



## **VETERINARY SERVICES AND CONSERVATION MEDICINE**

### **Overview**

The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health is a state-of-the-art animal health facility with more than 10,500 square feet and was designed by world-class veterinary professionals and conservation organizations. Currently, The Georgia Aquarium is the only facility that has opened with a program which is an integration of an aquarium and veterinarian teaching hospital. The partnership with the University of Georgia (UGA) Veterinary Teaching Hospital will allow the Aquarium to provide complete aquatic animal pathology program while training veterinary residents, interns and veterinary students. The Aquarium provides the same veterinary diagnostic, medical treatment and surgical services that you would find at the best veterinary teaching hospitals.

The Georgia Aquarium has the largest and most modern aquarium veterinary hospital in the world – facilities that will change the face of aquatic animal medicine. The Aquarium conducts research to improve husbandry methods, develop innovative and exciting new exhibits, contribute to the understanding of the underwater world and apply new discoveries to the conservation of aquatic life. Research is shared with conservation organizations throughout the world, allowing a better understanding and protection of many of the species located at the Georgia Aquarium.

The Georgia Aquarium is currently working in collaboration with the Mote Marine Laboratory, University of Georgia, Georgia State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Savannah State University, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Jekyll Island Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center, Marine Mammal Alliance, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and Sea Grant College Program.

### **Facts**

- The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health is based on the first floor of the Georgia Aquarium and is centrally located for easy, behind-the-scenes access to all exhibits via an enormous corridor that wraps around the building in a large “U.” The corridor makes it easy for animals from the various exhibits to be transported to our surgical suite. Each major exhibit has its own dedicated hoist way with crane system to raise and lower animals.

- Most of the large exhibits have space within them to facilitate medical procedures. All of our medical/surgical and diagnostic equipment can be moved poolside if necessary.
- The facility is fully digital:
  - Digital x-rays
  - Digital ultrasound
  - Digital endoscopy/laproscopy
  - Digital Ascultation
  - Digital patient monitoring
- We have full-service, seven-day medical coverage with 24-hour care if necessary.
- The Correll Center is comprised of the following facilities:
  - Veterinary Diagnostic and Water Quality Laboratory
    - Capabilities: Ability to analyze/evaluate blood, urine, fecal, bacterial and water samples; analyze diets and nutritional supplements
    - Equipment: Automated CBC and blood chemistry machines, centrifuges, compound and stereomicroscopes, stat blood gas analyzers, high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), ion chromatograph (IC); water chemistry equipment to measure dissolved oxygen, pH, Hardness, salinity, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and numerous other chemicals
  - Veterinary Pharmacy
    - Capabilities: Immediate access to all required animal medications in the large volumes we might require.
    - Equipment: refrigeration, secure medication storage units
  - Ultra-Low Freezer Room
    - Capabilities: Long-term storage of biological samples (serum, plasma, water)
    - Equipment: Ultra-low freezers (-70 degrees Fahrenheit)
  - Medical Records Room/Technician Offices
    - Capabilities: Long-term storage of paper records
    - Equipment: Filing cabinets, desks, computers, climate control
  - Treatment Room (Hospital)
    - Capabilities: Intensive care for sick fish, invertebrates, turtles, amphibians, birds and small mammals.
    - Equipment: Hospital aquaria/filtration, climate control
  - Avian Intensive Care Room (Hospital)
    - Capabilities: Intensive care for penguins
    - Equipment: Hospital aquaria/filtration, climate control
  - Small Mammal Intensive Care Room (Hospital)
    - Capabilities: Intensive care for sea otters, Asian small-clawed otters
    - Equipment: Hospital aquaria/filtration, climate control
  - Surgical Suite
    - Capabilities: All surgical procedures for animals living in the Aquarium
    - Equipment: Custom stainless-steel surgical table; instant digital X-ray receiver; mobile X-ray emitter; gas anesthesia machine for mammals/birds/reptiles; aquatic anesthesia machine for boney fishes and sharks; digital ultrasound machine; digital endoscopy tower; digital thermography unit; surgical microscope; radio surgical instrument; standard surgical instruments (scalpels, forceps, retractors, etc.), climate control
    - Surgical Prep Scrub Room – Capabilities include preparation/sterilization of surgical instruments, scrub prep for surgeons and technicians. Equipment includes steam autoclave, ethylene oxide gas sterilizer and automated scrub sink.

- Equipment Storage Room
  - Capabilities: Supply/equipment storage
  - Equipment: Storage racks, washer/dryer
- Husbandry Commissary
  - Capabilities: Food preparation for all Georgia Aquarium animals
  - Equipment: Ultra-low walk-in freezer (-20 degrees Fahrenheit), walk-in cooler (34 degrees Fahrenheit), dry storage room, blenders, knives, cutting boards
- Necropsy Room
  - Capabilities: Gross and microscopic pathological examination of mortalities
  - Equipment: Three custom necropsy tables, stereo and compound microscopes with digital cameras, dissection tools

### **Fun Facts**

Each year the Georgia Aquarium's Husbandry Commissary handles:

- 572,000 lbs. (260,000 kg) of fish and seafood, including
  - 120,000 lbs. (54,545 kg) of superba krill
  - 93,600 lbs. (42,545 kg) of capelin
  - 43,000 lbs. (19,545 kg) of pellets and gels

Each year at the Georgia Aquarium:

- Beluga whales consume 26,000 lbs. (11,820 kg) of fish
- Whale sharks consume 12,000 lbs. (5,455 kg) of fish and gel

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### **About the Georgia Aquarium**

The Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia, is the world's largest with more than eight million gallons of water and the largest collection of aquatic animals. The mission of the Georgia Aquarium is to be an entertaining, educational and scientific institution featuring exhibits and programs of the highest standards; offering engaging and exciting guest experiences promoting the conservation of aquatic biodiversity throughout the world. The Georgia Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. For additional information, visit [www.georgiaaquarium.org](http://www.georgiaaquarium.org).

### **About The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health**

The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health is a partnership between the University of Georgia and the Georgia Aquarium to create the first-ever teaching hospital integrated into an aquarium. The 10,000 square-foot facility was designed by 12 world-renowned veterinary and conservation professionals for the purpose of caring for the animals at the Georgia Aquarium, conducting research and teaching aquatic medicine. The Correll Center uses state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging technology, digital and computed radiography, mobile/portable ultrasound, digital endoscopy, mobile gas and water-bourn anesthesia systems, in-house diagnostic tools, digital microscopy, complete surgical suite with instrument sterilization features and a custom computerized medical records system. The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health can be viewed on behind-the-scenes tours at the Georgia Aquarium.