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Purdue to Develop Resource for Human-Animal Bond Research

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Purdue University Press and the School of Veterinary Medicine will develop a new online resource to further the study of the human-animal bond. The site – HABRI Central – will serve as a comprehensive bibliography and repository of scholarly material, an online publishing platform for peer-reviewed content, and a virtual collaborative community for those involved in human-animal bond studies. The project is the first to be funded by the nonprofit Human Animal Bond Research Initiative (HABRI) Foundation, the founding sponsors of which are the American Pet Products Association, PETCO and Pfizer Animal Health. The collaborators will receive a grant of \$831,535 for the project.

When it is launched in early 2012, HABRI Central will provide researchers, practitioners and other professionals with easy access to a comprehensive database of published and previously unpublished materials from a wide range of human-animal bond studies, including audiovisual material and datasets, as well as text.

Steve Hellem, executive director of the HABRI Foundation, said, “While a great deal of research has been done to date on the positive physical, mental and emotional human health benefits derived from our relationships with pets and other animals, it is scattered and difficult to access. By supporting a new online research center, we will enable further studies into the power of the human-animal bond, including ways to help humans make informed decisions about their own health.” *Source: Purdue Libraries News*

Animal Research – Gene Therapy Shows Promise

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. – Nov. 3, 2011 – For the first time, researchers have combined gene therapy and stem cell transplantation to successfully reverse the severe, crippling bleeding disorder hemophilia A in large animals, opening the door to the development of new therapies for human patients. Researchers at [Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center’s Institute for Regenerative Medicine](#), collaborating with other institutions, report in *Experimental Hematology* that a single injection of genetically-modified adult stem cells in two sheep converted the severe disorder to a milder form. The journal is a publication of the Society for Hematology and Stem Cells

Lead author Christopher D. Porada, Ph.D., associate professor of regenerative medicine at Wake Forest Baptist, cautioned that challenges will need to be overcome before the treatment can be applied to humans, including that the sheep developed an immune response to the therapy that could decrease its effectiveness and duration.

There is currently no cure for the rare bleeding disorder hemophilia. People with hemophilia A, the most common type, are missing clotting factor VIII. For the study, the researchers used a combined stem cell/gene therapy approach to increase levels of factor VIII produced by the animals. People with hemophilia A, the most common type, are missing clotting factor VIII. For the study, the researchers used a combined stem cell/gene therapy approach to increase levels of factor VIII produced by the animals.

The scientists first inserted a gene for factor VIII into a type of adult stem cell. The cells – acting as a carrier for the gene – were then injected into the abdominal cavity of the sheep. In the treated animals, the cells migrated to the joints and stopped ongoing bleeding. In addition, all spontaneous bleeding events ceased, and the existing joint damage was completely reversed, restoring normal posture and gait to these crippled animals, and enabling them to resume a normal activity level.

Source: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center News Releases

Feline Injection-Site Sarcomas

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[Phelps HA, Kuntz CA, Milner RJ et al: Radical excision with five-centimeter margins for treatment of feline injection-site sarcomas: 91 cases \(1998–2002\), J Am Vet Med Assoc 239:97, 2011.](#)

This study is a retrospective case series of 91 cats with injection-site sarcomas (ISS). The authors evaluated the outcomes of radical excision of the ISS by local recurrence and metastasis rates, survival times, and complications associated with surgery. Rates reported in the literature for local recurrence of feline ISS after treatment range from 26% to 59%. There are no current studies evaluating the outcome of consistently performed radical excision without adjuvant treatment for feline ISS. For this study, radical excision was defined as tumor resection including 5-cm margins surrounding the palpable tumor edge and two fascial planes or bone deep to the tumor. The overall median survival time was 901 days. Fourteen percent of the cats had local tumor recurrence; 18% had evidence of metastasis after surgery. Metastasis significantly affected overall survival with pulmonary metastasis as the most common form. The study reported a major complication rate of 11%, with wound dehiscence being the most commonly encountered problem; none of the complications were fatal. The recurrence rate for this study appeared to be substantially less than rates reported with less aggressive surgeries, suggesting that radical excision may be valuable as a means to achieving an improved outcome in the treatment of ISS in cats. [VT]

Source: Winn Feline Health Foundation

They Ate What? 2011 X-ray Contest Winners

The annual contest sponsored by Veterinary Practice News magazine featured x-rays of animals that had swallowed some amazing things, including an owner's false teeth, Gorilla glue that molded to the animal's stomach shape, and a guitar string. The winning entry, a dog that ingested nine billiard balls, was submitted by Bayshore Animal Hospital in Oregon. Runner up, a 12-year-old beagle, that ate shoe laces, mulch, knee high stocking, a plastic plant, plastic ties and bristles of a car snow cleaning brush. The stories and amazing x-rays can be viewed at the link: <http://tinyurl.com/3mp8wcl>

USDA APHIS Bans Double-Deck Trailers

The Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service finalized its rule Sept. 7 that bans the use of double-deck trailers when horses bound for slaughter are delivered first to an assembly point, feedlot, or stockyard.

The USDA APHIS stated in the Federal Register: "We believe that most transporters to and from intermediate points are already in compliance with most or all of the rule's requirements on a voluntary basis. However, we also need regulatory options to address the owner/shippers who have chosen not to transport them humanely."

Studies have shown double-deck trailers cause significantly more injuries to horses during transport than do single-deck trailers. Double-deck trailers do not provide adequate head room for adult horses, which may acquire cuts and scrapes on the tops of their heads. Because horses cannot stand in a normal position with their heads raised, they cannot maintain balance as easily and may suffer injuries from falling. In addition, ramps used to load animals onto double-deck trailers are at a relatively steep angle. While other species of animal, such as sheep, can maneuver the ramps without incident, horses frequently sustain injuries from being forced up and down the steep incline, according to APHIS.

Recent reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) also recommended closing the loophole that allowed shippers who do not transport horses directly to a slaughter facility to escape USDA oversight and use double-deck trailers.

Source: JAVMA News, November 1, 2011 <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/nov11/1111011.asp>

HSUS Files Complaint against Smithfield

Business Week reports The Humane Society of the United States filed a complaint against Smithfield Foods, claiming the world's largest pork producer is misleading consumers and shareholders with a video series suggesting it does not abuse pigs. In the filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the animal-rights organization says videos posted on the Smithfield, VA-based company's corporate responsibility website, YouTube and other internet sites "are replete with false and/or misleading representations - both express and implied - about Smithfield's animal welfare and environmental practices."

Federal securities law prohibits companies from making false or misleading statements.

The complaint says the video series detailing Smithfield's pork-producing process at its Murphy-Brown subsidiary in North Carolina suggests humane treatment of animals is the company's highest priority, and hogs are raised under ideal conditions. In reality, the organization says in its filing, Smithfield continues to confine breeding sows in "gestation crates" that severely restrict the animals' movement.

Smithfield said in a written statement that it is reviewing the complaint. "We are proud of our unparalleled track record as a sustainable food producer and stand confidently behind our company's public statements concerning animal care and environmental stewardship," the company said. Full story at *Business Week* link <http://tinyurl.com/443hqzn>

Court Dismisses Lawsuit over Treatment of Circus Elephants

Feld Entertainment wins appeal in case brought by ASPCA and other animal special interest groups

VIENNA, VA. October 28, 2011. Feld Entertainment, Inc. announced that a federal appeals court unanimously affirmed the dismissal of a case originally filed more than a decade ago by animal special interest groups who sought to ultimately outlaw elephants in Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus.

In its ruling, a three judge Circuit Court panel affirmed the trial court's determination that plaintiff and witness, Tom Rider, a former barn man for Ringling Bros. was "essentially a paid plaintiff and fact witness who is not credible." The appellate court stated: "it is undisputed that between March 2000 and December 2008, (lead plaintiff) Rider received at least \$190,000 from the organizational plaintiffs in this lawsuit, as well as from an organization run by plaintiffs' attorneys." Today's appellate ruling went on to affirm the trial court's finding that: "the primary purpose for the payments was to keep Rider involved with the litigation."

The court also rejected the claims of Animal Protection Institute (API)/Born Free, who, despite a six and a half week trial, was unable to prove it had a right to be in court.

"Today's decision reinforces the principle that federal court time should not be wasted on manufactured litigation based on purchased testimony," said John Simpson, of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, which is representing Feld Entertainment in the case. "The appellate court decision supports the company's pending federal suit against the animal special interest groups and their lawyers, which alleges racketeering, conspiracy, abuse of process and other illegal acts." *Source: Feld Entertainment Center*

County Ends Contract with Spartanburg Humane Society

Spartanburg County Council voted to end its relationship with the Spartanburg Humane Society after an ongoing disagreement over monthly fees. The shelter informed the county last April that it would begin charging the county an additional \$5,000 per month to provide services to the county. Since 2006, the last year the county had a formal contract with the Humane Society, the county paid the organization \$675,000 annually to shelter, feed and care for strays. GoUpstate.com reports the Spartanburg Humane Society took in 16,500 animals from Spartanburg County last fiscal year. About 6,000 of those animals were strays brought in by county residents and the remaining animals were surrendered by owners. The HS reports so far this year county animal control officers have brought in around 5,000 strays to the shelter, and another 6,000 strays were brought in by county residents.

South Carolina Attorney General's Office recently issued an opinion that the county's policy of holding stray animals for only three days violated state law which mandates that strays be held for at least five days. The shelter complied with the request immediately but later said the increased hold time meant that their occupancy increased by 66 percent. As a result the shelter asked for additional funds from the county which led to ending the contract.

Spartanburg and Greenville counties have negotiated a temporary agreement for stray animals picked up in Spartanburg County. The contract with Greenville County lasts for four months, with the possibility of a two-month extension to give the Spartanburg County Council time to determine a long-term solution. Under the new agreement, Spartanburg County will pay Greenville County \$24,000 per month through February to take in and care for dogs and cats collected by Spartanburg County animal control officers. The agreement covers up to 400 animals per month; the county will have to pay an additional charge of up to \$60 for each additional animal brought in each month. *Sources: WYFF4.com; GoUpstate.com*

Charities & Holiday Giving

Surveys have indicated that over 50 percent of all donations to charity are made between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's important, however, that you don't make charitable contributions indiscriminately. A little research can ensure your generosity provides maximum benefits for the organizations that need your help.

Suggestions for donations to benefit animals and people:

Local rescues and shelters – normally work on very tight budgets and have extensive wish lists and needs in order to better care for animals waiting for new homes. Donate directly to your local shelter and not to The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Less than one-half of one percent of donations received by HSUS actually goes to hands-on animal care. Along with your direct shelter donation send an email to info@humanewatch.org to have your local shelter promoted on the HumaneWatch website.

AKC Canine Health Foundation - The foundation works to develop significant resources for basic and applied health programs with emphasis on canine genetics to improve the quality of life for dogs and their owners. The foundation funds research and supports canine health scientists and professionals in their efforts to study the causes and origins of canine disease and afflictions in order to formulate effective treatments. http://www.akcchf.org/donate/donate_now.cfm

The Winn Feline Foundation - a non-profit organization established by the Cat Fancier's Association, Inc. to support health-related studies benefiting cats. <http://www.winnfelinehealth.org/index.html>

Canine Companions for Independence - a national nonprofit that enhances the lives of children and adults with disabilities by providing highly-trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. For more information visit <http://www.caninecompanions.org/>

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) - A non-profit, cross-disability organization representing people partnered with guide, hearing and service dogs. IAADP functions as an information and referral resource for the general public, the disabled community, state and federal officials, trainers, new providers, rehabilitation counselors, parents and assistance dog partners throughout North America. <http://www.iaadp.org/>

Morris Animal Foundation – helps animals enjoy longer, healthier lives by advancing animal health and welfare. MAF has helped to develop diagnostic tests, identify ways to prevent disease, advance treatment for cancer and other fatal diseases and save endangered species. For more information visit <http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/>

The Rabies Challenge Fund Charitable Trust - will determine the duration of immunity conveyed by rabies vaccines. The goal is to extend the required interval for rabies boosters to 5 and then to 7 years. <http://www.rabieschallengefund.org/>

American Veterinary Medical Foundation – benefits veterinary medicine, enhances research, supports state and national disaster relief efforts. For more information visit <http://www.avmf.org/>

*Protecting your right to responsibly own
and breed animals. Join NCRAOA*

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws. Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.