

# **Livestock Medicine and Surgery**

## **Don Low Fellowship**

### **Medical Services**

Infectious diseases, metabolic disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory problems, urinary tract problems, trace mineral deficiencies, poisonings and disorders of many other systems are diagnosed and treated by the Livestock Medicine team. Advanced diagnostic procedures such as ultrasound, endoscopy, and radiography, enable us to accurately determine the cause of an animal's problem, and because the animal is hospitalized, it can be intensively managed. For example, a valuable calf with diarrhea can be given intravenous fluid therapy and laboratory monitoring while under careful supervision by the 24-hour patient care staff. Changes can be monitored and immediate adjustments in therapy made for critical cases. In addition to individual animals, animals representing a herd problem can often yield valuable information when given a thorough diagnostic workup, leading to a solution for the herd. The Livestock Medicine team also performs routine procedures such as vaccinations and pregnancy examination.

### **Surgery Services**

The Livestock Surgery team has expertise in routine surgical procedures such as correction of displaced abomasum, rumenotomy, and other abdominal surgeries, castration, dehorning, removal of tumors associated with cancer eye, Cesarean sections, and fracture repairs. For complex fractures, the expertise of VMTH board-certified orthopedic surgeons is utilized. When anesthetizing an animal is necessary, the VMTH has one of the largest teams of board-certified anesthesiologists and technicians of any veterinary hospital in the country.

### **Learning outcomes**

1. Work together as a team, students, faculty, residents, and technicians to accomplished a positive working environment
2. Perform a physical examination on a ruminant or pig
3. Collect diagnostic samples from a ruminant or pig consisting of blood samples, urine samples, fecal samples, etc.
4. Implement biosecurity procedures including infectious disease control measures
5. Communicate case material and findings to the client/peers/faculty including signalment, history, problems identified on physical examination, differential diagnoses, diagnostic tests/findings, and revised differentials
6. Completion of medical records within 24 hours (ideally before you leave the rotation) including computer entries of your phone communications with clients and peers, history, initial findings, differential diagnoses, diagnostic plan, diagnostic findings and interpretation, therapeutic plan, surgery reports, treatments, and patient progress