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Upcoming CE Program

New Management for Advanced Imaging Services

BVNS Welcomes a New Neurologist/Neurosurgeon

Article - Licensure of Canine Oral Melanoma Vaccine

## Services Directory:

Cardiology	(703) 669.9311
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Critical Care/Emergency	(703) 777.5755
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Dentistry & Oral Surgery	(571) 209.1146
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Internal Medicine	(703) 777.5866
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MRI/CT Imaging	(703) 669.5544
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Neurology/Neurosurgery	(703) 669.2829
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Oncology	(571) 439.6655
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Ophthalmology	(571) 209.1190
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Surgery/Rehabilitation	(703) 771.2100
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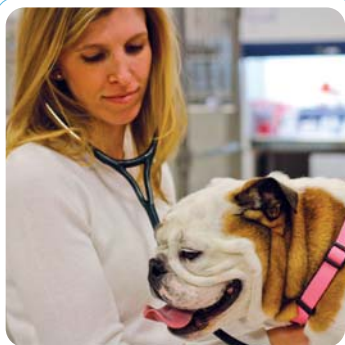


165 Fort Evans Rd. NE  
Leesburg, VA 20176



March 2010 - Issue No. 5

## Please join us on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at The LifeCentre for our next continuing education program.



A presentation on Integrating Novel and Conventional Therapies for Common Canine Tumors by Christina Manley, DVM.

In this 50 minute session, Dr. Manley of The Oncology Service will host a case-based discussion focusing on the combination of conventional and novel treatment options for common canine tumors including melanoma, mast cell and soft tissue sarcoma.

Christina Manley, DVM



**Date:** April 27, 2010  
**Time:** 6:30 pm Meet, Greet and Eat  
**Program:** 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Place:** The LifeCentre  
165 Fort Evans Rd. NE  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
**Sponsor:** Pfizer Animal Health  
**RSVP to:** Rory Caracciolo  
571-209-1195 or  
rcaracciolo@tlcvets.com

One hour of CE will be issued by the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine for courses held at TLC.

# Expanded Services + Expanding Staff = EXCEPTIONAL CARE



## BUSH ADVANCED VETERINARY IMAGING

Bush Advanced Veterinary Imaging (BAVI) has assumed operation of the high-field MRI and helical CT scanner at The LifeCentre as of March 2010. BAVI is owned by Dr. Bill Bush, board-certified neurologist and neurosurgeon who also owns Bush Veterinary Neurology Service, the primary user of this advanced diagnostic equipment. According to Dr. Bush, "There has been an explosion in the application and knowledge base for MRI in veterinary neurology patients. We will continue to apply our knowledge to enhance our scanning protocols, image quality and diagnostic acumen." Dr. Matt Uzzle continues as Medical Director and BAVI will continue to offer convenient, direct referrals from local general practitioners, specialists and colleagues within TLC. Please call Dr. Uzzle with any questions regarding advanced imaging for your patients.

BAVI will also be offering an MRI screening clinic for the Chiari-like malformation and syringomyelia (CMSM) in Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. The goal is to offer conscientious breeders more information about the CMSM so they can make better choices for breeding and help control this debilitating disease.

## BVNS welcomes Dave Brewer, DVM

Originally from North Carolina, Dave received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from NC State in 2005. He followed this with a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Cornell and then spent a year as an emergency clinician at TLC with Animal Emergency Critical Care.

Dave continued with specialized training at Cornell and upon completion of a residency in neurology and neurosurgery, he and his family will relocate to the area this summer to join Bush Veterinary Neurology Service. Outside of work, Dave is busy with his 1-year old son, Carson, and another one on the way.



## Did you know ?



50% of the shoulder MRIs we performed in the last 6 months resulted in a diagnosis of supraspinatus tendinopathies. The other 50% were diagnosed as bicipital tenosynovitis. With the availability of MRI, our surgeons have noticed an increased diagnosis of supraspinatus tendon injuries over the past few years, which prior to MRI, may not have been accurately diagnosed.



## Full Licensure Granted for Canine Oral Melanoma Vaccine (ONCEPT™)

### By Christina Manley, DVM

Dr. Christina Manley of The Oncology Service at TLC brings a combination of compassionate care and cutting-edge therapy to your clients. Dr. Manley joined The Oncology Service at TLC after completing her residency training at The Animal Medical Center in New York City. During Dr. Manley's residency training at The Animal Medical Center, she worked as part of the clinical team developing the melanoma vaccine. This therapy recently received approval by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the trade name ONCEPT. Dr. Manley's own research focuses on the use of this vaccine in dogs with digit malignant melanoma.

Canine malignant melanoma is a highly aggressive and frequently metastatic cancer. Commonly affected sites include the oral cavity, mucocutaneous junction, nail bed and footpad. Melanoma is the most common oral tumor and the second most common tumor affecting the digit. At these sites, gross evidence of metastases can be seen in up to 30% of cases upon diagnosis and micrometastatic disease is common. Common metastatic sites include the local lymph nodes, liver, lungs and kidneys. Biologic behavior is best predicted by size, site, stage and histologic parameters.

Treatment options for oral melanoma include aggressive management of the primary tumor using wide surgical resection and/or radiation therapy. Despite effective local tumor treatments, long-term outcomes for dogs with this disease have been limited by the high rates of metastasis (lymph node and lungs). Conventional chemotherapy, for the most part, is not believed to reduce the risk for metastasis and new treatment options have been needed.

Immunotherapy utilizing DNA vaccines represents an exciting and evolving field in both human and veterinary oncology. The ONCEPT canine melanoma vaccine targets the melanosomal glycoprotein, tyrosinase, which is normally expressed on melanocytes and is essential in melanin synthesis. The ONCEPT vaccine contains a gene encoding for human tyrosinase, which has a strong similarity to the sequence of canine tyrosinase. Once injected into the skin of a dog, antigen-presenting cells present the antigen tyrosinase to the appropriate major

histocompatibility complexes and costimulatory molecules. This in turn stimulates an immune response against canine melanoma cells producing tyrosinase.

ONCEPT has been found to significantly extend the survival time of dogs with stage II or III malignant melanoma following primary tumor control. Previously, with surgery alone, these patients had survival times of less than 6 months. With the addition of the vaccine to local control, survival times have increased to greater than 2.5 years, with most dogs not having disease recurrence. There is anecdotal evidence of efficacy of this vaccine for other stages of oral melanoma (I and IV) as well as malignant melanoma affecting other sites. The vaccine has been found to be safe with rare side effects.

The canine oral melanoma vaccine was first developed through a collaboration effort between Jedd Wolchok, MD, PhD at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City and Philip Bergman, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVIM (Oncology) at The Animal Medical Center in New York City.

The USDA approval of ONCEPT represents the first licensed therapeutic vaccine for cancer in human and veterinary medicine. We believe that the approval of this vaccine may be a springboard for the approval of the first therapeutic vaccine in people as well as additional therapeutic vaccines for dogs and cats with cancer.

ONCEPT™ is a trademark of Merial.