angell®

ALUMNI NEWS

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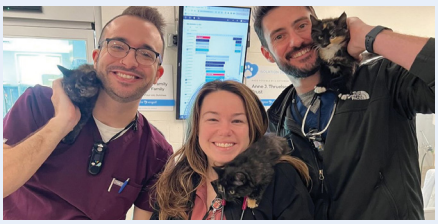
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Helping Shelters Struggling with Overcrowding

Neal Litvack, MSPCA-Angell President





According to Shelter Animals Count, a national database for animal rescues and humane societies, the population of animals in shelters across the US increased by almost a quarter million in 2023. Unfortunately, not only are we seeing an alarmingly high rate of pet surrenders and abandonment, but homeless animals are entering shelters and staying for more extended periods. Right now, the influx of dogs — especially larger dogs — is incredibly taxing for animal shelters in certain areas of the country (e.g., those in the Southeast, Midwest, Texas, and California). There's no room to house them, and overcrowding is becoming a real issue.



There are several reasons why shelters are inundated with animals. Inflation has made everything more expensive for pet owners — from food and supplies to affordable medical care, especially for necessary procedures like spaying and neutering. As our alumni know all too well, many owners become unable to care for their animals and are put in a position where they believe they have no choice but to surrender their pets. On the animal hospital and shelter side, financial hardship is directly connected to the national shortage of veterinarians and technicians. Shelters lack the ability

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Renovations Planned for Angell's Clinical Laboratory

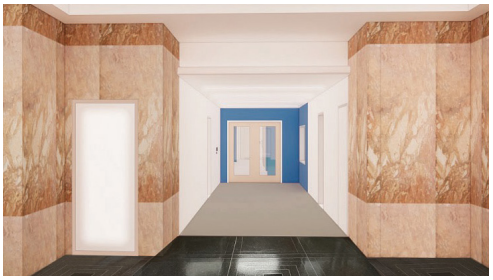
Ann Marie Greenleaf, DVM, DACVECC-SA
Chief of Staff, Angell Animal Medical Center



The MSPCA-Angell clinical laboratory provides our clients with expert analysis of their pet's health and serves as a crucial repository of information for our shelter and law enforcement staff.

The demand for clinical lab services has significantly increased with the opening of a new Emergency and Critical Care Unit in 2022 and the processing of all samples for Angell West, Angell at Essex, and the Boston Clinic. We need a more extensive, high-capacity facility to house our current advanced technological tools and provide adequate storage.

The current lab — initially built in the basement of 350 S. Huntington Ave. more than 50 years ago — poses a few challenges. The presence of asbestos in the floors and ceilings restricts renovation.



Moving the lab to the first floor of Angell provides enough space to accommodate the facility's needs.

Additionally, the existing space lacks sufficient electrical capacity and requires a new HVAC system to provide better ventilation to operate safely and effectively. There was a need to find a space large enough to accommodate the upgrades — and that space is the first floor of Angell.

The lab's renovation is planned in two phases. The first phase involves building the new

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



The rescued puppies are ready for the journey from Texas to Massachusetts.



The dogs were made available for adoption following their 48-hour Massachusetts state-mandated quarantine.

to recruit and retain staff, making it harder to facilitate adoptions for people who can adopt.

The other more significant issue is the post-pandemic return to work and rental housing. People who adopted pets during the COVID pandemic find they cannot care for them now because they've had to return to their workplace, either part- or full-time. Due to financial constraints, some pet owners cannot find rental buildings that allow pets, especially large dogs or certain breeds like pit bulls.

In Massachusetts — Boston in particular — animal shelters have seen their share of surrenders, primarily due to the city's lack of affordable housing for owners. Because of this, our Advocacy team is pushing for legislation prohibiting housing and insurance restrictions based on dog breeds, including pit bulls.

The MSPCA-Angell worked hard during the pandemic to ensure prospective owners who expressed an interest in adopting could keep their pets — and now we're trying to relieve the burden that overcrowded shelters face outside of the state.

One of our most significant endeavors is transporting as many homeless animals to Massachusetts as possible. Our relocation program targets shelters with the greatest need, and we prioritize large-breed and senior dogs in our selection to assist them.

While relocation alone cannot solve the problem of pet homelessness, we are using our resources to address the source of the issue. To start, we're helping shelters implement more aggressive spay-neuter programs and teaching them how to reach out to the public to ensure that animals are sprayed or neutered. We are also assisting shelters in setting up services and facilities to initiate community outreach programs aimed at pet owners who are unable to reach a shelter or lack access to medical attention, food, or supplies.

At the MSPCA-Angell, we host numerous events throughout Massachusetts annually, including no-fee adopt-a-thons — and we teach shelters outside the state how to increase adoptions at their organizations. For example, we helped Berkeley Animal Center establish a series of fee-waived dog adoption events in South Carolina. Then, we sent our staff down to the shelter to help model how to operate it and provide staffing support to handle the increased activity.

Animals need our help more than ever. While considered a last resort, euthanasia rates for dogs have increased significantly after a 20-year decline because shelters are being pushed to the brink. (In contrast, euthanasia rates for cats have been decreasing.) Sadly, this trend of rising euthanasia rates for dogs is expected to continue. But alongside generous Angell alumni like Ruth Marrion, DVM, DACVO, PhD who volunteers her time at our Nevins Farm shelter in Methuen, and thanks to our tireless staff and generous donors, we are striving to help minimize this trend. Despite enormous challenges, we placed more than 10,500 animals — more than any prior year — into loving adoptive homes in 2023. And we hope to do even more in the coming years.



The MSPCA-Angell Animal Response Team was ready to take possession of the dogs who just arrived on the Race for Life Rescue's plane.

space while the current lab remains open and operational. The equipment will be moved from the basement to the first floor in the second phase. With the evolution of remote work opportunities and digital library resources, we are able to remove parts of the Communications Center, the Library, and the offices in the first-floor corridor. An area will be designated for dropping off specimens. Microbiology, histology, and new offices will be on the left side of the corridor. The main laboratory and blood bank will be on the right side. The updated necropsy lab — recently renovated in 2015 — will remain in the basement to conserve space. Angell's necropsy lab is only one of two such labs in Massachusetts, so we're frequently called upon to conduct analyses for the city of Boston and law enforcement teams.

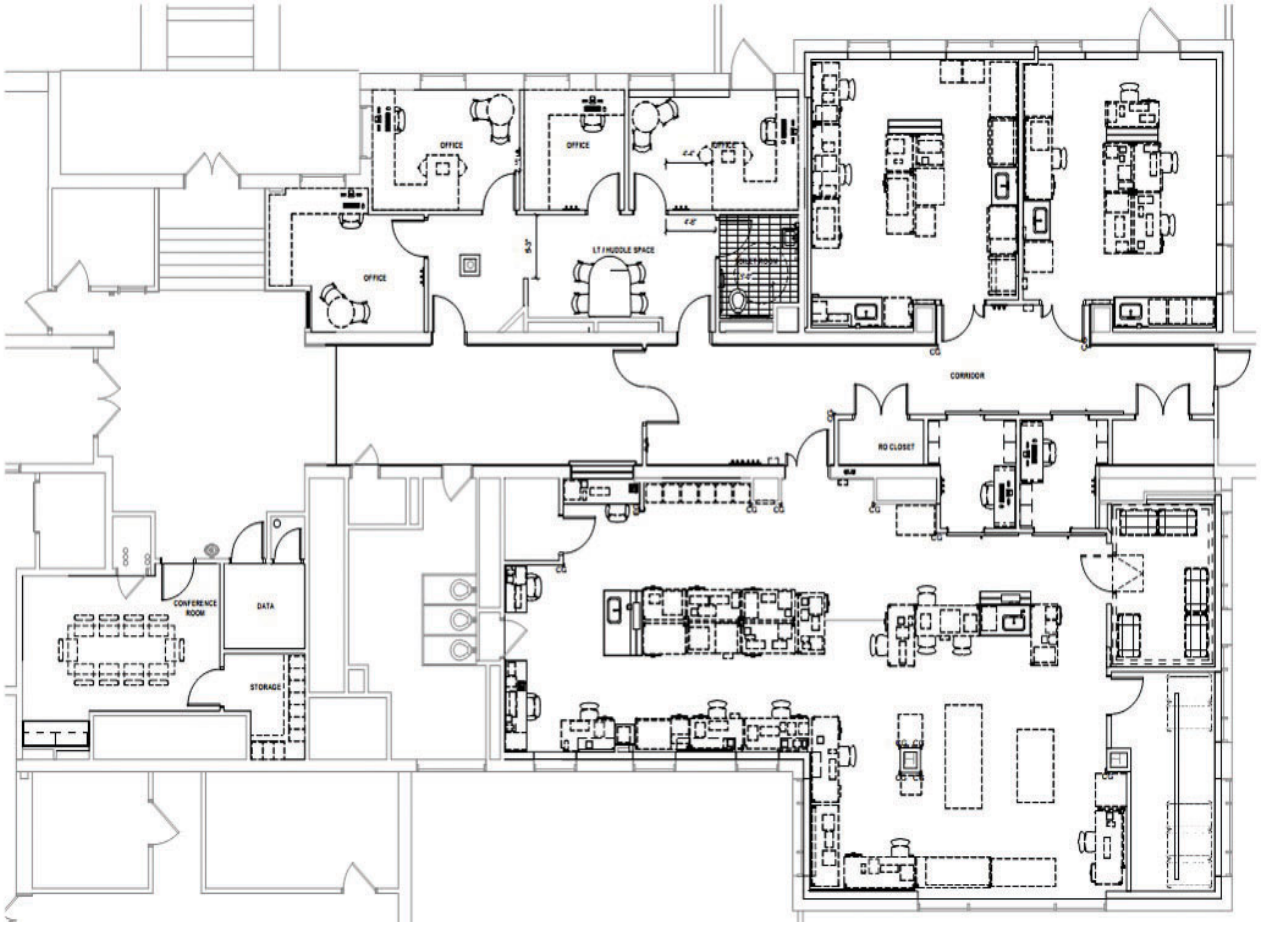


The increased square footage of the new lab allows staff to work side-by-side and improve work efficiency.

The new setup will improve Angell's efficiency and enhance communication within and between the lab and other services at the hospital. Currently, Pathology staff are cramped and are often required to relocate to different parts of the hospital with their laptops, limiting their access to support resources and prolonging processes. With the increased square footage of the new space, including new work benches, staff can work side-by-side and improve work efficiency.

Moving the clinical lab to the first floor will allow us to bring microbiology services back in-house. We have outsourced this service for the past six years due to a lack of space in the basement, where we couldn't house the necessary matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization (MALDI) system (a diagnostic tool that helps identify bacteria via DNA analysis in just 10 minutes).

Angell is a best-in-class animal hospital, and clients depend on us to provide their animals with the highest level of care. The lab renovation will ensure immediate access to our life-saving resources and technologies and provide our dedicated medical staff with the tools and space to perform advanced diagnostic procedures.



The first phase of the renovation involves building the new space, while the current lab will remain open and operational. The equipment will be moved from the basement to the first floor in the second phase.



Angell Internships – Then and Now

Douglas Brum, DVM (Intern Class of '86)
Joel Kaye, DVM (Intern Class of '91)
Angell Alumni Co-Directors

When we think back to our Angell internships, the differences between our program 35 years ago (give or take) and today's program are staggering.



It seems unbelievable by today's standards, but during our internships, Angell was the only emergency animal hospital in Boston. As interns, we were 25 years old, had just graduated from vet school, and were "the veterinarians" on call for the city. We had to be prepared for everything and relied heavily on the seasoned nurses to help us at 2:00am. There was no one to call for help. Surprisingly, we were able to stabilize most patients and just had to wait until 8:00am rounds to get the help we needed. Sometimes, the help was discussing future treatments and formulating a plan for the day, and other times, it was letting us know just what we should have done differently.

Needless to say, we grew up quickly and saw an incredible volume of cases. The sheer number of cases we saw quickly translated into invaluable experience in just a short time. Those first few months of the internship were terrifying. We had one overnight and one late night shift a week — for the entire year (aside from a month of surgery and two weeks of pathology). For the overnights and late nights, we would come in by noon, check on our patients, go on rounds at 1:00pm, then take care "of all the stuff," and start our clinic shift at 5:00pm. Thankfully, there would usually be a few lingering staff clinicians in the hospital until 10:00pm or so, but after that, it was just us.

When and if things slowed down in the ER, the late-night person could leave around 11:00pm. Then, you were on your own until 8:00am the following day. If something came in that needed emergency surgery, we did it. There was no surgeon to call. We did anything from corneal lacerations to gastric torsions. The only thing we could call a surgeon in for was an animal needing emergency spinal surgery.

After rounds, we stayed and cared for all our cases until they were all set. Sometimes, we left at 6:00pm, but many times, we were still in the hospital until 9:00pm or 10:00pm. Obviously, this type of work schedule was not in the best interests of the patients (or the doctors), but there was this feeling that if others had done it before us, we could too. It was like a badge of honor.

Over the years, many more emergency and specialty hospitals opened, and standards of care dramatically improved. The Angell intern program continues to be very challenging, and interns still work very hard, but things have changed. Cases are far more complex — one case now could take as much time and effort as five cases 35 years ago. It would not be uncommon for us to have well over 10 cases in the hospital, and somehow, we could actually take care of them all. Now, that would simply be impossible. The caseload of the hospital has increased significantly, as has the staff. We had a total of nine interns and about six residents for the entire hospital. Now, we are going on 18 interns and dozens of residents.

Interns today also have much more support, especially in their first few months. There are residents to help on the overnights and surgeons to call for procedures. No one does 30-hour shifts. Interns get elective rotations. There is much more to know now and more to expect from veterinary care. Every year, the intern program changes a bit to improve the learning experience. Changes may sometimes be small, but they add up to huge differences over the years.



Yet, even with all the changes, there are still some similarities: a substantial caseload, having primary case responsibility, getting an incredible amount of experience in a single year, bonding with your fellow interns, learning how to deal with difficult clients, sleep deprivation, and the fact that the year is probably going to be the most challenging one of your life. It certainly was for us.

It is a much different and better program now, but when the new interns graduate, they will always wear that "Angell badge of honor" — and we will always be proud of them.



Dr. Brum and his Angell classmates at graduation in 1986. Pictured left to right: Donn Paulson, Linda Wood, Doug Brum, Bud Keller, and Jeff Feinman.





Looking Back: An Intern Year in Review

William Downs, DVM (Intern Class of 2024)

Being accepted into the Angell Animal Medical Center internship program was exciting and nerve-wracking. As a recently graduated veterinarian, I knew this internship would be a formidable challenge and an excellent opportunity to acquire valuable work experience. The prospect of collaborating with such an accomplished and esteemed team of veterinary experts was indeed thrilling. At the same time, the imminent start of the internship also evoked excitement yet anxiety. The rigorous nature of the program and the demanding expectations prompted doubts regarding my readiness to tackle the arduous trials that lay ahead. Would I be able to endure long hours, challenging cases, and emotional strain? As it turns out, I was not the only intern grappling with apprehensions. The camaraderie that developed between my fellow interns and me proved to be a salient factor in my internship experience. We drew on one another for support, encouragement, and comic relief throughout the program, and I remain deeply appreciative of the connections that blossomed between us and the collective knowledge we gained at Angell.

The life of a veterinary intern is not for the faint of heart. The protracted hours, the taxing cases, and the toll on one's emotions can be particularly onerous for new graduates. Nevertheless, the support and mentorship of my fellow interns, staff doctors, and the Angell team enabled me to navigate these obstacles and emerge stronger. Despite the challenges, I was fortunate to encounter many rewarding experiences during my internship. Witnessing the exultation of owners as their beloved animals fully recovered was a gratifying and irreplaceable experience. Even in cases where we were not as successful, I felt a sense of pride in knowing that we had provided compassionate and effective care to the best of our abilities.

One of my most significant achievements during our internship was the quantity of knowledge and experience we accumulated. While the initial few months were challenging as we adjusted to the pace and demands of the job, we rapidly gained proficiency and flourished. We garnered exposure to diverse perspectives, and I am confident that these experiences will serve us well in our future veterinary careers. Reflecting on my internship experience, I am grateful for the opportunities and tribulations I encountered. Though our class faced numerous relentless moments throughout the program, I recognize that this experience will continue to transform us into ever-improving doctors.

Collaboration with a cohort of talented and driven interns was one of the most valuable aspects of my internship at Angell. From the beginning, I was struck by the exceptional level of mutual support fostered among us. As we embarked on the uphill journey of honing our craft, we relied upon each other for guidance, encouragement, and inspiration. Our bonds grew stronger with each passing day as we navigated the myriad of challenges that confronted us. Whether it was grappling with the complexities of a case, working through the wee hours of the morning, or simply lending a listening ear to a colleague in need, we were united in our commitment to helping each other. Through this collective effort, we forged a sense of community that transcended the confines of our internship and permeated our lives. Such bonds are essential to the very fabric of the veterinary profession as they foster a sense of community and support that is vital to our collective well-being, and they instill in us a deep sense of purpose and drive essential to our professional success. By cultivating a culture of collaboration and mutual support, we can ensure that we are well-equipped to meet the challenges that confront us and deliver the best possible care to our patients.

As I reflect on my experiences as an intern at Angell, I am struck by the profound impact this collaborative spirit has had on me as a veterinary professional and the knowledge I have gained. It has bolstered my confidence, imbued me with a sense of purpose, and instilled a deep appreciation for the value of teamwork in the medical field. As I embark on the next chapter of my career, I am confident that the bonds I have formed with my fellow interns and colleagues at Angell will continue to propel me forward, serving as a constant source of inspiration and encouragement. I believe that through these enduring connections formed at Angell, we will be able to achieve the greatest heights of success and fulfillment as veterinary professionals. In doing so, we can lay the foundation for a brighter, more prosperous future for the veterinary profession and the animals we serve.







Angell Alumna Dr. Cara Steele Named 2023 Veterinary Hero

The *dvm360* Veterinary Heroes recognition program celebrates the achievements of outstanding veterinary professionals who are advancing the field and making a difference in animal care. Angell alumna Cara Steele, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM) received the Veterinary Hero award in Internal Medicine and was featured in the 2023 July *dvm360* cover story featuring the 2023 award recipients.

Dr. Steele earned her doctorate in veterinary medicine in 2015 from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. After completing her rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Angell in 2016, she completed a small animal internal medicine residency at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Steele is now a board-certified internist practicing in the Maryland area.

Described by her nominator as "an incredible mentor" who provides exceptional care for patients and clients, Dr. Steele was recognized for her exemplary effort to "ensure that her patients receive the care that you would expect any member of your family to receive," her nominator wrote. "She is always willing to teach and knows exactly how to relay information to anyone, no matter their level of medical knowledge. She constantly seeks to improve her knowledge, practice the best medicine, and provide the utmost care for her patients."

Congratulations on the well-deserved recognition, Dr. Steele!



Dr. Cara Steele during her 2016 internship at Angell

Emergency & Critical Care in Boston and Waltham; Angell Urgent Care in Waltham by Appointment

The Emergency & Critical Care service at our Boston and Waltham locations is available 24/7 for clients whose pets need immediate medical care for life-threatening trauma or disease.

Referring veterinarians may alert staff to an incoming ECC case by calling **617-522-7282**.

*For more information, please visit **angell.org/emergency.***

The Urgent Care service at Angell West bridges the gap between primary and emergency care, offering treatment for common urgent care cases such as bite wounds/lacerations, lameness, ear infections, and vomiting/diarrhea.

Clients can call up to one day in advance to book an Urgent Care appointment. This is not a walk-in service.

Appointments are available Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 6:00pm by calling **781-902-8400**.

Urgent Care for avian and exotics is available through the Angell West Avian and Exotic service by calling **617-989-1561**.

*For more information, please visit **angell.org/urgent.***



An Angell Alumna's Lifelong Dream of Visiting the American Fondouk in Fez

The American Fondouk (fondouk.org) was founded in 1927 and opened its doors to provide charitable veterinary care in Morocco in 1929 thanks to Amy Bend Bishop. Bishop was an American traveler whose effort and financial contributions alongside her friends, Dr. Francis Rowley, then President of the MSPCA, and Sydney Coleman, a prominent New York animal activist, enabled the construction of this refuge and hospital. Since the beginning, the MSPCA has shared a common interest in animal welfare, along with veterinary volunteers over the years, with the Fondouk.

Ever since Susan Schrader, DVM (nee Stann) (Angell Intern Class of 1976), and her parents visited Fez, Morocco, in 1969, Susan had wanted to return to the exotic place that she thought was so different and vibrant compared to her home in Cleveland, Ohio.

Fifty-four years later, in November 2023, Susan finally got her wish. "My husband and I spent two weeks exploring Morocco — from Marrakesh to Fez — with the help of an Amazigh (Berber) guide," she gushed. "And I was just as entranced by the North African country as a teenager."

Susan had a couple of important Bucket List-type to-dos during her two weeks in Morocco: ride a camel (check!) — and visit the American Fondouk, a veterinary clinic that provides free care to the working horses, donkeys, and mules of Fez.

Luckily, Susan's Amazigh guide knew where the clinic was near the Medina of Fez. It was after 5:00pm when Susan knocked on the huge wooden entrance door, and a young woman in a white lab coat answered. In English, she suggested Susan return in the morning. "I nodded and replied, 'Shokran' – 'thank you' in Arabic – a huge smile beamed across her face," Susan said.

Within minutes of arriving at the Fondouk the following day, Dr. Ahmed Khairoun greeted Susan and her husband and offered to give them a tour. Susan recognized Dr. Ahmed from his photo in the American Fondouk newsletter, where he was holding a young mule. "For over an hour, he showed us the lab area, the farrier's space, the surgery room," explained Susan. "We greeted many of the patients in their stalls and viewed the whiteboard that listed just some of the current cases."

Dr. Ahmed described how the Fondouk's goal was to treat the working animals quickly to enable them to return to their families since, without the horse, donkey, or mule, the families have difficulty earning the money they so greatly need. "While we were talking, a handsome dark bay arrived in a big horse van for an exam by the clinic's farrier," said Susan. "Dr. Ahmed explained that the horse was a police horse, and the Fondouk also treated these working equines at no charge."

After a lengthy visit, Dr. Ahmed returned to work, and Susan and her husband had to catch the train to Casablanca. As she left the Fondouk, Susan was so grateful that the animals of Fez had received such quality care since 1929 and that under Dr. Ahmed Khairoun's skill and leadership, this care would continue for years to come.

"I can't think of a more worthy place to give my charitable donations," said Susan.



Visiting with patients



Farrier working a police horse at the Fondouk



Dr. Schrader at the American Fondouk



Dr. Ahmed Khairoun (left) alongside staff at the American Fondouk

MSPCA-ANGELL CLINICS IN BOSTON, METHUEN, AND CAPE COD

Offering subsidized veterinary care to help keep pets and families together

The vision of the MSPCA-Angell Clinics is simple yet powerful: provide affordable veterinary care that helps keep pets and families together. By providing subsidized, low-cost veterinary care, the clinics provide a new pathway for families in need.

The clinics provide spay/neuter services as well as acute, outpatient, surgical care. The clinics are meant for families who cannot afford urgent medical care and are faced with a painful choice between euthanasia, surrender, or bringing an animal home against medical recommendations. By providing subsidized, low-cost veterinary care, the clinic provides a new pathway for families in need. We welcome your referrals to our clinics.



Medical Procedures Performed at the MSPCA-Angell Clinics

- Diagnostics: bloodwork, urinalysis, radiographs, histopathology
- Spay for pyometra or dystocia
- Wound and laceration care
- Amputation (tail, digit, limb)
- Splinting
- Umbilical hernia repair
- Cystotomy
- Mass removal when quality of life is impacted
- Nasopharyngeal/Oral Polyp removal
- Enucleation
- Foreign body surgery for stable pets who do not require 24-hour hospitalization

To receive care at the MSPCA-Angell Clinics, clients must be on a public assistance program or have an income under the Massachusetts poverty guidelines (aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines). Ultimate determination of suitability for this program will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of MSPCA-Angell managers and veterinarians. For more information, please visit **angell.org/clinics**.

mspca angell® clinic

Boston | Cape Cod | Nevins Farm

Registration Now Open for Angell's Fall 2024 CE Seminars

VISIT ANGELL.ORG/CE

Sunday, October 27, 2024
8:15am – 2:45pm

5 Interactive CE credits (pending RACE approval)

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

- **Speed, Strength and Stamina: Our Reliance on Muscle in Health and Conditions of Failure in Our Veterinary Patients –** *Rob Daniel, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)*
- **Neuro-Pharmacology Myth Busters: Common Misconceptions of Medications in Neurological Patients –** *Jennifer Michaels, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)*
- **Snakes and Pains: Recognizing and Managing Pain in Exotic Animal Species –** *Anne Staudenmaier, VMD, DABVP (Avian Practice)*
- **It's all Jawesome! Cracking a Grin While Managing Oral Fractures in a GP Setting –** *Joyce Tai, DVM, DAVDC (Dentistry)*
- **The "Tea" on TCC: Update on Diagnosis and Management of Bladder/Prostate Tumors for the General Practitioner –** *Jillian Walz, DVM, DACVIM (Medical Oncology), DACVR (Radiation Oncology)*

Wednesday, November 6, 2024
6:15pm – 8:45pm

2 Interactive CE credits (pending RACE approval)

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

- **Habits, Tricks, and Interesting Cases from the ER –** *Kiko Bracker, DVM, DACVECC-SA (Emergency & Critical Care)*
- **Feline Allergic Skin Syndrome (FASS) –** *Klaus Loft, DVM (Dermatology)*

Please check **angell.org/ce** for updates on topics.

Angell Clinic Provides Care for Pets, Training for Students

Angell at Essex veterinary clinic in Danvers, MA, is a unique partnership between the MSPCA-Angell and Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School (Essex Tech). The clinic provides exceptional pet healthcare to the North Shore community and rigorous training to Essex Tech veterinary science students. The highlight of the program is the opportunity for students to work alongside Angell veterinarians and veterinary technicians, gaining hands-on, real-life experience that is crucial for a successful veterinary career following graduation.

"I'm inspired by these students," says staff veterinarian Heidi Broadley, DVM. "I feel as though these students are developing not only veterinary skills but important life skills through their education: compassion, effective communication, and empathy. They have an insatiable curiosity and spark, and they have made my days here so much fun. No matter where they end up in life, veterinary medicine or otherwise, the gifts that they have received here will take them far in life. And I've been proud to have been a part of their journey."

Fourteen Essex Tech Veterinary Science students from the class of 2024 have passed their Certified Veterinary Assisting (CVA) exam.

Dr. Broadley and Sara Gardiner, DVM, provide patients with a wide range of services, including primary veterinary care, general dentistry (including cleanings), basic surgeries (such as spay/neuter), and routine vaccinations.

For more information, please visit ***angell.org/essex.***







2023 – 2024 Memorable Photos

























1. *Angell Interns, Class of 2024: (front row, left to right) Dr. Devin Cruz-Gordillo (Intern Class of 2025), Dr. Logan Kursh, Dr. Zachary Carlson-Sypek, (second row, left to right) Dr. Ashley Vasel, Dr. Sidney Ryan, Dr. Danielle Lancer, (third row, left to right) Dr. Angela Lu, Dr. Yvonne Wei, Dr. Megan Steinhilber, Dr. Kirby Yamatomo, Dr. Rebecca Broussard-Banker, Dr. Jaymee Gencher, Dr. William Orrico, Dr. Declan Ryan, (fourth row, left to right) Dr. Jared Johnston (Intern Class of 2025), Dr. William Downs, Dr. Kevin Kasza*
   Intern Halfway Party at Flight Club

2. *Angell Interns, Class of 2024: Dr. Kevin Kasza and Dr. Ashley Vasel*
   Pie in the Face Day

3. *(Left to right): Indy, Bayou, and Comet*
   Intern Dog-ters

4. *Dr. Alison Allukian (Santa) and Dr. David Carabetta (Mrs. Claus) with Angell Interns, Class of 2024: (back row, left to right) Dr. Ashley Vasel, Dr. Sidney Ryan, Dr. Kevin Kasza; (front row, left to right) Dr. Danielle Lancer, Dr. Logan Kursh, Comet*

5. *Angell Interns, Class of 2024: (left to right) Dr. Devin Cruz-Gordillo (Intern Class of 2025) (with Aurora), Dr. Megan Steinhilber (with Hercules), and Dr. Danielle Lancer (with Comet), Rebecca Broussard-Banker (with Indy)*

6. *Angell Interns, Class of 2024: (left to right) Dr. Megan Steinhiliber, Dr. Danielle Lancer, Dr. Devin Cruz-Gordillo (Intern Class of 2025), and Dr. Rebecca Broussard-Banker and her husband, Ben*

7. *Angell Interns, Class of 2024: Dr. Devin Cruz-Gordillo (Intern Class of 2025), Dr. Megan Steinhilber, Dr. Jaymee Gencher, and Dr. Danielle Lancer*

8. *Angell Interns, Class of 2024: (left to right) Dr. Kevin Kasza, Dr. Danielle Lancer, Dr. William Orrico*

9. *Angell Intern, Class of 2024: Dr. Amanda Hirschman at Angell West*

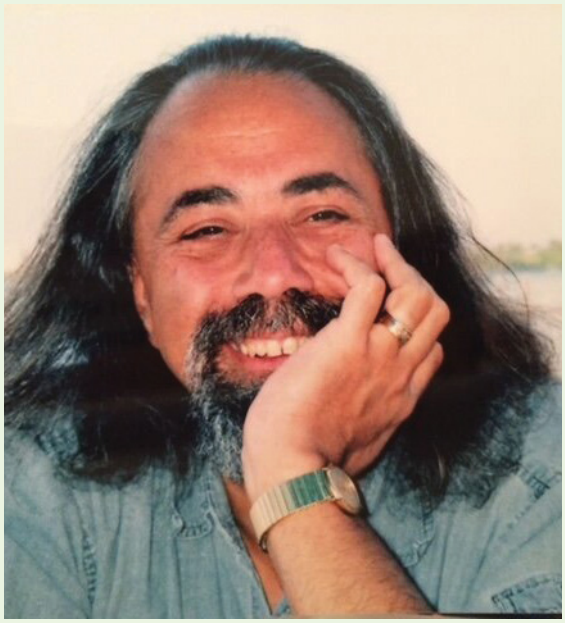
10. *Dr. Daniela Ackley and Angell Intern Dr. Carolyn Loftus at Angell West*

11. *Angell Intern, Class of 2024: Dr. Rachel Angles with Bowie at Angell West*

12. *Angell Interns, Class of 2024: (left to right) Dr. Mario Barenas, Dr. Alexandra Emelianchik, Dr. Adrienne Balionis, Dr. Melody Koo*

In Memoriam

We are saddened to share the passing of Angell alumni Dr. Richard DeVries and MSPCA-Angell staff member Heather Robertson.



Richard Alan DeVries, DVM (Angell Intern Class of 1980)

Dr. Richard DeVries, age 72, passed at his home on January 11, 2024, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease and pancreatic cancer.

A graduate of SUNY, Albany, NY (BA) and Cornell's NYS College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY (DVM), Dr. DeVries did his internship at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, MA. He practiced veterinary medicine at Emerald Hill Small Animal Hospital in Feura Bush, NY, and opened Parkside Veterinary Hospital in Albany, NY, in 1983 with his wife, Nina Caires, DVM (Angell Intern Class of 1980).

Dr. DeVries attracted countless people to whom he offered friendship, mentorship, brotherhood, and love. A key role he played in life was being the voice for hundreds of animals he treated during his practice. He was a quiet, dignified man with a deep, wry sense of humor, and his storytelling talent was unsurpassed. But within his thoughtful, brilliant mind, he spoke what he meant and had an unwavering strength.

After retiring in 2013, Dr. DeVries continued his passion for hiking, cycling, and gardening. But his favorite time spent was with good friends and close family at his home in Coeymans Hollow, NY.



Heather Robertson Director of Development & Marketing for MSPCA Adoption Centers

Heather Robertson, age 61, of Medford, MA, died on April 12, 2024. She was the loving partner of Gerald DiMare, stepmother to Gioia DiMare, and grandmother to Ellaria Messina.

Heather first joined the MSPCA in 2004, initially as a volunteer in the cat adoption room. Her welcoming and positive demeanor — a hallmark of her personality — was quickly noticed, and she became a formal staff member, initially as an Adoption Counselor. During her 20-year tenure, Heather held many positions that capitalized on her creative talents and helped increase resources for animals, bring the community together, and raise critical funds for the organization.

Her passion was helping animals and the people who love them, and working at the MSPCA was much more than a career for her. This was reflected deeply in both her work and her interactions with staff, volunteers, supporters, and those utilizing the MSPCA's services. She will long be remembered for her compassion, kindness, and commitment to making our communities a better place for pets and people.

Heather's impact will indelibly be felt and passed on by those who knew or were inspired by her. She is deeply missed.

Class of 2015: Where Are They Now?

Dr. Lisa Benson: Dr. Lisa Benson owns Dirigo Veterinary Solutions, LLC, which provides consultation and relief services in a variety of settings, including in the field as a consulting wildlife veterinarian and IACUC attending veterinarian in conservation medicine projects, ER/urgent care, shelter, integrative medicine and general practice. She lives in Portland where she enjoys reading, gardening, pumping iron and exploring coastal Maine with her family and friends.



Dr. Lisa Benson

Dr. Christine (DePompeo) Bufkin: Dr. Christine (DePompeo) Bufkin is a surgeon at a large specialty practice in Pittsburgh, PA. She spends her time off running the energy out of her 3-year-old Vizsla, rock climbing, and exploring state parks with her husband. She also thoroughly enjoys being an away-team fan in the crowd when the Phillies, Flyers, or Eagles are in town.



Dr. Christine (DePompeo) Bufkin

Dr. Niora Fabian: Dr. Niora Fabian is a Research/Clinical Veterinarian in the Division of Comparative Medicine and Mechanical Engineering Department at MIT (Cambridge, MA). She became a Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine in 2022. Her research interests include infectious diseases, animal model development, and animal welfare. Dr. Fabian also does occasional relief work at a local veterinary practice and lives in Cambridge. Working with MIT postdocs on research projects brings her joy, as does spending time with her husband and their two budgies.



Dr. Niora Fabian

Dr. Eliza (Reiss) Grant: Dr. Eliza (Reiss) Grant is a part-time GP at North Country Animal Hospital in North Conway, NH, and works relief ER with internmate Dr. Kim Oparil at Maine Veterinary Medical Center. She also serves on her local Planning Board and runs a small-scale housing business that converts historic structures into housing. You can find Dr. Grant hiking and skiing the Whites with her dobie.



Dr. Eliza (Reiss) Grant

Dr. Janis Lapsley: Dr. Janis Lapsley is a small animal surgical oncologist and an assistant professor at The Ohio State University. In her free time, she shows American Quarter Horses and hangs out with her husband, two cats, and a German Shepherd.



Dr. Janis Lapsley

Dr. Sarah Lim: After completing her intern year, Dr. Sarah Lim joined the General Medicine department at Angell. She had the pleasure of being part of the GM team until 2021 when she and her family relocated to Canada. She then joined Hill's Pet Nutrition Canada and enjoys supporting veterinary healthcare teams as a Professional Consulting Veterinarian for central Canada. Dr. Lim lives in Waterloo, Ontario (with her husband Alex and son Ezra). Please reach out if you're ever in the greater Toronto area — she'd love to see you!



Dr. Sarah Lim

Dr. Ashley Lockwood: Dr. Ashley Lockwood completed her residency in Emergency and Critical Care at Angell Animal Medical Center and became board-certified in 2018. She practiced on the Cape for several years before returning to the MSPCA-Angell West. In the last three years, Ashley has rediscovered her passion for horses and is an avid rider. She is also the proud auntie of her two nieces, Bobbi (6) and Ada (4), and nephew Hugh (18 mo).



Dr. Ashley Lockwood

Dr. Kim Oparil: Dr. Kim Oparil completed her emergency and critical care residency at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. She is now a board-certified criticalist practicing in Scarborough, ME. She and her wife recently welcomed a baby boy in December 2023 and are looking forward to their first summer enjoying the coast of Maine as a family of three. Dr. Oparil's dog, Molly Jane, who was with her during her internship at Angell, turned 12 this year.



Dr. Kim Oparil

Dr. Meagan (Rock) Painter: Dr. Meagan (Rock) Painter became a Board Certified Veterinary Dermatologist in 2018 (sitting for her boards 12 weeks after giving birth to her daughter, Claire…no big deal). She now proudly works full-time at Angell West in Waltham, MA. Her daughter is 5.5 years old and loves her Montessori school life and sports. Her husband, Andrew, is about to start a new career as an EMT in the Boston area. Dr. Painter currently invests her time off work in athletic endeavors and spirituality/mindfulness studies — but she also just really loves being a veterinary dermatologist and providing CE through her online courses at livelearnvet.com.



Dr. Meagan (Rock) Painter

Dr. Bethany Pastina: Dr. Bethany Pastina lives in Brooklyn and is a veterinary neurologist. In a few months, she is moving to Portland, Oregon, to work at a non-profit.



Dr. Bethany Pastina

Dr. Mandy Rollins: Dr. Mandy Rollins is a board-certified veterinary surgeon working in Denver, CO. She spends her free time at her cabin in Vail, CO, with her dogs, who are living their best mountain life. She enjoys camping, hiking, and snowboarding in her downtime.



Dr. Mandy Rollins

Dr. Brooke Simon: Dr. Brooke Simon completed a dermatology residency in Arizona and now works in the dermatology department at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, MA. She still travels to Maine as often as possible with her dog Henry, who continues to beg for treats and sleep in the hallways of Angell.



Dr. Brooke Simon and Henry

Dr. Melissa Smith: Dr. Melissa Smith is a veterinary anesthesiologist working at a dental specialty practice in New York City. She enjoys spending time in nature with her husband, Nate, and her German Shepherd, Kona. She also has a thriving native plant garden.



Dr. Melissa Smith

Dr. Stanley Sowy: After completing his Angell internship, Dr. Sowy subsequently completed his ECC internship in Houston, TX, and ECC residency at Texas A&M University in 2019. He spent a year in private practice after his residency, then moved back home to San Antonio, TX, where he currently resides. He is a traveling locum ECC specialist throughout Texas and the Northeast states. Dr. Sowy is often found traveling to Boston for work. Outside of work, he has been enjoying traveling to Europe multiple times in the past year and soaking in all the cultures and delicacies of other countries.



Dr. Stanley Sowy

Dr. Brittany Sylvane: Dr. Brittany Sylvane works as a criticalist in Long Island, NY. She is married to her amazing husband, Sam, and they have two boys — Ezra and Elliott. She also lives with her beloved three cats.



Dr. Brittany Sylvane

Dr. Emily Ulfelder: Dr. Emily Ulfelder is a surgeon and lives in America's hometown, Plymouth, MA, with her husband, two dogs, and three cats. She is practicing at Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists, where she has helped get a surgery residency program off the ground, which is expected to begin in July 2024.



Dr. Emily Ulfelder

Dr. Ben Williams: Dr. Ben Williams is a veterinary neurologist practicing in Dallas, TX. He is enjoying training his own residents and interns. He enjoys traveling back to Cape Cod or visiting National Parks in his free time.



Dr. Ben Williams



Top row L-R: Sarah Abdelmessih, Jo-Hanna Azzara, Elizabeth Brooks, Margaret Connor, Devin Cruz-Gordillo, Ian Doody, Louis Fayolle, Peter Fineis, Kiran Fong, Beatriz Garcia, Luis Gutierrez Juarez; Middle row L-R: Jamie Hart, Lauren Healy, Mercedes Hernandez Parreno, Amanda Hirschman, Martha Hoffman, Sabrina Holguin, Alanna Horton, Madison Hurley, Jared Johnston, Dawn Kulkarni, Brianna Laing, Nicole Mango; Bottom row L-R: Sage Otterson, Anastasia Parashis, Matthew Pereira, Elizabeth Rand, Carly Rem, Taylor Stanton, Kerry Thomson, Julia Utting, Yvonne Wei, Alyssa Williams, Elvira Zaripova.

Incoming Interns and Specialty Interns
Class of 2025

Sarah Abdelmessih, DVM (Angell West)
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Jo-Hanna Azzara, DVM
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University

Elizabeth Brooks, BVetMed
Royal Veterinary College in UK

Margaret Connor, DVM
University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

Devin Cruz-Gordillo, DVM
St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine/Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Ian Doody, DVM (Surgery)
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine; Rotating Internship at Veterinary Referral Associates

Louis Fayolle, DVM (Avian and Exotic Medicine and Emergency and Critical Care, Angell West)
Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine/Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine

Peter Fineis, BVetMed
Royal Veterinary College in UK

Kiran Fong, DVM (Avian and Exotic Medicine, Angell West)
University of Saskatchewan Western College of Veterinary Medicine; VCA Canada Central Victoria Veterinary Hospital

Beatriz Garcia, DVM
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University

Luis Gutierrez Juarez, DVM
Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Jamie Hart, DVM (Surgery)
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine; Rotating Internship at Friendship Hospital for Animals

Lauren Healy, DVM
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Mercedes Hernandez Parreno, DVM
The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Amanda Hirschman, DVM (Avian and Exotic Medicine)
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University; Rotating Internship at MSPCA-Angell West Waltham

Martha Hoffman, DVM (Shelter Intern)
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Sabrina Holguin, DVM (Neurology)
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine; Rotating internship at VCA

Alanna Horton, DVM
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Madison Hurley, DVM
University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

Jared Johnston, BVetMed
Royal Veterinary College in UK

Dawn Kulkarni, DVM
Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Brianna Laing, VMD (Dermatology, Angell West)
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; Rotating Internship at BluePearl Specialty and Pet Hospital

Nicole Mango, BVetMed
Royal Veterinary College in UK

Sage Otterson, DVM
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University

Anastasia Parashis, DVM
Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine/University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

Matthew Pereira, DVM
Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine/Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine

Elizabeth Rand, DVM
University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine

Carly Rem, DVM
Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine/Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University

Taylor Stanton, DVM
St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine / The College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University

Kerry Thomson, DVM
The University of Sydney School of Veterinary Medicine

Julia Utting, DVM, MPH (Angell West)
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Yvonne Wei, DVM (Internal Medicine)
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at University of Edinburgh; Rotating Internship at Angell Animal Medical Center

Alyssa Williams, DVM (Avian and Exotic Medicine and Emergency and Critical Care, Angell West)
Long Island University College of Veterinary Medicine

Elvira Zaripova, DVM
Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine

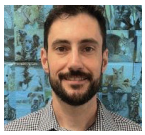
Incoming Residents
Class of 2027



Cardiology
Sarah Rogg, DVM
- Specialty Cardiology Internship at Veterinary Cardiopulmonary Care Center (2023-2024)
- Rotating Internship at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine (2022-2023)
- Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine (2022)



Emergency and Critical Care
Zach Carlson-Sypek, DVM
- Rotating Internship at Angell Animal Medical Center (2023-2024)
- Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine (2023)



Bill Orrico, DVM
- Rotating Internship at Angell Animal Medical Center (2023-2024)
- Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University (2023)



Megan Steinhilber, DVM
- Rotating Internship at Angell Animal Medical Center (2023-2024)
- Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (2023)



Internal Medicine
Anita Fothergill, VMD
- Rotating Internship at University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine (2023-2024)
- University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (2023)



Lorena Sistig, DVM
- Rotating Internship at BluePearl (2023-2024)
- Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University (2023)



Surgery
Dilraj Goraya, DVM
- Rotating Internship at Angell Animal Medical Center (2022-2023)
- Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine/Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (2022)



Top row L-R: Rachel Angles, Matthew Araujo, Mario Barenas, Rebecca Broussard, Zachary Carlson-Sypek, William Downs, Alexandra Emelianchik, Jaymee Gencher, Amanda Hirschman; Middle row L-R: Kevin Kasza, Melody Koo, Logan Kursh, Danielle Lancer, Caroline Loftus, Angela Lu, William Orrico; Bottom row L-R: Carson Rehn, Katherine (Violet) Rettmer, Declan Ryan, Sidney Ryan, Megan Steinhilber, Ashley Vasel, Yvonne Wei, Kirby Yamamoto.

Future Plans
Intern and Specialty Intern Class of 2024

Rachel Angles, DVM
Zoological Medicine and Surgery Internship, Minnesota Zoo (Apple Valley, MN)

Matthew Araujo, VMD
General Medicine staff veterinarian, Angell (Boston, MA)

Mario Barenas, DVM
Internal Medicine Specialty Internship, Friendship Animal Hospital (Washington, DC)

Rebecca Broussard, DVM
Emergency Critical Care Residency, University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)

Zachary Carlson-Sypek, DVM
Emergency and Critical Care Residency, Angell (Boston, MA)

William Downs, DVM
Radiology Residency, Mass Vet Referral (Woburn, MA)

Alexandra Emelianchik, DVM
Currently reviewing options

Jaymee Gencher, VMD
Completing rotating internship October 2024; Oncology internship, Angell (Boston, MA)

Amanda Hirschman, DVM
Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine and Surgery Internship, Angell (Boston, MA)

Kevin Kasza, DVM
Dermatology Residency, Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine (Ames, IA)

Melody Koo, DVM
Neurology Residency, Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (College Station, TX)

Logan Kursh, VMD
Oncology Specialty Internship, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University (Grafton, MA)

Danielle Lancer, DVM
Radiation Oncology Residency, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine (Columbia, MO)

Caroline Loftus, BVM&S
Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine and Surgery Specialty Internship, Red Bank Veterinary Hospital (Tinton Falls, NJ)

Angela Lu, DVM
Radiology Internship, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine (Columbia, MO)

William Orrico, DVM
Emergency and Critical Care Residency, Angell (Boston, MA)

Carson Rehn, DVM
Currently reviewing options

Katherine (Violet) Rettmer, DVM
Surgical Internship, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine (Champaign-Urbana, IL)

Declan Ryan, DVM
Anesthesia staff veterinarian, Angell (Boston, MA)

Sidney Ryan, VMD
Ophthalmology Internship, Animal Eye Center (Little Falls, NJ)

Megan Steinhilber, DVM
Emergency and Critical Care Residency, Angell (Boston, MA)

Ashley Vasel, DVM
Radiology Internship, Sage Veterinary Imaging (Round Rock, TX)

Yvonne Wei, DVM
Internal Medicine Internship, Angell (Boston, MA)

Kirby Yamamoto, DVM
Emergency Critical Care Residency, Michigan State University Veterinary Medical Center (East Lansing, MI)

Future Plans
Graduating Residents



Caroline Choi, DVM
Surgeon, VCA West Los Angeles Animal Hospital (Los Angeles, CA)



Rose Feldman, VMD
Criticalist, Veterinary Specialty Hospital (North County, San Diego, CA)



Molly Graham, DVM
Criticalist, TuftsVETS (Walpole, MA)



Jessica Hayes, DVM
Internal Medicine staff veterinarian, Angell (Boston, MA)



Julia VanDerslice, DVM
Advanced EDD/Extracorporeal Therapies Fellow, North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine (Raleigh, NC)

Join Our Alumni Group

To join, simply:

1. Log onto Facebook
2. Visit ***facebook.com/groups/AngellAlumni***
3. Select "Request to Join"

Did You Know...

that you can provide for your future even as you support the mission of the MSPCA-Angell? As you consider ways to supplement retirement income, you may wish to explore the benefits of a charitable gift annuity. By making your gift now, reserving the right to receive income at a later date, you not only provide for your financial future, but you give yourself the advantage of a federal charitable deduction available immediately. If you would like to learn more about the substantial benefits of a charitable gift annuity, please contact **Susan Rowell** at **617-553-9510 or srowell@mspca.org.**

2024 Graduation

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!

Best of luck to all our graduates. We're so proud of you all!

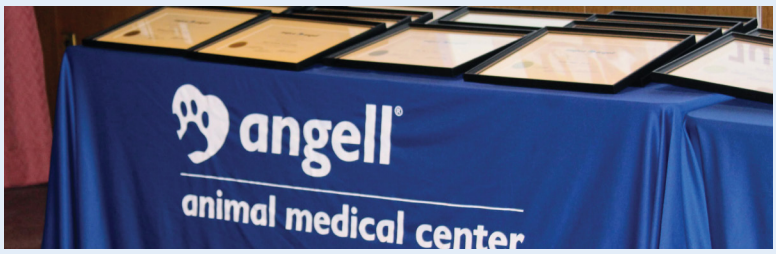


Front row (L-R): Rose Feldman, Sidney Ryan, Ashley Vasel, Rebecca Broussard Banker, Matthew Araujo; Second row(L-R): Jessica Hayes, Caroline Choi, Danielle Lancer, Megan Steinhilber, William Orrico; Third row (L-R): Carson Rehn, Julia VanDerslice, Zachary Carlson-Sypek, Declan Ryan, Williams Downs, Kirby Yamamoto; Fourth Row (L-R): Rachel Angles, Melody Koo, Katherine (Violet) Rettmer, Amanda Hirschman, Caroline Loftus, Logan Kursh, Alexandra Emelianchik, Angela Lu, Kevin Kasza









Dr. Sue Casale, Dr. Caroline Choi, and Dr. Michael Pavletic



Dr. Megan Steinhilber, Dr. Danielle Lancer, Dr. Rebecca Broussard Banker, Comet the Dog



Dr. Megan Whelan and Dr. Kevin Kasza



Dr. Rose Feldman, Dr. Jessica Hayes, Dr. Caroline Choi, Dr. Julia VanDerslice, Dr. Molly Graham

UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI INFORMATION

Please visit **angell.org/alumni** to update your contact information online.

All You Need Is Love (and Kittens)

INTERN DISCRETIONARY FUND HELPS 1-YEAR-OLD PREGNANT CAT

As a new veterinarian, you may recall how challenging it can be to provide the best possible care for animals while also understanding and respecting their owners' financial limitations. Tough conversations with clients must include the realities of how financial obligations relate to the lives of their beloved pets.

Angell created the Intern Discretionary Fund to support our doctors' learning process. This fund provides interns and residents with an annual cash stipend to help cover the cost of care for patients whose owners have financial constraints. The interns and residents must use the funds wisely, considering factors such as prognosis and the client's dedication to care.

The Intern Discretionary Fund recently helped Estrella, a 1-year-old domestic short-haired cat who was pregnant. She arrived at Angell's Emergency & Critical Care (Boston) in a distressed state: She had given birth to two kittens earlier that morning but was having trouble continuing the labor. Angell staff ordered an ultrasound and saw at least three unborn kittens still inside Estrella. (And despite being only a year old, Estrella was discovered to have already given birth to three litters. Estrella's family had found homes for these kittens.)

While Estrella's owners could pay the exam fee, they only had $100 left for Estrella's emergency surgery. They were approved for Hospital Financial Assistance and additional money from the Friends of Schrodie Donor Fund. However, they were still short the much-needed funds. That's when the interns rallied: they made one of the highest contributions of the year by donating $1,750 from the Intern Discretionary Fund to help pay for Estrella's lifesaving surgery.

Staff successfully removed four live kittens during Estrella's surgery. Although one of the kittens had concerning breathing patterns and lung sounds, it was a fighter and slowly began to improve. Thanks to the doctors and the Intern Discretionary Fund, not only was Estrella's life saved, but her kittens were born alive. Estrella's family was thankful for the assistance received at Angell, and they and Estrella left with four new kittens (to join the two born earlier who were waiting for them at home). The Angell team spayed Estrella and shared information with the family about the MSPCA-Angell Clinic's low-cost spay/neuter services available for their older cats at home.

We are deeply grateful for your consideration in donating to this vital fund. Your generosity will directly affect our interns, residents, patients, and their families and help our new doctors learn the impact of providing charitable care and helping hundreds of animals receive care that would have otherwise been inaccessible.

Please visit **mspca.org/donate** for more information.





Estrella (above, top) was spayed before leaving the hospital, and Angell staff educated her owners on available resources for spaying and neutering their other pets. (above, bottom).

We encourage you to contact Angell's specialists with questions.

Boston: 617-522-7282 | Waltham: 781-902-8400 | Veterinary Referrals: 617-522-5011

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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, WALTHAM

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Julie Shields, DVM
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ANGELL AT ESSEX

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