



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Beth Ann Black
Parrish Blanchard Schaefer PR
817.226.4332
817.860.2004 (fax)
bethannb@pbs-pr.com

**Veterinary Referral Center's Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center
Offers Circular External Skeletal Fixators**

System Allows Surgeons to Manage Complicated Orthopedic Cases

DALLAS (February 2, 2004) - Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas announced today that the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center offers a surgical technique referred to as Circular External Skeletal Fixators (CESFs). This process corrects certain complicated fractures, bone defects and joint fusions.

The CESF is also called the Ilizarov apparatus, named after its creator, a Russian doctor and professor named G.A. Ilizarov. The surgeons at the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center have used this technique since 1995, but recently it has become more common because pet owners wish to repair deformities and avoid amputations in cases involving very complicated fractures.

Veterinarians at the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center use the Ilizarov apparatus to gradually move bone segments and stimulate the body to proliferate bone tissue, a process known as distraction osteogenesis. This system allows surgeons to successfully manage very complicated juvenile angular bone deformities and shortened bones.

Introducing this process in the early 1950s, Dr. Ilizarov demonstrated how this external frame system allows the correction of bone defects and deformities using minimally invasive surgery techniques.

The Ilizarov apparatus, also known as ring fixators, consists of a series of two-to-four high-strength aluminum rings connected with threaded rods, hinges or distraction motors. The veterinary surgeon secures the Ilizarov apparatus to bones using 1-1.6mm tensioned wires or positive threaded fixation pins.

"With the Ilizarov apparatus, we can now adequately stabilize extremely small bone fragments of less than 1 cm in length," said Robert M. Radasch,

DVM. "This gives us the ability to work with and correct difficult fractures and bone deformities."

Dr. Radasch, a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, uses the Ilizarov apparatus on selected cases. He has successfully applied Ilizarov apparatuses to more than 200 veterinary patients.

Other potential uses include ligament reconstruction, spiral stabilization and joint fusions or immobilizations.

Veterinarians who have questions regarding a bone deformity or difficult orthopedic case that may benefit from the use of Circular External Skeletal Fixators can call the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center at the Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas in Dallas - 972.267.8100 or in Fort Worth 817.379.5444.

About Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas

The Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas houses specialists that care for animals referred by veterinarians in general practice. The Veterinary Referral Center specialists have extensive knowledge in specific disciplines enabling them to assist general practitioners with diagnosis and treatment of challenging cases. Each specialty practice offers the highest level of care using the most recent available technology in a state-of-the-art facility. The Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas consists of five specialty referral practices: Animal Dermatology Referral Clinic, Animal Diagnostic Clinic, Animal Ophthalmology Clinic, Animal Radiology Clinic and Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center. For more information, visit www.vrc-nt.com or call 972.407.9571.

About Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center

The surgeons at the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center train to diagnose and manage many types of surgical cases. These include fractures, arthroplasty (joint surgery), abdominal procedures (stomach, pancreas, liver, kidney, etc), thoracic (heart, lung, etc) surgery, skin reconstruction and neurosurgery (spinal fractures, disc herniations, lumbosacral disease, etc). In some cases, the veterinary surgeons recommend alternatives to surgery. A physical therapist offers physical therapy for patients who would benefit. The neurologist, trained in neurosurgery, treats medical cases such as seizure disorders, brain tumors and neuromuscular diseases. A team of trained staff assists the specialists. The veterinary surgeons and staff carefully monitor anesthesia during procedures and all patients recover in the intensive care unit. Patients receive 24-hour care that includes providing everything necessary to keep them comfortable during their hospital visit. With their specialized training, equipment and excellent staff, the surgeons and neurologist successfully improve the quality of life for many patients. For more information visit www.dfwvetsurgeons.com or call in Dallas, 972.267.8100 or in Fort Worth, 817.379.5444.