The Chicago Zoological Society’s Veterinary Services Department is dedicated to aiding veterinarians around the world in providing the most advanced medical care for zoo and aquarium animals, pioneering advancements in diagnostic medical imaging, and helping conservation programs succeed.

Advances in diagnostic imaging technology have dramatically improved the quality of medicine available to zoological species. Imaging modalities and techniques that were unimaginable only a few decades ago are now components of everyday care. Veterinarians are increasingly challenged to remain experts in all species and disciplines.

ACVR board-certified veterinary radiologists provide the most accurate and complete interpretation of medical imaging studies.

The expertise and high-quality service they provide allow for clinical veterinarians to best define a diagnosis and develop an effective treatment plan. To date, veterinary radiologists have focused largely on domestic animals, resulting in a limited understanding of imaging in many zoo species. We are leading the way in changing this.
Collaborative Advice from the CZS Team

The CZS Veterinary Services Department works as a team. Collaborative input on submitted radiology cases is always available, if requested, at no additional cost.

The CZS team includes veterinarians with advanced training in zoological medicine, anesthesia, reproductive services, epidemiology, and wildlife disease. With decades of collective experience, our team is always happy to provide input beyond diagnostic imaging.

Brookfield Zoo is also home to the most comprehensive and advanced imaging suite dedicated to zoo animals, including a 90cm large bore CT scanner with a large animal table that can accommodate the largest zoo patients. CZS has also established a database of diagnostic images available for comparative and reference purposes.

Meet Our Radiologists

Eric T. Hostnik, DVM, MS, DACVR, DACVR-EDI is a highly skilled radiologist with very strong interests in diagnostic imaging of zoo and aquarium species. He is a founding member and current president of the Zoo, Exotic, Wildlife Diagnostic Imaging Society within the American College of Veterinary Radiology. Dr. Hostnik has been reading cases for the CZS Radiology Consulting Service for several years, supporting the diagnostic imaging needs of our clients around the world.

Dr. Hostnik completed his diagnostic imaging residency and Master’s degree program at the Ohio State University, where he is currently on faculty as an assistant professor. He completed his veterinary education at the University of Florida, followed by additional training as an emergency clinician with companion animals and pocket pets at VCA South Shore Animal Hospital. His research interests focus on the use of CT, including the role of CT in zoo settings.

When not working, Dr. Hostnik enjoys the music and sports of Columbus, Ohio, as well as snowboarding and camping when home in Vermont.

Trisha Oura, DVM, DACVR, is the latest addition to our RCS team. Dr. Oura completed her rotating small animal internship, diagnostic imaging residency, and post-doctoral teaching position at North Carolina State University. She became board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Radiologists (ACVR) in 2012. Since that time, Oura has worked in a variety of radiology settings including telemedicine and private practice. She was also an assistant professor of Diagnostic Imaging at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, where she received the Zoetis Distinguished Teaching Award.

Currently at a specialty hospital in the San Diego area, Oura collaborates with local zoo and aquarium institutions to provide on-site and remote imaging support; she is particularly interested in CT and radiography. She currently serves as secretary for the Zoo, Exotic, Wildlife Diagnostic Imaging Society within the ACVR. A strong believer in providing clinically applicable imaging interpretations, Oura enjoys mentoring house officers and providing continuing education to general practitioners.

A New Hampshire native, Oura is a recent transplant to the West Coast and enjoys paddleboarding and hiking with her young family.

Confidentiality Matters

We understand the sensitive nature of your medical images and case information. All submitted cases are anonymized of identifying patient data prior to storage in archival databases. Electronic security measures are in place to eliminate third-party access. DICOM medical image files can be submitted directly to our server. All case information and consultation reports are delivered through a dedicated web-based software interface with a log-in unique to your institution.

Eric T. Hostnik, DVM, MS, DACVR, DACVR-EDI

Trisha Oura, DVM, DACVR,