

# Derm Digest

Indianapolis IN • Louisville KY • Marietta GA • Pasadena CA  
Marina del Rey CA • San Diego CA • Tustin CA



Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

March 2011

## ADC Hosts Veterinary Students

If you have ever taken your pet to Animal Dermatology Clinic in our California locations, you might have seen a young person silently observing with the doctor. That person was probably a fourth-year veterinary student from the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Established in 1977, Western University is a private college in Pomona, CA. When they started the veterinary medicine curriculum they became the newest college of veterinary medicine in over 30 years and are now 1 of only 28 veterinary schools in the United States.

Fourth-year veterinary students spend one month at a selected specialty veterinary practice as part of their curriculum learning from the doctors and observing first-hand the unique cases that are referred to specialty practices from local veterinarians.

Each student must attend eight specialty clinics as a requirement prior to graduation. Students may attend these veterinary clinics anywhere in the U.S. that have met the requirements of Western University to become a teaching hospital.

Animal Dermatology Clinic is now in its fifth year of hosting Western University students. With limited space available, slots are filled within days when the calendar is opened for the following year.

Students who opt for a rotation at dermatology can expect a quiz on their first day, a list of hands-on tasks and reading assignments and an assigned study project to present during their last week of attendance.

A number of these former students are now local practicing veterinarians and continue to work closely with the doctors at Animal Dermatology Clinic.

## Warts and all... *Canine Cutaneous Papilloma*



*This French bulldog, held by his owner, has cutaneous papillomas on his mouth.*

Warts (cutaneous papillomas) in dogs are caused by a viral infection that is transmitted either by direct contact with another dog or indirectly through grooming instruments, insect bites, tattoo instruments, needles or bandages. The papilloma virus invades the skin through cuts, scrapes, or similar skin damage and proliferative tissue (warts) will develop after 2 to 6 months.

When a dog has a visible wart they are very contagious to other dogs. Cats (and other animals) can also develop warts, but the virus is species specific, so a dog cannot transmit the infection to a cat or a human.

Diagnosis of the warts are confirmed by taking a history, conducting a physical examination and a biopsy (microscopic examination of the skin tissue). The biopsy is important because some tumors can appear similar to warts.

## Warts, *continued*

The appearance of a canine wart is similar to a human wart, and has a verrucous (cauliflower) appearance. In dogs, warts can occur anywhere on the body, but are most commonly seen in the mouth, eyelids, legs and footpads. Large masses of warts especially those in the mouth may create difficulty in eating.

Most cases in otherwise healthy dogs will undergo spontaneous remission, typically in 1-3 months, so no therapy is needed in the majority of cases. However, in cases that do not resolve, or in immunosuppressed dogs, therapy ranges from oral or topical antiviral medication to removal with traditional surgery, laser surgery or cryotherapy (freezing). In the most severe cases, wart “vaccines” can be tried. Extreme cases may show hundreds of warts and due to the large surface area involved, medical treatment may be unrewarding.

In extremely rare cases warts have led to malignancy, but this is far from the normal course of the virus.

Once a wart regresses, the animals are immune to subsequent infection for life.



*The inset of this photo shows a large wart growth on the toe of a dog. Large photo shows the paw completely normal without inflammation after surgical removal of wart.*

## Cats Like Men, but Adore Women

A research study soon to be published in *Behavioural Processes* will report that the cats attach to humans, and particularly women, as social partners, and it's not just for the sake of obtaining food.

The bond between cats and their owners turns out to be far more intense than imagined, especially for cat-loving women and their affection reciprocating felines.

The study is the first to show that the dynamics underlying cat-human relationships are nearly identical to human-only bonds.

*Relationships between cats and their owners mirror human bonds, especially when the owner is a woman.*

Kurt Kotrschal of the Konrad Research Station and the University of Vienna videotaped and later analyzed interactions between 41 cats and their owners over lengthy four-part periods. Owner and cat personalities were also assessed in a separate test.

Co-author Dorothy Gracey of the University of Vienna says, “A relationship between a cat and a human can involve mutual attraction, personality compatibility, ease of interaction, play, affection and social support.”

While cats have plenty of male admirers and vice versa, this study and other reveal that women tend to interact with their cats, both male and female felines, more than men do.

*Source: Discovery News, Jennifer Viegas.*

## Pet Guide Magazine interviews ADC doctor

Southern California's *Pet Guide Magazine* recently conducted an interview with Animal Dermatology Clinic (Tustin), Dr. Rusty Muse. *Pet Guide Magazine* is printed and distributed locally but can also be read on-line at [www.petsguidemagazine.com](http://www.petsguidemagazine.com). Editor Liz Davis' article "Scratch That Itch", asks Dr. Muse about food and environmental allergy, bathing and what you can do at home in preparation as the allergy season ramps up.

Sign up at their website to receive their informative newsletter *The Scoop* and read the full article as well as other pet news and information.

## Employee Spotlight: Leslie Ferguson

Leslie is our receptionist in the Marietta, GA clinic and has been a long time employee at Animal Dermatology Clinic since being hired in 2000.

She began working in our Tustin, CA location when last year she found an opportunity to get closer to family in the Southeast and accepted a position in Georgia.

Leslie lives with "Kyle" an orange tabby. Many years ago, she had to give him away because she could not keep him and a family across town accepted Kyle, only to have him run away. Weeks later, Kyle appeared back at Leslie's home! It was an amazing feat, crossing many streets and a busy southern California freeway.

"I really enjoy living in Georgia. California was very nice when I lived there, but the change of seasons and the pace of life is pleasant change for me. I now plan to buy a house here." And yes, Kyle is still with her.

## Pet trivia



When a dog bays at the moon, it is following a basic urge to call the pack together (*Aren't you glad that texting is now available?*)

The burying of bones is part of a dog's instinctive feeding ritual; shaking things viciously is part of the hunting ritual. (*I guess that explains why the pepperoni slices from my pizza ended up on the wall.*)

Most dogs don't like to be left alone so they howl. Leave the radio or television on to keep your dog company when you are away. (*Just leave the remote out where he can find it.*)

A cat's brain is more similar to a man's brain than that of a dog. (*Uh, excuse me, but I don't have a desire to sleep on top of the refrigerator.*)

Cats' hearing is much more sensitive than humans and dogs. (*They can hear a can opener pretty good, that's for sure.*)

## Pet Events in Your Area

The following events are listed for informational purposes only. Please contact the organization prior to attending as schedules may change without notice. Animal Dermatology Clinic has no affiliation with these events.

### Louisville, KY

Kentuckiana Cluster All Breed Dog Show  
hosted by the Louisville Kennel Club  
March 16 – 20  
Kentucky Exposition Center  
Lots to do and see at this annual dog show  
with thousands of entrants. Please see list  
of events at [www.louisvillekennelclub.com](http://www.louisvillekennelclub.com)  
and click on "Events"

### San Diego

Animal Assistance League of Orange  
County Escondido Humane Society's Paws  
in the Park at Kit Carson Park  
3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA  
March 27 8am – noon  
The annual Escondido Humane Society's  
Paws in the Park to raise money for  
homeless and abandoned pets. Post-walk  
festivities include a Paw vendor expo,  
games, contests, entertainment and more.  
Walkers can register online at  
[www.firstgiving.com/ehs](http://www.firstgiving.com/ehs). Registration is  
free, and all walkers will receive incentive  
prizes based on dollars raised. For more  
information, call (760) 888-2235 or go to  
[www.escondidohumanesociety.org](http://www.escondidohumanesociety.org).

### Los Angeles, CA

March 19 & 20  
Join Team Rover Rescue and walk/run the  
NPN 5K of the LA Marathon to raise funds  
to save the lives of homeless dogs! Rover  
Rescue offers a complete registration and  
fundraising package to help you meet your  
goals. Our suggested minimum fundraising  
is \$300 - but we are grateful for any and all  
donations. All runners/walkers receive a  
Rover Rescue tshirt and we will be awarding  
fabulous prizes to our top 3 fundraisers. Call  
today for more info! (310) 379-0154  
[www.roverrescue.com](http://www.roverrescue.com)

### Atlanta, GA

The Bully Ball  
Saturday, Mar 5 6:00p to 11:00p  
at The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, Atlanta, GA  
Price: \$160.00 per ticket, \$225.00 per ticket  
for VIP Wines Phone: (706) 270-2833  
**Age Suitability:** 21 and up  
This Black Tie Optional event raises money  
for neglected English Bulldogs in the  
southeast. Come join former UGA/NFL  
football players, alumni, fans, and "General",  
the Citadel Bulldog Mascot for an elegant  
evening with a seated dinner followed by a  
wine tasting event managed by The Atlanta  
Wine School. Live, Silent, and Raffle Items  
will be available. Tickets include dinner, valet  
parking, one raffle ticket, unlimited wine  
tastings.

### Orange County, CA

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Pet Days  
March 19 -20, from 7am – 4p  
O.C. Fair and Event Center, Costa Mesa, CA  
Adoptions, demonstrations, vendors and  
more! Accepting new or gently used  
donations for homeless pets. No personal  
pets permitted at this event.  
Info: Kathy Thorsell 714-2678-6777

### Indianapolis, IN

Midwest TGIF Fanciers & Worldwide  
European Burmese Society Cat Show.  
March 5 & 6  
Indiana State Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall  
1202 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St, Indy, IN  
This year's show honoring Birmans and  
Siamese breed cats. Come see the best of  
breed at this feline event! Call 317-927-  
7500 for cost and show hours.