

Media Alert
Minnesota State Fair Exhibit
CHS Miracle of Birth Center and Surgery Suite
The Fair's Most Popular Free Exhibit with over 1,000,000 Visitors expected in 2015

Visuals:

- Experience first-hand the important role of veterinarians in animal births (MOBC) and in maintaining animal health (Surgery Suite)
- Several live farm animal births each day including piglets, calves, lambs; approximately 200 over the course of the fair
- This year is the 15th anniversary of the **MOBC exhibit**
- Two all volunteer educational exhibits staffed by over 300 veterinarians and veterinary students assisting with births, performing spay surgeries and answering questions from fair-goers
- **4th year of the Nursery of Knowledge** inside the Miracle of Birth Center. This is an educational area where visitors can watch videos on becoming a veterinary and birthing and listening to presentations from the Department of Health, Vet Camp volunteers and the MN Veterinary Medical Response Corps.
- **The Surgery Suite** performs 48 spay operations over the course of the fair with neuter surgeries being added this year; cats and dogs from local human societies are then offered for adoption at their respective locations after the fair; photos of the animals are posted outside the Surgery Suite exhibit
- This year is the 24th anniversary of the Surgery Suite exhibit
- Overhead television screens are stationed at both exhibits for viewing the exhibit animals

When: Thursday, August 27 through Monday, September 7, 2015

MOBC Hours 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Surgery Suite surgeries (each day): 10:00 am; 12 Noon; 2:00 pm; 4:00 pm

Dr. Mary Olson, Dr. Florian Ledermann, Dr. Holly Neaton, Dr. Gala Beck, Dr. Kevin Haroldson and Dr. David Wright are available for interviews at **the Miracle of Birth Center.**

Dr. Victori Ribeiro and Dr. Krista Walkowiak will be available for interviews at the **Surgery Suite** by appointment.

Where: Minnesota State Fairgrounds, **CHS Miracle of Birth Center**, Judson Avenue at Clough Street, south end of the fairgrounds and east of the Coliseum.

Surgery Suite, Murphy Ave. at Underwood St, in the Pet Center Building on the north end of fairgrounds.

Who: The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) coordinates the volunteer veterinarians and students each year; other partners include FFA, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation.

Why: As Minnesota becomes more urbanized, it's important for people to be exposed to animal agriculture production, veterinary science, the birthing process, animal surgeries, and the importance of the partnership between pet, owner and veterinarian.

Contact: Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, 651.645.7533, info@mvma.org