



# CAPITAL CITY SPECIALTY & EMERGENCY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

# **SURGERY NEWSLETTER**

SEPTEMBER 2024



## ***Dr. Sarah Boston is Joining Cap City!***

Dr. Sarah Boston is joining the surgery team at Capital City Specialty & Emergency Animal Hospital starting in mid-October. Many of you know Dr. Boston but for those of you who do not know Dr. Boston, she is a world-renowned surgical oncologist as well as a professional comedian and author of the best selling *Lucky Dog*. On the surgery side, Dr. Boston is an ACVS Fellow in both Surgical Oncology and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS). With these qualifications, along with Dr. Julius Liptak and Dr. Graham Thatcher, we are the only non-academic animal hospital in the world (yes, the world!) with two surgical oncology fellows and three OFMS surgeons. Along with our two board certified medical oncologists, Drs. Kara Magee and Krista Gower, and tumor-specific electroporation, Cap City



provides the most comprehensive and well-qualified care for dogs and cats with cancer in the National Capital region, if not all of Canada (as exemplified by recent referrals for cancer surgery from Alberta and Toronto and as far afield as Colombia and Vietnam).

To refer to Dr. Boston, please contact Jenn, our surgery admin assistant, at [surgery@capcityvet.com](mailto:surgery@capcityvet.com) or (613) 244-7387.

**SURGERY@CAPCITYVET.COM - (613) 244-7387**



# SETTING THE STANDARD IN PAIN CONTROL

## Ultrasound-Guided Regional Analgesia

**Dr. Matt Milloway, DACVAA**

To state the obvious, anesthesia and analgesia are essential to the practice of surgery. We are very fortunate to have an experienced, board-certified specialist anesthesiologist, Dr. Matt Milloway, and his team of anesthesia technicians doing all of our anesthetics and providing comprehensive perioperative analgesia care. Before, during, and after surgery, we almost routinely provide analgesia with constant rate infusions of fentanyl and ketamine and occasionally dexmedetomidine.



*Note the four continuous rate infusion pumps on the IV pole in surgery. At least two of these are delivering continuous rate infusions of fentanyl and ketamine.*

### Ultrasound-Guided Regional Analgesia

While regional anesthesia has been used to complement systemic analgesia in the past, this has been through less targeted approaches such as epidurals. Dr. Milloway specializes in ultrasound-guided regional analgesia (UGRA), bringing regional anesthesia (and multimodal analgesia) to a new level.

Dr. Milloway performs UGRA on nearly all of our surgical patients and also uses this technique for management of chronic pain conditions in dogs and cats. He is also teaching some of our surgeons and surgical house officers how to perform UGRA.

UGRA has become an essential tool in veterinary anesthesia, offering improved accuracy and safety compared to traditional methods. UGRA allows for real-time visualization of nerve structures, enhancing the precision of local anesthetic delivery and reducing



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complications. In dogs, ultrasound-guided techniques are used for various procedures, such as retrobulbar blocks during ophthalmic surgeries, which have shown to decrease the need for intraoperative opioids and improve postoperative outcomes. Additionally, this method significantly improves block success rates and decreases the time required for block onset, leading to better pain management during complex procedures such as orthopedic and dental surgeries.

Compared to nerve stimulation or blind techniques, ultrasound guidance

offers superior visualization, particularly in difficult-to-reach areas like the thoracic limbs or the sciatic nerve, reducing risks like nerve injury or vascular puncture. As UGRA continues to evolve, its use in small animal surgery is expected to grow, with research supporting its benefits in terms of safety, efficiency, and patient outcomes. In the meantime, Dr Milloway and our anesthesia team are leading the way in reducing procedural-related pain for our surgery, dental, and ophthalmology patients at Cap City.



*Dr. Matt Milloway, our board-certified specialist anesthesiologist, performing ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia in a dog with bilateral radial fractures.*

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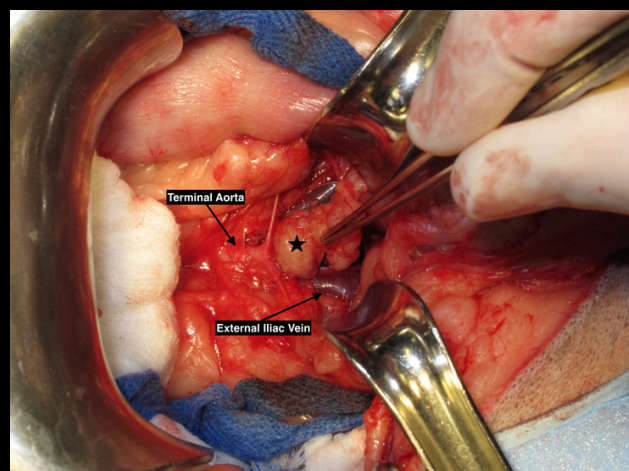
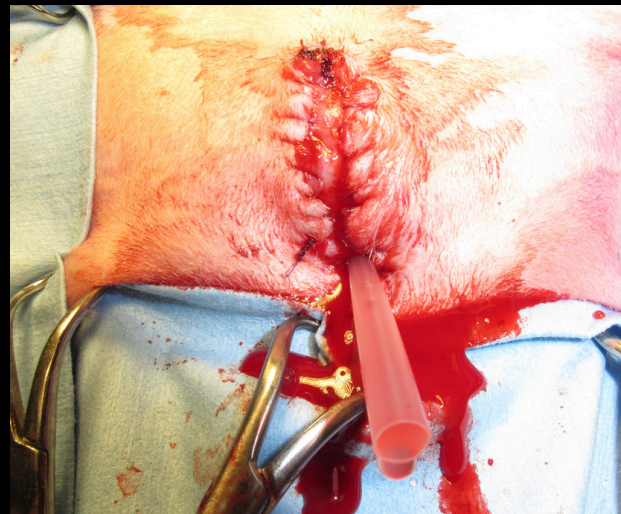
# DID YOU KNOW

## You Can Spend Time with Us in Surgery ?

We are more than happy for referring veterinarians to join us in surgery, whether it is to scrub in on a case that you have referred to us or an entire day. Dr. Oscar Guizar from Carelton Veterinary Services recently spent a day with Dr. Julius Liptak assisting in five surgeries ranging from a radial fracture repair to an emergency perineal

urethrostomy to an anal saccullectomy with sublumbar lymph node excision.

If you are interested in spending time with us, then please contact Lucy Desjardins at [ldesjardins@capcityvet.com](mailto:ldesjardins@capcityvet.com) and she can make all of the arrangements for you.



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# MEET OUR TEAM

**Kelly**

**Specialty Surgery Technician**

Hello! My name is Kelly,

I am a surgery technician here at Capital City Specialty and Emergency Animal Hospital. I have been in the veterinary industry for 10 years.

I started working at Capital City a year and a half ago. Surgery has always been one of my favourite parts about being a technician. I can remember being a kennel student wishing for the day I could work in a specialty hospital. I am so happy I made my career dreams come true! My professional skills have only improved since being at this clinic.

I am Dr. Phil Larose's surgery technician. I communicate with all his clients making sure that they feel supported before, during, and after their pet's surgery. I make sure every pet that Dr. Larose does surgery on is pain free, recovering well and is comfortable here at the hospital. I make sure all diagnostic testing, like bloodwork and radiographs, are done before surgery. I educate owners on how



to take care of their pet after surgery when they bring them home. I am also the first contact person to answer any questions or concerns owners may have about their pets. I truly treat every pet as if they were my own.

Nothing makes me happier than to see a pet walk out of the hospital and happy to see their owners after they have had an injury fixed or had a lifesaving surgery.

In my spare time I love being at home with my significant other and my two dachshunds, Ace and Dino!

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# REFERRALS

As the largest specialty hospital in the National Capital region with soon to be five small animal surgery specialists, we are able to offer the complete range of surgeries to our referring veterinarians and owners. From TPLOs to total hip replacements, from basic to complex fractures and luxations repairs, from hemilaminectomies for dogs with IVDD to brain tumor resections, from cystotomies to portosystemic shunt attenuations, from laparoscopic spays, gastropexies and cholecystectomies to

subcutaneous ureteral by-pass and thoracoscopic lung lobectomies, and from cutaneous tumor resections to limb-sparing surgery and oral and maxillofacial tumor resections, we do it all. Not only do we do it all, but we do it all on weekdays for elective and emergency cases and after hours on weekends for emergency surgeries. We also have 24/7 support from our emergency team as well as specialists in anesthesia, emergency and critical care, and internal medicine.

To refer cases to our surgeons, go to our website at <https://capcityvet.com/surgery-referral-form/>, or call or email Jenn at (613) 244-7387 or [surgery@capcityvet.com](mailto:surgery@capcityvet.com).



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