



**Veterinary Specialty  
& Emergency Care**

**RIGHT CARE. RIGHT TIME.**

**Continuing education  
offered at VSEC.  
Check inside for a list of  
upcoming events!**





### **VSEC Highlighted in Veterinary Economics June Hospital Design Supplement**

The trend of going "Green" has been in the news a lot lately. The VSEC facility will be highlighted in the Hospital Design supplement to the June issue of Veterinary Economics Magazine. This article illustrates what we have done to embrace an environmentally friendly way of doing business. Check it out and see what we've done to reduce waste, energy consumption...and, oh yeah...costs!

### **Open House 2008 – Our 1 Year Anniversary!**

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's open house! We had a lot of visitors and got to talk about all of the growing we've done over the past year. We also highlighted the green features of the VSEC facility and even had a visit from a member of the Office of Energy Independence. We are still pursuing our goal of LEED certification and to become the first private veterinary practice with this distinction. If you'd like to know what we've done or what you can do to conserve energy at your clinic, give us a call.

### **Continuing Education at VSEC**

Please take a look at the monthly CE topics on the other side of this newsletter. We'd love to have you join us for any of these events. We start with a social at 6:30 with beverages and light snacks and then present a topic from 7-8pm. All talks will be approved for 1 CEU with the exception of the November event which will offer additional credits depending on the number of speakers and duration of topics. Please call Julie Cotton at 608-845-0002 to sign up for any of the meetings. Please also feel free to recommend a topic we can schedule for an upcoming event.

### **Canine Blood Distribution Center**

VSEC has partnered with Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank (EVBB) to serve as a distribution center. We offer blood typing and carry both positive and negative canine blood and administration sets. EVBB sources its blood from companion donor dogs and operates an FDA inspected facility.

### **Ophthalmology Pearl – Important uses of the Pupillary Light Reflex (PLR)**

The PLR test involves alternately shining a bright light from one eye to the other. A normal pupil will constrict during direct light stimulation (direct PLR). In addition, the contralateral pupil should also constrict (consensual PLR). PLR test results are important in helping to localize the cause of a pupillary abnormality, and as illustrated below, also helpful in planning appropriate diagnostics or treatment.

**1. Assessing the potential for return of vision to an eye –**  
This is particularly useful in an eye that may require surgery to repair a corneal defect, especially in the case of a perforated corneal ulcer. If there is no consensual PLR from the affected eye to the contralateral eye, the potential for restoration of vision is low, and aggressive measures to save the eye may not be indicated.

**2. Initial evaluation of the cause of acute blindness –**  
There are two major causes of acute blindness: central disease and ophthalmic disease. In general, an eye with vision loss due to central disease (ie, a lesion in the occipital cortex) will have a normal PLR. In contrast, blindness associated with ophthalmic disease will be associated with an abnormally dilated pupil and absent or incomplete PLR (specifically, an afferent pupillary light defect). However, one exception to this rule is a disease called Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome (SARDs). This condition is characterized by sudden onset of bilateral vision loss with a relatively normal ophthalmic examination, and often a relatively normal PLR. An electroretinogram is used to differentiate SARDs from central blindness.



