and the new location at 2055 Montiel Road in San Marcos. Both can be reached by calling (858) 875-7505.