

MANAGING OPHTHALMIC EMERGENCIES

PRESENTED BY

DR. KATIE FREEMAN, DVM, DACVO

Dr. Freeman received a Bachelor's degree from Brown University and a Master's degree in environmental management focusing on marine conservation and ecology from Duke University followed by her DVM from North Carolina State University. She then completed her residency in comparative ophthalmology at UC Davis.

After working in private practice in California, Dr. Freeman became an Assistant Professor at Colorado State University where she spent the past four years. She has recently moved to the Bay Area with her husband, young son, two dogs, and a cat. She now is an associate at Veterinary Vision and also

has a position as an affiliate faculty at Colorado State University.

Her special interests within ophthalmology include ophthalmic surgery, optics, tear film dynamics and surface ocular disease as well as wildlife and exotic animal ophthalmology. She is frequently involved with wildlife pro-bono veterinary care.

Dr. Freeman enjoys spending time with her family, especially outdoor activities such as hiking, running and Roller Derby.



www.PeninsulaVMA.org

Next PVMA Meeting: Tuesday March 20, 2018

The meeting will be held at **The Vans Restaurant** in Belmont located at **815 Belmont Avenue**, west off El Camino Real, up the hill. There is parking adjacent and also across the street to the northwest.

6:30pm for adult beverages - 7:00pm for dinner and program

PVMA members FREE * Life Members \$25 * Guests \$60

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March 18: SAGE Centers Small Animal Symposium
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More info at www.sagecenters.com

Newsletter Editor Notes

email address is:

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All submissions must be received by
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Unique PDA Repair

“Nana” a six-pound Long Coat Chihuahua, traveled 8,700 miles from Bangkok, Thailand to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana seeking a fix for her heart. She came to the right place. Nana suffered for three years with a **Patent Ductus Arteriosis** (“PDA”) which is an often life-threatening condition. By now her heart was enlarged and her days were clearly numbered. Veterinarians in Thailand were unable to repair her PDA. Coincidentally, earlier this year Dr. Jordan Vitt, a veterinary cardiologist at the U of I, had traveled to Kasetsart University in Bangkok to teach a course on PDA repair. There he also found an opportunity to create an educational exchange. After his presentation, he invited a local veterinary cardiologist to bring the little patient to the U of I for repair of her PDA. With that offer, he clearly saved a life.

Nana and her veterinary cardiologist from Thailand arrived at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital. There ultra sound exams revealed the tiny hole, 2.6 mm in diameter, left by the failure of the embryological ductus to seal itself off at birth. Thus instead formed a troublesome shunt which allowed oxygen-poor and oxygen-rich blood to intermingle in the pulmonary artery. That abnormality greatly increased the heart’s workload. Dr. Vitt and his colleague Dr. Ryan Fries were in charge of this repair. The Cardiac Unit of the University of Illinois Small Animal Clinic is always a busy place with many referrals from throughout the state, the nation and now even the world.

The unique aspect of Nana’s case, which drew this veterinary cardiologist from halfway around the world, was that her PDA would be repaired using a non-surgical procedure pioneered by this team at U of I. Nana’s trial run would send ripples of progress literally throughout the world. In Thailand and many other remote areas, open-chest surgical repair is the only option for PDA. That is a costly and risky procedure at best but Thai veterinarians don’t have the equipment or expertise to perform noninvasive catheterization for PDA repairs. Without this option, the likelihood of survival for a 6-pound patient who has had the condition for three years is slim to none.

Ten people comprised the cardiac team as a catheter and an array of other devices were carefully guided, aided by an ultrasound monitor, into Nana’s femoral artery and up to her heart. The procedure took over an hour to place a tiny device, the *Amplatz Canine Ductal Occluder* (ACDO) which springs into place to close the hole near the heart. For the first time in her life, only oxygenated blood in Nana’s aorta flowed efficiently to the rest of her body. The success of this delicate procedure depends on precise measurements during extensive imaging before and after the placement, finally using a contrast agent to confirm success.

Post-surgically, Nana remained hospitalized at U of I for a month, then flew home to Thailand. Six weeks post-op her delighted owners report that she is much more playful and is now romping like a normal dog.

The ACDO



Nana and Dr. Vitt



The Cardiology Team at U of I



The happy “After” picture!





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Tess Smith, DVM

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