

To the Editor

Bellwether 66 is outstanding not only for the exceptionally well-written article on Barbaro but the entire layout and choice of subjects for the articles. I'm saving this to show to my adult children and friends.

—John E. Sonne, V'74 – Camillus, N.Y.

I wanted to compliment you on the great issue of *Bellwether*. The articles were heartwarming and honest. Reading about the staff and teamwork really made me want to be a part of it. I'm glad I was at least able to donate to the Barbaro Fund, and I did send Dr. Richardson a letter of praise and encouragement some time ago. I also enjoyed the "Vet 2 Vet" article, and putting the children's get-well cards into the article was a nice touch. You're all an amazing group and you especially did a great job on this issue of *Bellwether*.

—Jill M. Srnick – Green Valley, Ariz.

What a wonderful article on the whole Barbaro/New Bolton Center experience. Very interesting to read about the impact of that sudden attention and the professional, intelligent way it was handled by the George D. Widener Hospital. I liked the fact that the article stressed the importance of the whole team at the New Bolton Center. No job is unimportant—a fact not always highlighted. Thank you for a great write-up and a great job in general. I've been following the story since 60 seconds into the Preakness. All has been handled with great class on your end.

—Sandra Switzer – La Crescenta, Calif.

I read the great article on Barbaro in the last issue of *Bellwether* and again was awed by the grace you all have exhibited under the international scrutiny of so many. I just want to thank you and the team from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine for the unwavering support of not only Barbaro, but of those of us around the world who felt tied to Barbaro.

The article made me realize more about how many people are involved in this healing and the various statistics demonstrate how hard everyone has worked to satisfy the thirst for knowledge about this amazing horse. Thanks for what you do and thanks to all the other members of the team.

—Judy Bright – Keene, N.H.

I have received my first copy of *Bellwether* and love it! Thank you for the article on the entire Barbaro team. The people behind the scenes (such as in the mailroom) are usually the forgotten souls during an event like this. Bravo to all who remembered EVERYONE!

—Kaye Brown – Alexandria, Va.



Editor's note

We put off writing the final Barbaro update on our Web site. After months of reporting the medical ups and downs of 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro at New Bolton Center, it took us several days before we could post the story's end. Now, this issue of *Bellwether* features our good-bye to a champion, as well as our thanks to the thousands of people who showed their support, from on-line good wishes and e-mails to packages of mints and bunches of carrots for Barbaro and his fellow patients; from pizza and candy for the staff to donations to the Barbaro and Research for Laminitis Funds. At Penn Vet, we often speak of the healing connection between humans and animals; Barbaro forged a connection among people that did not previously exist, and his legacy is one of hope as we join to fight the condition that took him from us.

The healing connection can also be found in other work we do, each and every day. Our renal transplant program offers cats a second chance at life, while it teaches future veterinarians the science behind organ transplantation. Research from this program has implications for human medicine, as the healing connection comes full circle. Our feature article shows how our students, learning to heal and grounded in the basic sciences, are being trained to be at the forefront of every aspect of veterinary medicine, from understanding infectious disease to pulling out all the stops to save a single life. We hope that you will enjoy this special issue of *Bellwether*, and that you will visit our Web site at www.vet.upenn.edu to learn more about Penn Vet.

—GAIL LUCIANI