

ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER OF MID-AMERICA, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, USA

Animal Medical Center of Mid-America: ready for anything!

Digital imaging helps multi-site practice combine family pet care with animal rescue and large-scale emergencies

INTERVIEWEE Dr. Steven Schwartz, VMD



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ANIMAL CARE REQUIRES 100% CONFIDENCE

Annually, the AMCMA treats some 40,000 animals, both family pets and rescued animals, so efficiency is naturally a major concern. In 2011, the AMCMA decided to replace the radiography system in its largest site, St. Louis City. In September 2011, it purchased an Agfa HealthCare CR 30-X computed radiography solution from dealer Radiologic Resources.

“A local, Board certified radiology group put in a good word for the CR 30-X, and we knew that several local veterinary emergency and specialty facilities use it, so it was well recommended,” recalls Dr. Schwartz. “Of course, quality was of critical importance. But reliability and service are just as critical for us. With our rescue operations, we can suddenly be faced with an emergency situation that plays havoc on scheduling. When you work with animals, there is no such thing as ‘convenient’; they just don’t work to human agendas! So we can’t afford to have less than 100% confidence in our equipment, and in the service that backs it up.”

VET TECHNOLOGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The CR 30-X met all of Dr. Schwartz’s requirements. “The quality is excellent, and when you are confident that you will get good images, you don’t hesitate to take more, because you know that you will end up with useful information. Plus, the ability to manipulate and

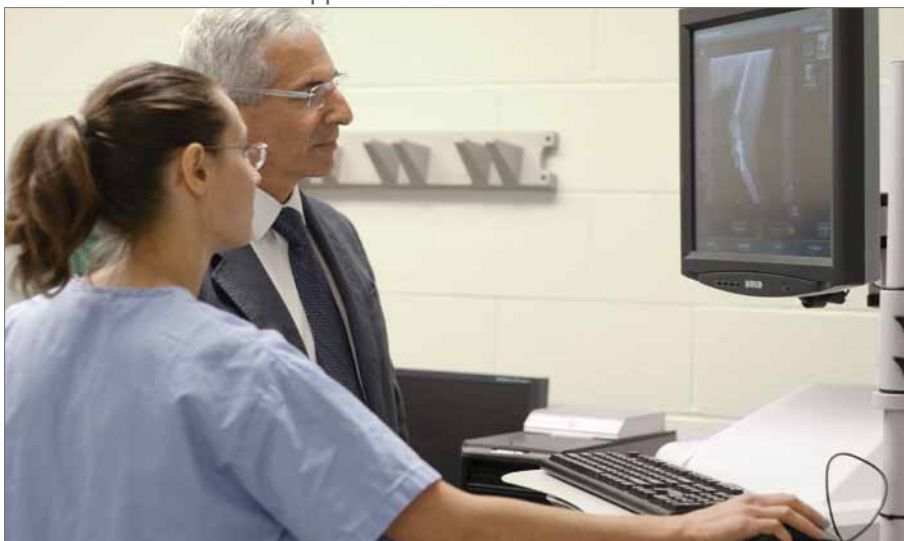
“We have to keep an ‘all hands on deck’ mentality; in other words, we have to always be ready for anything, because we never know in advance what will happen.” Dr. Steven Schwartz is explaining what it is like to work at the Animal Medical Center of Mid-America (AMCMA, formerly the Humane Society of Missouri), which not only runs private veterinary clinics at three sites in the St. Louis area, but is also responsible for animal rescue and first response in the event of an emergency. “We can have literally hundreds of animals come through at once following a rescue or natural disaster,” he continues. “We may need to perform triage and then emergency care.”

“ALL PETS AND THEIR OWNERS WELCOME!”

Up until recently, the AMCMA was known as the Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO). “We changed our name to better reflect the broad range of services we offer, not only in terms of the animal rescue that is associated with a Humane Society, but also the

high-quality care we provide for private customers and their family pets,” explains Dr. Schwartz. “People didn’t realize that we offer very advanced procedures and technologies. Of course, the proceeds still benefit the Humane Society of Missouri, and we still offer our low-cost spay and neuter programs for sterilizing cats and dogs. We want people to know, as it says on our website, that all pets and their owners are welcome!”

Dealing with the dual demands of animal healthcare and rescue requires a good size team. There are 90 staff members who work in the three sites in St. Louis, Maryland Heights and Chesterfield, 20 of whom are veterinarians. And in total, some 230 people are employed by the organization, including the shelters, task forces and education department. “Education remains one of our core focuses,” comments Dr. Schwartz. “We reach around 24,000 children each year with our messages about responsible behavior towards animals.”



AGFA HEALTHCARE'S SOLUTION

- » CR 30-X computed radiography solution
- » Integrated MUSICA² image processing software, providing consistent image quality and high contrast detail, without any manual intervention by the veterinarian
- » NX workstation including touch screen with intuitive interface



‘dissect’ images allows us to diagnose things we might not be able to appreciate otherwise. We get more information.”

He explains, “For example, sometimes we have surgical specialists come to our facilities to perform certain operations. Recently, we had a dog that needed a complex knee surgery. This requires very precise measurements, and image quality is key. With the CR 30-X, we made the images ahead of time, and sent them directly to the orthopaedic veterinarian. The quality was so good, he could do all the measurements in advance, so when he got here for the operation, he was all set to go. The CR 30-X played a major role both in the quality of care he could give that dog, and in improving the efficiency of organizing the surgery.”

Dr. Schwartz is enthusiastic about the other advantages the AMCMA has seen from the CR 30-X, as well. “As we have three separate clinic locations, and work



with multiple specialist vets, the ability to send images between sites and to various referral hospitals makes our work easier. The doctors move around a lot, and this lets them view before and after images with outstanding image quality. But the most striking difference since we got the CR 30-X is the peace of mind we have thanks to the reliability of the machine and the service we receive. In the end, having the CR 30-X is like moving from the 20th century to the 21st century.” •

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DID YOU KNOW...

- » All three Animal Medical Center of Mid-America locations are fully accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA): something only some 3100 animal hospitals in the US – just 10 of which are full service hospitals affiliated with humane organizations – can say!
- » The Humane Society of Missouri cooperates but is not affiliated with the Humane Society of America. It receives no public funding, and is financed through donations and revenues from the AMCMA veterinary centers.
- » In addition to the three veterinary clinic sites, the AMCMA has a fourth site, Longmeadow Rescue Ranch, where it cares for large and farm animals, such as horses, goats, cows, pigs and birds.



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