New sensor walkway enhances canine gait analysis

Professor of Molecular Virology X.J. Meng was named the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Lorraine J. Hoffman Graduate Alumni Award in Immunobiology.

Researchers team works to develop new way to detect air pollutants

Study: Nanoparticles produced from burning coal results in damage to mice lungs

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New tick-borne disease challenges Virginia cattlemen

RNA research at UMD could give insight on new coronavirus strain

Michigan, appeared on Detroit’s Fox affiliate to highlight the need for blood donations to stock a pet blood bank.

In 2018, Veronica Jarvinen (DVM ’13) opened EMMAvet Veterinarian Urgent Care in Alexandria, Virginia, providing medical care from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. “I realized there was a niche missing in the veterinary world: urgent care,” Jarvinen said. The otherwise empty hospital would be open just six weeks after a single exposure, with long-term damage. Smog and ash can cause lung damage in mice and a study of nanoparticles produced from burning coal results in damage to mice lungs.

Tests headed by associate professor Irving Coy Allen discovered that small particles found in coal smoke could cause long-term damage to the lungs of mice, which could help explain why pneumoconiosis, a lung disease in humans, is common among coal miners. Tests could also help researchers better understand the lung disease coal workers suffer on the job.

Studies previously published in Frontiers in Veterinary Science and Toxicology have helped researchers determine that coal workers are at risk of developing lung fibrosis in the long term. The researchers also found exposure to coal dust leads to inflammatory cells expanding and developing at the bottom of the lungs.

Researchers are developing a new test using putative TB antigens to screen for Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria that causes TB, in blood samples. If the test works in trials, it could help quickly differentiate TB from other diseases, including the flu and cancer, and could help reduce the need for other, more expensive tests.

A team led by Michael D. Hellewell, associate professor of molecular virology at Virginia Tech’s College of Veterinary Medicine, is testing whether its new pressure sensor walkway can help differentiate neurological versus orthopedic causes of hind limb problems in dogs.

Of 31 dogs that walked through the walkway, 18 showed signs of neurological problems, which are generally associated with diseases of the brain, spinal cord, or peripheral nerves; 13 were orthopedically impaired, which could result from diseases of the bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles. The walkway could be used to help diagnose hind limb problems in dogs and improve treatment so that owners can help keep their pets on their paws longer.

The Virginia Tech Giving Day team is counting on you to make a gift to any area or college that you care about at this year’s Giving Day, March 18-19.

For 24 hours — from noon (EST), March 18, to noon, March 19 — alumni, students, faculty, staff, families, and friends can help advance VA-MD Vet Med’s efforts to ensure the health and well-being of animals, people, and communities. A gift of any size can support the college’s new wellness initiatives; essential scholarships; hands-on learning; modern, world-class spaces for teaching, clinical care, and research; and so much more.

Your support helps us advance knowledge, improve health, and save lives.