

# the NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA • COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE veterinary page

## Graduate student Fiona Maunsell shares perspectives



Fiona Maunsell

BY JENNIFER  
WICHMANN

**G**raduate research assistant Fiona Maunsell was born and raised in a small rural town in southeastern Australia. Always surrounded by animals of one variety or another, Maunsell had wanted to be a veterinarian for as long as she can remember.

In 1990, Maunsell received her veterinary degree from the University of Melbourne in Australia. She took a year off to travel around Africa, where she met her husband, an American. For the next three years, Maunsell worked in mixed private

See MAUNSELL, p.4

## Tiger cub receives unique therapy, help from Shands docs to treat wounds

### ...use of “vacuum assisted closure” pump thought to be the first for wound treatment in an animal

BY SARAH CAREY

**A**Siberian tiger cub named Freedom is recuperating at the University of Florida’s Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital following unique treatment for wounds inflicted by another tiger.

Freedom is owned by Thunderhawk Enterprises, a private not-for-profit organization in Brevard County that rescues big cats.

Born Sept. 28, she initially was admitted to UF veterinary hospital on Nov. 5 with multiple lacerations to her back and ears after falling into an adjacent den and being attacked by another tiger.

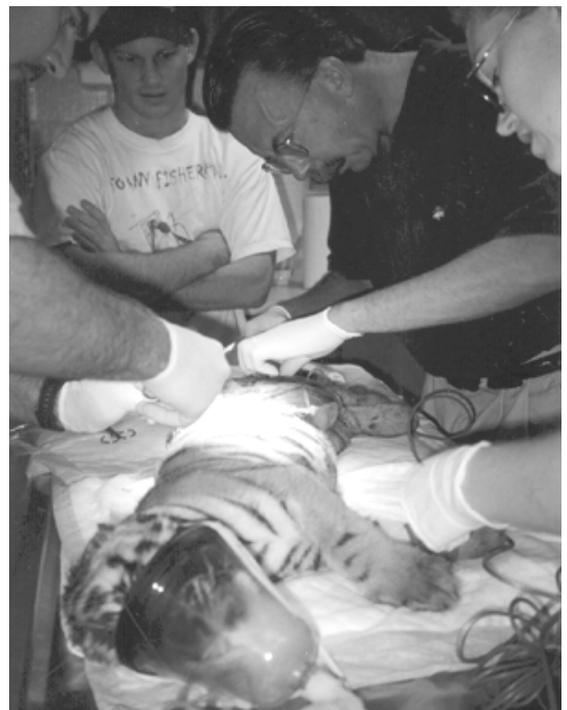
Despite surgery and treatment with antibiotics to fight infection, Freedom’s wounds were not healing properly, so UF veterinarians contacted the burn center team at Shands at the University of Florida.

Using a technique known as negative pressure therapy, UF physicians and nurses have treated Freedom’s wounds and helped veterinarians monitor her progress. The treatment technique involves the use of a tight bandage and a pump that suctions fluid from the wound, causing tissue to granulate and eventually heal.

While commonly used in human medicine for the treatment of chronic and acute wounds, this is believed to be the first time the technique has been used for wound care in an animal.

“The technique has been available for

See CUB, p.2



Dr. David Mozingo changes Freedom’s bandage while Elijah Rooney, right, assists and Dr. Jason Wheeler, left, a veterinary surgery resident, looks on.



Veterinary technician Lenny Laraio offers a morsel of food to Freedom shortly after her first wound therapy treatments.

# Pet Adoptathon results in more than 66 adoptions



Photo by Julie Levy

**A** "Home for the Holidays" pet adoptathon co-sponsored by the college and numerous other animal welfare organizations was extremely successful, said the college's event coordinator, Dr. Julie Levy.

"The VAB was like the mall, there were so many people here," Levy said.

Research and clinic technicians started out bathing dogs

at the Alachua County Animal Shelter prior to the event. Then on Sunday, staff and students helped set up the displays, staff exhibits and clean up at the end.

"More than 100 dogs, cats, kittens, puppies, bunnies and a pot-bellied pig came with 12 different rescue groups," Levy said.

"This was a great public service on the part of the college." ■

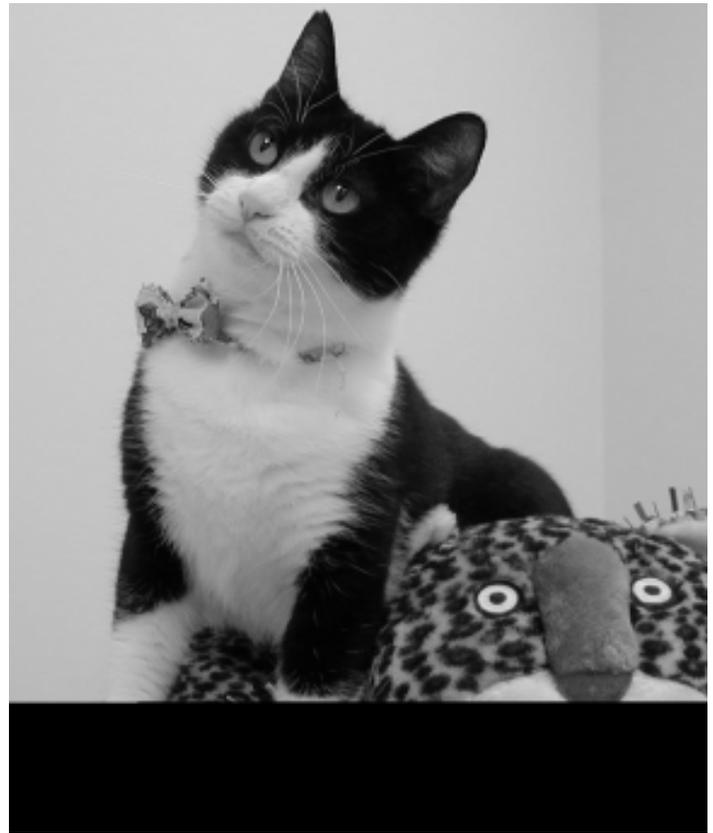


Photo by Julie Levy

This cat was one of several who were brought to the UF veterinary college by various animal rescue organizations to be adopted during the No More Homeless Pets Coalition adoptathon.

The Veterinary Page is published monthly for faculty, staff and students of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. Story ideas are welcome and should be submitted to Sarah Carey, editor, at P.O. Box 100125 or e-mail her at: careys@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu



Photo by Julie Levy

Veterinary technician Natalie Carse with a cat up for adoption.

CUB, from p.1 — four or five years and has become standard in our treatment of wounds in human medicine," said Dr. David Mazingo, associate professor in UF's department of surgery and anesthesia and director of the Shands at UF burn center.

"The vacuum-assisted dressings are extremely effective; the pump brings fluid up and helps bring vascularization to the area. It really increases the healing time."

UF veterinarians say Freedom's wounds are healing well and hope to send her home in a few weeks. ■

## Dr. John Harvey receives Kansas State alumni award

**D**r. John Harvey, professor and chair of the college's department of physiological sciences, has received an alumni recognition award from Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Harvey is one of two Kansas State alumni to receive the award, which was bestowed Jan. 13 during the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando.

The award is given to acknowledge time and effort devoted to the veterinary profession, and for serving as exemplary role models for future alumni of the Kansas State veterinary college.

A Kansas native, Harvey earned both his bachelor's and

D.V.M. degrees from Kansas State. He went on to complete his Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis in 1974 and has been board certified in clinical pathology by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (Clinical Pathology) since 1977.

Harvey's research interests are comparative hematology and erythrocyte enzyme deficiencies. He discovered and named the *Ehrlichia platys* organism that infects dog platelets and, along with co-workers, first recognized and reported four different inherited erythrocyte enzyme deficiencies.

Among the honors Harvey has received at UF are the Daniels Pharmaceutical Senior

Clinical Investigator Award in 1993 and the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award in 1984. He received the C.L. Davis Foundation Journal Scholarship Award in 1991.

Harvey is a former president of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology and also served a four-year term on the Morris Animal Foundation's scientific advisory board.

He has published more than 120 journal articles and book chapters concerning comparative hematology, and has presented more than 170 scientific and continuing education talks and seminars.

Harvey has been a member of UF's veterinary faculty since 1974. ■



Dr. John Harvey

### Booklet, result of UF study, provides info about seizure-assisting dogs

A brief study conducted at UF in 1999 has resulted in a printed booklet that provides comprehensive information about seizure-assisting dogs.

The target audience will be individuals with seizure disorders, their caregivers and health care providers, said Deb Dalziel, research laboratory manager/clinical research coordinator in the department of neuroscience at the UF McKnight Brain Institute.

The \$5 booklet addresses what can realistically be expected from the dog, potential benefits of problems, how to obtain a dog, and other important topics.

Dalziel worked with Drs. Roger Reep, associate professor, in the CVM's department of physiological sciences, and Dr. Basim Uthman, college of medicine, in the original study. For more information, contact Dalziel at: [magicsets@aol.com](mailto:magicsets@aol.com) or she can be reached at 846-3841. ■

## All about cats: Feline conference is Feb. 2

BY SARAH CAREY

**C**alling all cat lovers: The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's annual conference for feline fanatics will be held all day, Feb. 2 at the Reitz Union in Gainesville.

Beginning at 8 a.m., registrants will hear a variety of presentations by UF veterinary experts and other speakers on topics ranging from feline anemia, heartworm, how to handle eye problems in your cat and more. Raw food diets and how to make life easier for cats with chronic disease are also topics on the agenda.

The popular "parade of cat breeds" will take place during the lunch break, followed by

additional lectures in the afternoon. An update on new testing and management of feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency viruses will be given then, as well as a session addressing cat behavior from kitten socialization through maturation during various stages of life.

A spay-neuter practice owner will present a veterinarian's perspective about establishing a low-cost spay-neuter clinic, and a feline first-aid clinic will be held.

Tours of the college's Small Animal Hospital will be available following the day's presentations and prior to an "Entrees in Expertise" dinner, which is offered for an additional fee. The dinner allows participants the opportunity to

interact in a relaxed social setting with conference speakers.

Previously known as the Cat Owner's and Breeder's Symposium, the Cat Conference also offers associated events, such as screening clinics for polycystic kidney disease, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and FeLV/FIV, which will be held Feb. 1. Those who wish will have the opportunity to visit the feral cat spay/neuter clinic known as "Operation Catnip" on Feb. 3.

Registration is \$69, or \$89 for the conference plus the Entrees in Expertise dinner. Phone (352) 392-1701 to register, or sign up on-line ■ [www.doce-conferences.ufl.edu/cat/](http://www.doce-conferences.ufl.edu/cat/).

Maunsell, from p.1

practice in New South Wales, Australia.

After moving to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois in 1994, Maunsell completed an internship followed by a residency in Food Animal Medicine and Surgery at the University of Illinois. She continued working there as a clinical instructor and earned a master's degree.

In 1998, Maunsell became board certified in Large Animal Internal Medicine. After Maunsell and her husband moved to Gainesville in 1999, she entered the Ph.D. program in the department of pathobiology. Her advisor is Dr. Mary Brown.

*What is the focus of your Ph.D. research? What other veterinary medicine interests do you have?*

My Ph.D. research focuses on the epidemiology and pathogenesis of *Mycoplasma bovis*, a type of bacteria that causes disease in cattle. In recent years, *M. bovis* has become an important cause of pneumonia, middle-ear infections and septic arthritis in dairy calves and a source of substantial economic loss for US farmers. It is also an important cause of mastitis in cows.

In my research, I am trying to elucidate the molecular mechanisms by which *M. bovis* causes disease. Hopefully, some of my work will advance the development of preventative and interventional strategies for control of disease caused by this organism.

I am also beginning some work looking at other strategies for the control of *M. bovis*, including the efficacy of a vaccine in preventing disease in young dairy calves. I have also recently completed some research on antibiotic resistance in mastitis pathogens of dairy

cattle.

As far as my general veterinary interests go, I am really interested in all aspects of ruminant medicine. My main areas of interest are the major metabolic and infectious diseases of dairy cattle, particularly mastitis. I also have a strong interest in small ruminant medicine, and I am very interested in food safety issues pertinent to the dairy industry, particularly the impact antibiotic use has on resistance in the dairy environment.

*How do you see your role as a female working in food animal medicine? Would you consider yourself a role model to other female vet students?*

Basically, I don't think gender is the issue in food animal medicine that many people seem to think it is. I don't think female veterinarians have more or less difficulty in gaining the respect of their clients. If you do a good job, you'll see them again and, if you do a lousy job, you won't.

There certainly are physical limitations that smaller people can face when working with large animals, but there are always lots of very inventive ways to get around them.

*What other interests or hobbies do you have?*

I enjoy canoeing and hiking.

*What is your ultimate goal after you are done here at UF?*

I'd like to stay in an academic environment where I can contribute to a better understanding of diseases of ruminants from both clinical and research perspectives. My ideal position would encompass teaching practical, individual animal medicine in a clinical setting combined with an active research program.

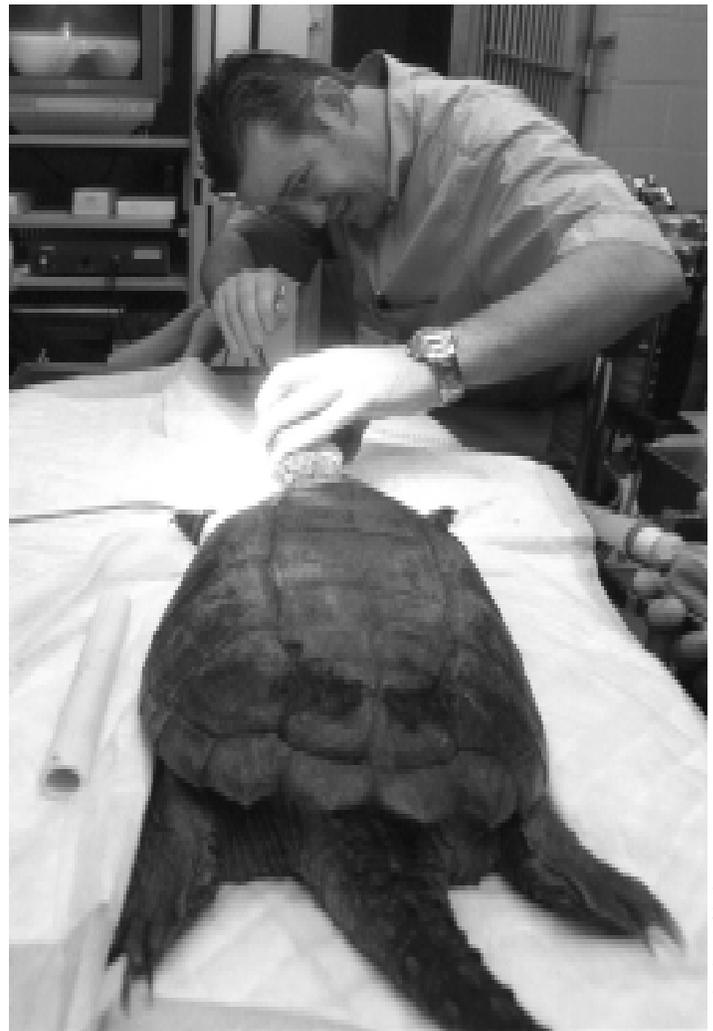


Photo by Joe Richard

Dr. Thomas Goebel, assistant professor of zoological medicine at the University of Florida, pokes a colostroscope inside a snapping turtle, looking for a fish hook buried deep inside. An area fisherman delivered the turtle to UF's wildlife ward, which is run by the School of Veterinary Medicine.

## Calendar

Jan. 25-27.....Equine Reproduction Short Course for breeders, conducted jointly by the UF CVM and the Department of Animal Sciences. Contact Dr. Sandra TenBroeck, 392-2789.

Feb. 2.....Fourth Annual Cat Conference, formerly known as Cat Owners and Breeders Symposium, will be held. Contact Kate Ziemack at 392-1701, ext. 246.

Feb. 4-5.....An Equine Health Seminar will be held in Wellington FL. Please contact Dr. Gen Fontaine at fontaineg@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu.

Feb. 8,9 and 22,23.....Hills Pet Food pickup will be held on Fridays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.