

Sled Dog Racing Professor to Speak at SWOSU

10.29.2009

Dr. Michael Davis will share his research on stress physiology in companion animals from his experiences with Alaskan sled-dogs this Tuesday, November 3, at 7 p.m. at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Conference Center in Weatherford. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Dr. Michael Davis, professor of physiological sciences and director of the Comparative Exercise Physiology Laboratory at Oklahoma State University, will share his research on stress physiology in companion animals from his experiences with Alaskan sled-dogs this Tuesday, November 3, at 7 p.m. at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Conference Center in Weatherford.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Dr. Davis began studying the physiology of ultra-endurance racing sled dogs in 2000 at the request of the Iditarod Trail Committee for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of these athletes. Since that time, Dr. Davis and his research team have defined the pathogenesis and identified preventative methods for exercise-induced stomach ulcers, characterized the effects of exercise in cold conditions on lung function, and uncovered iconoclastic metabolic pathways that permit the unprecedented exercise endurance of dogs running in the Iditarod and similar events.

These studies have been and continue to be conducted under extreme environmental conditions of the winter Alaskan interior, far from traditional laboratory facilities. Dr. Davis is encouraged that sled-dog research may be the key in finding ways to prevent and treat obesity and type-2 diabetes.

Dr. Davis grew up outside Houston, Texas, and from an early age has had an interest in exercise physiology, particularly in animals. He earned his veterinary degree in 1988 from Texas A&M University and practiced in various areas throughout Texas for four years before moving to the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Virginia to become board certified in veterinary internal medicine. He earned a Ph.D. in Physiology from Johns Hopkins University in 1999 and has been employed as a research physiologist and clinical expert in exercise physiology at Oklahoma State University since 1998, where he was recently named to the John Oxley Endowed Chair in Equine Sports Medicine.

Dr. Davis was awarded the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence in 2005 and the Regents Distinguished Research Award from Oklahoma State University in 2008. He is the senior author on over 40 publications related to stress physiology in companion animals.

For more information about the Library Showcase event, please contact Jason Dupree, head of public services at the Al Harris Library at 580.774.3031.